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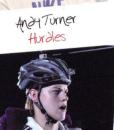
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Today's Matchday Programme

Match Programme Designed & Edited by Mark Johnson

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Photographs Shaun Brooks, Claire Osbourn, Nadine Hébert, Ryan Johnson, Doug Shulman, Steve Wells

Printed by Queensway Publishing Ltd 10a Homefield Road, CB9 8QP, 01440 711920



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Dave Doggett

The Chairman's view from the Boardroom







We are lucky to have a very loyal core support. This is illustrated by the magnificent response by our supporters who are already sponsoring Jez as he sets off on his 100 mile walk to Lincoln after today's match.

To be or not to be that is the question. Last week I floated the idea of playing some of our matches on a Friday night. It was interpreted by some as possibly moving every match from the traditional 3.00pm Saturday kick off to the Friday night slot. I would like to reassure supporters that this is not the intention. If the reaction is favourable to the idea we might consider one or two Friday night matches in the Autumn or Spring.

I appreciate that for some supporters, particularly those who travel considerable distances to attend matches, Friday nights could be a logistical nightmare as well as possibly having to take additional time off work.

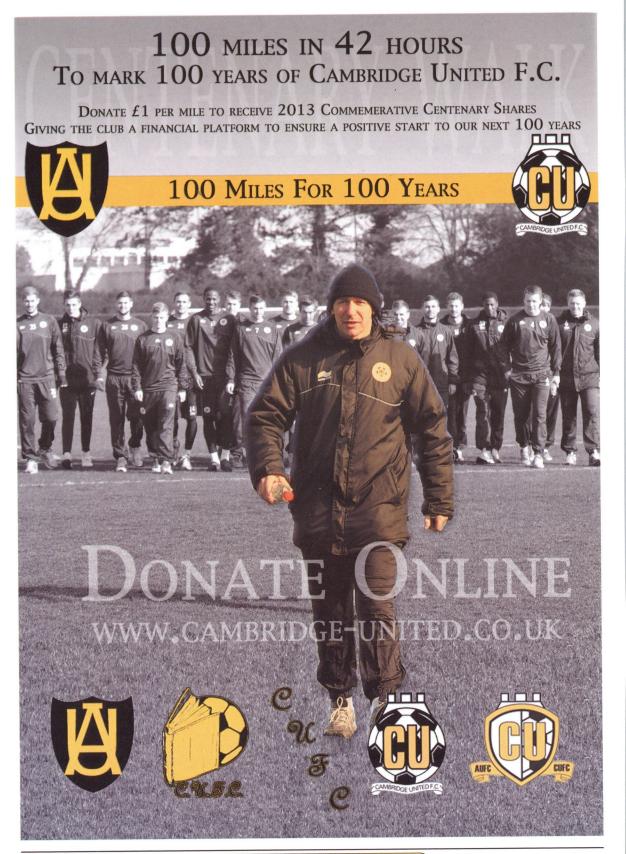
However we need to look at ways of encouraging more people to come along to our matches. The Youth and Community Trust have had a lot of success in bringing families along to selected matches. The Marshall Group are working with Abbey Action and sponsoring a subsidised ticket for local residents for the Barrow game and the same offer is being extended to all Marshall's employees. We are offering group discounts to local football and sports clubs as well as working more closely with the Cambs FA. Local companies are being contacted and encouraged to contact us for details of ticket deals for their employees. The language schools and universities and colleges are also being encouraged to come along to games.

The fall in attendances this season, even for clubs enjoying a successful season, is a concern for not only clubs in this league but also in the Football League. We are

working hard to reduce the percentage of our total income that is reliant on gate receipts by increasing our non-match day income. It is encouraging that over the last few months we have seen an increase in this income stream and the potential for future improvement.

We are also lucky to have a very loyal core support. This is illustrated by the magnificent response by our supporters who are already sponsoring Jez as he sets off on his 100 mile walk to Lincoln after today's match. Companies and individuals who are sponsoring Jez illustrate how important this club is to the community and that together we will achieve the success this club desires.

Welcome to all of you and thank you for coming to the R Costings Abbey Stadium this afternoon.



100 Miles for 100 Years

U's Director of Football will be setting off from the R Costings Abbey at 5pm th afternoon - directly after our home game with Luton Town, to arrive at Sincil Bank in time for kick-off against Lincoln City on Easter Monday.

To sponsor Jez fill out this form or visit www.cambridgeunited.com and receive 2013 commemorative shares for your sponsorship!



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Richard Money

From the First Team Head Coach





We are fast reaching the climax of another season. Every year the same questions are being asked of the Conference board and Football League. Every year they remain unanswered in a satisfactory way.

A fixture pile up for clubs remains inevitable whilst the FA Trophy remains a Saturday competition. Too many weekends are taken out of the league calendar for a competition that in reality carries little appeal for anybody apart from the finalists.

For me there are two alternatives. One to make it a midweek competition from the preliminary rounds and two is to get it completed earlier with all rounds before Christmas and a New Year final as early as possible.

Clubs at this level spend as little as they can get away with on their playing surfaces which makes life impossible for groundsmen every New Year when the weather turns. In my opinion every date feasibly possible should be left for the

league calendar and for the inevitable rearranged fixtures.

The number of promotion places for clubs in our league is also an annual subject for discussion. The reality is this; the majority of clubs in this league are spending as much as they can, in some cases too much, to try to get into the football league. The majority of clubs in League 2 are spending as little as possible, in some cases at huge risk to survival, to stay in the football league.

That is a very simplistic view but a truthful one. To win any league is very difficult no matter what the resource and after that the play offs are a lottery. The level of teams in this league warrants the same

promotion rules as the one above it, three automatic and one via the play offs. Unfortunately we currently lie miles away from that opinion but we must soon take the next step of two up automatically.

Without that you will end up with an even bigger blockage of clubs with ambition and potential trying to get back into the league.

What stops this process? It's simple really, self-preservation of league clubs who fail to wake up to smell the coffee until they are relegated. A system of four up and four down would bring healthier competition and make it easier not more difficult to become a league club, remain a league club and get back to being one.

Almost every club who has been a league club that are currently in this league has suffered because of the promotion rules. This club has and our opponents certainly have. Indeed both my seasons as manager of our opponents would have ended in automatic promotion if the rules were realistic.

Please give Jez all the support he deserves for his walk which he embarks on after the game today. Please give generously to make it worth his huge effort.

Finally welcome to everyone connected to our opponents today for what I am sure will be a keenly contested and attractive Easter fixture.



The level of teams in this league warrants the same promotion rules as the one above it, three automatic and one via the play offs.

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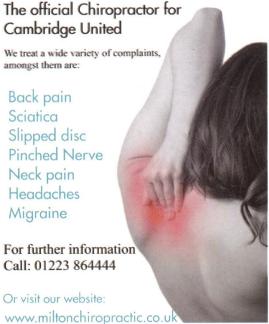
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We look forward to hearing from you soon and welcoming you to Olive's Collectables



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Luton Town

Henry Milward introduces today's visitors





Growing is the number of clubs who can appreciate the pain of play-off defeats. Few are exempt but not many have endured such consistent angst as Luton in recent campaigns. It was Lincoln's lot during the early noughties, as they toiled in the League Two lottery and it is now the Hatters who have been forced to put up with three straight disappointments.

John Still became the Hatters' fifth manager in a little under four non-league seasons when he arrived from Dagenham in January to replace Paul Buckle. But unlike many of his predecessors, Still's first task is not promotion. That ship has already sailed this term after a dismally inconsistent 2013.

That's in spite of – or, some might suggest, because of – a memorable FA Cup challenge which included victories over Wolves and Norwich before an

eventual fifth round exit at the hands of Millwall. Indeed, their run began here at the R Costings Abbey Stadium, when goals from Andre Gray and Jon Shaw.

Between mid-January and mid-March, Town recorded just a single win in 12 outings, falling adrift of the play-off pack. Instead, Still's task is to work out just why an expensively-assembled, patently talented squad has flattered to deceive in 2012/13.

Once again, the club redoubled, then doubled again, their efforts to secure a Football League return. Ronnie Henry was recruited from Stevenage, Scott Rendell and Shaw arrived to boost the front line, and the signings have continued with Arnaud Mendy, Scott Neilson and Jonathan Smith all pitching up in Bedfordshire during the campaign.

Expect more arrivals this summer, when the aim remains firmly the same.

Form Guide

vs Tamworth (H)	D 0-0
vs Stockport County (H)	W 1-0
vs Wrexham (a)	D 0-0
vs Hyde (H)	L 1-2
vs Hereford United (H)	D 1-1
vs Nuneaton Town (a)	D 0-0



Leading Scorers

Andre Gray	14
Scott Rendell	12
Stuart Fleetwood	10
Jon Shaw	9
Alex Lawless	4

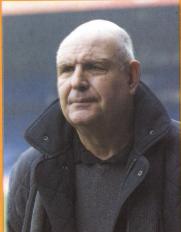


Luton Town

Player profiles

The Manager





John Still

Many had assumed that John Still and Dagenham were inseparable. The manager had led the club for nine years, guiding them to the Blue Square Bet Premier title in 2007 before achieving an unlikely promotion to League One just three years later. But when Luton came calling in January, following the departure of Paul Buckle, Still was lured to the challenge of Kenilworth Road.

But the Londoner is a hugely experienced non-league campaigner, having guided Maidstone to the Conference title in 1989 while also enjoying success down the ladder with Dartford. Still, now 62, signed a two-and-a-half year deal with the Hatters, but has endured a baptism of fire in his early weeks in charge.

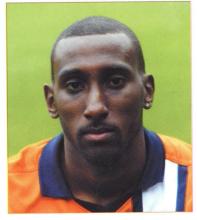
Dean Brill Goalkeeper

Returned to the club in the summer after leaving Barnet, Brill began his career with the Hatters, making almost 100 appearances in the Football League. A product of the youth setup at Kenilworth Road, the stopper moved to Oldham in 2009, spending two years with the Latics before joining the Bees.

Lewis Kidd Goalkeeper

A young stopper yet to make a first-team appearance, Kidd turned professional in the summer of 2011 and recently signed a new one-year deal.

Lathaniel Rowe-Turner Defender



The 22-year-old played under Paul Buckle at Torquay and became the former manager's sixth summer signing after his release from Plainmoor. Once a youth teamer at Leicester, Rowe-Turner is comfortable both at left-back and in the centre of defence and made over 20 appearances in the Football League last term.

Garry Richards Defender

A summer capture from Gillingham, the experienced centre-half signed a two-year contract at Kenilworth Road. A commanding presence in the heart of defence, Richards has plenty of Football League success

on CV, having been part of the Gills side which won promotion to League One in 2008.

Greg Taylor Defender

The former Darlington left-back joined the Hatters in November 2011, making his debut in the 1-1 draw with United at the R Costings Abbey Stadium. Taylor, who has spent time on loan at Tamworth this season, began his career in the academy ranks at Northampton before making a move to Kettering.

Alex Lacey Defender

A young centre-half who has earned rave reviews for his early first-team outings. Lacey went on to sign a first professional deal and was rewarded with an extension this summer.

Janos Kovacs Defender

A Hungarian defender who has gone on to become a vital part of the Luton side. Returned for a second spell at Kenilworth Road in 2011, joining on loan from Hereford. Formerly with Chesterfield and Lincoln, the centre-half signed an 18-month deal in January 2012.

Ronnie Henry Defender

The first of the Hatters' eyecatching summer recruits, Henry swapped Stevenage for Luton after a hugely successful spell at Broadhall Way. The defender, who began his career as a Tottenham junior, was an integral part of the Boro side which earned back-to-back promotions under Graham Westley.

Simon Ainge Defender

A former Bradford defender who U's fans will remember for a short-lived loan spell at the Abbey in 2009. After leaving Valley Parade, Ainge went on to make his mark with Blue Square Bet North Guiseley, where he attracted the attention of Luton, who signed him

on loan in September, with the move made permanent in January.

Steve McNulty Defender

A solid centre-half who helped lead Fleetwood to the Blue Square Bet Premier title last term, McNulty was drafted in by Paul Buckle in late January.

Wayne Thomas Defender

A well-travelled stopper who was most recently playing in the Greek Super League, Thomas arrived at Kenilworth Road this winter. The centre-half has also turned out for Southampton, Stoke and Burnley.

Jake Goodman Defender

A teenager who arrived on a loan deal from Millwall in March, Goodman signed professional forms at the New Den last summer.

Jake Howells Midfielder



An England C international who came through the ranks at Kenilworth Road, Howells made his debut in the Football League in May 2008. Later awarded a professional deal, the 21-year-old has gone from strength to strength and signed a three-year contract extension during the summer.

JJ O'Donnell Midfielder

A January 2010 arrival from St Albans, O'Donnell made his Town debut under Richard Money in an FA Cup victory over Corby in 2010. After loan spells with Thurrock and Hampton & Richmond, the versatile midfielder was rewarded with a three-year-deal in the summer.

Danny Spiller Midfielder

A seasoned Football League midfielder, Spiller signed a two-year contract at Kenilworth Road in June. He made his name with Gillingham before earning a move to Millwall in 2007. However, he struggled to settle at the New Den and after spells with Wycombe, Welling and Dagenham returned to Priestfield in 2010.

Adam Watkins Midfielder

A Hatters fan who came through the ranks to break into the firstteam picture in 2010/11. Watkins signed his first professional deal in June 2010 and has gone on to make encouraging strides.

Matt Robinson Midfielder

A product of Leicester's youth setup, Robinson impressed during preseason to earn a contract but has found himself on the fringes at Kenilworth Road this term.

Alex Lawless Midfielder

A familiar face in non-league circles, the former Wales under-21 midfielder first joined Luton on loan from York in November 2010 before signing permanent forms in January 2011. Once a youth teamer with Cardiff, Lawless has also been on the books of Fulham and Torquay but he really cemented his reputation with Forest Green.

James Dance Midfielder

Dance arrived at Kenilworth Road from Blue Square Bet Premier champions Crawley in July 2011, having impressed both on the flank and as a forward with the Red Devils. Now predominantly deployed from a deeper position, the former Birmingham trainee has also turned out for Kettering at this level

Arnaud Mendy Midfielder

A creative but sturdy presence in the centre of midfield, Mendy joined Luton from Macclesfield in October. A French-born Guinea-Bissau international, he impressed in League Two for Macc last term, scoring in memorable fashion in an FA Cup tie against Bolton.

One To Watch





Mark Tyler Goalkeeper

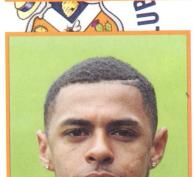
Vastly experienced stopper now in his fourth season at Kenilworth Road. Once an England youth international, Tyler made his name at Peterborough, racking up almost 500 appearances during 15 years with Posh. He spent a handful of loan spells away from the club during that time but would mark himself out as one of the Footba'l League's most reliable and consistent performers.

Eventually pushed out of the picture at London Road after the arrival of new owner Darragh MacAnthony, Tyler made a brief temporary move to Bury before being lured to the Hatters in 2009. The 35-year-old is a central figure to Town's charge, and has been a near ever-present since his arrival. His performances were rewarded last summer with a contract extension.

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One To Watch



Andre Gray Forward

A pacy attacker who arrived from Blue Square Bet North Hinckley in March to boost Luton's late-season play-off hopes, Gray didn't take long to make his mark in the run-in, scoring seven goals in 12 outings. While neither his form, nor an early opener in the play-off final against York, was enough to earn promotion, he did catch the eye of Paul Fairclough, earning a call up to the England C squad last summer.

The 21-year-old, who has also turned out for Shrewsbury and Telford, has often been deployed as a wide runner in a 4-3-3. It is here that he is often most effective: frighteningly quick and resolutely direct, he is the full-back's nightmare, not least because he doesn't operate anything like a typical winger, breaking forward to strike 14 times this term.

Dave Martin Midfielder

A left-winger who signed an 18-month deal at Town in January 2013, Martin made his name with Dartford before Football League spells with Crystal Palace, Derby, Millwall and later Southend.

Jonathan Smith Midfielder

An enterprising midfield presence, Luton paid York £50,000 for Smith's services in January. The 26-year-old began his career with the Minstermen but also turned out for Paolo di Canio's Swindon.

Scott Neilson Midfielder

Once a U's loanee and formerly with Cambridge City, Neilson joined the Hatters from Crawley in January 2013, having helped the Red Devils from the Blue Square Bet Premier to League One.

Dan Walker Forward

An attacker who spent time on loan at the Abbey in 2011, Walker has been on the fringes of the action at Luton since arriving in July 2010. Previously with Bedford and Leighton, the forward signed a new one-year deal in the summer.

Stuart Fleetwood Forward

The striker turned heads when he swapped League Two Hereford for Luton in August 2011 – the Bulls' loss was the Hatters' gain. A prolific scorer at this level, Fleetwood rose to prominence at Forest Green, where he forged a successful partnership with future United forward Mark Beesley. A move to Charlton followed in June 2008 but instead he spent time on loan with Cheltenham, Exeter and Brighton before pitching up at Hereford in 2010.

Jon Shaw Forward

For much of the last decade Shaw has been patrolling non-league penalty areas and scoring with unerring regularity. He was recruited from Gateshead on a two-year deal this summer, having netted 56 goals in 97 appearances for the Heed. The 28-year-old began his career with Sheffield Wednesday but it was in the Conference that he made his



mark, first with Burton then Halifax. An unhappy move to Rochdale followed but he was soon back in form during spells at Crawley, Barrow and Mansfield.

Scott Rendell Forward



A man who will forever be fondly remembered at the Abbey for the part he played in the play-off bids of 2008 and 2009: his double-salvo in the semi-final second leg victory over Stevenage will live long in the memory. Rendell joined Luton from Wycombe in the summer out to maintain his fine scoring record at this level.

Alex Wall Forward

A young striker who joined Luton on loan from Maidenhead, with a view to a permanent move in the summer, Wall has impressed lower down the ladder and has shown early encouraging signs at this level.

Henry Milward









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Star Graduate

Leigh Edwards introduces one of Luton Town's finest ever players



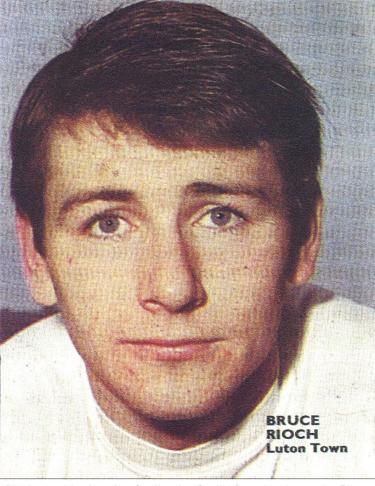
Powerful midfielder Bruce Rioch was capped 24 times by Scotland after leaving Luton Town.

Born in Aldershot, where his father was a regimental sergeant major, Bruce was raised in Luton and became an apprentice at Kenilworth Road. Rioch turned professional in September 1964 and made his League debut in Luton's 1-O defeat at home to Southend United two months later. His first League goal came in the Hatters' 3-2 defeat at Bradford City in December 1965 and he soon attracted interest from bigger clubs with his pace, power and fierce shooting. He also had great competitiveness and a ruthless streak.

Bruce was Luton's leading marksman in 1966-67 and again in 1967-68 when he missed just two matches as the Hatters stormed to the Fourth Division title. Rioch was also an important figure as Luton narrowly failed to win promotion again in 1968-69, netting 47 goals in 149 League games before moving to Aston Villa for a then club record £100,000 in July 1969. His younger brother Neil, an England Youth international, followed him from Luton to Villa shortly afterwards.

Bruce played for Villa in the 1971 League Cup final and starred in their 1971-72 Third Division title triumph. Moving to Derby County for £200,000 in February 1974, he took over from the injured Henry Newton and helped Dave Mackay's side to finish third in the top-flight that season. Rioch was ever-present and leading marksman with 15 League goals in 1974-75 when Derby won the League Championship for the second time in four seasons.

Towards the end of that title campaign, he scored one of his most memorable goals with a surging run from near the half-way line against Newcastle United at St James' Park. The following season, he hit a thunderous free-kick in the FA Cup sixth round win at home to Newcastle, then scored four goals in Derby's remarkable 8-2 First Division victory over Spurs in October 1976.



Rioch could play for Scotland through parental qualification and made his international debut in their 1-0 victory over Portugal at Hampden Park in May 1975. He scored his first international goal to clinch Scotland's 2-2 draw with Wales four days later and went on to become the first English-born player ever to captain Scotland, leading them in the 1978 World Cup finals in Argentina.

Sold to Everton for £180,000 in December 1976, Rioch returned to Derby a mere 11 months later but fell out with Tommy Docherty and Colin Addison and had loan spells at Birmingham City and Sheffield United. After that he played for

Seattle Sounders, becoming Torquay United's player-coach in October 1980 and later their player-manager. He then took charge of Middlesbrough, managing them from the Third Division to First in consecutive seasons.

After a spell as Millwall's manager, he became Bolton Wanderers' boss in May 1992 and plotted two promotion successes, also leading them to the 1995 League Cup final. He spent a year as Arsenal's manager before the appointment of Arsene Wenger, signing Dennis Bergkamp and David Platt, then managed Norwich City, Wigan Athletic and Danish side Aalborg.



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In To Africa

U's Support for Foxes NGO Football



We were delighted to be able to support Nick Dunn and Foxes NGO Football by sending spare kit and footballs.

The project was the initiative of the Fox Family, long term residents of the Mufindi Highlands in Southern Tanzania. It started back in 2005, when a desperate 14 year old boy asked for a job, but due to legislation he was too young to legally employ. However, as a result of AIDS he found himself head of his family, and sadly at this tender age, now responsible for supporting his aging grandmother and younger siblings. His story and others inspired this incredible project and three supporting NGO's/Charities were also born.

The original scope of this project focused on building and staffing six orphans' dormitories improvements in the local schools and clinics, and was to run for three years. Now, six years in, they are refocusing their main objectives onto the source of the problem with greater emphasis on medical testing and treatment of HIV/AIDS together with education for greater awareness in the community and reducing the stigma attached to HIV/AIDS. This approach will impact a greater proportion of the community and reduce the



Nick worked in the orphanage for a few months and he and his parents recently used their luggage allowance to deliver the kit which, as you can see from the following letters reproduced here, was very well-received:

Dear Nick.

We are so glad for your efforts towards supporting us in terms of sports and games. We are so glad and happy for your support because you care about us.

gave to us we are using them properly especially on match days.

We really know and care about your support for us and we really thanks a lot for that

Through your efforts we have got all the things you supported us, please we beg to support us in this way and we ask you to send our thanks to where you live and where you got all the shirts and equipment.

Orphan's FC and UEFA FC teams: Harry, Moses, Lemijio, Dismas, Msafiri, Fred, Boniface, Juma, Mark, Johari, Kaini, Gastoni, Isaya, Bri.

Dear Cambridge United FC,

Together as a team we say "we care about your support." We will preserve and use all the shirts in the proper way. We really thank you and God bless and we encourage you to support us as much as you possibly can.

Thank you for your support.

On behalf of Orphan's FC I promise that we will never let you down in sports and games. Harry

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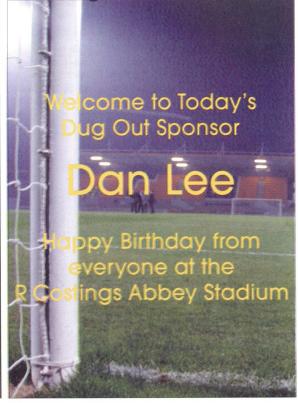
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Dug Out Sponsors



Commercial Break

All latest news and opportunities from the commercial team

Match Sponsors: ERMS UK

Ian Smith and his company ERMS UK are pleased to be today's match sponsors.

Established in 1986, ERMS UK has grown into one of the most highly regarded fresh produce companies. ERMS UK has come a long way from its humble beginnings working out of a small office to now owning a 20 acre site purpose built for all aspects of the industry, produce encompassing packing, storage, office and logistical needs.

Through experience, hard work and determination, along with an 'absolute passion for produce' the business has developed into what it is today. Family run, lan is still in charge today but with second generation firmly in place within the business for over 13 years shows the commitment to the future. keeping them focused and flexible to this ever changing industry.

It is fair to say that they have created a little produce village, providing facilities to other like-

minded fresh produce companies along with theirs, to grow together and that is why they are the 'fresh solution'.

Associate Sponsor: JUMBOGENIE

Welcome to Jumbogenie who have dined with us a couple of times this season. Thank you for your continued support not only in hospitality but, also with perimeter boards for the 2012-13 season.

Dug-out Sponsor: Dan Lee

A massive welcome to Dan who is celebrating his 30th Birthday with us today. Dan and his brothers will be tiding the garden area next to the main stand ready for the new season and is also one of the new companies that have taken up the offer on the perimeter boards, so welcome to Sterling Plants and Gardens we look forward to working with you closely in the new

Also dining with us today is Darrell May from Premier Foods and guests. The Town House Pub from Ely, welcome back again and we hope that you enjoy today's game.

Our hospitality is completely full for

the rest of this season and we

already have a waiting list for next

season, so if you want to add your

name to it please don't hesitate to

contact me

Steve Pope whose son Sammy is one of our mascots today and Mick Donahue and guests. Thank you to you all and we look forward to welcoming you back next season.

We also have our regular diners, Vice-Chairman Eddie Clark, Ruth Clark and their guests today Diane and Tony Morton, Gary, Melanie and Matthew Wright, Debbie Fox. Zach Ware, Kershaws and R Costings, a very warm welcome to vou all.

Our hospitality is completely full

for the rest of this season and we already have a waiting list for next season, so if you want to add your name to it please don't hesitate to commercial@cambridgeunited.co.uk or telephone 01223 729217.

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The Directors and staff at Cambridge United would like to thank the following companies who sponsored the Main and South stands perimeter boards for 2012-13 season.

Cambridge United FC would also like to make our sponsors and partners aware that we are now have a facility to display company leaflets. Please contact a member of the commercial team for further information.





















Ten to Tackle

Test yourself and your friends with Neil Cole's quiz of the week. Answers on page 62.

- 1. Which team did Luton beat to win the League Cup final 25 years ago this April?
- 2. Who won the FA Trophy at last weekend?
- 3. And whom did they beat?
- 4. Which club sacked their manager but promised to reinstate him for one game next month?
- 5. How many managers have been sacked this season (within two either way)
- 6. Which was the last team before San Marino to concede eight goals against England
- 7. Who became England's leading midfield goalscorer against San Marino?
- 8. And whose record of 19 goals did he beat?
- 9. Michael Owen has announced his retirement how many goals did he score for England?
- 10. Which team lifted the Scottish League Cup earlier this month?

Today's Mascots

Introducing this afternoon's mascots Sammy Pope and Ronnie Smith

We extend a warm welcome to our mascots Sammy Pope and Ronnie Smith who are leading the teams out ahead of this afternoon's match.

Sammy Pope (pictured) is eight years old, this is the first time he has been mascot and is cousin to Nick Pope. Sammy is from Newmarket and loves football.

Obviously his favourite player is Nick Pope!

Our second mascot is Ronnie Smith, who is nine years old, and is the Grandson of Ian Smith from our matchday sponsors ERMS UK.

We hope Sammy and Ronnie, and their guests, enjoy their afternoon with us here at the R Costings Abbey Stadium.





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Michael Gash



Tom Elliott Away Shirt Sponsor CUFC Club Shop



Harrison Dunk Full Away Kit Sponsor EJ & RE Clark



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James Brighton Away Shirt Sponsor Mark Johnson



Luke Allen Away Shirt Zak Acvarez



Nick

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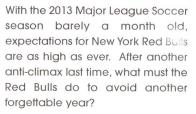


Hurst Home Shirt Sponsor Colin Proctor

Curtis Havnes-Brown Away Shirt Sponsor Jimmy & Hannah

Planet Football

As the MLS gets underway, Mike Barnes wonders if the New York Bulls can finally live up to expectations



There were flashes of brilliance. big let-downs and controversial moments in 2012 but, despite boasting a squad including Thierry Henry (pictured), Tim Cahill and Rafa Marquez, the Red Bulls failed once again in their bid to lift the MLS Cup for the first time. To add insult to injury, they were knocked out of the play-offs by arch-rivals DC United in a memorable Eastern Conference semi-final.

The end of another blank season saw the departures of former head coach Hans Backe and a clutch of players, heralding a new era for the New Yorkers. Mike Petke, a man with a long association with the club from two spells as a player, was named as the new head coach and he brought in a number of players with MLS experience in the hope of finally ending the 17year silverware drought.

Among the myriad departures from the Red Bull Arena, Marquez was released and has moved back Mexico with Leon, Finnish midfielder Teemu Tainio, formerly with Tottenham and Sunderland, has joined HJK Helsinki, one time Plymouth loanee Kenny Cooper the Red Bulls' leading scorer last season with 18 goals - has moved to FC Dallas and Sebastien Le Toux, previously with Seattle Sounders, has signed for Philadelphia Union.

In addition to the notable arrival of Juninho Pernambucano on a free transfer from Brazilian side



for the new campaign include defender Jamison Olave and forward Fabian Espindola from Real Salt Lake, midfielder Eric Alexander from Portland Timbers and

midfielder Ruben Izquierdo from Charlton Athletic

Despite his age, Henry is still

regarded as the club's most important player. Captaining the side, the 35-year-old Frenchman is still capable of providing magical moments and, with 31 goals in 64 appearances for the Red Bulls, remains a more than capable performer at this level. Big things are also expected of Leeds-born Lloyd Sam, a winger who played more than 100 times for Charlton, but who missed much of last season through injury. Goalkeeper Luis Robles performed impressively in his handful of appearances last season and is expected to help the Red Bulls concede fewer than last year's 46 goals while Espindola, signed for his goalscoring habits and expected to fill Cooper's boots, will need to adjust quickly to

There are questions as to how Petke will fare in his first major coaching role. He has a wealth of experience of the Red Bulls as player and assistant coach, but has never been in charge before. "I think this team can be a contender in 2013, but I'm a guy who believes in this organisation so I might be way more optimistic than a normal person," he said during pre-season. "I see this team doing great things in 2013." How Petke deals with the pressure and scrutiny associated with the hot seat could be crucial.

There were worrying signs of the Red Bulls' inability to hold a lead in their first two games earlier this month. The season opener was an exciting affair. Espindola scored but the Red squandered a 3-1 lead to draw 3-3 away in Portland. A 2-1 defeat in San Jose followed, two late goals the hosts trumpina Alexander's early opener for the New Yorkers, before a goalless draw against DC United. It could be another long, frustrating season.



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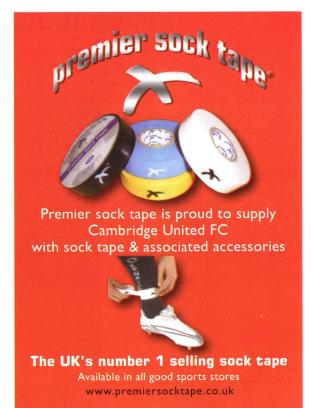
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Travellers' Tales

Mark Johnson looks back at our recent trip to Grimsby



Date: Saturday, March 16th, 2013

Result: Grimsby 0 Cambridge
United 1

The Journey Departure Time: 9.30am

Arrival at Ground: It was an increasingly damp drive up, but the weather took an unexpectedly clement turn just before I arrived and the sun even made a fleeting appearance as I entered the ground at about 1pm - although, of course, I wouldn't begin to suggest that the two events were connected.

At The Ground The Ground: A mixture of the old

and slightly newer, Blundell Park is a stadium dominated by a huge. two-tiered stand that towers over the rest of the around and the traditional terraced houses that surround it. Running from a point midway along one touchline in one half, to a similar position alongside the other half of the pitch, the upper tier of this stand is two or three times the height of the lower tier. Up there in the 'gods', the red seats have faded to grey in increasing numbers. The lower, more modestly-dimensioned tier contains brighter red seats with the letters 'GTFC' picked out in white. The glass windows of corporate areas separate these tiers.

Low, grey buildings are on either side of this stand; these serve as offices, turnstile blocks and other necessaries and they fill the area along that side of the ground. There's plenty of filling for them to do, as although the stand along this side is huge, it's a tall rather than a long stand. To the left of the stand, looking from across the pitch, the breezeblock buildings were protected by a blue mesh and a skip.

Two of the three remaining three sides also contain red seats. However, the stands behind the goal beside the blue-meshed area and along the side facing the huge stand are single tiered and joined



by a continuous roof. An area of unused terracing in the corner between these two areas reveals the secret of these stands' past.

Whilst the stand behind the goal has a scoreboard on top, positioned perfectly so the visiting fans are oblivious to its presence, the stand alongside the pitch contains the press box - or press boxes, for there are two. Box A, the only one in use for our visit, contained fairly comfortable red seats behind a white bench whose paint was flaking away at such a rate that you might think bench and paint had fallen out with each other. The width of the bench made for a slight challenge for those reporters with laptops: however, I suspect that when the press areas were built a lap top was simply something that appears when you sit down. Box B, which is slightly further back and slightly more centrally positioned, has contoured wooden seats. The surprising number of press boxes is only outdone by the remarkable number of pillars that have been deemed necessary to support the large, corrugated roof that covers this stand. Fortunately, the pillars are sensibly proportioned and you can peer around them to see all the pitch without too much of a problem.

An area of tarmac beside this stand leads to the final part of this all-seater stadium. Here, behind the remaining goal is a large, stand-alone area of seats. Vertically striped in black and white, the seats in this area look as though the skin of an unfeasibly large zebra has been left to dry in the sun - or rain, on the day of our visit.

United Fans: The travelling fans almost looked lost in the cavernous away end, but they gave it a good go at generating some decent support.

Home Fans: Grimsby fans were loud at times, but they mainly seemed to be anxious as their chance of automatic promotion threatens to evaporate. A huge roar of expectation greeted the arrival of substitute Liam Hearn but he didn't seem to have been on the pitch for long when a surprising number of Grimsby fans began to head for the exits.

Programme: £3 for 68 pages, with a decent amount to read amongst myriad adverts. Although the United pen pictures were abbreviated more than usual, there was still a reasonable section about the U's.

State of Toilets: Dark, dank and traditionally 'aromatic' facilities lurked behind the old main stand.



On Reflection

Cambridge United 1 Ebbsfleet United 1 19.03.13 Blue Square Bet Premier

The Match

Harrison Dunk's equaliser ten minutes from time earned Cambridge United a point against Ebbsfleet.

Dunk pounced to slam the ball in after substitute John Gorman's shot had been cleared off the line. Matt Godden had put the Fleet in front in the 71st minute with a composed finish following a mistake in the United defence.

Godden had also hit the post for Liam Daish's men, and missed a great chance to steal the points in stoppage time, shooting wide from eight yards.

The Line Ups

United: Pope, Roberts, Wassmer, Coulson, Haynes-Brown, Pugh (Gorman), Jarvis (Berry), Shaw, Dunk, Hughes (Blissett), Elliott. Subs not used: Anderson,

Ebbsfleet: Edwards, Phipp,
Lorraine, Walsh, Howe, Barrett,
Payne (Azeez), Carew, Bellemy,
Elder (Enver-Marum), Godden.
Subs not used: Menz, Blake,

Williams

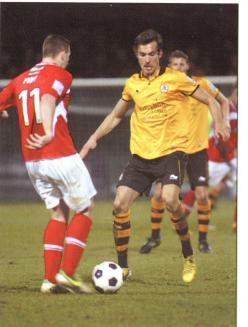
McAuley

Referee: Wayne Barrett

Attendance: 1,737 (50 away)















● 1912-2012 Celebrating 100 Years

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Smile Scheme

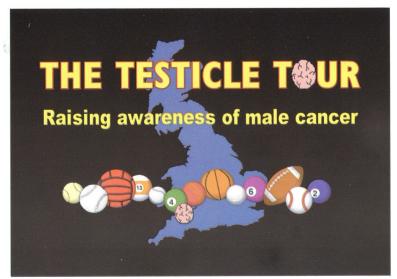
Today's charity of the day – Everyman: Stamp out Male Cancer an appeal of the Institute of Cancer Research

The Testicle Tour was created by best mates Darren Couchman and Richard Miller. Their aim is to raise awareness of testicular cancer in a funny, light hearted way.

Testicular cancer is often seen as an embarrassing illness. They want to break down this barrier using humour. Darren used lots of humour in his fight against testicular cancer and now he wants to bring this humour to the people of England.

In 2008 they travelled 4000 miles around England visiting places that have reference to the male genitalia. In May 2010 they set the Guinness world record for the biggest gathering of men checking their testicles in a public place.

The lads visited Cambridge United in March 2010 and did their unique take on the half time penalty shoot-



out by using large fluffy testicles instead of a football. Now they're back and you can get involved at half time!

www.thetesticletour.com

The Cambridge United Smile Scheme has two elements:

1. 12 tickets for a home league



match

2. Charity Collections

Over the course of the season we hope to raise money for local and national charities, raising the profile of small as well as larger organisations, and enabling the Club to make significant contributions and develop meaningful relationships with these charities.

If you are aware of somebody that would benefit from this then please get in touch with either Martin Jordan (habbinmartin@yahoo.com) or Stuart Wood (Stuart@barnwellbaptistchurch.org. uk) or via the club office.

Please Note: All authorised Charity collectors will be wearing a match day pass. If you see anyone else collecting or have any concerns please do not hand over any money until you have spoken to one of the Club Stewards.

Chaplain's Comment

with Stuart Wood

My wife Hayley and I recently watched the film "Eat Pray Love" starring Julia Roberts. For those who haven't seen it, this true story is based on the book of the same name by Liz Gilbert who takes a year out, journeying first to Italy, then to India and finally to Bali seeking self-discovery.

In one scene, towards the end of her four months in Italy, she visits an Augusteum, which was built by one of the emperors as his tomb, but over the years had been subject to desecration and abuse and was now called home by the homeless.

While sat in the Augusteum reflecting on her experience, she says: "Ruin is a gift; ruin is the road to transformation. Even in this eternal city, the Augusteum showed me that we must always be prepared for endless waves of transformation."

As I was thinking about this short scene, it reminded me of the Easter story. As we remember the events of that first Easter this weekend, the truth is the path to the empty tomb and Jesus resurrection was through the cross and his death. There could be no resurrection without death. In the words of Liz Gilbert, "Ruin is the road to transformation".

Last week, I attended the funeral service of a young Cambridge United fan, James King. James was born with Cystic Fibrosis, and was at birth given 5-8 years to live. Later, this was extended to 14-16 years, but he lived until he was 32. I had the privilege of visiting James in Papworth Hospital on a couple of occasions with Josh Coulson. Despite his illness, he never complained or moaned. And listening to the tributes brought at his funeral service, this was James – he made the most of every day, despite his illness. He loved his beloved U's and travelled near and far with his dad, Stewart, as his illness allowed.

The other thing about James that I want to mention here, is that he had chosen to follow Jesus. And



the truth for James and all who choose to follow Jesus, is that because of the events of that first Easter, we too can know resurrection.

While James's life had been dominated by his illness and the physio, treatment and hospital stays that were part of it, the hope he had is that because of Jesus he now has a new body – one that is no longer constrained by the limitations experienced on this earth.

As Christians we have hope, even in the face of death. That hope can be ours, not because we are anything special, but because of the events of that first Easter weekend.

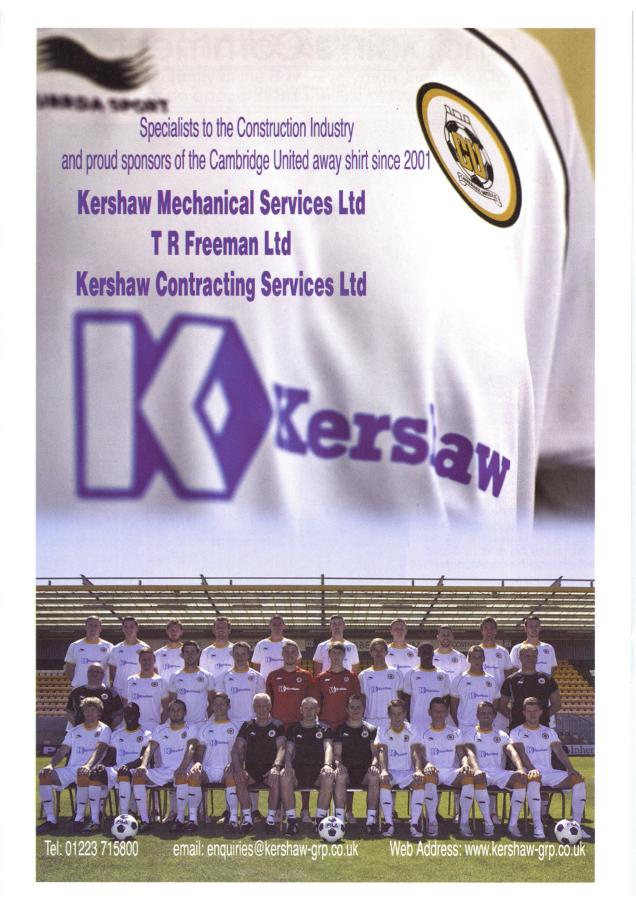
As Liz Gilbert discovered, our hope is that although there may be ruin, there may be trouble and

pain, and even death, transformation can come and it can be ours.

The path to the grave required Jesus to die, and for us the path to our transformation may be through pain and strife, but there is hope.

Easter is not simply about bunnies, chicks and chocolate eggs, but it is about hope, about life and about joy. It is about having our lives transformed not because we deserve it, but because 2000 years ago, Jesus died and rose again, and now wants to bring us transformation.

May I wish you a very blessed Easter. And I hope and pray that each one of us will take the time to reflect on what it really means. May we find hope and transformation, even in the midst of ruin, pain and death.



In Focus

Doug Shulman talks with midfielder Luke Allen





My main aim is to work hard again in preseason and impress the gaffer, so he thinks I'm good enough to be in the squad.

Along the myriad corridors beneath the R Costings Abbey Stadium Main Stand have walked hundreds of players lucky enough to wear the black & amber of Cambridge United. Perhaps fitting then, that I should meet one of the latest graduates emanating from United's successful production line of youth, within those same walls. Exuding confidence throughout our interview, former Tottenham schoolboy Luke Allen is at ease as we discuss his delight at signing a first professional deal, his successful loan spell across the River Cam and an imminent nervousness for ... practical jokes.

Explaining his early years in football, we kick off the conversation with a look back at Luke's formative days and how he found himself playing for the U's. "I came to United when I was sixteen after I got released from Tottenham Hotspur, where I was from the age of six, right up through the youth

scheme. I went to exit-trials and that's where Cambridge picked me up, after just one or two

Nurtured at one of the biggest clubs in the country for close to ten vears, Luke savs he was fortunate to be playing under such high quality international coaches and former Premier League footballers at White Hart Lane. "Bradley Allen, who is Clive Allen's brother, was my coach at under-fourteen's and fifteen's and was really good, plus Craig Nicholson for two or three years, Steve McDermott then Chris Ramsay in the under sixteen's. They were all really good coaches."

Of his release, though, he says, "I was distraught. I'm not a Spurs fan, but my Granddad was and he used to take me to training a lot and we used to get free tickets for the games, which I loved going along to, so it was not a nice feeling."

Thankfully, Luke's disappointment eased when, in parallels with Liam Hurst - interviewed within these pages last week - he was spotted by United's Director of Football Jez George and former development coach Nolan Keeley, who offered him a route back into football.

"I left Spurs at the start of December and was at United by February, I'd had a six-week trial at Norwich, which didn't end well and, it was one of those gutting moments where I was convinced I was going to get something with them, but didn't. I was at exit-trials and there were a couple of clubs interested, but it was Jez and Nolan that went and saw me. I liked the facilities here and what Jez believes in, so I signed. My first game was against Northampton and, after that, they had said they would like to keep me for a week and watch me training, then they offered me my scholarship. "For any youngster released, especially by a

Luke Allen - 27





everynea (Tive om

Premiership giant, wading through the proverbial scrub to rediscover your career path must be a difficult one but, as Luke explains, United have assisted greatly. "It's benefited me massively. My first game here was when I was sixteen and my body was still growing, I was pretty slim and, I think they could see I was going to progress, physically, perhaps slower than other players, like JT (Jonathan Thorpe) who was building really quickly." With United clearly showing a patience for talent, he adds, "They took their time, though, nurtured me and, now I'm a lot bigger, they know I'm ready to start playing properly."

acknowledging opportunity he has been given, 20vear old Luke also points a finger towards one of the deciding factors in him joining the U's. "Bez (Luke Berry) Hughesy (Liam Hughes) Brights (James Brighton) and JT have all been playing in the first team and it's great to see them kicking on with their careers. It's good to know you've always got the chance, like they have. That's the main reason I joined Cambridge, because I knew Jez would play the youngsters and believed in them getting to the first team."

A further chapter in Luke's time at the club saw him don the shirt frequently for United's youth scholarship side CRC but, as the 20year old explains, it was not just a case of walking into the team. "In my first year I remember sitting on the bench for seven or eight games and just not getting on the pitch, because there was Bez and Ivesy (Sam Ives) in the side and Hughesy was playing centre forward at the time, so I was struggling to get in but, the second year I cemented my place and played some good football. My third year was a bit hitand-miss with injury at times, but I was a regular."

A big step up for any young player, Luke is also certain that pitching himself against physical and more experienced players in the Thurlow Nunn Eastern Counties Premier Division was not only his gateway to the school of hard knocks, but a major turning point in his career.

"When I was 16 or 17 it was a real shock, coming from Tottenham Academy football, where its passpass-pass, to men's football where you have to head it, clear it all the

Citing one particular incident, Luke says, "There was a bia difference. I can remember in my second year, trying a little side tackle in the game against Kirkley (and Pakefield) but the fella has just booted me on the floor, literally just kicked me and the referee did nothing. I remember thinking to myself, okay this is men's football, definitely. It teaches you to man up and that, unlike academy football, you can't always have ten touches of the ball. They are both good levels of football, where the Academy is more technical but, CRC was more physical and, that taught me a lot and made me

The pinnacle of any young career, Luke signed a first professional contract with United last July which, after his ultimate disappointments with both Tottenham and Norwich, was a Jez George nice reward. commented at the time of capturing Luke's signature that he had 'worked really hard over the summer, especially in the gym, and has come back as one of the fittest players in the group.' Sentiments that are part-echoed by Luke

"It was a very proud moment," he says, before adding, "Jez decided to take a chance because I'd came back from pre-season wanting to prove myself and, luckily enough I did and, he thought I'd worked really hard, so was offered a one-year pro deal. I'd got injured last year when I chipped my cuboid bone so, had missed the last two or three months of the season. Nolan (Keeley) said he wanted me to come in over the summer two or three times a week to get my levels back up, which really helped me get fit even before pre-season. After that I wanted to prove to them that it was the right decision and, as I said, I was very proud."

Luke also reserves special praise for Nolan Keeley, who departed the R Costings Abbey Stadium last November. "He was a good coach, was always really good to me, looked after me, we got on well and he had my best interests in mind."

Wanting to offer future first-teamers regular match time one or two steps beneath the Conference, Jez George negotiated a six-month loan deal with neighbours Cambridge City, where Luke would build his experience in the Evostik Southern League Premier Division along with another U's former scholar, James Brighton, who had signed a similar loan arrangement.

"Gary (Roberts) said he'd take both of us and, since my first game there, I think i've shown that it was a good decision. They knew of Brights already because he'd been on loan at Hemel Hempstead, who play in the same league, but I was playing at CRC, which is a bit different as there are two leagues between the two so, I think they thought, can he do it at City? I wanted to show them I could, and think I have."

Glancing at the statistics from his time at the Pro-Edge Stadium to date, it is evident that City think highly of the young midfielder. 28 league and cup appearances are punctuated by a first senior goal against St Neots on New Year's Day and, clearly enjoying his stay, Luke is certain that the deal has been of positive benefit to his development.

"I think it's been very successful and they have helped me improve as a player, rather than sitting on the bench or in the stands. I've enjoyed my time there as well, so it's been very good for both them and me."

In fact, the agreement proved so beneficial for both parties that his



They took their time, nurtured me and, now I'm a lot bigger, they know I'm ready to start playing properly.



I really want to knuckle down, get myself fit and show that I can be the centre-midfielder for him.



temporary stay was extended earlier this year, meaning Luke would stay at Milton Road for the remainder of the campaign. Nevertheless, within weeks the injury jinx struck and Luke, who trains with both United and City, has recently endured a lengthy spell on the sidelines.

"We went to the London Soccer Dome and were playing on a 3G artificial pitch. I went to turn and Shawy (Tom Shaw) caught my ankle whilst I was going the other way, which was unfortunate. I rolled it and did my ankle ligaments so was out for six or seven weeks."

As often happens in football, one injury can follow another and, unfortunately Luke is no exception. "It was my first training session back, which was going well for me then. in the last five or ten minutes I could feel my hamstring getting tighter and tighter, so I asked the gaffer if I could ease up. I went in to see Greg (Reid) and, he said I had a slight strain, but that he would hopefully be able to turn it around in ten days. I was back after seven, am now running at about eighty percent and hope to train again next week."

Chomping at the bit to return to first-team action, Luke will be hoping to play his part as City push for the play-offs. So how does he view the standard of Southern League Premier Division football? "It's mixed to be honest," he says frankly, before detailing, "Sometimes I think it's good and then sometimes, blimey, it's not the best quality, depending on who you're playing. In the main, though, when you're playing against the better sides, it's pretty decent."

Looking ahead and his return to United, Luke is confident that, although a tough task lies ahead, he will be knocking on the door of the first-team before long.

"My main aim is to work hard again in pre-season and impress the gaffer, so he thinks I'm good enough to be in the squad. I really want to knuckle down, get myself fit and show that I can be the centre-midfielder for him."

Always speaking with a sense of determination, Luke continues with an insight into the philosophy adopted at United and the benefit of a structure that sees a Head Coach work under a Director of Football to ensure continuity. "When a new gaffer comes in you think, will he like the way the club is run, with a lot of youth players? But he (Richard Money) is one of those men that likes to use younger players. You can see with players like Bez and Hughesy, whose been brilliant since he's been back in the team, and Bright's who's been given a chance when selected. It's good to see that there's a chance if you're the right type of

Although acknowledging the difficult route that leads to the first eleven, though, he takes heart from the path trodden by others. "When you look at Hughesy, who's been on loan this season to Corby and scored goals, he's showed he's ready and that's what I'd like to do. Even if I'm not there next season in the squad, perhaps I'll go on loan to a Conference South team, show what I can do, as he's done, and get into the team that way."

So, with talk turning to his role on the pitch, what does Luke view as the favoured position for him and one where, perhaps, he can pose the biggest threat? "I prefer playing centre-mid but, when I went to Cambridge City they were struggling for a right-winger so, I played a couple of games there and did quite well. I stayed there until January but now I've moved back into central midfield. I much prefer playing there, in the middle."

Off the pitch, despite living away from his family, Luke has settled well in Cambridge and will be sharing accommodation with his first-team colleagues again next season. "I'm just about to move in with Tom Elliott, Curtis Haynes-Brown, H (Harrison Dunk) and Billy Gibson. Before, I was living over in Histon

with Will Norris and Brights, who I knew right through my scholarship. It will be different moving to Newmarket without Brights but, will give me a chance to get to know some of the older players instead, to create a bond and some friendships, which will be good for me."

Recognising the importance of team spirit both on and off the pitch, Luke says, "There's a lot of banter flying around that house I can tell you! I have a feeling I'll be the target of a few practical jokes when I first move in, so I'll have to keep my eyes peeled and keep out their way for a bit! Seriously, though, when there's a good atmosphere in the changing room that can translate on the pitch and help the team. If you all get on with people, it's going to be enjoyable playing together and helping each other out. It's a very good dressing room to be fair, no bickering, lots of banter and some good characters to be around, which is what the club needs," says Luke, before concluding, "I'm really enjoying my time here at Cambridge United, there are great facilities at Clare (College Training Ground) and the staff are areat. Bonns (Mark Bonner) Matt Walker, Jez, the gaffer, who are a good circle of coaches, plus Greg, who is a top physio and isn't afraid to give out a bit of banter!"

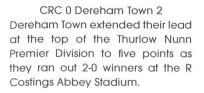
Within twenty-four hours of wrapping up our interview, it was revealed that Luke had signed a one-year extension to his professional contract and, thanks to a football-free Saturday, I managed to catch up with him for some reaction to the news.

"I was a little bit shocked to get the offer so early, but was absolutely delighted and couldn't wait to put pen to paper. Because my loan at City takes me to the end of the season I'll not play for United this year, so next season I'll be looking to get into the squad under Richard Money and play some football."



CRC In Action

News of the latest matches involving tomorrow's U's



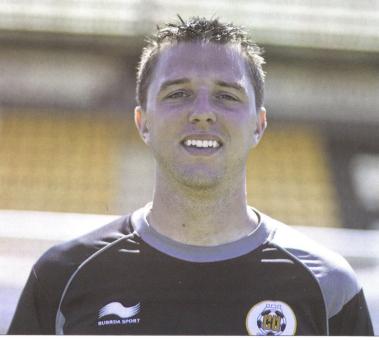
An early goal inside the opening two minutes gave the league title favourites the lead beginning with a throw in on the right wing falling to the full back to swing a cross in towards the far post, which dropped over Jack North and was looped back across the goal into the top corner by the head of the peeling striker.

The goal temporarily halted the game with little action for the next ten minutes before CRC came to life. Dereham changed their shape a number of times in the next 35 minutes as they tried to come to terms with and stop CRC's fluent passing and movement. As they grew in confidence, the home side were a constant threat, playing in between and around the visitors. A number of near misses and an excellent save from the goal keeper at 1-0 prevented the equaliser.

With no reward for their prolonged spell it was a terrible time and way to concede a goal just before the break that would double Dereham's lead, but also double the difficulty of the task for the scholars. Completed against the run of play, an unthreatening cross from the left hand side was hacked into his own goal by the right foot of Nathan Heath as he ignored the shout from the goal keeper.

A third goal nearly put an end to the game just before the break as the scholars were clearly rattled by the previous error that led to the second.

The second half was fairly even



and with both teams creating chances, Dereham will no doubt be pleased with how they saw the game out and made the second half scrappy. The scholars tired as the half went on after a demanding week on some heavy surfaces and were unable to convert in a spell midway through the half where they stroked the ball around the wet surface with ease. Their reluctance to shoot prevented them from testing the goal keeper as they too often looked for feet to keep possession in the attacking half when there clear goal scoring opportunities that they didn't recognise.

Coach Mark Bonner (pictured) said, "We threw them the game with two poor goals in the first half. We recovered well form the early set back and played some excellent football in between the two goals. We came close and but for a very good save from the

keeper would have drawn level. The second goal before half time was an expensive error and gave them a good cushion.

"Second half was patchy, with scrappy spells but some periods of quality from us. We need to sustain that quality. We need to be braver to back ourselves to score, and we need to defend their out ball when our attacks break down.

"We've only taken one point from nine in three difficult games but there have been some very encouraging signs in those games. We were very young today and some legs tired towards the end which is understandable after a tough week, but we'll get ourselves ready now for a big game at Woodbridge."

Team: McNulty, North, Hancock, Heath, Westwood, Horne, Smith, Lowe, Taylor (Cary), Kerwan, Pring (Lentell).

ENGLISH NATURAL MINERAL WATER



Eastern Eye

the Thurlow Nunn (Eastern Counties) League



With the weather providing frequent interruptions, the Thurlow Nunn Premier Division is not quite vet in its home straight, but that hasn't stopped Walsham-le-Willows title chances.

The Suffolk club enjoyed a remarkable mid-winter which saw them hit the top, leading their wealthier and more ambitious rivals. Willows hadn't applied for promotion, either - they were the fly in the ointment, providing an awkward additional concern for the five clubs whose eyes were not simply on silverware, but on a rise through the divisions.

But recent inconsistency has seen

Smith's side slip marginally off the pace and following a late draw with Mildenhall earlier this month, the boss conceded that the game was up on their unlikely trophy bid. boss Paul Smith writing off his side's He told the Green Un: "I think 81 points will win the league and we can't get that now, even if we win every game.

> "If we can keep the players and they can build on what we have achieved this year, I believe next year we can be real championship contenders, which is unbelievable for a club like Walsham."

> That leaves Dereham and Wisbech battling it out at the top, with the pair matching each other almost stride for stride. The former

have now won four on the bounce conceding just once along the way, and they had former Cambridge United scholar Craia Bussens on the scoresheet in their most recent outing - a 2-0 success at the Abbey.

Meanwhile, Steve Appleby's decision to offer Callum Reed a second chance looks to be reaping rewards. The occasionally difficult midfielder has struck three times in his last three outings as the Fenmen have strung together a sixmatch winning run. The sides meet in the penultimate fixture of the campaign, a clash which could go a long way to deciding the final placings.

CDC Fivtures

			CRCF	ixiures	
Thurlo	W	Nunn League Premier Divis	sion	February	
August				Sat 02 H Thetford Town	W4-0
Sat 04	A	FC Clacton	D2-2	Sat 09 H Gorleston	L0-2
Wed 08	8 H	Godmanchester Rovers	D1-1	Sat 16 H Wivenhoe Town	W2-0
Tue 14	A	Diss Town	W5-2	Tue 19 A Norwich United	W2-0
Sat 18	A	Kirkley & Pakefield	LO-3	Sat 23 A Thetford Town	W2-0
Wed 22	2 H	Haverhill Rovers	L3-4	March	
Septer	mk	per		Sat 02 A Brantham Athletic	L0-4
Sat 08	A	Felixstowe & Walton United	D3-3	Wed 06 H Felixstowe & Walton United	W3-2
Sat 15	A	Mildenhall Town	L0-2	Sat 09 A Stanway Rovers	D1-1
Sat 22	Н	Woodbridge Town	W4-1	Wed 13 H Wisbech Town	L1-2
Sat 29	Н	Brantham Athletic	L2-4	Sat 16 H Dereham Town	L0-2
Octob	er			Sat 23 A Woodbridge Town	P-P
Sat 13	Н	Kirkley & Pakefield	L1-2	April	
Sat 20		Hadleigh United	L1-2	Wed 03 H Walsham-le-Willows	19:45
Sat 27	A	Wisbech Town	D2-2	Sat 06 A Wivenhoe Town	15:00
Nover	mb	er		Wed 17 H Hadleigh United	19:45
Sat 03	Н	Norwich United	L0-5	Sat 20 H Mildenhall Town	15:00
Sat 10	A	Ely City	L1-2	Sat 27 H Stanway Rovers	15:00
Sat 17	A	Gorleston	L1-6	League Table on Page	66
Sat 24	Н	FC Clacton	LO-3	The FA Coulebour Vace	
Decer	mb	er		The FA Carlsberg Vase	10.7
Sat 01	Н	Diss Town	L1-4	Sep 01 QR1 H Fakenham Town	LO-1
Sat 08	A	Walsham-le-Willows	L2-3	Red Insure Cup	
Sat 15	A	Dereham Town	L0-4	Oct 23 R1 A Saffron Walden Town	W3-0
Janua	ary				W2-1
Tue 02	A	Godmanchester Rovers	W3-2		L2-3
Sat 05	A	Haverhill Rovers	L1-2	. 5.5 5.5 7. Carrienage of hydrony 1 1035	
Sat 12	Н	Ely City	D2-2	Cambs Invitation Cup	
		***************************************		Jan 08 R1 H Great Shelford	LO-3

FA Youth Cup - Playing as Cambridge United

Sep 5 PR A Stowmarket Town	W13-0	Oct 3	QR2 H Bury Town	L1-3	
Sep 19 QR1 H Dereham Town	W3-0		•		



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Ryan Plowright

James Akintunde





Community Trust

Samba Footballero with the Cambridge United Youth & Community Trust





Cambridge United Youth & Community Trust launched a new activity called Samba Footballero in the New Year. This attention-grabbing name captures every aspect of the initiative which fuses football with Brazilian dance. The activity was born through the creative thinking of one of the Youth & Community Trust apprentices Jack Chandler. Jack is a professional dancer who also has a passion for football. The two activities share many of the same values, such as agility, balance, coordination and core strength. The movement patterns involved in dance also cross over into the fundamental movements required in football. Coupled with the Brazilian World Cup in 2014 and the Rio Olympics in 2016, Samba Footballero is a celebration of football, dance and Brazil itself.

The first Samba Footballero session was held in the February half term school holidays at Linton Village College and attracted a lot of attention, both from children/parents wanting to attend and the media. You may have seen an article in the youth scene of the Cambridge News recently, publicising the success of the first course, which was fully subscribed. Those of you reading this may wonder what the participants do exactly during a Samba Footballero session. The answer is that three main activities take place. At the start of the session the children will watch Jack and his

assistant perform a dance routine, with a football to the beat of the Samba music, before giving it a try themselves. Once they have rehearsed the routine, the children will get to express themselves by using tricks and skills in the 'Brazilian Skills Circle'. This is also an opportunity for players to learn new skills, demonstrated by the coaches. The final activity is a round-robin Brazilian football tournament where the likes of Fluminense play Corinthians! As the parents arrive at the end of the day the children give the returning parents a performance of the routine that they learnt earlier in the day.

The aim for the Trust is to grow this activity and deliver sessions to secondary schools, in the evenings at dance development centres and Saturday morning clubs. Over the last few weeks Jack Chandler has been visiting various primary schools and delivering dance lessons free of charge as an opportunity for children to sample this exciting new sport. There are also plans for a showcase event next summer to celebrate the success of the new venture in its first year.

If your child's school or organisation is interested in getting involved with Samba Footballero please contact Trust Manager James Cutting via email - jamescutting@cambridge-united.co.uk.

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Terrace Talk



The clubs who have succeeded perhaps opted to plan for the intangibles, to achieve sustainability in the medium term



Almost as soon as we are able to stumble, before even the halcyon days of those first steps, most of us want to belong. That's not to say conform or follow the crowd; you might have been the toddler chewing the plasticine rather than playing in the sand, or the schoolboy who happily enjoyed ballet and not top trumps. But essentially, we all find ourselves searching for something to belong to. It can be a group, a gang, an idea or a team.

Football clubs are rather similar. In fact, like an extra in West Side Story, belonging seems to define them. Each spring supporters celebrate 'getting back where we belong', others spend the summer intent on returning to the place they belong, or finally reaching that elusive point. (The secret is, however, that there isn't a single point, the target is movina.)

It's difficult to ascertain exactly what belonging entails. branding of an arm, a patterned bandana or a turned-up trouser might signify membership in the outside world, or a laminated card. But football doesn't work with cardcarriers. There are the nouveaux riches, there are those with back catalogues of trophies and big days out, and plenty sitting somewhere in between.

When a division alters its components by as many as seven a year, as League One does, who has a historical claim to any rung of the ladder? There are, of course, all-time tables, record books and hand-me-down stories, but they only serve as the roughest of rough guides and have a negligible



bearing on the here and now.

Bradford, with their thousands of season ticket holders, can grumble about facing Accrington and Morecambe, whom attendances of 2,000 count as creditable, but their complaints are hollow. To frown at the progress of Swansea, Hull and Wigan in recent seasons is to glower at the simple passing of time. Ten years ago he was the teenager flicking ink at the back of the Spanish teacher's shirt: now he's earning millions running a Swiss investment bank.

Ultimately, football is short-termist and though we often rail against that, it usually wins. Three-year plans are begun discontinued, giving way to another approach which may also never reach fruition. It would be interesting to trawl through the statements of chairmen and managers to examine just how their ambitious long-term plans have progressed. In fact it would probably reveal what we already know - most of them fall flat.

The clubs who have succeeded perhaps opted to plan for the intangibles, sustainability in the medium term, to establish a youth-based ethos, to create a style of play rather than aim for an Orwellian promised land, an exclusive nightclub dripping with success, a club which you'll be happy to enter but dismally depressed thereafter when you scrape away a layer of make-up and your overdraft is demolished.

We needn't think like Groucho Marx - 'I don't care to belong to any club that will have me as a member,' but maybe we should consider belonging not to a division but a state of mind. Wouldn't you much rather belong to an ideal than to a league? A Football League return would be nice and we would then have earned the right to belong in League Two but it is not a full-time belonging: we can cultivate that ourselves and better still, there are no play-offs involved.

Henry Milward



100 Years Ago

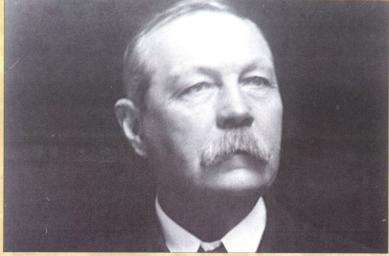
To celebrate our centenary season Kevin Palmer and Leigh Edwards look back at the world into which we were born

The club we know today as Cambridge United were formed in 1912, although the only proof of this is headed club notepaper stating this in 1926. The first written references to Abbey United, as we were then known, was in November 1913. This is the world into which we were born.

Magazines and Newspapers In 1913

There was no television or radio 100 years ago, so the most popular leisure activity in British households was reading. There were lots of daily newspapers to choose from. The Daily Mirror had recently become the first daily newspaper to sell more than a million copies, a similar circulation to 2013. The other big selling 'halfpenny papers' (the equivalent to today's tabloids) included the 'Daily Mail', the 'Daily Sketch' and the 'Daily Chronicle'. The more highbrow papers that were popular included 'The Times', 'The Daily Telegraph' and 'The Manchester Guardian.

Magazines were hugely popular too. These were mostly published monthly and there were hundreds to choose from, on every conceivable topic (and quite a few unconceivable ones too). The magazines were often advertised with lists of the articles to try and woo the casual reader. Most magazines had their fanatical devotees who would rush to their newsagents to buy the latest copy. The most famous and popular of these was 'The Strand Magazine' which concentrated on popular published the Sherlock Holmes stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Sir Arthur (pictured) had recently started writing the 'Professor Challenger' stories in 'The Strand' Professor Challenger was a much more aggressive and violent



person than Holmes and the stories were more geared towards the popular subject of science-fiction. The second story in this series was published this month and was called 'The Poison Belt', about a cloud of poisonous ether which penetrates the Earth's atmosphere. Stories in these magazines were often serialised over several issues, so you had to keep buying the magazines to see how the stories

Big names would often write for magazines, for example 'The British Review' featured an article by the writer Hilaire Belloc and a poem by W.B. Yeats. Fans of Arnold Bennett would have bought 'English Review' to read about his new series 'Seeing Life', whilst the Archbishop of Westminster wrote an unlikely article in 'The Nineteenth Century and After' entitled 'How Can England Be Prepared For Defence Against Possible Attack'

More specialist magazines included 'The Connoisseur' which was aimed at antiques collectors; 'The Moslem World'; and 'The Hibbert Journal which was more

scientific. Contained within 'The Englishwoman' magazine were articles entitled 'Women's Suffrage in Denmark', 'Racial Responsibility' and 'Bookbinding for Women'

Some magazine articles would be topical today. One advert was entitled 'The Great Petrol Scandal' It read; 'Every class of the community is affected by the price of petrol. Though we may not own motor-buses, we ride in them. And although we may not drive taxicabs, we use them. Furthermore petrol is quickly becoming the motive force for every kind of transport, and on transport depends our very existence. Petrol has been going up and up in price, is now up again, and will shortly reach an almost prohibitive price The reason for this, and the scandal underlying that reason is told in 'The London Magazine background for that article was that petrol had jumped from 12.75d per gallon in 1911 to 21d per gallon in 1913. That's the equivalent of a hike from £5 per gallon to £8 per gallon. Something to bear in mind as we complain about paying £6.20 per gallon for unleaded in



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The Ghost of **Programmes Past**

Andrew Bennett looks back at a programme from this day in 1990

Lee Philpott was one of the best leftwingers ever to grace the Abbey Stadium. In the programme from this day in 1990, he looked back on his first season in the first team...

The Cup run will always be the most memorable part of the season for me. When the team coach drove down Cold Blow Lane (Millwall) I thought 'this is the pits' - I didn't realise we were at the ground! It was small for a First Division ground. We should have won on the day.

Liam (Daish) fed the ball to me. I cut inside and passed to Chris (Leadbitter) in the area who crossed it for John (Taylor) to head in a great goal. It was a great moment I will remember forever.

HOWLETT

CAMBRIDGE UTD. v WREXHAM

In the replay we were so much quicker to the ball, we gave them no time at all. They seemed sloppy at the back and not that sharp. We should have won the game before extra time; the own goal was justice.

The game at Ashton Gate (Bristol City) was very physical, a lot of offthe-ball stuff from them, particularly aimed at Chris and Phil (Chapple) Joe Jordan obviously influences his team to play the way he was playing.

The replay - 1-1, physical just like the first game. Dion scored and I thought we had won it but two minutes later they equalised.

> Jubilation disappointment in two minutes. The game died and both teams settled for a draw. John Beck flipped the coin with Joe Jordan and walked back into the dressing room with a Winston Churchill victory sign.

On the Tuesday, we were prepared to play the same game as before but we started slowly, had a bit of luck, and that woke us up and we began to get it together. Bristol City missed a couple of chances, then Chris scored just before half-

John Beck said we years ago...

That night I watched Match of the were lucky to still be in the game and criticised our slow start. He wound us all up and then let us go. Everything we did came off. I scored a volley in the box with my right foot. I usually use it for standing on. Their heads went down and I knew we were on our way to the Sixth Round.

> I wanted Manchester United at the Abbey, a big club not playing very well at that time. However, we drew Crystal Palace at home. I felt we had a good chance of getting through to the semi-finals if we played the way we did against Bristol City.

The morning of the Palace game started well. I passed the fitness test and my ankle was OK. We went in at half-time with the scores level. We were unlucky not to have scored. There wasn't a lot between the teams, Palace were very strong on the ball, they played some nice football and were sharp at the back with nothing to exploit.

The lads gave everything for the whole of the game. It's ironic Palace scored a fluky goal. It would have been a lot tougher if we had to play them at Selhurst Park. I felt we could still grab a goal towards the end of the game. The team wasn't put off by the big match atmosphere. We are used to being on TV news. It was a tremendous experience for me being a young lad.

John Beck said he was very proud of us, we had been beaten by a First Division outfit.

Hard to believe this happened 23



CAMBRIDGE EVENING NEWS





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Top Tens

Kevin Palmer highlights the Top Ten Players with The Most Assists In The Football League



1. Steve Spriggs 65 (pictured)

The player who created more goals for others in our Football League era (1970-2005) was the pint-sized midfield dynamo who played a record 416 League games for us between 1975 and 1987. He was a ball-winner who would then surge forward and open up a myriad of opportunities.

2. John Taylor 60

Every player on this list knows how to score as well as create and John is our all-time record League goalscorer with 86 goals in 325 games between 1988 and 2001. He set up large numbers of goals for partner Dion Dublin who is only twelfth on this list.

3. Tom Finney 42

Tom was one of those players who created havoc anywhere in the opposition's half of the pitch. The Northern Ireland international weaved his magic between 1976

and 1986, encompassing our rapid rise from the Fourth Division to the Second, our six year stay, and our rapid descent.

4. Alan Biley 39

Five of the first six names on this list were playing in the same side in the late 70's and early 80's and Alan was the main marksman with 75 goals in 168 games. He wasn't totally greedy though, and worked well with others (especially Finney) to smash defences.

5. Steve Fallon 37

Although a central defender, Steve was adept at surging forward and especially good in the air, making him popular for Finney and Biley to latch onto his headed flicks. He was a very good passer too though. He played 410 League games between 1975 and 1986.

=6. Graham 'Willie' Watson 30 Between 1972 and 1980 Willie was

a creative force that helped us to three promotions. He had a superb first touch and his first manager Bill Leivers said his thinking was five minutes ahead of anyone else on the pitch, which opened up scoring chances that seemed impossible.

=6. Dave Kitson 30

In 2002-03 Dave created 16 League goals to set a new club record, but still managed to tuck away 20 goals to finish as top scorer, despite our mid-table finish in the bottom division. No wonder that he was able to help guide Reading into the Premier League.

=8. Brian Greenhalah 29

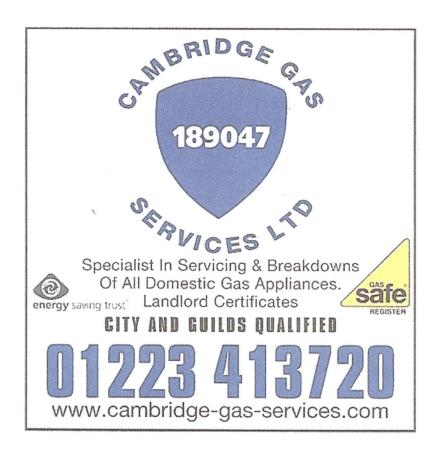
The record that Kitson broke was Brian's 15 assists that helped us to promotion out of the basement in 1972-73, whilst still managing to score 18 goals too, dominating the striking positions between 1971 and 1974. Our first striking superstar in the Football League era.

=8. Steve Butler 29

Many players on this list benefitted from having a colleague who formed lethal partnerships that created goals for one another. Steve's main help was Carlo Corazzin and between 1993 and 1995 they both finished joint top in the assists table for two consecutive seasons.

10. Steve Claridge 28

He never once topped the assists table and in reality he was more of a goal poacher than a creator, not helped by having to play second fiddle to Dublin and Taylor in the early 1990's, but outrageous talent like his can't help but benefit those others around him.





Programme Matters

The founding editor of "Programme Monthly" magazine illustrates how the changing face of football – and society – has been reflected in programmes through the years

World Class

Football's immediate reaction to the Tsunami disaster at Christmas 2004, was to arrange a charity match involving the current crop of superstars. The event was a success - a crowd of over 40,000 generously swelled the financial appeal, but their attendance was more an act of charity than a for a meaningful, competitive game. Endless second half substitutions, and a deluge of goals were testimony to a match played without a competitive edge.

While these fund-raising efforts are indeed laudable, they have tended to devalue the concept of a "World Eleven". Such selections were previous restricted to very special occasions, and the chosen participants took their playing responsibilities extremely seriously with the games being hard-fought, in front of sell-out, knowledgeable fans.

Perhaps the most notable of these fixtures came in 1963, to celebrate the centenary of the Football Association (pictured). England, three years away from hosting the World Cup Finals, played an official FIFA select drawn from the top stars from around the world, most of them having enhanced their reputations at the previous year's World Cup Finals in Chile

hundred thousand spectators paid £89,000 to see England, with goals by Terry Paine and Jimmy Greaves, beat the FIFA Select, for whom Denis Law scored, The standard 20 page programme was typical of so many Wembley issues of the period, although the editorial pages were slanted towards celebrating the significant milestone in football history. Throughout the programme, however, are references to the galaxy of stars on show that afternoon. Lev Yashin in goal, Djalma Santos of Brazil and West Germany's Schnellinger at full back; Raymond Kopa of France, Germany's Uwe Seeler, Eusabio,

and three members of the great Real Madrid team of the late 1950's in Di Stefano, Puskas and Gento.

There were some great names in the England team too - Gordon Banks, Bobby Moore, Jimmy Greaves and Bobby Charlton. Indeed, it is interesting to note the changes made over the next three years by England manager Alf Ramsey, from the team which beat "The World" at Wembley: Banks (Leicester), Wilson (Blackpool), (Huddersfield), Milne Norman (Liverpool), (Tottenham), Moore (West Ham), Paine (Southampton), Greaves (Tottenham), Smith (Tottenham), Eastham (Arsenal), Charlton (Manchester United).

FIFA played little part in fielding a "World Stars"

eleven to play in Stanley Matthews' Testimonial match on 28th April 1965, but there was no shortage of top class players willing to pay tribute to one of the game's greatest ever players.

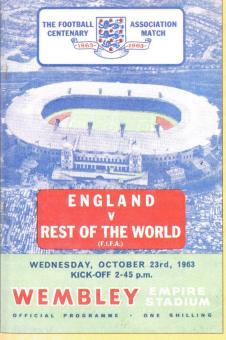
They, and the Wizard of the Dribble himself, were celebrated in the biggest (and at 2s 6d the most expensive) programme ever published in Britain up until that date and for some years beyond. The 104 page brochure contained plenty to read, many adverts, and a succession of tributes to Stanley Matthews. For the modern reader, it also provides reminders of the great players of that era, who turned up at a packed Victoria Ground, Stoke, for a memorable evening

The Matthews' XI was a British select, which included English caps George Cohen, Johnny Haynes, Jimmy Greaves and Bryan Douglas; Alan Gilzean and Jim Baxter of Scotland, and Welshman Cliff Jones. The World Stars XI bore a close resemblance to the FIFA select of two years previously (Russia). (Denmark), Schnellinger (West Germany), Pluskal, Popluhar and Masopost (all of Czechoslovakia), Henderson (Scotland), Kubala, Di Stefano and Puskas (all Spain) and Van den Borg (Belgium).

It is interesting to note that the three "Spaniards" in the team had all been capped by their previous, native, countries, as well as their adopted ones. Another point to ponder: none of the "World Stars" team were playing in the Football League, a stark contrast to any equivalent selection today.

Great players, great occasions, and great memories – all brought flooding back by flicking through the pages of the humble matchday programme.

For more information and advice on programmes and programme collecting, visit www.pmfc.co.uk, or contact PM Publications, 38 Lowther Road, Norwich, NR4 6QE



THE OUT LEAGUE PAPER ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

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Attention football clubs: our game – not to mention your supporters' sanity – desperately needs you!

We're now hours away from April, the final month of league football in which we here at The NLP undoubtedly see as the worst season of weather since we've been on the shelves.

There have been so many postponements in fact, that our results team are considering invoicing for a new 'P' button for their keyboards!

The clocks are going back tonight (don't forget!) but the last few weeks will see a large number of clubs trying to cram-in a double figure amount of games just to make it through to the final day.

Unhealthy, to an extent unprofessional and sadly for a few a season spoiler.

The back-log of games caused by Mother Nature's lack of mercy will contribute directly to some teams falling short of the title, a promotion position or achieving survival.

Agreed, nobody would have predicted the snow of last week, freezing temperatures when we baked in the 20s on this week twelve months ago.

But the usual response of "well what can we do about the weather" simply doesn't wash.

There is something we can do but only if the clubs themselves



want to make that change and get their leagues going on the first Saturday in August, and play on until the first week of May.

What a head start all divisions could have if they played four Saturday league matches and three midweek game under the lights in the season's first month.

All teams seven games in before September arrives, stretching the season out will mean at least two guaranteed matches come the final week. Pressure off on winterhit pitches.

But there's a stumbling block here – and it's not the league that are being sticklers, demanding traditional mid-to-late August kickoffs are kept.

No, in most cases it's the clubs that pick the start date. And sadly there are some that just don't want to shell out an extra few weeks worth of wages for their players.

Now surely the extra income they will receive from a home game in the summer over a freezing Tuesday night in early February when the Champions League is on the telly will help offset any loses.

Or alternatively, play some lesscostly young and hungry players for the first two weeks if money needs to be saved!

Pre-season can be fun, but it does not need to last for seven weeks.

Get the real games going on the first Saturday in August and let's play some football when the weather is good and gates will be higher.

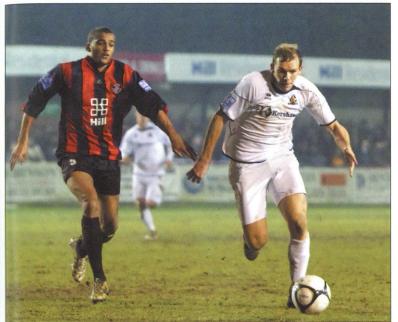
It's now down to the clubs to start getting their voices heard.

Sam Elliott

Press Gang

Matt Gooding looks at former U's in the news





Anyone who witnessed Danny Wright's muscular displays leading the line for Histon then United will not be surprised by his nickname at current club, Wrexham.

"Danny, or The Brute as he's known, is a great lad on and off the pitch and deserves his chance to play at Wembley," revealed skipper Mark Creighton in the build-up to Sunday's FA Trophy final against Grimsby.

"He's vital for us because he's big and he's strong. He'll be difficult to play against."

The Dragons enjoyed their dayout at the home of football, winning 4-1 on penalties after a 1-1 draw to lift the Trophy for the first time. Wright (pictured) and his team-mates were thwarted by an inspired display of goalkeeping from Mariners stopper James McKeown, but the big striker held his nerve to convert a penalty in the shoot-out and help his team to victory. Congratulations to Danny and the rest of the Wrexham squad.

While life post-Cambridge United has been good for Wright, Conal Platt's career has stalled since he left the R Costings Abbey Stadium by mutual consent last season to sign for Lincoln City.

A broken leg initially hampered his progress, and on his return to the squad the former Liverpool trainee found that the manager who took him to Sincil Bank, David Holsworth, had been replaced by Gary Simpson. The new gaffer decided he couldn't wait for Platty to return to full fitness, so the 26-year-old's contact was cancelled by mutual consent, allowing him to join Blue Square North outfit Gainsborough Trinity.

"Conal will give options not just to our forward line but in the way we set up," said Trinity boss Steve Housham. "He has experience which we need at this stage of the season."

"It was a common sense decision," explained Simpson, whose side are battling relegation. "We are not in a position to be able to give the lad games and at this point that's what he really needs."

With Trinity only training part-time, Lincoln have offered Platt the chance to work-out with their squad.

"There was a deal made that works out best for both parties, but I've told him that if he wants to come in and train then he is more than welcome to come along," said Simpson, before adding rather nonsensically: "There are no grey greas with me, it's black or white."

Surely the opposite is true? Anyway, at Gainsborough, Platt will link up with another member of United's class of 2010/11, midfielder Simon Russell.

Further down the pyramid, another ex-U is making his way back to fitness in the form of our former right-back Dan Gleeson, who left today's visitors, Luton Town, in the summer to sign for Lowestoft.

Ongoing back problems have restricted his appearances for the Ryman Premier outfit, but he returned for last week's 3-1 win over Metropolitan Police, playing in a holding midfield role.

"Dan has got a lot of experience and he has played that role before," said Lowestoff boss Ady Gallagher. "He has a really good influence on the other players and he is a natural leader. It's good for him to be back and it's a role he plays very well."

Round The Square

Dave Stacey looks back at the latest news and results from the Blue Square Bet Premier, North & South



Saturday 23rd

With so little Blue Square Bet Premier action taking place last weekend due to the onslaught of snow here is a brief summary of the games that did take place.

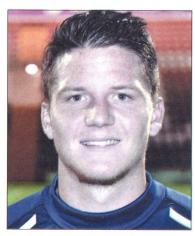
Kidderminster took sole ownership of pole position with their victory over Southport albeit they left it extremely late to take advantage of Mansfield's postponement. The opener came two minutes before half-time, Michael Gash tapping home. Danny Hattersley levelled after an hour with his first goal for the Sandgrounders but Harriers stole all three points with goals from Anthony Malbon and Ryan Rowe (above) in the final five minutes.

Dartford kept Gateshead looking nervously over their shoulder thanks to Ryan Hayes' double and Charlie Sheringham's second debut goal at Princes Park but Hyde, Stockport and Lincoln did themselves the world of good with three points Alex Brown and Louis Almond cancelled out Josh O'Keefe's opener to see Hyde past Hereford whilst a Lee Minshull own goal gave new County boss Ian Bogie a debut win over Newport. City squeaked past bottom side

AFC Telford by the odd-goal in five, taking the lead through Todd Jordan before Steve Jones and Steven Leslie gave the Bucks the lead. amie Taylor's double in the final quarter won it for the Imps. Finally our visitors today Luton somehow failed to earn more than a goalless draw from the visit of Tamworth after dominating.

Tuesday 26th

The title is firmly Mansfield's to lose following midweek's set of results. Kidderminster were left frustrated as they were held to a draw at Aggborough by Woking in an entertaining encounter. Gowling headed Harriers in front but Bradley Bubb levelled from the spot after being brought down in the box by Mickey Demetriou. Anthony Malbon's tap-in put the hosts ahead again after the break before Billy Knott (below) levelled immediately with a 25-yard shot to earn a share of the spoils despite Keith Briggs and Danny Pilkington both hitting the post for Harriers late on. The draw was Kidderminster's first in 24 games with their last being at Woking in November.



This means second-placed Stags are just one point behind with three

games in hand following their comfortable victory relegation threatened Nuneaton. Paul Cox's men dominated throughout as Luke Jones hit the bar and Matt Green struck the post from close range and was twice denied in one-on-one situations by Boro 'keeper Lee Burge. Burge then saved a Green penalty after Gavin Cowan fouled Matt Rhead and the only goal of the game came just after the hour as Louis Briscoe's deflected free-kick secured the Stags' 10th successive victory.



Goals from Agron O'Connor (above) and Christian Jolley ended Newport's two-match losing run with victory at Southport. The promotion chasers remain fourth but have four games in hand on current leaders Kidderminster and are eight points behind secondplaced Mansfield with a game in hand on the Stags. O'Connor and Jolley struck from close range in the first half for Justin Edinburgh's side. Defeat saw Southport drop to 18th in the table and, apart from bottom side Telford, all those in the relegation zone have games in

Remaining in the final play-off place are Grimsby despite their

The title is firmly Mansfield's to lose following midweek's set of results.

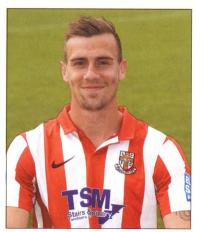


poor recent form and the Mariners slipped up once more with the visit Gateshead (or Hartlepool). Town went ahead through Andi Thanoi's raspina drive from outside the area shortly after the interval. Jamie Devitt twice hit the crossbar for the visitors but Josh Gillies' 79th-minute curling free-kick secured a point for the Heed. Town remain fifth but are now four points clear of sixth-placed Forest Green.

The U's, of course, were falling to defeat at Hyde thanks to a superb strike from right back Josh Brizell (below). It took just four minutes for the hosts to take the lead, Matty Blinkhorn sweeping home Louis Almond's cross. Liam Hughes home Luke Berry's headed knockback to equalise after a quarter of an hour before a poor second half culminated in Brizell's stunner with just ten minutes remainina.



Josh O'Keefe scored the only goal as Hereford beat 10-man Dartford and Lincoln claimed a remarkable victory at Braintree despite playing for 86 minutes with only 10 men. The Imps had striker Gomez Dali sent off for a straight red card offence in only the fourth minute when the referee spotted



an off the ball incident. Tony Diagne volleyed the visitors ahead with a 25-yard strike and made it 2-0 when he fired into the top corner before Andrew Boyce (above) headed in a third. Lincoln's win eases their relegation fears just in time for our trip there on Monday and they are now up to 17th in the table three points clear of the bottom four.

Due to the incredible fixture backlog Nuneaton, Newport and Woking will have all played on Thursday night as well meaning four games in seven days due to the Bank Holiday fixtures this weekend!

The North

Just three games were played in the North in midweek due to the weather. Stephen Diggin scored the only goal as Brackley took all three points from their trip to Gainsborough, denting the hosts' play-off hopes in the process. Vauxhall and Corby played out a 1-1 draw with Gary King cancelling our Michael Burns' penalty and Bishop's Stortford saw off Worcester by the odd goal in five. Reece Prestedge (right) opened the scoring for Stortford before Gareth Arnison equalised. Brian Woodall

put Stortford ahead once more before Arnison again levelled. Stortford won the game in injury time through Woodall despite Adam Bailey-Dennis being sent off with ten minutes to go.

The South

With neither of the top two in action in the South Dover took full advantage with a single goal victory over Hornchurch, Ben May on target in stoppage time. Tom Nichols and Steve Walker struck as Dorchester beat Farnborough 2-0 whilst Chris Arthur and Steven Ramsey helped Havant & Waterlooville past Maidenhead. Tyrone Marsh, Louie-Rae Beadle and David Wheeler contributed to Staines' 3-1 victory over Bromley. Mark Lovell, Frannie Collin and Lee Browning coasted Tonbridge past Eastleigh and Kayne McLaggon's hat-trick sunk Sutton for Weston-Super-Mare.

And finally, regular readers of RTS will notice I haven't mentioned the FA Trophy this season and I hadn't intended to change that until Richard Brodie's shootout spot kick entered the earth's orbit. He's since been sent back to Crawley



#NONSENSEINFOOTBALL

"AN INCH OR TWO EITHER SIDE OF THE POST AND THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A GOAL."





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Here & There

Henry Milward looks forward to our next two matches



v Lincoln City Monday, April 1st, 15.00 Blue Square Bet Premier

The Imps have been thrown into a battle for survival after a frustrating campaign. David Holdsworth paid the price, leaving Sincil Bank in February to be replaced by Gary Simpson, who was assistant to Keith Alexander between 2003 and 2006.

Directions by car: Exit the A1 onto the A46 (s/p Lincoln A46, Sleaford A17). At the roundabout after a little over nine miles take the third exit (s/p Lincoln South A1434). Stay on A1434, following Lincoln and City Centre signs for a little over four miles. Then get into the inside lane (s/p City Centre, Worksop A57) and go straight on (first exit) at the roundabout into the High Street. After 0.5 miles get in the outside lane, and go straight on at lights (s/p City Centre, Worksop A57).



After 0.1 miles turn right into Scorer Street. (LN5 8LD).

Parking: street parking.

The Away Travel Club will be running a coach leaving Barton Road Coach Park, Ely at 11.15am, the R Costings Abbey Stadium at 12pm and Bar Hill at 12.20pm. Prices are £16 for members, £18.50 for non-members and £9 for Under

16s and Sixth Form Students. Bacon rolls available to pre-book., Contact the club on 01223 566500 to reserve your space.

Admission: £18 for adults, £13 for concessions, £7 for under 18s. Slightly reduced prices available for advanced purchases, see the Lincoln website for more information.



Imbued with a handy dose of wealth, Newport have swept into the promotion picture as a result of a largely consistent campaign. However, the spring has just been tinged by disappointment as the lead which was once theirs has been lost. Instead, County look likely to have to content themselves with a place in the

play-offs.

In fairness, the calendar hasn't always helped their cause; the Exiles face a congested run-in thanks to a series of postponements.

Boss Justin Edinburgh, who took Rushden to the play-offs 2010 ago, has assembled a talented group, adding to it throughout the



v Newport County Frtiday, April 5th, 19.45 Blue Square Bet Premier

campaign. Byron Anthony, formerly of Bristol Rovers, has arrived at Rodney Parade during the season, along with Robbie Willmott, Plymouth's Rhys Griffiths and Scott Donnelly, once of Aldershot.

The additions looked to have done the trick during the winter when an inconsistent patch was triumphantly ended with five straight victories but since then County have taken just a single point from three outings, losing at home against rivals Kidderminster before going down at Stockport last Saturday.



News for U's

Notes and news for supporters attending today's match

Ten to Tackle Answers

This afternoon's answers from page 23 are as follows:

1. Arsenal 2. Wrexham 3. Grimsby Town 4. Southend United 5. 34 6. Turkey (1987) 7. Frank Lampard 8. David Platt 9. 40 10. St Mirren

How did you do?
0-3: Feel a bit of a platt?
4-7: Well, it's not a turkey
8-10: Where is San Marino anyway?

Golden Gamble

The winner of the half time Golden Gamble draw against Ebbsfleet United was Steve Leach who won a cheque for £227.70 with ticket number 214177. Second prize of a golf/spa day at Menzies was won by Kate Bunch with ticket number 226491 while the third prize of a free computer health check was won by Sharon Line with ticket number 226974.

Golden Gamble tickets are available from sellers around the ground on all home match days. They cost just £1 a ticket and the proceeds are split equally between the winner and the club.

Safety Announcements

All safety announcements will be preceded by a 'bing-bong' sound from the tannoy. Please listen carefully to any subsequent information.

Supporters who enter the stadium on a match day should be aware that, prior to each fixture, the teams warm up on the playing surface whilst the stadium is filling with supporters. Footballs are used during this period and there is a low to moderate risk of injury to supporters from footballs at this time. The tannoy will announce the arrival of the players on the pitch for the warm up period.

United in Endeavour

Cambridge United Football Club has a proud history and tradition with its roots in the City and County. We are always striving to make the community feel part of the Football Club and we would, as a result, like to think that the R Costings Abbey Stadium is a safe and welcoming place for all football fans, whatever their race and colour.

For this reason everyone at this Football Club is committed to helping the campaign to Kick Racism out of Football. Racism of any sort will not be tolerated and we urge anyone hearing racist abuse to report it to a steward or write to Secretary Claire Osbourn at the Club. Anyone using racist abuse or threatening behaviour faces ejection from the R Costings Abbey Stadium and a ban from Cambridge United Football Club.

Ground Regulations

Copies of the ground regulations and conditions of entry to the R Costings Abbey Stadium are posted around the ground. However, we respectfully draw the attention of all supporters to Section 7 of the regulations, which says:

The use of threatening behaviour, foul, abusive or racist language is strictly forbidden and will result in either arrest or ejection from the ground. The following are arrestable offences under the Football (Offences) Act 1991, as amended by the Football (Offences and Disorder) Act 1999:

- the throwing of any object with the ground without lawful authority or excuse
- the chanting of anything indecent or racialist in nature
- the entry onto the playing area or any adjacent area to which spectators are not generally admitted without lawful authority or excuse.

Conviction could result in a Football Banning Order being made for all grounds in the country together with travelling abroad when England play.

Supporters are also reminded that Section 9 of the regulations say that nobody may stand in any seated area whilst play is in progress. Persistent standing in seated areas is strictly forbidden and may result in ejection from the ground.

Supporters are reminded that in accordance with the Ground Regulations they should remain seated if in a seated section of the stadium. Guardians are asked to take responsibility for under 14s.

Traffic Management Plan

Please could all supporters be aware of the pedestrian section of the Cambridge United Traffic Management Plan:

Pedestrians will be permitted to access the Stadium site via any of the access points subject to their being open and stewarded. Pedestrians must have the appropriate tickets for the area of the stadium entered.

Cambridge United Football Club has management boards displayed at all exits advising spectators to use the pedestrian crossing on Newmarket Road and Coldhams Lane when leaving the Stadium.

Signage is also displayed on the North Terrace exit roadway directing supporters to the pedestrian crossings.

Main Stand Exit Gates

Please could all supporters note that for Health and Safety reasons the Main Stand exit gates at the front of the stand, for exit along the perimeter track, will not be opened until all players and officials have left the field of play.

Matchday Parking

The Club and police have received a number of complaints from residents near the ground regarding the parking of vehicles in the local streets on match days. We ask all of our supporters who park in the local streets close to the ground to be considerate of our neighbours and park without obstructing driveways or access routes for emergency vehicles. The areas will be monitored going forwards.



Cambridge United Youth & Community Trust invites you to attend our new activity... Samba Footballero. This fusion between Brazilian football and dance teaches children a routine which includes football movements and skills. Each session also incorporates a round-robin football tournament using a Futsal (small, heavy football) where the participants can show off their skills to the beat of the Samba music!



Samba Footballero helps children develop their:

- Agility
- Balance
- Coordination
- Core Strength
- Rhythm
- Football skills

In the Easter school holidays Samba Footballero sessions will be held at Everyone Active Cambourne (5 April) and Impington Village College (12 April).

A limited number of 30 spaces are available.



Places can be booked online at www.cutrust.co.uk

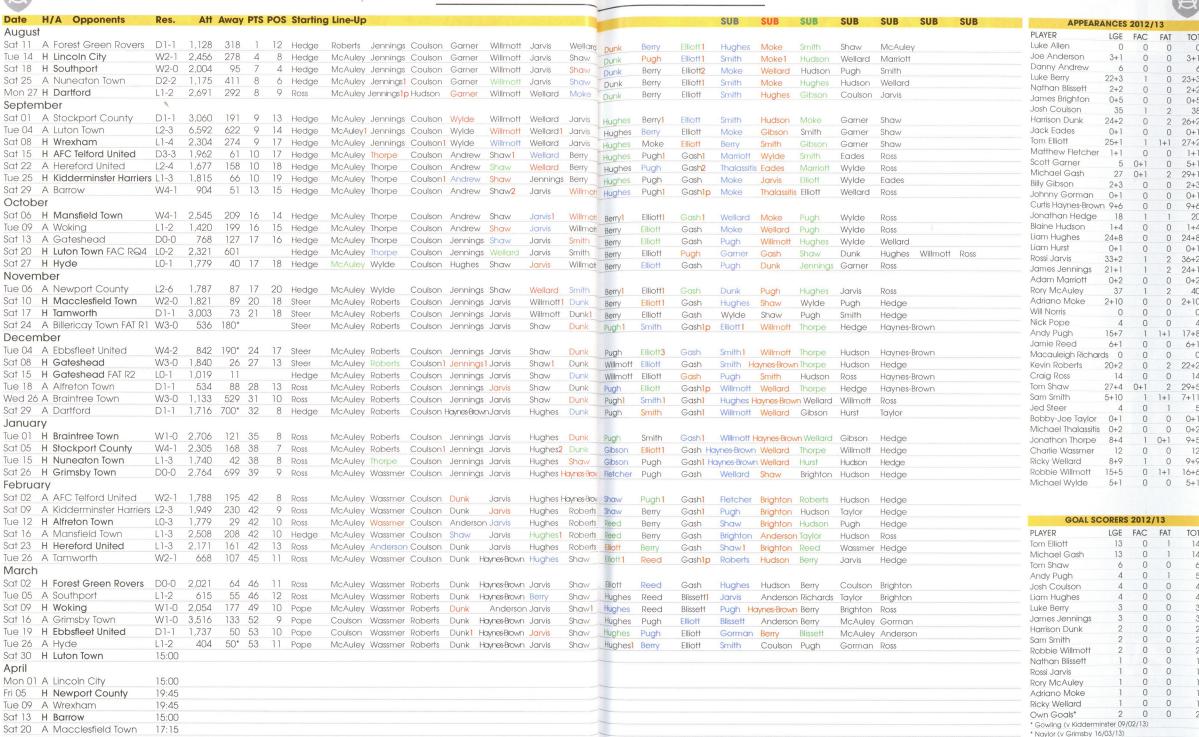
If you have any queries, please email - jamescutting@cambridge-united.co.uk





Who, Where & When

All the venues, dates and sats for our centenary season



^{* -} unsegregated matches at Billericay, Ebbsfleet, Dartford and Hyde. Estimated away attendances supplied.



How They Stand

Tables updated after Tuesday's matches



	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A GE	Pts
Kidderminster Harriers	41	12	4	4	40	21	11	5	5	29	16 32	78
Mansfield Town	38	14	3	3	45	16	10	2	6	30	30 29	77
Wrexham	38	9	7	2	40	20	11	5	4	29	16 33	72
Newport County	37	10	4	5	36	26	11	2	5	38	27 2	69
Grimsby Town	38	12	3	5	37	17	6	8	4	19	15 24	65
Forest Green Rovers	39	8	5	6	31	19	9	5	6	26	21 17	61
Macclesfield Town	37	9	5	5	25	22	7	5	6	30	29 4	58
Hereford United	39	8	5	7	30	28	7	6	6	29	29 2	56
Luton Town	38	8	5	5	34	21	7	5	8	21	28 6	55
Woking	39	11	2	6	39	28	5	4	11	24	41 -6	54
Cambridge United			5	7			6	6	8	34		
Dartford	38	11	3	5	36	22	4	4	11	20	35 -1	52
Braintree Town	36	6	5	8	24	34	8	2	7	26	27 -11	49
Hyde	40	7	5	7	30	24	7	1	13	26	40 -8	48
Tamworth	39	7	4	9	21	24	6	5	8	26	31 -8	48
Alfreton Town	38	6	5	7	30	33	6	7	7	25	31 -9	48
Lincoln City	40	8	4	9	32	35	4	6	9	25	30 -8	46
Southport	40	7	4	10	31	39	5	6	8	32	37 -13	46
Gateshead	38	7	6	4	25	16	4	6	11	22	34 -3	45
Stockport County	40	8	2	11	33	36	4	7	8	18	29 -14	45
Nuneaton Town	39	7	8	5	25	22	3	5	11	19	37 -15	43
Barrow	38	4	5	9	17	28	6	5	9	24	42 -29	40
Ebbsfleet United	37	5	9	5	28	30	3	3	12	22	43 -23	36
AFC Telford United	41	2	9	9	22	33	3	7	11	27	36 -20	31

Today's Fixtures

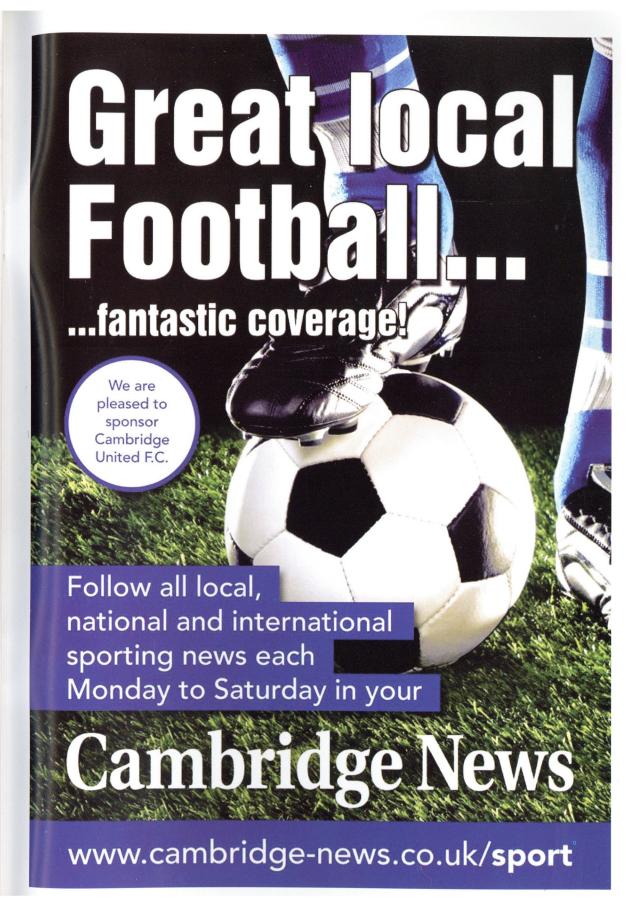
AFC Telford United v Nuneaton Town Alfreton Town v Lincoln City Cambridge United v Luton Town Ebbsfleet United v Forest Green Rovers Gateshead v Southport Grimsby Town v Barrow Hyde v Wrexham Kidderminster Harriers v Braintree Town Macclesfield Town v Stockport County Newport County v Dartford Tamworth v Mansfield Town Woking v Hereford United

Coming Next

CRC v Walsham-le-Willows Thurlow Nunn League Premier Division - 03.04.13 19:45 Cambridge United v Newport County Blue Square Bet Premier - 05.04.13 19:45 Cambridge United v Barrow

Blue Square Bet Premier - 13.04.13 15:00 CRC v Hadleigh United Thurlow Nunn League Premier Division - 17.04.13 19:45

Blue Square Bet North		W	D	L	F		GD	Pts
Chester FC	34	29	4]	90		63	91
Guiseley	32	24	3	5	69		36	75
Brackley Town	34	20	7	7	61	33	28	67
FC Halifax Town	29	18	6	5	71	22	49	60
Altrincham	33	18	6	9	76		34	60
Harrogate Town	32	18	5	9	66		26	59
Gainsborough Trinity	32	15	9	8	60		25	54
Bradford Park Avenue	32	15	6	11	58		16	51
Solihull Moors	34	13	7	14	44	44	0	46
Vauxhall Motors	35	13	7	15	50	58	-8	46
Gloucester City	32	14	3	15	44	47	-3	45
Boston United	36	13	5	18	58	62	-4	44
Workington (-4)	35	13	7	15	52	60	-8	42
Worcester City	35	11	8	16	50	54	-4	41
Oxford City	30	10	10	10	44	39	5	40
Bishop's Stortford	32	10	9	13	43	59	-16	39
Stalybridge Celtic	34	10	8	16	41	55	-14	38
Histon	34	10	7	17	43	64	-21	37
Corby Town	34	9	6	19	54	77	-23	33
Colwyn Bay	31	8	4	19	36	59	-23	28
Droylsden	33	4	4	25	34	99	-65	16
Hinckley United (-3)	33	1	3	29	19	112	-93	3
Blue Square Bet South Welling United	P 35	W 23	D	L 7	F 75	A 37	GD 38	Pts 74
Salisbury City (-1)	34	20	6	.8	64	42	22	65
Dover Athletic	34	19	6	9	57	36	21	63
Chelmsford City	34	18	6	10	60	43	17	60
Weston-super-Mare	35	16	8	11	50	46	4	56
Boreham Wood	32	13	13	6	46	31	15	52
Eastleigh	33	15	4	14	57	55	2	49
Dorchester Town	34	14	7	13	44	51	-7	49
Havant & Waterlooville	35	11	14	10	58	49	9	47
Farnborough (-4)	35	15	5	15	60	62	-2	46
Bromley	34	13	6	15	50	47	3	45
Sutton United	33	12	9	12	43	44	-1	45
Bath City	36	12	8	16	54	52	2	44
Basingstoke Town	35	11	11	13	53	56	-3	44
Hayes & Yeading Utd	33	11	8	14	51	61	-10	41
Maidenhead United	34	11	6	17	56	54	2	39
Tonbridge Angels	33	10	9	14	45	61	-16	39
Eastbourne Borough	33	11	5	17	30	41	-11	38
AFC Hornchurch	35	9	11	15	40	53	-13	38
Staines Town	33	10	7	16	43	63	-20	37
Billericay Town	32	9	5	18	48	72	-24	32
Truro City (-10)	34	8	5	21	44	72	-28	19
Thurlow Nunn Premier	Р	w	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Dereham Town	28	20	3	5	58	25	33	63
Wisbech Town	28	18	7	3	66	28	38	61
Sorleston	29	18	5	6	72	33	39	59
Brantham Athletic	29	18	4	7	64	37	27	58
Walsham-le-Willows	32	17	7	8	60	46	14	58
Mildenhall Town	31	17	5	9				
					55	43	12	56
Godmanchester Rov.	29	13	9	7	62	35	27	48
Stanway Rovers	29	13	9	7	39	29	10	48
Hadleigh United	29	14	5	10	50	38	12	47
Kirkley & Pakefield	31	11	10	10	49	53	-4	43
Haverhill Rovers	29	12	6	11	49	45	4	42
elixstowe & Walton	29	12	3	14	43	52	-9	39
Norwich United	31	11	5	15	42	43	-1	38
	29	10	6	13	54	47	7	36
ly City				15	42	58	-16	32
	31	8	8					
Ely City Noodbridge Town CRC	31	8			50			
Woodbridge Town			6					
Woodbridge Town CRC Diss Town	32 30	6	6	18 18	50 32	74 67	-24 -35	24
Woodbridge Town			6					



Today's Squads



C	ambridge		
U	NITED ~	PI	Sub
1	Jonathan HEDGE	0	
2	Kevin ROBERTS	0	
3	Joe ANDERSON	0	
4	Josh COULSON	O	
5		O	
6	Tom SHAW		
7	Billy GIBSON		
8			
9	Michael GASH	O	
10	Tom ELLIOTT		
11	Harrison DUNK		
12	Rory MCAULEY		
13	Will NORRIS		
14	Scott GARNER		
15	Andy PUGH		
16	Rossi JARVIS		
17	Liam HUGHES		
18 19	Luke BERRY		
20	Nathan BLISSETT Jonathon THORPE		
21			
22	Charlie WASSMER		
23	Johnny GORMAN		
24	Craia ROSS		
25	Blaine HUDSON		
26	James BRIGHTON		
27	Luke ALLEN		
28	Sam SMITH		
29			
30	Nick POPE		
31	Liam HURST		
32	Bobby-Joe TAYLOR		

33 Macauleigh RICHARDS .. O

34 Curtis HAYNES-BROWN O



L	uton		
T	OWN P	1	Sub
1	Mark TYLER)	
2	Lathaniel ROWE-TURNERC		
3	Greg TAYLOR)	
4	Garry RICHARDS)	
5	Steve MCNULTY)	
6	Janos KOVACS)	
7	Alex LAWLESS)	
8	Danny SPILLER		
9	Jon SHAWC)	
10	Scott RENDELL)	
-13	Jake HOWELLS		
12	Simon AINGE		
13	Stuart FLEETWOOD		
14	Arnaud MENDY		
15	Adam WATKINS)	
16	Alex LACEY		Ö
17	JJ O'DONNELL		
18	Dave MARTIN)	
19	James DANCE		
20	Scott NEILSON)	
21	Lewis KIDD)	
22	Wayne THOMAS)	
23	Matt ROBINSON)	
24	Jonathan SMITH	360	
25	Ronnie HENRY		
26	Alex WALL)	
27	Andre GRAY)	
28	Jake WOOLLEY)	
29	Dan WALKERC)	
30	Jake GOODMAN)	
31	Solomon TAIWO)	
32	Alasan ANN)	

33 Dean BRILL

Today's Officials

Referee: Charles BREAKSPEAR Assistant Referee: Alan DALE Assistant Referee: Neil WEST Fourth Official: Christopher POLLARD

Match Sponsors

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