

Official Matchday Programme of Luton Town Football Club



# TALK OF THE TOWN

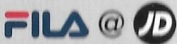
ISSUE 30 • £3



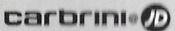
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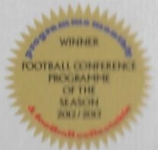
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COMPETITION

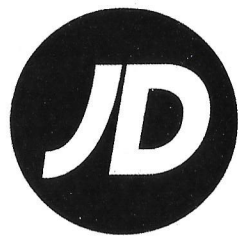


## LUTON TOWN v NEWPORT COUNTY AFC

TUESDAY 16th APRIL 2013 • 7.45PM



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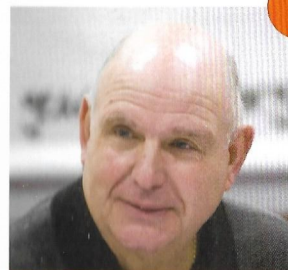
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PROUD KIT SUPPLIERS TO LUTON TOWN

# WELCOME

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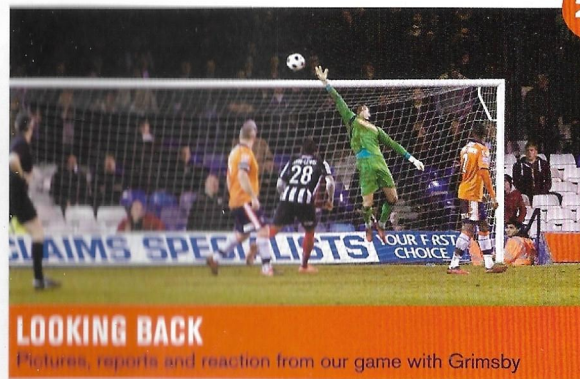
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### LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB 2020 LTD

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John Buttle

VICE PRESIDENTS: Richard Banks, Cliff Bassett, Chris Green, Derek Ludlow, Jack Sapsworth, Rob Stringer, Andrew Cook

FIRST TEAM MANAGER: John Still

ASSISTANT MANAGER: Terry Harris

FIRST TEAM COACHES:

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PHYSIOTHERAPIST: Simon Parsell

TEAM MASSEUR & KIT MAN:

Darren Cook

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The views in this programme are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editor and/or Luton Town.







# JOHN STILL

## **Good evening and welcome back to you all for our third home game in succession under the Kenilworth Road floodlights.**

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Newport County AFC, our visitors tonight, as well as Justin Edinburgh and his team and staff, plus the directors and supporters of the Exiles.

Just like our last opponents Grimsby, Newport have cemented their place in the Play-Offs and still have an outside squeak of winning the title. I must congratulate the work Justin has done in the relatively short space of time in South Wales. To be involved in the Play-Offs is a great achievement for him and the club.

## **Absolutely delighted**

In Friday's game against Grimsby I was absolutely delighted with our performance. I thought we showed the right amount of ingredients in all areas of the pitch, right the way through our defence, midfield and attack. It would have been nice to score one or two more goals because I thought we were worthy of winning three points, but it wasn't to be.

Tonight we face opposition in a similar position in the table and I am confident that should we still be in the same vein as we were on Friday we can take all three points this time.

It certainly has been a hectic time since I have been at the club as the games come thick and fast, and this week will be no exception with a game tonight and another match on Thursday against Ebbsfleet before we finish the season off with a long trip to Southport on Saturday.

But it is not just games that have taken up room in our schedules. Much of my time is taken trying to find out what I need to do for us to mount a serious promotion challenge next season.

That means identifying personnel and looking into ways of making these players play the right way. It's a busy time for me but also my staff, and scouts. Everybody here is working to their maximum to ensure we can find the right players that can give us that extra push next season.

## **Value and trust**

I feel it's important to mention this aspect because many supporters will just see the manager and the coaching staff on a matchday on the sidelines. However, the behind-the-scenes team are a vital part of what we're trying to do here. These are people who I value and trust extremely highly and are some of the people who have helped me achieve the kind of success I had during my time with Dagenham & Redbridge.

The support the team have received in the last two home matches has been nothing short of fantastic. It was great against Lincoln and the support and noise levels against Grimsby were much appreciated by everyone.

I felt the team gave you something to get excited about, and even when we fell behind against Grimsby you stayed with us and that is very, very important.

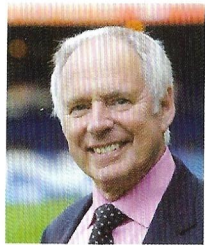
We must realise that we are never going to have it all our own way and there will be times when teams score against us and times when we lose. That's football – it will happen.

However, I will be doing everything I can to build a successful football team for your club and, most importantly, one that you can be proud of and applaud off of the pitch, just like you did on Friday.



# FROM THE BOARDROOM

WITH CHAIRMAN NICK OWEN



**Good evening and welcome to our penultimate home game of 2012/13.**

A special welcome to Newport County AFC and congratulations from us all at Kenilworth Road on an excellent season, resulting in a place in the Play-Offs.

The more mature among us will remember the days when Newport were in the Football League. I seem to recall they always used to kick off at 3.15 on a Saturday afternoon to accommodate shift patterns at their massive local steelworks.

They won the Welsh Cup in 1980 and reached the quarter-finals of the European Cup Winners' Cup the following season.

## Rebuilt

They dropped out of the League in 1988 and went bust a year later. They quickly reformed, rebuilt from the bottom of the pyramid and just look at them now. On the brink of a return to the Football League. After all they've been through, the supporters certainly deserve their days in the sun and I wish them all the very best in the next few weeks.

So, as Newport enjoy a thrilling climax to their season, what about us? Well, the best way to describe this season as far as I am concerned is wretched.

I have been following the Town for 55 years now and I have to say this has been the worst. For various reasons, including health, family and professional, I have watched fewer matches than usual – in fact, I have only actually seen us win eight times in the Blue Square Bet Premier.

## Inexplicable

Some results have been inexplicable. Losing home and away to the part-timers of Braintree and Dartford.

Failing to score at home or away against AFC Telford, who broke a record this season for the longest run in the Conference without a victory.

Losing at home to Hyde, submitting meekly at Alfreton and Woking. The nadir had to be our thrashing by Gateshead a couple of weeks ago, when supporters understandably were questioning the right for some players to wear the shirt.

How can this be, when you bear in mind our magnificent support and our munificent investors?

Clearly, we have had our share of bad luck when you think we signed three new players for the spine of the side before the start of the season in central defence, central midfield and at centre forward.

Well, Jon Shaw has been beset by injuries, which have made it a very unsettling time for him, while Danny Spiller and Garry Richards literally haven't kicked a ball for the first team.

## Mediocre

Even so, we won three away games in the first month and had two cracking wins at home against Macclesfield and Cambridge in early September, but the hoped-for surge never materialised and we suffered a string of mediocre results.

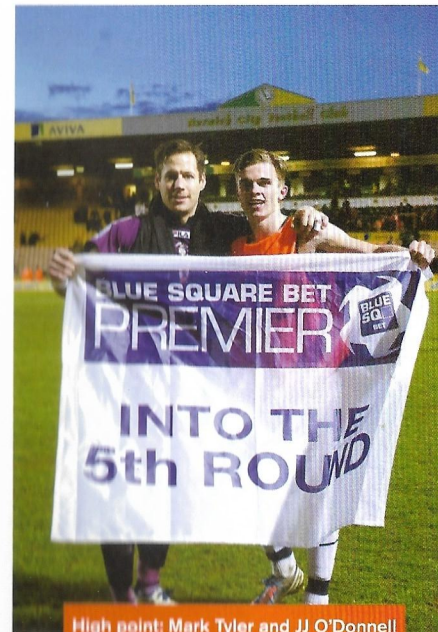
There was obviously something very wrong somewhere, with morale plummeting in the dressing room, but I do hope you feel, as I do, that things are visibly improving.

Our performances against Lincoln and Grimsby were really encouraging, with some scintillating passages of play and signs of the players' confidence coming back. It seems the future under John Still is not only orange, but full of zest and genuine promise.

There's a comforting feeling of emerging stability around the place, a new sense of direction and determination and I can't wait for our new squad to emerge through the close season, set for what I sincerely believe will be a far more successful campaign next time.

The highlights of the season for me and you, I'm sure, were the FA Cup run. Reaching the third round was an achievement in itself, but to beat Wolves and Norwich was simply something else.

That victory at Norwich, in particular, when we became the first non-league side to beat a Premier League club, will live long in the memory of all Luton fans and brought



High point: Mark Tyler and JJ O'Donnell after the FA Cup win at Norwich

us some welcome and positive publicity under the national spotlight. I am still savouring the superb atmosphere at Kenilworth Road for the Wolves and Millwall matches – the place was really jumping.

## Support

And so, as we prepare for the summer, I would like to thank you all for making us the best supported football club – by a mile – in the Blue Square Bet Premier and, bar five or so, in League Two.

Thank you for sticking with it when things have been so hugely disappointing. I promise you we have found it as gut wrenching at times as you have, but I hope you appreciate that the people who make decisions are never remotely complacent.

We all share the passion and everything is done with the right intention, to further the cause of Luton Town Football Club.

Enjoy the game tonight, have a good summer and see you back here in August.

*Nick Owen*

## HONOURS

**Littlewoods Challenge Cup:**  
Winners 1988  
Runners-up 1989

**F.A. Cup:**  
Runners-up 1959  
Semi-finalists 1959, 1985, 1988, 1994

**Johnstone's Paint Trophy:**  
Winners 2009

**Simod Cup:** Runners-up 1988

**Football League Division Two:**  
Champions 1981/82  
Runners-up 1954/55, 1973/74

**Football League Division Three (South):**  
Winners 1936/37  
Runners-up 1935/36

**Football League Division Three:**  
Runners-up 1969/70

**League One:** Champions 2004/05

**Football League Division Four:**  
Champions 1967/68

**Football League Division Three:**  
Runners-up 2001/02

**Blue Square Premier:**  
Runners-up 2009/10

**Southern League Division One:**  
Runners-up 1894/95, 1895/96

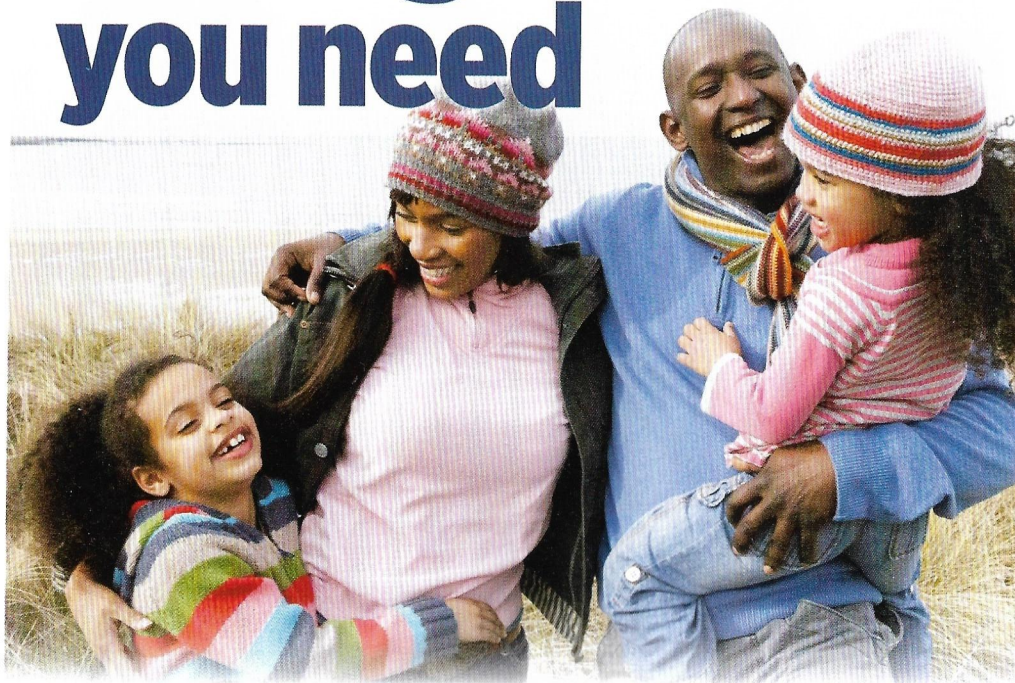
**Southern League Division Two:**  
Runners-up 1913/14

**United League:** Champions 1897/98  
Runners-up 1896/97, 1900/01

**Southern Alliance:** Runners-up 1913/14



# The legal advice you need



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**RONNIE**

# HENRY

Good evening and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for our penultimate home match this season against promotion-chasing Newport County.

Just like last Friday night it promises to be another exciting game under the floodlights in front of the Premier Sports TV cameras.

I had my operation on a hernia on Thursday so could not make it to the game against Grimsby on Friday but I saw the game on television and I thought we played really well. Our first half performance was good and it was a shame that we could not turn our pressure into goals.

It was disappointing to concede a goal at the start of the second half but the character of the lads to come from a goal down and find an equaliser against a side challenging for promotion was impressive and, as I heard the manager say afterwards, that was one of the most encouraging aspects of the game.

As I said in my last notes it was frustrating for us that the Grimsby game did not have more importance riding on it but you wouldn't have known it. I thought there was a real desire and hunger about our performance and a terrific work-rate shown by us. The manager has made it abundantly clear that work-rate and team-work are the two biggest attributes we need if we're to be successful.

This kind of approach is something I in particular love to hear. You can be the best player in the world with all the ability, but if you don't apply yourself correctly, cut corners and don't work hard enough you are simply not going to be a success.

To win titles and earn promotion takes hard work. This division has to be one of the toughest to get out of and with one automatic spot up for grabs that makes it very difficult, especially given the number of former Football League teams here now.

We've failed on a huge scale this season and not to make the Play Offs is an absolute disaster. As players we know we've let everyone down, especially you, the supporters. Next season isn't going to be any easier – in fact it will probably be tougher. We'll have Chester coming up from the Blue Square North – they've won 100 points and scored 100 goals this season – and there are a whole host of established Football League sides battling out to avoid relegation from League 2.



The simple fact is we do not have a divine right to win this division and success will not be easy. To win a league you need so many things to fall into place and this season nothing has been right but the main thing is that we haven't been good enough this season – pure and simple. That is something we must put right next season. It angers me to see the current league table because when I came here in the summer, I promised us to win the championship.

### Added spice

Talking of titles, Newport arrive tonight knowing they can still win the league, should they win their remaining games Mansfield and Kidderminster lose all of theirs.

That will give tonight's game a little added spice, as will our need to put right the defeat we suffered at Newport back in December. That was a horrendous display in front of the live cameras and I hope the lads can go out and get three points tonight.

After the Gateshead defeat we have put in two decent performances here at Kenilworth Road and a third this evening would be a great confidence boost as the season draws to a close.

Please get behind us again and enjoy the game.



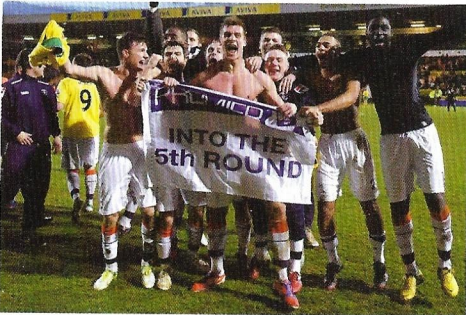
# AROUND TOWN

THE LATEST NEWS AT KENILWORTH ROAD

## VOTES NEED FOR GIANTKILLER AWARD

The Hatters' history-making win over Norwich City in this year's FA Cup has been shortlisted for the Football Association's Ronnie Radford Award.

The Town famously became the first non-league side ever to knock a Premier League side out of the competition with the 1-0 win at Carrow Road on 26th January.



The award, which launched two years ago to celebrate the competition's greatest cup giantkillers, gives the Town the opportunity to be present at Wembley for the FA Cup final on 11th May.

But the Hatters need YOUR votes to be within a chance of winning the coveted award as they have competition from Macclesfield, Oldham and MK Dons.

Visit the FA Cup section of the FA website at [www.thefa.com](http://www.thefa.com) to cast your vote. Voting closes at midnight on 28th April so get voting!

## MARTIN WINS MARCH AWARD

In form winger Dave Martin has won the Diamond Season Ticket Holder Player of the Month award for March.



Dave received his award after the 1-1 draw with Grimsby from Les Miller. Voting for April's award closes at midnight tonight so if you're a diamond season ticket holder cast your vote by emailing [diamond@lutontown.co.uk](mailto:diamond@lutontown.co.uk).

## CALLING ALL PRIMARY SCHOOLS TEACHERS

The Hatters are giving over 1,000 primary school children the chance to watch the final home match of the season on Thursday against Ebbsfleet United.

In partnership with local social enterprise Unleashing Potential, the offer is aimed at rewarding the town's most improved learners in a reward scheme with local primary schools.

Free tickets are available for participating schools, with teachers encouraged to put forward their pupils who have demonstrated the biggest improvements in literacy.

Each school is entitled to 10 pairs of tickets, with an adult - a parent or a guardian - required to accompany the child. To take up the offer, schools must send an email to [ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk](mailto:ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk), using the code LBCSCH.

Luton Town club director David Blakeman said: "The football club recognises the value of learning and achievement, and our involvement with this scheme in part reflects our commitment to the development of young people.

"Unleashing Potential's core values align with our own, and we are pleased to be part of this inspiring initiative."

Unleashing Potential trustee Amar Azam said: "At Unleashing Potential, we believe learning and education is the key to developing communities.

"The football club play an important role in the town, and we are pleased to work with them on this initiative that rewards youngsters in this way."

## WATCH THE FUTURE

Town supporters will get the opportunity to watch the stars of the future when the Hatters Under-16s take on their Tottenham Hotspur counterparts at Kenilworth Road next week.

The ground will be open for when the Hatters youngsters welcome the Premier League side on Tuesday 30th April (kick-off 7pm).

Entry is just £2.50 for adults for free for children so why not come along and watch the latest crop of youngsters?

The Hatters Under 16s have already impressed in games this season against Premier League sides Liverpool, Fulham, Southampton and Norwich this season.

## ANOTHER TEAM OF SUBS!

The Club will receive a cheque for £594 this evening from Subway which will go towards coaching 11 school children in the Talent Identification Programme (TIPS).

It is the second time this season the local Subway stores in the Luton area have raised funds towards the TIPS programme.

Community Football Officer James Hatch told Talk of the Town: "We're so pleased that Luton Subway Stores continue to work closely with us to bring players on to the TIPS programme.

"Luton Subway Stores have been a pleasure to work with throughout the season and we have appreciated their support enormously"

For more information on this scheme, please read the advert on page 44.

## ANYMORE FOR SINGAPORE?



Main stand season ticket holder Keith Seyde's daughter has just emigrated to Singapore to be with her Australian boyfriend Alex.

She wants to convert him from Manchester United to supporting the greatest football team in the world. The first step? A Luton Town shirt, short sleeves of course (well, it is 35 degrees out there...).

Are they the only Town supporters flying the flag in Singapore? Remember, we'll always try to show the best pictures in our programme so email [andrew.barringer@lutontown.co.uk](mailto:andrew.barringer@lutontown.co.uk).

## EBBSFLEET TICKET INFORMATION

The Hatters and Ebbsfleet try for the third time on Thursday night after the previous two attempts to play the fixture were postponed.

Season ticket holders must use special match voucher A to gain admission at the turnstiles, whilst matchday ticket holders should use the matchday ticket or the existing stub(s) from the postponed game.

## JUST THE TICKET

The ticket office began selling season tickets for the 2013/14 campaign last week. Information and prices can be found on pages 12 and 13.

Meanwhile, tickets for our home game after tonight against Ebbsfleet are also available. Supporters can still take advantage of two ticket offers for this final match.

Supporters under the age of 17 can watch this game for free when they are accompanied by a full paying adult, senior or golden senior.

Season ticket holders can also bring a guest for half-price. For more information on these deals email the ticket office [ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk](mailto:ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk).

## AWAY TICKET NEWS

### SOUTHPORT v LUTON TOWN

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

SATURDAY 20TH APRIL 2013

KICK-OFF 5.15PM

Please note the change in kick-off time for this match.

This match is pay on the day at Haig Avenue with seating and terracing available to Town supporters.

#### Prices:

Seating: £15 adults, £11 over-65s, £5 12-18-year-olds, free for accompanied under 11s.

Terracing: £13.50 adults, £10 over-65s,

£5 12-18-year-olds, free for accompanied under 11s.



# SEASON TICKET PRICES

THE SEASON TICKET PRICES HAVE BEEN FROZEN  
FOR YET ANOTHER YEAR ACROSS ALL AGES AND IN ALL AREAS

## ALL AREAS

Category	Age	EARLY BIRD 1st April - 5th May			PRIME TIME 6th May - 29th June			ANYTIME 1st July Onwards		
		Price	£ per match	Diamond	Price	£ per match	Diamond	Price	£ per match	Diamond
Adult	22-64	300	13.04	450	335	14.55	485	365	15.87	515
Young Adult	17-21	200	8.70	330	230	10.00	360	260	11.30	390
Senior	65-74	200	8.70	330	230	10.00	360	260	11.30	390
Golden Senior	Over 75	130	5.65	260	155	6.74	285	170	7.39	300
Unaccompanied Youth	10-16	50	2.17	100	50	2.17	100	50	2.17	100
Accompanied Under 17	Under 17	Free*	Free *	50	Free	Free*	50	Free*	Free*	50

## UNCOVERED SEATING - ENCLOSURE A & B

Category	Age	EARLY BIRD 1st April - 5th May			PRIME TIME 6th May - 29th June			ANYTIME 1st July Onwards		
		Price	£ per match	Diamond	Price	£ per match	Diamond	Price	£ per match	Diamond
Adult	22-64	270	11.74	420	300	13.04	450	325	14.13	475
Young Adult	17-21	180	7.83	310	210	9.13	340	240	10.43	370
Senior	65-74	180	7.83	310	210	9.13	340	240	10.43	370
Golden Senior	Over 75	130	5.65	260	155	6.74	285	170	7.39	300
Youth	10-16	50	2.17	100	50	2.17	100	50	2.17	100
Junior	Under 10	Free*	Free *	50	Free	Free*	50	Free*	Free*	50

## MATCHDAY TICKET PRICES

### ALL AREAS

Adult	£18
Young Adult	£13
Senior	£13
Golden Senior	£10
Youth	£8
Junior	£5

### UNCOVERED SEATING

Adult	£15
Young Adult	£13
Senior	£13
Golden Senior	£10
Youth	£8
Junior	£5

### 5 MATCH VOUCHER

Adult	£81
Young Adult	£58.50
Senior	£58.50
Golden Senior	£45
Youth	£36
Junior	£22.50

\*Under 17s free (£50 for Diamond) with a full paying season ticket holder (not under 17s) one per season ticket holder.

## 2013/2014 SEASON TICKET APPLICATION FORM

To apply for the Instalment Plan scheme for season 2013/2014, please complete and return this form to the Ticket Office.

PERSONAL DETAILS	
Full Name (incl title):	Client Reference (if known):
Address and Postcode:	Daytime telephone:
	Evening telephone:
	Mobile telephone:
Email:	Date of birth: (compulsary)
SEASON TICKET DETAILS	
Season ticket details	Stand: Block: Row: Seat:
Season ticket type (Please tick)	<input type="checkbox"/> Free accompanied under-17 <input type="checkbox"/> Adult (22-64) <input type="checkbox"/> Unacc.or additional under-17 <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (65-74) <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (17-21) <input type="checkbox"/> Golden Senior (over 75)
Type of Season Ticket (Please tick)	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Diamond
PAYMENT DETAILS	
Season ticket total price:	
Payment Method (Please tick)	<input type="checkbox"/> Credit or debit card <input type="checkbox"/> Cash or Cheque <input type="checkbox"/> Four-month Early Bird <input type="checkbox"/> Eight-month Early Bird <input type="checkbox"/> 8 Monthly Instalment Plan (All Categories)
8 Month Plan Only (Prime Time / Any Time only)	
First Month Payment of (see payment chart):	Subsequent Monthly Instalments of:
<p>Four or eight-month plan - The first payment is made at the time of application, three or seven subsequent payments to be made starting from 1st June. <b>Eight Month Plan (Prime Time / Any Time prices only)</b> - First payment is made at the time of application. The second payment will commence on the 1st July 2013 and the 1st of each month thereafter up to and including 1st February 2014 (or for 7 consecutive months where applied for after 1st July).</p>	
<p>The information you provide on this form will be used to process the booking and ensure your enrolment to the 'instalment plan' scheme. By completing and returning this form you agree to the terms and conditions enclosed and have read and understood the privacy policy overleaf.</p>	
Applicants signature: ..... Date:.....	
CARD DETAILS	
Cardholders signature:	Cardholders name:
Cardholders Address and Postcode (if different from above):	
Credit/debit card no:	Expiry date:
Valid from:	Last 3 security digits on reverse of card: Start date/issue no (maestro):

CREDIT AGREEMENT REGULATED BY THE CONSUMER CREDIT ACT (1974) Licence no

If you wish your season ticket to be sent to you please enclose a stamped addressed envelope (90p) otherwise your season ticket will be held at the ticket office for collection.



# COMMERCIAL BREAK

WITH COMMERCIAL MANAGER DAVID HOSKINS

**Good evening and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for the penultimate time this season as we take on Play-Off bound Newport County AFC.**

With just a week left of the season and two games to prepare for, we have also been organising our end-of-season kit sponsors' dinner.

Tickets are selling well for this event which that will also tie in the 25th anniversary of our Littlewoods Cup triumph in 1988.

Members of the squad that helped the Hatters to victory over Arsenal on that sunny day at Wembley will be joined by our current squad and management team.

It promises to be a great night's entertainment and tickets are already going quickly. The event will take place at the Auction House on Monday 29th April and tickets cost £65. If you're interested, please get in touch with us directly at the club.

We have already received a number of enquiries regarding sponsorship and hospitality for next season and we will release details of these through our official website and in the post to our previous customers.

If you'd like to sit down and discuss the options available to you or your company for next season we are only a phone call or email away.

## MATCHBALL SPONSOR & MASCOTS

However, we still have one match remaining at Kenilworth Road this season and that comes against Ebbsfleet on Thursday night.

We have a matchball sponsorship and mascot package available for this fixture so if you are interested either of these packages for our final match of the campaign please do get in touch with the commercial team.



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2012/13

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# WELCOME NEWPORT COUNTY



## The Hatters welcome Newport County to Kenilworth for the penultimate home game of the 2012/13 campaign.

It's yet another midweek fixture under the lights in Bedfordshire which will be once again joined by the anticipation by the presence of the television cameras which extended their stay with the Town after Friday night's encounter with Grimsby.

Much like Friday nights opponents, Newport are vying for their very own promotion adventure and for a team that spent a large portion of the season at the top of the pile they now find themselves lying amongst the chasing pack.

Things seemed on track in Wales back in December when they slammed five past the Hatters but since the turn of the year the Exiles have failed to live up to their billing. A dismal January saw Justin Edinburgh's men pick up just four points in which they shipped 10 goals in the month which dented their promotion push as the sides around continued their charge.

Form improved in February which had them back on the glory trail before March tailed off into a downward spiral after a fixture pile up threatened wreaked havoc in the Exiles camp.

Our visitors head into the fixture this evening on the back of a three game winning streak including the comfortable 2-0 win over Alfreton at the weekend. It has given them a slither of a chance of sneaking back to the top of the pile should they take maximum points from their final two games and other results favour them.

With this ambitious push aside they will be one of the favourites heading into the Play-Offs, and with ex-Hatter Aaron O'Connor in the camp anything seems possible. O'Connor has been prolific since his switch across the border and has netted 20 times already this campaign so his former employers will need to be very wary of his threat this evening.

There are many familiar faces in the Exiles squad, including Robbie Willmott, Danny Crow and former Town academy product Ryan Charles.

It won't just be the players who are familiar to the Kenilworth Road settings but the fans will certainly be able to rewind the clock as this will complete their 23rd visit to Luton.

However, the history book does also recall Newport never winning on Bedfordshire turf with 15 of the 22 previous encounters seeing the Hatters whisk away all three points. Newport will be confident of overturning the hoodoo with their away form speaking volumes for their current league standing.

Having suffered defeat just five times on their travels, the County faithful will be looking once more for their sharpened sword to lead the way with 40 goals netted on their travels: the joint highest in the league with Southport.

Points mean prizes and none more so that the prize the Exiles have in their sights but with a rejuvenated John Still squad standing in their way it will be no easy pickings for the Exiles.

# THE EXILES

## AN AT-A-GLANCE LOOK AT THE NEWPORT SQUAD

### JUSTIN EDINBURGH

The boss. Arrived in Wales after Rushden & Diamonds' expulsion from the footballing pyramid in 2011. Made his name during a 10-year playing career with Tottenham Hotspur.

### ALAN JULIAN

Former Northern Ireland under-21 stopper joined from Stevenage in 2012. Began his career with Brentford.

### DAVID PIPE

Industrious full-back and former Wales international has clocked up over 50 games for County since arriving from Bristol Rovers in 2011.

### ANDREW HUGHES

Former Cardiff City academy product has represented Wales at under-23 level. Made over 60 appearances for the Exiles since his debut in 2008.

### MAX PORTER

England C international initially joined on loan in 2012 before making the switch permanently in the summer. 25-year-old midfielder made his professional debut for Cambridge United in 2005.

### TONY JAMES

Experienced central defender who made over 250 appearances for Hereford United during an eight-year stint that ended in 2006. Joined Newport in the summer from Burton Albion.

### ISMAIL YAKUBU

28-year-old defender spent nine years at Barnet, one of which under Town boss John Still. Nephew of former Everton and Portsmouth forward Yakubu Aiyegbeni.

### AARON O'CONNOR

Former Hatters forward joined County in the summer following his release from Kenilworth Road. Has since been in prolific form since moving across the border.

### LEE MINSHULL

Helped AFC Wimbledon to promotion from the Conference in 2011 before being loaned to Newport in 2011. Penned a permanent deal in 2012.

### DANNY CROW

Another former Hatter who replicated O'Connor's summer movement. 27-year-old forward netted 16 times in 57 games whilst at Kenilworth Road.

### BEN SWALLOW

23-year-old Welsh winger joined Newport from York in 2012.

### ANDY SANDELL

Versatile left-sided full back formerly of Wycombe Wanderers. The 29-year-old was another 2012 acquisition.

### JAKE THOMSON

Portsmouth-born Trinidad & Tobago International joined from Forest Green Rovers in 2012.

### JAKE HARRIS

Versatile midfielder known for his goalscoring prowess from the middle of the park. Very popular figure amongst the Exiles fans despite being just 22.

### MICHAEL FLYNN

32-year-old midfielder boasting Newport as his eighth different club. Currently in his third spell at County racking up, in total, over 50 games for the club.

### BYRON ANTHONY

Former Wales under-21 International started his career off at Cardiff City. Joined Newport from Hereford.

### JOE PERRY

Talented young goalkeeper who has represented Wales at under-15 to under-19 level. Son of former Wales International Jason Perry.

### CHRISTIAN JOLLEY

Made his England C debut after an impressive campaign for County. Penned a permanent deal in January after impressing on loan in the early months.

### ROBBIE WILLMOTT

Former Town winger joined Newport from Cambridge United in January and netted a brace on his Exiles debut against Lincoln City two days later.

### CONOR WASHINGTON

20-year-old joined County from St Ives in October. Former Dagenham & Redbridge trialist.

### SCOTT DONNELLY

Former England under-17 International joined in January. The 25-year-old's career began with QPR.

### RHYS GRIFFITHS

33-year-old Welsh forward joined at the start of this year from League Two Plymouth Argyle.

### MICHAEL BOATENG

Joined from Sutton United in March. The 21-year-old defender began his career at Crystal Palace.

### ALEX GILBY

18-year-old defender who joined on loan from Colchester United in March until the end of the season.

### WILL EVANS

Midfielder on loan from Hereford United. The 21-year-old began his professional career with Swindon Town.

### LENNY PIDGELEY

Former Chelsea youngster made two appearances for the Blues before departing in 2006. Capped at four different age groups for England, he joined Newport in 2012.





**Established:** 1912 (Reformed 1989)  
**Nickname(s):** The Exiles, County  
**Stadium:** Rodney Parade  
**Capacity:** 5,511 (Avg. attendance '12/13 - 2,371)  
**Manager:** Justin Edinburgh (18 months)  
**Final league position '11/12:** 19th BSP



Last season, in their first season back in the Conference Premier since bankruptcy in 1989, Newport County avoided relegation by just a single point, so it may surprise some to see the Exiles flying so high in the league this season.

County's fortunes changed the day Les Scadding, a lifelong fan who won £45.5m in the EuroMillions lottery, was appointed chairman.

Talk over the summer was of significant investment being made in the team in order to push for promotion, and that talk was validated as Newport signalled their intent by winning 10 of their first 14 games.

Form wavered slightly in November, but in 2013 Justin Edinburgh's men have been consistent enough to secure a Play-Off spot.

#### A closer look at Newport's season so far

Newport are currently third in the Blue Square Bet Premier with 84 points having played 44, won 25, drawn nine and lost 10 whilst scoring 83 goals and conceding 55.

Although it is still mathematically possible, the Exiles are extremely unlikely to steal the BSBP title in the last two games and are mostly focussing on being in good form for the Play-Offs.

Edinburgh's men seem to have hit a purple patch at exactly the right time as they are unbeaten in eight games and currently lie second in the form table after winning four, drawing two and conceding just twice in their last six games.

The Exiles boast the second-best away record in the division having earned 40 points and scored 40 goals in 21 away games.

More recently, Newport have lost just once in 11 games away from Rodney Parade.

There is reason to be concerned if Newport score first - because they have not lost this season when doing so.

However, equally concerning is the fact that County have gained the most points (22) from losing positions in the BSBP - they have fought back to win seven games from losing positions and draw once.



#### How will they play? Who are their danger men?

Manager Justin Edinburgh has changed formations willingly throughout the season from 4-4-2 to 4-3-3 to the 3-4-3 system we can expect to see deployed tonight at Kenilworth Road.

Former Chelsea goalkeeper Lenny Pidgeley, who has a League Cup winner's medal, will start in goal for the visitors. Tony James, Byron Anthony and 20-year-old Newport youth development product Andrew Hughes will form the back three.

Club captain David Pipe will operate as a right wing-back with colossus Andy Sandell on the opposite flank. 18-year-old box-to-box midfielder Alex Gilbey could start in the centre of midfield alongside utility man Lee Minshull who is nicknamed 'The Tank'.

Hatters fans will be very familiar with each of the visitors' front three. Roadrunner-like Robbie Willmott, who has scored six goals in eight appearances for Newport, will line up on the left, whilst former Town transfer target Christian Jolley, who was central to County's five-goal triumph over Luton earlier this season, will start on the right. Up front, Aaron O'Connor, who is just back from injury, would love nothing more than to add to his 18 BSBP goals and show the Kenilworth Road crowd exactly what they are missing.

# THOUGHTS FROM THE OAK ROAD

## TALK OF THE TOWN GETS THE INSIDE WORD FROM THE VISITORS' CAMP

**WHAT'S YOUR NAME?** Chris Shingler

**AGE?** 50

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN SUPPORTING LINCOLN?** 40 years.

**WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO TRANSFORM NEWPORT FROM RELEGATION CANDIDATES TO PROMOTION HOPEFULS IN JUST 12 MONTHS?**

In a nutshell, Justin Edinburgh. He knows the league and players seem to want to play for him. He also uses the loan market well.

However, there have been other factors too, such as the player fund set up by supporter Rob Santwris that has helped us sign better players than we had previously, such as Max Porter and Lee Minshull. Chairman Les Scadding's money has been instrumental in signing players like Christian Jolley. Our move to Rodney Parade helped with the feel good factor after our trip to Wembley last year in the FA Trophy final.

**WHAT'S BEEN THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE SEASON SO FAR?**

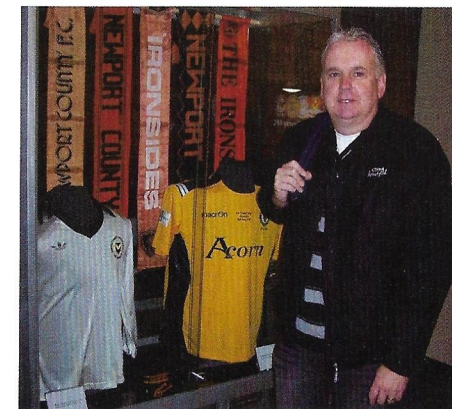
Can I say beating Luton 5-2 in December?! All joking aside, that was very special. Another was doing the double on local rivals Hereford, the 3-2 win up there in March was amazing with 1,300 County fans behind the goal where Robbie Willmott scored the winner in injury time.

**AARON O'CONNOR HAS FOUND HIS SHOOTING BOOTS THIS SEASON - HOW IMPORTANT HAS HE BEEN TO YOUR SUCCESS?**

Aaron's goals have been very important for us. He was scoring for fun in a few friendlies and just seemed to carry it on once the season started. His goal in our 2-0 win at home against Hereford was sheer class, and although he didn't score in the 1-1 home draw versus Wrexham, he was unplayable.

**AND HOW HAVE EX-HATTERS ROBBIE WILLMOTT AND DANNY CROW SETTLED INTO LIFE IN SOUTH WALES?**

Danny is a very classy player, a big favourite with the County fans, and we have only lost once when he has started a game for us. His work-rate has been excellent too. He seems to make us tick playing in the



hole. Robbie made an immediate impact scoring twice on his debut at Lincoln and has chipped in with a few more since. His winner at Hereford will go down in folklore in Newport!

**THE CLUB MOVED FROM SPYTTY PARK TO RODNEY PARADE AT THE START OF THIS SEASON. DO YOU LIKE YOUR NEW HOME?**

It's not perfect, but it's much better than Spytty Park. Hopefully, over the close season, planned improvements will make it even better. Its location in the centre of the city is better and it's nice to see hundreds of County fans walking over Newport Bridge before and after games.

**DO YOU BELIEVE NEWPORT CAN ACHIEVE PROMOTION THIS SEASON? IF YOU MANAGE TO DO IT, WHERE WOULD IT RANK ALONGSIDE THE CLUB'S ALL-TIME ACHIEVEMENTS?**

We have as good a chance as anyone else in the Play-Offs and it will obviously be the greatest achievement of the new club. It will be richly deserved by supporters who have stood by us through thick and thin. We have come a long way in just five years really. I suppose reaching the quarter-finals of the European Cup Winners' Cup as the old County did will never be topped, but it would be a very close second and marvellous for people like David Hando who was the driving force behind setting up the new club in 1989.

**WHAT'S THE SCORE GOING TO BE TODAY?**

It's a tricky one as probably neither team will have anything to play for, so I will go for 1-1.



# CLASSIC CAMPAIGNS

## FOOTBALL HISTORIAN LEIGH EDWARDS SELECTS 10 POST-WAR NEWPORT COUNTY CLASSIC CAMPAIGNS

### 1948/49

Newport County reached the FA Cup fifth round in 1948/49. Tom Bromilow's side defeated Brighton and Leytonstone before gaining a shock 3-1 victory at Leeds United in the third round. Newport then triumphed 3-1 at top-flight Huddersfield Town in a fourth round replay after a 3-3 draw before losing 3-2 at that season's champions Portsmouth in front of 48,581. The thrilling FA Cup run contrasted with disappointing League form as Newport won just one of their opening 14 games and crashed to an 11-1 defeat at Notts County in January, finishing 15th in the Third Division (South). Reg Parker was top scorer, while George Roffi was ever-present.

### 1963/64

County defeated top-flight Sheffield Wednesday in the 1963/64 FA Cup third round. The Ironsides beat Hereford United and Watford before their shock 3-2 victory at home to the Owls but lost 2-1 at top-flight Burnley in the fourth round. Laurie Sheffield netted a hat-trick as Newport won 5-2 at Bradford PA in their second match of the season, then twice more as County triumphed 4-0 in the return fixture. Billy Lucas' side lost 8-3 at Torquay in October but Joe Bonson scored 25 goals as Newport finished 15th in the Fourth Division, including a hat-trick in a 3-0 win over Southport. Record appearance goalkeeper Len Weare was ever-present.

### 1972-73

Newport County narrowly missed promotion on goal average in 1972/73. Billy Lucas' side lost just four of their opening 18 Fourth Division games and trounced Hartlepool 5-1. They slipped down the table after gaining only one point from their next four matches but charged back into the top four with five straight wins and hammered Gillingham 5-1. Just one victory in eight games, scoring just three goals, saw Newport slip to sixth place. They revived hopes with a 5-1 win at Doncaster but were pipped to promotion by Aldershot despite winning their last two matches. Willie Brown was leading marksman, while John Macey and Willie Screen were ever-present.

### 1978/79

County defeated West Ham en route to the FA Cup fourth round in 1978/79. The Ironsides made a poor start under new manager Len Ashurst, losing all but one of their opening seven League games, a 3-2 win at new-boys Wigan Athletic. Results improved with the arrival of Keith Oakes, Dave Bruton, Kevin Moore and Tommy Tynan during the season and Newport took Colchester United to an FA Cup fourth round replay. They won five successive games in March and finished eighth in the Fourth Division, their highest for six seasons. Top scorer Howard Goddard was ever-present, while Gary Plumley and Steve Lowndes missed just one match.

### 1979/80

Len Ashurst guided Newport to a promotion and Welsh Cup double in 1979/80. The Ironsides won their opening two games and the introduction of summer signing John Aldridge sparked a run of just one defeat in 13 matches that lifted Newport up to second place, with 'Aldo' grabbing his first League hat-trick in a 5-0 win at Stockport in mid-November. A club record ten consecutive League victories included a 5-2 demolition of Halifax and Newport clinched promotion in third place with a 4-2 win at Walsall on the final day. John Aldridge was leading marksman, while Welsh internationals Steve Lowndes and Nigel Vaughan were both ever-present.

### 1980/81

Newport County reached the European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-finals in 1980/81. They hammered Crusaders 4-0 and Haugar 6-0, then gained a marvellous 2-2 draw at East German side Carl Zeiss Jena in the quarter-final first-leg before narrowly losing 1-0 at home to the eventual finalists. Len Ashurst's side finished mid-table in the Third Division despite being without the injured John Aldridge for much of the second half of the season, beating Chesterfield 5-1 and netting four goals in both games against Carlisle United, then against Blackpool, Hull City and Sheffield United. Top scorer Dave Gwyther and Tommy Tynan netted 28 League goals together.



Rodney Parade: The Exiles new home

### 1982/83

County narrowly missed promotion to the Second Division in 1982/83. Colin Addison's side were early pace-setters, winning 5-1 against Orient and AFC Bournemouth as they climbed to second place by mid-November. They maintained their promotion challenge and a thrilling run of ten wins in 11 games took them top of the table in early April, with a crowd of 16,052 watching their 1-0 win at home to Cardiff City. But Newport finished fourth after gaining only four points from their last seven matches. Ever-present leading scorer Tommy Tynan and John Aldridge netted 42 League goals overall and ten players made 40 or more League appearances.

### 1994/95

Newport AFC won the Southern League Midland Division title by a 14 point margin in 1994/95. Despite the distraction of fighting a High Court action against the Welsh FA for restraint of trade, their fine seven-match unbeaten start included a 6-2 win at Forest Green Rovers and a 4-0 victory in the return game in mid-November heralded a thrilling run of 14 successive wins. Ceri Williams scored four goals in their 5-2 victory at home to promotion rivals Ilkeston in early December as Newport went top of the table for the first time, remaining in pole position. Williams was leading scorer with 32 League goals, while Ray John was Player of the Year.

### 1998/99

Newport AFC won promotion back to the Southern League Premier Division in 1998/99. Karl Bayliss grabbed a hat-trick as Tim Harris' side began with a 4-0 win over Sutton Coldfield. They also scored four goals in both matches against Stourbridge, then hammered Bilston 5-0 and Bloxwich 6-0 in quick succession, becoming the only Southern League club with an unbeaten home record. But disappointing away form, with nine defeats, cost the Midland Division title as they finished runners-up to Clevedon. Karl Bayliss was top scorer with 31 goals, while Bradley Thomas was Player of the Year. They became known as Newport County again that summer.

### 2009/10

County won the Blue Square South title with a club record 103 points in 2009/10. Dean Holdsworth's side were unbeaten in their opening 13 games, including a 5-1 win over Eastleigh, until losing 1-0 at Staines. They remained top with a 21-match unbeaten run, scoring five goals past Thurrock, St Albans and Basingstoke, before a shock 2-1 defeat at Thurrock in late March. Newport's third defeat was 4-0 at Havant & Waterlooville. They were the only Blue Square League club with an unbeaten home record, finishing 28 points ahead of Dover. Craig Reid and Sam Foley scored 40 Blue Square goals between them, while Glyn Thompson was ever-present.





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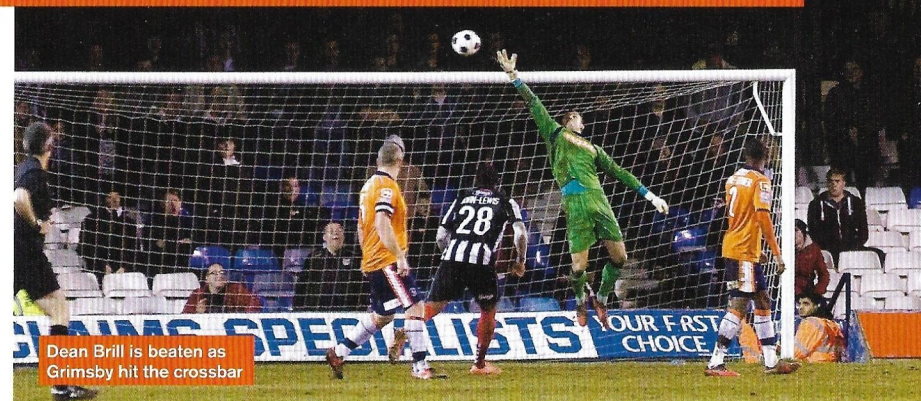
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## TOWN 1-1 GRIMSBY



Dean Brill is beaten as Grimsby hit the crossbar

### LAWLESS STRIKE EARNS POINT

**It might not have ended in victory but there were plenty of early signs of encouragement as the Town fought back to earn a point against promotion-chasing Grimsby on Friday night.**

A scrappy Dayle Southwell goal had the visitors, already secured of a Play-Off, in front 10 minutes after half-time, but a resilient performance from the Town saw Alex Lawless deservedly level on 76 minutes.

The Hatters' first half display should have warranted a half-time lead as they bossed possession and created numerous opportunities to break the deadlock.

As they forced a succession of early corner kicks, Andre Gray saw a header hacked off the line before Steve McNulty and Jon Shaw had follow-up shots blocked by desperate Grimsby defenders.

It was all the Town in the opening exchanges: Bradley Wood almost sliced a mis-hit corner from Dave Martin into his own net before Gray set-up Shaw with a fine pass to shoot high and wide. The Hatters were playing some eye-catching football and Shaw and Gray both had shots saved mid-way through the first half as the pressure continued to mount.

Despite the Town's dominance they had failed to seriously test Grimsby goalkeeper James McKeown and the hosts had a fine flying save from Dean Brill to prevent the visitors from taking the lead against the run of play when the goalkeeper kept out Andi Thanoj's fizzing effort from 25 yards on 40 minutes.

As half-time approached Brill then needed to be alert to keep out Lenell John-Lewis' acrobatic volley on the turn from the edge of the box.

Grimsby had ended the first half the stronger and the visitors came out in the same vein after the restart.

Southwell somehow spurned a great opportunity 90 seconds into the second period after trickery from Thanoj.

Thanoj then came mighty close to giving his side the lead with a superb shot from the edge of the penalty area that dipped over the diving Brill but came back off the underside of the crossbar and away to safety.

Replays showed the ball had not crossed the line, but the Town were not so lucky on 54 minutes when Southwell poked the ball over the line as the hosts failed to properly clear a corner.

Hurt by going behind, the Hatters needed a response and they should have levelled with 20 minutes left when Scott Griffiths volleyed over in the penalty area following a right-wing corner from Martin.

Half-chances fell to Lawless and substitute Alex Wall but, with 14 minutes left, the Town equalised. Solomon Taiwo thrashed a cross into the penalty area from the right flank and Lawless was there to control and fire past McKeown.

It was a fine goal and the Hatters sensed they could find a winner. Wall went for glory from 30 yards with 12 minutes left before Gray nodded a Martin cross wide of the target two minutes later.

Wall came agonisingly close to scoring his first goal in Town colours moments later after latching onto a great pass from Matt Robinson, before Lawless shot wide as time began to tick down.

Gray tested McKeown's reflexes with a powerful pot-shot with five minutes left from 20 yards but after four additional minutes the Hatters couldn't find a winner and they had to be content with a point.





# TOWN 1

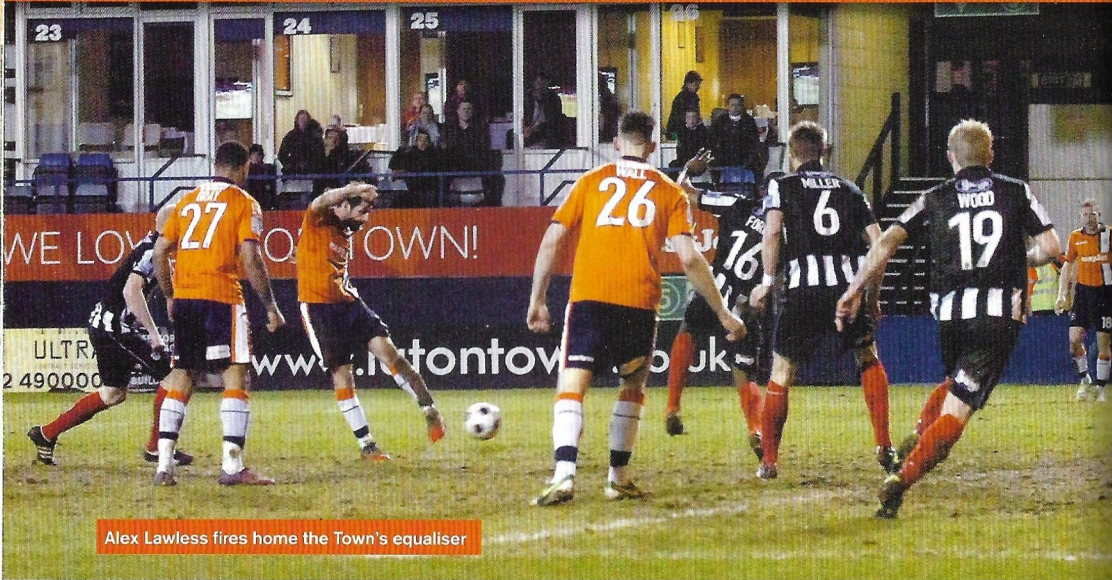
Lawless 74



# GRIMSBY 1

Southwell 55

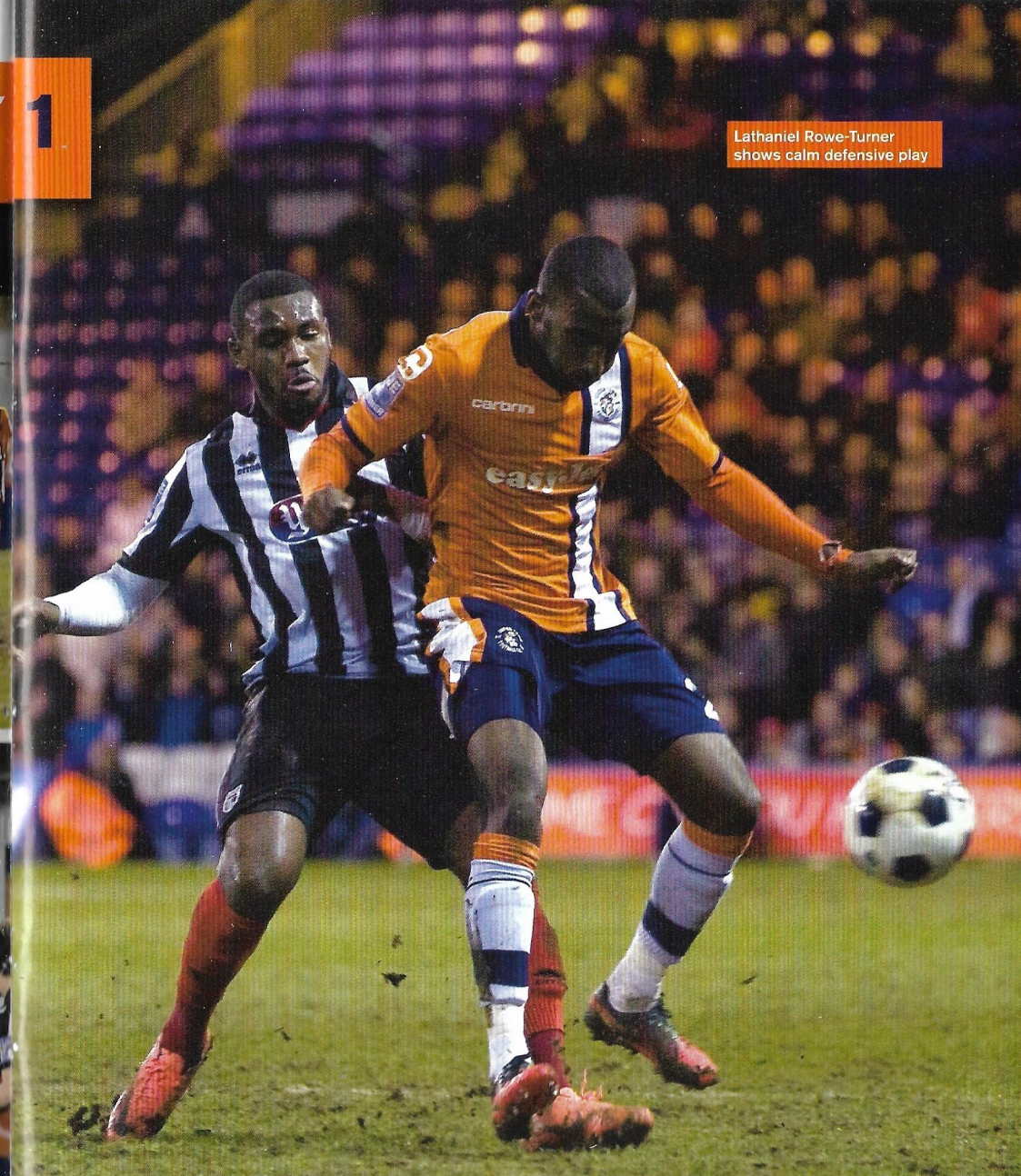
Lathaniel Rowe-Turner shows calm defensive play



Alex Lawless fires home the Town's equaliser



Scott Griffiths volleys acrobatically towards goal



<b>POSSESSION</b>	<b>SHOTS OFF TARGET</b>
52% 48%	11 3
<b>CORNERS</b>	<b>FOULS</b>
17 6	9 6
<b>OFFSIDES</b>	<b>YELLOW CARDS</b>
5 4	2 1
<b>SHOTS ON TARGET</b>	<b>RED CARDS</b>
10 3	0 0

**TOWN:** Brill, Smith, Rowe-Turner, Griffiths, McNulty, Lawless, Taiwo, Robinson, Martin, Shaw (sub Wall 67), Gray. **Subs not used:** Barnes, Ainge, O'Donnell, Walker.

**GRIMSBY:** McKeown, Thomas (sub Hatton 68), Miller, Ford, Artus, Wood, Thanoj, Taylor (sub Niven 68), Hearn, Southwell, John-Lewis. **Subs not used:** Fleming, Naylor, Hannah.

**ATTENDANCE:** 5,662 (290 Grimsby)





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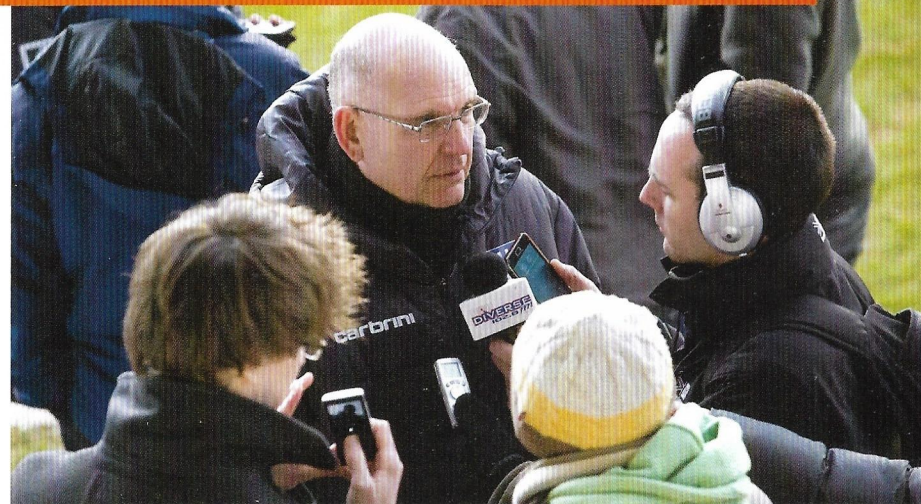
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## TOWN 1-1 GRIMSBY



### STILL MORE TO COME

**John Still believes there is much more to come from his side following an encouraging 1-1 with promotion-chasing Grimsby in front of the Premier Sports TV cameras.**

An Alex Lawless equaliser 14 minutes from time earned the Town a point and the manager was full of praise for a performance full of character.

"It's funny, we were hopeless at Gatehead, but a game like that is part of the process you have to go through and since then we've played well," Still told Hatters Player afterwards.

"I thought we should have won tonight but we're a little further forward. We can be better and we will be better – we're making small steps.

"Another plus was going a goal behind and I didn't think we deserved too. However, we got the equaliser and took the game to Grimsby.

"I thought the response to going a goal behind was fantastic – better than how we played in the first half. We were very unlucky at times but the harder we work the luckier we're going to get."

If there was one negative on the night it would have been the Town's failure to make the most of their dominance – Still's side forced 17 corners but could not serious test Grimsby goalkeeper James McKeown from one.

"We had opportunities to score and sometimes you can say we didn't score because we were a bit unlucky, or they defended very well, but you have

to maximise opportunities. It's an area we've got to improve on, there's no doubt about that," said Still

"We need to convert and get efforts on goals from corners, but we've had so little time to work on break down areas, corners for and corners against since I've been here.

"When then new season comes we'll have a lot more time to work on that."

While the manager knows there's a long way before his team can mount a serious promotion challenge, he was happy that the Kenilworth Road regulars went home impressed with what they saw.

"I enjoy watching my team when they play well. I love it," said Still. "It's exciting and entertaining and I want the fans coming here watching us win.

"I want to give the supporters what they so badly need [promotion] and I'm committed to help do that. I could have had it easy and stayed with Dagenham but the desire of this club impressed me so much. It excited me and I want to be the person that makes this club successful."

Still made two changes to the side that beat Lincoln, and moved midfielder Jonathan Smith to right-back in the absence of captain Ronnie Henry.

"I had a feeling he could play there," said the boss. "Unless you try it you don't know. He might turn out to be rubbish and I look stupid or all of a sudden I'm a genius. Unless you look you don't know.

"It's all part of me learning about the players."



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Can you name the five Luton Town players hidden in these anagrams?

DANGER RAY

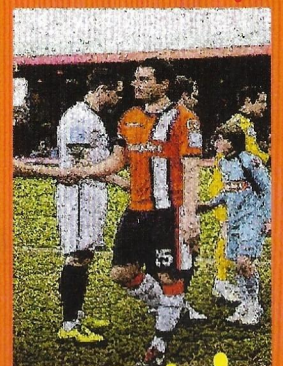
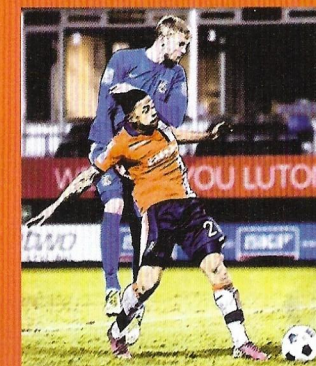
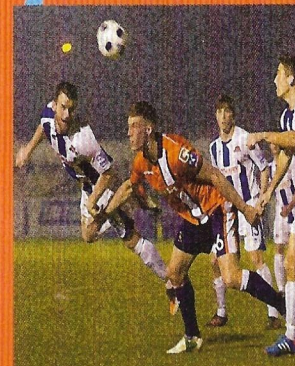
MERRY TALK

IM AN ADVERT

HAM THAN JOINTS

DECENT TROLLS

Can you name the three Hatters players?



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# ON THIS DAY

APRIL 16

### THE RECORD

The Hatters have a pretty miserable record on this day in history. Of the 23 league fixtures played on this day the Town have only won four times, losing 11 and drawing eight. Unsurprisingly the Hatters have only scored 21 times in the 23 games, and have conceded 32. Of the 15 games which haven't been won, the Town have scored just 10 goals. Fingers crossed for a change in luck this evening.

### THE LAST TIME

On the Hatters' last appearance on this day, in 2011, a fine goalkeeping performance from Mansfield's David Grof denied Gary Brabin's side all three points in a goalless draw at Field Mill. Mark Tyler, Jake Howells and Alex Lawless are the only three current players who are on duty that afternoon.

### WE'RE ON OUR WAY

The Hatters were celebrating promotion to the Championship after beating MK Dons 1-0 on this day in 2005. A week after a crucial 1-0 win at AFC Bournemouth, the Town had won promotion without kicking a ball with third-placed Tranmere dropping points in midweek. 9,000 fans squeezed into Kenilworth Road for the celebrations, and they went home happy after a Ben Chorley own goal gave the Hatters all three points.

### CANARIES BEATEN

That victory over Milton Keynes was the first time in 20 years the Town had won on 16th April, not since a 3-1 win over Norwich City at Kenilworth Road in 1985. Then in the top flight, and three days after a cruel FA Cup semi-final defeat to Everton, two goals from Emeka Nwajioji and a David Moss penalty saw off a Norwich side would eventually be relegated.

### LET'S TALK ABOUT SIX

If you thought the 20-year gap between the MK Dons and Norwich victories was a stretch, think again. Prior to the win over Norwich in 1985 the Hatters hadn't won on 16th April since 1932. On that particular day the Town put six past Swindon Town at Kenilworth Road in Division Three (South). The Hatters had won their previous six home matches in the lead up to the meeting with the Robins, scoring 26 and conceding five. The home faithful, in a crowd of just 3,982, were once again treated to a goal feast as five goals from Tommy Tait and one from Fred Kean secured a 6-0 win.

### 53 YEARS OF HURT

Town fans' miserable wait for a win on this day between the Swindon and Norwich game stretched 53 years and 12 matches. The Hatters drew six and lost six games during this period. A Mal Donaghy equaliser a minute from time prevented another defeat in 1983 at Meadow Lane against Notts County. In 1976 the Town also needed an equaliser from Brian Chambers to earn a point at Stamford Bridge against Chelsea in a 2-2 draw.

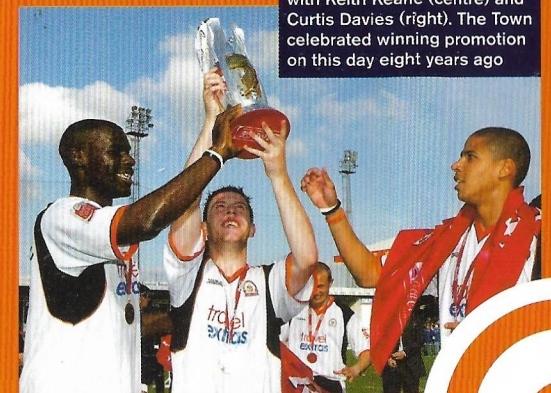
### TOP FLIGHT RECORD

It's played five, won one, lost three and drawn one in the top flight for the Town on this day. As well as the aforementioned matches against Norwich and Notts County, the Hatters' defeats have come against Nottingham Forest (3-0 at the City Ground in 1990), Liverpool (1-0 at Kenilworth Road in 1986) and Burnley (3-0 at Turf Moor in 1960).

### HELPING THE CHAMPIONS

You could argue the Town's defeat against Liverpool and Burnley helped both the Reds and the Claretts on their way to lifting the First Division championship, as both did in those respective seasons in 1986 and 1980. Liverpool won the title by two points from rivals Everton, whilst Burnley pipped Wolves to top spot by just a point. The defeat at Burnley didn't help the Town either. They were relegated back to the second division, finishing bottom of the table. That relegation started a downward spiral: the Hatters would find themselves in the bottom division of the Football League just five years later.

Enoch Showunmi (left) helps lift the League One title trophy with Keith Keane (centre) and Curtis Davies (right). The Town celebrated winning promotion on this day eight years ago



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# CENTRE SPOT

Alex Wall came agonisingly close to scoring his first goal for the club with this effort against Grimsby on Friday night





PICTURE

# THE PAST

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

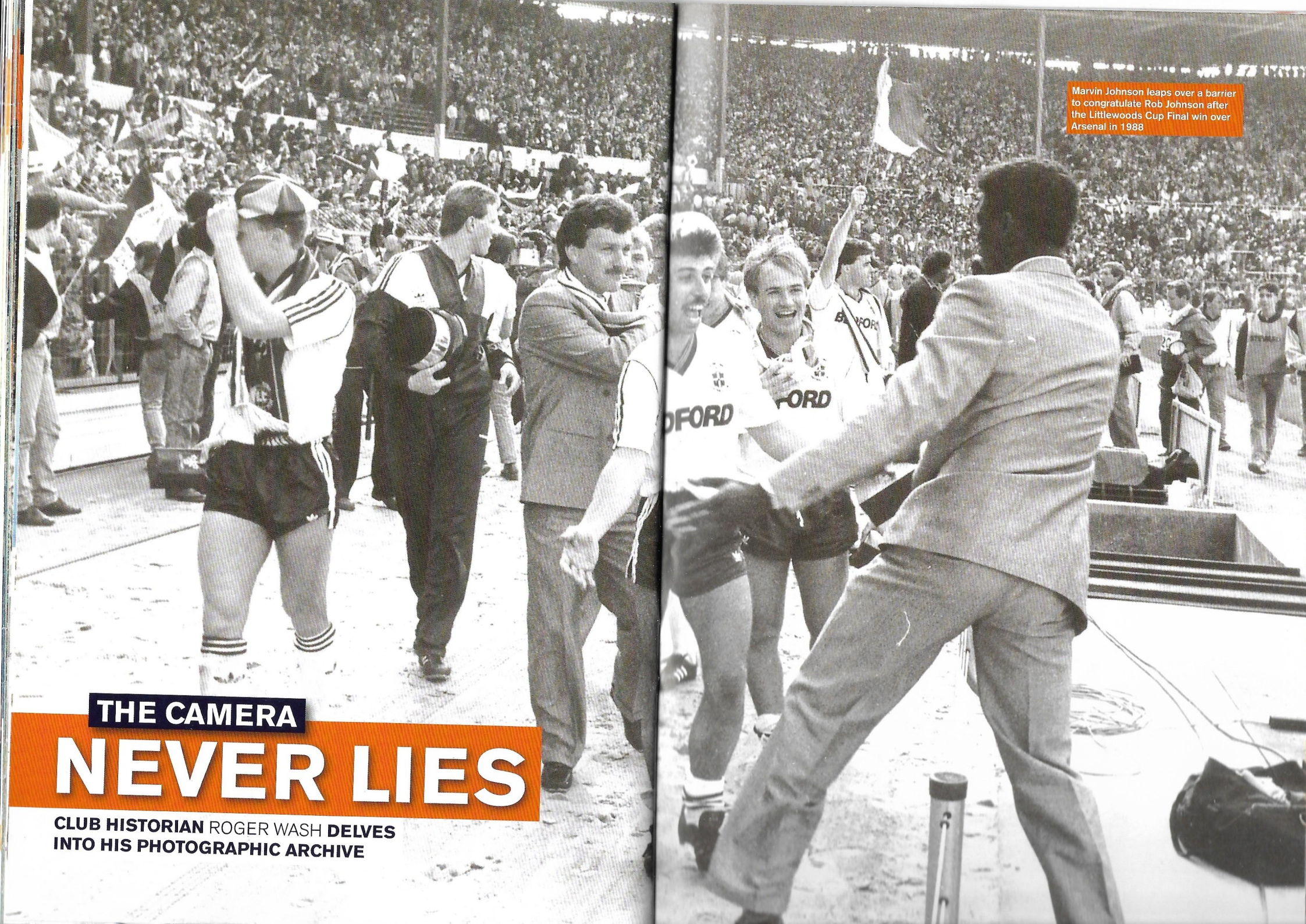
No apologies for featuring the greatest day in the club's history. The Littlewoods Cup final win over Arsenal is, as everyone should know, fast approaching its 25th anniversary.











Marvin Johnson leaps over a barrier to congratulate Rob Johnson after the Littlewoods Cup Final win over Arsenal in 1988

**THE CAMERA**

# NEVER LIES

**CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE**



# MEMORABLE MATCHES

## CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH LOOKS BACK ON THE GREATEST MOMENT IN THE HATTERS' HISTORY

### LUTON TOWN 3-2 ARSENAL

24TH APRIL 1988

**No apologies for reminding everyone that the 25th anniversary of the most glorious day in our long history, the 3-2 victory over Arsenal in the final of the Littlewoods Cup, is fast approaching.**

Most schoolboys dream of scoring the winning goal in the last minute for their team in a Cup Final at Wembley. This was the next best thing!

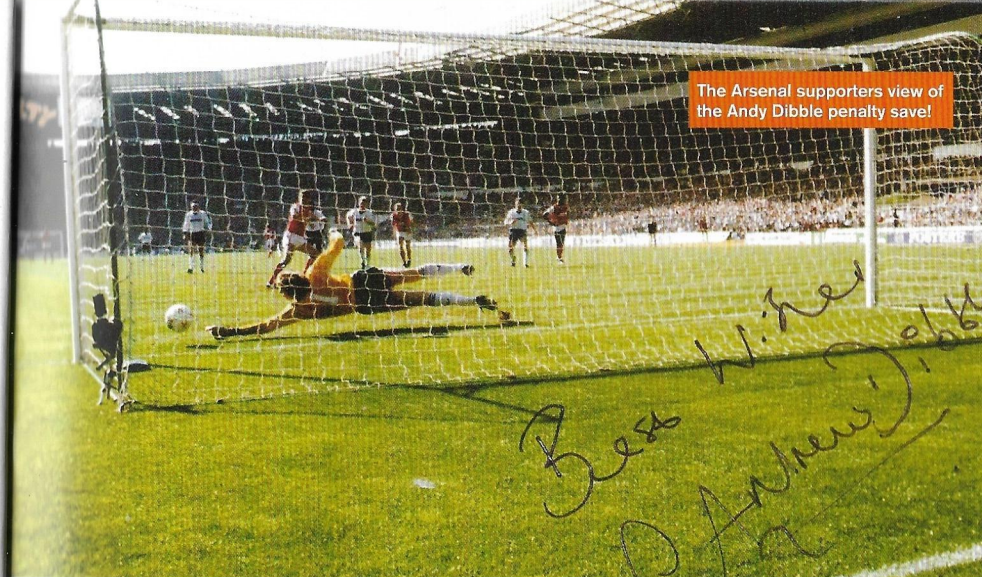
Because of our stance on away supporters we had been excluded from the first year of Littlewood's sponsorship of the competition in 1986/87, therefore our second round tie at Wigan in September 1987 was to be our baptism and a goal from Micky Weir, on his full debut, earned us a narrow win. A second leg hat-trick from Mick Harford, however, saw us through comfortably 5-2 on aggregate.

We were drawn at home to Coventry in the next round but because the Sky Blues demanded their full allocation of stand tickets the police nervously advised the Town not to stage the game at Kenilworth Road and after a few false starts the tie was eventually switched to Filbert Street, Leicester which made it almost a home game for Coventry fans.

Despite this disadvantage a tremendous performance saw us win through 3-1 on a quagmire of a pitch to send us to Ipswich, then of Division Two (now the Championship), in the next round. As I live in Newmarket, Ipswich is my 'Watford' and with the Town missing six regulars through injury I was already making my excuses before the kick-off!

However a sweetly executed goal from Brian Stein put us ahead in the fourth minute and a combination of inspired goalkeeping from Les Sealey, stout defending from Steve Foster and Mal Donaghy and desperate, predictable play from the home side allowed us to slip through to the quarter-finals.

The segregation row was sorted out by the time of the quarter-final tie at home to Bradford City two months later and in a tense game City goalkeeper Paul Tomlinson handled the ball, dribbled it out of the area and then back again before picking it up once more. An indirect free-kick was awarded by the eagle eyed referee and skipper Foster eased our nerves by putting us ahead with Harford doubling the score later.



The Arsenal supporters view of the Andy Dibble penalty save!

*Best time  
D. Andrew Dibble*

Our semi-final opponents were to be Oxford United with the first leg at the Manor Ground. We had already beaten Oxford 5-2 and 7-4 that season in the league and were therefore quietly confident of making it triple agony for United.

The trip to Oxford was a nightmare with falling snow and heavy traffic delaying my arrival until shortly before kick-off. The snow had started to melt as I parked miles from the ground and I looked on this as an omen that it was not going to be my night. Oxford forward, Dean Saunders, tried his hardest to make it a game to forget for Luton supporters by winning, and scoring from, a dubious penalty then missing another following another poor decision. The only consolations were another brilliant goal from Brian Stein and the refusal by the referee to award Saunders yet another spot kick when he was felled in the area. In my eyes this was the clearest penalty of the lot!

### Celebration

The second leg was played in an almost surreal atmosphere as everyone expected the Town to win through which, looking back on it now, probably put a lot of added pressure on the players. Fortunately, Oxford were in no real mood for a fight and the celebration parties had started by half-time with the Town two up courtesy of goals from Brian Stein and Ashley Grimes.

For those that remember, this was a strange unique season for Luton supporters with the Simod Cup final to contend with, a battle through to the FACup semi-final and a trip to Wembley in the Mercantile Credit Centenary celebrations. It was a frantic and expensive time and we were all punch drunk with the sheer number of games and the media hype surrounding everything connected with the club. It is a wonder that

the team managed to finish in ninth place in the table in a league competition that had almost been relegated to secondary importance.

My son, who was then eight, was enjoying his first full season as a Luton supporter and took everything in his stride assuming this was all normal. Supporters of my generation, who were just a shade too young to fully appreciate the FA Cup final of 1959, were in a state of constant elation.

We had injury problems leading up to the game to add spice to the occasion with Les Sealey not recovering from a damaged shoulder and Darron McDonough hurting his knee in training 48 hours before the final. This meant recalls for the hardly match fit Ricky Hill and David Preece and a place for 19-year-old local boy Kingsley Black.

The game is surprisingly clear in the memory but that can probably be put down to the repeated video replays over the years.

What remains particularly clear is the penalty decision mid-way through the second half which, if converted, would have put Arsenal 3-1 up with the game completely out of our reach.

When Andy Dibble made his wonder save, his team mates plus the 35,000 Luton supporters knew that the cup had our name on it and, suitably encouraged, the players raced to the other end. Gunners defender, Gus Caesar, made the initial error and the ball cannoned around the box before Danny Wilson stooped to head past John Lukic.

Then came the best moment of all. With only seconds remaining, substitute Ashley Grimes, out on the right, swept over a cross with the outside of his left foot for Brian Stein to crash home the winning goal.

What a day and what a night!



Happy Hatters fans



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DAVE

# MARTIN

## WINGER DENIED HAT-TRICK

If there's one player who has taken the opportunity given to him by new manager John Still it's winger Dave Martin.

The 27-year-old's performances have already caught the eye of the Hatters' boss – "Dave knows me and he's been good since I've been here to be honest" said Still – and the former Millwall and Crystal Palace man has rewarded his manager's faith in him by scoring twice in the 3-0 win over Lincoln.

Voted the diamond season ticket holders' player of the month for March, Martin was then named man-of-the-match by the sponsors after Friday night's 1-1 draw with Grimsby Town.

Having joined the Town on a two-year deal in January following his release from League 2 Southend, Martin now admitted to Hatters Player he's approaching his top form.

"I'm not there yet but I am getting there," he said. "I'm pleased with my form in the last few weeks and the manager has shown a real belief in me and I hope I am repaying the faith he's shown in me."

Instrumental in the win over the Imps last week, Martin scored twice but was denied a hat-trick after two goals were ruled out by referee Rob Whitton.

"I was obviously frustrated putting it in the net four times, but it's happened, it's gone, and I'm happy to get my two goals," said Martin.

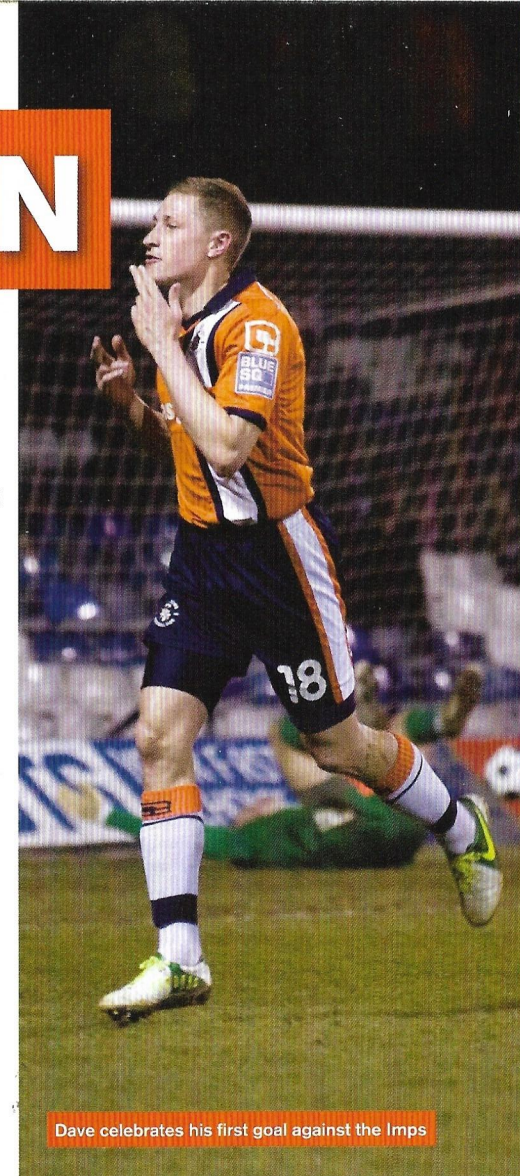
"I don't think the first goal was offside but I will watch it back. Nothing can be done now but for me it is frustrating.

"I could have had a hat-trick but it's gone now and I've got my two goals, we got a result and that's the main thing.

"As for the second goal [chalked off for an off-the-ball incident involving Alex Lawless and Lincoln's Andrew Boyce] I did speak to the referee and he said he could have let it play through which he should have done really.

"I thought he should have let the game develop and then he could have booked them afterwards, but like I say, it's football, it's happened and you have to get on with it."

Martin's opening goal, that put the Town on their way to victory, was a rocket from the edge of the box whilst



Dave celebrates his first goal against the Imps

his second, and the Hatters' third of the night, was a close range side-foot after good work from fellow goalscorer Andre Gray.

"For the first one I've called Scotty Griffiths on the edge and set myself and just let a nice shot go and luckily it's gone in," he said modestly.

"Andre's found me again for the second goal, he found me for the first one but it was offside, which was debatable, but the second one again it's a great ball in, the pace on the ball is perfect and I've just guided it in."



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# JONATHAN SMITH

## DEFENSIVE SWITCH FOR SMITH

An under-the-weather Jonathan Smith spoke to **Talk of the Town** after the Hatters' 1-1 draw with Grimsby Town on Friday evening with the stand in full-back ruing missed opportunities.

"I'm kind of disappointed we didn't take the three points to be honest," said the former York City midfielder who was picked to play at right-back by manager John Still.

### Effort

"The effort was all there to see but we had a sticky patch in the first part of the second half which probably cost us not getting the three points. "It would definitely have been unjust if we lost the game. The effort was there and in the first half we had three or four great chances to put it in, but that's life." Smith was deployed as a make shift right-back for the Mariners visit after playing every previous minute of his Hatters career in the heart of the Town battlefield. Despite it being a first in Town colours, Smith admitted he had played there before.

He said: "A few years ago I played there, three or four seasons ago. I'm not too sure how it came about he's just picked me to play there so I'll give it 100 per cent. I'll play right-back, left-back, centre-back anywhere and give it what I can."

### Positive

His commitment to the fight is clearly impressing John Still and Smith mirrored his admiration for his new boss' approach to the job.

"He's come in and he's a positive guy," said the 26-year-old. "He's always positive around the lads, win, lose or draw he's positive and that's good for us." Smith arrived on a permanent basis in January from York after impressing at Kenilworth Road during a loan stint, and while the Town won't be winning promotion this season the midfielder is hoping for a better campaign next time around.

"I wish we were in the shake up," he said. "I've worked as hard as I can for that to be but we will just have to come back even stronger next year and get right up there straight away.

"We've got some good players in this team but, like the gaffer keeps saying to us, we have got to be a team - so if we keep showing that sort of effort I don't see how we can lose games like we have been."



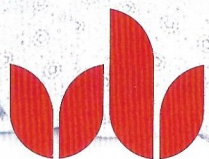
Jonathan races up into attack from right-back on Friday



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## STEVE

# McNULTY

## CAPTAIN MAC

**Since arriving at the club in February Steve McNulty has shot to cult hero status amongst the Hatters faithful.**

His defensive displays have already rubbed off on his team-mates and since John Still's arrival the former Fleetwood man has been installed as the Town skipper in Ronnie Henry's absence.

It's been quite a start to life at Kenilworth Road but the stand-in captain isn't getting complacent – even after a promising team performance on Friday evening against Grimsby.

"It was encouraging," said the defender who lifted the Blue Square Bet Premier title as Fleetwood captain last season.

"I thought in the first half we were very good. We had a lot of chances and I felt if we took one early doors we could have gone on and nicked a couple but didn't.

"We came out second half and we didn't start. We were sloppy in the first 10 minutes of the second half and they got their goal. However, after their goal our shoulders were lifted and we went on and I thought we were unlucky not to win it.

"It's a shame we came out second half and we were cold, and we just didn't start. We weren't doing the things we were doing in the first half that was giving us joy and it took for them to score the goal to liven us up and we got back to what we were doing.

"I thought we were comfortable at the back, they got in behind us a couple of times but, overall as a team, I thought we defended well.

"After the Gateshead game, we were not happy conceding five and vowed it should never happen again and we put it right against Lincoln.

"Defeats like the Gateshead one shouldn't ever happen, but those things are going to happen if we didn't apply ourselves properly. All you can do is apologise to the travelling fans but we came in Tuesday and put that right. We're building for next season now and all signs are encouraging."

Ronnie Henry is currently sidelined due to him receiving surgery and since his absence

McNulty has stepped in to lead the Hatters. Many have praised McNulty's leadership in the absence of Henry and the Liverpool-born defender was quick to praise the club captain he is deputising for.

"Ronnie is the same as me when he puts the armband on he's a winner," said the 29-year-old.

"He's a man's man and he has led the team well all season, but there was a time where he had to go in and have the operation and this was the right time.

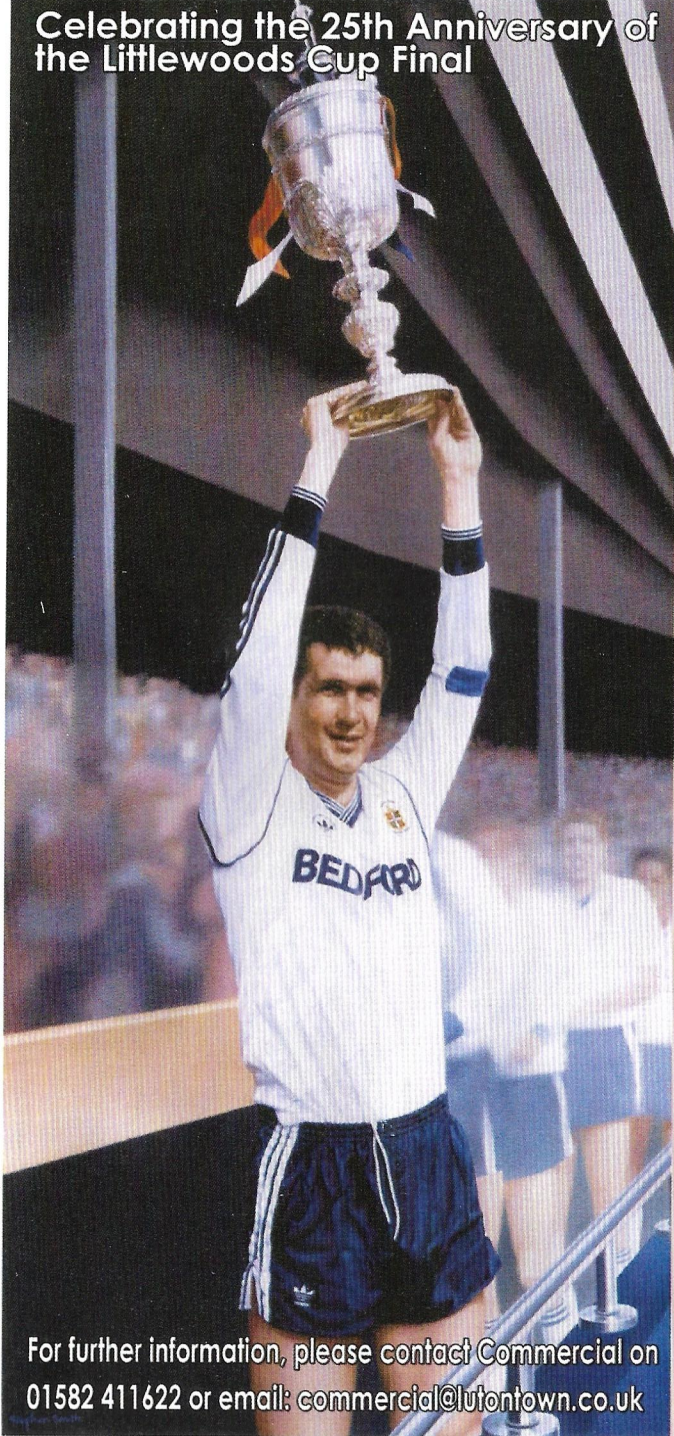
"Ronnie is club captain but I am relishing the opportunity to captain Luton Town. It's an honour but whether I've got the armband or not I am going to be the same on the pitch."



The stand-in skipper at the final whistle on Friday



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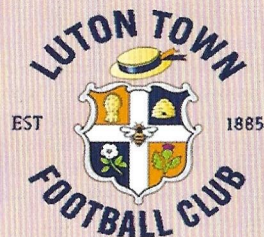
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# FROM THE PRESS BOX

WITH DIVERSE FM'S STEVE MOORE

Whenever the Hatters play Newport County it's a game where I take an immeasurable amount of stick from everyone in the Diverse studio and in the chat room and on text, e-mails, twitter and everything else.

That is because I have always had a soft spot for Newport County, and I make no apologies for that. As anyone who has ever listened to our show during the Six Nations will know, I am indisputably proud of my Welsh heritage and this was just an extension of that.

My granddad was born there and my ancestors were involved in building both the transporter bridge and the clock-tower opposite (one for the away fans there).

Going to University is usually to get drunk for three years and do a bit of work on the side.

I spent it watching as much football as humanly possible. Which involved an awful lot of Luton games, Stoke games and of course, Newport County games.



## Sense

There was no harm in it at that point, we started in the Championship and they were in the Conference South at the time, with former Hatter Ian Hillier in the team. Following them made a lot of sense.

So I'm prepared for my usual amount of ribbing tonight despite the fact that, right now, wishing well for County doesn't seem possible.

I firmly believe that Newport are a club suited for a return to the Football League but the thought of them getting there before ourselves does not seem to compute with the hard wiring in my brain.

Maybe for the first time, I am starting to suffer with the same problem a lot of Luton fans have had in

regards to trying to relate our historical position to our present one, something I have admittedly been very vocally angry about other Luton fans in the past for.

## Cracking performance

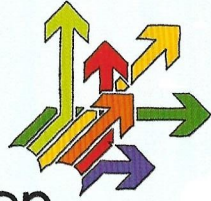
Onto more immediate on-field issues and the Grimsby game saw the baby steps that we seem to be taking under John Still already.

It was a cracking performance, admittedly apart from a poor first 10 minutes at the start of the second half, and perhaps the need for better deliveries into the box for most second half, but it was light-years ahead of where we were a few weeks before.

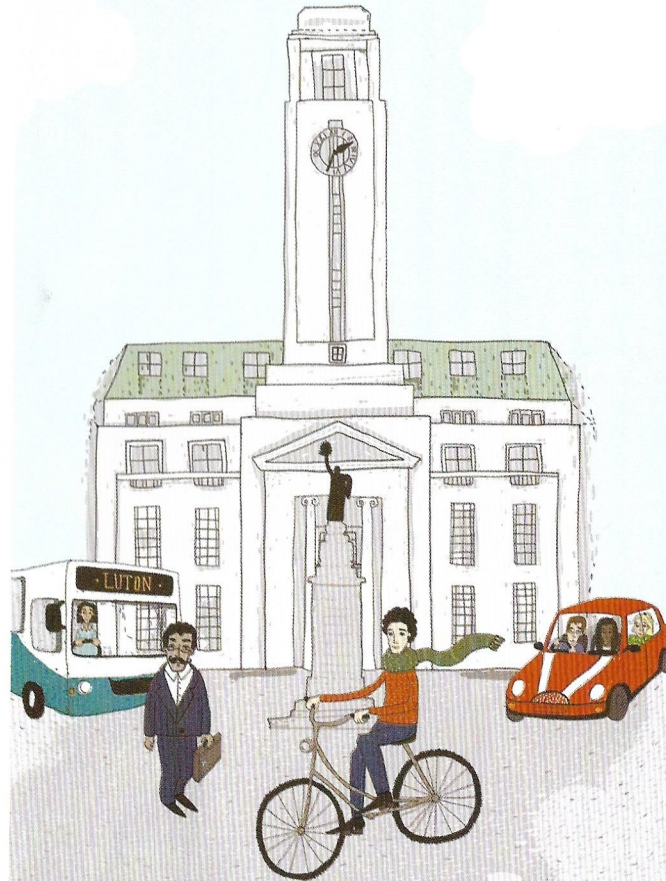
We produced what is the best passing move I've seen from any side at this level, despite the fact it ended with an offside.

Reasons for hope certainly.





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# THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER

ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

BY STEVEN CONEY

**Managerial departures have become commonplace in football with fans often keen for a change - but is the grass always greener on the other side?**

Stability is often preached by those inside football as a key ingredient to success. Yet clubs continue to pull the trigger, hoping a change can improve their fortunes.

You only have to look at the Blue Square Bet Premier this season though, to see that change is not always good.

## Fourth manager

AFC Telford, relegated from Non-League's top-flight, are onto their fourth manager of the season having done 30 league games without a victory recently.

Had Andy Sinton not left the club back in January, I'm positive the Bucks would have more points than they currently do.

Two clubs who are firmly in the relegation scrap have also changed the man in the dugout. Gateshead sacked Ian Bogie in December with the club in 14th and have dropped since then under Anth Smith.

And Lincoln City have not climbed up the table since David Holdsworth's departure in February.

You can see why chairmen make the decision to freshen things up but after looking at the evidence, it would seem it doesn't always bring the rewards they hope for.

Just look at the two teams slugging it out for the Blue Square Bet Premier and how easily things could be different.

## Faith

After 10 games, Kidderminster were bottom and without a win after being tipped for promotion in pre-season. Despite Harriers' slow start, chairman Mark Serrell showed faith in boss Steve Burr and boy has it been rewarded with a fantastic run of form that has given them a great chance of going up.

And then there's Mansfield. Another club who were among the favourites but who were too inconsistent early on.

Paul Cox trimmed down his squad and found the right answers to propel his side into the title race. As the old saying goes: Good things come to those who wait.



Andy Sinton: Axed by relegated AFC Telford back in January

Looking further down the pyramid and you see other teams who have also struggled with managers. Hayes & Yeading are in danger of suffering a second straight relegation from the Blue Square Bet South and are now onto their third management team of the season.

And the same can be said for Colwyn Bay in the Blue Square Bet North, who face a tough task to avoid relegation to the Evo-Stik NPL Premier.

Kettering Town have also had a hat-trick of men in charge and that can't have helped as the Poppies slipped to relegation from the Southern Premier.

## Instant success

With fans and chairmen wanting instant success, it's harder to ignore the pressure and stick by your manager than to make a move. But if football shows us anything, it's that the grass definitely isn't always greener.



# YOUTH FIXTURES

## PUMA YOUTH ALLIANCE UNDER-18 SOUTH-EAST FIXTURES - SEASON 2012 - 2013

### AUGUST

Sat 11	Leyton Orient	A	L 0-2	
Sat 18	Dagenham & Redbridge	H	L 2-3	Jibodu (pen), Smith
Sat 25	Stevenage	A	W 3-2	McKenzie-Lowe, (og), Amu

### SEPTEMBER

Sat 01	Peterborough United	A	W 2-0	McKenzie-Lowe, own goal
Wed 18	AFC Kempston Rovers	A	W4-0	McKenzie-Lowe 2, Amu 2
Sat 22	Milton Keynes Dons	A	D 2-2	Amu, Smith (pen)
Sat 29	Northampton Town	H	D 1-1	Davis

### OCTOBER

Wed 03	P'boro Northern Star	H	W 6-0	Banton 3, Amu, McKenzie-Lowe, Trotman
Sat 06	Stevenage	A	L 2-3	Smith 2 (1 pen)
Sat 13	Northampton Town	H	D 0-0	
Wed 17	Barton Rovers	H	W 3-1	Amu 2, Smith
Sat 20	Watford	H	L 0-3	
Sat 27	Peterborough United	H	L 2-6	McKenzie-Lowe, Banton
Tue 30	Stevenage	H	L 0-3	

### NOVEMBER

Sat 03	Milton Keynes Dons	H	L 2-4	Banton, Amu
Sat 17	Watford	A	W 2-1	Banton, McKenzie-Lowe
Sat 24				In Service Training

### DECEMBER

Tue 04	Peterborough United	H	W 2-0	Amu, Nwagala
Sat 08	Northampton Town	A	W 3-0	Jibodu, Banton, Amu

### JANUARY

Sat 12	Milton Keynes Dons	H	L 2-3	Magaraushe, Pittfield
Sat 26	Leyton Orient	H	D 2-2	Banton, Smith

### FEBRUARY

Sat 09	Stevenage	H	W 2-0	Amu, McKenzie-Lowe
Tue 19	Dagenham & Redbridge	A	W 2-0	Smith (pen), Banton
Sat 23	Aldershot Town	A	D 1-1	Banton

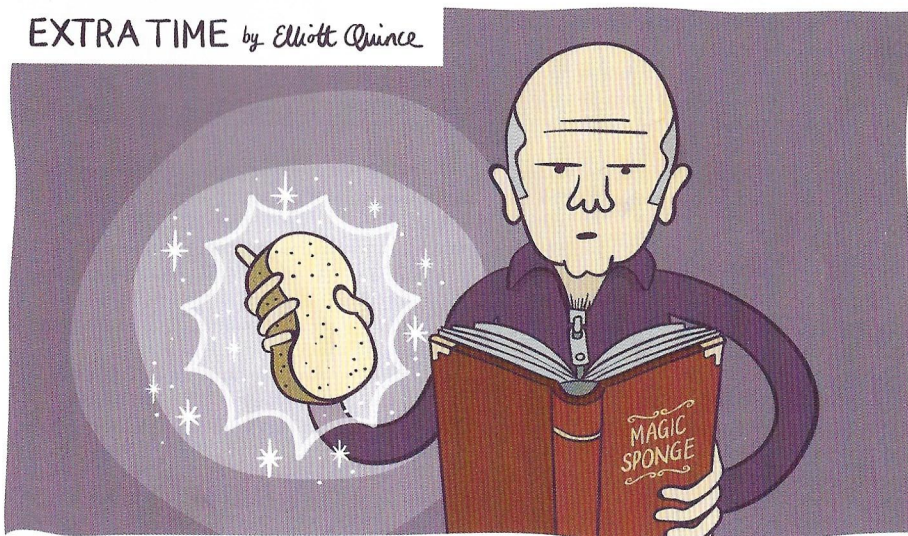
### MARCH

Sat 02	AFC Wimbledon	H	W 4-3	Banton, McKenzie-Lowe, Smith (pen), Longden
Tue 26	AFC Wimbledon	A	L 0-2	

### APRIL

Sat 06	Gillingham	H	D 2-2	Amu, Banton
Sat 13	Crawley Town	A	P-P	
Wed 17	Southend United	H	11.00am	
Sat 20	Portsmouth	A	11.00am	

## EXTRA TIME by Elliott Quince



There were spells for slight knocks, twinges and tight hamstrings  
but nothing that could get a striker to shoot straight

# YOUTH UPDATE

The Hatters' Under-18s' season will continue beyond this week after Saturday's game away to Crawley Town was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

Paul Driver's side face a tense run in their quest for Youth Alliance glory with the previous weekend's 2-2 draw with Gillingham allowing league leaders Leyton Orient to move five points clear at the top of the South East Alliance table.

However, the Town still have a game in hand on the O's - as do a number of sides below the leading duo in the table.

The Hatters lie a point ahead of three sides immediately below them in Portsmouth, Peterborough and Dagenham & Redbridge, and just two points above local rivals Watford in one of the tightest and most competitive of the regional under-18 leagues in the country.

## YOUTH ALLIANCE SOUTH EAST TABLE

Team	P	W	GD	PTS
1 Leyton Orient	19	10	16	35
2 Luton Town	18	5	7	30
3 Portsmouth	18	8	9	29
4 Peterborough United	19	9	1	29
5 Dagenham & Redbridge	19	8	0	29
6 Watford	18	8	11	28
7 Gillingham	19	6	1	26
8 Southend United	17	7	1	26
9 Milton Keynes Dons	18	8	-3	26
10 Stevenage	17	7	-1	24
11 Aldershot Town	18	7	-9	23
12 AFC Bournemouth	17	5	-2	22
13 AFC Wimbledon	18	4	-5	19
14 Northampton Town	18	5	-6	17
15 Crawley Town	17	2	-20	9

## 2012/13 YOUTH TEAM

## KIT SPONSORS

 <b>ZANE BANTON</b> HOME: First Capital Connect AWAY: Available	 <b>TINASH CHABATA</b> HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 <b>LEEROY MAGURAUSHE</b> HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 <b>AREL AMU</b> HOME: DW Sports AWAY: Available
 <b>JEMALE MCKENZIE-LOWE</b> HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 <b>IAN REES</b> HOME: Available AWAY: Available	 <b>CHARLIE SMITH</b> HOME: Peter Mitchell AWAY: ZMB	 <b>BEN MCFARLANE-BARNES</b> HOME: Available AWAY: Available GLOVES: Available
 <b>JOSH CARPENTER</b> HOME: Harborough Town Football Club AWAY: Available GLOVES: Available	 <b>JORDAN DAVIS</b> HOME: Lucy Francome AWAY: Available	 <b>JEROME JIBODU</b> HOME: Doug Knight AWAY: Doug Knight	 <b>BRETT LONGDEN</b> HOME: Mike Tearie AWAY: Available
 <b>JERRY NASH</b> HOME: Moira Spain AWAY: Available	 <b>ZAK STEPHENS</b> HOME: Available AWAY: Available		



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## ACADEMY

# UPDATE

WITH JOE DEENEY

**We took our Under-16s pre-academy squad away to Holland to play in the Under-17 Elite Tournament over the weekend.**

The group of players we took out to the tour some were giving away nearly two years in age. A positive day one saw three good performances and us topping our group with three good wins.

The results were 4-0, 3-0 and 4-0, so to not concede a goal in three games was an excellent achievement in itself. Goals came from Billy Murray (with three), Jacob Trigg (two), Rhys Dainton (two), Alex Bailey (two), Jake Snooks and Harry Tamplin.

Day two saw us competing in the winners' part of the tournament. We opened the day with a 2-2 draw which was our most disappointing result of the tour. Having taken a 2-0 lead with goals from Harry and Jake, and being comfortable in the game, we were pegged back late on in the game.

### Dominated

It meant we had to win the next game against Champions League Danish outfit Brondby. In a game we dominated from start to finish the frustration of not being able to score became evident.

We then lost Joe Grossi to a poor sending off so the task became harder with 10 men. It was deep into injury time, and with the final kick of the game, that a long throw led to a scramble and the ball falling to Rhys who turned and struck a volley with the final kick of the game to win the tie 1-0.

The following game meant we had to match Brondby's result of their game to qualify for the final. The game was another close and tight affair in which we dominated for the majority of it.

A great top corner save from Connor Stanbridge kept us in the game at 0-0. Then with four minutes to go, and with Brondby

winning on the other pitch, an excellent solo effort from Billy put us into the final. In the final we were drawn to play Den Haag from Holland. It was 0-0 at half-time and with our players extremely tired I asked for one big push for the second half and the players delivered.

### Pace and Power

An excellent combination between Joe Grossi and Will Wright led to a chance for Rhys who showed power and pace to beat two defenders and slide a left-foot strike into the bottom corner. An excellent surge a few minutes later from Gabriel Oakley and a pinpoint pass sent Billy away who scored to seal the game for us.

It was an outstanding effort from all the players playing a year up against many full-time academies. The desire, togetherness and work ethic amongst the players was exemplary. To concede two goals and keep six clean sheets in seven games is a great testament to the team. The goalkeeper Connor Stanbridge and the back three of Harry Tamplin, Benji Crilley and Jake Snooks played every minute of every game on the tour and were excellent.

Every one of the players contributed to a wonderful achievement and I am personally very proud of the players and was great to bring home the trophy.





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## LUTON LADIES

**The Town Ladies shared a 10-goal thriller with Enfield Town in a pulsating match that ended in a 5-5 draw on Sunday.**

Luton took an early lead in the fourth minute from a corner when Lauren Goodier charged down a clearance and the ball flew into the top corner of the net. The visitors were level within five minutes from a goalmouth scramble but the Town bounced back peppering the Enfield goal with shots.

Laura Day smashed her shot against the crossbar, Amy Summerfield's shot was narrowly wide and Rachel Kosky was hauled down after beating the goalkeeper to the ball but no penalty was given.

### Superb interplay

However, after 42 minutes, superb interplay between Rebecca Scott and Zara Carroll sent Day away and she curled the ball into the bottom corner to give Hatters a 2-1 half-time lead.

Almost straight from kick-off in the second half Enfield were again level, but Luton were not to be denied when Rachel Kosky beat her player before smashing the ball into the bottom corner from 20 yards to make it 3-2.

Minutes later though, the visitors were level again as Luton's defensive generosity was again in evidence, but Kosky and Day continued to combine well and Kosky crossed the ball to the far post for Day to grab her second and make it 4-3.

Town keeper Hollie Staples was in great form and pulled off a wonderful save when throwing herself backwards to tip a heavily deflected shot over the bar to prevent Enfield levelling once more.

Carroll then struck two powerful free kicks from 30 yards with one just being beaten out by the overworked Enfield keeper and the other skimming the crossbar. However, she was not to be denied smashing a shot high into the net just a short while later to make it 5-3.

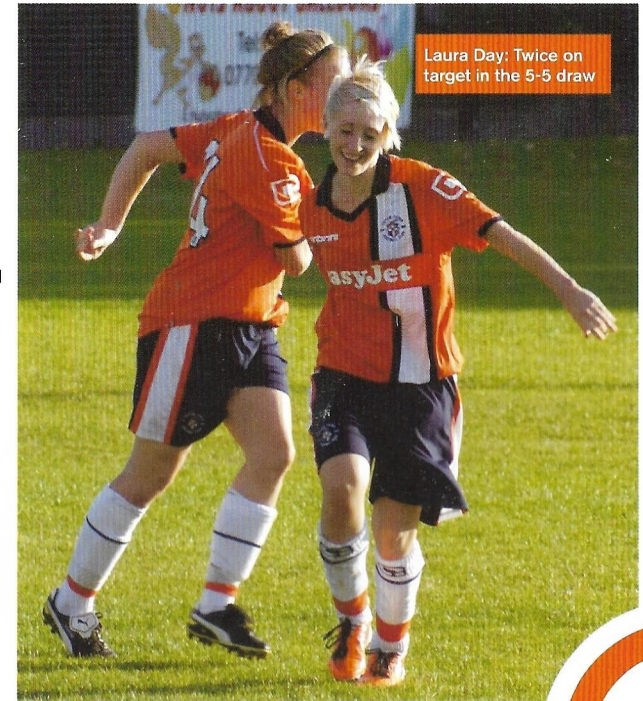
The Hatters seemed able to score at will as they continued to create opportunities and Day forced a fine save with the rebound being volleyed in at the far post by Scott only for the goal to be ruled out for offside which would have made it 6-3.

However, on 83 minutes Enfield again reduced the arrears before, deep into injury time, the unthinkable happened when a harmless locking cross took a cruel deflection before dropping into the net at the far post to give Enfield an equaliser and make the score 5-5.

Manager Nikki Baker told Talk of the Town: "We played some fine attacking football and could well have scored more goals, but our defending as a team let us down as we conceded some preventable soft goals.

"At 5-3 up I thought we were very unlucky to have a goal ruled out which would have sealed the points, but it was very frustrating to concede two more late goals in the fashion that we did."

Beginning next Sunday, the Town have a run of seven games in 21 days.



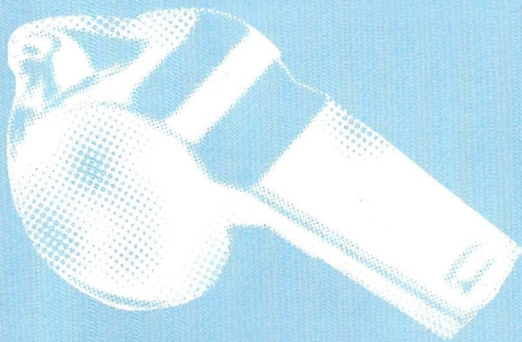
Laura Day: Twice on target in the 5-5 draw

For more information on the Ladies visit [www.lutontownbelles.com](http://www.lutontownbelles.com)



#NONSENSEINFOOTBALL

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EITHER SIDE OF THE POST  
AND THAT WOULD HAVE  
BEEN A GOAL."



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# IN THE COMMUNITY

## BUSY EASTER FOR CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE BOYS

The last two weeks have been a busy time for our Centre of Excellence squads with games against Southend United and Cambridge United followed by a three-day residential visit to Stowe School in Buckinghamshire.

Our Centre of Excellence (Cofex) provides our entry level into our academy system and is where most recruited trialists begin their journey with the Club's youth department. We have two centres, one in South in Luton and one in North in Dunstable. Boys remain with their local clubs but train with us once a week throughout the season and play around 10 matches.

Two of those matches took place in the first week of the holidays with the Cofex North boys travelling up to Hitchinbrooke School in Huntingdon to face near neighbours Cambridge United. As usual the games were generally tight, although our older boys proved to be too strong for our opponents with good victories. Southend United visited our Cofex South boys over at

Creasey Park in Dunstable and again good victories were notched up by most squads.

These games were followed up with over 200 Cofex boys attending a three-day training camp at the fantastic facilities at Stowe School. It's a great team building exercise and gives our coaching staff a really good opportunity to see the boys both on and off the pitch.

The boys start their stay with internal North v South games, and finish two days later with games against our pre-Academy squads. Overall at Stowe our academy staff look at over 350 boys during the week which is great preparation for next season in seeking potential additions to our academy squads.

The Cofex boys will now spend the next few weeks preparing for their end of season tour to Belgium in May, hoping to emulate the recent success of their pre-academy team in Holland. The boys then have a short break before pre-season begins in early July.



Under-8s, under-10s, under-12s and under-14s cofex squads at Stowe

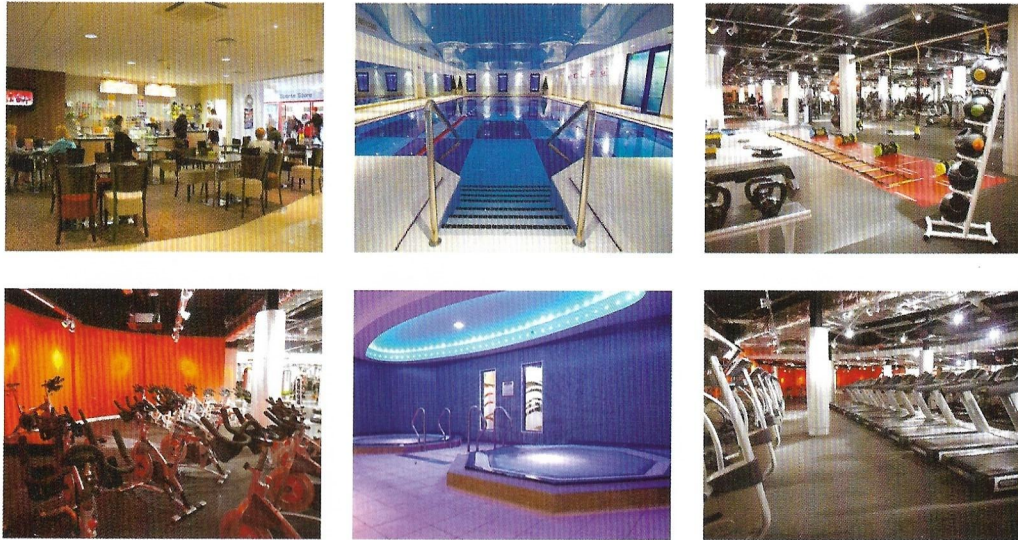


Under-9s, under-11s, under-13s and under-15s cofex squads at Stowe



Town Under-13s v Cambridge United





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\* Please note facilities may vary between clubs. Prices vary between clubs.

## LEAGUE

# LOOK

## JOE FLEMONS ROUNDS UP THE LATEST IN THE BSBP

**Kidderminster Harriers still sit top of the pile as the curtain begins to fall on another enticing Blue Square Bet Premier season.**

The title is still to be firmly decided with three teams still mathematically fighting it out for the right to lift the trophy but it was this weekend we finalised three of the four sides to depart the division through the dreaded trap door.

With Kidderminster and Wrexham set to meet in the evening kick-off on Saturday it gave Mansfield a chance to leapfrog Harriers into the driving seat away at Braintree.

The Stags took the early initiative and were prodded in front by Matt Green with just eight minutes on the clock.

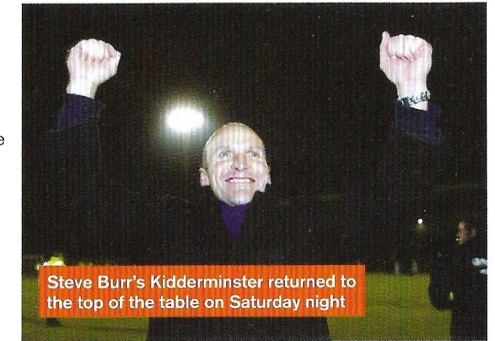
The Iron are made of tough stuff, however, and when Matt Paine drilled home the leveller for the hosts on the hour a shock was well and truly on the cards. Kaine Sheppard then headed home the decider with 20 minutes still to play as Mansfield were left to rue a missed opportunity.

This defeat allowed Kidderminster jump into top spot with a win as they travelled to Wrexham. James Vincent gave Harriers the lead before Danny Wright rifled home a spectacular volley to level proceedings.

The three points for Harriers was sealed on 70 minutes, however, when clinical Michael Gash was given the time and space to pick his spot and clinch all three points as the title race goes right down to the wire.

Ebbsfleet were the second side of the season to taste the bitter scent of relegation after their courageous effort to escape from the trap door was ruthlessly slammed shut on them by a much improved Telford side.

The Lilywhites have not had much to cheer about this season and headed into the game with Fleet without a win in 30 league matches. That record looked set to be extended when Stefan Payne found the top corner shortly after the quarter of an hour mark. Aaron Williams decided otherwise, however, and sealed Fleet's fate with a magnificent first half hat-trick to give John Psaras' side a well overdue triumph.



Steve Burr's Kidderminster returned to the top of the table on Saturday night

Barrow were also condemned to the inevitable this weekend as their scramble away from the pack was rebuffed by Cambridge United, going down 2-1 at the Abbey Stadium.

The game of the weekend, however, arguably meant nothing in the scale of things as Woking and Macclesfield played out a nine-goal thriller. The Silkmen arrived at the Kingfield Stadium but must have got lost on their way to the pitch as Woking raced into a 5-0 lead at half-time with Jayden Stockley and Billy Knott each bagging a brace a piece. A sublime Macclesfield comeback seemed destined to go all the way when Waide Fairhurst netted either side of a Guy Madjo strike to reel it back to 5-3. Despite an injury-time strike from Arthur Gnahoua, the visitors came up just short of the required task and Woking could breathe a sigh of relief in snatching a 5-4 win.

## TONIGHT'S FIXTURES

EBBSFLEET v TAMWORTH  
 FOREST GREEN v DARTFORD  
 GATESHEAD v STOCKPORT  
 WOKING v GRIMSBY  
 WREXHAM v BRAINTREE



# FIXTURES AND RESULTS

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	ATT	AWAY	POS	STARTING XI
<b>August</b>								
Sat 11	15:00	H	Gateshead	D 2-2	6,743	76	11	Tyler Taylor** Rowe-Turner Henry Kovacs Kasim* Howells O'Donnell Rendell Gray***
Tue 14	19:45	A	Kidderminster Harriers	W 2-0	2,275	542	4	Tyler Henry Taylor Rowe-Turner Kovacs Kasim Lawless O'Donnell Rendell Shaw***
Fri 17	19:30	A	Hyde	W 2-1	1,141	477	3	Tyler Henry Taylor* Rowe-Turner Kovacs Kasim* Lawless O'Donnell 1 Rendell Shaw
Sat 25	15:00	A	AFC Telford United	L 0-1	5,970	111	9	Tyler Lawless Howells Rowe-Turner Henry Kasim* Watkins** O'Donnell Rendell Shaw
Mon 27	15:00	A	Ebbw Vale United	W 3-1	2,018	1,246	5	Tyler Lawless Taylor Rowe-Turner Beckwith Howells O'Donnell* Rendell 1 Gray*
<b>September</b>								
Sat 1	15:00	H	Macclesfield Town	W 4-1	5,803	111	3	Tyler Beckwith Kovacs*** Rowe-Turner* Lawless Taylor O'Donnell Howells 1 Rendell 1 Gray 1**
Tue 4	19:45	H	Cambridge United	W 3-2	6,742	622	2	Tyler Rowe-Turner Taylor Beckwith 1 Kovacs*1 Lawless O'Donnell Howells Rendell Gray 1
Sat 8	15:00	A	Alfreton Town	L 0-3	1,392	768	5	Tyler Henry Taylor* Beckwith Kovacs** Lawless O'Donnell Howells Watkins*** J. Robinson
Sat 15	15:00	H	Wrexham	D 0-0	6,675	319	5	Tyler Henry Howells* Beckwith Kovacs Lawless O'Donnell Rendell Fleetwood** Gray***
Fri 21	19:45	A	Grimsby Town	L 1-4	4,074	125	6	Tyler Henry** Howells Beckwith Kovacs* Lawless O'Donnell Rendell 1 Fleetwood*** Gray
Tue 25	19:45	A	Tamworth	W 2-1	1,137	390	5	Tyler Henry* Rowe-Turner Beckwith Howells Essam Lawless O'Donnell Howells Gray Rendell
Sat 29	15:00	H	Southport	W 3-1	5,656	77	4	Tyler Henry Howells Essam Ainge Lawless O'Donnell Kasim* Rendell 2*** Gray
<b>October</b>								
Sat 6	15:00	A	Lincoln City	W 2-1	2,970	864	4	Tyler Henry Howells Essam Ainge Lawless O'Donnell Rendell* J. Robinson** Gray**
Tue 9	19:45	H	Braintree Town	L 2-3	5,523	55	4	Tyler Henry Howells Essam** Ainge 1 Lawless O'Donnell Rendell Gray Shaw
Sat 13	15:00	H	Nuneaton Town	W 2-0	6,148	264	3	Tyler Henry Rowe-Turner Essam* Ainge Lawless 2 O'Donnell Rendell Gray** Shaw
Sat 20	13:00	A	Cambridge United (FAC4D)	W 2-0	2,321	601	-	Tyler Henry Howells Rowe-Turner Kovacs Lawless* O'Donnell Mendy Gray 1*** Shaw 1
Sat 27	15:00	A	Forest Green Rovers	W 2-1	2,112	1,002	2	Brill Henry Rowe-Turner Kovacs Ainge Howells Mendy Rendell 1 Gray Shaw
<b>November</b>								
Sat 3	15:00	H	Nuneaton Town (FAC1)	D 1-1	3,089	355	-	Brill Henry Howells Kovacs Rowe-Turner* O'Donnell Mendy Rendell 1 Gray Walker
Tue 6	19:45	A	Hereford United	L 0-1	2,108	372	3	Brill Henry Rowe-Turner*** Kovacs** Ainge Smith Mendy Howells Gray* Rendell
Sat 10	15:00	H	Dartford	L 0-2	6,567	484	6	Brill Lawless Howells Henry Ainge Smith Mendy* O'Donnell Gray Rendell
Tue 13	19:45	A	Nuneaton Town (FAC1R)	W 2-0	1,598	471	-	Tyler Henry Rowe-Turner Henry Kovacs Howells Mendy Lawless O'Donnell*** Walker*
Sat 17	15:00	A	Mansfield Town	D 2-2	2,619	522	6	Tyler Henry Rowe-Turner Kovacs Ainge Mendy Smith Lawless Howells Rendell
Tue 27	19:45	A	Dorchester Town (FAT1)	D 2-2	688	163	-	Tyler Henry Rowe-Turner Kovacs Ainge O'Donnell Smith Lawless** Howells Rendell
<b>December</b>								
Sat 1	15:00	H	Dorchester Town (FAC2)	W 2-1	3,287	458	-	Tyler Henry Rowe-Turner Kovacs Beckwith* Lawless 1 Howells Smith O'Donnell*** Rendell
Tue 4	19:45	H	Dorchester Town (FAT1R)	W 3-1	897	16	-	Brill Lawless Lacey* Ainge Rowe-Turner O'Donnell 1*** Watkins Robinson Dance** Walker 2
Sat 8	15:00	H	Alfreton Town	W 3-0	5,648	58	5	Tyler Henry Rowe-Turner Ainge Kovacs O'Donnell 1*** Smith 1 Howells Lawless Rendell**
Tue 11	19:45	A	Newport County	L 2-5	2,247	177	5	Tyler Henry Rowe-Turner Ainge Beckwith O'Donnell 1*** Mendy* Howells Lawless Rendell
Sat 15	15:00	A	Mattlock Town (FAT2)	W 2-1	823	tbc	-	Brill Henry Howells Ainge 1 Kovacs O'Donnell*** Mendy Lawless Rendell Gray*
Wed 26	15:00	H	Woking	W 3-1	6,744	235	4	Tyler Henry Howells Ainge Kovacs 1 Lawless Mendy Rendell 1 Fleetwood* Gray**
<b>January</b>								
Tue 1	13:00	A	Woking	L 1-3	2,961	989	5	Tyler Henry Howells*** Ainge Kovacs Lawless Mendy* Neilson Rendell Gray 1
Sat 5	15:00	H	Wolves (FAC3)	W 1-0	9,638	1,500	-	Tyler Henry Rowe-Turner Kovacs Lawless 1 Mendy Smith O'Donnell** Shaw
Tue 8	19:45	H	Barrow	W 6-1	5,165	31	5	Tyler Henry Rowe-Turner Kovacs 1 Lawless Mendy Smith* Neilson 1 Shaw 3**
Sat 12	15:00	H	Skelmersdale United (FAT3)	W 2-0	2,479	220	-	Brill Lawless Jibodu** Ainge Rowe-Turner Robinson Mendy Howells Dance* Walker**
Tue 15	19:45	A	AFC Telford United	D 0-0	1,606	tbc	6	Tyler Henry Taylor Rowe-Turner Kovacs Lawless Mendy Smith Neilson* Shaw
Sat 26	15:00	A	Norwich City (FAC4)	W 1-0	26,521	4,000	-	Tyler Henry Taylor Rowe-Turner Kovacs Lawless Mendy* Smith Howells Shaw**
Tue 29	19:45	A	Grimsby Town (FATQF)	L 0-3	2,791	75	-	Brill Henry Howells Rowe-Turner Kovacs Lawless Mendy* Smith O'Donnell*** Fleetwood
<b>February</b>								
Sat 2	15:00	A	Barrow	L 0-1	1,188	188	7	Tyler Henry Taylor*** Rowe-Turner McNulty Lawless Mendy* Smith Martin Shaw**
Sat 9	15:00	H	Forest Green Rovers	D 1-1	6,374	110	7	Tyler Henry Howells Kovacs McNulty Lawless Smith Neilson* Martin** Shaw
Tue 12	19:45	A	Dartford	L 0-1	1,802	475	7	Tyler Henry Howells Kovacs McNulty Mendy*** Smith Neilson Martin** Shaw*
Sat 16	12:45	H	Millwall (FAC5)	L 0-3	9,768	1,530	-	Tyler Taylor Kovacs Henry Howells Lawless Mendy** Smith O'Donnell* Rendell
Tue 19	19:45	A	Macclesfield Town	D 1-1	1,984	278	8	Tyler Henry Taylor*** Rowe-Turner McNulty Howells Lawless Smith** Shaw Rendell*
Sat 23	15:00	H	Mansfield Town	L 2-3	5,968	410	8	Tyler Henry Rowe-Turner Thomas McNulty Smith Lawless Martin* Neilson** Rendell 1
Tue 26	19:45	A	Braintree Town	L 0-2	1,003	351	10	Tyler Henry Rowe-Turner* Thomas McNulty Mendy*** Smith Lawless Rendell** Fleetwood
<b>March</b>								
Sat 2	15:00	A	Stockport County	W 1-0	4,074	372	8	Tyler Henry Rowe-Turner Kovacs* McNulty Howells 1 Smith Mendy Lawless Fleetwood*
Tue 5	19:45	A	Nuneaton Town	D 0-0	1,173	507	7	Tyler Henry Rowe-Turner Goodman McNulty Howells Smith Mendy* Lawless Fleetwood*
Sat 9	15:00	H	Hereford United	D 1-1	6,001	220	8	Tyler Henry Taylor** Goodman McNulty Howells Smith Mendy*** Lawless Rendell**
Tue 12	19:45	H	Hyde	L 1-2	4,847	19	8	Tyler Henry Taylor*** Goodman McNulty Howells 1 Smith Mendy Lawless Wall
Sat 16	15:00	A	Wrexham	D 0-0	3,907	160	11	Tyler Ainge Rowe-Turner Goodman McNulty Martin Smith Taiwo Howells Rendell*
Tue 19	19:45	H	Stockport County	W 1-0	5,106	83	8	Tyler Ainge Rowe-Turner Goodman McNulty 1 Martin Smith Taiwo Howells Shaw
Sat 23	15:00	H	Tamworth	D 0-0	5,561	45	8	Tyler Ainge Rowe-Turner Goodman McNulty Martin Smith Taiwo Howells Shaw**
Sat 30	15:00	A	Cambridge United	D 2-2	3,217	737	9	Tyler Ainge Rowe-Turner Goodman McNulty Martin* Smith Taiwo 1 Howells Shaw 1
<b>April</b>								
Mon 1	15:00	H	Kidderminster Harriers	L 1-2	6,102	408	9	Tyler Ainge Rowe-Turner Goodman McNulty* Martin** Robinson Taiwo Howells Shaw
Sat 6	15:00	A	Gateshead*	L 1-5	382	126	12	Brill Ainge Rowe-Turner Goodman McNulty Martin Smith Taiwo** Walker 1 Wall**
Tue 9	19:45	H	Lincoln City	W 3-0	5,393	173	9	Brill Henry Griffiths Ainge McNulty Martin 2 Smith Robinson Lawless 1 Shaw**
Fri 12	19:45	H	Grimsby Town	D 1-1	5,662	290	8	Brill Smith Griffiths Rowe-Turner McNulty Martin Taiwo Robinson Lawless 1 Shaw*
Tue 16	19:45	H	Newport County					
Thu 18	19:45	H	Ebbw Vale United					
Sat 20	17:15	A	Southport					

## SUBS

Fleetwood 1	Brill	Beckwith	Lawless**	Watkins***	Shaw 1
Fleetwood* 2	Brill	Beckwith	Walker	Gray*	Robinson**
Fleetwood*** 1	Brill	Beckwith	Howells*	Gray**	Robinson***
Fleetwood	Brill	Beckwith	Taylor*	Gray**	Woolley
Fleetwood 2	Brill	Lacey	Watkins**	Kasim	Woolley*
Fleetwood 1	Brill	Essam***	Watkins*	Woolley**	Walker
Fleetwood**	Brill	Essam**	Watkins	Woolley**	Kasim
Gray	Brill	Essam**	Kasim**	Fleetwood***	Rowe-Turner
Shaw	Rowe-Turner*	Essam	Kasim***	J. Robinson	Walker**
Shaw	Rowe-Turner	Essam**	Kasim**	J. Robinson**	Walker
Shaw***	Fleetwood*** 1	Kasim** 1	J. Robinson*	Kovacs	Walker
Fleetwood 1**	Brill	Rowe-Turner*	Shaw**	Robinson***	Walker
Fleetwood	Brill	Rowe-Turner**	Lacey 1*	Kasim***	Walker
Fleetwood	Brill	Rowe-Turner	Shaw	Kasim*	Walker 1**
Fleetwood	Brill	Kovacs**	J. Robinson	M. Robinson	Walker*
Fleetwood**	Brill	M. Robinson*	J. Robinson**	Beckwith**	Walker Lacey
Fleetwood 1*	Essam	O'Donnell*	M. Robinson	J. Robinson	Walker
Fleetwood**	Tyler	Lacey	Longden	Watkins**	Dance
Fleetwood	Tyler	Lawless**	O'Donnell***	J. Robinson*	Walker
Fleetwood	Tyler	Rowe-Turner	Kovacs	Watkins	Walker*
Gray**	Brill	Beckwith	Lacey	Longden	Dance***
Gray 2*	Brill	Beckwith	O'Donnell	Robinson	Fleetwood*
Gray*	Brill	Beckwith	Walker	Lawless**	Dance**
Gray 1**	Brill	Lacey*	Mendy***	Watkins	Dance Shaw
Shaw	Fleetwood**	Gray	Mendy	Woolley***	Howells*
Gray 1*	Brill	Mendy	Shaw**	Fleetwood*	Walker***
Gray 1	Brill	Taylor	Dance	Howells	Lawless
Shaw 1	Lacey	Dance	Robinson	Fleetwood*	Rowe-Turner**
Shaw 1	Brill	Robinson**	O'Donnell*	Rowe-Turner	Taylor
Shaw**	Brill	Fleetwood**	O'Donnell	Rowe-Turner***	Smith*
Gray**	Brill	Lacey	Robinson	Rendell**	Fleetwood*
Gray 1***	Brill	Howells*	Fleetwood***	Rendell**	Ainge
Rendell	Gray*1	Watkins**1	Fleetwood**	C. Smith	Longden
Gray**	Brill	Howells*	Fleetwood**	Rendell	Ainge
Gray***	Brill	Watkins	O'Donnell*	Dance	Robinson
Rendell**	Tyler	Watkins***	Gray	Ainge*	Fleetwood***
Gray	Howells***	Neilson*	Fleetwood	Rendell**	O'Donnell
Gray 1***	Taylor	Mendy*	O'Donnell**	Rendell	Fleetwood**
Gray	Brill	Taylor***	O'Donnell**	Rendell*	Robinson
Gray	Brill	Lacey	Longden	Robinson	Shaw**
Gray 1	Kovacs	Mendy**	O'Donnell*	Neilson	Fleetwood***
Gray 1	Brill	Howells**	Ainge	Mendy	Fleetwood*
Gray	Brill	Taylor*	Ainge***	Martin	Neilson**
Gray**	Brill	Taylor*	O'Donnell	Rendell**	Walker***
Gray***	Brill	Taylor	O'Donnell*	Rendell**	Wall***
Gray	Brill	Rowe-Turner	O'Donnell***	Martin 1**	Wall*
Gray**	Brill	Rowe-Turner***	Martin**	Robinson	Walker*
Wall**	Brill	Thomas	Smith	Taiwo*	Shaw
Gray*	Brill	Thomas	Rendell	Robinson	Walker*
Gray*	Brill	Henry	Robinson	Rendell**	Gray*
Gray	Brill	Griffiths	Robinson	Rendell	Wall*
Rendell***	Brill	Griffiths*	Smith**	Wall	Gray 1***
Gray	Barnes	Shaw	Rendell**	Robinson*	Griffiths
Gray 1***	Barnes	Wall**	Rendell*	Rowe-Turner	Walker***
Gray	Barnes	Wall*	Ainge	O'Donnell	Walker

## LEAGUE TABLE 2012/13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Kidderminster Harriers	45	27	9	9	78	40	38	90
2 Mansfield Town	44	28	5	11	89	51	38	89
3 Newport County AFC	44	25	9	10	83	55	28	84
4 Wrexham	44	22	13	9	73	43	30	79
5 Grimsby Town	44	21	14	9	68	38	28	77
6 Hereford United	44	18	13	13	68	61	7	67
7 Forest Green Rovers	44	18	11	15	60	44	16	65
8 Dartford	44	18	9	17	64	60	4	63
9 Woking	44	18	8	18	72	78	-6	62
10 Braintree Town	44	18	8	18	61	71	-10	62
11 Luton Town	43	16	12	15	63	59	4	60
12 Macclesfield Town	45	16	12	17	63	69	-6	60
13 Cambridge United	45	15	14	16	67	67	0	59
14 Alfreton Town	45	15	12	18	67	73	-6	57
15 Hyde FC	45	16	7	22	62	70	-8	55
16 Nuneaton	45	13	15	17	54	63	-9	54
17 Southport	45	14	12	19	71	83	-12	54
18 Lincoln City	45	14	11	20	61	72	-11	53
19 Gateshead	44	12	15	17	55	60	-5	51
20 Tamworth	44	14	9	21	52	67	-15	51
21 Stockport County	44	13	10	21	56	71	-15	49
22 Barrow	45	11	13	21	45	82	-37	46
23 Ebbw Vale United	43	8	14	21	54	84	-30	38
24 AFC Telford United	45	6	17	22	52	75	-23	35

## PLAYER STATS 2012/13

PLAYER	LEAGUE		THIS SEASON CUP		TOTAL		DISCIP	GOALS
	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS		
Simon AINGE	19 (1)	1	4 (1)	1	23 (2)	2	3	25
Dean BECKWITH	8	0	1 (1)	0	9 (1)	1	3	21
Dean BRILL	6	0	5	0	11	0	0	108
James DANCE	0	0	2 (2)	0	2 (2)	0	0	32
Connor ESSAM	5 (4)	0	0	0	5 (4)	0	2	9
Stuart FLEETWOOD	19 (11)	10	3 (8)	1	22 (19)	11	2	188
Jake GOODMAN	9	0	0	0	9 (0)	0	1	0
Andre GRAY	37 (5)							



# UP NEXT

EBBSFLEET UNITED



## EBBSFLEET UNITED



**Who?** Ebbsfleet United. Or, in old money, Gravesend and Northfleet. The club changed their name in 2007 to coincide with the opening of the new Ebbsfleet International Eurostar station and are in the midst of their second successive season at this level following promotion in 2010/11.

**Third time lucky** The Town and the Fleet try again on Thursday. The original game, scheduled for 29th December, was called off 20 minutes before kick-off due to a waterlogged pitch, before the rearranged game also fell foul of the weather on Tuesday 26th March, days after the Hatters had taken on Tamworth in blizzard-like conditions at Kenilworth Road. Let's hope there's no freak weather forecast over the next few days.

**Hello Mr Chairman** You can become a member of the Ebbsfleet board if it's something that tickles your fancy. Since February 2008 the club has been owned by MyFootballClub.com, whose members vote on player transfers, budgets and ticket prices, among other things, instead of those decisions being made exclusively by the club's management and staff, like at most other clubs. Unfortunately the option to pick the team is no longer available, so you can put the phone down if you're in the middle of asking to them to select their striker in goal.

**Haven't we met before?** Oh yes. The Town have the upper hand when it comes to meetings with the Fleet, winning three of the five clashes – including the 3-1 victory at Stonebridge Road back in August. Ebbsfleet have won at Kenilworth Road before, however, recording a shock 3-2 victory back in January 2010 that left then manager Richard Money speechless. That was soon forgotten when the Town triumphed 6-1 at Stonebridge Road in the return match two months later. The Hatters were also victorious when Ebbsfleet last stepped foot inside Kenilworth Road back in April when two goals from Stuart Fleetwood and one from Craig McAllister sealed a 3-0 win.

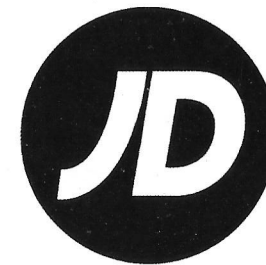
**Town trialists** At a first glance it would seem there are no players in the Ebbsfleet squad with a connection to Kenilworth Road – until the press officer delves deep into his memory bank of previous pre-seasons. Three current Fleet players have trialled with the Hatters. Goalkeeper Preston Edwards even won a winners medal in the South West Challenge Cup in 2009. Midfielder Neil Barrett and striker Nathan Elder, meanwhile, featured for the Hatters in pre-season last season with Elder notching in the home friendly against Azerbaijani outfit Gabala.

**Trophy Tales** Among the silverware at Stonebridge Road is their pride and joy; the FA Trophy. The Fleet triumphed 1-0 at Wembley in 2008 over Torquay United. But it's the Kent Senior Cup that dominates their trophy cabinet. The Fleet have won the competition seven times.

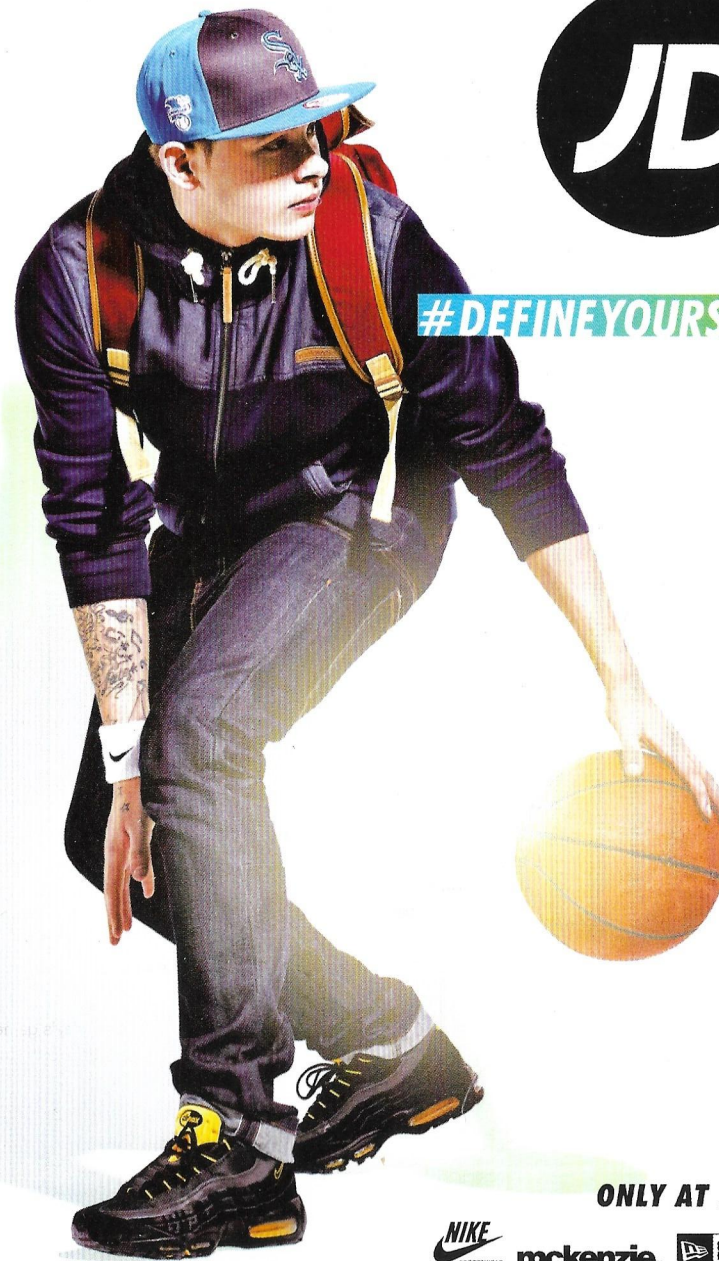
**How they doing?** In a nutshell: not too well. As we went to press the Fleet's fate had pretty much already been decided. Prior to Saturday's game with already relegated AFC Telford, Ebbsfleet were 12 points from safety with just four games left. It means they will arrive at Kenilworth Road in desperate need for all three points but their attempts could all be in vain.

**They think it's all over** Thursday's game is the Hatters final game of the season at Kenilworth Road but it won't be the last of the campaign overall. The Town head to Southport for the last game and remember it's a 5.15pm kick-off at Haig Avenue.

**Home sweet home?** The Town have only tasted victory six times in the last 20 years in their final home game of the regular season (not including Play-Offs). Interestingly enough though, five of those six wins have been courtesy of a 3-2 scoreline. The Hatters beat Kidderminster last season in their last home league fixture – the first time since a 3-2 win over Brentford in the League 1 title season of 2004/05. The Town's record in the last 20 seasons reads six wins, 10 draws and four defeats. Interesting, eh?



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# TONIGHT'S TEAMS



## LUTON TOWN

Mark Tyler	<b>1</b>
Lathaniel Rowe-Turner	<b>2</b>
Garry Richards	<b>4</b>
Steve McNulty	<b>5</b>
Alex Lawless	<b>7</b>
Danny Spiller	<b>8</b>
Jon Shaw	<b>9</b>
Scott Rendell	<b>10</b>
Jake Howells	<b>11</b>
Simon Ainge	<b>12</b>
Arnaud Mendy	<b>14</b>
Adam Watkins	<b>15</b>
Alex Lacey	<b>16</b>
JJ O'Donnell	<b>17</b>
Dave Martin	<b>18</b>
James Dance	<b>19</b>
Matt Robinson	<b>23</b>
Jonathan Smith	<b>24</b>
Ronnie Henry	<b>25</b>
Alex Wall	<b>26</b>
Andre Gray	<b>27</b>
Jake Woolley	<b>28</b>
Dan Walker	<b>29</b>
Jake Goodman	<b>30</b>
Solomon Taiwo	<b>31</b>
Dean Brill	<b>33</b>
Scott Griffiths	<b>37</b>



## NEWPORT COUNTY AFC

<b>1</b>	Alan Julian
<b>2</b>	David Pipe
<b>3</b>	Andrew Hughes
<b>4</b>	Max Porter
<b>5</b>	Tony James
<b>6</b>	Ismail Yakubu
<b>7</b>	Aaron O'Connor
<b>8</b>	Lee Minshull
<b>9</b>	Danny Crow
<b>12</b>	Ben Swallow
<b>13</b>	Andy Sandell
<b>15</b>	Jake Harris
<b>17</b>	Michael Flynn
<b>21</b>	Bryon Anthony
<b>22</b>	Joe Perry
<b>23</b>	Christian Jolley
<b>24</b>	Robbie Willmott
<b>25</b>	Conor Washington
<b>26</b>	Scott Donnelly
<b>27</b>	Rhys Griffiths
<b>28</b>	Michael Boateng
<b>30</b>	Alex Gibey
<b>34</b>	Will Evans
<b>40</b>	Lenny Pidgeley

## MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE: M. Bull  
ASSISTANT: S. Finch  
ASSISTANT: S. Fearick  
FOURTH OFFICIAL: R. Hyde

## HERE NEXT

**EBBSFLEET UNITED**  
BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER  
THURSDAY 18TH APRIL 2013  
KICK-OFF 7.45PM

