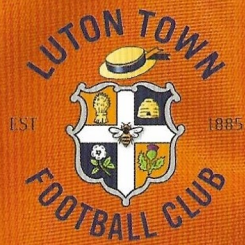


TALK OF THE TOWN



OFFICIAL AWARD-WINNING MATCHDAY
PROGRAMME OF LUTON TOWN
FOOTBALL CLUB

ISSUE 26 • £3.00

LUTON TOWN V ALDERSHOT TOWN

SATURDAY 5th APRIL 2014
KICK OFF 3PM

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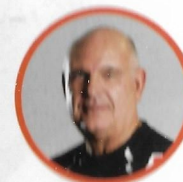
TO KENILWORTH ROAD

“ After three successive away games it's good to be back at Kenilworth Road for the start of three successive home matches.

The Town have picked up three wins in their last four matches since our last edition of Talk of the Town, beating Chester, Grimsby and Dartford.

It's hard to believe that we have just six matches left this season – time flies when you're having fun, eh? We've got plenty of content to keep you happy between now and the end of the season in the final four issues of the programme.

Inside today's edition we have match action and reaction from the games with Chester, Grimsby and Halifax and remember we're back at Kenilworth Road on Tuesday for the visit of Tamworth when we'll have all the details from our win at Dartford and of today's game. Enjoy and get behind the boys! #COYH ”



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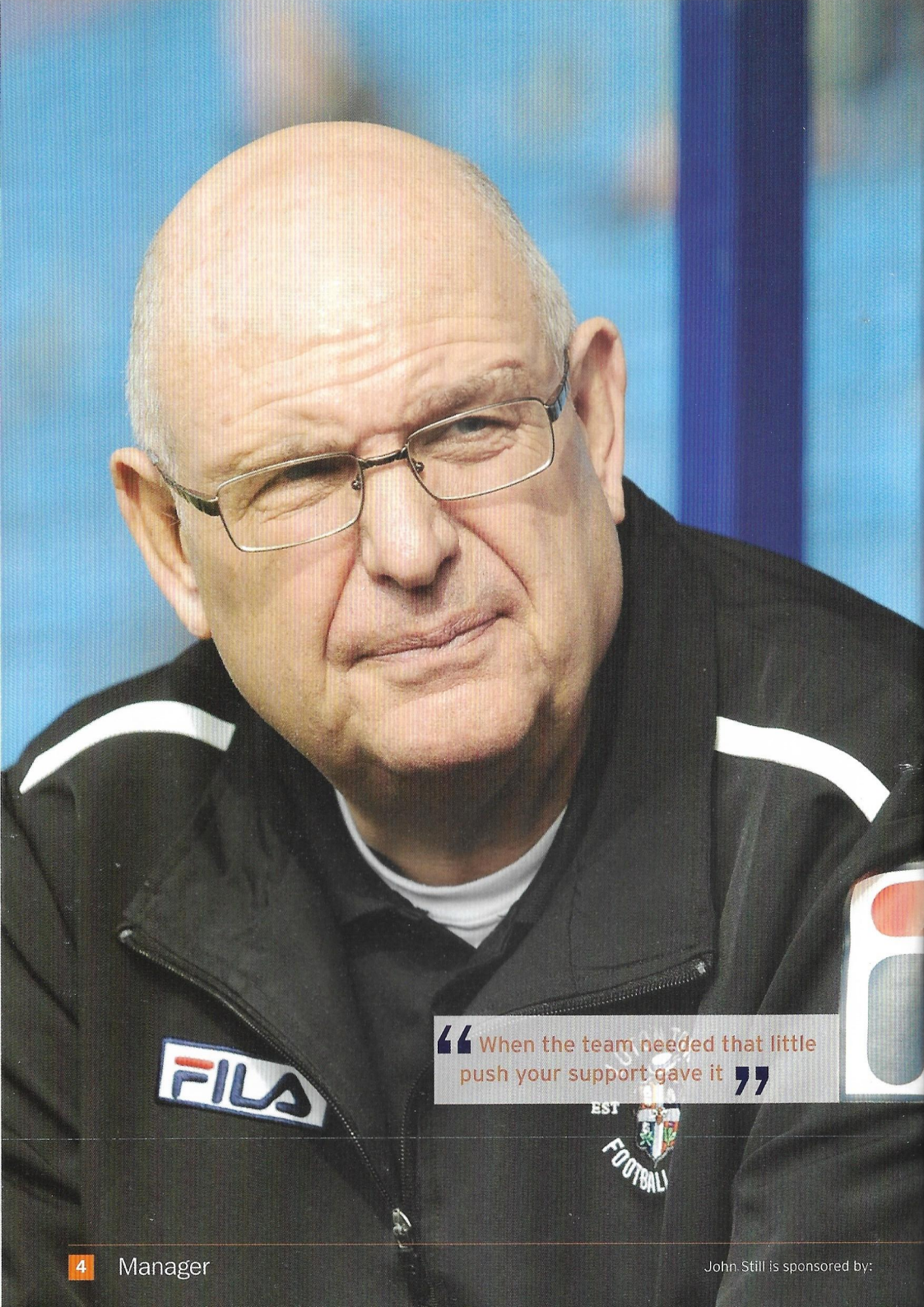
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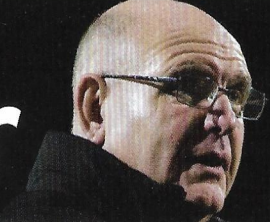
DESIGN: Heather Ellis - Relish Design

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



the manager

JOHN STILL



“ When the team needed that little push your support gave it ”

Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for this important Skrill Premier fixture against Aldershot Town.

A big welcome to our visitors, including manager Andy Scott and his assistant Terry Bullivant, two very good friends of mine. I've known Terry for a number of years and he's what I'd call a proper football person: he's always out watching games and scouting players and he's a really good man to spend time with.

Today we are back at Kenilworth Road for the first time since our 3-0 win over Chester where we scored three second half goals to give us three valuable points. Since then we have had three away games on the road, all of which have been very, very difficult.

Fantastic

The long midweek trip to Grimsby on a Tuesday night was always going to be a severe test for us, but what can I say about this game, other than it was a fantastic result and performance. It was fantastic to come from behind to win against one of the bigger clubs in the division and a former Football League club who are harbouring hopes of promotion. I felt everyone connected that night; the supporters, players and staff. It was a great feat and showed we were really up to the task. To come away from Blundell Park with three points in a high-pressure game was outstanding.

We had another long journey four days later when we travelled to Halifax. Neil Aspin's side are also enjoying a good season and are one of many clubs who hold a chance of finishing in the Play-Offs. They have an excellent home record and unfortunately we didn't take anything from this match. I always thought they had the edge but I felt we should have had a penalty when Andre was fouled when the score was 1-0 but that's football. I'm never one to moan because decisions like that are out of my control. Overall we battled hard but perhaps lacked that final touch of quality in the final third.

We were back on the road again on Tuesday night at one of my former clubs, Dartford. Once again we realised how tough this game was going to be because of their need for points at the other end of the table.

I said in the lead up to the game it was going to be a cup-tie type of game because of the fact there was a large following of our fans and because of the relationship Terry and I have with many of the Dartford staff and players.

It had that local derby feel to it and I always say that these kinds of games are always the hardest: and so it proved.

What a game it was. I thought we started well and had some reasonable opportunities to take the lead but Dartford gradually got back into the game and took the lead. At half-time I told the players that, while I was pleased with their application, we needed that extra touch of quality in both boxes. In the second half we looked okay; in the ascendancy but without creating a clear-cut chance. Dartford had a man sent-off which is not always easy to deal with but two fantastic goals won us the game – two strikes worthy of us winning all three points. Pelly's was a great hit and Andre's a fine header from a super cross from Ronnie.

Lead

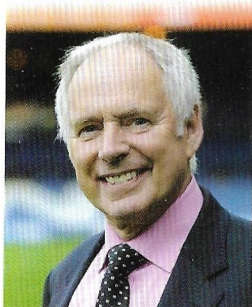
The win helped us maintain the lead at the top of the table and made it nine points from the last 12 which is fantastic for this stage of the season.

Your support has been phenomenal, too. 8,500 here for the Chester game was incredible whilst the numbers that travelled to the three away games was remarkable. When the team needed that little push your support gave it. Please keep it going as we enter this period of home games and the finishing line gets closer.

Enjoy the game.

boardroom

WITH CHAIRMAN NICK OWEN



Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road after what seems like a grand tour of England, from north to south!

Welcome also to our visitors from Aldershot today, who've had a tough old season after starting with a 10-point deduction following

relegation from the Football League.

Bearing in mind our recent past, you can't help feeling sympathy for what they've been through, but it won't have any bearing once we get on the pitch this afternoon! Aldershot are in the bottom four, facing a second consecutive relegation, so they'll be battling for everything, but we will too, now that we are so close to the title we can almost sniff it!

Here we are then, about to play the first of three home matches in succession. It'll be good for the squad to give the motorways a break after travelling a wearisome 800 miles in just a week to face Grimsby, Halifax and Dartford.

I've no doubt we'd have settled for six points out of nine before those games, even though Halifax was a disappointment. In fact, three draws and three points would have seemed pretty decent, wouldn't they? We never seemed to get going at the Shay, but credit to Halifax, they never let us settle and, who knows, they could be back in the Football League next season only six years after the old Halifax went into liquidation.

The results at Grimsby and Dartford showed the true signs of potential champions. Both clubs had plenty to play for AND took the lead, so to come back as we did was simply excellent. As for the two late goals at Dartford on Tuesday, simply breathtaking! The size and versatility of our squad is really bearing fruit at this incredibly tense and congested stage of the season.

It seems a good moment once again to talk about our support. Utterly phenomenal! We took more than 400 to Grimsby on a chilly Tuesday night, nearly 1,200 to Halifax and then a stonking 1,828 to Dartford earlier this week. That kind of following makes such a tremendous difference to the players, it really does, and they are constantly referring to it, so thank you very, very much.

A fascinating statistic came out this week, before Dartford, about away support. In a list of average away followings for the 72 clubs in the Football League, our

average of 945, probably higher after Tuesday, would make us 25th. That is a terrific tribute to the remarkable fanbase of this very special football club.

Oh and, by the way, I met a couple of Luton Town travelling fans a few weeks ago when I was working on a cruise ship in the Far East. I met one on the ship and then bumped into another on the Great Wall of China! There's something faintly surreal talking about the charms of Kenilworth Road and the goals of Andre Gray when you are striding along one of the great wonders of the world which they first started building nearly 3,000 years ago! We get everywhere!

There's a growing wave of support for safe standing to be brought back into football grounds. The way it would be constructed would indeed be safe. We had to become all-seater back in 1994 and we'll have to stay like that if and when we return to the Football League – as things are at the moment.

But we fully support the idea of bringing standing back and we would very much like to know what you think. If you have a moment, please go to our official website and answer our survey.

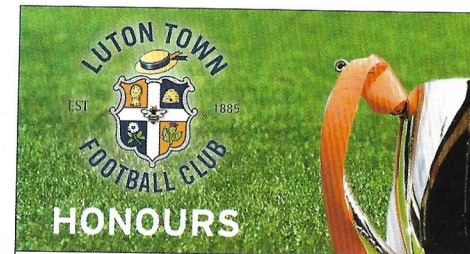
Six games to go then and we are on the brink of returning to our home of 89 years, the Football League. It's a very exciting time and extremely emotional, after all we've been through. In my 56 years following the Town, I have seen 16 promotions or relegations, glorious Wembley moments in 1988 and 2009, but somehow this is the most important, the most urgent, and the most stressful because it means so very much.

My four children Andy, Tim, Chris and Jenny live and breathe Luton Town. My grand-daughter Martha has seen a handful of matches this season and she is only five. She loves it. It is always very special when there are three generations of us at a Luton match. If only my late father, Bertie, who missed seeing Martha by a mere five weeks, could have joined us too to make it four generations – that would have been special beyond belief. Our passion for the club is mirrored in so many families. There's nothing like it!

I don't like to count our chickens, but we are surely on the verge of a monumental landmark in the history of Luton Town Football Club. For that, all credit to John Still and his coaching staff and, of course, our players. They have done us proud, but there's still work to be done.

Enjoy the game and please give us even greater backing in the run-in. Bye for now.

Nick Owen



Littlewoods Challenge Cup:
Winners 1988, Runners-up 1989

FA 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



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*Measured from client satisfaction surveys received between April 2013- Jun 2013, analysed by in-house marketing team

the captain

RONNIE HENRY

Since my last notes we have done extremely well to grind out three wins from the last four games, including two of those away from home.

They have been absolutely crucial and, with just six games to go, we find ourselves in a fantastic position to realise what we all set out to achieve back when we returned to pre-season training in July.

Threat

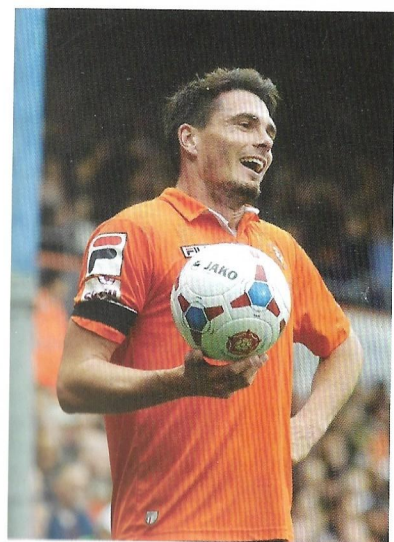
Nothing is won yet, however, and today we entertain an Aldershot side who are desperately in need of the points to stave off the threat of a second successive relegation. A lot of the games we have played recently, and will do between now and the end of the season, have been and will be against teams who have everything to play for. Chester and Dartford are fighting for survival and Grimsby and Halifax are both battling for a place in the Play-Offs.

Tomworth on Tuesday and Braintree next Saturday also need the points, for different reasons, so if anybody thinks we're going to have it easy between now and the end of the season they can think again.

Breathtaking

We have played some breathtaking football this season but in the last few matches we have shown a real resilience that is sometimes the one thing you need if you want to be successful. At Grimsby we were a goal down and fought back to win against a side chasing promotion, and at Dartford we did the same: went a goal down but kept going and going until we finally broke their resistance with two excellent goals from Pelly and Andre.

Those victories in particular epitomise our season. We are where we are in the league table for a reason, and that is hard work. Our never say die attitude has been a constant theme for the 40 matches so far.



All we need to do now is apply that same mentality to the final six games of the season. If we do that then we stand an unbelievable chance of achieving our dream.

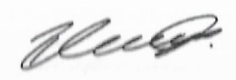
Over the past month we have also experienced defeat which, although disappointing, has helped us focus on the things that we need to do. We were poor against Woking and Halifax and deserved to lose both matches. A wake up call? Absolutely. Against Halifax we were definitely second best against a side who nobody will want to face should they make the Play-Offs.

At this stage of the season though all we need to do is take every game as it comes. It's a horribly, over-used cliché but we cannot afford to look too far ahead. We mustn't lose our concentration and not get carried away. All we need to do is to continue to do the good things, the good habits, which got us into this strong position in the first place.

Amazing

One thing that has helped us tremendously this season has been your support which has been truly amazing and has, I truly believe, helped us win games that perhaps in seasons past we might have not. The 400 of you at Grimsby on a Tuesday night deserve a lot of praise and to take 1,200 all the way to Halifax is superb. And then, to top it all off, we take almost 2,000 to Dartford. The noise you generated in the second half spurred us on and the atmosphere at the end of the match was brilliant and something which will live with me and the lads for a long time... as will the relief of earning the three points!

We need you more now than ever as the season reaches its exciting climax, so get behind us again this afternoon.



LUTON TOWN



UK Decay and Luton Town WHAT A GREAT TEAM!

The Town are aiming to help Lutonian punk band UK Decay hit the top of the charts and raise money for Solyd following the release of the group's new EP Wonderful Town.

The EP, which is available on 7" vinyl, CD and download, contains four tracks which embrace the band's love for their home town, including their cover of the Baron Knight's track Hatters Hatters which has members of the Town squad singing the chorus.

The release can now be bought on iTunes and the specially produced EP also contains the band's track Wonderful Town as well as a cover of Bring Me Sunshine – yet another song so synonymous with the Hatters.

The proceeds from the EP will be split 50:50 between Solyd and the Luton Food Bank – so what better reason to buy this unique release?

Town captain Ronnie Henry said: "To be honest at the time our singing sounded atrocious but I've heard the version and it's sounds okay. The miracle of technology, eh?! The four tracks on the EP are real feel-good factor songs, which I think highlights all that is good about the town at the moment.

Welsh tenor

"With half of the proceeds going directly to Solyd it really is a no brainer to go and buy – even if it's just to hear the Welsh tenor that is Alex Lawless!"

Copies of the EP are available in CD and vinyl inside a magnificently presented gatefold cover with illustrations of Luton throughout and will be available in the club shop. The track is available to pre-order now on iTunes at £3.16. The vinyl copy costs £10 and the CD £5.

SEASON TICKETS FOR NEXT SEASON

We're delighted to announce that season tickets for next season are now on sale.

Prices and information can be found on page 12 and online at www.lutontown.co.uk.

Further details will be included in Tuesday's programme when we entertain Tamworth.

DIAMOND VOTES NEEDED

Voting is open for the March Diamond Player of the Month award.

Last month midfielder Luke Guttridge was the winner and diamond season ticket holders Linda and Peter Little presented the award to Alex Lawless in Luke's absence after the home game with Chester. Voting for March is now open for diamond holders. Voting closes on Monday 7th April. Email your votes to diamond@lutontown.co.uk.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

A very happy to ardent Town supporter Philip Hancock who celebrates his birthday tomorrow.

Philip and his family are here celebrating this afternoon. Many happy returns Philip from all at Kenilworth Road and your family and friends.

Our birthday wishes also go to Hatters fan Daniel McKee who turned 25 on Thursday. Lots of love from all your friends and family, including your girlfriend Kerry, and everyone at Luton Town.

WELCOME ANDY!

The Town completed the loan signing of striker Andy Mangan until the end of the season from Forest Green Rovers last Tuesday.

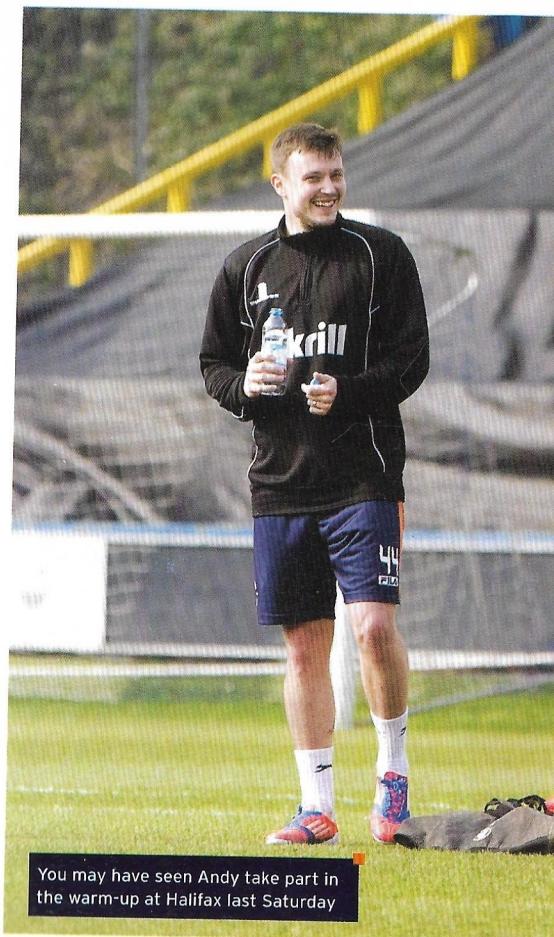
The 27-year-old England C international forward has been training with the Hatters since February and although the loan window closed last week, the documents were submitted in time with the striker provisionally registered, while the Town awaited the outcome of a contractual issue between the player and his club to be resolved.

Mangan has enjoyed prolific spells in the Conference over the years which has seen him net 72 league goals in 159 appearances whilst with Forest Green, Wrexham and Fleetwood. He began his career as a youngster at Blackpool but after spells at Accrington Stanley and Bury it was with Forest Green that he shot to prominence, scoring 26 goals in 46 games during the 2008/09 campaign.

The following season saw him move to Wrexham and in the second half of that campaign the Liverpoolian hit seven goals in 23 appearances. Wrexham came mighty close to winning promotion the following season with Mangan again among the goals. He netted 16 times in 44 games, including the winner in the league meeting against the Hatters at the Racecourse in November 2010. He also scored at Kenilworth Road in the second leg of the Play-Offs.

Following the Dragons' failure to win promotion, Mangan joined Fleetwood Town in the summer of 2011 and the season of 2011/12 saw him earn a title winners' medal. He scored 20 goals in 45 games for the Cod Army as they ran away with the Conference championship.

Last season saw Mangan's appearances in League 2 limited but he still managed to hit four goals in 14 games, and last summer he returned to Forest Green. However he has been restricted to just three league starts this term. Mangan will wear squad number 44.



You may have seen Andy take part in the warm-up at Halifax last Saturday

Awards night reminder

The Luton Town Supporters' Club will be holding their presentation evening a week tomorrow.

Hatters fans can join fellow supporters, players, management and directors of the club at the awards night which will be held at Luton Rugby Club from 7pm.

The Luton Town Supporters' Club Player of the Year will one of a number of awards which be presented on the night, including the best of the season award and Interim Player of the Year.

Tickets are already selling very quickly for the event and supporters are urged to book now to avoid disappointment. Tickets cost £24 for adults and £18 for accompanied juniors under the age of 16. This includes a hot buffet with either a curry or pasta option available.

Tickets can be purchased from the Luton Town ticket office by completing the booking form and returning it to the ticket office. Application forms are also available in the shop, ticket office and from the supporters' kiosk on home matchdays.

ON THE MONEY

2014/15 Season Ticket Prices

Matchday Ticket Prices

all areas		5 match voucher	
Adult	£20	Adult	£90
Young Adult	£15	Young Adult	£67.50
Senior	£15	Senior	£67.50
Golden Senior	£12	Golden Senior	£54
Youth	£8	Youth	£36
Junior	£5	Junior	£22.50

Season Ticket Prices - All Areas

CATEGORY	Age	early bird 3rd April - 9th May			prime time 10th May - 30th June			anytime 1st July onwards		
		Price	£ per match	Diamond	Price	£ per match	Diamond	Price	£ per match	Diamond
Adult	22-64	330	14.35	480	370	16.08	520	400	17.39	550
Young Adult	17-21	220	9.56	350	250	10.86	380	280	12.17	410
Senior	65-74	220	9.56	350	250	10.86	380	280	12.17	410
Golden Senior	Over 75	150	6.52	280	175	7.60	305	200	8.69	330
Unaccompanied Youth	10-16	100	4.34	150	100	4.34	150	100	4.34	150
Accompanied Under 17	10-16	60	2.60	110	60	2.60	110	60	2.60	110
Accompanied Under 10	Under 10	30	1.30	80	30	1.30	80	30	1.30	80

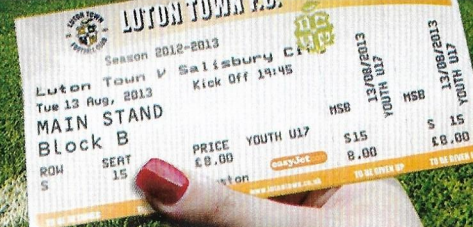
A THANK YOU... YOUR £30 DISCOUNT

The £30 discount applies to all existing season ticket holders (all categories). If you feel this applies to you, please tick the appropriate box on the season ticket application form and deduct £30 from the price shown on the price guide for your chosen seat.

Pay the reduced price if you think it applies, but please complete your contact details so we can get in touch if our records don't match. We do reserve the right to hold your Season Ticket at the Ticket Office for collection until any discrepancies are resolved. **DISCOUNTED SEASON TICKETS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO BE BOOKED ONLINE.**

tickets

HOME & AWAY WITH THE HATTERS



LUTON TOWN v TAMWORTH



The **Skrill Premier**

TUESDAY 8th APRIL 2014, KICK-OFF 7.45PM

Tickets for this match are now on sale at normal matchday prices.

Tickets bought for the postponed game on 8th February are still valid for this fixture.



LUTON TOWN v BRAINTREE TOWN



The **Skrill Premier**

SATURDAY 12th APRIL 2014, KICK-OFF 12.52PM

Tickets for this match are now on sale at normal matchday prices.

Please note the change in kick-off time for this fixture. This game will be screened live by BT Sports.



WELLING UNITED v LUTON TOWN



The **Skrill Premier**

SATURDAY 19th APRIL 2014, KICK-OFF 12.30PM

This game is all-ticket for Luton Town supporters with none available on the day at Park View Road. Please note the change in kick-off time for this match. We have an allocation of 2,000 tickets, consisting of 1,500 terrace places and 500 seats. Sales plan: Tickets are on sale now to season tickets holders until close of business on Friday 11th April. Any remaining tickets will go on general sale on Saturday 12th April until Friday 18th April at 3pm. Prices: Terrace - £15 adults, £9 over-60s and under-16s; Seats £16 adults, £10 over-60s and under-16s. Wheelchair disabled tickets are available from Luton Town ticket office priced at normal prices plus a carer free of charge.



LUTON TOWN v FOREST GREEN ROVERS



The **Skrill Premier**

MONDAY 21st APRIL 2014, KICK-OFF 3PM

Tickets for this match have now sold out.



HYDE v LUTON TOWN



The **Skrill Premier**

SATURDAY 26th APRIL 2014, KICK-OFF 5.30PM

Please note the kick-off time of this match. This game will be an all-ticket match for Luton Town supporters.

We have an allocation of 2,000 terrace places and 300 seats. Prices: Terrace: £14 adults, £8 over-65s, £5 under-16s. Seats: £16 adults, £10 over-65s, £7 under-16s. Sales plan - Tickets are only available on a one per person basis: Tickets are now on sale to diamond season tickets until close of business on Tuesday 8th April. From 10am on Wednesday 9th, tickets will be available to season ticket holders until close of business on Tuesday 15th April. Subject to availability, tickets will go on general sale on Wednesday 16th April until Friday 25th April.

easyJet commercial

WITH COMMERCIAL MANAGER DAVID HOSKINS

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MATCHBALL SPONSOR

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Castle Roofing are proud supporters of Luton Town Football Club, even our uniforms are orange! We are extremely proud to be Luton's match-ball sponsor for today's game.

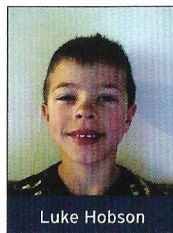
COMMERCIAL MASCOTS

We have the pleasure of welcoming four mascots to Kenilworth Road this afternoon who will get to meet their favourite players and lead the team out onto the pitch before kick-off. Make sure you give them a warm welcome!

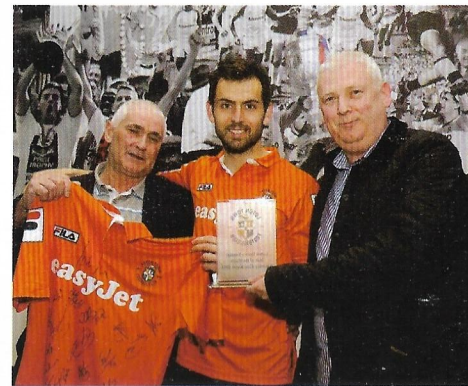
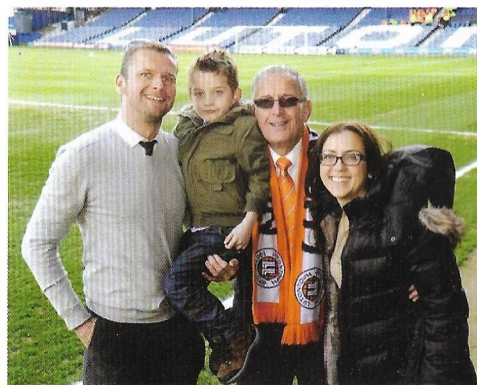
- Adam Boustred – Age 12 – Favourite player Alex Lawless
- Luke Hobson – Age 8 – Favourite player Andre Gray
- Harvey Delaney – Age 9 – Favourite player Andre Gray
- Jo Basquille – Age 6 – Favourite player Scott Griffiths



Jo Basquille



Luke Hobson



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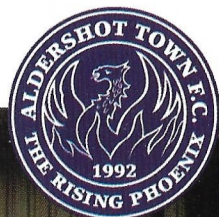
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GLOVES: Kyle McPherson</p> | <p>2 FRASER FRANKS</p>  <p>HOME: Emma Banks
AWAY: Available</p> | <p>3 DANNY FITZSIMONS</p>  <p>HOME: Available
AWAY: Available</p> | <p>4 JONATHAN SMITH</p>  <p>HOME: Holly Kemp
AWAY: @W9hatter</p> |
| <p>5 STEVE McNULTY</p>  <p>HOME: Simon Cowland
AWAY: Whosh</p> | <p>6 ANTHONY CHARLES</p>  <p>HOME: Matt Crossland
AWAY: Bobbers Travel Club</p> | <p>7 ALEX LAWLESS</p>  <p>HOME: David Goodge
AWAY: Gill, Julie and Yvonne</p> | <p>8 SOLOMON TAIWO</p>  <p>HOME: Jonathan Perry
AWAY: Available</p> |
| <p>9 JON SHAW</p>  <p>HOME: Jacqui Peacock
AWAY: Maddie Knight</p> | <p>10 ALEX WALL</p>  <p>HOME: Ben & Richard Banks
AWAY: Available</p> | <p>11 JAKE HOWELLS</p>  <p>HOME: Neil Ehrenzweig
AWAY: Sports 262 & lutontownfans.co.uk</p> | <p>12 SCOTT GRIFFITHS</p>  <p>HOME: CME
AWAY: Heating Ben Gray</p> |
| <p>13 MARK CULLEN</p>  <p>HOME: Peter & Linda Little
AWAY: Mad Hatter</p> | <p>14 ANDY PARRY</p>  <p>HOME: The Walsh Family from Marbella
AWAY: R S Robinson Heating</p> | <p>15 LUKE ROONEY</p>  <p>HOME: Whosh
AWAY: Richard & Zak Tilley</p> | <p>16 ELLIOT JUSTHAM</p>  <p>HOME: Available
AWAY: Tommy Lennon
GLOVES: Zak Harford Tilley</p> |
| <p>17 JJ O'DONNELL</p>  <p>HOME: Kelly Knight
AWAY: Available</p> | <p>18 DAVE MARTIN</p>  <p>HOME: Ronnie Coles
AWAY: Nigel, Ben & Sam Martin</p> | <p>19 CAMERON MCGEEHAN</p>  <p>HOME: Ben & Richard Banks
AWAY: Available</p> | <p>20 DAVID VIANA</p>  <p>HOME: Available
AWAY: Available</p> |
| <p>21 LUKE GUTTRIDGE</p>  <p>HOME: Luton Outlaws
AWAY: Luton Town Supporters Club of Scandinavia</p> | <p>22 SHAUN WHALLEY</p>  <p>HOME: Re-Mark-It
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AWAY: Richard Tilley</p> |
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AWAY: Tommy Lennon</p> | <p>26 PAUL BENSON</p>  <p>HOME: Ashby World
AWAY: The Mad Hatter</p> | <p>27 ANDRE GRAY</p>  <p>HOME: Tom
AWAY: Jack Keenan</p> | <p>28 JIM STEVENSON</p>  <p>HOME: Luton Outlaws
AWAY: Available</p> |
| <p>29 KANE FERDINAND</p>  <p>HOME: Available
AWAY: Available</p> | <p>30 ALEX LACEY</p>  <p>HOME: Peter & Linda Little
AWAY: In memory of Bill Lacey</p> | <p>31 JAKE WOOLLEY</p>  <p>HOME: Total Motion Vehicle Management
AWAY: Available</p> | <p>32 BRETT LONGDEN</p>  <p>HOME: Available
AWAY: Available</p> |
| <p>33 JEROME JIBODU</p>  <p>HOME: Mad Hatter
AWAY: Available</p> | <p>34 ZANE BANTON</p>  <p>HOME: Loyal Luton
AWAY: COYH</p> | <p>39 IAN REES</p>  <p>HOME: Mike Tearle
AWAY: COYH</p> | <p>43 PELLY RUDDOCK MPANZU</p>  <p>HOME: David Alexander
AWAY: Ben & Richard Banks</p> |
| <p>44 ANDY MANGAN</p>  <p>HOME: @Ironman_LTFC
AWAY: Available</p> | <p>JOHN STILL</p>  <p>HOME: Thompsons Accountants
AWAY: Country Properties</p> | <p>TERRY HARRIS</p>  <p>HOME: Doug Knight
AWAY: Clive and Graham</p> | <p>HAKAN HAYRETTIN</p>  <p>HOME: Available
AWAY: Available</p> |

welcome

ALDERSHOT TOWN



It is with great pleasure that we welcome all those associated with Aldershot Town to Kenilworth Road this afternoon.

Today's game takes on extra significance for both clubs, with the Town in need of the points towards their title charge and the visitors in desperate need for a victory to avoid a second successive relegation.

As any Hatters fan will tell you, points deductions are no fun, so spare a thought for the Shots who arrive deep in relegation trouble having begun the season with a 10-point deduction. Andy Scott, who watched the Hatters' late win at Dartford on Tuesday night, has done a sterling job to give today's visitors a fighting chance of survival.

The Shots, however, need to improve their recent form in their final six games if they are to avoid a drop to the Skriff South. Scott's side have won just two of their last 10 games in the Skriff Premier and arrive at Kenilworth Road today in the bottom four and one point from safety. The Town did them a favour on Tuesday by beating their relegation rivals Dartford, who would have leapfrogged the Shots in the table had they held onto win.

Without their 10-point penalty, Scott's side would be nine points clear of the relegation zone and would be sitting in 17th place in the table. Their fortunes this season haven't been helped, however, by their poor away

form which has seen them win just three times on their travels this term. Goals have also been hard to come by. Scott's side have scored just 14 times in 19 away fixtures, two less than already relegated Hyde.

As the Town found out back in October, the Shots' record at their Recreation Ground home is good. The Hatters needed a late penalty from Shaun Whalley to earn a point in a game that saw both sides lead. Compared to their away form, their record at the Rec is excellent with 10 victories and just five defeats. Whilst they might not score away from home, the Shots are certainly capable of finding the net at home. They have scored 44 times at home – the third-best home strike rate in the division behind the Hatters and Halifax.

Worryingly for today's visitors, four of their final six matches in the Skriff Premier this season are away from the Rec but their final game of the campaign pits the Shots against Hereford which could turn out to be a relegation decider.

The Shots, who reformed in 1992 following the old club's liquidation, have only ever won once at Kenilworth Road in the meetings down the years and that came in a League Cup tie back in January 1967. The Town won 3-1 when the Shots last visited Kenilworth Road back in September 2008 thanks to goals from Michael Spillane, Asa Hall and Chris Martin.

in opposition

MEET THE ALDERSHOT SQUAD

MANAGER

ANDY SCOTT. The boss. Took control at the Recreation Ground in February 2013. Previously in charge at Brentford where he guided the Bees to the League 1 title. A midfielder as a player he enjoyed his playing days at Sheffield United, Brentford, Oxford and Orient.

GOALKEEPERS

GLENN MORRIS. Former Leyton Orient and Southend goalkeeper who signed for the Shots in August 2012. The 30-year-old has a wealth of Football League experience.

ALAN MARTIN. Scotland Under-19 and 21 international stopper who arrived at the Rec in February this year after leaving Crewe. Began his career at Motherwell before joining Leeds and then Ayr.

DEFENDERS

JOE OASTLER. England C international right-back who came through the ranks at Portsmouth before spells at Bognor, QPR and Torquay. Signed for the Shots this summer and scored on his debut against Grimsby.

ANTHONY TONKIN. Cornish left-back or centre-half who joined the Shots in August 2012. Started his professional career at Yeovil before going onto play for Stockport, Crewe, Cambridge and Oxford.

ADAM WEBSTER. Strong centre-half or full-back currently on-loan from Portsmouth for a second spell. Capped at Under-18 level by England.

CHRIS BARKER. Experienced defender who can play at centre-half or left-back who joined the Shots in August 2013 having left Southend. Previously on the books at Barnsley, Cardiff, QPR and Plymouth.

DAN BUTLER. Left-back currently on-loan from Portsmouth for who he has already made his senior debut for. Also enjoyed successful loan spell at Havant & Waterlooville.

MARK PHILLIPS. Former Millwall and Brentford centre-half who joined the Shots on loan last month from Southend. Was the Shrimpers Player of the Year in 2011/12.

MIDFIELDERS

CRAIG STANLEY. The Shots' captain. Box-to-box central midfielder who won successive Conference promotions with Hereford and Morecambe before spells at Morecambe and Bristol Rovers.

ADAM MEKKI. Winger or striker who has come through the Shots' youth ranks. Made his debut in February 2011 and was handed his first pro deal two months later.

MARTIN ROWLANDS. Hugely experienced central midfielder with over 500 career appearances. Joined Brentford from Wycombe in 1998 before signing for QPR in 2003 where he spent almost nine years. Signed for the Shots this summer.

JOE PARTINGTON. Another box-to-box midfielder who has come through the ranks at Portsmouth and then Bournemouth. Currently on loan from the Cherries.

MARK MOLESLEY. Ball-winning central midfielder who is now in his second spell with the club. Served Hayes, Cambridge City, Stevenage, Bournemouth, Plymouth and Exeter and re-signed this summer.

JAYDON GIBBS. Left winger who signed for the Shots in August last year having appeared for a number of clubs further down the league pyramid.

TRISTAN PLUMMER. Winger or striker that joined the Shots in January having impressed whilst with Weston-super-Mare. Previously on the books at Bristol City, he spent a month on loan here at Kenilworth Road in 2008.

MANNY OYELEKE. Athletic and versatile midfielder currently in his second spell on loan from Brentford. Started his career in the youth academies at Chelsea and QPR.

STRIKERS

BRETT WILLIAMS. The Shots' leading goalscorer this term. After spells in non-league he signed for Reading in 2011 but was released at the end of last season and signed at the Recreation Ground.

MATT PATERSON. A prolific striker at youth and reserve level for Bournemouth and Southampton, he signed for Southend in 2010. Released in 2012, he joined Burton before arriving at Aldershot last summer.

BRADLEY BUBB. Quick and strong frontman in his second spell at the club. A prolific scorer with Chalfont St Peter, Beaconsfield and Farnborough, he left the Rec for Woking in 2013 before returning in January.

JOSH SCOTT. Powerful and speedy striker who has played for Hayes & Yeading and Dagenham & Redbridge. Released by the Daggers and joined the Shots this year.

scout report

WITH MATT AQUINO

After suffering relegation from the Football League last season and plundering into administration in May 2013, Aldershot's main aim at the start of this season was to stabilise and ensure financial security.

And ensure financial security they did. In August 2013, the Hampshire outfit, thanks in part to a deal struck with Chelsea to host Chelsea youth games at the Recreation Ground. However, the Shots were deducted 10 points for being in administration.

The deduction has meant the Shots face an uphill battle to survive relegation at this stage and, if they do, will be looking to next season to mount a challenge to escape the Conference.

A closer look at Aldershot's season so far

Andy Scott's team reside in 21st place in the Skriff Premier with 41 points (51 excluding the deduction) having played 40 games, won 13, drawn 12 and lost 15 whilst scoring 58 and conceding 54.

Despite being the bottom four in the table the Shots have scored only one goal less than Cambridge United and have outscored the likes of Grimsby Town.

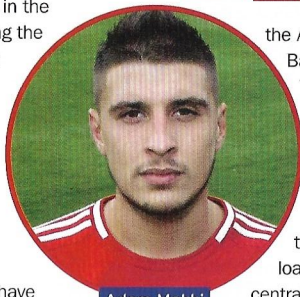
Away from home, however, Aldershot have won just three from 19 games and have actually only scored 14 goals – less than bottom-club Hyde. Manager Andy Scott may feel hard done by in many games away from the EBB Stadium this term though as they have lost seven of their 10 defeats by just a one-goal margin.

The cliché of home form being vital in the battle against relegation certainly rings true for the Shots as they have amassed 10 wins and 36 points in Hampshire.

How will they play? Who are their danger men?

Andy Scott is likely to set his team up in a 4-5-1 formation with lots of energy and tenacity in the centre of the park to limit the Town's creativity and keep things compact when not in possession.

Glenn Morris, who spent nine years at Leyton Orient will start in goal for the visitors with Jaydon Gibbs, twin brother of Arsenal left-back Kieran, expected to start at right-back. Mark Phillips, a recent loanee from Southend United, will form a partnership at the heart of



Adam Mekki

the Aldershot defence with 34-year-old Chris Barker who is the brother of former Crawley Town and Portsmouth manager Richie Barker. Anthony Tonkin will be one to watch at left-back for his bursting pace and seemingly endless stamina.

Combative ball-winner Mark Molesley will protect the visitors rear guard with the dynamic box-to-box Craig Stanley and loanee Emmanuel Oyeleke making up the central midfield three.

Adam Mekki will be one of Aldershot's most enterprising players going forward and at 21 is certainly one of the club's most promising talents along with left-winger Jordan Roberts who is expected to start.

Josh Scott will lead the line for the Shots and given he is a former Dagenham and Redbridge player, John Still will no doubt no all about his qualities and brief the Town defence on how to keep the 28-year-old quiet.

club data

Established: 1992
Nickname(s): The Shots
Stadium: EBB Stadium/Recreation Ground
Capacity: 7,500 (Avg. attendance '13/14 - 1,813)
Manager: Andy Scott (13 months)
Final league position 12/13: 24th League 2

back to the future

FOOTBALL HISTORIAN LEIGH EDWARDS TRACES WHAT HAPPENED TO TWO OF ALDERSHOT'S GREATEST POST-WAR TEAMS

1972/73 PROMOTION WINNERS

TONY GODFREY: Ever-present goalkeeper who played 239 League games, returning to Basingstoke in July 1976. He was manager/coach of Andover, Fleet and Basingstoke, where he became a builder.

RICHARD WALDEN: Moved to Sheffield Wednesday in January 1976, then Newport County, Farnborough and Basingstoke. Later a sales manager with a sportswear firm, he died in November 2009.

LEN WALKER: Captain who reunited with Peter Madden at Darlington in August 1976, succeeding him as manager. He later had two spells as Aldershot's boss, then became their general manager.

ROGER JOSLYN: Tough-tackling midfielder who netted 17 goals in 186 League games before moving to Watford in November 1974, then Reading. He has since run Joslyn Fitted Interiors in Radlett.

RAY DEAN: Ever-present central defender who netted seven goals in 256 League games, moving to Margate in July 1975, then Cheltenham and Wokingham. He became a self-employed plasterer in Fleet.

JIMMY GRUMMETT: Central defender who netted six goals in 81 League games prior to joining Chester in June 1973. Later with Rochdale and Boston United, he became a sales executive in Doncaster.

DENNIS BROWN: Striker who scored 55 times in 245 League games, joining Margate in July 1975. Later with Barnet, Cheltenham, Wokingham and Hillingdon, he then became a salesman in Wokingham.

JOHN STENSON: Former England Youth midfielder who joined Basingstoke in July 1974, then Farnham and Alton. He later ran a building firm and restored antique cars, settling in Saundersfoot, Dyfed.

STEVE MELLEDEW: Versatile favourite who moved to Bury in November 1973, then Crewe Alexandra, Rochdale again and several non-League clubs before assisting Reading's youth development.

JACK HOWARTH: Striker who scored a record 171 goals in 422 League games. Later at AFC Bournemouth, Southport, Farnborough, Andover, Basingstoke and Salisbury, he then became a postman.

MURRAY BRODIE: Scottish midfielder who netted 75 goals in a record 461 League outings before joining Basingstoke in July 1983. Later with Camberley, he became a constable with Surrey Police.

2007/08 CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

NIKKI BULL: England Semi-Pro goalkeeper who starred in Aldershot's rise and made 30 League appearances before joining Brentford in August 2009. He moved to Wycombe Wanderers in June 2010.

ROB GIER: Versatile right-back who also helped Shots reach the FA Trophy semi-finals and win the Setanta Shield in 2007/08. He joined Grays Athletic in May 2008, then appeared for Ascot United.

ANTHONY STRAKER: Ex-England Youth left-back who switched to a midfield role. He helped Aldershot to qualify for the League Two play-offs in 2009-10 and joined Southend United in June 2012.

BEN HARDING: England Semi-Pro midfielder who helped Aldershot reach the League Two Play-Offs in 2009/10. He joined Wycombe Wanderers in July 2011, then Northampton and Torquay United.

RHYS DAY: Former Welsh Under-21 international, the younger brother of snooker star Ryan Day, who captained the title triumph. He joined Oxford United in June 2009, then Mansfield Town and Hyde.

ANTHONY CHARLES: Central defender who skippered Aldershot to the League Two play-offs in 2009/10 and joined Northampton Town in March 2012, since playing for Plymouth and now with the Hatters.

LOUIE SOARES: Barbados international winger, the club's first full international player. He joined Southend United in July 2010, then Hayes & Yeading, Grimsby Town and Hayes & Yeading again.

LEWIS CHALMERS: England Semi-Pro midfielder who scored once in 46 League games before moving to Macclesfield in July 2010, then Radcliffe Borough, FC United of Manchester and Droylsden.

JOHN GRANT: England Semi-Pro striker who was top scorer, netting eight goals in 52 League games. Loaned to Oxford United, he joined Barrow in November 2010, then Macclesfield and Droylsden.

ROB ELVINS: Versatile striker who scored once in 15 League games as the Shots consolidated League Two status in 2008-09 and moved to Worcester City in June 2009. He is now with Solihull Moors.

JOEL GRANT: Jamaica Under-21 winger who scored ten times in 61 games, moving to Crewe Alexandra in July 2008. He reunited with Gary Waddock at Wycombe Wanderers and is now at Yeovil Town.

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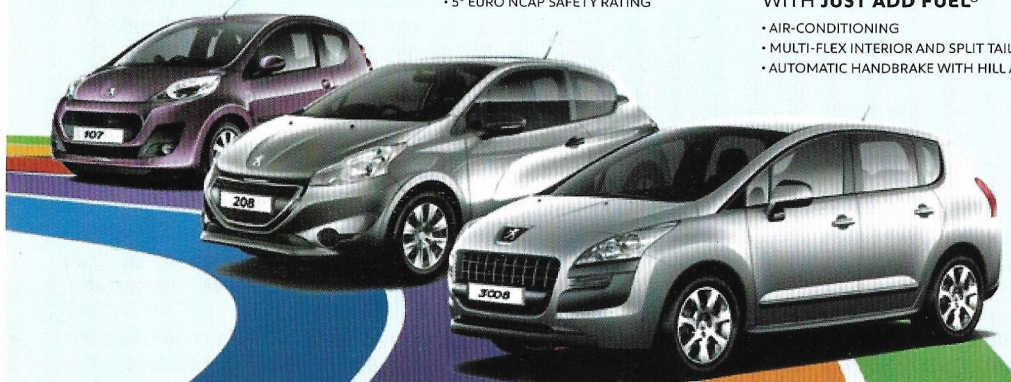
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a hatter and...

...A SHOT

ANDY KING

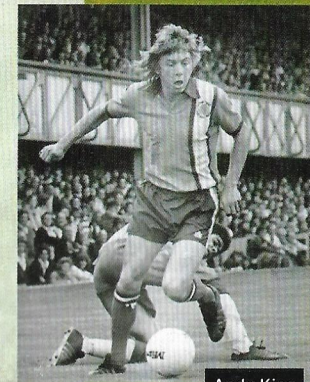
A number of players have worn the colours of both the Town and Aldershot down the years.

Today the Hatters have former Shots midfielder Luke Guttridge and centre-half Anthony Charles in their ranks. Charles helped the Hampshire club to Conference title back in 2008. Meanwhile, Aldershot have former Hatters loanee Tristan Plummer in their squad. The winger played eight games on-loan from Bristol City at the start of the 2008/09 season. Aldershot also had centre-back Jake Goodman on-loan from Millwall for a spell this season, having spent a time on loan at Kenilworth Road at the back end of last year.

Jimmy Jinks, Hugh McGinngle, Chris Allen, Mel Daniel, Tony Knights and Alan Steen have also represented both clubs but today's featured player is Andy King. Local boy Andy joined the Hatters from school before making his League debut on the final day of the 1974/75 campaign while still only 18. A quick, two-footed midfielder with an eye for goal, Andy set Division 2 (now Championship) alight in the following season and although the club's parlous financial state was well-known it still rankles that only £40,000 was paid by Everton for his services in April 1976.

Andy became a favourite on Merseyside and then spent time with QPR, West Brom and Wolves before eventually returning to Luton for a short spell in 1985 and then finishing his League career with Aldershot, making 36 appearance and scoring 11 times during 1986/87.

A time in the commercial department at Kenilworth Road was followed by managerial stints at Mansfield and Swindon, and was most recently caretaker manager at Northampton Town.



Andy King

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

The Hatters hold a distinct advantage in the overall head-to-head meetings between the two clubs with 11 wins to the Shots' four. Today is Aldershot's first visit to Bedfordshire since September 2008 when the two clubs met in League 2 during the Hatters' minus-30 campaign. That day goals from Michael Spillane, Chris Martin and Asa Hall secured a 3-1 win on a day in which Keith Keane made the headlines for breaking a piece of Oak Road guttering with a wayward shot, which held the game up for 10 minutes! Aldershot went onto beat the Town at the Recreation Ground later that season, the fourth time the Shots had beaten the Hatters. The Shots have only won once at Kenilworth Road and that came in a League Cup tie back in 1967, but overall the Town enjoy an excellent record at home to the Hampshire outfit. The Town have won seven of the 10 matches played at Kenilworth Road, many with high-scoring victories. The Town won 6-1 back in February 1935 and 5-2 in April in 1937. A 3-1 win followed in February 1966 and a 4-0 victory came the following season in September 1966. Before the clubs met in 2008/09 the previous time the teams went head-to-head was in the Hatters' Division Four (now League 2) title-winning season of 1967/68. That season the Town did the double over the Shots, winning 1-0 at the Recreation Ground courtesy of an Ian Buxton goal and 3-1 at Kenilworth Road. Bruce Rioch, with two, and Mick Brown netted the Hatters' goals that day in front of 10,618 at Kenilworth Road.

from the oak road

Hatters fans know only too well what a millstone around the neck a points deduction can be. Aldershot began the campaign on minus 10 points and clawed back the deficit pretty quickly only to have slowed up after a bright start. Long-standing Shots fan Rob Worrall believes his side will beat the drop.

TALK OF THE TOWN: Are you disappointed at how your season has tailed off? Has the points deduction had a psychological impact on the club this year?

ROB WORRALL: I'm not sure the points deduction itself had a psychological impact, if anything it helped to galvanise everyone at the start of the season. However, having overcome it and indeed risen out of the bottom four as quickly and efficiently as we did, it has unquestionably been hugely disappointing that we have failed to kick onwards and upwards since.

TOTT: What do Aldershot fans make of the job Andy Scott is doing?

RW: I think it's fair to say that opinion is divided just now. The vast majority of Shots fans would applaud the sterling efforts of himself and Terry Bullivant in assembling the squad that they did in highly constraining circumstances in time for the start of the current season. However, the more critical would say that the group of players we have at the club should be performing far more consistently than they are, especially away from home.

TOTT: Which current Shots player couldn't you do without?

RW: We may have just lost him (to a calf injury), but the ever dependable Chris Barker has been a rock at the back this season and has probably been our most consistent player. However, in terms of our creativity as a team, it is probably most affected when we have to play without Mark Molesley, who brings an energy and a brightness to the attacking side of our game that has been sadly lacking during his recent absence.

TOTT: The Shots stormed to the Conference title in 2008 under Gary Waddock. Do you feel the division has changed much since?

RW: It's difficult to compare although I think that now, as well as then, the top six in the Conference would fair pretty well in League Two. What is noticeable is that the gap between the full-time and part-time clubs has closed.

These days, the smart footballer at this level would probably elect to have a flexible day job and play part-time, both in terms of their overall income and managing the risk of injury. A football career can be over all too suddenly.

TOTT: What ingredients do you feel a team needs to get out of this notoriously difficult league?

RW: First and foremost, they need to be fit, well organised, get the basics right and minimise the number of individual errors they make. Beyond that, they need a tactically astute manager that can vary the way the team plays according to the opposition and circumstances and they will need at least two players that can create through the middle or out wide and a striker who knows where the goal is. The Shots have had the latter in the form of 25 goal striker Brett Williams. However, we have lacked creativity, especially away from home, and made far too many individual and collective errors which is why we still find ourselves in a relegation battle.

TOTT: What do you make of Oxford United's decision to appoint Waddock as manager?

RW: I think it's an excellent appointment for both Gary and for Oxford, although in my opinion, Gary did his best



The boss:
Andy Scott



work as a manager when he had Martin Kuhl alongside him. I think the importance of a good assistant manager is key.

TOTT: If worst came to worst, how much of a blow would it be to suffer back-to-back relegations? Would you expect an immediate return to the Conference top flight?

RW: Although it's always been on the cards, after the start we had it would be a bitter blow to take. I think there's every chance that we would have to revert to part-time and therefore no, a season of consolidation at that level would be more likely.

TOTT: What is your favourite Aldershot game you've seen since you've supported them?

RW: You always remember key moments, like Scott Davies' 95th minute clincher at Torquay and Danny

Hylton's winner at West Ham, but in terms of complete games, I love high tempo, end-to-end matches where the pulse is racing throughout, which we often got

in the Terry Brown and Gary Waddock eras. For that reason, I'll go with our 3-2 win over Bradford the first time we played them in League Two, in 2008/09. Just a few years earlier, the Shots had been in the Ryman League and Bradford in the Premier League...what a landmark win that was!

TOTT: It's crunch time - will Aldershot stay up this season? What do you think the score will be today?

RW: I'd rate the Shots' chances of staying up as 50:50 at this stage. Getting a result today may prove beyond us, although we can beat most teams in the division on our day.

I'd love to see us take the game to Luton, but it looks like we will have only one fit striker, so although my heart says different, my head says a narrow home win for the Hatters.



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Mark Molesley



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TOWN 3-0 CHESTER

The Town scored three goals in the final 20 minutes to bounce back from their first defeat in 28 games to put Chester to the sword.

But it took a huge slice of luck for the Hatters to take the lead when Matt Robinson's deep left-wing cross swung over the heads of everyone in the box and past visiting goalkeeper Aaron Chapman.

With their tails up there was only one winner after that, and the game was made safe with eight minutes left when Andre Gray tucked home his 26th goal of the season. And the points were well and truly in the bag when Paul Benson fired home the Hatters' third in stoppage time to ensure the Hatters ended a run of three games without a win.

The Town that came closest first – skipper Ronnie Henry warming the gloves of Chester keeper Chapman from six yards on 14 minutes.

The visitors were putting plenty of pressure on the Town defence but in truth they were inviting pressure on themselves in a first half that saw five Chester men cautioned for fouls, with three yellow cards brandished by referee Whitton in a seven-minute spell.

The game swung from end-to-end, though, with the Town unable to really create a worthwhile opening, allowing Chester plenty of the ball, much to the frustration of the Hatters faithful. Chester threatened five minutes before the break when John Rooney let fly from the edge of the box, but a brave block from Scott Griffiths deflected the ball out of harm's way.

Chester continued to pose problems for the Town defence as half-time approached. Rooney whacked a low effort inches wide of the target with Mark Tyler scrambling on 41 minutes before the same player chanced his luck with another shot from outside the box three minutes later that drifted wide.

After a frustrating first half it looked as though the second would be the same. The Town, though, began the second period with purpose. Benson almost teed up Jake Howells on 52 minutes before Benson then fluffed an attempted bicycle kick a minute later.

An even better opportunity went begging for the Hatters on 55 minutes but Griffiths sent a drive from inside the penalty area well over the crossbar having been found unmarked.

The chances soon came with regularity as the Town pushed and probed for a way through the Chester defence. Ruddock and Benson combined superbly on the hour to engineer an opportunity for Gray but the striker saw his effort well stopped by Chapman.



Celebrations after Matt Robinson's opener

With the game still goalless John Still introduced Mark Cullen for Howells on 61 minutes and then Robinson for Andy Parry on 67 minutes. And three minutes after his introduction Robinson broke the deadlock in fortuitous fashion. His deep cross 30 yards from goal was misjudged by Chapman and the ball sailed gratefully into the top corner of the net.

Alert

Buoyed by that, the Town were a different team all of a sudden as they looked to pick Chester off. Tyler, though, had to be alert on 73 minutes when Rooney's low shot was parried by the Hatters' number one before the keeper then blocked the follow-up.

The Town then brought on a Rooney of their own with eight minutes to go, with new boy Luke replacing Ruddock, and moments after Gray saw a shot blocked, it was 2-0. Cullen sent Gray racing through and, after bumping his marker out of the way, the Town's top scorer finished confidently across Chapman.

With the points in the bag it got better for the Hatters in the second minute of stoppage of time. Rooney was heavily involved, spreading the play out to Henry to cross. His pass was helped on by a Chester man into Benson's path and he did the rest to bury his 17th goal of the season beyond Chapman.

LUTON TOWN 3-0 CHESTER

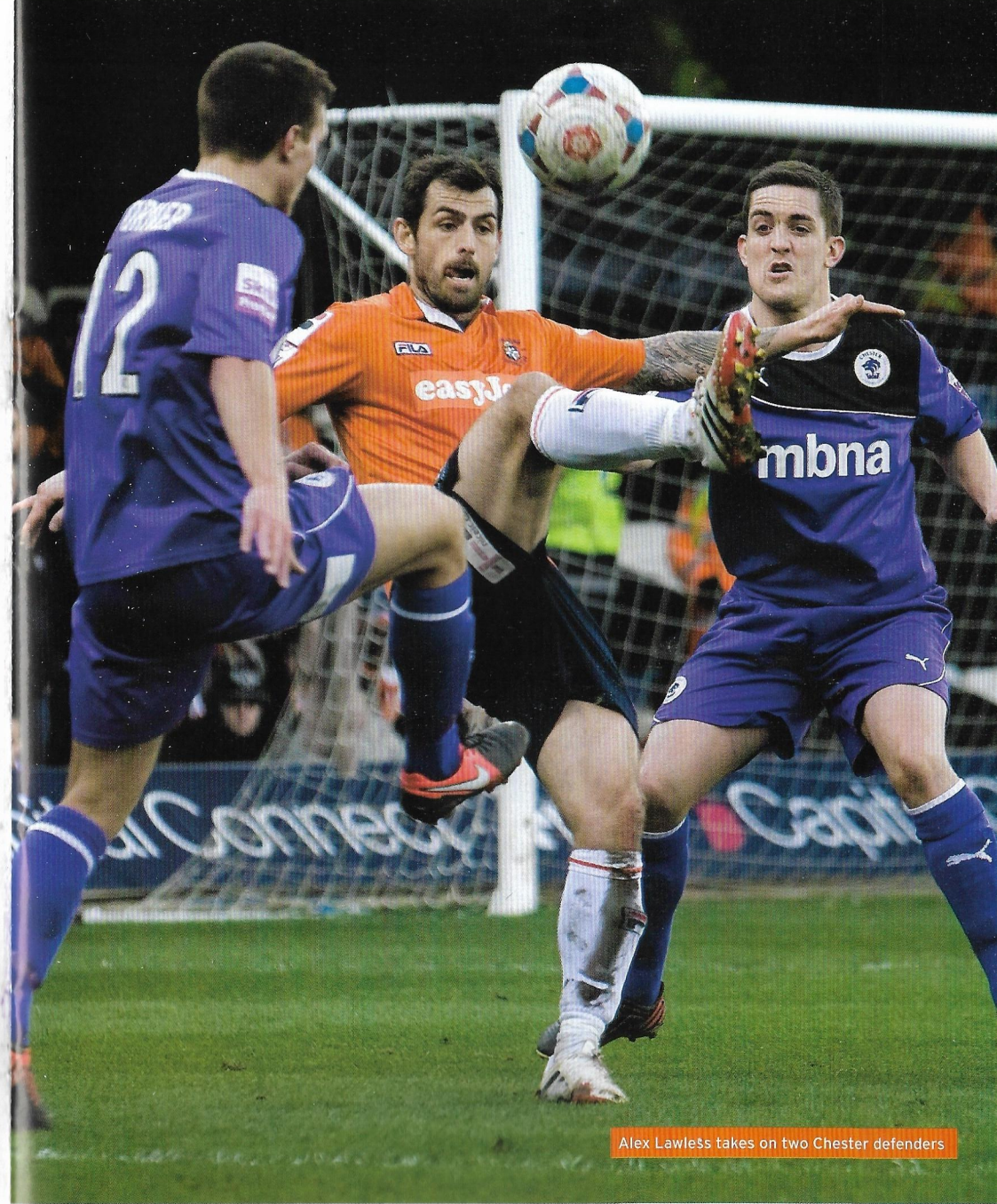
Robinson 70, Gray 82, Benson 90



Jake Howells takes on the Chester defence



Paul Benson fires home the Town's third



Alex Lawless takes on two Chester defenders

TOWN: Tyler; Henry, Griffiths, McNulty, Franks; Ruddock (sub Rooney 81), Parry (sub Robinson 67), Lawless; Howells (sub Cullen 62), Benson, Gray. SUBS NOT USED: Justham, Shaw.

CHESTER: Chapman, Heath, Turner, Kay, Linwood, Jarrett, Rooney, Menagh, Turner, Bond, Hobson. SUBS NOT USED: Blake, Carlton, Danby, Peers, Lindfield.

POSSESSION	60%	40%
CORNERS	9	4
SHOTS ON TARGET	8	4
SHOTS OFF TARGET	4	13

FOULS	11	11
YELLOW CARDS	2	5
RED CARDS	0	0
ATTENDANCE:	8,475 (229 CHESTER)	

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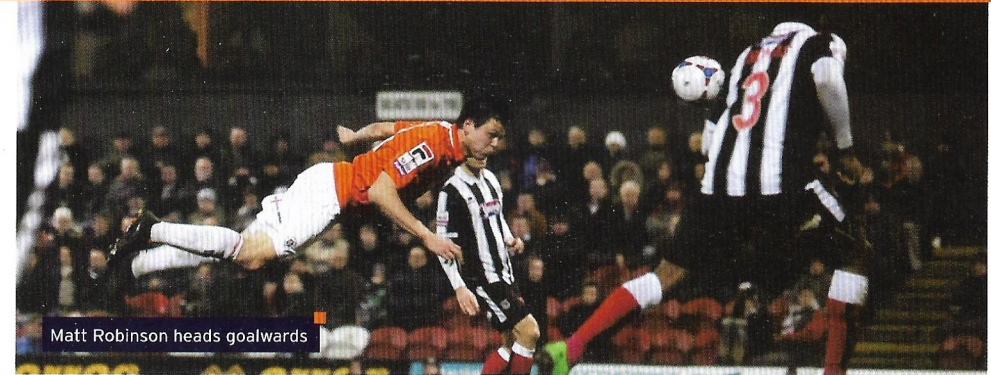
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GRIMSBY 1-2 TOWN



Matt Robinson heads goalwards

The Hatters produced yet another superb away victory as they came from a goal down to beat Grimsby.

Trailing to Scott Neilson's opening goal on 18 minutes the Town stormed back to take all three points at Blundell Park thanks to goals from Matt Robinson and Paul Benson to put them within touching distance of promotion.

Grimsby, hunting a Play-Off place, started the brighter. The Mariners came close to taking the lead on 16 minutes when Craig Disley's header was cleared off the line as the Hatters struggling to deal with the amount of crosses pinged into the penalty area, especially from the right flank. Following that chance, Lenell John-Lewis poked wide with the goal gaping at the back post.

However, the Town weren't so lucky two minutes later. Another ball high into the box from the right was missed by Mark Tyler's attempted punch. The ball bounced square to Neilson and the former Town winger rifled home from 12 yards to give the hosts the lead.

But the Hatters are made of strong stuff these days and three minutes later they were level. Alex Lawless found Pelly Ruddock down the right and his cross found Benson. The striker teed up Robinson and he coolly slotted home his second goal in as many games. There was no fluke about this one, either.

Level and with their tails up, the Town went in search of a second goal. An excellent passing move involving Robinson and Ruddock almost engineered an opportunity for Andre Gray on 32 minutes before a left-wing cross from Lawless four minutes later flashed dangerously across the Grimsby goalmouth.

The Hatters continued to impress going forward and Gray was unlucky not to do better on 38 minutes when Cameron McGeehan's long ball over the top found the striker who shot wide. And the Town were unlucky not to take the lead four minutes later following another move

of real quality. Lawless' cross from the right was nodded square by Benson into Robinson's path 12 yards out, but the midfielder's header was saved superbly by home stopper James McKeown. As half-time approached it was the Mariners that upped the ante. A succession of corners kept the Town pinned back in their own penalty area, and the Hatters had a stunning reaction save by Tyler to keep out a back-post header from Craig Disley two minutes into first-half stoppage time.

The second half was a slow burner, with little chances of note in the first 10 minutes after the restart and in truth Grimsby were beginning to get on top. However, the Hatters had other ideas and took the lead for the first time on the hour. Sam Hatton's piledriver was charged down by Griffiths and the Town broke on the counter with Ruddock. The ball eventually broke back to the Town left-back and his low shot came back off the post and gleefully into Benson's lap and the striker tucked home his 18th goal of the season.

The hosts were rocked by that goal and the Town sensed a third but neither Benson or Gray could find the final ball with Grimsby were up the field chasing an equaliser.

Neilson curled over for the Mariners as they continued to search for that leveller but Lawless tested McKeown on 69 minutes with a snap-shot from the edge of the box. As the game swung from end-to-end, Tyler produced an acrobatic save 30 seconds later on 70 minutes when keeping out Connor Jennings's swirling drive which seemed destined for the top corner.

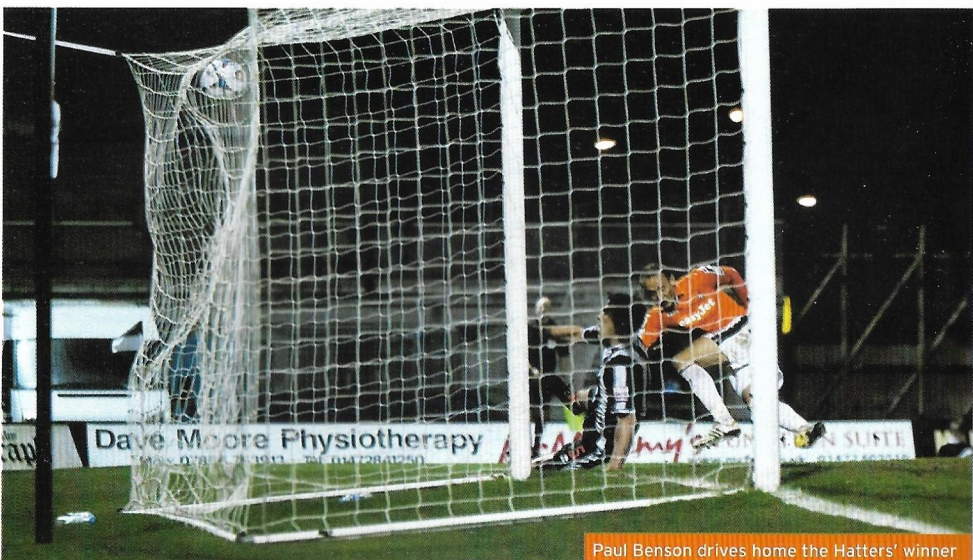
With 13 minutes left Gray spurned a glorious chance to make the game safe when firing a shot into the side-netting from 10 yards having been found by Ruddock's pass. The hosts continued to push for an equaliser in the final moments, including four added minutes. Grimsby failed to test Tyler despite a number of high balls into the box and in the end the Hatters celebrated a crucial victory.

GRIMSBY 1-2 TOWN

Neilson 18

Robinson 21, Benson 60

Cameron McGeehan congratulates Matt Robinson after the equaliser



Paul Benson drives home the Hatters' winner



Goalscorer Matt Robinson fends off a Grimsby challenge

GRIMSBY: McKeown, Boyce, Pearson, Hatton, Thomas, Disley, Rodman (sub Hannah 81), Kerr, John-Lewis (sub Tounkara 70), Jennings. **SUBS NOT USED:** Fyfield, McLoughlin, Thanoj.

TOWN: Tyler; Henry, Griffiths, McNulty, Franks; McGeehan, Robinson, Ruddock; Lawless, Benson, Gray. **SUBS NOT USED:** Rooney, Cullen, Charles, Shaw, Justham.

POSSESSION	55%	45%
CORNERS	8	5
SHOTS ON TARGET	8	4
SHOTS OFF TARGET	6	5

FOULS	8	11
YELLOW CARDS	1	2
RED CARDS	0	0

ATTENDANCE: 3,789 (410 LUTON)

centre spot

John Still invites five young Town fans into the post-match huddle after the 3-0 win over Chester





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HALIFAX 2-0 TOWN

The Hatters lost away from home in the Skriff Premier for the first time since September as they were comfortably beaten by Play-Off chasing Halifax at the Shay.

The home side signalled their intent to extend their fine home form from the off when former Hatter Simon Ainge headed straight at Mark Tyler in the second minute. The home side were putting the Town under pressure in a good opening spell and Marc Roberts first displayed his huge long throw on six minutes that the Hatters dealt with well.

The Hatters pieced together their first chance of the match on 14 minutes when Alex Lawless' shot from just inside the penalty area was charged down bravely by Ainge. However, back came the hosts and after forcing a succession of corners they scored from one to open the scoring on 18 minutes. The right-wing corner was met by the head of Roberts and despite the best efforts of Pelly Ruddock on the line, the Shaymen celebrated.

Hurt, the Hatters responded. Andre Gray failed to produce a shot when found at the back-post following Lawless' cross on 21 minutes before Halifax broke once more and Matty Pearson's drive from 20 yards flew over the crossbar.

Home striker Lee Gregory had been quiet in the opening 30 minutes but he almost made it 2-0 on 37 minutes. The frontman showed terrific control to weave past Steve McNulty but Fraser Franks' last-ditch block prevented the shot from travelling goalwards.

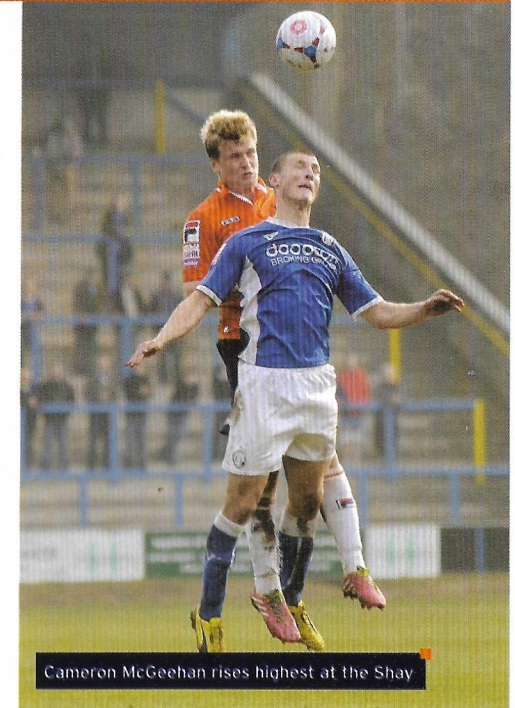
Three minutes later Ruddock lost possession in his own half that eventually led to Ryan Crowther curling a fine effort inches wide of the target with Tyler beaten.

Those near misses sparked the Hatters into action as half-time approached. Paul Benson reacted first to his own throughball being blocked to stride through on goal but he could only poke a shot over the crossbar from 12 yards. Gray then fired over for the Hatters on 44 minutes before he almost fashioned a chance for Benson in first half stoppage time only to see his final pass bobble past his strike partner.

The game restarted in the same vein after the break as both sides poured forward.

Tyler punched clear with Gregory sniffing for a chance on 50 minutes before the Town broke with pace two minutes later with Gray and Ruddock but the former's pass couldn't pick out Benson.

All of a sudden the Hatters were looking a real threat going forward and the Town thought they should have had a penalty on 54 minutes when Gray went down in



Cameron McGeehan rises highest at the Shay

the box under Ainge's challenge but referee Evans waved the appeal away.

Back came Halifax; Gregory could only find the side-netting on 57 minutes after rounding Tyler and then, three minutes later on the hour, Smith flashed a pass across the face of goal that no home player on hand to convert. However, a minute later, on 68 minutes, the Hatters fell further behind leaving them an almighty uphill task to take a point. Gregory got the goal, striding clear of the Town defence to finish well past Tyler.

The Hatters almost reduced the deficit on 72 minutes when Gray fired over but that proved to be the Town striker's final action as he was replaced by Luke Rooney.

Two goals behind the Town continued to look for a way back into the game and Halifax came closer themselves in adding to their tally. Scott Griffiths blocked several times in a goalmouth scramble on 76 minutes before Tyler acrobatically stopped Pearson's piledriver from distance three minutes later.

As time ticked down, substitute Mark Cullen saw a header three minutes from time deflected behind but that was the best the Hatters could muster and in the end the hosts were left to celebrate victory.

HALIFAX 2-0 TOWN

Roberts 18, Gregory 68



Mark Tyler denies Lee Gregory



Matt Robinson challenges Halifax's Matty Pearson



Luke Rooney looks for a way past his marker

HALIFAX: Glennon, Pearson, Roberts, McManus, Bolton, Ainge, Maynard, Smith (sub Wilson 81), Crowther (sub Jackson 70), Marshall, Gregory.
SUBS NOT USED: Senior, Smith, Lowe.

TOWN: Tyler; Henry, Griffiths, McNulty, Franks; McGeehan, Robinson, Ruddock (sub Cullen 67); Lawless, Benson, Gray (sub Rooney 72). **SUBS NOT USED:** Charles, Shaw, Justham.

POSSESSION	53%	47%
CORNERS	8	6
SHOTS ON TARGET	5	0
SHOTS OFF TARGET	8	4

FOULS	6	11
YELLOW CARDS	2	0
RED CARDS	0	0

ATTENDANCE: 3,586 (1,179 LUTON)

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reaction

DUO ON CHESTER WIN

The Town were set on their way in the 3-0 win over Chester thanks to a freak opener from midfielder Matt Robinson at Kenilworth Road a fortnight ago.

Robinson reflected on the goal which opened the deadlock, admitting that it was by no means intentional as he scored just minutes after entering the field of play as a substitute.

"I tried to cross it; sometimes you over hit them and that's what happens. I was aiming for a deep cross at the back post but I over hit it and it found the back of the net," the midfielder said following his first goal of the season.

"We were putting on a lot of pressure at the time and when you're out wide the gaffer says 'never refuse a cross'. Luckily for me I crossed it in and it found the top corner.

"Once we got the first goal the pressure was off. We could play our game more freely as Chester had to push for an equaliser."

The Town number 23 believes that it was vital for the Hatters to bounce back from the 1-0 defeat to Woking at Kenilworth Road, and the Town did just that thanks to a bit of luck and patience from John Still's men.

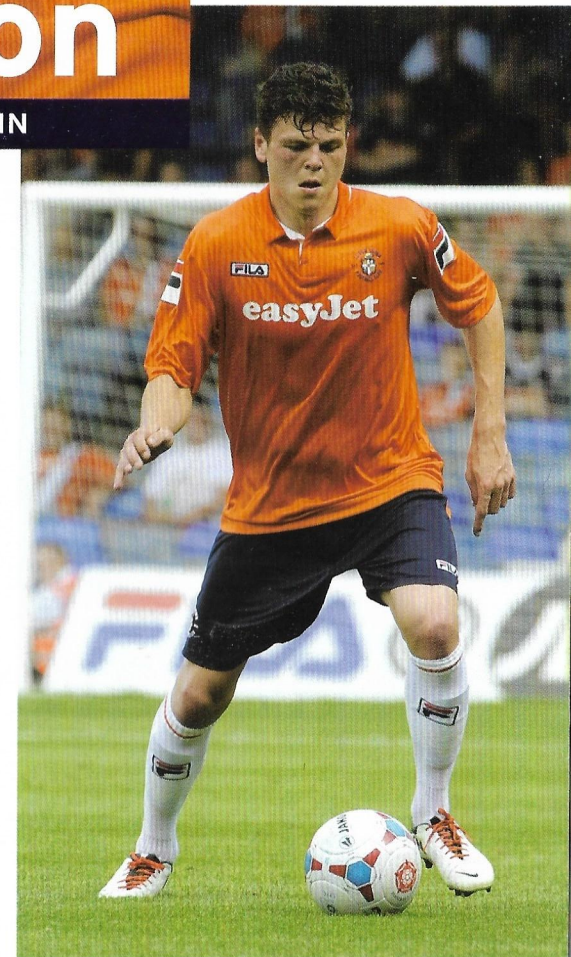
"The Woking game was never a good time to lose for us. We had to bounce back from the loss; if you lose back-to-back games it is never good for the team, but we responded in the best way possible with a 3-0 win," Robinson told Hatters Player.

It was the midfielder's second senior goal since joining the Hatters, as his first goal came against Southport in the 3-1 win last season, again in a rather fortunate fashion.

"You can't mishit a goal, you can mishit the ball but if it goes in it goes in. I'm not looking to make a habit of scoring lucky goals. The goal against Southport meant a lot to me as it was my first senior goal," Robinson said.

Another player on hand to ensure that the Hatters emerged as winners over the Blues was striker Paul Benson, as his stoppage time goal made sure that the Town emerged with all three points on the day.

"It was a massive win for us, especially after the loss on Monday night," said Benson. "Chester made it difficult for us; they scrapped and tried to make it hard for us but we came through in the end.



"I'm a big believer that you make your own luck. That's what happened in the second half for us; we were fighting for the cause and knew that we needed to get the win."

The Town striker reflected on his goal in the 3-0 victory; admitting that it is tough to take when you don't score, particularly when the team goes on to lose.

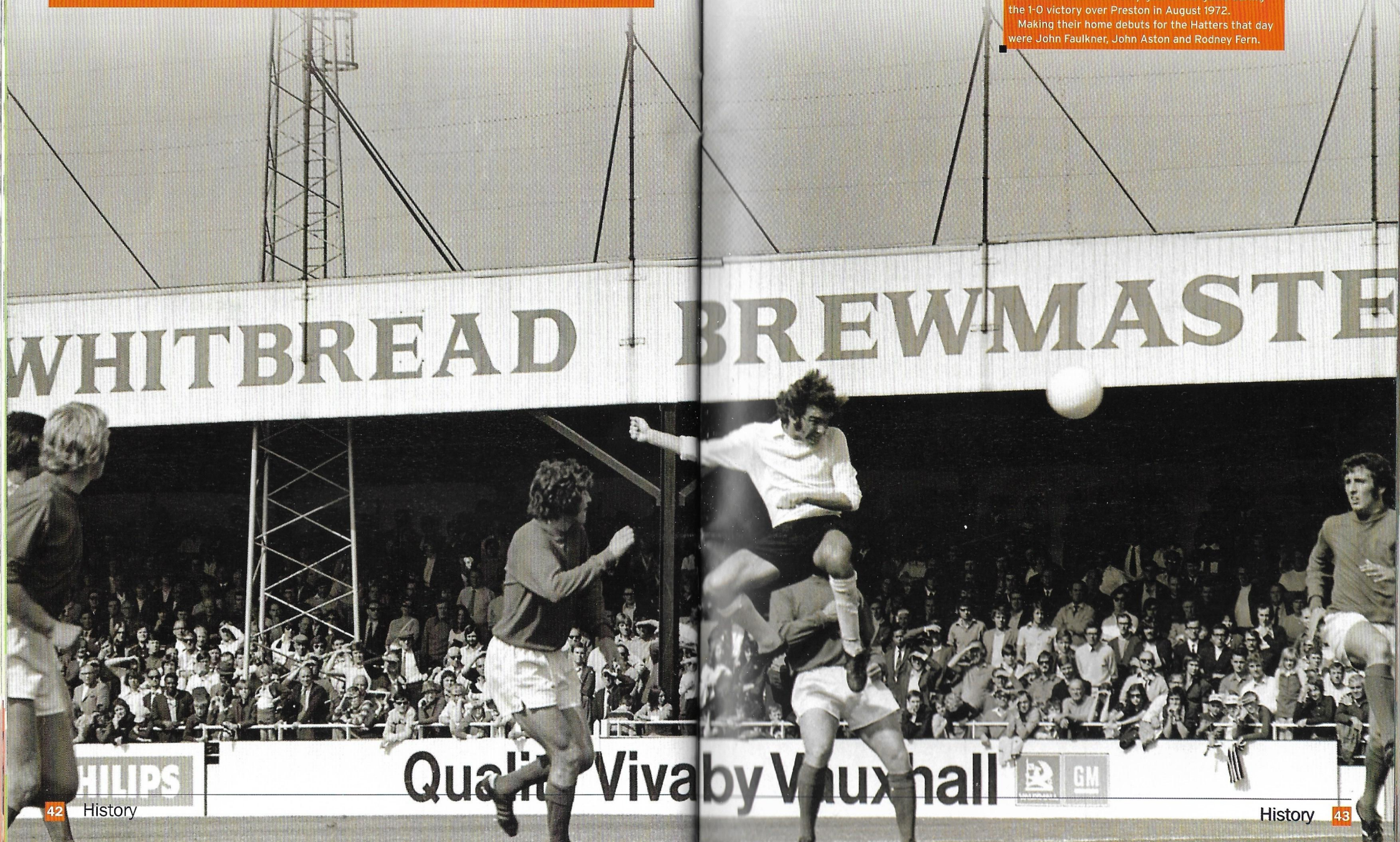
"I never like it when I don't score, especially when you don't win games," Benson told Hatters Player. "You can handle it when you win the game, but if you don't win and don't score then you feel as if it's your fault because that's what you are in the side to do.

"When I first joined I wanted to get 20 goals this season. I'm nearly there now and with the amount of games left I'd like to score even more."

picture the past

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

A Kenilworth Road crowd of 11,507 watch Peter Anderson head in the only goal of the game during the 1-0 victory over Preston in August 1972. Making their home debuts for the Hatters that day were John Faulkner, John Aston and Rodney Fern.





CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

camera never lies

Skipper Syd Owen takes charge of the tactics board in 1959. In order to make the re-creation of Kenilworth Road more lifelike even the Dreyer nets are in situ.

yesterday's pages

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH LOOKS THROUGH PAST PROGRAMMES

LUTON TOWN 3-1 HULL CITY

20th MARCH 1971

After seven years in the doldrums the Town returned to Division Two (now the Championship) in 1970 in far better shape than when they left it.

Wealthy backers, a good blend of youth and experience on the playing side and crowds flocking back to Kenilworth Road made it a happy time to be a Luton supporter.

Unfortunately, early season performances were less than encouraging with Bolton thrashing the Town 4-2 on the opening day to be followed by a dismal 0-0 home draw with Norwich.

A good side did not turn into a bad one overnight, however, and when the players eventually found their feet, with Oxford the unlucky recipients of a 4-0 thumping, the season took off and the long haul back to the top flight had begun.

After a narrow 1-0 defeat at Leicester on 12th September the Hatters embarked on an eight-game unbeaten run, which included an amazing 5-1 win at Sheffield Wednesday, that saw them briefly touch top spot as well as make Fleet Street sit up and take notice.

The Town kept up their promotion chasing ambitions and sat in second spot until after Christmas when a poor run, centred around a lean spell for ace goalscorer Malcolm Macdonald, saw them sink out of the promotion places.

To compound this fall, off the pitch Tony Hunt and Reggie Burr, chairman and vice-chairman respectively, resigned their positions in the wake of the collapse of their insurance company, Vehicle and General. As their money had underpinned the rapid growth of the club, which was now in unofficial receivership, the departure of saleable assets now seemed inevitable.

Manager Alec Stock was, however, desperate for promotion and the home game with Hull, on 20th March, was seen as a 'must win' contest. The Town had lost rather unluckily at fellow promotion aspirants Carlisle the previous week and had slipped down to sixth position albeit with games in hand on the teams above them. Another defeat though would make it very difficult given the tough run in to the campaign.

Hull, who had never played in the top flight, were handily placed in third spot and had strengthened their position by splashing out £60,000 on Blackburn's Ken



Malcolm Macdonald goes round Hull goalkeeper Ian McKechnie

Knighth and £13,000 on Billy Baxter of Ipswich on transfer deadline day.

Both players were in a Tigers side greeted by a Kenilworth Road crowd of 19,566 and the 'Match of the Day' cameras. I can still remember commentator, David Coleman, sneering at the size of the attendance for a Division Two promotion clash!

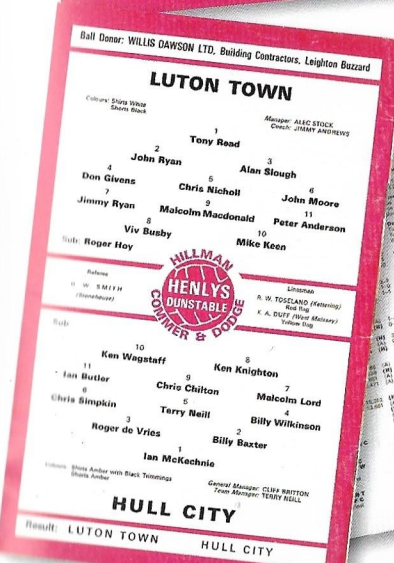
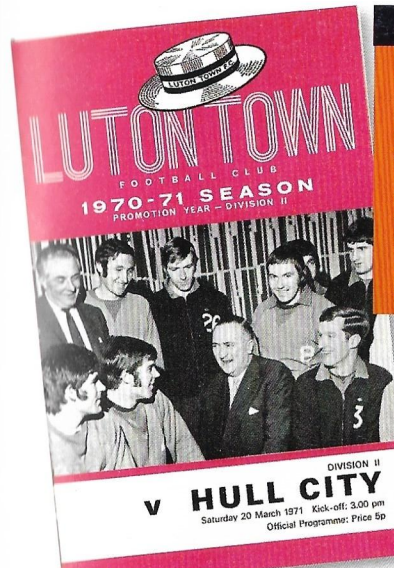
Viv Busby, who had been out of favour for much of the season, enjoyed an inspired game for the Town running at a slow to turn Hull defence on a muddy pitch. The Tigers, though, were also slick in attack which made good viewing for the television audience.

The deadlock was broken just before the interval when Jim Ryan rolled the ball into the path of John Moore whose shot took a deflection off Hull player manager Terry Neill before cannoning in off a post.

Early in the second period Busby steamed through to latch onto a poor backpass from Neill only to be upended by Hull goalkeeper Ian McKechnie. For the second week running Macdonald wasted the spot kick and for a while, spurred on by this escape, Hull gained the upper hand and equalised when Ken Houghton headed in a cross from Ken Wagstaff.

Luckily the Town players stopped feeling sorry for themselves and powered back to regain the lead when Busby took advantage of another short backpass to slot the ball home.

The points were made safe with ten minutes to go when Busby fired in a shot that McKechnie could not hold leaving Macdonald with a simple task to end his five game goal drought.



THE PROGRAMME

The Luton programme for 1970/71 was very similar to that of the previous season and included everything you really needed in a matchday magazine.

Much of the Hull issue was given over to the changes at Board level and, indeed, new chairman Robert Keens was seen on the front cover meeting the players. Keens, a Town supporter for a considerable time, was well placed to guide the club through the troubled waters ahead as he been auditor for many years.

With decimatisation introduced only one month before it seemed strange to see the price of trips on the club's chartered trains to away games now changed to £1.25. The price seems ridiculously cheap now and was actually a bargain then and I, along with many other supporters, took full advantage!

FROM BOB'S OFFICE

Although the last few days have been very busy about the club, in the month since we have had a number of meetings to discuss the future of the club. I have been very busy with the day to day running of the club and the fact that the club is now in a position to be able to pay the wages of the players and the staff. I have been very busy with the day to day running of the club and the fact that the club is now in a position to be able to pay the wages of the players and the staff.

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ERIC PUGH'S PAGE

Article on the top of the page, where the competition is so fierce that it is almost impossible to win. The article discusses the current state of the club and the challenges it faces. It mentions the need for a new chairman and the importance of the club's financial stability.

Supporters' Club News

New Club has been well and truly launched. Your chance to join now!

By Mike Thomas

ELSEWHERE IN FOOTBALL

Leeds take a six point lead (two points for a win then) at the top of Division One (now Premier League). Seven of their players are reputed to be earning between £10,000 and £12,500 a year.

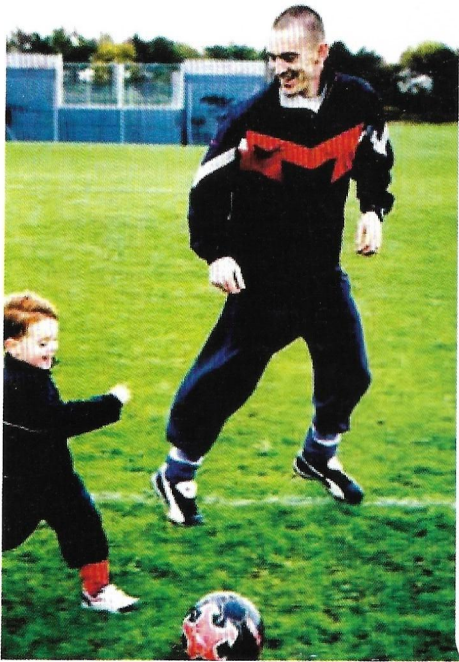
Bournemouth's Ted MacDougall, insured by his club for £85,000, scores his 40th goal of the season to equal the club record.

Aldershot lose 4-0 at Workington in a Division Four (now League 2) clash. They end the season in mid-table.

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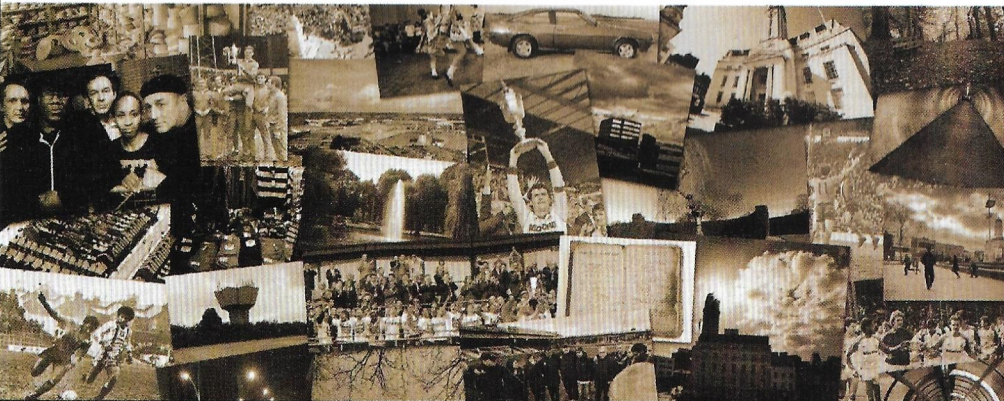


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Thank you all who helped in making this happen. You know who you are, you know who you are!
A Big Shout Out to Mattiah, James and Ian - One Town, One Club, One Family.
Recorded by Justin Gibson at Luton Leamon Audio (joined by Mark Bishop).
Published by ukdecay.org
Presented by Howard Black.
Images credits: ukdecay.org Luton Town Football Club/Gareth Owen/T. Gabriel Edry
Wonderful Town is a grassroots production, made in Luton.



on this day

5th APRIL

THE RECORD

The Hatters have played 24 times on 5th April down the years and have a pretty equal record results-wise. The Town have won eight, drawn seven and lost nine of the games, scoring 37 and conceding 39. The Hatters' first game on this day came back in 1901 when they beat Kettering Town 2-0 in the Southern League in what was the 266th game played by the club.

JPT ANNIVERSARY

This afternoon marks five years ago to the day that the Town lifted the Johnstone's Paint Trophy at Wembley following a thrilling 3-2 win over Scunthorpe United.

Of course, it's a title the Hatters still hold following the relegation to the Conference a month later.

However, the game, like so many of the Town's great days, was a rollercoaster ride. Trailing to an early goal from the Iron's Gary Hooper, the Hatters stormed back to lead 2-1 thanks to goals from Chris Martin and Tom Craddock. With the trophy in sight, the Town allowed Grant McCann to equalise five minutes from time to send the tie into extra-time. It didn't take long, though, for the Hatters to retake the lead in extra-time when Claude Gnakpa lobbed home the winner to send 40,000 Town fans into ecstasy.

LAST TIME OUT

The Hatters last played on 5th April three years ago when they were held to a 2-2 draw at home to Kettering in the Conference before a crowd of 5,715.

Jake Howells put the Town ahead five minutes before the break but Brett Solkhon levelled for the Poppies four minutes after half-time. Amari Morgan-Smith restored the Hatters' lead five minutes later but the visitors had the last laugh when Danny Mills grabbed an injury-time equaliser for the Northamptonshire outfit.

SIX OF THE BEST

The Town were also in action in the Conference on this day in 2010 when Grays Athletic were thumped 6-0 on Easter Monday. The game came two days after a 1-0 win at leaders Stevenage and a crowd of 7,860 watched Kevin Gallen

notch his first-ever hat-trick. Tom Craddock helped himself to a brace and Liam Hatch also scored late on to seal an emphatic win against the already-relegated visitors.

TOP FLIGHT TOWN

The Hatters have played three times on 5th April in the top flight but have not registered a victory. The Town were beaten 2-0 at home to Chelsea in 1958 but it wasn't until 17 years later that the Hatters would play again on this date. Despite a goal from Alan West the Town went down 2-1 at Tottenham Hotspur in 1975. The last time the Hatters tasted top flight action on this day was in 1988 when Sheffield Wednesday were the visitors to Kenilworth Road. Goals from Darron McDonough and Brian Stein were not enough to beat the Owls, though, in a 2-2 draw.

LOCAL RIVALRY

The Hatters have met Watford three times on 5th April, losing twice at Kenilworth Road in the Southern League in 1915 and 1920. However, the Town beat the Hornets in the Second Division (now Championship) in April 1980 thanks to a solitary goal from Bob Hatton in front of 12,783 at Kenilworth Road.

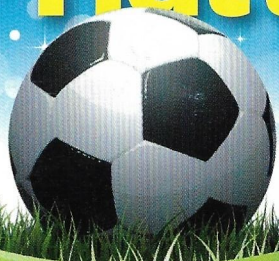


Five years ago today the Town lifted the Johnstone's Paint Trophy at Wembley

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01582 583618 or james.luton@live.co.uk
You can also download the application form from www.lutontown.co.uk
Closing date for entry forms: **27/04/14**

**Saturday: Under 7s/9s/11s/13s
Sunday: Under 8s/10s/12s/14s**

reaction

GRIMSBY GLEE

Pelly Ruddock and Scott Griffiths hailed the Town's gutsy performance against Grimsby Town as the Hatters put an end to their poor record at Blundell Park with a 2-1 win.

Griffiths was unfortunate not to find himself on the score sheet in the win against the Mariners as he saw his effort cannon off the post after a surging run forward from the back. However, the left-back was happy that Paul Benson was on hand to put away the rebound.

"Although I didn't score I managed to get an assist. If I can't score I'm glad that someone else is there to put it in. I was disappointed that I didn't score, but I hope that I will get one before the end of the season," the defender told Hatters player.

"Benson has done well to put it in after it came off the post; he was in the right place at the right time. That's the kind of striker he is, he will mop up chances if others fail to put them away."

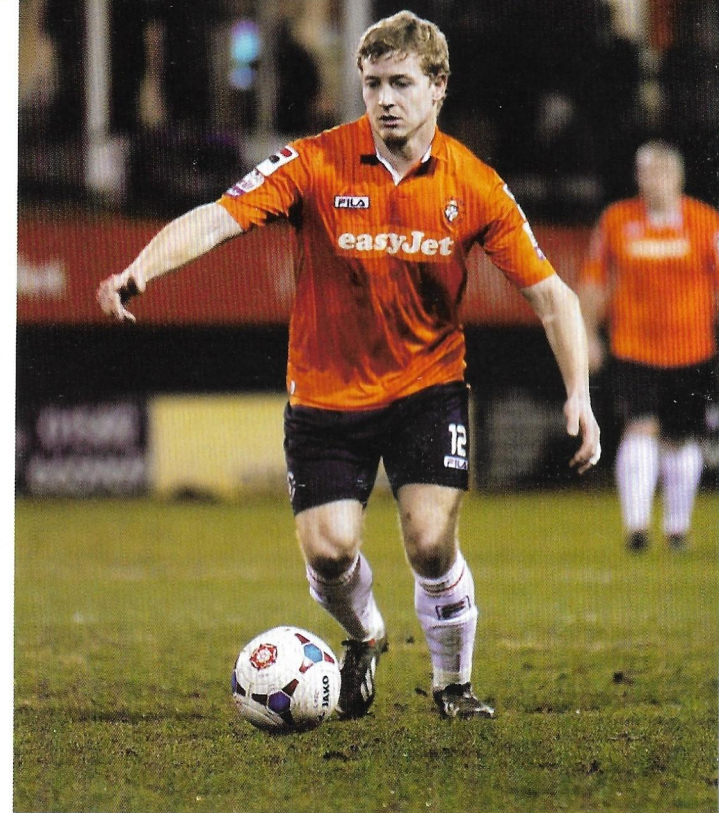
Tribute

The left-back paid tribute to the 400 Town fans that made the 340-mile round trip to Grimsby on a Tuesday night, as the Hatters fans continue to show their brilliant support in the Towns' push for promotion.

"There were 4,000 in spirit," said Griffiths. "I've said it all season; the support has been second to none. I've never seen anything like it, it's a top class performance from the fans being the 12th man."

Griffiths praised the performance of his teammates stating that Blundell Park was a tough place to go; given the Town's recent record on Humberside.

"I don't care who you are, to come here and get a result against a team who play as good as they do is a massive achievement for us. I am over the moon with the performance," Griffiths said.



"We didn't come out of the traps quickly, but when we pulled a goal back we started to pile on the pressure and the spirit shone through. We did very well to come here and get a result."

Meanwhile midfielder Ruddock was unfortunate not to see himself awarded a penalty, after appearing to be taken out by Grimsby goalkeeper James McKeown.

"The ball bounced to Andre and he tried to play it over; I dinked it over the keeper and he took me out. I looked at the referee and he didn't give me anything," Ruddock told Hatters Player.

"I asked why it wasn't a penalty and he said that the keeper ran into me. I was thinking that it had to be a penalty. On the other hand we won the game and that's all that matters."

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academy update

WITH OPERATIONS
MANAGER MARC TRACY



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LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS

In the brief time I have been at the club, it is easy to identify the foundations which are being laid to ensure the long term future blossoms, which in return will drive us back to where it all began for many of us - back towards the top flight!

Yes, it sounds like a dream, but truthfully it's our destination, and we are building the correct pathways to ensure it will one day become reality again.

I'm a true believer that, although we have our goals, there is more important aspects to be undertaken now and within this will be hard work, application, dedication, positivity and an attitude and standard which will support our talent and expertise.

The staff are already making positive aspects, however I will be encouraging and demonstrating additional elements which will push us forwards and further.

Should you wish to reap the rewards of success you must be prepared to work harder than anyone else, put in more time and support each other within a team. We all know Together Everyone Achieves More!

Talent alone is never enough, (although you must have it) I know many talented people who never maximise their full potential, simply because they don't go the extra mile to be successful.

They rely on just natural qualities but don't surround it with the key components for it to flourish. They all want the success but don't want to do what is required to get it.

This takes determination, belief, discipline and a tremendous attitude. Your talent will flourish only when the other components kick in. These are the important ingredients of your make-up - the inner which only you are in control of.

Your character is far greater than your reputation. Simply because character is what you really are, where reputation is what people think you are!

I believe it's fair to say everyone thought Luton would not be in this league for five years, but we have - there's a reason for that.

The word potential is always exciting and here at Luton there is plenty of that. What we are continuing to do is maximising it to ensure that it's not a dream but reality.



Marc Tracy

If it was just about talent, why has the last five seasons not been such a success? There's always been enough talent on show.

It's clear to see the first team have always had the potential to gain promotion, but only this year can we see the true rewards. I know John Still and his first team management staff have created an attitude and professionalism the fans and club can be proud of. Trust me, we will be looking to push on as well.

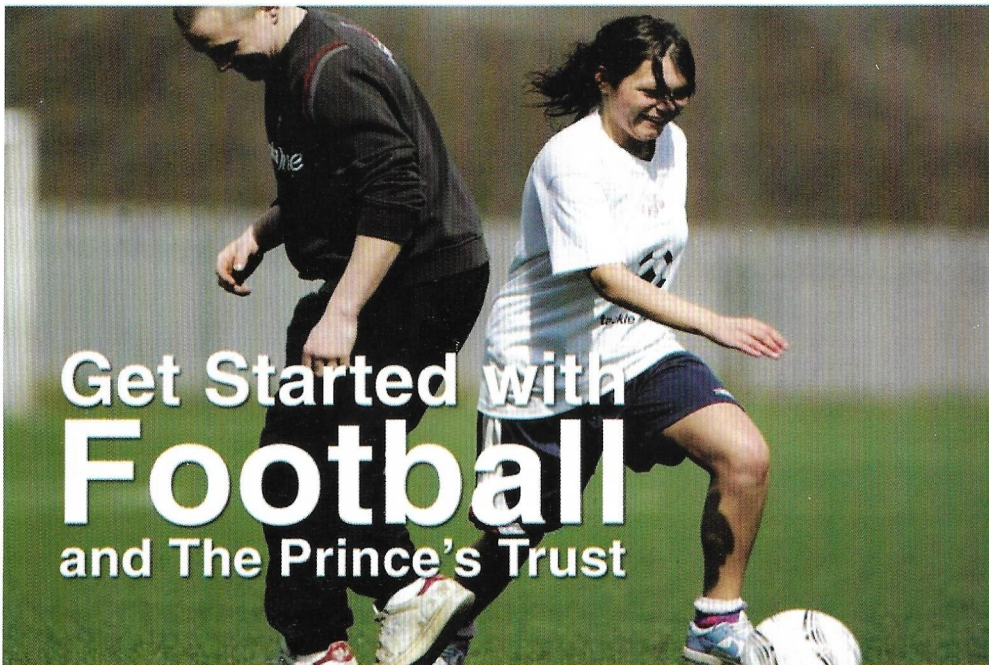
It's important we don't get ahead of ourselves, but push on with our feet firmly on the ground, be humble and continue to focus on the controllables!

This I know starts with good organisation, structure and discipline and focus which are the ground rules in any success.

Within our Academy I can certainly identify good players across the age groups, but to be a professional you need to learn and demonstrate professional aspects and in the coming months I will be driving us all to push ourselves out of the comfort zone and into the next level, because that's what you need to do, if you really want to be successful in your future plans.

The future is bright...the long term is with the Hatters!





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When? Taster Day: 22nd April 2014 **Main Programme:** 28th April – 2nd May 2014

Where? Luton Town FC, Kenilworth Stadium, 1 Maple Road, Luton LU4 8AW

To register your interest or for more information call or text 'football' to David on 07717 511141 or email david.benge@princes-trust.org.uk



Luton Ladies

LADIES IN SIX-GOAL THRILLER

The Town Ladies' on-going flirtation with relegation took a positive turn after gaining a valuable away point at Ipswich Town.

Clashes between the two usually result in a goal fest and this was no different as Luton went on the attack throughout and were unlucky not to return with all three points. The game did not begin well as the hosts took a third-minute lead when a hopeful punt over the top bounced up just outside the area and the Blues striker got a touch on the ball past Hollie Staples. It looked as Anne Folan would cover in behind but she was unable to clear and could only smash the ball into the roof of the net as she attempted a last ditch clearance.

However, the Hatters bounced straight back and two strikes from Rachel Kosky narrowly missed the top corner. It was not long before Town equalised, though, through Lauren Goodier as Luton pushed for another goal. Shots continued to rain in on the Ipswich goal but it was just before half time that Goodier added her second with a neat clip over the diving keeper into the near post.

Whilst the easy option was to sit on the narrow lead, the Luton attacks continued and it was 3-1 after an hour when a corner dropped into the box and was seized on by Erica Byron.

She still had plenty to do and turned swiftly and drove the ball low into the net.

Joy was short lived, though, as within two minutes Ipswich were awarded a penalty which was well-taken and brought the score back to 3-2.

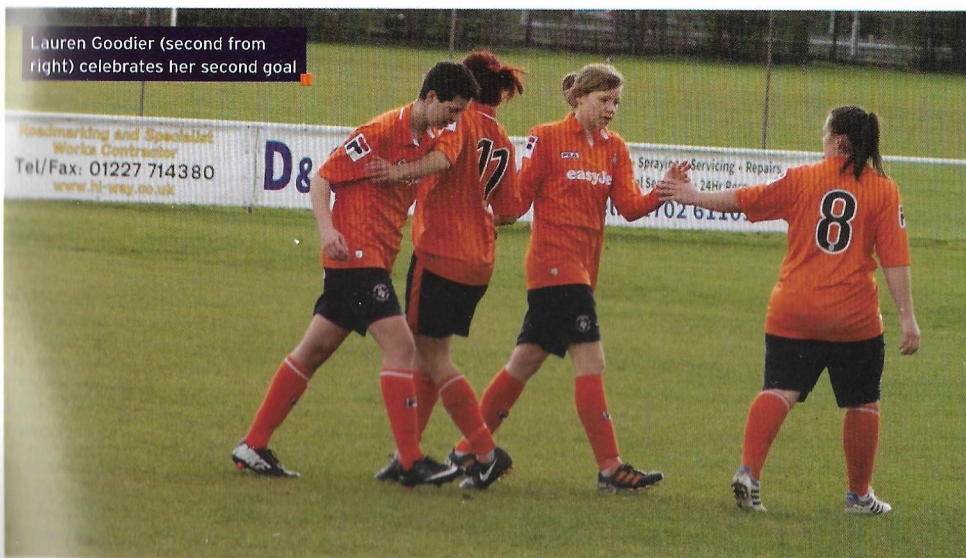
With 20 minutes left a through ball was slotted into the net to make it 3-3. At that point in spite of the disappointment Town were still seeking to win the game and continued to attack and fire shots off from all angles but the score remained 3-3 with Ipswich holding on desperately for a point.

Manager Nikki Baker told Talk of the Town: "This was a welcome point but could and should have been all three.

"We had more shots in this game than any other game this season which is encouraging. We made more changes to the team and we looked far more dangerous going forward than we have done.

"Hopefully we will pick up points from our back to back fixtures with Ebbsfleet United this week and ensure our survival at this level."

Meanwhile, the Under 14s progressed into their League Cup final with a crushing 4-0 semi-final win over St Albans City. Leila Palmer, Natalie Case, Nicole O'Brien and Emily Wilson were on target for the Town.



Lauren Goodier (second from right) celebrates her second goal

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my only luton

A FAN'S TALE

MY NAME: Richard Jameson

MY AGE: 25

MY LOCATION: Dunstable

MY TIME SUPPORTING LUTON TOWN:

I have been supporting the Hatters for almost all my life. My dad is a supporter and he got me hooked at a young age...I don't think he gave me much choice!

MY FIRST LUTON GAME:

My first game came against Blackpool on the first day of the 1997/98 season. I thought it was strange going to see the team play an away match first but at the time we were living in Staffordshire. Although we lost that game 1-0 I wasn't too bothered because watching the game live for the first time gave me a real buzz.

MY FAVOURITE LUTON GAME:

The Johnstone's Paint Trophy is a clear winner for me since I've been watching the Town but this season there have been a number of incredible games. The 6-0 win over Kidderminster and the 7-0 victory over Hereford were amazing. Some of the football we played in these games were breathtaking.

MY FAVOURITE LUTON GOAL:

I was still quite young at the time but I remember Matthew Taylor scoring from almost the half-way line against Cambridge the season we were relegated from what is now League One.

MY FAVOURITE LUTON PLAYER:

Kevin Nicholls. He was a leader and inspiration behind two promotions. Although he wasn't at his best when he returned for his second spell I won't forget his man-of-the-match performance against Scunthorpe in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy win.

MY ALL-TIME LUTON TOWN XI:

GOALKEEPER – Mark Tyler. A great servant to us over the past five years who has saved us on so many, many times with his quick reflexes.

RIGHT-BACK – Kevin Foley. Consistent and quiet performer at right-back during our League One title-winning season in 2004/05.

LEFT-BACK – Matthew Taylor. A shame he's never been capped for England. His left foot is one of the best I've seen.

CENTRE-HALF – Steve McNulty. If there's one reason for our success this season it's been the performances of Steve at the heart of our defence. Loved his showboat sequence on YouTube!

CENTRE-HALF – Chris Coyne. The likeable, dependable Aussie centre-back. He had great technique for a centre-half...a lot like McNulty!

RIGHT MIDFIELD – Ahmet Brkovic. The Croatian Sensation! The scorer of so many important goals in the League One title season. Not bad at overhead kicks either!



Kevin Nicholls - "The leader, the inspiration"

CENTRE MIDFIELD – Kevin Nicholls. The captain, our leader and inspiration. Was so happy when I saw him lift the League One title and JPT. Dea dly from the spot and never shirked a tackle.

CENTRE MIDFIELD – Luke Guttridge. He's been exceptional this season for us and made a massive difference. His touch and control is unlike anything we've had in the Conference.

LEFT MIDFIELD – Jean-Louis Valois. A wonderful, wonderful footballer! A shame we only saw him for one season.

STRIKER – Steve Howard. The man scored 100 goals for us. You could always rely on him to come up with the goods.

STRIKER – Andre Gray. 27 goals and counting so far this season. Still young, quick and powerful – his potential is frightening.

YOU ARE MY LUTON, MY ONLY LUTON...WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPIEST ABOUT FOLLOWING THE HATTERS?

It's a family club and everyone knows everyone. Going to away games and seeing the same faces gives you a real sense of satisfaction. I think we're unlike any other team...there's no other club quite like us – and we love doing things the hard way!

You too can share your Hatters memories. Use the headlines as a guide and email andrew.barringer@lutontown.co.uk, or submit your application by post.

from left midfield

BY KEVIN CROWE

BEING THERE WHEN IT HAPPENS

“When are we going to win the league?” That question was once only posed rhetorically in Luton; whispered longingly into half-empty pint glasses on matchday evenings in pubs half-full of Premier League consumers clapping witlessly at the TV. And now? Well now the question's a bit more specific than that...

Before you start, I know. Nothing's won until it's won and we've all been hurt too many times in recent past to count chickens before they've hatched. But I wrote in these pages back in December that we were going up as champions and I'm nothing if not stubborn.

Dismissive

That said, if back then you'd have offered this wide-eyed blogger our current position with less than a month to go, as he stood blowing the steam from the lava-like contents of a Chicken Balti Pie while the fourth goal flew in against Gateshead, he'd have aimed a dismissive, Guinness-coated smile in your direction and sent you on your way with your ludicrous optimism, oh fraudulent Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come.

And it's not just me talking in “whens” rather than “ifs” now. You're all doing it. I've heard you. So if this all goes wrong it'll be you that jinxed it as well as me, alright? Good.

Discussions about football for the last few weeks of this season have been replaced by sophisticated mathematic projections as differing scenarios and permutations are played out: Will it be Tamworth? Will it be Braintree? What about Welling? Will it even be when we're playing? With our unjust five-year sentence almost served, one thing seems clear: if it happens (and it will) we all want to be there.

As fun as it was listening to the breathless radio commentary from Diverse FM as Paul Benson slotted home the winner up at Grimsby the other night, that solitary living room celebration won't do for me on the day we finally seal our return to the Football League. When that moment comes I don't want to be hashtagging #LutonAreBack, I want to be stood next to you singing it. Well, maybe not **you**.

Joyous

And I don't just want to be there when we win it, I want to witness it all.

I want to be there when we get the trophy and I want to be at that last home game too for the joyous pitch invasion and lap of honour (or two laps I suppose given we do one every week).

I dunno, maybe there'll be special hats or something? Either way, like).

I want to be at Hyde away too, for a final sunny goodbye to this dark cupboard under English football's stairs. Its love for us may be unrequited by some, but just like the Littlewoods Cup Final and the defeat of John Gurney, it is part of our story now and worthy of a good send off.

Banners

So book the tickets, the trains and the coaches. Prepare the babysitters, the week in rehab and the overdraft. Dust off that boater and bring out the banners from the days gone by.

The nail-biting may not end for a few games yet, but whenever it finally does I hope you and I are there, mate. Because we deserve it. And I might need you to lend us a tenner.

THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER



ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

BY SAM ELLIOT

So, did they get you? April Fool's Day is quickly turning into a competition to see which clubs can come up with the best tall tale to pull a prank of their own supporters.

Tuesday passed by with the usual collection of well thought-out stunts announced online, with social media providing the perfect rod to collect some bites from the unsuspecting public.

Some of course will leave you wondering if, just if, they are actually real – step forward Farnborough!

Now here we have a club that announced in all seriousness let's not forget that they will be renaming their players after world greats to compete in the Skriff South. Zinedine Zidane Lionel Messi and Diego Maradona would all be going in to battle against the likes of Tonbridge Angels and Whitehawk – that was last August, not April.

The brainchild of PaddyPower was thankfully short circuited by the Conference after a few days of general tutting and eye-rolling.

Madness

With such madness, you wonder if April Fool's Day was a smokescreen, and their announcement on Tuesday that Farnborough would change their kit colour to the green of the bookmaker would mean fans laugh it off.... until they walk out at the start of next season in their new threads!

FC United of Manchester wanted to go greener. “The new pitch in Moston is set to be the greenest in the UK and glow in the dark thanks to researchers at the University of Salford, who we are teaming up with to pioneer cutting-edge biotechnology involving anecic



Zinedine Zidane in the Skriff South? Only on 1st April!

loam worms,” the Evo-Stik Premier title chaser said in a statement.

Kettering Town meanwhile said they would be opening up a new chip shop – but refused to confirm if fish would be served. Reely strange!

Southern League St Albans City came up with a good one. An historic groundshare with Dublin-based St Patricks.

“Return flights with Ryan Air are around £100 including taxes,” an official statement read.

“Fans are encouraged to book flights early to get the best deal once fixtures are released.”

In fairness, they offered supporters a lift to Luton airport on matchdays!

Tunbridge Wells meanwhile went the extra mile, knocking spots off some with their attempt to get feathers flying.

“The majority of the first team squad are in quarantine following a bout of chicken pox,” the club's website claimed.

Talk about putting your fans in a real flap!

fixtures and results

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	ATT	AWAY	POS	STARTING XI
AUGUST								
Sat 10	3.00pm	A	Southport	L 0-1	2,210	839	18	Tyler Smith Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ▲ Guttridge Martin ● Whalley
Tue 13	7.45pm	H	Salisbury City	W 2-0	6,520	92	12	Tyler Smith Griffiths McNulty Charles ● Taiwo 1 Guttridge 1 Martin ● Whalley
Sat 17	3.00pm	H	Macclesfield Town	D 1-1	6,216	80	13	Tyler Henry Griffiths ● McNulty Lacey Taiwo ▲ Guttridge 1 Martin ● Whalley
Sat 24	3.00pm	A	Forest Green Rovers	D 0-0	1,858	653	14	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Smith Guttridge Whalley Cullen ●
Mon 26	3.00pm	H	Cambridge United	D 0-0	7,517	963	11	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Smith Guttridge Whalley Cullen ●
Sat 31	3.00pm	A	Kidderminster Harriers	W 2-0	2,866	821	11	Tyler Henry Griffiths ● McNulty Lacey Smith Parry Guttridge ● Howells 2
SEPTEMBER								
TV Sat 7	5.30pm	H	Grimsby Town	D 0-0	6,131	265	14	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey ● Smith Parry Guttridge ▲ Howells
TV Fri 13	7.45pm	A	Wrexham	L 0-2	3,122	190	14	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Parry Smith Guttridge Whalley ● Howells ▲
Tue 17	7.45pm	H	Dartford	W 3-0	5,433	142	11	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Parry Smith Guttridge 1 Stevenson ▲ Howells ●
Sat 21	3.00pm	H	Lincoln City	W 3-2	6,203	227	9	Tyler Henry Griffiths ● McNulty Parry Smith Guttridge 1 Stevenson ▲ Howells ●
Tue 24	7.45pm	A	Woking	W 4-0	1,955	731	5	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey 1 Parry Guttridge ▲ Howells ●
Sat 28	3.00pm	A	Hereford United	D 0-0	2,386	580	6	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Smith Parry Guttridge Howells ●
OCTOBER								
Sat 5	3.00pm	H	FC Halifax Town	W 4-3	6,519	260	5	Tyler Henry ● Griffiths McNulty Lacey Smith Parry Guttridge 1 Lawless ●
Tue 8	7.45pm	A	Aldershot Town	D 3-3	2,693	840	4	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Smith Parry 1 ● Guttridge Howells ●
Sat 12	3.00pm	H	Hyde	W 4-1	7,081	30	3	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Smith Parry ● Guttridge 1 ● Lawless ● Cullen ▲
Sat 19	3.00pm	A	Tamworth	W 4-3	2,066	1,199	3	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Smith 1 Parry 1 Guttridge ● Whalley Cullen ●
Sat 26	3.00pm	A	Woking (FAC4Q)	W 1-0	1,452	537	-	Justham Henry Griffiths McNulty Charles Smith Robinson ● Whalley Martin ●
NOVEMBER								
Sat 2	3.00pm	A	Gateshead	D 0-0	1,080	302	3	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Smith Parry Guttridge Howells ●
Sat 9	3.00pm	A	Welling United (FAC1)	L 1-2	1,555	740	-	Justham Parry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Smith Stevenson Lawless Howells
Tue 12	7.45pm	A	Braintree Town	W 2-1	1,518	728	2	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty ● Lacey Smith Parry 1 Lawless Howells
Sat 16	3.00pm	A	Chester FC	D 1-1	3,291	890	3	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Smith Parry Guttridge ● Lawless ▲
Sat 23	3.00pm	H	Welling United	W 2-1	6,592	124	3	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Stevenson ● Parry Whalley ● Guttridge ● Lawless
Tue 26	7.45pm	H	Southport	W 3-0	6,057	16	2	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty 1 Lacey ● Smith 1 Parry Guttridge Lawless ●
Sat 30	3.00pm	A	Staines Town (FA1)	D 0-0	621	tbv	-	Justham Chabata Howells Ruddock Davis Mendy Robinson Whalley Viana ●
DECEMBER								
Tue 3	7.45pm	H	Staines Town (FA1R)	W 2-0	911	47	-	Justham Chabata Howells Parry 1 Davis Ruddock Robinson Whalley 1 C. Smith ●
Sat 7	3.00pm	A	Alfreton Town	W 5-0	1,279	649	2	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Mawson ● Smith Ruddock Robinson C. Smith Guttridge 1 Lawless 1
Sat 14	3.00pm	H	Wrexham (FA2)	W 4-2	1,617	89	-	Justham Longden Howells Charles Inmiss 1 Taiwo Ferdinand Viana ● Whalley ● Shaw ●
Sat 21	3.00pm	H	Gateshead	W 4-2	6,913	23	2	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Davis Smith ● Ruddock Guttridge ● Lawless 2
Thur 26	3.00pm	A	Barnet	W 2-1	3,608	1,700	2	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Davis Smith ● Ruddock Guttridge Lawless 1
Sat 28	3.00pm	H	Kidderminster Harriers	W 6-0	8,488	203	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths 1 McNulty Davis Robinson Ruddock ● Guttridge 2 Lawless
JANUARY								
TV Wed 1	12.00pm	H	Barnet	W 2-1	7,543	292	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Davis Robinson Howells Guttridge Lawless
Sat 4	1.00pm	A	Lincoln City	D 0-0	2,928	974	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Davis Robinson Howells Guttridge ● Lawless
Sat 11	3.00pm	A	Cambridge United (FA3)	D 2-2	3,194	687	-	Justham Longden Howells Charles Inmiss 1 Taiwo Ferdinand Viana ● Whalley ● Shaw ●
Tue 14	7.45pm	H	Cambridge United (FA3R)	L 0-1	2,312	326	-	Justham Trotman Longden Howells Charles Inmiss Robinson Howells ● Guttridge McGeehan
Sat 25	3.00pm	H	Nuneaton Town	W 3-0	7,310	182	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Inmiss Robinson Howells ● Guttridge McGeehan
FEBRUARY								
Tue 11	7.45pm	A	Macclesfield Town	W 2-1	1,705	401	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Franks Ruddock Howells Guttridge McGeehan
Sat 15	3.00pm	H	Hereford United	W 7-0	7,111	156	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Franks Ruddock 1 Howells 1 ● Guttridge McGeehan ●
Sat 22	3.00pm	A	Nuneaton Town	W 5-0	3,480	1,991	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Franks Ruddock Howells 1 ● Guttridge 1 ▲ McGeehan ●
Tue 25	7.45pm	H	Wrexham	W 5-0	7,526	124	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Franks Ruddock Howells 1 ● Guttridge 2 ▲ McGeehan
MARCH								
Sat 1	3.00pm	H	Alfreton Town	W 3-0	8,412	79	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Franks Ruddock Howells Guttridge 1 ● McGeehan ●
Sat 8	3.00pm	A	Salisbury City	D 0-0	2,633	1,543	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Franks Ruddock Howells Lawless ● McGeehan ●
Tue 11	7.45pm	A	Cambridge United	D 1-1	6,050	2,286	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Franks Ruddock ▲ Howells ● Lawless McGeehan ●
TV Mon 17	7.45pm	H	Woking	L 0-1	6,683	97	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Franks Robinson ▲ Howells ● Lawless McGeehan ●
Sat 22	3.00pm	H	Chester FC	W 3-0	8,475	229	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Franks Parry ● Howells ● Lawless Ruddock ▲
Tue 25	7.45pm	A	Grimsby Town	W 2-1	3,789	410	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Franks Robinson 1 Ruddock Howells McGeehan
Sat 29	3.00pm	A	FC Halifax Town	L 0-2	3,586	1,179	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Franks Robinson Ruddock ● Lawless McGeehan
APRIL								
Tue 1	7.45pm	A	Dartford	W 2-1	2,869	1,828	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Franks Robinson ● Howells ▲ Lawless McGeehan
Sat 5	3.00pm	H	Aldershot Town					
Tue 8	7.45pm	H	Tamworth					
TV Sat 12	12.52pm	H	Braintree Town					
Sat 19	12.30pm	A	Welling United					
Mon 21	3.00pm	H	Forest Green Rovers					
Sat 26	5.30pm	A	Hyde					

KEEP OFF THE PITCH

Luton Town Football Club would like to remind all supporters that it is against the law and hence an arrestable offence to enter the playing area at anytime. Under the Football (Offences) Act 1991 it is an offence for a person at a designated football match

SUBS											
Howells ●	Cullen ●	Charles ●	Parry ▲	Gray ●	Robinson	Justham					
Shaw ●	Cullen ●	Lacey ●	Howells ▲	Gray ●	Robinson	Justham					
Shaw ▲	Gray	Parry	Howells ●	Cullen ●	Smith ▲	Justham					
Shaw ●	Gray	Parry ●	Howells ●	Martin	Robinson	Justham					
Shaw ●	Gray	Parry	Howells ●	Martin ●	Robinson	Justham					
Benson ●	Gray	Martin ●	Whalley	Wall ●	Cullen	Justham					
Benson	Gray ●	Stevenson ●	Whalley ●	Wall ▲	Cullen	Justham					
Benson	Cullen ●	Stevenson	Lawless ●	Wall ●	Gray ▲	Justham					
Lawless 1 ●	Benson 1	Martin	Whalley ●	Taiwo ▲	Gray	Justham					
Lawless	Cullen 2 ▲	O'Donnell ●	Whalley	Taiwo ▲	Gray ●	Justham					
Gray 1 ●	Cullen 2	O'Donnell ●	Whalley ▲	Taiwo	Banton ●	Justham					
Cullen ●	Benson	Charles	Whalley ●	Taiwo	Gray ●	Justham					
Gray 1	Benson 1	Howells	Whalley	Robinson ●	Wall 1 ●	Justham					
Gray 1	Benson	Charles	Whalley 1 ●	Robinson	Wall ●	Justham					
Gray 1	Benson	Charles	Parry ●	Robinson ●	Cullen ▲	Justham					
Gray ●	Benson 2	Charles ●	Lawless ●	Robinson	Cullen	Justham					
Cullen 1	Benson	Gray ●	Parry ●	Viana	Wall	Taiwo	Stevenson	Tyler			
Gray ●	Benson	Stevenson	Cullen ●	Taiwo	Wall ●	Justham					
Cullen	Benson 1	Lawless ●	Taiwo	O'Donnell ●	Robinson	Banton ▲	Tyler				
Gray	Benson 1 ●	Cullen ●	Whalley	Guttridge	Stevenson ●	Justham					
Gray 1	Benson ●	Cullen ●	Whalley ▲	Howells ●	Stevenson	Justham					
Gray 2	Benson ●	Cullen	Whalley ●	Howells	Robinson ●	Justham					
Gray 1 ▲	Benson	Cullen ▲	Whalley ●	Howells	Robinson ●	Justham					
Banton ●	Cullen	Wall ●	C. Smith ●	Anu	Rees	Barnes					
Wall ●	Cullen	Banton ●	Mendy	Anu	Rees ●	Barnes					
Gray 2	Benson 1	Davis ●	Whalley	Howells	Robinson	Justham					
Wall ●	Cullen 1	Banton ●	C. Smith	Anu	Chabata	King					
Gray 1	Benson 1	Mawson	Robinson ●	Cullen	Howells	Justham					
Gray ●	Benson 1	Mawson	Robinson ●	Cullen ●	Howells	Justham					
Gray ●	Benson 1 ●	Mawson	Robinson ●	Cullen ●	Howells 2 ●	Justham					
Gray 1	Benson 1	Mawson	Wall	Cullen	Whalley	Justham					
Gray	Benson	Mawson	Wall	Cullen	Ferdinand ●	Justham					
Wall 1	Cullen	Shaw ●	Banton	Rees ●	Chabata	King					
Wall ●	Cullen	Banton ●	C. Smith	Viana ●	Chabata	King					
Gray 1	Benson ●	Franks	Cullen ●	Martin ●	Ferdinand	Justham					
Gray 2 ●	Benson	Charles	Cullen	Lawless ●	Robinson	Justham					
Gray 1	Benson 1 ▲	Charles	Shaw ▲	Lawless 1 ●	Robinson ●	Justham					
Gray 1 ●	Benson 2 ●	Charles	Shaw ●	Lawless ●	Robinson ▲	Justham					
Gray 1 ●	Benson 1 ●	Charles	Shaw ●	Lawless ●	Robinson ▲	Justham					
Gray 1	Benson 1 ▲	Charles	Shaw ▲	Lawless ●	Robinson ●	Justham					
Gray	Benson	Charles	Shaw	Cullen ●	Robinson ●	Justham					
Gray	Benson	Parry ▲	Shaw	Cullen 1 ●	Robinson ●	Justham					
Gray	Benson	Parry ●	Shaw	Cullen ▲	Ruddock ●	Justham					
Gray 1	Benson 1	Robinson 1 ●	Shaw	Cullen ●	Rooney ▲	Justham					
Gray	Benson 1	Charles	Shaw	Cullen	Rooney	Justham					
Gray ●	Benson	Charles	Shaw	Cullen ●	Rooney ●	Justham					
Gray 1	Benson ●	Charles	Ruddock 1 ●	Cullen ●	Rooney ▲	Justham					

LEAGUE TABLE 2013/14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Luton Town	40	25	11	4	90	30	60	86
2 Cambridge United	39	20	13	6	59	26	33	73
3 Grimsby Town	38	19	9	10	56	38	18	66
4 Gateshead FC	40	18	11	11	60	48	12	65
5 Alfreton Town	40	21	5	14	60	59	1	65
6 Braintree Town	38	19	7	12	52	34	18	64
7 FC Halifax Town	39	18	9	12	75	54	21	63
8 Nuneaton Town	41	17	11	13	51	54	-3	62
9 Barnet	40	17	10	13	50	43	7	61
10 Kidderminster Harriers	39	17	9	13	57	55	2	60
11 Forest Green Rovers	39	17	7	15	71	55	16	58
12 Woking	39	17	6	16	53	57	-4	57
13 Salisbury City	40	16	9	15	47	56	-9	57
14 Welling United	40	15	11	14	52	48	4	56
15 Macclesfield Town	39	16	6	17	57	55	2	54
16 Lincoln City	41	14	12	15	53	55	-2	54
17 Wrexham	41	14	9	18	56	59	-3	51
18 Southport	40	12	9	19	42	60	-18	45
19 Chester FC	41	10	13	18	42	64	-22	43
20 Hereford United	40	10	12	18	38	56	-18	42
21 Aldershot Town	40	13	12	15	58	54	4	41
22 Dartford	40	11	7	22	45	66	-21	40
23 Tamworth	40	8	9	23	37	66	-29	33
24 Hyde FC	40	1	7	32	33	102	-69	10

PLAYER STATS 2

hold the back page

WITH FORMER LUTON NEWS SPORTS EDITOR MARK WOOD

I've heard her. She's been piping up for a while now. The Fat Lady that is.

She knows the lines, has got quite a pair of lungs on her and I can't finally wait to hear her rendition of We are the Champions when the Hatters finally secure the Skrill Premier title.

Obviously I don't want to jinx anything and there is still some work to do, but after five long years I am now certain that we will finally be returning to the Football League.

We've come close before, but never had the level of consistency that this combative team has displayed under boss John Still. Some fans have already taken to revering the Town chief as a God, and if the Hatters can finally seal their return to the Football League at the fifth attempt, Mr Still will certainly have delivered some form of salvation for our long-suffering fans.

But I'll be honest with you, I know all about the Fat Lady as I've already had a private serenade. She's already ushered in a bright new world for myself in so many ways. After more than seven years of covering the Hatters I have finally bid adieu to the Luton News, Dunstable Gazette and Herald & Post.

I have had some fantastic times along the way and had the privilege of meeting with and working with some wonderful people, not least my boyhood hero Mick Harford. Of course he led us to that unbelievable unifying day at Wembley where we won the Johnstone's Paint Trophy in 2009, but promotion this season would surely be an even more important achievement for the club.

Many of you will think me mad for deserting my boyhood team with them finally on the brink of redemption and a return to the Football League.



John Still has delivered "salvation" to the Town faithful says Mark

But life has a habit of getting ahead of us and with a little luck my first child will be born later this month and there will be another Hatter to add to the legions of Luton fans.

In fact I'm doing my best to push the club in every way I can. My mother-in-law is coming over from New York ahead of the arrival and she will be lucky enough to attend her first ever Luton game when Forest Green Rovers visit Kenilworth Road for the last home game of the season on Easter Monday.

Both her and my long-suffering wife – just one day before the baby is due! – will be sitting in the Oak Road end for that game. I'm reliably informed by club historian Roger Wash that should he or she decide to make an early appearance then it would in fact be the first child ever to be born at the Kenny.

As you can imagine the wife is thrilled by this prospect, and neither is she buying into my suggestion that the arrival should boast the middle names

John, Terry, Hakan. At least the child would have a story to tell, but we shall have to wait and see.

However, I won't be gone entirely, and a la Joe Kinnear, I have a number of irons in the fire. As many of you will have hopefully heard by now I'll be helping out the incomparable Simon Pitts on Diverse FM for the rest of the season and will also hopefully continue to do so into next term.

Thinking about the rollercoaster ride I've had following and covering the Hatters, from Littlewoods Cup glory, -30 points and relegation out of the Football League, I can't even imagine what Junior can look forward to.

You never know, we might even have a new stadium by then...



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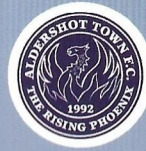


today's teams



LUTON TOWN

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Mark Tyler | 20 David Viana |
| 2 Fraser Franks | 21 Luke Guttridge |
| 3 Danny Fitzsimons | 22 Shaun Whalley |
| 4 Jonathan Smith | 23 Matt Robinson |
| 5 Steve McNulty | 24 Jernade Meade |
| 6 Anthony Charles | 25 Ronnie Henry |
| 7 Alex Lawless | 26 Paul Benson |
| 8 Solomon Taiwo | 27 Andre Gray |
| 9 Jon Shaw | 28 Jim Stevenson |
| 10 Alex Wall | 29 Kane Ferdinand |
| 11 Jake Howells | 30 Alex Lacey |
| 12 Scott Griffiths | 31 Jake Woolley |
| 13 Mark Cullen | 32 Brett Longden |
| 14 Andy Parry | 33 Jerome Jibodu |
| 15 Luke Rooney | 34 Zane Banton |
| 16 Elliot Justham | 39 Ian Rees |
| 17 JJ O'Donnell | 43 Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu |
| 18 Dave Martin | 44 Andy Mangan |
| 19 Cameron McGeehan | |



ALDERSHOT TOWN

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Glenn Morris | 16 Josh Scott |
| 2 Joe Oastler | 17 Joe Partington |
| 3 Anthony Tonkin | 18 Bobby Webbe |
| 4 Craig Stanley | 19 Mark Molesley |
| 6 Adam Webster | 20 Meshack Douglas |
| 7 Adam Mekki | 21 Luke Williams |
| 8 Martin Rowlands | 22 Jaydon Gibbs |
| 9 Brett Williams | 23 Nick Grosvenor |
| 10 Matt Paterson | 25 Tristan Plummer |
| 11 Bradley Bubb | 28 Dan Butler |
| 12 Alan Martin | 29 Manny Oyeleke |
| 14 Jordan Roberts | 30 Mark Phillips |
| 15 Chris Barker | 31 Harry Cornick |

Referee: **S. Bennett** | Assistant: **I. Parsons** | Assistant: **D. Cheosiaua** | Fourth official: **L. Marshall**

HERE NEXT
v **TAMWORTH**

TUESDAY 8th APRIL 2014 • 7.45PM

SKRILL PREMIER

