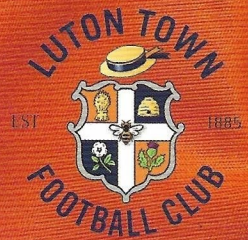
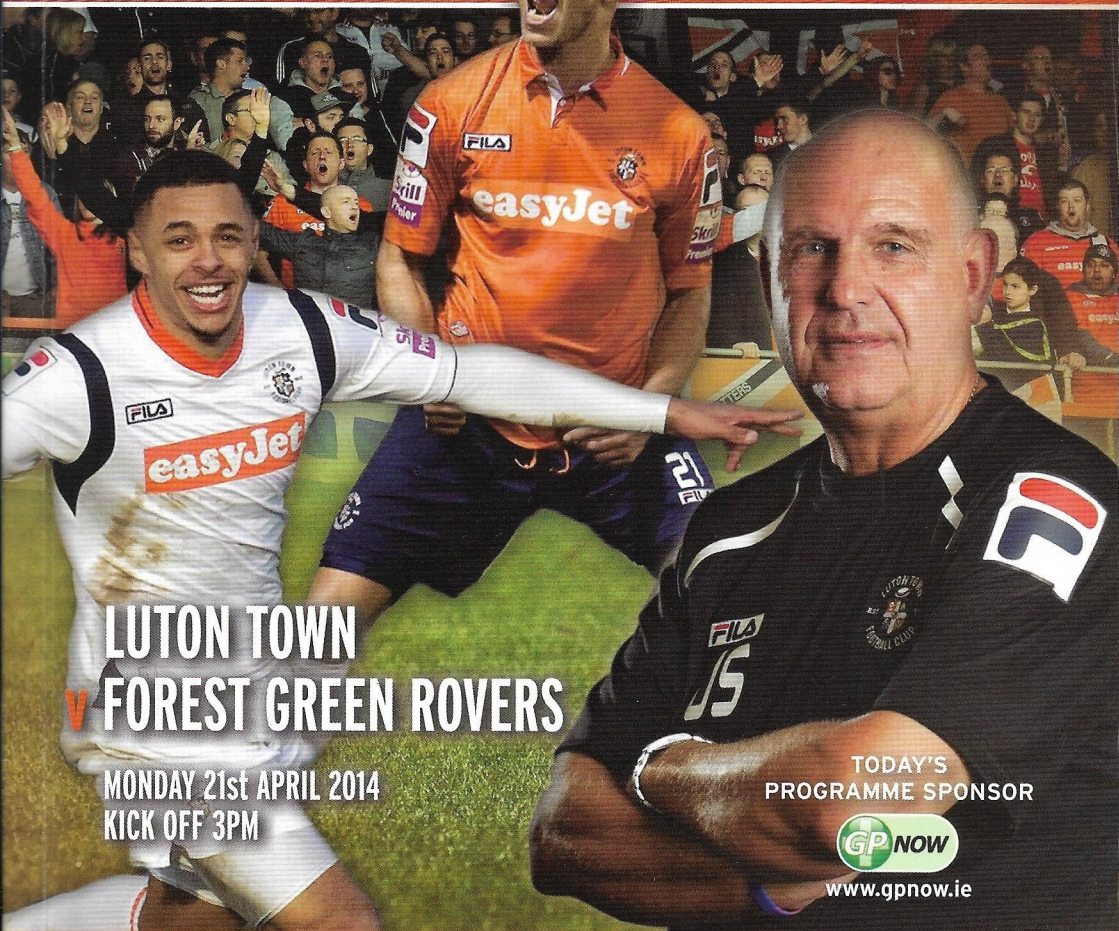


TALK OF THE TOWN



OFFICIAL AWARD-WINNING MATCHDAY
PROGRAMME OF LUTON TOWN
FOOTBALL CLUB

ISSUE 29 • £3.50



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THANK YOU

As this is the final issue of Talk of the Town this season the editor would like to go on record and thank those who have contributed during the course of the campaign.

Special thanks must go to our local, Luton-based printers Barham Press, our designer Heather Ellis and the expert eye of club photographer Gareth Owen.

Our contributors, as ever, have been first class. Roger Wash's historical pieces continue to provoke reminiscent conversation whilst Matt Aquino and Tom Skinner have continued to provide fantastic insight on our visitors section.

If you have any feedback – good or bad – or would like to contribute in next season's issues please email andrew.barringer@lutontown.co.uk.

DEV SQUAD VICTORIOUS

Amid the smiling faces at Kenilworth Road in the wake of the news that the Town were crowned champions, the Hatters development squad beat Premier League Crystal Palace 3-2 at Kenilworth Road last Tuesday.

Two strikes from the impressive Alex Wall - one from the penalty spot - and a header from Alex Lacey were enough in the end for the Town to celebrate victory against the Eagles.

Town dev: Justham, Parry, Meade, Lacey, Charles, Ferdinand, Taiwo, Ruddock Mpanzu (sub Rees 65), Mangan (sub Martin 65), Shaw (sub Banton 65), Wall.

FROM ANTIGUA WITH LOVE

Town associate director Mike Herrick writes: "Having visited Antigua recently I organised a tie-up with a local primary school.

"This involved donations of books and equipment, but by far the most appealing for the children was to hear about football in England. Naturally I concentrated, exclusively and exhaustively, on Luton Town and took over some kit kindly donated by the club.

"If anyone will be taking a holiday in Antigua in the future, try and look up Five Islands Primary School. If you're lucky you'll see the bright orange shirts proudly worn on the school pitch!"

SUMMER TIME

So the curtain comes down on the Town's campaign at Kenilworth Road tonight but we'll back next season don't forget - and back in League 2!

Remember the fixtures, together with our pre-season friendly programme, will all be published on the official website and via social media, so remember to pay these mediums a visit over the course of the close season for all the up-to-date news at Kenilworth Road.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DERRICK!

We'd like to wish a very happy 85th birthday to lifelong Town fan Derrick Ventham.

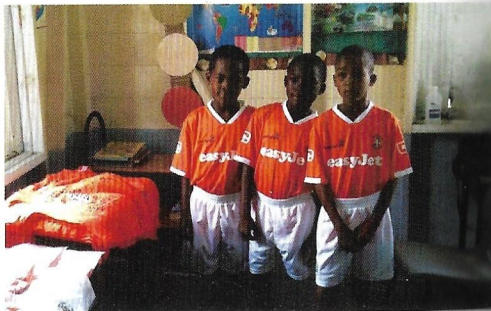
Born within the sound of the cheering crowds, he lived in Ivy Road for many years, earning pocket money to buy his ticket for the match by 'minding' supporters' bikes in the back garden.

Derrick's first visit to the seaside as a child was with the Luton Town Bobbers Club.

He remembers watching Joe Payne, Billy Bingham, Wally Shanks and 'Granny' Groves.

Derrick was amongst the crowd when Luton played Nottingham Forest in the FA Cup Final in 1959.

He hasn't been to a match for many years, but listens to the match avidly every Saturday afternoon - don't invite him anywhere if Luton is on the radio!



TOWN YOUNGSTERS ON TRACK

London Midland's support for our Cedars shadow youth squad was recognised in an on-pitch presentation at the recent first team home game against Aldershot.

Cedars Head Coach Stuart Smith invited the rail company's head of communications Francis Thomas, and lifelong Luton Town fans Kevin and Linda Davis, who also work for London Midland, to the game with Aldershot.

London Midland provides free rail travel for a number of the Cedars squad, who train at the School in Leighton Buzzard, as part of their community support programme.

The Town's head shadow squad coach Stuart Smith said: "The support and sponsorship of London Midland for this programme is vital as it allows us to bring lads on to the programme from further afield.

This means we are able to attract the best players possible in to the club and not just the best players in our immediate catchment area.

"This initiative is one of a very small number in the country that offers a joint Football/A-Level programme giving players the opportunity to study for a minimum of three A-Levels whilst training for eight hours a week under the guidance of a Luton Town 'A' Licence coaches.

"At Luton Town we are breaking the stereotype vision of a footballer by developing intelligent young players who are also technically excellent. This season has seen Harry Tamplin from the group receive a professional scholarship contract, and three others play on a regular basis for Paul Driver's Under-18 side, proof that genuine exit routes back into the professional game exist at Cedars."

REST IN PEACE

It is with sadness that we report the deaths of two long-standing Hatters supporters.

Bob Moore, a lifelong Hatters fan, sadly passed away on 9th April at the age of 49. He had been a season ticket holder in the Main Stand for many years and it was his great wish to see the lads clinch promotion back to the league - he will be as pleased as punch 'up above' that they finally managed to do it. Bob lived in Luton all his life and had built a successful career in insurance and spreading the word about the Hatters to all those Premier League club supporters. His wife Deb and his many friends will miss his sense of humour, optimism, kindness and positive attitude to life. RIP Bob.

In loving memory of Mr Graham Bailey, pictured left. (18.06.42 - 07.04.14).

A life-time supporter of Luton Town, and season ticket holder in Kenilworth Stand for many years come rain or shine. RIP.

Our condolences go out to the family and friends of both Bob and Graham at this sad time.



ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL

As reported last month, the first bricks in the Hatters Walk of the Fame were laid at Kenilworth Road.

The Wall is located outside main reception and enables supporters to purchase single or double bricks with a personalised message of their choice.

With bricks starting from £50 and available in black or gold ink, the Wall can serve as a great gift for a friend, family member or loved one.

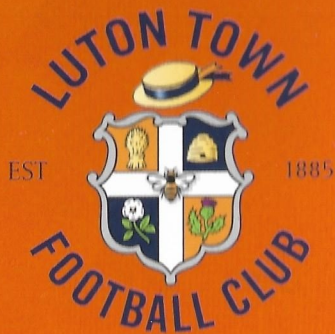
We welcome all supporters to take part in joining the Wall and look forward to seeing many more great memories made and shared through its creation.

Please visit www.hatterswalk.co.uk for a full price list of the products and to buy a brick online.

COUNTY CUP THE FINAL BUSINESS

The Town may end their Skrill Premier campaign at Hyde on Saturday but one fixture for the club remains: the all-important Bedfordshire Senior Cup final which takes place at Kenilworth Road.

The Hatters development squad will take on Biggleswade Town in the final on Thursday 8th May, kick-off 7.30pm. Admission details will be posted on the official website in due course.



KEEP
CALM

WE'RE THE
CHAMPIONS!



welcome

TO KENILWORTH ROAD

“ WE’VE DONE IT! WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS MY FRIENDS!

Five years – scrap that – try eight years, of hurt has been replaced by unbridled joy and we hope that this, our final programme of the season captures a little bit of that emotion.

This is officially the last issue of Talk of the Town but don't worry we'll have a special souvenir Champions edition of TOTT available in the next week or two for you to treasure.

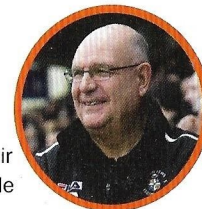
Until then, though, read the thoughts of members of the Town boardroom on their emotions on winning promotion back to the Football League. Then we have the manager, his staff and the players' reflection on this momentous occasion for the club we love so dearly.

All the usual suspects are also inside these 100 pages, and yes that does mean reaction from the Braintree defeat! But joking aside, we've got history, a comprehensive review of our youth department's campaign as well as much more news, views and opinion.

It's been a wonderful season...the time is now! Enjoy! ”

4 the boss

John Still looks reflects on a remarkable first full season in charge



6 the boardroom

Members of the Hatters board pen their thoughts in the wake of winning the title

16 champions

Reaction from the players, fans and how it all happened!

35 roll on next season

You want to be a part of it, right? Buy a season ticket!

42 forest green rovers

Let's not forget we welcome our visitors from Gloucestershire this afternoon



68 hatters history

Roger Wash looks back at defining moments in the Town's rich history

96 the season so far

Fixtures and results for 2013/14

LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB 2020 LTD

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HONORARY LIFE VICE PRESIDENT: John Buttle

VICE PRESIDENTS: Richard Banks, Cliff Bassett,

Jack Sapsworth, Rob Stringer

FIRST TEAM MANAGER: John Still

ASSISTANT MANAGER: Terry Harris

FIRST TEAM COACH: Hakan Hayrettin

GOALKEEPING COACH: Jeff Wood

FITNESS COACH: Dave Richardson

SQUAD COACH: David James

PHYSIOTHERAPIST: Simon Parsell

KIT MAN/MASSEUR: Darren Cook

YOUTH TEAM MANAGER: Paul Driver

HEAD OF YOUTH: Wayne Turner

HEAD OF YOUTH OPERATIONS: Marc Tracy

CLUB SECRETARY: Kevan Platt

COMMERCIAL MANAGER: David Hoskins

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

#champions congratulations

As you'd expect the Hatters' social media channels were besieged with messages of support from ex-players, members of the media and other football clubs, all offering our clubs their best wishes and congratulations. Here's a pick of some of the best, all taken from Twitter.

🐦 **Manish Bhasin @_manishbhasin**
Congratulations to @LTFC_Official on their return to the @football_league after 5 years!

🐦 **Miguel Delaney @MiguelDelaney**
Just interviewed Raddy Antic about Diego Simeone. He agreed to speak only on condition I mention his "congratulations to Luton Town".

🐦 **Fleetwood Town FC @ftfc**
Congratulations to former @ftfc skipper Steve McNulty winning promotion with @LTFC_Official to League Two.

🐦 **Official NICEIC @officialNICEIC**
Congratulations to NICEIC sponsored @LTFC_Official who have been crowned Conference champions and promoted to the football league #champions

🐦 **Cheltenham Town FC @CTFCofficial**
Congratulations to @LTFC_Official on their promotion back into the @football_league as Skrill Premier champions. #LTFC

🐦 **Adrian Forbes @forbesy7**
Congratulations to my old club @LTFC_Official & @LutonTownFans, back in the football league where the club belongs. Onwards and upwards now

🐦 **Official Harriers @khfcofficial**
Congratulations to @LTFC_Official on being crowned CHAMPIONS of the Skrill Premier tonight, winning promotion to the Football League.

🐦 **Chris coyne @Chris_coyne78**
Congratulations to all @LTFC_Official players, staff and @LutonTownFans, back where the club belongs #COYH

🐦 **Alfie Mawson @AlfieMawson**
Congratulations to @LTFC_Official on their promotion, more than deserved it

🐦 **Luton Council @lutoncouncil**
A very proud day for Luton #COYH #Champions

🐦 **Cambridge United FC @CambridgeUtdFC**
Congratulations to @LTFC_Official on winning the Skrill Premier and their return to the Football League! #Champions

🐦 **Sky Sports Football @SkyFootball**
Luton Town have won promotion from the Conference Premier - ending a five-year absence from the Football League.

🐦 **John Hartson @JohnHartson10**
Congratulations @LTFC_Official fantastic for the whole town to be back in the football league.

🐦 **David James @jamosfoundation**
The Hatters are back in the football league! Superb effort by all connected to the club, to a fan!! #coyh

🐦 **Sky Bet League 2 @SkyBetLeague2**
Congratulations to @LTFC_Official - promoted back into The Football League after a five-season absence. #League2

🐦 **Janos Kovacs @kokojana6**
Luton is back!!! Very well done everyone. :) COYH

🐦 **Stan Collymore @StanCollymore**
Last game for Southend was against Luton in the FLC. Both stayed up, pitch invasion, happy times. Good to see the Hatters back.

🐦 **Amari Morgan-Smith @morgan_smith22**
And also like to congratulate Luton Town on winning the league and promotion back to the football league

🐦 **Kevin Pilkington @kpkilks**
A massive congratulations to @LTFC_Official Back where they belong!

🐦 **Richard Keys @richardajkeys**
Couldn't be more pleased for everyone connected with Luton. Well done John Still. Quite an evening ahead I suspect.

🐦 **Mick Harford @MickharfordFollow**
Congratulations to Luton Town FC on their return to the FL. Hats off to the fans, staff and players. #sentenceover

🐦 **Hyde FC Official @hydefcive**
Congratulations to @LTFC_Official - Skrill Premier champions! See you on the 26th, get your tickets now for the party! #champions

🐦 **southport_fc @southport_fc**
Congratulations to @LTFC_Official, worthy winners of this season's Skrill Premier

🐦 **LutonSixthForm @LutonSixthForm**
Great to see @LTFC_Official back where the town belongs - in the Football League #LTFCChampions #LutonAreBack

Goodness me, the amount of messages of goodwill from our OWN supporters was so phenomenal we could fill 100 pages of them. Instead - for now anyway - here's just one page of some of the best we received from you. Thank you to everyone who got involved. #LutonAreBack was trending for over two hours in the UK.

🐦 **Luton Town Fans @LutonTownFans**
John Still is now trending nationwide and deservedly so! #LutonAreBack

🐦 **Aaron @Aaron_LTFC**
The day has finally come!!! #LutonAreBack

🐦 **Caddennn @DanielCadden**
5 years of hurt over with, what a great season #COYH #champions #lutonareback

🐦 **Tom Caldon @TomCaldon**
YEEEEESSS!!! 5 years of hurt are finally over!! #LutonAreBack #Champions

🐦 **Michael Ridley @MRidley92**
Hello..... We're back..... #LutonAreBack #champions

🐦 **Andy Jones @Andy_Jones23**
Cannot wait for Welling then FGR to scream my lungs out in celebration with my fellow bredren! #LutonAreBack #LTFC

🐦 **Jack White Racing @whiteworacing**
The town are going up #champions #COYH #LutonAreBack

🐦 **Rev Lennon @kevlennon1**
The amount of ex-players etc. tweeting their congrats shows what this football club means to people. We're a proper club #COYH #champions

🐦 **Jonathan Bambrook @bambrook**
@ltfc_official supported them man and boy. this is one of my proudest moments as a lutonian #LutonAreBack #COYH

🐦 **Roberto Perrone Show @drivewithrob**
I have never been to Kidderminster before but I shall be making a pilgrimage there soon #LTFC #CHAMPIONS

🐦 **AmphillPeter @AmphillPeter**
Injustice finally righted! So proud of my beloved @LTFC_Official !! #champions

🐦 **Andrew Kingston @treblethree**
We are going up #CHAMPIONS

danielle abbott @danielleabbott_ What a feeling!! So unreal!! Get innnnnnnnn!! #LutonAreBack #Champions

🐦 **Danny @DannChandler123**
Onwards and upwards from now on!!! #Lutonareback #COYH

🐦 **Steven Manfredi @sman3d**
Luton Town FC, the club they couldn't kill #lutonareback

🐦 **William Hill @sharpeangle**
John Still's night- but Mark Tyler's five years! He's been so consistently reliable; without him we'd never have done it! #COYH

🐦 **Daniel Harris @Daniel_Harris91**
Had a massive smile on my face all day thanks to #LTFC! Cannot wait to go to the last three games and party! #LutonAreBack #Champions

🐦 **Paul Brooks @PaulofLutonAC**
@Ltfc_official Fancy a trip to Wembley on 18th May? No need as we are the champions :-)) #LutonAreBack

🐦 **mug girl @Gardner_xox**
My Dad got asked to be quiet in the restaurant in Barcelona last night after singing @LTFC_Official chants #LutonAreBack #Champions #COYH

🐦 **Martin Dockerill @Valencia_Hatter**
Just checked again, yep, still Champions #LutonAreback #COYH #Champions

🐦 **Adam Hargreaves @Jeevesraf**
#LutonAreBack Five years of pain! #COYH

🐦 **Lucy @Skittles7**
Still can't stop smiling #LutonAreBack

🐦 **Paul Tomkins @PaulTheManager**
Congratulations to ALL @LTFC_Official a wonderful season and CHAMPIONS #LutonAreBack

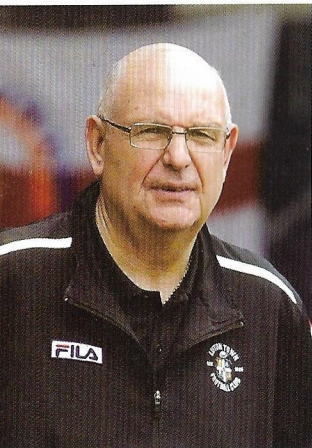
🐦 **Nicola @hattersgirl88**
Just welled up watching Sir John Still saying how proud he is to be our manager on YouTube #COYH #Lutonareback

🐦 **Helen Gatward @xHelsx**
Still buzzing this morning! Feels so good to be back! I just love being a Hatter! Happy days! #LutonAreBack #COYH #ChampionsAreBack

🐦 **peter stevenson @PeterTheArtist**
I'm smiling that much you could shove a banana in my gob...sideways #LutonAreBack

the manager

JOHN STILL



Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for the final time in what has been quite simply a breathtaking season of football.

I'd like to welcome everyone associated with our visitors Forest Green Rovers, including their manager Ady Pennock. He's a person I know very well and it's great to see him having a crack at management having been with Tony Pulis at Stoke for so long. It will

be good to cross paths this afternoon.

Well, I don't know really where to begin after a hectic few days. We played at home against Braintree last Saturday where we knew that a victory would seal promotion. As we know, that failed to materialise, but on Tuesday, Cambridge's 2-0 defeat at Kidderminster sealed us the championship which is just an incredible feeling. Although Cambridge lost the game to ensure we lifted the title, it really has been a case of us winning it, not them losing it. They were a long way clear, we chased and went on a fine, 27-match unbeaten to overtake them. Now we're a long way clear and that goes to show how well we have really done this season. Our points tally speaks for itself.

Brilliant

It's difficult to explain in this short passage my feelings, but it would be wrong of me not to thank everyone involved. My staff have been nothing short of brilliant. They are honest, loyal and have worked with passion and integrity, and for that I thank them. You, the supporters, I think realised quite early that we needed you behind us and your backing of the team home and away has been unbelievable. You have been a strong part of the team and a big reason behind this promotion. I also definitely need to thank the directors for employing me!

They believed in me and all of them, of course, are supporters themselves. My thanks goes to Gary Sweet and the rest of the board – I know that promotion means a helluva lot to them.

My thanks go to everyone around the club in all departments; the ticket office, media, catering, groundstaff, the girls in accounts – everyone. All of these components have helped us this season. As I've said time and time again, the stronger the team, the stronger the team. The strength and unity of the staff, players and supporters cannot be underestimated. Thank you so much for playing your part.

Records

Today, meanwhile, we look forward to another fixture and, indeed, for the rest of the season. We've achieved a lot this season but we won't stop in our quest to break even more records. We're hoping to break the number of clean sheets kept in a season; it would be fantastic to earn 100 points and score 100 goals and for one of our players to finish top of the scoring charts. We'll see how we go on those fronts but despite the fact the job is done, so to speak, we won't be resting on our laurels.

What we have to do now, though, is to all enjoy the moment. I hope today is a fantastic occasion for everyone, and I include our visitors in that.

Celebrate

After today we still have one more match on Saturday when we travel to Hyde and I know that an incredible amount of tickets have already been sold for this match and I am looking forward to what I'm sure will be a great atmosphere for the final game of the season. There will also be, no doubt, one or two other events when the season is over that we'll also celebrate.

These are my last notes of the season and I'd like to finish by thanking those people who have given me, my staff and the players such fantastic support.

All remains for me to say is it's done now, enjoy your summer, enjoy what's happened this season, live the moment and I look forward to seeing you all again in the next season, back in the Football League.

the captain

RONNIE HENRY

Good afternoon and welcome to the final game at Kenilworth Road in what has been a long, but rewarding, fantastic and historical season.

The manager and his coaching staff deserve a lot of the credit. The gaffer has found the right formula and I think this season has gone better than anyone expected...the gaffer included! He said he came here for the long haul, but to win the title in his first full season in charge is a testament to his and his staff's hard work. It's an unbelievable group effort, and not only did he recruit well in the summer, he has done the same throughout the season when we've needed a few extra bodies. Terry, Hakan, Jeff, Simon and Darren all deserve big credit too, their assistance to the gaffer and to us as players has been tremendous.

Success

I'd like to congratulate all of my team-mates for the success too, but especially those players in the development squad. It is not easy being a footballer when you're not always involved in the first team and it can be difficult to prepare mentally for a Wednesday afternoon game like this. However, nobody has complained, everyone has worked hard and that spirit has been a common factor throughout the campaign.

You, the supporters, have really got behind us this season and there was a big shift in the positivity after the Lincoln game at home in September. No longer is Kenilworth Road a place where visiting teams can come and hold on for 25 minutes and wait for the home crowd to get on our backs. When that happens, visiting teams see that as half the job done and if they scored to take the lead we really did used to struggle to get a result. Now, though, you've seen first hand at what your support can do and how it can help us and carry us to victory.

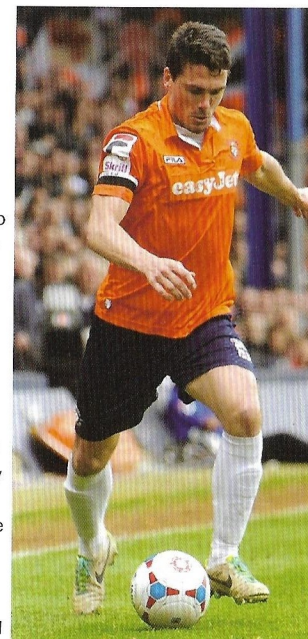
Support

Your support has been one of the key components to this season of success and has, on so many occasions, spurred us on to achieve what we have. It's meant that we have come from behind on many occasions, and have slowly built a never-say-die attitude. We never know when we're beaten, and to have that kind of mentality in the dressing room is a huge attribute to have.

Our achievement this season has been truly remarkable and today's celebrations are sure to live long in the memory of all those involved. However, the hard work will start again next season when we return to the Football League. This championship and all its glory will stand a lot of younger players in good stead. We have a very young squad with lots of potential and for the likes of Fraser, Cameron, Matt, Jake, Alex Wall and Andre – who have already played a lot of games at this level – the experience they have gained from this success will be priceless in their futures. I've won a title before and the one thing I know from that is that you are desperate to do it again because it's such a fantastic feeling.

This season has been one mammoth effort and I'd like to wish everyone a happy summer. Please enjoy and embrace this success – promotions don't come around too often. We'll be back next season to give League 2 a crack. We know we can go further and I'd like to thank everyone for their efforts this season and I mean everyone: all departments and staff at the club. The place has been an enjoyable one to come to work and I feel proud of what the togetherness has helped us achieve.

We can look people in the eyes now and say "job done". So smile, enjoy what we've done and have a great summer – I'm sure you will!



promotions past

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH LOOKS BACK ON THE TOWN'S PROMOTIONS

Everyone has turned up at Kenilworth Road today to celebrate the Town's well deserved rise back to the Football League and as this is only the third time in almost 30 years of writing this column to record a promotion it is perhaps a good time to look back at successful campaigns of the past.

When the Town were relegated to Division Two of the Southern League in 1912 it was regarded as a calamity of major proportions and the nearest comparison that could be made today is of the current Town squad being demoted to the League of Wales. Around a dozen Welsh sides were amongst the Town's opposition and in view of the travelling it is little wonder that the Hatters struggled during their first season in this footballing backwater. Mercifully, they managed to acclimatise and two years after relegation they fought their way back to the top flight as runners-up to Croydon Common on goal average.

Of the 30 games that season, only three were lost and a massive 92 goals were scored with the Andre Gray and Paul Benson of the time, Ernie Simms and Arthur Wileman, bagging 55 between them. It was very important, financially, to get back to Division One as a third season away would have been crippling. "Never again," said the directors.

The Hatters, along with the whole of Southern League Division One, were invited to form Division Three of the Football League in 1920 and the team was quite happy to settle for mid-table obscurity for a number of seasons until when, in the mid-1930's, with the huge growth of the town, the directors felt that higher division football was sustainable.



The Town team of 1967/68

With only one team promoted, the Hatters fought neck and neck with Coventry throughout the 1935/36 season but missed out at the death. They made no mistake the following year, however, when aided by the magical boots of Joe Payne, who netted a record 55 goals, promotion to the old Division Two (now the Championship) was secured.

As well as the goals of Payne, the Town possessed a formidable home record with 19 victories and only one defeat from 21 games at Kenilworth Road, and as such with the last game of the season at home to Torquay, with a win needed for promotion, a record league crowd of 20,755 turned up to make it a carnival atmosphere. Payne, naturally, bagged both goals in the 2-0 win and at the end of the game the crowd stormed the pitch and would not go home until the players gave them a wave.

The elevation to Division Two did not seem to cause too many problems and a narrow miss at further promotion in 1939 was followed by the Hatters, tantalisingly, sitting proudly at the top of the table as war broke out. Unfortunately, when peacetime football resumed seven years later, the Town were unable to reproduce their earlier form and, indeed, in 1950 and 1951 came perilously close to relegation back to Division Three (now League One).

Gradually, manager Dally Duncan moulded together a team centred on the wily experience of Jesse Pye and his youthful protégé Gordon Turner in attack, Bob Morton in midfield, Syd Owen in defence and Ron Baynham in goal to make a bid for further promotion.

Unfortunately, Pye played only a small part in the promotion to the top flight in 1955 but the skills he passed on to Turner enabled the club's eventual record goalscorer to net 32 times in a season that produced one of the closest finishes in football history.

Again, the Town had a strong home record but away from Kenilworth Road they had not tasted victory since the end of December. A final day 'must win' game at Doncaster was not the ideal end to the campaign but in a surprisingly relaxed performance a 3-0 scoreline secured the

points as well as a superior goal average over eventual third placed side Rotherham.

The Town enjoyed five years in the top flight before plummeting down through the divisions to reach Division Four by 1965. After such a disastrous time it took another Scottish manager, Allan Brown, to restore some lost pride and put the club on the long road back to the top.

The Division Four (now League Two) championship winning side of 1967/68 was a sublime mix of youth – in the shape of Bruce Rioch and Alan Slough – and experience, with Terry Branston and Ian Buxton leading the way. Promotion was won with four games to go, the championship the game after and by the time of the final match a record equalling points score for the division had been achieved.

The upwards momentum needed to be maintained and after a narrow miss in 1969 it was back to Division Two the year after. Another goalscoring legend by the name of Malcolm Macdonald was unearthed during that campaign as the Town made, admittedly, hard work of achieving promotion, but a good end of season run and the late failure of Bristol Rovers secured second spot. With promotion assured the final game, at Rochdale, was another carnival occasion with over half the crowd of 5,886 coming from Luton.

The complete circle was turned in 1974 with promotion back to Division One as runners-up to Middlesbrough. It seemed that all the teams, apart from Boro, in the top half of the table that season were determined not to go up such was the inconsistency and the Town were promoted with the equivalent of 69 points which is ridiculously low. Even so, we were deliriously happy when a goal from top scorer Barry Butlin earned a point at West Bromwich to clinch the rise back through the divisions with a game to go.



Celebrations in 1983

Division One football only lasted for one season but seven years later David Pleat, after a couple of near misses, saw his squad walk away with the championship of the old Division Two (now the Championship) in style.

In a glorious season, which saw only four defeats, promotion was assured after an emotion packed victory against Shrewsbury at Kenilworth Road with the championship confirmed a couple of weeks later following a tight win over Queens Park Rangers.

After 10 years at the top, relegation was suffered in 1992 followed by further demotions in 1995 and 2001 which put the club back in the bottom tier once more. Talk about a roller-coaster!

This time there was no chance to mope around and Joe Kinnear's much changed side hauled itself back at the first attempt going up in second spot to Plymouth in a glorious season of goals, record runs and Jean-Louis Valois.

Three years later we were celebrating promotion back to Division Two, by now called the Championship, in a campaign where we were pace-setters from start to finish. The team put in an unbeaten 12-game run from

the opening day and with an emphasis on team work and a never-say-die spirit sprinted to the title. In parallel with the current campaign the Town lost a televised home game as the season drew to a close (for Braintree read Barnsley) with the doomsayers predicting a collapse of epic proportions but wins at Bournemouth and Torquay saw promotion confirmed when we were not playing (for Kidderminster read Brentford). The championship was won at Wrexham before skipper Kevin Nicholls lifted the trophy following a brilliant 4-2 home win over Brentford with the winning goals coming in the final minutes.

On now to the next one!



picture the past

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE



No apologies for showing Brian Stein's winning goal at Wembley again. It was 26 years ago last Thursday that Brian netted his second goal of the game in the final minute to clinch a magical 3-2 win over Arsenal in the Littlewoods Cup final.

boardroom

THE VIEW FROM THE BOARD

NICK OWEN, CHAIRMAN



Isn't it just wonderful to be back in the Football League?

It was on Easter Monday in 2009 that we drew at home to Chesterfield and we knew for absolute certain we were relegated to the Conference. What a difference on this Easter Monday, 2014!

Here we are celebrating a magnificent season, confirmed as champions six days ago, looking up, not down, and kind of wondering where the last five years have gone! Dismayed as we were on Easter Monday 2009, did we really think it would take so long to get back?

Through various means, the club has been contacted and congratulated by all our former Conference managers, Mick Harford, Richard Money, Gary Brabin and Paul Buckle. Whatever the circumstances of their departures, they still retain a feeling for Luton Town (particularly Mick, of course) and a vivid appreciation of the passion of our supporters.

Each one of them is responsible for bringing us a player or players who've played an integral part in promotion this season. We're grateful to all of them for taking on the challenge of trying to get this proud football club out of the Conference and back into the Football League.

That it's finally happened is down to John Still and his excellent team of Terry Harris and Hakan Hayrettin, plus Jeff Wood, Dave Richardson, David James (recently!), Simon Parsell and Darren Cook. John stresses the importance of the team throughout the club and these guys are right at the heart of it – training, coaching, cajoling and mending the players day in, day out, virtually all the year round. They see the stresses, the strains, the exhilaration and despair first hand in the dressing room – and, of course, they feel it too.

Together they have produced a squad that's won us the title with three games to spare. I would like to thank

each and every one of them for making this such a special time for us all.

Of course, off the pitch, a football club is a mighty demanding business to run. I would like to thank all the staff, part-time or full-time, in and around Kenilworth Road, led by Gary Sweet, who all work so hard to maximise income or keep the wheels turning, whether it's selling tickets, producing programmes, organising the catering, sorting the hospitality, being the friendly face, dealing with the merchandise, keeping us safe, or maintaining the pitch and stadium. Too many people to name perhaps – but they know who they are and they are all appreciated.

It's been mentioned before this week but I want to repeat it. Without our munificent investors, where would we be? These are the men who've supported the club for decades as fans on the terraces. They got together in our darkest hours and generously put in what they could afford to save us from extinction. The rescue in itself cost a fortune, let alone the continuing costs once we'd come out of administration and were up and running again. They have stuck with it through all the turmoil. They are giants in Hatters history.

On the pitch, the players have been quite breathtaking at times. Whether we've been squeezing out gritty draws or victories on tricky Tuesdays at places such as Dartford, Grimsby or Cambridge or playing champagne football at Alfreton and Nuneaton away, Kidderminster and Hereford at home, the 11 on the field have always played their hearts out until the final whistle – and that has been a key factor this season. Non-stop effort and commitment. It's been a pleasure to watch.

Finally, our renowned support. Two home crowds of 10,000-plus, so many over seven or eight thousand is truly remarkable. The 7,200 average gate is quite superb. Looking back to our last season in the top flight, we had eight attendances of 8,000 or below. What a testament that is to the enduring, steadfast loyalty of our fans! And then there's the away following which has been astounding and truly wonderful for the clubs we've visited in the last five years.

The players thrive on it and I am sure it has played a major part in our success this season. Thank you.

In the annals of time, in any brief history of Luton Town, our five years in the Conference may well only merit a line, such as 'Luton then dropped into the

Conference, but returned five years later.' It will barely reflect the heartache we have endured in our efforts to get back, the highs and lows, but now our time has come.

The Hatters are back, we are the champions, we are a Football League club once more. Onwards and upwards. Enjoy the moment. These are special times. Have a great summer.

Bye for now.

GARY SWEET, MANAGING DIRECTOR



Firstly, on behalf of all at Luton Town Football Club, I would like to warmly welcome the players, officials, staff and supporters of Forest Green Rovers who, at the time of writing this article, are still in with a shout of squeezing into the last Play-Off spot

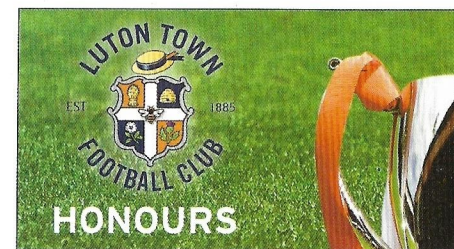
meaning that there is still a real competitive importance to today's game for our opposition, at least.

Specifically, I'd like us all to welcome Ed Asafu-Adjaye back to Kenilworth Road. Ed was a great servant to us and was always a polite a professional lad who has is doing well in Gloucestershire.

The welcome I offer our challengers today, I'm overwhelmed to say, is most likely to be our last ever welcome to a Football Conference club. For so many reasons, it feels so good to be able to know that the corner has finally been turned.

I'd like to thank the (literally) hundreds of people; football friends, former colleagues, former players, former coaches and former managers who have each sent congratulations to us since Tuesday's confirmation. In particular, it is wonderful to see so many well-wishers from the Football Conference, whether from board members or chairmen, officials, players and supporters from opposition clubs, which demonstrates what a close-knit community this competition is.

A regular response I gave to those offering their compliments was that this feels a little like starting a new job offering better pay and prospects with a ▶▶▶



Skrill Premier Champions 2013/14

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

boardroom

THE VIEW FROM THE BOARD

DAVID BLAKEMAN, DIRECTOR



What a season! From the gloom of last season (winning at Norwich excepted) to the heights of elation in mid-season, with the overhauling of Cambridge, a 27-game unbeaten run, several cricket score victories and, finally, promotion without even kicking a

ball. A truly Lutonian way of doing things!

It was a very weird feeling getting the news of promotion as I sat, watching live updates on Sky Sports News, in my living room. I am not sure if it was a better way to go up than to suffer the tension of another game like Braintree. On balance, I'm quite happy with the way that events unfolded. We can now enjoy the remaining games and play football without being fearful as to securing any points.

To my mind, the moment when it became obvious to me that we had a massive chance of promotion was when we went up to Alfreton and played brilliant football-winning 5-0 away. The goals and the day were quite staggering in their quality. We have not played football like that for a long time. We followed it, of course, with a succession of similar performances – but that was the best performance of the season, in my book.

In the course of the year lots has happened from my perspective. We are making slow, but sure, progress on property issues. We have also undertaken a series of community initiatives most of which have been, I think, pretty successful. I aim to build on those events in the course of next season. It would be good, for example, to have more eastern European and afro-caribbean supporters in the ground. We will need every additional supporter we can acquire, should we eventually shift stadium.

It is, of course, incredibly exciting to be back in the League, playing in good size stadiums against teams who might even bring significant numbers of away fans.

BOB CURSON, DIRECTOR

To our dedicated and loyal fans

Like all of the 2020 Team, I am a lifelong supporter of Luton Town so when the opportunity arose to make an investment in the Club, I jumped at the chance to help out at a critical time.

Initially, I was carried away with the euphoria of being involved in a football club especially with our wonderful Johnstone's Paint Trophy success in 2009. However, soon after, reality set in and the day to day business of running the Club became difficult, disappointing and sometimes depressing.

There were times when we could have collapsed under the immense pressure of expectation but we remained steadfast, focused and determined to succeed. We only needed to secure one additional ingredient to achieve the right formula for success but struggled to find that missing part. Then we found 'Honest John' a leader with the special skills to pull us all together. What a transformation John Still has made: a frank, no nonsense, no frills manager who says everything that we think - Eureka, we found the missing link! John and his team, Terry and Hakan, have brought a new ethos to the Club; one of work ethic in training, practice and preparation. The team spirit and camaraderie on the pitch has converted the effort off it in to a successful combination where every player has contributed to this fantastic achievement. Well done lads!

During this time, I have continued with my involvement as Chairman of the Charity 'Football in the Community' which is also coming out of decline and making a real impact in the town. I am delighted to report that over 100,000 youngsters have been trained in schools and playing fields across the county during the past 12 months. We are five years in to an 11-year plan and have now established a solid foundation on which to achieve further stability and success for this wonderful Club of ours.

My thanks go to everyone who has played a part in helping us achieve this exceptional milestone especially to our fantastic fans who continue to surprise everyone with their tremendous support.

We are now one force and long may it continue!
COYH



Success this season has been built on a number of things, including the team behind the scenes. As John Still says, "the stronger the team, the stronger team"

STEPHEN BROWNE, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

A rollercoaster was promised and a rollercoaster we've had - it's been a long journey.

We all started out with the firm belief that success is built on stability and living within our means. We pledged to deliver an ethos of being open, honest and transparent. We wanted to be stronger together.

I'll admit that we experienced a few highs but there were many more lows that few of us care to remember; from the dark days of 2007 and a Club continually knocked to its knees, to a defiant 2009 Wembley success. We bowed out the Football League leaving them with the memory of 40,000 voices and many more around the world, chanting the truth in unison about how our Club had been treated, and by who. The only thing we all knew for sure was that we had just one thing left - each other.

Legacy

Our various penalties and court cases were the vicious actions of a small group of people. It was people pandering to greater football and business powers by attacking a defenseless club, just so they could use us as 'an example' to others. When strength of leadership to protect fans was needed, it simply wasn't there. Anywhere. It was not only dishonourable and weak, it was wrong and those actions left a legacy that is extremely hard to put into words. Admittedly at the very same time as our monetary and playing woes,

we entered a financial crisis and a five-year recession for which certain authorities can't be blamed, but the actions of a few will never be forgotten because on the eve of that season, they let down a nation's football fans. More remember than just us.

Resolve

Despite everyone's efforts the decline could not be easily reversed. Historic problems took time to solve, both on and off the pitch. Previous unseen lows were soon eclipsed by yet more. Our initial hope of an immediate return to the Football League was quickly tempered by a good standard of football by some, and money by others. Every loss questioned our resolve, every set-back tested our determination. The bottleneck to gain promotion became an impenetrable barrier and whether we were good enough or not at each play-off game is up for debate but a penalty claim denied, an offside goal, the width of a post? Incredibly small margins on every occasion kept us in the Conference Premier, season after season.

Every missed opportunity is still accompanied by the worst memories I have since being involved in football. Play-offs are simply horrendous for everyone: three different managers gutted by events; three different teams tasting the hardest kind of defeat; three different locations for fans, family and friends to depart, heads down, in silence. Each time a gracious smile through gritted teeth. Each time the hurt was worse.

Just under six years ago we were millions in debt, and losing millions each year. Pre-season training ▶▶▶

boardroom

THE VIEW FROM THE BOARD

glossier business card but leaving a position behind at a company you've been fond of for years, parting company with so many colleagues that have become good friends.

We can't deny that our entry into this League wasn't entirely embraced instantly as we were still coming to terms with a treacherous season – our very first as custodians of this Club. Whilst I know we never, ever disrespected this competition or our competitors at any time, it wasn't long before we became more and more familiar and humble in our new surroundings.

The Football Conference and its member clubs have all been extremely kind to Luton Town and I'd like to think that we may take and leave a few memories from our time here.

Today, we will (again) warmly welcome delegates from Skril and the Conference board. Having handed us the Trophy we've been eyeing up for four previous seasons, they will leave us knowing that Luton Town is a much better football club exiting the league than it was entering it. This is not only so because we were relative newcomers at the time but also because we've learnt so much from other clubs and other – often more genuine – people in the football business who ply their trade at this level.

We owe an enormous gratitude to every member and representative of the League for this experience.

Whilst trying to live within our means in an extremely harsh environment – due to the loss of Football League

income and the support and protection we had with our younger players – the Conference is a healthy and honest place to rehabilitate and rehabilitate, we most certainly have!

So, what now?

Well, as mentioned, we re-enter the League 2 a leaner, healthier, fitter, more efficient and, most importantly, a more stable organisation than we possibly ever have been.

I've spoken in the press about the financial impact this promotion brings and it is, generally, a core £1m per annum difference that is reported. Having analysed this in painstaking detail the outcome will most likely become more positive than that after the first season.

In the short-term, not only will we have to climb a steep learning curve but there will also be a big, long list of actions we'll need to accomplish to know we are future proof against new regulations that will have been introduced during our absence.

Most of you will know that the structure of youth football has completely changed since we were last involved. Changes to stadium criteria have been introduced – nothing too radical and, whilst costly, much will go un-noticed to the public. Issues like changing rooms, subs benches, doping facilities will all need implementing.

We've fully familiarised ourselves with these tasks and are rearing to go!

Further ahead, and somewhat more ambitiously, we also now face fresh – but longed-for – challenges in the company. Our business culture must swiftly move from a structure that is financially and mentally defensive to one that is more optimistic, agile and dynamic whilst retaining the commercial prudence and core stable footing our original 2020 Mission was founded on.

Any core change in the way a business operates will, naturally, take time but eventually we aim to make Luton Town Football Club a progressive, modern Club that never disregards its stable principles and takes its heritage and character with it.

At the same time, you can be rest assured that we will be in a position to progress our infrastructure developments more aggressively too. Our training facilities will require a serious upgrade and, of course, the big question you will all be asking as we entertain another 10,000-plus crowd today – that topic of relocation – clearly a topic for another day and clearly a monumental and complex venture that will require you to trust us as sensitivities around disclosure will need to be respected if we are to achieve our objectives.

For me, personally, it feels marvellous to be able to finally launch myself into such ambitious projects and know that our original commitments to all investors – whether shareholders, employees or supporters – can still be achieved.

I have been astonished by the faith and loyalty of everyone involved during this incredible (bumpy) white-knuckle ride. On behalf of the board I'd like to thank you all; The Football Conference, our manager, coaches and players, our wonderful staff but, above all, our marvellous supporters and their courage for sticking with it.

This is your time – enjoy the day!

Gary

DAVID WILKINSON, DIRECTOR



Last Tuesday night I was home alone watching tweets of the score coming through from Kidderminster. Kiddie scored and then scored again and we were Champions, but it felt surreal.

Everyone was somewhere else. John and Terry were at

Crawley, Hakan was at Braintree and the rest of us were scattered around at home and abroad. After all we have been through together it felt a bit wrong.

It then became a celebration by phone and social media. We all had a plethora of calls, texts, emails, Facebook and twitter messages of congratulation and good wishes and not just from fans. Could it be that football is pleased we are back?

However, despite all this outpouring of kind remarks it was hard for me to feel the way I should have felt. We need to celebrate this fantastic achievement together because together we have made it happen. I have written plenty over the years about my memories of and love for our great Club so I don't intend doing more of that here, but everyone involved needs to realise that just as we now talk about promotions and players and goals we saw 40 or 50 years ago so younger fans than me will be remembering today, these players, this manager and this Season long into the future.

Commitment

When Gary and Stephen came to us selling the 2020 vision the Club was in extremely poor shape and it required an enormous leap of faith by us all to make the investment and commitment we did. It has undoubtedly been a rockier and lengthier road than we expected, but although there is still a long way to go, we are off the bottom with our feet firmly on the ladder.

John is rightly being feted for having turned us round on the pitch and in the terraces, but there are many, with less glamorous and more private roles, who deserve credit. You know who you are and I thank you.

This wonderful Club almost died. We all know that we were abused by previous owners and unjustly victimised by the authorities, but we are back and it's time to celebrate. None of us will forget, but we've seen where positivity can get us so let's try to put the bitterness behind us and show the World what we are made of.

The future is bright; the future is orange (even though I did vote white)

Thank you all for your tremendous support and sticking with us through the hard times.

I am so proud to be a part of this great Club and of the way everyone has risen to the challenge.

Today is going to be an emotional day and I can't wait. Championships aren't won every day so please relish the experience.

I am going to have a new and more special memory to put alongside the 56 years' worth I already have.

I went into the Club on Wednesday and hugged everyone I could find and I would like to hug all of you.

Enjoy the day
COYH

David



boardroom

THE VIEW FROM THE BOARD

consisted of only a few players, the business side was in disarray, and the youth teams were underfunded and losing playing and coaching talent at a rate of knots. Previous owners had distanced all sponsors including the biggest, missing millions were never found, and they had left supporters with a complete distrust of the footballing authorities – in fact anyone in authority who could affect our Club. The treatment of the Club had been raised in the House of Commons (twice), our plight had been written about from London to Delhi and discussed from Scandinavia to Melbourne. We were being sued by ex-managers for millions, we had ex-players demanding payments, and agents were circling for any talent that remained. A long and pretty grim, non-exhaustive list. At every turn another blow, another skeleton to deal with. The wrongdoers were told they were naughty boys and we were left with a ticking bunker-buster. This is hard enough to deal with in any business sector in any economic climate, so it is a testament to everyone that over the past six years that we have achieved what we have. If we can do that, what else can we achieve?

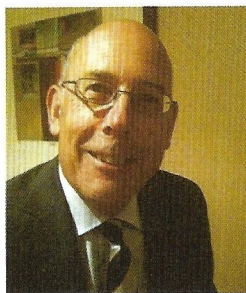
Stronger

So, here we are, six years on. We are stronger than we have been for many decades. We've come together as a Club in this league and, like myself, many have the Conference to thank for making new friends and being reunited with old ones. There are countless people that have played a part in our journey since 2007 - many of you in the stands today, many celebrating somewhere in the world, some reading this. Most are unsung, most are unknown, none seek individual glory. That's what our Club is about now because we each have our own story sharing one common link – one heart, one passion. One identity that you protect, promote, and pass on. When that trophy is lifted the whole of Bedfordshire will hear one voice.

I for one do not forgive or forget what happened back then. We will all do well to remember the lessons of the past - it literally tore families and friendships apart and rocked the very foundations of a Club that was built over generations. But I do move on. This part of our journey is over and, apart from this season and today in particular,

I will not be one for lingering on our time since 2007. We are never going back to the bad old world. All I need to know is how far we have come, and that we are going to do more. No longer do I, or I hope any of us, need to look at that period of our past with anger or resentment or fear of a forgotten ghost. It is us, and only us, who determine our future. As we pass those who have hurt us I will look on and only smile - they are where they are, and where they will always be. We are stronger, proud, and on the march with our faces to the wind. We are Luton Town. We are BACK.

MIKE HERRICK, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR



John Still has brought several sayings, or 'Stillisms' into the language of Luton this season and I expect them to remain in our vocabulary for a long while.

Given that the season started for us with pre-season training in Portugal, the first one I was aware of was "Touch, Pass, Touch, Pass" which echoed around the Algarve at every session as he tried to ingrain his methodology into the players. I was particularly interested to watch how his man-management came to the fore through discipline liberally laced with humour. One of my particular favourites was his discussion with Brett Longden when he wanted him to play at centre-back in one session. It went as follows:

JS: Can you head it?

BL: Yes gaffer.

JS: Can you kick it a long way?

BL: Yes gaffer - I have played centre-back once before.

JS: Listen. I've sung at the Royal Albert Hall once before but they haven't asked me back yet.



It was in Portugal that the close bond was formed and fostered. This 'togetherness' is one of the cornerstones of our success. But did I think it would win us the league this year? If I'm honest, I'm not sure. Do I think it will it help us go even further? I really do. I really do.

Turnaround

Then there was "The stronger the team, the stronger the team". Nowhere was this exemplified to greater effect than at the home game against Lincoln City. After the outburst from a fan, the way this negativity was turned on its head was instrumental in binding us all the more tightly together. The turnaround on and off the field that day led to it becoming the second match in what was to be a record-breaking 27-game unbeaten run.

Later in the season we were taught that we could only "Control the Controllables". I personally learnt to ignore refereeing decisions I didn't like (sort of). I even began to accept weather conditions conspiring against us that meant that Dartford away was called off just as I was about to board the train at Crewe station. (I may not have done so if it had happened five minutes later. It was non-stop to Euston.)

I must confess, however, to struggling with "Never too high - Never too low". What's that all about? As far as the 'Never too low' bit goes, we weren't really given too much practice to understand that - but starting with a defeat on the first game of the season was in retrospect a masterstroke coming, as it did, after a superb pre-season.

It was clearly designed to keep our feet on the ground from the off. John then chose to sprinkle the other defeats vary sparingly just when we weren't expecting them - again, obviously, in a bid to remind us what supporting Luton is meant to be all about.

But this 'Never too High' malarkey? I can't get my head around that. How does it work? If John Still thinks that after five years marooned in football's basement I'm not now going to get uproariously and outrageously 'too high' then he's got another think coming. I felt 'too high' when the final whistle went at Kidderminster on Tuesday. I still feel 'too high' now. And, what's more, I expect to feel 'too high' for the foreseeable future. So where am I going wrong?

Fanatics

Finally, in Portugal we had a session with the squad where we tried to give them some idea of our history and tradition, including the grossly unfair punishment we received six years ago. We noted that several players and management staff had been promoted before. But when we were finally able to escape from the Conference we explained that it would be like nothing they had ever achieved before - ever, ever, ever, ever. I hope that by now it is beginning to sink in just what this promotion means to all of us fanatics of Luton Town Football Club.

Gentlemen - we salute you one and all.

Mike

trust in luton...

TO BE CHAMPIONS ON AND OFF THE PITCH!

It's fabulous to be back in the Football League again - congratulations to all who have made it happen!

But it's not just on the pitch that Luton Town are in the news and making real progress. The club and Trust in Luton are also leading the way in 'championing' the cause of fan ownership and involvement at many levels. People are sitting up and taking notice of what's happening at Luton Town!

This season has seen massive steps forward, with 2020 recognising the need to protect the Club's heritage and history for future generations. In 2015 Luton Town will have been an essential part of the town's life and character for an amazing 130 years. With the unique move of handing 'image veto rights' to the Trust, the club have ensured that our name, nickname, mascot, colours and crest will always be, unmistakably, the Luton Town we all love - hopefully for another 130 years and beyond.

A little bit of Trust history....

With these 'image veto rights' in place 2020, the Trust and the fans we represent are able to safeguard Luton Town from the sort of situation we've seen this season at Cardiff and Hull.

That's what was staring us in the face in the dark days of Summer 2003.

The Trust was born out of adversity back then, to help stop the club being hijacked by the plans of John Gurney



- who wanted to change our name and nearly everything else about us (stadium on stilts, anyone?). In the words of the late, much loved and missed Ian Pearce of BBC 3 Counties Radio, at an emotional inaugural meeting attended by 2,000 fans: "We were actually asked by fax to apologise for running the story about the name change to London Luton.

"This was after the Chief Executive of the airport Paul Kehoe confirmed that he had a meeting with a Mr Gurney who asked about using the name. I'm in favour of a name changewhen my home town becomes a city and we are Luton City Football Club." Not sure at all about that City bit, Ian - but the sentiment is still the same. Nobody should have the right to swan in, rewrite history or asset strip a football club!

Just a few years later, the Trust played its part in derailing the plans of Jayten to hijack the club for their own ends. Gary Sweet again worked alongside the Trust, and other supporters groups, to win the club back for the fans - and even though we paid a heavy price for the misdemeanours of past owners, the club is now back on course.



HOW TO JOIN TRUST IN LUTON

Sign up online at www.trustinluton.info or tick the 'Join the Trust' box on your season ticket application/renewal form to join and to give the club and the Trust consent to activate your membership. Don't forget to add the appropriate sum to your season ticket payment!

- You will receive a membership card and number, a welcome letter and regular updates by email and on the Trust website.
- You will also have the right to vote on various events and issues - and you'll be among the first to know about the progress of initiatives like extending the fans shareholding in Luton Town
- You'll also be invited to join in and/or attend joint events with Luton Town Supporters Club
- Most of all, you'll have a voice and a say in our future

The evidence has been seen on the pitch this season, and off the pitch with a real 'buzz' about the place, vastly improved community relations and a true bond between the boardroom and the supporters through the Trust - the fans official shareholders in the club.

Looking to the future...

We hold regular meetings with 2020, keeping us informed about what's happening behind the scenes. And there's a lot going on - the future is bright, the future is orange!

At the same time the image rights initiative was announced - and fans were given the vote on the colour of next season's shirts! - the club also announced that it was looking at ways of extending the Trust's shareholding, giving Trust members the chance to 'buy into' the club and play a part in its future. The proviso was that the Trust should become bigger and more fully representative of our fantastic fan base for this to be a viable proposal. And that's where you come in...

Join (or rejoin) and play your part!

An exciting future lies ahead for Luton Town. We all know what the club is capable of: many of us have experienced fantastic days in the top flight, the Littlewoods Cup Final win, promotions, cup runs and the JPT triumph at Wembley.

We dream of it happening again; but in those much quoted words of the very wonderful John Still: the stronger the team, the stronger the team. So let's get stronger, people!

Luton Town are aiming high off the pitch as well as on it. The revitalised, re-energised Trust needs to progress,

WHAT ARE THE AIMS OF TRUST IN LUTON?

- To strengthen the bonds between the club and the local community.
- To work for the football and financial success of the club.
- To uphold and preserve the tradition and heritage of Luton Town, and to secure the club's long term future in Luton.
- To promote supporter engagement with the club's board, acting as communication to the supporters.
- To increase our shareholding in the club on behalf of our members.
- To raise money in such a way as to promote the aims and objectives of Trust in Luton and to the benefit of the local community.

and we need to be united in our aims of furthering the success of Luton Town - writing a new chapter in its history as well as respecting and reflecting our heritage.

Within a week or so of the image rights announcement membership of Trust in Luton QUINTUPLED. That's spectacular - but it's only the start of something very special.

All supporters of Luton Town - young or old, local or across the world - can join Trust in Luton. And we need you to do it NOW! It costs just £10 a year (or £5 if you're under 16 or 60 or over). You can join online at the Trust website www.trustinluton.info or if you're buying a season ticket for 2014/15 (and you know you want to!) you can simply tick the box and add your Trust membership fee to your payment. What could be simpler? Join now and you'll be playing YOUR part in protecting the club now and for generations to come...with a Trust that's breaking new ground in the way supporters get involved with their club!





We are the champions!

As of course you should know - unless you've been living on the moon over the past week - the Hatters were crowned Skriff Premier champions and have been promoted to the Football League after Cambridge United's 2-0 defeat at Kidderminster Harriers.

United needed to avoid defeat to stand any chance of catching the Town and deny them in their quest to lift the title, but second half goals from Kidderminster's Amar'i Bell and Michael Gash gave the Play-Off chasing Harriers all three points.

IMMEDIATE REACTION

Once the final whistle went at Aggborough and the Town were confirmed as champions there was plenty of reaction to the Hatters' achievement.

Manager John Still said: "It's overwhelming for me but I'm just so pleased for everyone who has worked so hard and supported this club so long.

"This is for everyone associated with this club that has gone through hell over the past few years. This is a fantastic time to be associated with this club.

The supporters deserved it. They have been simply sensational. All the players and staff, plus those behind the scenes, have been phenomenal. I tip my hat to them."

Meanwhile, chairman Nick Owen said: "We've got close and lost some Play-Off finals and it is such a relief to get

back there. We have got a good side and played some lovely football this season. We have some youngsters who will only get better."

Captain Ronnie Henry, who will lift the Trophy today, said: "I'm over the moon, it's an unbelievable feeling. I've woke my little boy up to tell him we're champions!

"We've been the best team all season and credit goes to all the lads. It means so much to us as a squad."

"The season has been unbelievable: the players, staff and fans. It goes to show what can be achieved by being one big family."

The Town players, like thousands of supporters, took to Twitter to celebrate.

Fraser Franks: "Smile well and truly back on my face! Buzzing for everyone at the club."

Cameron McGeehan: "Champions!"

Alex Lacey: "Well worth the wait!"

Pelly Ruddock: "Champions!"

Andre Gray: "Omg, omg, omg, omg, CHAMPIONSSSSS"

Jake Howells: "Champions! Back to League 2 we go."

Alex Wall: "BOOM! Champions!"

Mark Cullen: "Buzzing...all the lads worked so hard for it."

Jon Shaw: "Well done boys, thoroughly deserved. Proud of you all."



TODAY'S CELEBRATIONS

In front of a sell-out crowd we will be presented with the Skriff Premier this afternoon...how good does that sound?

Well, following the team's fabulous and historical achievement, today gives us the chance to celebrate and offer our thanks to the players and staff as they receive their accolades post-match. So, to make sure our celebrations go smoothly, and to allow everyone to be part of what will be an unbelievable occasion, we would like to explain how events will unfold...

After the game a stage will be erected on the pitch immediately after the full-time whistle. The players will leave the pitch before returning to receive their winners' medals and the championship trophy followed by a lap of honour. We ask you to respect this occasion, to allow the players to receive the recognition their efforts deserve, by remaining in your seats for the presentation.

With these preparations in mind, it goes without saying that this occasion will be a memorable one for everyone. There's no getting away from the huge outpouring of emotion which will flow come the end of this particular fixture, but we would like to remind supporters that we wish everyone inside Kenilworth Road to embrace and be a part of the party too.

Please respect those supporters younger or older than you in the crowd and, as John Still says, "the stronger the team, the stronger the team". Please make sure that everyone is able to be a part of it to enjoy it with you.

We want you to be an enormous part of the celebration, so please allow the players to receive the recognition they deserve from each and every one of our supporters in all corners of the stadium - we will bring the trophy to you, wherever you are watching from!

Then let the real celebrations begin!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Following the Town's promotion back to the Football League here are a few significant dates to put into your diaries or online calendars.

Firstly the all-important League 2 fixture list for 2014/15 will be released exclusively on the official website at 9am on Wednesday 18th June.

The Football League has also confirmed that the 2014/15 season will commence on Saturday 9th August 2014.

The inaugural week of the campaign will also host the First Round of the Capital One Cup.

The 2014 festive period will see full schedules in each division on Saturday 20th December, Boxing Day, and on Sunday 28th December. Saturday 2nd May 2015 marks the conclusion of all three divisions. Wembley Stadium will then stage the Play-Off Finals over the Spring bank holiday weekend, starting with the Sky Bet League 2 Final on Saturday 23rd May.

MORE NEWS TO FOLLOW

Of course the season doesn't finish until Saturday when we travel to Hyde and over the next few weeks we will release further details about more celebrations and other arrangements to commemorate our championship success.

This may well be the final programme of the season but we'll be publishing an official 30th edition of Talk of the Town looking back on the whole season with exclusive interviews with the playing staff and management and much, much more besides.

We'll also have plenty of other champions-related merchandise available from the club shop, including an end-of-season DVD showcasing all the goals from this fantastic season.

Social Media

In the meantime, keep your eyes posted on the official website, www.lutontown.co.uk, as well as our increasingly popular social media streams on Facebook and Twitter.

boss' delight

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS



Hatters boss John Still was understandably thrilled that his side have been crowned Skril Premier champions, as the news was broken to the Luton boss at the Broadfield Stadium.

The Town manager was doing what he loves best when the news broke that the Hatters had gained promotion: watching football. Still was amongst the crowd who witnessed Crawley take on Tranmere, just 70 miles south of Kenilworth Road.

When the final whistle was blown, the news spread that Cambridge lost and Town had been crowned champions.

"I was watching Crawley and Tranmere. I like to watch as many games as I can. Crawley isn't far away from me and I hadn't seen them before so I thought I'd go there," Still said.

"I tried to keep out of the firing line as to what was happening elsewhere, but even then I had people around me asking what was happening Mick Harford was there – and kept giving me score updates! When the result came through it was a great feeling."

Still has guided the Hatters to promotion in his first full season in charge - following his arrival during the closing stages of the 2012/13 campaign. The Town boss is delighted with the effort his side have shown this season and has nothing but praise for everyone involved at Kenilworth Road.

"It's a fantastic achievement from everyone concerned," Still said. "The players have been brilliant from day one and have worked so hard for this."

"I have been well supported by the directors, and they have never waned in their belief in me. Even during the early days when we were drawing a few games I told

them to trust me and they did, their support has been fantastic.

"The staff that work with me have been top drawer and the way we've galvanised the support has been a massive boost for us. The on the pitch team and off the pitch team have been strong; the stronger the team the stronger the team."

Still has now achieved promotion into the fourth tier of English football for the third time in his career, having done so with Maidstone United and boyhood club Dagenham and Redbridge in previous years.

The Hatters boss is not bothered by the fact that the Town didn't have to kick a ball on the night to gain promotion, and believes that winning the title is the same every time, no matter what fashion it comes by.

"People kept saying to me did you want to win it yourself," Still said. "You always win it yourself through the amount of points you gather. However many points we get by the end of the season, we've won it ourselves. It doesn't matter how you win it, because you have to pick up more points than anyone else. It's as simple as that."

The Town manager admitted that he had a feeling his side would lose out to Braintree in a chance to clinch the title at Kenilworth Road, as the scene was set for the Hatters in front of the cameras and 10,000 fans.

"Braintree was disappointing. I could almost smell it, it was too much carnival," Still said. "That's nobody's fault it's just the situation, the cameras were here, it was the game which would win it; the expectation was high and the sun was out. It didn't happen then, but I knew it would happen sooner or later, it was just a matter of when and I'm delighted."

heartbreak over

WELSH MIDFIELDER'S TITLE DELIGHT

Town midfielder Alex Lawless will no longer have to experience Play-Off heartbreak, as the Hatters gain automatic promotion into the Football League following a five-year wait.

The 29-year-old has been through it all with the Town, having experienced narrowly missing out on promotion through a number of Play-Off defeats, including consecutive finals, with one at Wembley.

The Welshman is relieved that this year Luton will no longer have to experience such heartache, as the Hatters were crowned league champions following Cambridge United's 2-0 loss at Aggborough last Tuesday night.

"All the lows and the things that have happened in the past make winning the title that much sweeter," Lawless said. "Every individual has their own story and lows in certain situations and for me it makes it that much better, it's amazing for everyone at the club."

It was confirmed last Tuesday that John Still's men would officially be named Skril Premier champions, after the Town missed out on the opportunity to win the championship in the 3-2 defeat to Braintree on home soil.

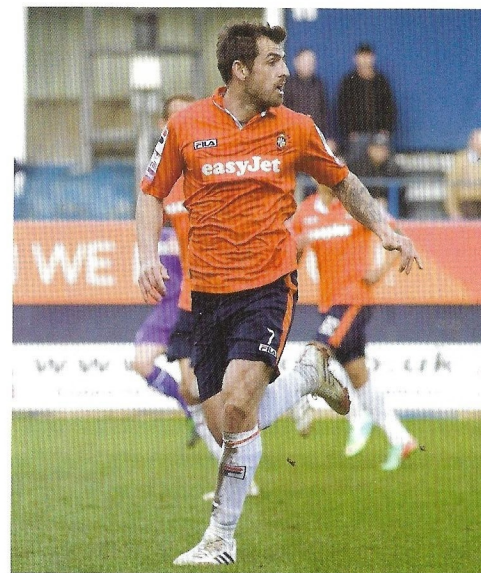
Lawless believes that winning the title without kicking a ball on the night proves how well the squad have performed throughout this season.

"It's a testament to the lads that we didn't have to play on the night to win the title. We would have preferred to have won it through playing ourselves, but the fact that we didn't have to shows how well we have done this season," Lawless told Hatters Player.

Having turned down an opportunity to feature for a number of clubs in the Football League last summer, the Welshman believes he made the right decision to remain at Kenilworth Road, as he can now call himself a Football League player under the Town.

"It just goes to prove I was right to stay with the club," Lawless said. "Like I said, everyone has their own story and this is my one. I wanted to do it with this club and to finally experience that is surreal. To see everyone around the place smiling is just fantastic. It wasn't just about winning this league as to why I turned other clubs down. It was the potential this club has to go on and gain promotion again. This is the next aim for us, but that goes without saying due to the size of the club."

The 29-year-old has not been involved as much as he would have liked this season, as a number of injuries have kept the midfielder sidelined.



However, Lawless has praised the depth of the squad as players are able to come in and perform when called upon.

"There are a lot of things involved when you make a successful team. In the games I haven't played in through injury, when I've come back I don't get the feeling that I'll get straight back in the squad," Lawless said. "You have to be patient and earn your place in this team, and that's all a part of producing a great side."

Having been a Town player for over four years, Lawless sees himself as one of the longest-serving members of the current squad. The midfielder has missed out on a number of promotion opportunities in his time at the club, and the 29-year-old is relieved that the wait is finally over.

"It makes me feel even more proud as I have experienced so many lows with the club," Lawless said. "I've seen everything happen here and I've been fortunate that the managers here have kept faith in me."

"Lots of players move from club to club and the longer I've been here, the more attached I get to the club. You get to understand the history a bit more and get to know more people who are involved with the club; I just want to keep going now."

tyler's title

KEEPER'S CHAMPION DREAM REALISED

After four seasons of hurt, Town goalkeeper Mark Tyler can call himself a Football League player come next season as the Hatters stopper vows to carry on his career for as long as possible.

The Town keeper told Hatters Player he is going nowhere, after speculation that he may retire come the end of the season. Tyler insisted that the rumours are false and that he will continue between the sticks for as long as he is fit to do so.

"The Braintree goalkeeper came up to me after the game and told me that he heard I was retiring," Tyler said. "As soon as I can't kick a ball over the halfway line, then I'll consider retiring! I feel fine and I've had a great season."

"I've played every league game so far and that's down to Jeff Wood [goalkeeper coach] who's been first class with me. The physios Simon and Daz have been terrific with me all season. I see my chiropractor every week and he has kept me in check."

Magnificent

Tyler hailed the performances of the Town back four, who have helped keep a record-equalling 22 league clean sheets – something the Hatters stopper prides himself on. Tyler also paid tribute to the magnificent strike force of Andre Gray and Paul Benson this campaign, as well as the hard-working Hatters midfield.

"I'm just happy with keeping clean sheets," the Town stopper said. "The back four have been tremendous, it's a sign that when you play the same back four week in week out you will get a strong unit."

"It starts from the front as well, Benno and Andre have been terrific and the lads in midfield have worked their socks off. It's been a whole team effort and I'm delighted to have played as many games as I have this season."

At 37 Mark has missed out on promotion with the Hatters on a number of occasions through the Play-Offs, including two defeats in the final. However, with promotion now secured, the Town stopper admits that failing on several occasions has only made him a stronger player.

"This club is massive; I joined because I wanted to get them back into the Football League and we've done it now," said Tyler. "Yes it has taken us five years, but its five years of hard work. We have a manager now that knows the league and knows how to win."



The Town number one also praised the work of boss John Still, and paid tribute to the Luton Town board for appointing such a successful manager, who helped guide his side to a league title in his first full season in charge.

Prepare

"It was a great move from the board to appoint John Still. Hopefully he will remain here for a long time and get the club back to where they belong, in the Championship and beyond," Tyler said. "We will enjoy this moment and in the summer we will prepare for another successful campaign in League 2."

strike it rich

HATTERS FRONTMEN COMPLIMENT EACH OTHER



Striker Paul Benson and Andre Gray reflected on a season which will see the Hatters lift the Skrill Premier title, thanks to contributing goals from both strikers.

So far, as we went to press, the pair have netted an impressive 44 goals between them this season, with the opportunity to add to that tally during the remainder of the campaign. Benson and Gray have worked alongside each other during the majority of this season, and Benson believes that his strike partner has made him a better player than he was before the two linked up at Kenilworth Road.

"Andre has been fantastic; it's been a pleasure working with him. He's made me a better player and I'm really grateful that we've managed to get a great partnership working," Benson said.

Gray returned the favour to his veteran striker partner, claiming that he wouldn't have reached the tally of goals he has today, if Benson wasn't by his side to help him along the way. "Everyone knows I wouldn't have scored the same amount of goals if he wasn't by my side. He's been a massive help to me and our partnership has got us the goals to help us win the league," Gray said. "It's been a great year so far and hopefully we can hit the 50 mark between us."

Gray has scored a total of 27 goals this season, some of which have been vital in the success of the Hatters' campaign. The 22-year-old took a look back at his goals this season and selected the most important of his collection thus far.

"My most important goal would probably be the winner at Macclesfield away. The reason for this is because of the situation we were in at the time when we were trying to creep away at the top of the table; it was an important goal for us," Gray told Hatters Player.

The England C international also paid tribute to the Town's magnificent midfield, which has been on hand all season to present chances for the strikers to put away.

"Credit goes to the midfield, especially since Luke Guttridge has been injured as most of them are no older than 20. For them to help carry us over the line is massive for us," Gray said.

"We all know the qualities of each individual in the midfield, but it's hard at a young age when you're inexperienced. However, they have done a good job for the team and I can't praise them enough."

34-year-old Benson is one of the most experienced players in the Town's current squad. With a mix of both youth and experience, the veteran striker is pleased with how the younger players have developed throughout his time at the club.

"They've adapted themselves really well," Benson said. "Their attitude has been spot on and it has to be otherwise the gaffer wouldn't play them. When they've come in and we've needed a performance out of them they have done that."

"Experience can only take you so far; you need young and hungry players in the team. I think we have a good mix of experienced and young players. It's worked very well for us."

just champion!

DUO REFLECT ON TITLE TRIUMPH

There was plenty more reaction from a triumphant Town dressing room last week following the news that the Hatters were crowned champions.

Hatters Player caught up with a number of members of the squad and all of the interviews can be found there in their entirety. Furthermore, our official YouTube channel had a number of free clips available for supporters to watch.

As well as the interviews on the previous pages, here's what Steve McNulty and Jake Howells had to say. Interviews with all the squad members will appear on Hatters Player, YouTube and look out for our soon-to-be-published champions edition of Talk of the Town in the next fortnight.

STEVE McNULTY

For defender Steve McNulty, who joined the Hatters from Fleetwood in February last season, it meant a lot...

McNULTY ON... BEING CROWNED CHAMPIONS: "I came here, like we all did, for one reason and one reason only: to get Luton back where they belong, in the Football League. Thankfully I've played a little part in it.

"There was mixed emotions that we played against Braintree when we couldn't win it. We all had family and friends there and in the end it was all a bit of anti-climax. It was a day of high emotions and obviously it was disappointing afterwards but that's football.

"All the lads were texting one another on Tuesday after Cambridge's result and in all honesty it was a big relief more than anything else. We're all delighted and we'll now enjoy our remaining games.

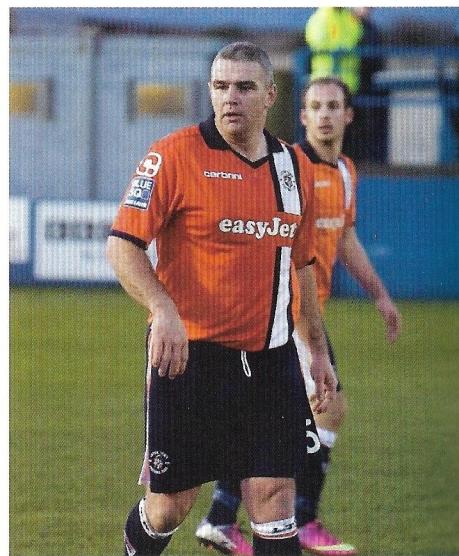
McNULTY ON... LOVING THE GAME AGAIN: "When I first signed there were hopes that we'd be successful but that wasn't to be and not what I expected. I thought we would be pushing for promotion.

"I had doubts at the back of my mind whether the move down south was good for me. The new manager came in and we had a discussion. He said he wanted me here and that made me want to stay. I've worked hard, I feel great and I've fallen in love with the game again. I wouldn't change it for anything."

McNULTY ON...LEAGUE 2 AND 'THE TEAM': "At Fleetwood we had some really, really good players, and I mean individuals who were technically superb. I'm not saying that's the case here at Luton but there spirit and togetherness here is much better. I personally don't think the Conference gets the credit it deserves – it is a good league, a tough league and it's full of players and clubs who could easily hold their own at the level above. I think we'll be fine, but one thing's for certain, we won't be going into the division to make up the numbers."

McNULTY ON...WINNING PLAYER OF THE YEAR: "At my age, I tend to care less about individual awards but it's great to be recognised. A lot of the lads have done well. Andre's scored almost 30 goals, Luke Guttridge was on fire before he was injured and I think Paul Benson's been overlooked a bit because he's made a big difference."

McNULTY ON...HIS WONDER GOAL: "It's funny that everyone asks me about this! As I said after that game [the 3-0 win over Southport on 26th November], all I did was hit it. I could try that 100 more times and it wouldn't happen. It was a bit of luck but I caught it sweet and it went in."



McNULTY ON...THE MOST CRUCIAL GAME: "Cambridge away. They were saying before the game that they had no chance of winning the title but we knew if they beat us they would have a chance to catch us. They were 1-0 up and Mark Cullen's popped up with the equaliser and that, I think, was a big goal. You won't often see me celebrate a goal but I did that night."

JAKE HOWELLS

As this programme went to press, Jake Howells had made 274 appearance for Luton Town, and his 275th may have come at Welling on Saturday a day after his 23rd birthday.

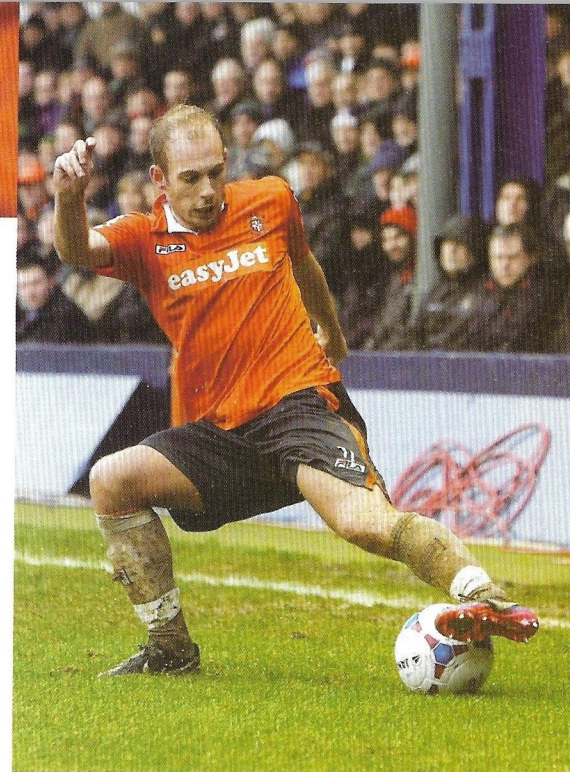
He's seen it all at Kenilworth Road having come through the Town's academy. Two relegations, a Johnstone's Paint Trophy win, three failed Play-Off attempts – two in the final – and the win over Norwich.

As, the 'veteran' midfielder told Talk of the Town, he's just as relieved as anyone to seal a return to the Football League after five seasons of Conference football.

HOWELLS ON...THE TITLE: "At last we've done it! After five years, five managers and I don't know how many players we're finally champions. It's a very proud moment for me, especially after being part of the squad that has been relegated twice and failed three times in the Play-Offs. What we've done has been brilliant. We're winning games and every player knows their jobs."

HOWELLS ON...BEING IN THE CONFERENCE: "To be honest when we were relegated in 2009 I thought that we would go straight back up. I didn't know a lot about the Conference at the time. How wrong was I? It was a new experience, a different experience and we soon realised how tough it was going to be. Midweek games at Barrow, going to Gateshead and playing teams at Kenilworth Road who would just come and play for a point. It was all very difficult and frustrating at times. Everyone wanted to get a result against us. Teams would celebrate drawing with us. It was surreal really."

HOWELLS ON...BOUNCING BACK: "Losing in the Play-Offs at the end of every season was hard to take. We'd be thinking about it all summer long. It's tough when it's one game to decide who goes up but that's football."



HOWELLS ON...BEING A SENIOR PRO: "I've been around for a while now but I'm still young and people always are surprised when I tell them how old I am! It's great to finally get a promotion under my belt. There aren't many players still around from that first season, just me and Mark Tyler, and then Alex Lawless who joined the following year.

HOWELLS ON...HIS FORM THIS SEASON: "I've scored more goals this season than I ever have done before and I think I've been playing better because I've gained a lot of confidence from playing in my preferred position all of the season. I think I've played in almost every position since I've been at the club so it's nice that the manager sees me for what I am and that's helped.

HOWELLS ON...TAKING PENALTIES: "At Kidderminster in August I was just thrown the ball! It was Paul Benson's debut and he nudged it my way. He didn't know who the penalty taker was as it was his first game and since then I've taken everyone and scored them all."

HOWELLS ON...THE FANS: "The supporters have been unbelievable. This season they've been in their numbers home and away but that's been the case every year since I've been here. They have definitely helped us this season, there is no doubt. This promotion is for them because their loyalty knows no bounds."

how the title was won

A LOOK-BACK IN A NUTSHELL AT THE LAST NINE MONTHS...

AUG P6 • W2 • D3 • L1 • GS5 • GA2

Defeat on the opening day, away at Southport, deflated what had been a faultless pre-season campaign. But normal service was resumed on a warm Tuesday evening against Salisbury when Solomon Taiwo netted from the spot before Luke Guttridge's winner started promotion ball rolling. A hat-trick of draws followed against Macclesfield, Forest Green and Cambridge before a Jake Howells brace away at Kidderminster saw the Hatters end the month in 11th.

SEP P6 • W3 • D2 • L1 • GS10 • GA4

A goalless draw at Kenilworth Road against Grimsby started the month before a 2-0 televised defeat at Wrexham would prove the catalyst for a remarkable unbeaten run. Dartford, Lincoln and Woking were all disposed of before another stalemate in Hereford meant John Still's men clawed back some vital points on the front-runners and skipped up to just one point from the Play-Off places.

OCT P5 • W4 • D1 • L0 • GS16 • GA10

An unbeaten month home and away for the Hatters saw them climb three places firmly into the promotion picture. A seven-goal thriller against Halifax opened the month at Kenilworth Road with Alex Wall's 83rd-minute wonder-goal completing a staggering comeback from a 3-1 deficit. A 3-3 draw at Aldershot followed by an Andre Gray hat-trick against Hyde, and a 4-3 triumph at Tamworth meant only two league points were dropped in the month. A 1-0 FA Cup win away at Woking finished an impressive month for the Town.

NOV P7 • W3 • D3 • L1 • GS9 • GA5

A month of mixed results for the Hatters with just three wins from five league outings. Home wins against Southport and Welling came alongside a 2-1 away win at Braintree helped the Town move ever closer to

Cambridge at the summit of the Skrill Premier. A first round FA Cup defeat to Welling at the start of the month meant no repeat of last season's FA Cup whirlwind and a stern focus now switched to league form.

DEC P6 • W6 • D0 • L0 • GS21 • GA3

A scintillating month for the entire Hatters squad with strength in depth the term coined by thousands of delighted supporters during an unbeaten month. Staines, Alfreton and Wrexham were all brushed aside with clinical professionalism that saw the Town backline unblemished for the fifth game on the trot. Gateshead did finally find the net in but were unable to withstand against Paul Benson, Andre Gray and an Alex Lawless brace in a 4-2 win. Barnet's Boxing Day battle went right to the wire but two first half goals were enough for John Still's men who lost Jonathan Smith to a double leg-break on the stroke of half-time. Thoughts went out to Smudger and the squad seemed determined to carry on despite his absence and smashed Kidderminster for six as they strolled out of 2013 in style and, for the first time under John Still, went to the top of the division.

JAN P5 • W2 • D2 • L1 • GS7 • GA4

2014 started as 2013 ended, with three points in the hands of Mr Still and his promotion pushers. Another slender 2-1 win against Barnet on a sodden surface at Kenilworth Road maintained the Town's status at the top of the Skrill Premier. A goalless draw away to Lincoln City did not dampen the Hatters' spirits who took the opportunity to rest one or two familiar faces in the FA Trophy at Cambridge. A 2-2 draw at the Abbey Stadium meant a replay three days later where Richard Money's men snatched a 1-0 win leaving the focus solely on the main objective: promotion back to the Football League. Andre Gray stole the show in the final fixture of the month against Nuneaton with a 27-minute second half hat-trick, his second of the campaign and his 15th, 16th and 17th of the season.



FEB P4 • W4 • D0 • L0 • GS19 • GA1

As far as perfect months go, this has to be up there with the best of them. A well-fought 2-1 win away at Macclesfield Town started the month in a convincing fashion. Then the Town train really picked up pace. Gray again netted a treble to take his tally up to 22 for the campaign in a 7-0 dismantlement of Hereford. Back-to-back 5-0 wins against Nuneaton and Wrexham meant the Hatters stood at 24 games in the Skrill Premier unbeaten and a permanent fixture at the top of the ladder.

MAR P7 • W3 • D2 • L2 • GS9 • GA5

Guttridge and Benson scored either side of another one for Gray in a convincing 3-0 win over mid-table Alfreton Town as the Town stats rocketed once more. However, they would have to finish the job off without midfield maestro Guttridge after he was stretched off in the home win, meaning he would watch the rest of the campaign from the stands. 20 goals scored, none conceded and maximum points taken from the last four games had the footballing hierarchy talking about the in form team in Europe, with comparisons between Town and Pep Guardiola's irresistible Bayern Munich. The 26-match unbeaten went into a top-of-the-table clash at Cambridge United. 15 points separated the two teams prior to kick-off labeled as a 'must win' for United. Mark Guillen's last-gasp equaliser sparked scenes of jubilation in the away end and all the way back to Bedfordshire.

The unbeaten run may have come to an end at home to Woking but back-to-back wins against Chester and Grimsby meant that ground was not lost, despite a second defeat in four away at Halifax, as Ronnie Henry's hands reached out ever closer to lifting the league trophy aloft.

APR P4 • W3 • D0 • L1 • GS7 • GA4

The finish line was in sight as April began, and the first of the month was no joke, Luton Town were getting closer. For a long time it looked like Dartford were going to pull off the unthinkable victory but a late piledriver from Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu followed in shortly after by top scorer Gray who nabbed the winner, five minutes from time. Aldershot and Tamworth were then brushed aside with Norwich loanee Cameron McGeehan netting twice in as many games to leave the Hatters just one win short of the Conference crown. Braintree at home. Televised for the world to see. The deserving platform the heroes in orange to cap off a record-breaking season. The Iron had other plans, however, and it was not to be. The phrase the rest is history springs to mind as Kidderminster's 2-0 triumph against Cambridge United in the week that followed meant that finally the Town were back where they belong. A long, grueling, hard-earned campaign topped off with the perfect prize. A sell-out vocal crowd this afternoon will give a heroes reception to all involved this afternoon as we finally fulfill our destiny and begin to climb the ladder back to where we belong: in the Football League in 2014/15.





THE NEW 2014
ENGLAND HOME KIT WITH
COOLING TECHNOLOGY.



AVAILABLE AT



awards night

WINNERS 2013/14

Steve McNulty and Andre Gray both scooped a hat-trick of awards at the Luton Town Supporters' Club/Trust in Luton awards night at Luton Rugby Club last weekend.

Centre-half McNulty bagged the prestigious Player of the Year award as well as coming on top in our very own website's Internet Player of the Year award – as chosen by readers of the official website. McNulty's wonder volley against Southport in November was voted as the Hatters' Goal of the Season.

Leading goalscorer Gray was named Young Player of the Year, an award picked by manager John Still and

his coaching staff, and the striker was also voted as the Player of the Year as voted by LTSC's young supporters. Gray also won the Ian Pearce Memorial Trophy – the award given to the players with the most man-of-the-match awards received at home matches.

Midfielder Luke Guttridge won the coveted Players' Player of the Year award, as chosen by his fellow teammates.

And Hatters Player and DiverseFM commentator Simon Pitts picked up the Trust in Luton special achievement award for outstanding service to the club. Congratulations to all the winners.

ROLL OF HONOUR

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

STEVE McNULTY

PLAYERS' PLAYER OF THE YEAR

LUKE GUTTRIDGE

YOUNG PLAYER OF THE YEAR

ANDRE GRAY

JUNIOR MEMBERS' PLAYER OF THE YEAR

ANDRE GRAY

IAN PEARCE MEMORIAL TROPHY

ANDRE GRAY

GOAL OF THE SEASON

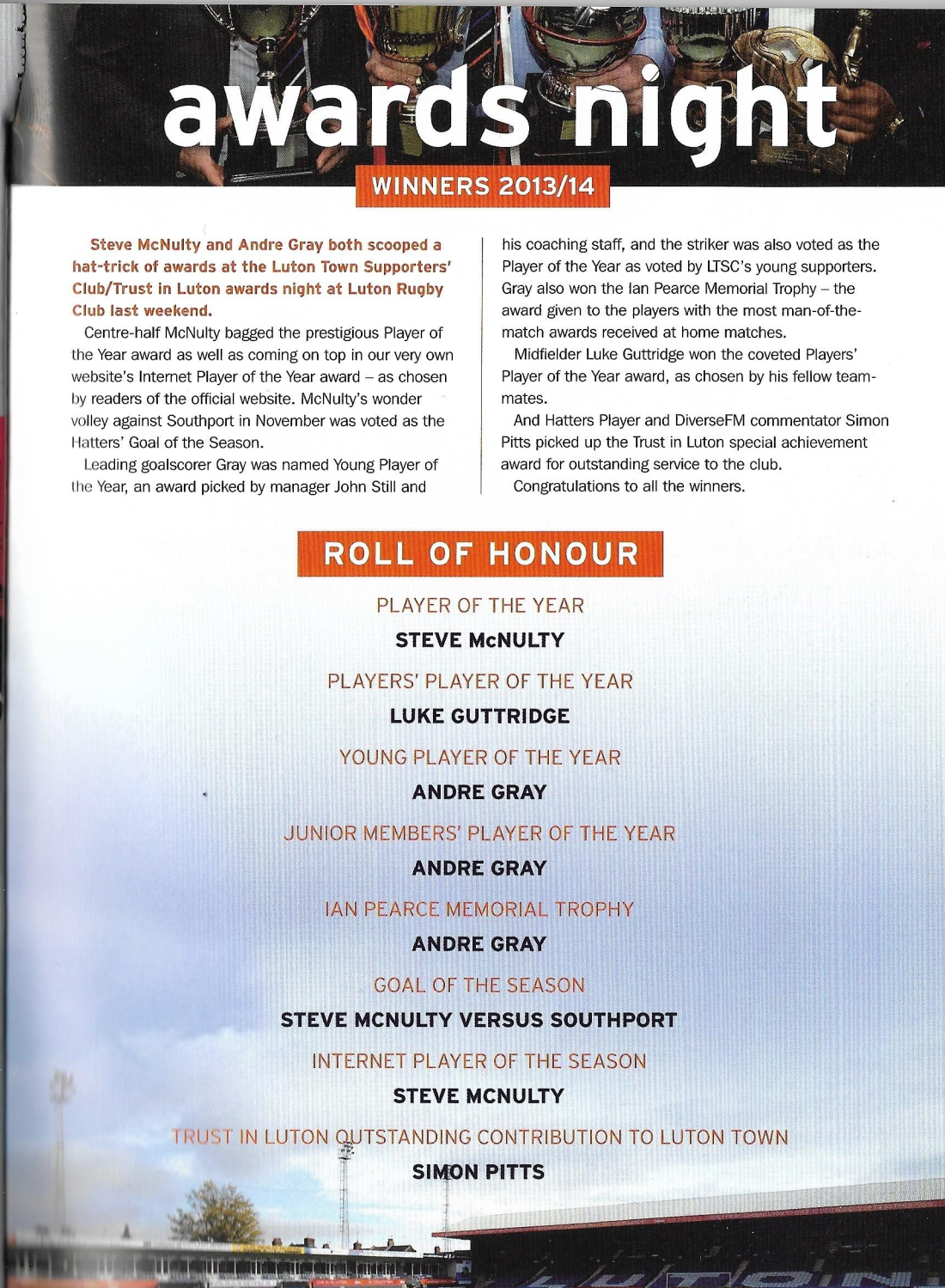
STEVE McNULTY VERSUS SOUTHPORT

INTERNET PLAYER OF THE SEASON

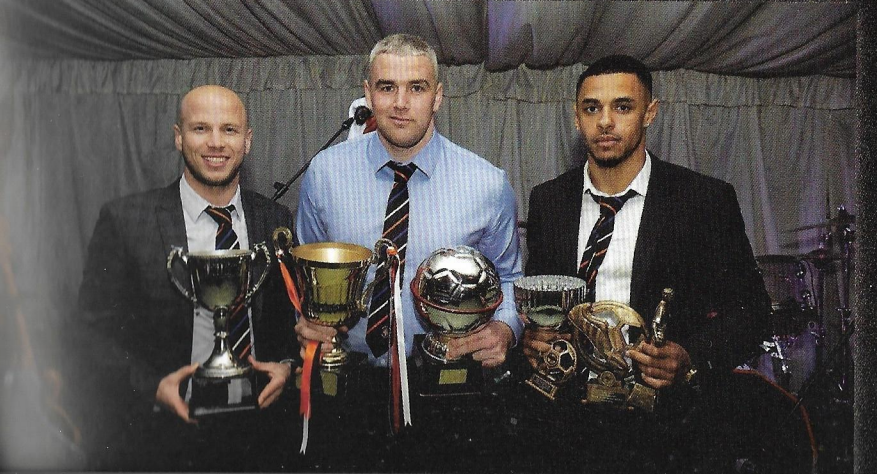
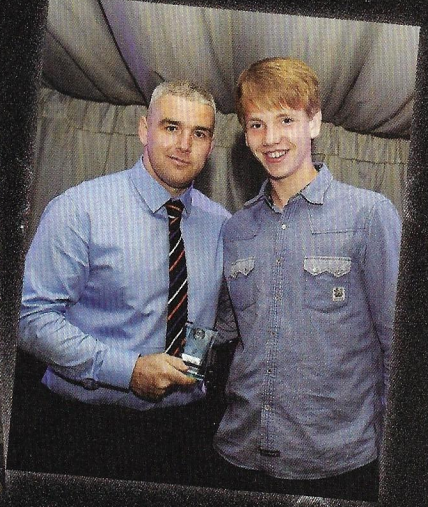
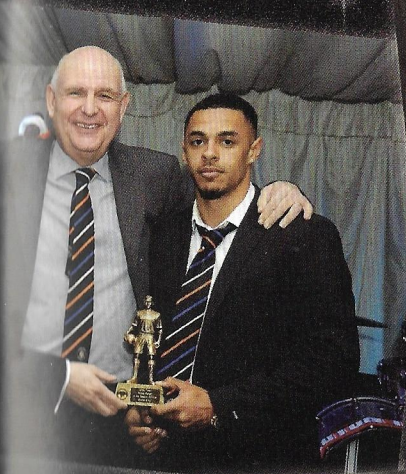
STEVE McNULTY

TRUST IN LUTON OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO LUTON TOWN

SIMON PITTS

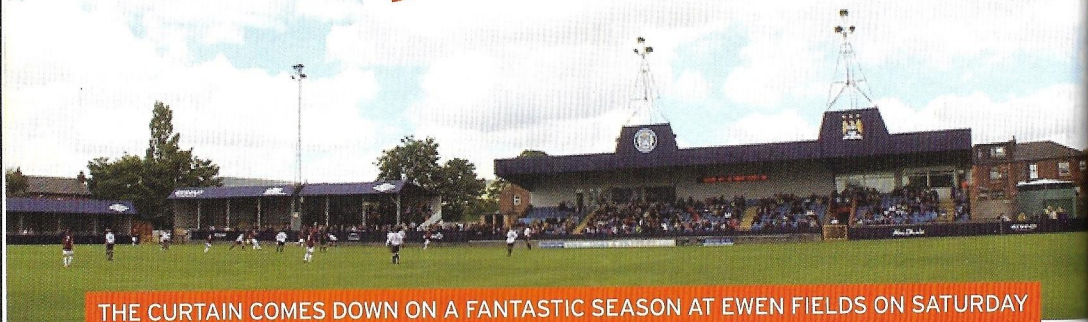


awards night



Gareth Owen was on hand to capture the smiles at the presentation night with all the winners

let's go



THE CURTAIN COMES DOWN ON A FANTASTIC SEASON AT EWEN FIELDS ON SATURDAY AS THE HATTERS HEAD TO HYDE TO FACE THE ALREADY-RELEGATED TIGERS

HYDE



THEY THINK IT'S ALL OVER. After 45 games in the Skrill Premier the campaign comes to a close at Ewen Fields. With the Hatters now guaranteed of the title, players and supporters will not have the stress

of the Play-Offs to deal with.

HYDING TO NOTHING. Saturday's game will be a top-versus-bottom affair. The poor old Tigers have endured a horrific season, winning just one game all campaign. Scott McNiven's side's sole win has been on the road – a 2-0 victory at Welling in January. Hyde have yet to register a single win on home soil, losing 18 of their 21 matches at Ewen Fields this season. Last week the Tigers lost 7-2 at Cambridge.

HOW THEY DOING? As you'd expect for a team bottom of the table and with just 10 points all season, not very well. The Tigers have lost their last five matches and eight of their last 10 matches. The league table does make pretty grim reading for the Ewen Fields faithful with a goal difference of minus 77. The Tigers have conceded 114 goals. McNiven's side took on Kidderminster on Good Friday and then they travel to Grimsby today.

HOW TO GET THERE. Take the M1, M6, and M60, leave the M60 at Junction 24 and take the M67 towards Sheffield. Leave the M67 at Junction 3 and at the traffic lights at the top of the slip road, turn right towards Hyde town centre. At the second set of traffic lights turn left onto Mottram Road. Pass a Morrisons store on your left and at the first set of lights turn right onto Lumn Road. At the top of the road there is a T-junction where you turn left onto Walker Lane. The entrance to the ground is down on the left just past Hyde Leisure Pool.

There is a car park available at the ground which is free. Additionally there is parking available at the Leisure Pool, which costs £2 per car. A residents' only parking scheme operates in the vicinity of the ground so street parking has to be away from the stadium.

ALL-TICKET. For what could be the Town's final game in non-league football, entry for Hatters fans at Ewen Fields is all-ticket. Tickets are now on general sale for this game up until Friday 25th and are available at one per person. Terracing prices: £14 adults, £8 over-65s and £5 under-16s. To sit down, it's £16 for adults, £10 over-65s and £7 for under-16s.

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE? The Hatters and Hyde will meet for the fourth time on Saturday with the Town holding a narrow 2-1 lead in the head-to-head records. Two of the three games have also ended 2-1. The Hatters won by that scoreline in their first and so far only visit to Ewen Fields back in August 2012, thanks to goals from Stuart Fleetwood and JJ O'Donnell. Hyde gained revenge for that result by winning at Kenilworth Road in March last year. The Town then won 4-1 at Kenilworth Road this season, with a hat-trick from Andre Gray and one from Luke Guttridge.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST. The Town have won their last matches of the regular season in the past two campaigns: 3-1 at Southport last term and 2-0 at Fleetwood in the campaign before. The win at Fleetwood was actually the Hatters' first in nine attempts at winning their last match of a campaign. Over the last 21 previous years the Hatters had only won five of their last games of the season, and four of those have come away from Kenilworth Road. Those have come at Fleetwood (2-0 in 2011), Shrewsbury (2-0 in 2002) and Millwall (1-0 in 1999). The sole home win came thanks to late winner from Rory Allen (remember him – best loan signing ever?) against Carlisle in 1998.

ON THE MONEY

2014/15 Season Ticket Prices

Matchday Ticket Prices

all areas

Adult	£20
Young Adult	£15
Senior	£15
Golden Senior	£12
Youth	£8
Junior	£5

5 match voucher

Adult	£90
Young Adult	£67.50
Senior	£67.50
Golden Senior	£54
Youth	£36
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 BOURED ONLINE. The £30 discount applies to all existing season ticket holders who have held a season ticket for three of the last five seasons (all categories).

PERSONAL DETAILS

Full Name (incl title):	Client Reference (if known):
Address and Postcode:	Daytime telephone:
Email:	Evening telephone:
Date of birth: (compulsary)	Mobile telephone:

SEASON TICKET DETAILS

SEASON TICKET DETAILS	Stand:	Block:
	Row:	Seat:
SEASON TICKET TYPE (Please tick)	<input type="checkbox"/> Accompanied under 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied Youth (11-16) <input type="checkbox"/> Adult (22-64) <input type="checkbox"/> Golden Senior (over 75)	<input type="checkbox"/> Accompanied under 17 <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (17-21) <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (65-74)
TYPE OF SEASON TICKET (Please tick)	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> Diamond

**EXISTING SEASON TICKET HOLDER 3 OUT OF 5 SEASON DISCOUNT
(MUST PROVIDE CONTACT INFO FOR VERIFICATION) £30 SAVING**

SEASON TICKET PRICE:	DISCOUNT DEDUCTED:	TOTAL PRICE PAYABLE:
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WOULD YOU LIKE AN ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP TO TRUST IN LUTON?

YES Adult £10
 YES Concessions: Under 16, or 60 or over
 NO

Please add your Trust payment to your season ticket total price. This payment will be passed onto Trust in Luton. By selecting yes, you are agreeing to your payment and details to be passed to Trust in Luton, a membership card will be sent directly from the Trust.

PAYMENT DETAILS

PAYMENT METHOD (Please tick)	<input type="checkbox"/> Credit or debit car <input type="checkbox"/> Four-month Early Bird <input type="checkbox"/> 8 Monthly Instalment Plan (Prime time anytime)	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash or Cheque <input type="checkbox"/> Eight-month Early Bird
8 MONTH PLAN ONLY (PRIME TIME / ANY TIME ONLY)		<small>All instalment plans - The first card payment is made at the time of application, details of subsequent payments and dates can be seen on the instalment payment plan guide.</small>
First Payment of: (see payment chart)	Subsequent Monthly Instalments of:	

The information you provide on this form will be used to process the booking and ensure your enrolment to the 'instalment plan' scheme. By completing and returning this form you agree to the terms and conditions enclosed and have read and understood the privacy policy overleaf.

Applicants Signature: _____ Date: _____

PLEASE COMPLETE AND DETACH FULL FORM AND RETURN BOTH PAGES TO THE TICKET OFFICE

SEASON TICKET CUP MATCH AUTHORISATION FORM

TO BE COMPLETED IF YOU WISH THE TICKET OFFICE TO AUTOMATICALLY BOOK AND FORWARD YOU YOUR HOME CUP MATCH TICKETS. FOR FULL INFORMATION PLEASE SEE PAGE 3 OF THE BROCHURE.

YES NO

I hereby authorise Luton Town Football Club to automatically take payment from my debit/credit card and send out the tickets for my season ticket seat for each cup match to be played at Kenilworth Road during the 2014/15 Season.

Applicants Signature: _____ Date: _____

AWAY SEASON TICKET

TO BE COMPLETED IF YOU WISH TO PURCHASE ALL AWAY LEAGUE GAMES DURING THE 14/15 SEASON (5 CANCELLATIONS PERMITTED). FOR FULL INFORMATION PLEASE SEE PAGE 3 OF THE BROCHURE. A ONE OFF RESERVATION PAYMENT OF £25 WILL BE TAKEN FROM CARD DETAILS PROVIDED.

YES NO

I hereby authorise Luton Town Football Club to automatically take payment from my debit/credit card for all individual away games at advertised prices and sent to my home address during the 2014/15 season.

Applicants Signature: _____ Date: _____

CARD DETAILS

FOR ALL SEASON TICKET INSTALMENT PLANS, HOME CUP MATCHES AND AWAY SEASON TICKETS PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING CARD DETAILS FORM.

ALL SECTIONS OF THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED WHERE APPROPRIATE.

It is your responsibility to inform us of any changes made to card details or contact information during the 2014/15 season.

Cardholders signature: _____ Cardholders name: _____

Cardholders Address and Postcode (If different from above): _____

Card Type: (Please tick) Visa Maestro Mastercard Other (please specify) _____

Credit/debit card no: _____ Expiry date: _____

Valid from: _____ Last 3 security digits on reverse of card: _____ Start date/issue no (maestro): _____

CREDIT AGREEMENT REGULATED BY THE CONSUMER CREDIT ACT (1974) LICENCE NO

If you wish your season ticket to be sent to you please enclose a stamped addressed envelope to the value of 93p (large letter). Otherwise your season ticket will be held at the ticket office for collection. If posting, please return all season tickets to Luton Town Ticket Office, Kenilworth Road, Luton, Beds, LU1 1DH.

easyJet commercial

WITH COMMERCIAL MANAGER DAVID HOSKINS

Where does the time go?

It barely seems nine days ago, yet alone nine months ago that I was welcoming all of our corporate guests and sponsors to Kenilworth Road for the first match of the season against Salisbury in August, yet here we are today celebrating winning the championship.

As is well documented throughout these pages, the team's effort on the pitch has been terrific and their performances have led to a surge in interest in the club. We sold out of match and ball sponsorship packages before Christmas, such was the demand.

It might be the final home game of the season today but we're already preparing for next season back in the Football League. If you're interested in sponsoring a player, or a match, or keen to take out an executive box please do get in touch with us. Finally, I'd like to thank all of the companies and individuals who have supported the commercial department over the past nine months. We really do appreciate it.

MATCH SPONSORS

THE PHILLIPS FAMILY

The Phillips family and friends are sponsoring today's game mainly to mark the milestone of one of us attending over 1,000 Luton games. We are really pleased to also be celebrating the club securing the Skrill Premier title and a long overdue and deserved return to the Football League.

Like everyone else we intend to enjoy the celebrations today and well done to all those connected with the club and making this possible.

MATCHBALL SPONSORS

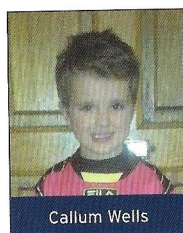
Our matchball sponsors today for our final home game are Mr Keith Harvey and his son Richard.

For many years, Keith owned and operated the family haulage business of R.W. Harvey & Son.

Based in Sandy, the company was involved in hauling for the cardboard industry as well as building materials and agricultural products. The company employed approximately 32 members of staff and operated throughout the UK for period of 45 years. During this time, Keith and Richard have always been ardent supporters of the Hatters and have sponsored the ball on a number of occasions.

COMMERCIAL MASCOTS

- Megan Day – Age 12 – Favourite player Scott Griffiths
- George Day – Age 8 – Favourite player Mark Tyler
- Kaya Hayretin – Age 7 – Favourite player Hakan Hayretin
- Callum Wells – Age 6 – Favourite player Mark Tyler
- Millie Sanderson – Age 8 – Archie Sanderson – Age 6
- Lucy Smith – Age 11 – Favourite player Andre Gray
- Shay Gavin – Age 10 – Favourite player Andre Gray



Callum Wells



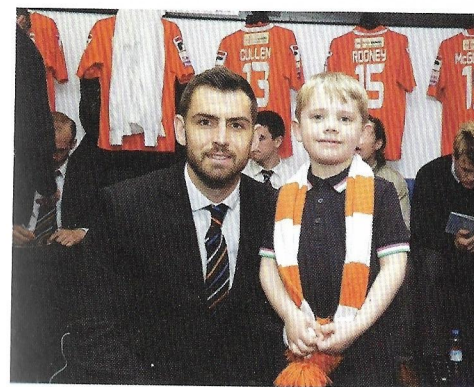
Millie Sanderson



Archie Sanderson



Shay Gavin



EXECUTIVE BOX HOLDERS

6:

G.P. QUOREENTON

10: FASCAL GROUP



11: CES ELECTRICAL



16: PRESTIGE DESIGN



17: SHALLOWFORD UK



18: CME HEATING



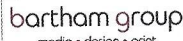
19: MARKYATE



12: EASYJET



13: BARTHAM GROUP



14: T.J. ALDRIDGE



15: PICTONS SOLICITORS / DOT GROUP INT'L



21: VAIRHALL



24:

ROB & GREG HALL

23: MIDDLE EAST CHEMICALS



27: SKF



TRANSFER NEWS:

Say hello to the latest Conference signing. Skrill.

Skrill is the proud new sponsor of the Conference leagues.

We enable you to make online payments conveniently and securely without revealing your personal financial data, as well as sending and receiving money online instantly and cost-effectively.

Whenever you want to pay or play faster, Skrill is your first choice.



Find out more about Skrill. www.skrill.com/football

kit sponsors



- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p>1 MARK TYLER</p> <p>HOME: Tim Fordham
AWAY: Whosh
GLOVES: Kyle McPherson</p> | <p>2 FRASER FRANKS</p> <p>HOME: Emma Banks
AWAY: Nigel, Ben & Sam Martin</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 Cowlard
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
AWAY: 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
AWAY: Keyholder Lettings & Management</p> | <p>23 MATT ROBINSON</p> <p>HOME: Mad Hatter
AWAY: Whosh</p> | <p>24 JERNADE MEADE</p> <p>HOME: Sweep MK Chimney Sweeps
AWAY: Richard Tilley</p> |
| <p>25 RONNIE HENRY</p> <p>HOME: Mark Francome
AWAY: Tommy Lennon</p> | <p>26 PAUL BENSON</p> <p>HOME: Ashby World Domination
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 TROME 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>40 ANDY MANGAN</p> <p>HOME: @Ironman_LTC
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

FOREST GREEN ROVERS



It is with great pleasure that we welcome everyone associated with Forest Green Rovers to Kenilworth Road for our final home match in the Skrill Premier.

It is apt that we welcome the Gloucestershire club to Luton given the fact Rovers are the Conference's current longest-serving club, with this campaign their 15th in succession in non-league top's flight.

While the Hatters' only interest in the points this afternoon will be in their quest to top the 100-mark, Rovers' need for all three points today is much, much greater. The pre-season title favourites were in ninth place in the table when we went to press on Thursday (yes, thank you Easter deadlines) and seven points off the top five with just nine matches left to play.

Ady Pennock, who took over the reins at the New Lawn in November following Dave Hockaday's dismissal will have hoped his side were able to beat Woking on Easter Saturday, otherwise Rovers' chances of gatecrashing the Play-Offs at this late stage of the campaign will be well and truly over.

Eco-friendly club Rovers were tipped by the pundits to flourish in the Skrill Premier this term but the team have suffered an inconsistent season.

Rovers won their opening match of the campaign 8-0 against Hyde but in truth that has been the height of their success this season with Rovers struggling to build

on that early season thrashing of the weakest team in the division.

A run of seven defeats in eight matches in September and October did not help as Rovers fans began to nervously look over their shoulders at the other end of the table. And while their form in the second half of the season has improved, the New Lawn faithful are already preparing themselves for another season in the Conference.

Form

While Rovers have impressed on home soil (13 wins and just four defeats), it is their away record which has been their Achilles heel, with just six wins and 12 defeats. Good form in March, of four wins in five, had given today's visitors hope of reaching the top five but that was followed by five games without defeat and, although the Rovers have won their last two matches – at Dartford and Macclesfield – it does look unlikely that Rovers fans will be celebrating finishing in the Play-Off places.

Rovers arrive at Kenilworth Road in search of their first victory following four games without a win here. The New Lawn outfit have only ever beaten the Town once – and that came in Gloucestershire in March 2012. But in the four games at Kenilworth Road the Town won have two whilst two – the last two, in fact – have both ended in 1-1 draws.

in opposition

MEET THE FOREST GREEN SQUAD

MANAGER

ADY PENNOCK. The boss. Took over at the New Lawn in November 2013. As a player he served Norwich, Bournemouth and Gillingham, and it was at Priestfield where he enjoyed most success, steering the club to promotion as captain.

GOALKEEPERS

SAM RUSSELL. Hugely talented goalkeeper who signed for Rovers in January 2012 from Darlington. Saved four consecutive penalties in his first eight appearances for the club.

PAUL WHITE. Teenage stopper who signed in the summer after a successful trial following his release from Cork City.

DEFENDERS

JARED HODGKISS. Right-back and longest-serving member of the Rovers' squad having joined in October 2009 following his release by West Bromwich Albion.

CHRIS STOKES. England C international left-back who joined Rovers in November 2010 after being released by Bolton. Won the Player of the Year award in 2011/12.

JAMIE TURLEY. Influential and commanding centre-back previously on the books at Wycombe and Salisbury. Signed for Rovers in June 2011 and has gone on to become an England C international.

ED ASAFU-ADJAYE. No stranger to Kenilworth Road, the versatile defender signed for Rovers in 2012 after five years and over 50 appearances with the Hatters.

EDDIE OSHODI. Another former Watford trainee who signed for Rovers in October 2011. A former England Under 16 and 17 international.

ARRIAN RACINE. A product of the Southampton academy who signed for Rovers in August 2012. Scored on his debut for the club against Telford.

LUKE OLIVER. Towering central defender who joined the club in January. The 6ft 7in defender had previously been on the books at Bradford, where he had made over 100 appearances.

MIDFIELDERS

AL BANGURA. Sierra Leone international midfielder who came through the youth ranks at Watford and signed for Rovers in July 2011. Billed as the club's highest profile signing of all-time.

JAMES NORWOOD. Highly-rated midfielder with an eye for goal who signed for Rovers in June 2011. Has gone on to become a driving force behind the club's recent success and scored 15 goals last term.

YAN KLUKOWSKI. Another hugely influential force in the Rovers' midfield, the central midfielder joined the club after a spell in the United States and has gone on to be a regular goalscorer.

PAUL GREEN. Versatile midfielder who signed in 2012. Started his career at Aston Villa before spells with Lincoln and Tamworth.

ANTHONY BARRY. Influential central midfielder who signed for Rovers last summer. A former Everton trainee who enjoyed success at Yeovil and, most recently, Fleetwood.

MARCUS KELLY. Composed central midfield player who signed in the summer having joined from Tamworth. Previously on the books at Kettering and Rushden & Diamonds.

BRADLEY JORDAN. Highly-rated midfielder currently on loan from Championship Charlton, where he has captained the Addicks' Under-21 side.

STRIKERS

DANNY WRIGHT. Former Wrexham centre-forward who Rovers snapped up last summer after a string of fine seasons with the Welshmen. Started at Histon before a move to Cambridge.

MAGNO VIEIRA. Striker with a wealth of Conference experience who signed for Rovers in 2012. Has enjoyed prolific spells whilst on the books at Ebbsfleet, Crawley and Fleetwood.

MATT TAYLOR. Back with Rovers after a successful short loan spell at Chester. The England C international joined Rovers in September 2011 after scoring 80 goals in two seasons with North Leigh.

LUKE RODGERS. Experienced forward who signed in January this year. Began his career at Shrewsbury, scoring 67 goals in six seasons. Has gone on to play for Crewe, Port Vale, Yeovil, Notts County and New York Red Bulls.

LEE HUGHES. Prolific and hugely experienced striker who signed in January from Port Vale. Has made over 600 appearances and scored 275 goals. Most noted for prolific spell with West Brom.



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from the oak road

The longest serving members of the Conference Premier have the set up and ambition to get into the Football League - but they're going to have to wait at least one more year to realise their dream. FGR fan Adam Coyle answers our final questions of the season.

TALK OF THE TOWN: Forest Green were expected to be strong promotion challengers before a ball was kicked and started the season in style, thrashing Hyde 8-0. Are you disappointed with the way the season has panned out?

ADAM: The Hyde game didn't help with people's high expectations. Hyde could have been 2-0 up within 10 minutes but we scored the first goal and then we really punished them. But, overall, most FGR fans are disappointed with our season and feel with the money being invested we are not in a position we should be. Money doesn't guarantee you anything but we do have a good squad. We have been short of the mark again this season.

TOTT: Forest Green went on a transfer spree in the summer, signing seasoned Conference performers like Andy Mangan, Danny Wright, Anthony Barry and Matthew Barnes-Homer. Do you feel there was simply too much change in personnel for things to work? Why do you think the likes of Barnes-Homer and Mangan failed to settle in at the New Lawn?

ADAM: That's the million dollar question - nobody seems to really know why it hasn't worked out. All these players have superb CVs and boast a lot of league experience but for some reason it just hasn't happened.

TOTT: Of course, Mangan is now with the Hatters on loan. What can we expect from him when's he's at his very best?

ADAM: A very, very clinical goal scorer and an all-round nice guy. Someone who has time for the fans.

TOTT: Who is Forest Green's dangerman we should be on the look-out for today?

ADAM: The danger man today would be James Norwood. He has bags of pace and can really hurt defences.

TOTT: What do you make of the job Adrian Pennock is doing at the club? Were you disappointed to see David Hockaday leave earlier in the season? Why was this decision taken?

ADAM: Ady is doing a good job by bringing in some experienced players to help the young players and that seems to be bringing much needed steel to the side. Results and a lower mid table start to the season forced the chairman to act and bring Ady Pennock into the club.

TOTT: Do you feel promotion to the Football League is close for Forest Green? What's the aim for next season?

ADAM: We have to be much better away from home if we want to achieve the aim of getting promoted. The club is ready for the Football League we just need to get promoted, which as Luton will know is much tougher than it sounds.

TOTT: Tell us about your memories from past clashes between Luton and FGR. What's your prediction for today's game?

ADAM: Winning 3-0 at our place (in 2012) was a good game and I enjoyed that. I feel that we have the ability in our side to get a result today and I can see us winning 2-1.



Rovers superfan
Adam Coyle

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a hatter and...

...A ROVER



ED ASAFU-ADJAYE

A number of players have represented both clubs in recent years, with three former Rovers players currently on the Town's books and one former Hatter among our visitors this afternoon.

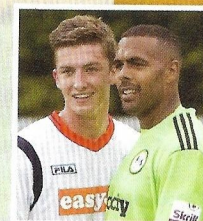
The Town's most recent loan signing, Andy Mangan, has spent two spells at the New Lawn, whilst midfielders Jonathan Smith and Alex Lawless have spent time with Rovers.

Mangan scored 26 times in 46 league games for FGR between 2008 and 2010 before re-signing for the club this season. Smith, meanwhile, made 107 appearances for Rovers – the most he has for any other team in his career. He joined today's visitors in 2007 from Morecambe and left for York City in 2010. Lawless also made over a century of appearances in Rovers colours. The Welshmen arrived at the New Lawn in 2006 after a short spell at Torquay and went onto make 102 league appearances for Rovers and scored eight league goals. Like Smith, he joined York, this time in 2009, before arriving at Kenilworth Road a year later.

The one familiar face in the visitors' squad is defender Ed Asafu-Adjaye. The popular centre-back or full-back came through the ranks at Kenilworth Road and went onto make 60 league appearances and scored just the once – in the Play-Off semi-final first leg against Wrexham in 2011. Ed left the Town and joined Rovers in 2012 and has since gone onto make over 40 appearances for the club. Asafu-Adjaye's crowning moment with the Town, however, came in the 2009 Johnstone's Paint Trophy final where he partnered George Pilkington at the heart of the Town defence in the 3-2 win over Scunthorpe at Wembley.

Strikers who have played for the Hatters in recent seasons – Scott Rendell and Stuart Fleetwood – have also served both clubs. Fleetwood, in particular found success at both clubs, including one season with Rovers in which he scored over 30 goals.

This season also saw two more ex-Hatters pop-up at the New Lawn. The aforementioned George Pilkington made 142 league appearances for the Town in a four-year spell at Kenilworth Road. He joined Rovers this summer on-loan from Macclesfield Town but he is now on-loan with Macclesfield. Striker Matthew Barnes-Homer, now at Cambridge, also joined Rovers this summer but found first team opportunities limited at the New Lawn before heading to the Abbey Stadium.



Alex Lacey shadows former Town man Matthew Barnes-Homer during the meeting between the Hatters and Forest Green earlier this season

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

Since the Hatters have been in the Conference they have met Rovers in all of the five seasons. Only once have Forest Green managed a victory.

That particular night was one to forget for the Town back in March 2012 in which Rovers ran out comfortable 3-0 winners. The Hatters, though, have registered five wins against the Gloucestershire side, the last coming at the New Lawn in October 2012, thanks to goals from Stuart Fleetwood and Scott Rendell. The Hatters had led at half time in that game.

The Town did the double over Rovers in their first two seasons in the Conference. A second half goal from Tom

Craddock gave the Hatters all three points in the first ever meeting between the two clubs at the New Lawn in August 2009. Craddock then netted a brace in the reverse fixture at Kenilworth Road in March 2010.

In 2010/11 the Hatters put six past Rovers at Kenilworth Road in October 2010. That night, Andy Drury, Amari Morgan-Smith, Danny Crow (with two), Matthew Barnes-Homer and Dan Walker found the net for the Town in a 6-1 win.

In the corresponding fixture a trademark header from Lloyd Owusu gave the Hatters a 1-0 win over Rovers at the New Lawn in March 2011.

To find out more about Forest Green Rovers visit: www.forestgreenroversfc.com

back to the future

FOOTBALL HISTORIAN LEIGH EDWARDS TRACES WHAT HAPPENED TO FOUR OF FOREST GREEN ROVERS' GREATEST POST-WAR TEAMS

1982 FA VASE WINNERS

DAVID MOSS: Goalkeeper who starred in the 1981/82 Hellenic League and FA Vase 'double' success. He continued to play local football until the age of 52 and now works as a JCB operative in Bristol.

KENNY NORMAN: Skipper who scored a superb goal in the FA Vase final triumph at Wembley. Later with Gloucester City and Longlevens, he still lives in Gloucester and works in the insurance industry.

GRAHAM DAY: Former Bristol Rovers defender who spent 14 years employed as a financial advisor before moving into the licensed trade. He is now landlord of The Old Flower Pot in Kingswood, Bristol.

JOHN TURNER: Utility player who went on to later appear for Gloucestershire sides Sharpness and Tuffley Rovers. He continues to live in Gloucester and currently works in the letting agency business.

PETER HIGGINS: Experienced central defender who appeared in the Football League with Bristol Rovers and Doncaster Rovers. Later playing for Portway Bristol, he has since worked as a postman in Bristol.

JIMMY JENKINS: Favourite who later returned to Bath City, then played for Frome Town. He lives in Bristol and worked for a printing firm for a number of years but is now employed as a delivery driver.

BRENDAN GUEST: Ex-England Youth international and Lincoln City favourite. He quit football at the age of 23 to work for a finance company before joining Lincolnshire Police and is a detective sergeant.

MICKY BURNS: Midfield general who scored the opening goal in the FA Vase final. He hung up his boots but returned to the club as Steve Millard's assistant, since working in the printing industry in Bristol.

STEVE MILLARD: Experienced striker who went on to manage Forest Green Rovers while working locally as a heating engineer. He sadly suffered a fatal heart-attack at the age of 49 in December 1999.

ANDY LEITCH: Lanky striker who scored twice in the FA Vase final. Later playing for Gloucester City and Dorchester Town, he worked as a printer for 30 years but is now a postman based in Dorchester.

STEVE DOUGHTY: Later played for Newport County and Shortwood United. Still based in Forest Green, he has since managed local sides Whitminster and King's Stanley and now works in engineering.

1997/98 SOUTHERN LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

JUSTIN SHUTTLEWOOD: Goalkeeper who joined Salisbury City in June 2000, following a loan spell, then appeared for Frome Town, Bath City and Warminster Town before playing in Australia.

CHRIS HONOR: Former Bristol City favourite who was loaned to Newport County before joining Basingstoke Town in July 2000, then Bath City until injury ended his career, settling back in his native Bristol.

GRANTLEY DICKS: The brother of West Ham star Julian Dicks, this defender joined Newport County, then Brislington, Weston-Super-Mare, Gloucester City, Chippenham, Clevedon and Taunton.

GARY SMART: Midfielder who was briefly caretaker-boss, moving to Newport County, then had spells at Gloucester City and Paulton Rovers before player-coach at Clevedon Town and Bath City.

MIKE KILGOUR: Central defender who joined Weston-Super-Mare in January 2001, then returned to the Western League with Paulton Rovers. Later with Chippenham, he has since coached Frome.

ROB COOK: Midfielder who was in his second spell at The Lawn. He joined Basingstoke Town in July 2000, returning to Forest Green Rovers in August 2002, then had a spell with Chippenham Town.

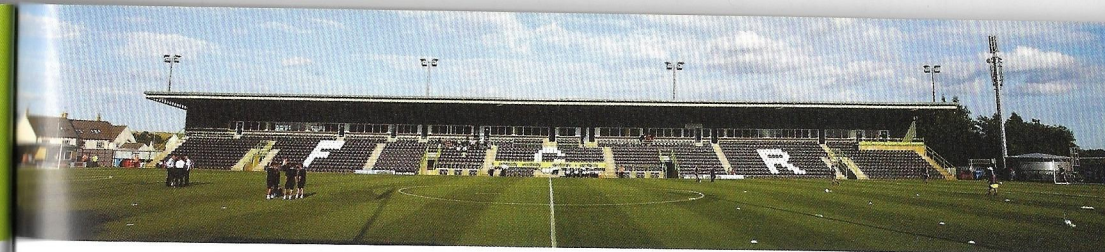
STEVE WINTER: Midfielder who moved to Basingstoke Town in October 1999, then Tiverton Town in July 2001. He hung up his boots in May 2006 but briefly resumed playing for Tiverton in 2007/08.

TOM JONES: England Semi-Pro international midfielder who joined Swindon Supermarine in September 1998, then played for Shrivenerham. He has held various coaching posts including back at Supermarine.

TOMMY CALLINAN: Midfielder who became Gloucester City's player-manager, then moved via Clevedon to Cinderford, then Chippenham Town, Taunton, Yate and became Chippenham's assistant-boss.

PAUL HUNT: Ex-Swindon Town striker who later had spells with Aberystwyth, Bath City, Taunton, Clevedon, Swindon Supermarine, Hungerford and Highworth, then coached at Cirencester and Thatcham.

DON FORBES: Versatile favourite who made 65 Conference appearances while at The Lawn prior to joining Basingstoke Town in August 2000, then played for Brislington. He lives in his native Bristol.



1999 FA TROPHY FINALISTS

JUSTIN SHUTTLEWOOD: Goalkeeper who joined Salisbury City in June 2000, following a loan spell, then appeared for Frome Town, Bath City and Warminster Town before playing in Australia.

IAN HEDGES: Right-back who scored four goals in 97 Conference games before joining Weston-Super-Mare in November 2001, then had a spell with Merthyr Tydfil before moving to Paulton Rovers.

DON FORBES: Versatile favourite who made 65 Conference appearances while at The Lawn prior to joining Basingstoke Town in August 2000, then played for Brislington. He lives in his native Bristol.

DANNY BAILEY: Much-travelled midfielder who later played for Welling United, Grays Athletic, Aylesbury United and Waltham Forest. He managed Interwood and now runs Bailey Football Academy.

MIKE KILGOUR: Central defender who joined Weston-Super-Mare in January 2001, then returned to the Western League with Paulton Rovers. Later with Chippenham, he has since coached Frome.

NATHAN WIGG: Former Cardiff City midfielder who had almost 60 Football League appearances who moved to Gloucester City, then played for Cwmbran, Port Talbot, Clevedon Town, Llanelli and Risca.

CHRIS HONOR: Former Bristol City favourite who was loaned to Newport County before joining Basingstoke Town in July 2000, then Bath City until injury ended his career, settling in his native Bristol.

JASON DRYSDALE: Ex-England Youth international who joined Aberystwyth in July 2001, then played for Bath City and moved to Mangotsfield United in January 2003 before a spell at Paulton Rovers.

MARC MCGREGOR: England Semi-Pro international striker who joined Nuneaton Borough in June 2000. He later played for Tamworth, Weston-Super-Mare, Hinckley United, Worcester and Weston again.

DAVID MEHEW: Much-travelled striker who returned to Bath City, then had spells with Clevedon Town, Brislington and Weston-Super-Mare. He has become a sales rep and Gloucester City's manager.

ALEX STRES: Attacking midfielder who joined Nuneaton Borough in July 2000, then returned to Forest Green Rovers and later Bath City and Gloucester City before coaching Bishop's Cleeve and Shortwood.

2001 FA TROPHY FINALISTS

STEVE PERRIN: Goalkeeper, also wicket-keeper and captain of Wiltshire CCC, who joined Chippenham Town in June 2005. Later with Bath City, he was loaned to Mangotsfield and Paulton Rovers.

ADAM LOCKWOOD: England Semi-Pro international right-back who joined Yeovil Town in October 2001 and featured in their meteoric rise. He has since played for Doncaster Rovers and now Bury.

ROB COUSINS: England Semi-Pro international left-back who moved to Tiverton Town in May 2002. Later appearing for Mangotsfield United and Paulton Rovers, he is now Yate Town's player-boss.

BILLY CLARK: Experienced central defender who joined Newport County in June 2001. He later played for Weston-Super-Mare and Clevedon Town before youth coach at Bristol Rovers and Bath City.

TONY DALEY: Former England international winger who netted six goals in 68 Conference games while at The Lawn before hanging up his boots in May 2003. He returned to Wolves as fitness coach.

JASON DRYSDALE: Ex-England Youth international who joined Aberystwyth in July 2001, then played for Bath City and moved to Mangotsfield United in January 2003 before a spell at Paulton Rovers.

MARTIN FOSTER: Industrious midfielder who moved to Halifax Town in July 2004, then Oxford United, Rushden & Diamonds, Tamworth, Eastwood Town, Harrogate, Sheffield and Matlock Town.

STUART SLATER: Former England Under-21 midfielder who joined Aberystwyth, then played for Weston-Super-Mare. He has since been youth team coach back at West Ham and recently Chelmsford City.

CHRIS BURNS: Midfielder who returned to Gloucester City in July 2001. He was Cinderford Town's player-boss, then had a spell with Spanish side UD Horadada, becoming Cheltenham's youth coach.

ADRIAN FOSTER: Experienced striker, formerly with West Brom, Torquay United, Gillingham and Hereford United, who moved to Bath City in August 2001, then Taunton Town, Street and Chard Town.

ALEX MEECHAN: Top scorer who had two spells at The Lawn before joining Chester City in January 2007, then played for numerous other clubs, notably Stalybridge. He is now Barrow's player-coach.

champions!

The Town squad and staff are all smiles at Kenilworth Road in the knowledge that they have secured the Hatters' promotion back to the Football League



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TOWN 2-3 BRAINTREE

The Town's hopes of celebrating a return to the Football League were dashed as 10-man Braintree secured victory at a stunned Kenilworth Road.

With 10,000 Hatters fans inside the ground for the first time 20 years, the Town needed just a victory to be crowned champions but the visitors – themselves chasing promotion – raced into a two-goal lead with two efforts in the space for five first half minutes.

Firstly, on 16 minutes Dean Wells rose highest in the Town penalty area from Daniel Sparkes' left-wing corner to nod the visitors in front.

And before the Kenilworth Road crowd could get their breath back the Iron doubled their lead when Brett Holman scampered down the left and crossed for James Mulley to nudge a finish beyond Mark Tyler.

Two goals down the Town were handed a lifeline on the half-hour mark when visiting goalkeeper Nik Hamann was sent-off for hauling Paul Benson to the floor after the striker had raced clear and rounded the Iron keeper.

Up until the stopper's dismissal the Town had not forced a meaningful chance but the Hatters did come close on 36 minutes when Steve McNulty surged up-field, played a one-two with Benson but then fired a well hit effort narrowly over the crossbar.

Braintree were not sitting back on their lead despite their numerical disadvantage and Fraser Franks and McNulty had to be alert in their own penalty area to thwart the dangerous Jordan Cox on two occasions in as many minutes as half-time approached.

The Town upped the ante as the break loomed, with Matt Robinson close with a first-time volley that substitute keeper Nathan McDonald did well to hang on to.

After a poor first half the Hatters began the second much better, and came within a whisker of reducing the deficit when Benson's shot from a Robinson cross was deflected onto the crossbar.

The Town were pushing for a way back into the game at one end but their afternoon took a further turn for the worse on 56 minutes when Braintree surged three goals clear when Chez Isaac raced through on goal and finished well past an exposed Tyler.

With work to do, John Still introduced Alex Wall and Pelly Ruddock from the substitutes' bench on the hour and within two minutes the Town did cut the Braintree lead. Right back Ryan Peters' handball presented Jake Howells with the opportunity to bring the Town back into the game, and he kept his nerve to beat McDonald for his eighth goal of the season. All of a sudden, and backed by the passionate home faithful, it was all the Town, and four minutes later it was 3-2.



Paul Benson shows close control

Howells raced clear but failed to get control of the ball. He did, though, poke the ball into Wall's path and the striker lofted a shot over McDonald and into an empty net from the edge of the box.

On 72 minutes the crowd were on their feet again but saw the Hatters strike the woodwork for the second time of the match when Mark Cullen's low shot bounced off the outside of the post after Wall had bulldozed his way through the Braintree backline.

The Hatters were pushing forward at every opportunity in their desperation for an equaliser. Cameron McGeehan saw a goal-bound shot blocked on 76 minutes but time started to run down as the Town ran out of puff.

Good work between Wall and Ruddock saw the latter fire a shot inches over the crossbar with five minutes left before Scott Griffiths' ambitious effort also narrowly cleared the bar with a minute left on the clock.

With McNulty now in attack as the Hatters threw the dice, Braintree were threatening on the break but failed to test Tyler despite a number of counter attacks.

At the other end, in six minutes of stoppage time, Wall poleaxed a Braintree defender with a venomous shot but that was the last chance as the Hatters' dreams of a title celebration were put well on ice by the visitors.

LUTON TOWN 2-3 BRAINTREE TOWN

Howells 62 (pen), Wall 65

Wells 16, Mulley 21, Isaac 56



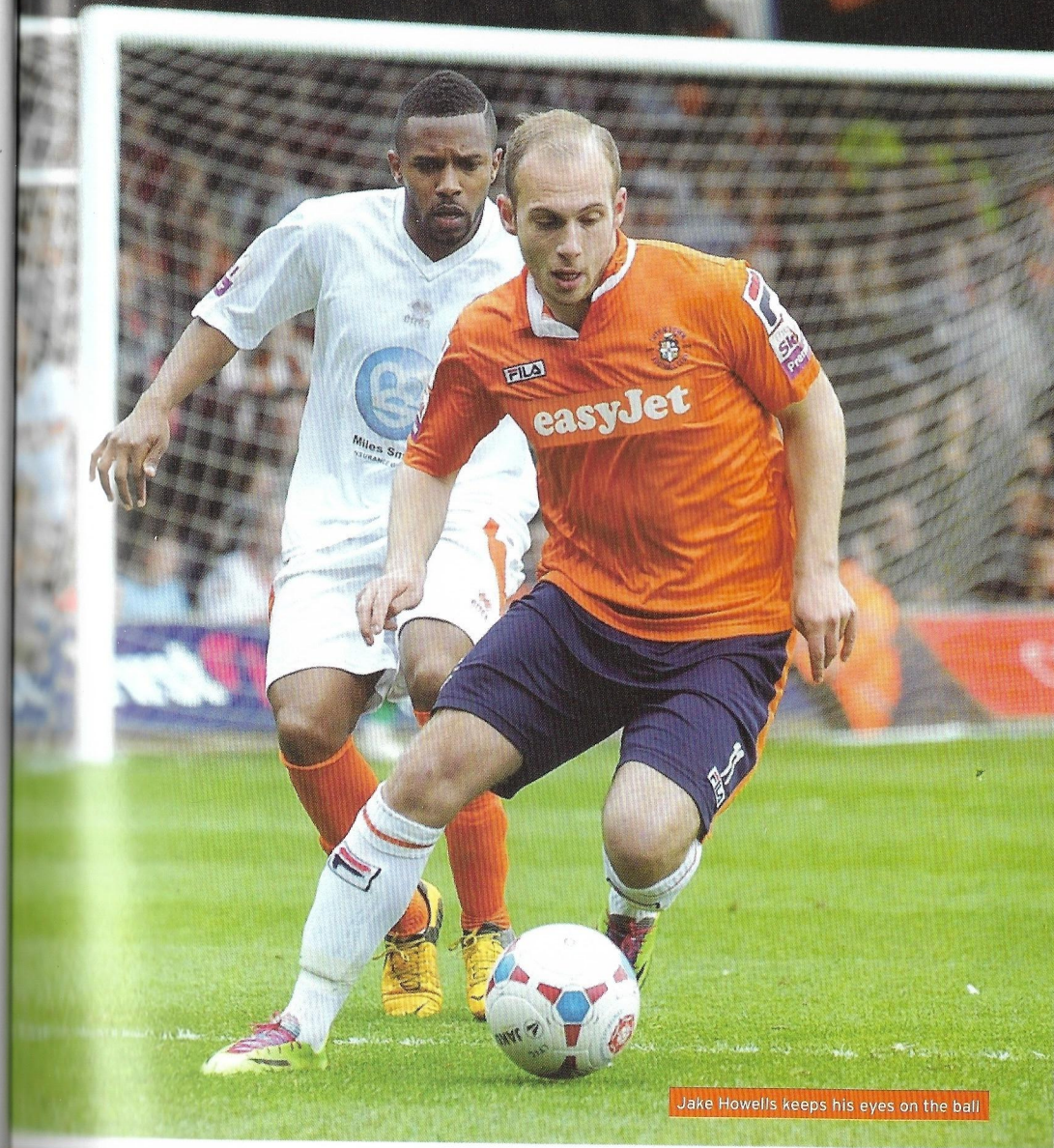
Scott Griffiths challenges Brett Holman



Alex Wall strikes to reduce the deficit to 3-2

TOWN: Tyler, Henry, Griffiths, McNulty, Franks, Howells, Robinson (sub Ruddock 60), Lawless (sub Rooney 13 (sub Wall 60)), McGeehan, Cullen, Benson. **SUBS NOT USED:** Shaw, Justham.

BRAINTREE: Hamann, Wells, Paine, Habbergham, Massey, Isaac (sub Laurent 77), Mulley, Sparkes, Cox (sub Jakubiak 83), Holman (sub McDonald 31), Peters. **SUBS NOT USED:** Daley, Camey.



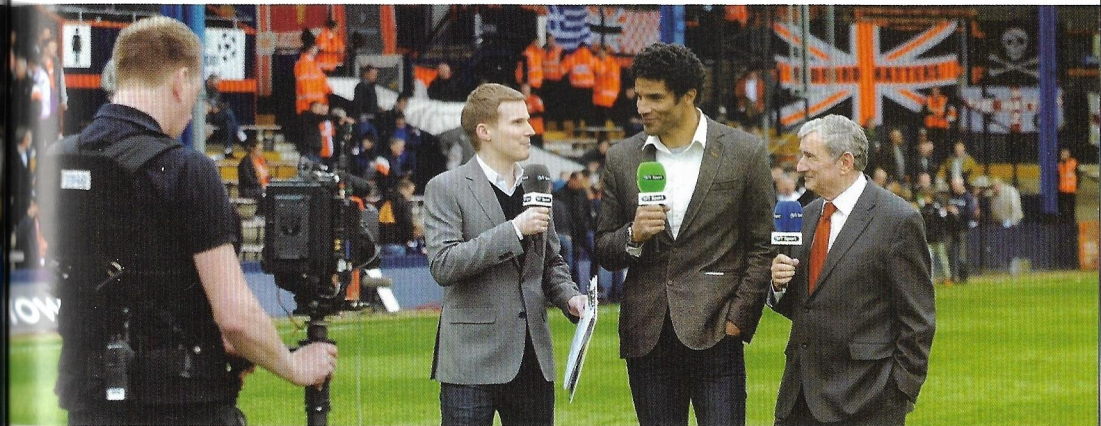
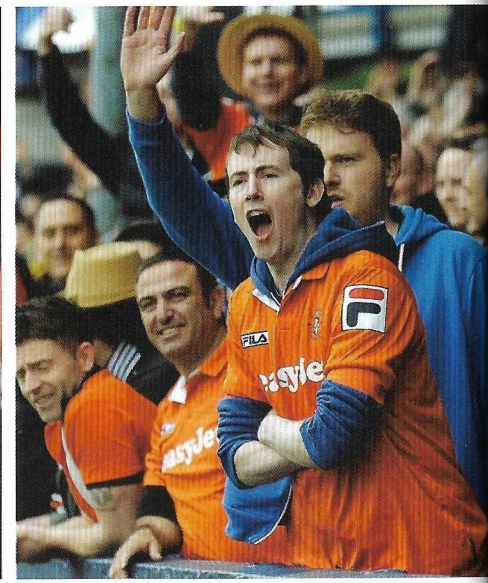
Jake Howells keeps his eyes on the ball

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SHOTS OFF TARGET	8	1

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ATTENDANCE: 10,020 (96 BRAINTREE)

TOWN 2-3 BRAINTREE



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reaction

A DAY TO FORGET

Steve McNulty believes there were no excuses for the Town's loss to Braintree at Kenilworth Road in what was an opportunity for the Hatters to seal the title in front of a home crowd of more than 10,000.

It was a day that was set up nicely for the Hatters to go on and win the title, with the BT Sport cameras ready to capture the action. However, Braintree came to Kenilworth Road and upset the party as the Iron emerged 3-2 winners on the day.

Defender McNulty had no qualms that the Town should have gone on to win the championship in front of a home crowd, and insisted that the occasion should not have gotten the better of him and his team-mates.

"It's a day to forget, we all thought we were coming here for the same reason. Braintree have come and upset the party," McNulty said.

"We were disappointed, but it was a bit more of an anti-climax than anything. The cameras turned up and we expected to get the job done; it didn't happen for us."

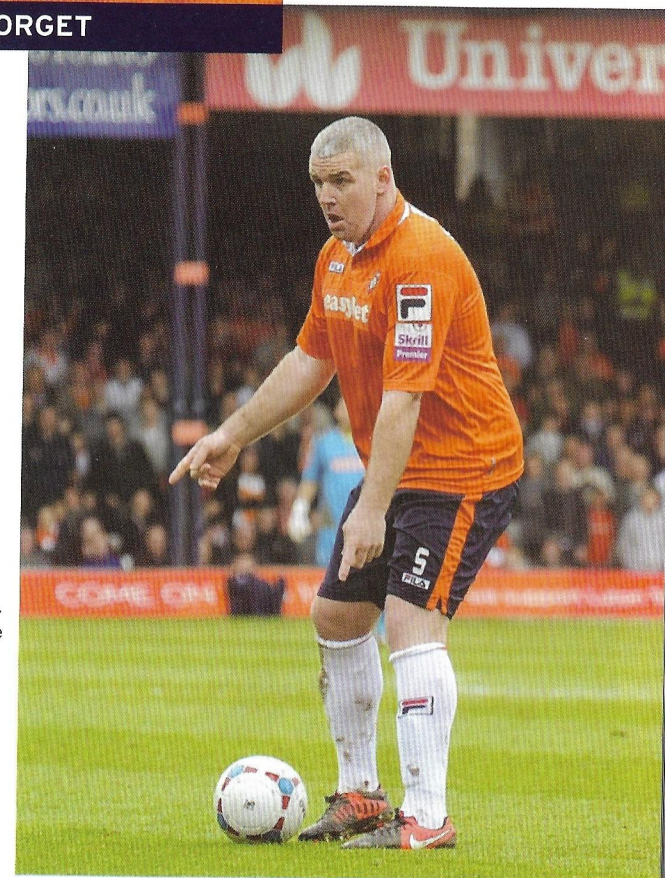
Shaky

The Hatters got off to a shaky start in the game, which saw John Still's men go in at the break 2-0 down to the Iron. McNulty believes that there was always going to be nerves on such an important day for the club.

"We should have been big enough and brave enough to stand up and be counted for on such a big occasion. Maybe there are a few nerves inside the first ten minutes, but after that you should be brave enough to go out and play your own game; you have to forget about what's going on around you," McNulty told Hatters Player.

"It was individual errors which cost us. It was nothing to do with the amount of people or the cameras being there, it was down to errors we made in the game."

The Town's Player of the Year reflected on how the game panned out, and admitted that the goals conceded on the day could have been easily avoided, particularly during the first half.



"We didn't play well at all, we conceded from a corner which is unlike us," McNulty said. "I misjudged the bounce for the second goal, but we had plenty more time to turn it around and deal with it which we didn't."

Space

McNulty had a chance of his own to get the Town back in the game during the first half. However, the defender failed to convert from a tight angle and drilled just over.

"It was a rush of blood, I don't usually get that far up the pitch," the defender said. "I probably should have taken my time a bit more and tried to pick a spot; I was in acres of space. The ball was sitting up nicely and I thought I'd have a go."



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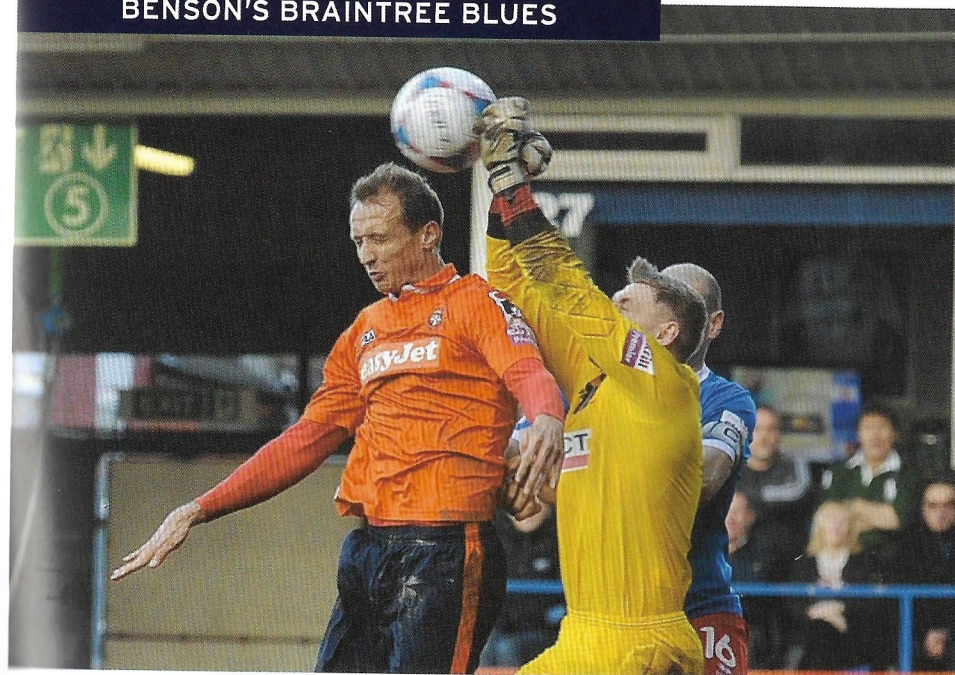
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reaction

BENSON'S BRAINTREE BLUES



It was disappointment for everyone involved at Kenilworth Road in the 3-2 defeat to Braintree and Town striker Paul Benson was amongst those who were downhearted as the Hatters couldn't finish the job at Kenilworth Road to seal the title at the time.

The town forward knows more than anyone what it's like to experience winning a title, and the 34-year-old was disappointed not to have finished the job when it was set up nicely for John Still's men in front of a packed Kenilworth Road.

"It's disappointing, it was all set up nicely for us to go and get over the line," Benson said. We're all down about it, but we need to pick ourselves up and go again. We've done well this season, but it isn't over until we've won something.

"We were a bit shell-shocked, we knew Braintree were a good side and are capable of doing that. But, having been so good at home this season, we were hoping that we could have gone on and won the game."

The experienced striker admitted that the Town were fired by what had happened during the game.

Braintree took a 2-0 lead into the half, before adding a third early in the second half despite being reduced to 10 men. In the end, it was too much to handle for the Hatters and they fell short at the final hurdle.

"To be 2-0 down at half-time wasn't in our plans, and to then go 3-0 down, it was a mountain to climb for us," Benson said.

"Regardless of whether or not they have 10 players, it wasn't a great day for us, nor was it a good performance."

Benson praised the impact of Town substitutes Alex Wall and Pelly Ruddock, as Wall scored within 10 minutes of entering play, to give the Hatters hope of fighting back.

"The subs came on and made a good impact; Alex was very good, and he and other subs added a bit of something different," Benson told Hatters Player.

"When we got it back to 3-2, I thought we had a real chance to bring it back. We hit the post, and had that have gone in you never know what could have happened. We didn't play well enough to win the game and we need to accept that."



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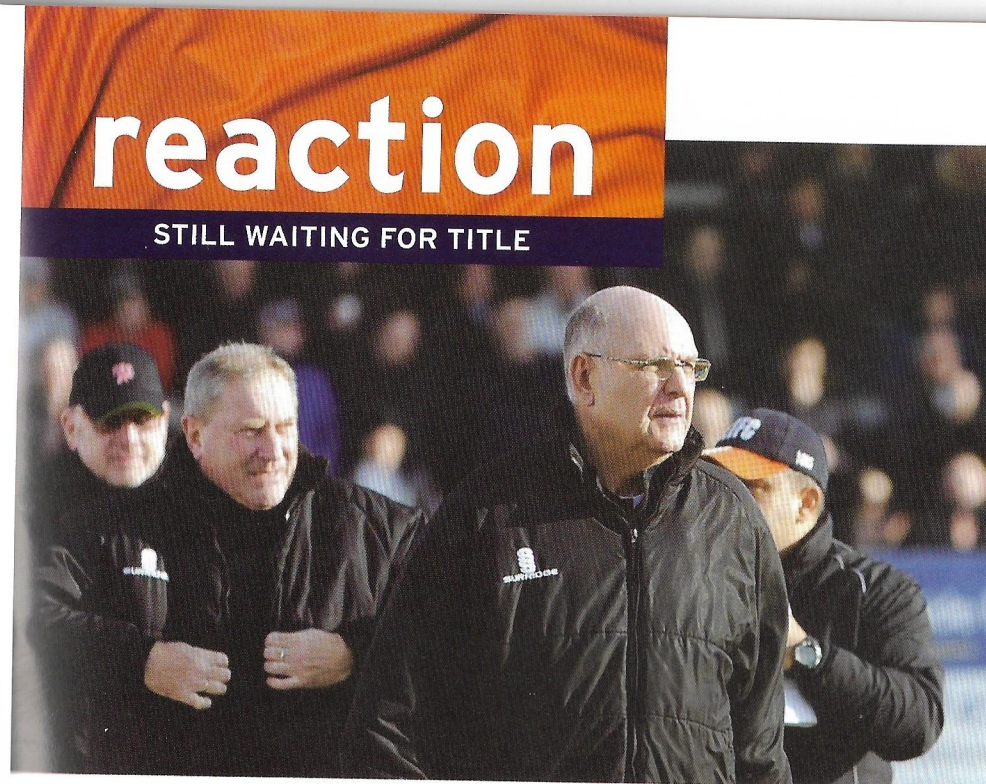
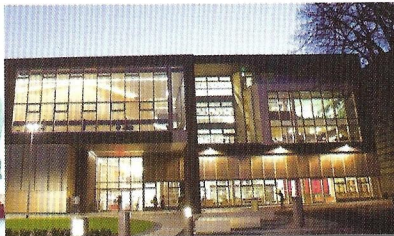
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reaction

STILL WAITING FOR TITLE

Town boss John Still admitted his side did not play well enough as their chance to win promotion at Kenilworth Road was scuppered by Braintree.

The Iron raced into a 2-0 half-time lead against a lacklustre Hatters but, despite the sending off of visiting goalkeeper Nik Hamann, the Town could not use their extra man advantage. And despite goals from Jake Howells and Alex Wall giving the Town some hope, it was Alan Devonshire's side who recorded a deserved 3-2 win.

"In front of the cameras and with the expectation, people did not do their jobs," Still told Hatters Player afterwards. "We were not good enough, in the first half especially. We played more like us in the second half but to go 3-0 down was always going to leave us a mountain to climb."

Expectation

Still thought that the weight of expectation did not help but failed to use it as an excuse against a Braintree side in form and chasing promotion themselves.

"Maybe the notion of coming here today and playing fast, expansive football and scoring three or four goals was in a lot of people's heads but it was not like that," said Still. "We are playing against a side aiming for the Play-Offs. They have four players that I know really well who are arguably Football League players playing at a part-time level because they want to so they are a strong team."

"There was a period in the first half where a few of us went gung-ho and it was not a time for heroes. We just needed to do what we know but perhaps we just got caught up in the expectation."

The Town weren't helped by an early injury to Alex Lawless, who limped off before the quarter-hour mark and was replaced by Luke Rooney.

It left the Hatters on the pitch without the services of the Welshman, top scorer Andre Gray and influential midfielders Luke Guttridge and Jonathan Smith.

"Losing Alex is a blow but we will not let it worry us," said Still.

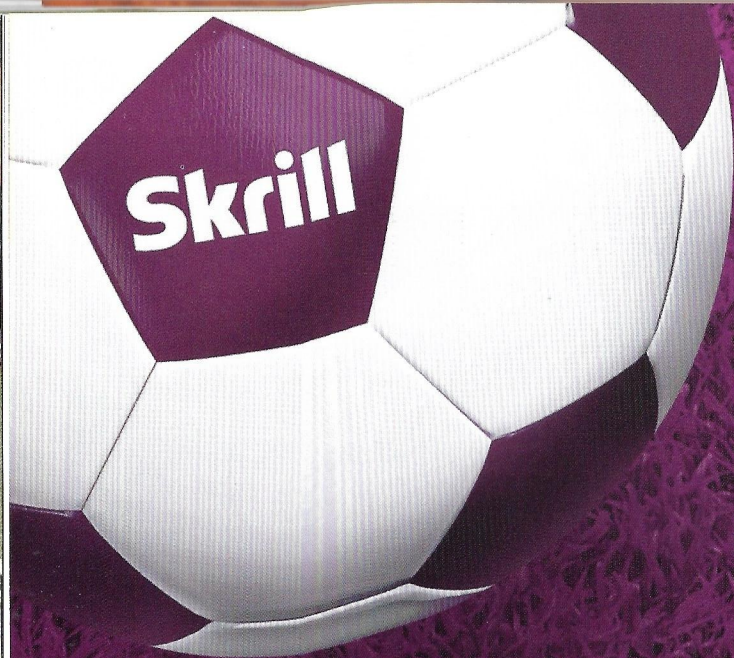
"Andy Parry and Jonathan Smith have missed a lot of the campaign and that has not stopped us playing superbly up until now so we will not use Alex's injury as an excuse."

Controllables

Cambridge's 7-2 thumping of Hyde meant the Hatters had to wait for their special day and all Still is interested in is "controlling the controllables" with three games left to play.

"I am not interested in what anyone else is doing," added Still. "As far as I am concerned, all we have to do is win one more game so that is what I am focussed on."

"If you get too caught up on other teams it will affect you so I am not going to bother looking at other results."



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the club that wouldn't die

BY BRIAN ANLEY, SEASON TICKET HOLDER

**They thought they could kill us
They thought we would die
They took great delight
As they waved us goodbye**

Four years of heartbreak
Four years of hell
How long it would last for
No one could tell

Then along came our saviour
Along came John Still
He knew of a way
'Cause there was a will

He said "please be patient"
"I do it my way"
"You'll all have to trust me"
"If you want me to stay"

He went back to basics
He got players fit
He got rid of others
The ones that were (not very good)

The defence was now solid
Midfield would now pass
Again did the basics
"Keep the ball on the grass"

We went months unbeaten
We all had a hoot
As another goal came
From Andre Gray's boot

The unbeaten run
soon reached 27
All of The Hatters
were in 7th heaven

And whilst we worried
about the odd bobble
Dickie and Cambridge
Were having a wobble

We could hardly believe it
We were miles ahead
Anytime soon
We will put this to bed

There were then three defeats
As the target drew near
Please not again
Please say it's our year

And by now just so close
We all became giddy
But no fear as Cambridge
Got beaten at Kiddy

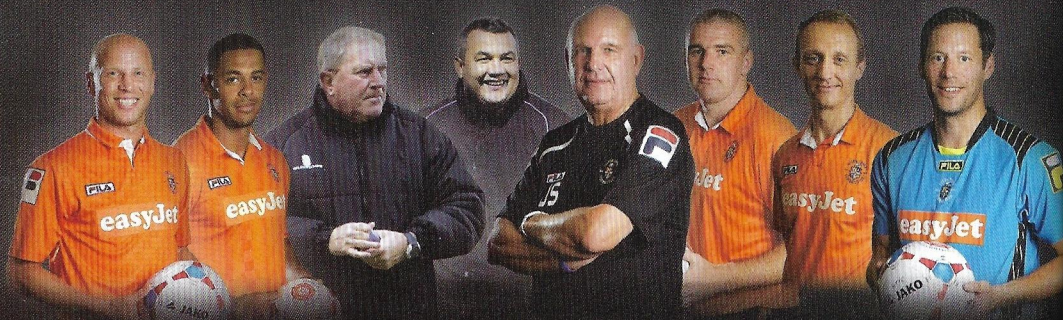
Then champagne corks popped
As we knew with some glee
10 points ahead
With games left just three

To all of the players I say
"Take a bow"
Your time's the present
the here and the now

**So thank you to John
The Players and the Staff
We are Top
We Are Champions
And we are having a laugh**



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and all the staff and players

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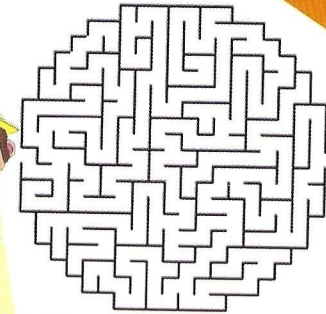
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Can you help Harry get to the ball?



Can you work out the 3 words that I've jumbled up?

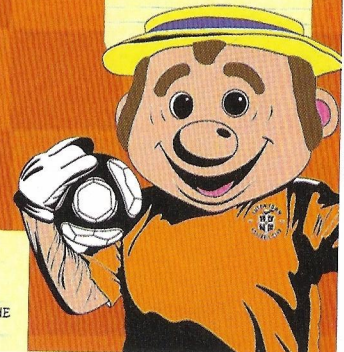
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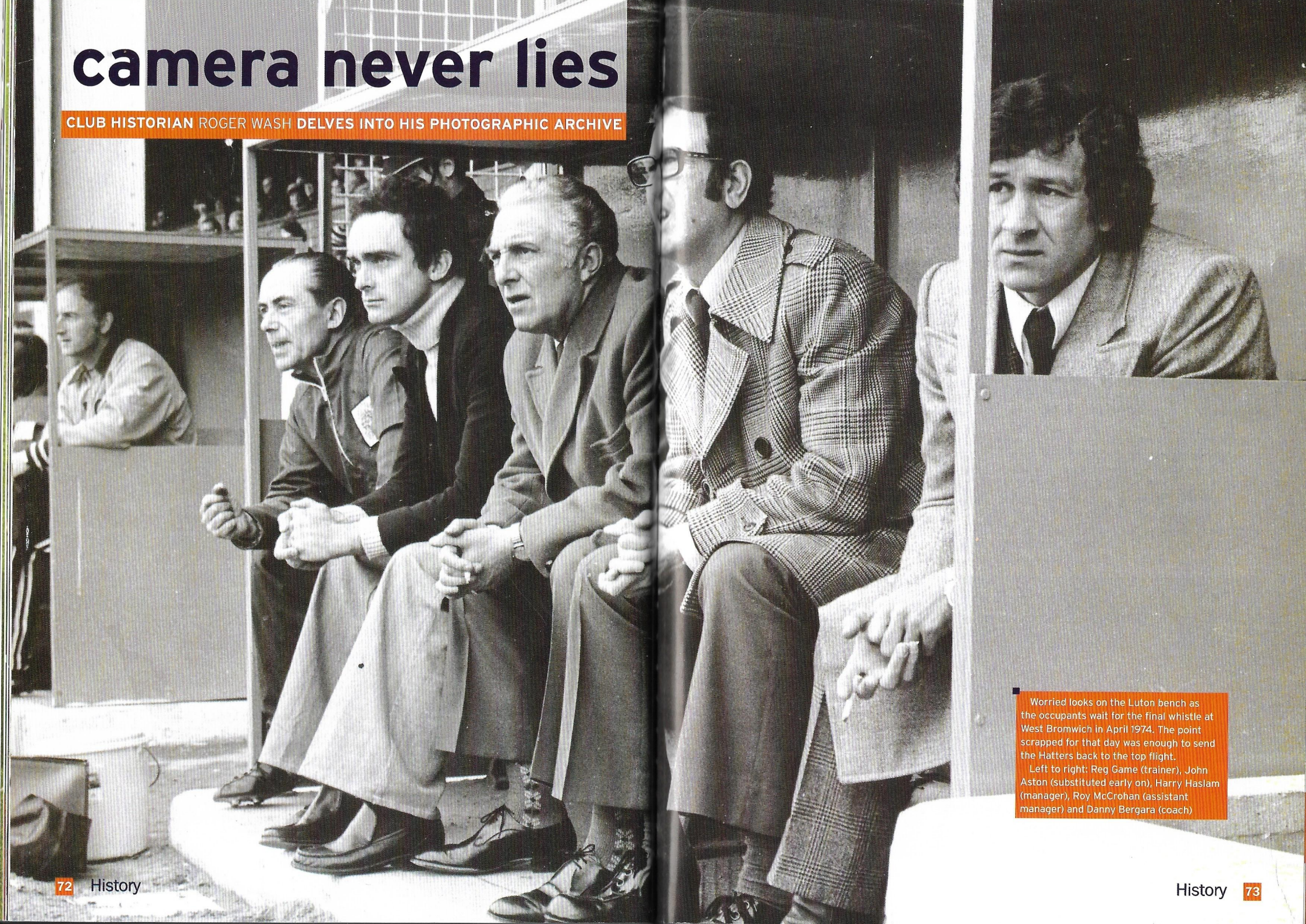
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camera never lies

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE



Worried looks on the Luton bench as the occupants wait for the final whistle at West Bromwich in April 1974. The point scrapped for that day was enough to send the Hatters back to the top flight.

Left to right: Reg Game (trainer), John Aston (substituted early on), Harry Haslam (manager), Roy McCrohan (assistant manager) and Danny Bergara (coach)

yesterday's pages

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH LOOKS THROUGH PAST PROGRAMMES

LUTON TOWN 2-0 TORQUAY UNITED 1st MAY 1937

After making do without a manager for most of the 1935/36 season the Luton Town board decided to advertise the position and from over fifty applicants decided on West Ham United scout Ned Liddell.

The new man was a bit of a strange choice as, although his scouting abilities were unquestioned, he had not managed for four years and was also 59 years old.

Liddell had, though, inherited the nucleus of a good side to play with and as promotion from Division Three (South) had been missed the previous season due to the dropping of some silly home points supporters were hoping that this aspect could be tightened up and the championship won.

After tinkering with the side early on, Liddell soon arrived at his favoured eleven and buoyed by the goals of Joe Payne and a brilliant home record the Town were soon bubbling around the top of the table.

With only one team promoted (and no Play-Offs) the scene was set for the run-in with both the Town and Notts County neck and neck at the top of the table. A 4-0 defeat at Bristol Rovers did the Hatters' chances no good at all, but in the players' defence, goalkeeper

Humphrey Dolman had been injured early on which limited his movements and left him unable to stop shots he would normally have saved easily.

With 11 fit men the Town won 2-0 at Clapton Orient the next week and followed this with a 5-0 thumping of Millwall on Easter Saturday before beating Clapton 2-0 in the return on Easter Monday. Home victories over Gillingham and Aldershot, both 5-2, came within three days in early April, with Payne scoring six, but County could not be shaken off and when the Town lost 1-0 at Gillingham with County winning on the same day it looked likely that the Hatters would be pipped at the post again.

Both teams had three relatively easy games to play but the Magpies were two points ahead albeit with an inferior goal average. Swindon were easily seen off 5-1 at Luton with Payne scoring another hat-trick but County also won on the same day.

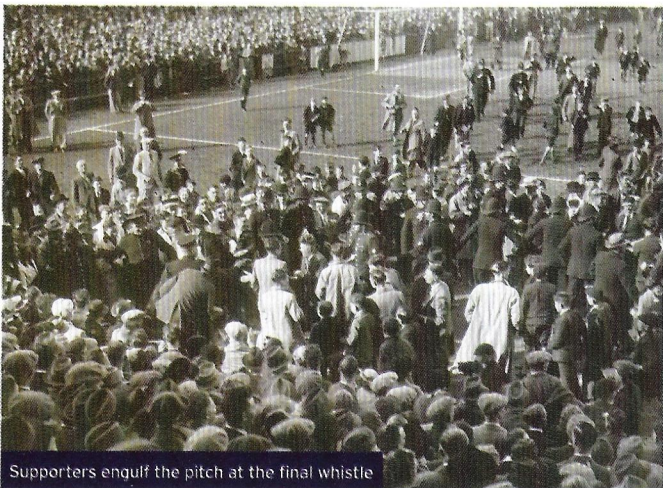
Newport were thrashed 5-0 seven days later but this time the news went around Kenilworth Road that the Magpies had been beaten at home by Brighton. Fans quickly realised that a Town win in their final home match against Torquay would bring the title and promotion.

The players were a bag of nerves on 1st May 1937, as was the 20,755 crowd, and a light ball on a hard pitch did not enable the team to play its normal close passing game.

Fortunately neither could Torquay get to grips with the conditions and a dull game full of unforced errors soon developed.

It was that man Payne who finally broke the deadlock six minutes before the interval when he fired home a cross from Ted Hancock and when he doubled the lead on the hour mark with a clever overhead kick everyone could finally relax.

At the final whistle the spectators refused to go home until the players had re-appeared and the biggest cheer was reserved for Payne, who had managed to score an amazing 55 league goals over the season, a Town record never likely to be broken.



Supporters engulf the pitch at the final whistle

THE PROGRAMME

The Town produced their normal 16 page programme for the visit of Torquay and in the Editor's notes column warnings were given that the result of the game was not a foregone conclusion as the visitors were trying to avoid applying for re-election (reserved for the bottom two clubs in those days).

A letter from the programme editor of Norwich City was published where the writer was hoping for the Town's promotion from a purely selfish point of view as it would mean 'a pleasant little journey' for him. He knew that from his house to Luton was 101 miles as he had purchased and collected a Vauxhall car direct from the factory.



ELSEWHERE IN FOOTBALL

The Scotland v England game at Hampden Park attracted a world record crowd of 149,547.

A new law was announced. An arc was to be marked on the edge of the penalty area to ensure that players

were at least 10 yards from the penalty spot when a kick was taken.

Players' wages for an international match were to be increased to £8.

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on this day

21st APRIL

THE RECORD

It's a busy day in the Town's history books with 23 matches played on 21st April down the years. The Hatters have won 11, lost eight and drawn four of their games on this day, scoring 43 and conceding 35 in the process. The Hatters' first game on 21st April came back in 1900 but Small Heath – now known as Birmingham City – beat the Town 2-1.

THE LAST TIME

It's been two years since the Hatters last played on this date when they secured a vital win over Kidderminster Harriers in front of over 8,000 at Kenilworth Road. Both clubs needed the points to secure a Play-Off place but a second half goal from Robbie Willmott – taking a superb long pass from Mark Tyler – won it for the Hatters. The Town would finish in the top five but lose in the Play-Off final to York; whilst Harriers missed out altogether.

BIG GUNS BEATEN

The Hatters have enjoyed three famous victories on 21st April down the years, with victories over Arsenal, Manchester City and Manchester United.

In 1956 the Hatters saw off Manchester City 3-2 in the top flight. 18,074 watched on at Kenilworth Road as an own goal and strikes from Gordon Turner and John Groves gave the Hatters victory.

The Town then beat city rivals United at Kenilworth Road 29 years later thanks to two goals from the one and only Mick Harford – one a penalty – in front of a crowd of 10,320.

Five years later the Hatters then saw off Arsenal 2-0 at Kenilworth Road in a crucial First Division (now Premier League) encounter. That day the Town needed victory to stave off the threat of relegation and goals from Iain Dowie and Kingsley Black a famous, and crucial, win.

YOU WIN SOME, YOU LOSE SOME

The Hatters thrashed Southampton 5-0 at Kenilworth Road back in the Southern League back in 1906 but two years later the Town were thumped 6-1 at Norwich City, also in the Southern League.

NO PAYNE NO GAIN

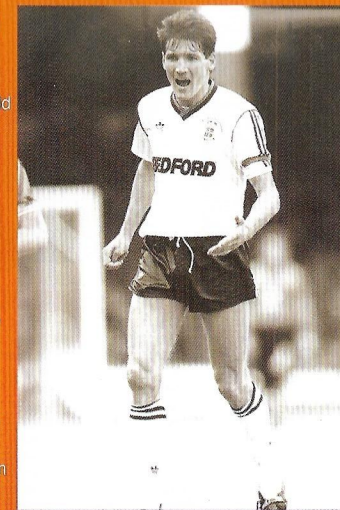
The Hatters were in the midst of their title-winning campaign of 1936/37 when they hammered Swindon Town 5-1 on this day in 1937. Joe Payne was the Town's hero top scorer that season with 55 goals and three of them came in this victory over the Robins before a crowd of 11,668 at Kenilworth Road.

DON'T MENTION IT

On this day in 1987 the Town were defending a 100 per cent win record in top flight football on 21st April but went down 2-0 at local rivals Watford. The Hornets bossed the game, won the corner count 15-4 and Town manager at the time, John Moore, said: "They won because they played better than us." It meant it was a season to forget for the Town against their local rivals with the Hornets completing the double over the Hatters that campaign. The Town, did however, end the 1986/87 campaign in seventh place, their highest ever finish.

LAST GASP

The Town were involved in a five-goal thriller on this day at Kenilworth Road in 1984 when a goal a minute from time from Frankie Bunn gave the Hatters a 3-2 win over Notts County. The Town trailed 1-0 with 20 minutes left before goals from David Moss and Brian Horton put David Plead's side ahead. Notts levelled with five minutes to go before Bunn's late show won the Town the points. County would end the season relegated, whilst the Town finished in 16th place in the top flight.



Mick Harford celebrates scoring against Manchester United on this day in 1985

in development

FINAL FIXTURE FOR TOWN YOUNGSTERS

The Hatters' Under-18s ended their campaign in the Youth Alliance with a fine 2-0 victory over Crawley on Saturday to secure fifth place in the table.

The young Town had much more of the possession in the first half and created a number of chances throughout the half with Luke Trotman and Osamu Allman getting into good scoring positions on the end of some flowing moves but didn't get their shots off.

Ekene Amadi was foiled by the keeper after a mazy run into the box then he saw a close range header fly just over the bar before another good passing move and cross fell to Tyreeq Bakinson but he put his effort over the top.

Crawley, for their part, looked dangerous on the break and the Hatters defence had to be alert to stop the threat of a lively front pairing.

The deadlock was broken two minutes before the break when Bakinson fed Daril Ngwala as he cut in from

TOWN: Whybrow, Trotman, Perry, Justin (sub Galliford), Tamplin, Hawkes, Amadi (sub Craig), Ngwala, Amu, Allman, Bakinson. **SUBS NOT USED:** King, Atkinson, Mosunda.

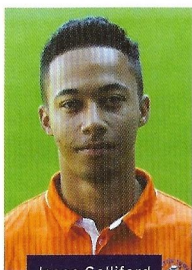
the wing and the latter made no mistake with his strike into the bottom corner of the net.

The lead was doubled 13 minutes into the second half when a Ngwala corner was deflected into his own net by a Crawley defender when under pressure from Lucas Perry. Perry then nearly increased the lead from a strong run and shot but his effort cannoned back off the post to safety.

Isaac Galliford returned to competitive action following a long term knee injury in place of the impressive James Justin and Gao replaced Ekene Amadi as the game entered the final twenty minutes but the Hatters couldn't extend their lead further.



Daril Ngwala



Isaac Galliford

youth team



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 <p>TINASHE CHABATA HOME: Available AWAY: Available</p>	 <p>PAUL DRIVER HOME: Available AWAY: Available</p>		

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	POS	STARTING XI
AUG	Sat 10	11.00am	A Dagenham & Redbridge	W 4-2	3	Barnes Trotman Chabata Crilley Hawkes Amu Rees Smith 2 Galliford
	Sat 24	11.00am	A Leyton Orient	W 3-1	6	Barnes Trotman Chabata Crilley Hawkes Amu Rees Smith 1 Galliford
	Sat 31	11.30am	H Portsmouth	W 4-2	3	Barnes Trotman 1 Chabata Crilley Hawkes Amu Rees Smith 1 Galliford
SEP	Sat 14	11.00am	A MK Dons	W 1-0	2	Barnes Crilley Chabata Tamplin Hawkes Amu Rees Smith 1 Ngwala
	Sat 21	11.00am	H Watford	L 0-1	3	Barnes Crilley Chabata Tamplin Hawkes Amu Rees Smith 3 Ngwala 1
	Wed 25	7.30pm	H Rothwell Corinthians (FACU)	W 6-0	-	King Crilley Chabata Tamplin Perry Amu Rees Smith 3 Ngwala 1
	Sat 28	11.00am	A Leyton Orient (LC)	L 1-3	-	King Crilley Chabata Tamplin Perry Amu Rees Smith 3 Ngwala 1
OCT	Sat 5	11.00am	H MK Dons (LC)	D 2-2	-	King Crilley Chabata Tamplin Perry Amu Rees Smith 3 Ngwala 1
	Wed 9	7.30pm	H Corby Town (FAYC20)	W 5-1	-	Barnes Crilley Chabata Tamplin Perry Amu Rees Smith 3 Ngwala 1
	Sat 12	11.00am	A Barnet	W 4-1	2	Barnes Crilley Chabata Tamplin Perry Amu Rees Smith 3 Ngwala 1
	Sat 19	11.00am	A Dagenham (LC)	W 2-0	-	Barnes Crilley Chabata Tamplin Perry Amu Rees Smith 3 Ngwala 1
	Tue 22nd	7.30pm	H Leighton Town (FAC30)	W 3-1	-	Barnes Crilley Chabata Tamplin Perry Amu Rees Smith 3 Ngwala 1
	Sat 26	11.00am	H Northampton (LC)	L 0-1	-	Barnes Crilley Chabata Tamplin Perry Amu Rees Smith 3 Ngwala 1
	Sat 2	11.00am	A Northampton	W 2-1	2	King Trotman Chabata Tamplin Perry Amu Rees Smith 3 Ngwala 1
NOV	Wed 6	7.30pm	A Boston United (FAYC1)	W 4-0	-	Barnes Trotman Chabata Tamplin Perry Amu Rees Smith 3 Ngwala 1
	Mon 18	7.00pm	A Gatchessat (FAYC2)	W 2-1	-	Barnes Trotman Chabata Tamplin Perry Amu Rees Smith 3 Ngwala 1
	Sat 23	11.00am	H Peterborough	W 1-0	2	Barnes Trotman Chabata Tamplin Perry Amu Rees Smith 3 Ngwala 1
DEC	Sun 8	2.30pm	A Huddersfield Town (FAYC1)	L 1-3	-	Barnes Trotman Chabata Tamplin Perry Amu Rees Smith 3 Ngwala 1
	Thu 19	2.00pm	H MK Dons	W 2-1	2	King Trotman Chabata Tamplin Perry Amu Rees Smith 3 Ngwala 1
FEB	Thu 4	12 noon	A Watford	D 2-2	3	Whybrow Crilley Chabata Tamplin Perry Amu Rees Smith 3 Ngwala 1
	Thu 11	12 noon	A Barnet	L 1-4	-	King Trotman Chabata Tamplin Perry Amu Rees Smith 3 Ngwala 1
	Sat 22	11.00am	H Stevenage	L 1-2	-	King Trotman Chabata Tamplin Perry Amu Rees Smith 3 Ngwala 1
	Thu 25	12 noon	H Gillingham	L 0-1	-	King Trotman Chabata Tamplin Perry Amu Rees Smith 3 Ngwala 1
MAR	Sat 8	11.00am	H Colchester	D 0-0	-	King Trotman Chabata Tamplin Perry Amu Rees Smith 3 Ngwala 1
	Thu 11	12 noon	A Stevenage	W 2-1	5	King Trotman Chabata Tamplin Perry Amu Rees Smith 3 Ngwala 1
	Sat 15	11.00am	A Southend	W 1-1	5	King Trotman Chabata Tamplin Perry Amu Rees Smith 3 Ngwala 1
	Thu 18	12 noon	H Northampton	W 2-0	5	Gooch Trotman Chabata Tamplin Perry Amu Rees Smith 3 Ngwala 1
	Thu 25	12 noon	A Colchester United	L 0-1	-	King Trotman Chabata Tamplin Perry Amu Rees Smith 3 Ngwala 1
	Sat 29	11.00am	A Peterborough United	L 1-2	-	Gooch Trotman Chabata Tamplin Perry Amu Rees Smith 3 Ngwala 1
APR	Sat 5	11.00am	A AFC Wimbledon	D 1-1	-	King Trotman Chabata Tamplin Perry Amu Rees Smith 3 Ngwala 1
	Sat 12	11.00am	H Crawley Town	W 2-0	5	Whybrow Trotman Perry

PUMA YOUTH ALLIANCE UNDER-18 SOUTH-EAST LEAGUE 2013/14				
	P	W	GD	PTS
1 Colchester United	20	14	27	44
2 Peterborough United	19	11	26	38
3 Gillingham	17	10	17	34
4 Portsmouth	17	10	11	33
5 Luton Town	19	10	7	32
6 Watford	18	9	9	29
7 Southend United	18	8	1	28
8 Leyton Orient	18	8	2	25
9 AFC Wimbledon	18	8	-1	25
10 Stevenage	19	7	-11	24
11 Northampton Town	18	7	-7	23
12 Barnet	20	7	-8	22
13 Crawley Town	18	4	-15	16
14 Milton Keynes Dons	19	4	-22	15
15 Dagenham & Redbridge	18	2	-36	7

my only luton

A FAN'S TALE

MY NAME: Harry Rogers

MY AGE: 17

MY LOCATION: Edlesborough, just outside Dunstable

MY TIME SUPPORTING LUTON TOWN:

Well it's in my blood! My dad's side of the family have always been Luton fans and it would have been wrong of me to go and support a Premier League side when there is a more classier style of football just down the road! I love this club more than anything but I hate it at the same time. With all the love and heartbreak and the stresses of following this club! But you keep going back for more, it's like a drug.

MY FIRST LUTON GAME:

That would be going back to when Joe Kinnear was in charge. I was four or five I think and we sat behind the goal in the Kenilworth Stand. I was too small so I had to sit on my dad's knee for half the game but I remember playing out 0-0 draw with Macclesfield but from the moment I wanted to go again and again. The crowd and the atmosphere around that place is something that never fails to disappoint. And after visiting other grounds I feel as if we have some of the best fans in the country.

MY FAVOURITE LUTON GAME:

Well obviously the likes of Scunthorpe at Wembley and Wolves in the FA Cup last season are up there but I think my favourite game would have to be a couple of seasons ago, the first leg semi-final Play-Off game against Wrexham. It was at Kenilworth Road and we won thanks to goals from Andre Gray and Stuart Fleetwood. I just remember the atmosphere being electric that night and it was my first game without my dad so I could get away with singing some of the more explicit songs!

MY FAVOURITE LUTON PLAYER:

I would probably have to go with Kevin Nicholls. He was one of them players that you loved if he was on your side but you hated if he was on the opposing side. He never missed a penalty. I used to love the way he wouldn't face the keeper until the ref blew the whistle and he would spin round and bury the ball. He was a great character and you wouldn't mess with him in the middle of the park. He was the best Luton captain I have seen in my 12 years as a Hatter. I'll never forget when he ran the length of the pitch at Wembley when the whistle went just to celebrate with 42,000 fans.

MY MOST PRIZED LUTON TOWN POSSESSION:

I have played in goal for my local side Eaton Bray Lions for over 10 years now and when I was in Under-10s my coach used to play golf with Mike Newell. My coach managed to get a goalkeepers' shirt signed by the team that won the League 1 championship. Brian Stein was amongst the signatures which I'm proud of as he a Luton hero. I will keep that shirt safe for as long as I live.

MY ALL-TIME LUTON XI:

Mark Tyler

Kevin Foley

Chris Coyne

Steve McNulty

Sol Davis

Matt Taylor

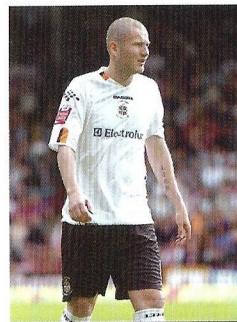
Kevin Nicholls

Jean Louis Valois

Carlos Edwards

Andre Gray

Steve Howard



Kevin Nicholls makes Harry's all-time Town XI

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

I think the thing that makes me happiest about being a Luton fan would have to be the fact that no one outside of the football club understands how it feels to support us. Maybe I'm biased, but we are such a special club with a never say die attitude.

I don't get to go as much as I would like due to work and other commitments but when I do go it feels as if I never went away.

The crowd are always lively and you can't beat a sold out Kenilworth Road on a big game. The atmosphere is always electric and never fails to put a smile on your face. A packed out Kenilworth Road is just as good as any Premier League ground.

Kenilworth Road may be old and rusty but it still produces a brilliant atmosphere. Luton are just a wonderful club to support and let's hope the dark patch in our history is over and we come back stronger than ever.

Come on you Hatters!

THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER

ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

BY STEVEN CONEY

There's just a couple of weeks left in the Non-League calendar but for a selected few clubs, their seasons are far from over.

They'll have the Play-Offs to look forward to. Whether you like them or you don't; you have to acknowledge the great tension and atmosphere the Play-Offs create.

A whole season can be defined in 90 minutes. Fantastic campaign ending in promotion or yet another stumble at the final hurdle - the margins in football are extremely fine.

You'll often hear the Play-Offs referred to as 'the end-of-season of lottery'. I don't know about you but if I could enter a lottery where I had one in four chance of winning, I'd snap your hand off!

Tough

As I'm writing this, most teams in the Skrill Premier have three games left and but for Cambridge United, the Play-Off places are still yet to be decided.

I'm not sure you can look past Grimsby and Gateshead. I saw the latter last week against Hereford and Gary Mills' side will be a tough proposition in the Play-Offs.

They defend well when needed and keep the ball brilliantly; teasing the opposition and waiting like a bird of prey to go in for the kill.

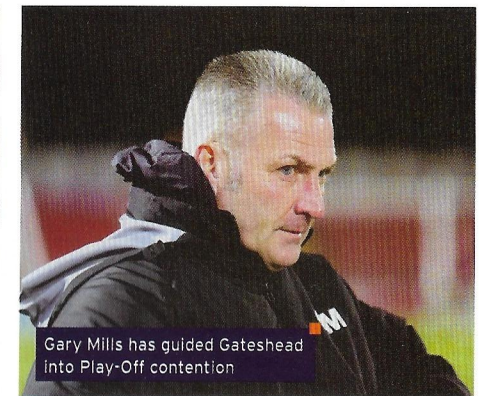
The last spot looks like going to either FC Halifax Town or Braintree which is fantastic for other part-time sides who are constantly told 'you can't compete in the Conference Premier'.

Cambridge can be devastating on their day but history will tell you the team finishing in second struggle to get through the Play-Offs.

It must be psychological. On paper the second placed team should be the best side in the Play-Offs but missing out on the title and the added pressure of being best of the rest can take its toll.

The biggest criticism I've heard of the Play-Offs is that "it's not fair". Every team knows what it's getting itself into at the start of the season. Imagine no Play-Offs and the top two going up automatically in each Non-League division? I'd be interested to see how many would prefer that route but I doubt it would be many.

Managers and players I've spoken to, including ones that have finished second and not gone up, still say they



Gary Mills has guided Gateshead into Play-Off contention

wouldn't get rid of the Play-Offs which sounds to me like a ringing endorsement.

In the Skrill North it looks like a battle between Boston and Guiseley for the last spot and whoever loses out on the title between North Ferriby and AFC Telford United may struggle to overcome that disappointment.

Havant & Waterlooville have come into contention in Skrill South and the Play-Offs in that division is full of big hitters and promotion could go to any of the four sides.

Similarly, the Evo-Stik NPL looks extremely tight and FC United of Manchester fans won't be looking forward to them considering they've lost three finals in a row.

Shoot-outs

All eyes will be on Maidstone United to see if they can get into the Ryman Premier Play-Offs after finally being allowed in but in-form Kingstonian will be fancied if they make it.

And in the Calor Premier, we may end up seeing some high-scoring shoot-outs. Two sides currently in the Play-Off spots, Chesham and Stourbridge, have scored over 100 goals, with Cambridge City and St Albans netting over 80!

So in a couple of weeks' time, if you're lucky enough to be watching your team in the Play-Offs, just remember that you could be at home twiddling your thumbs. Or even worse, out shopping!

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league look

THE LATEST IN THE SKRILL PREMIER

Well, that's it. The title is won; and the Town are heading back to the Football League.

The champagne was put on ice before the match with Braintree but Kidderminster's 2-0 win over promotion hopefuls Cambridge on Tuesday night sealed the Hatters' promotion.

Richard Money's Cambridge, buoyed by Braintree's battle at Kenilworth Road hammered hapless Hyde 7-2 at the Abbey Stadium to maintain the slightest glimmer of hope of snatching the crown before heading to Aggborough midweek. A second half screamer from former United striker Michael Gash sealed the Hatters' fate and meant Cambridge's chase was up and they would have to settle for a Play-Off place.

The top of the table may be cast in stone, as is the bottom with Hyde and Tamworth's fate already sealed, but those all important divisional change spots maintain undecided.

FC Halifax leapfrogged fellow Play-Off dreamers Grimsby with a 1-0 win in Humberside. Lois Maynard's strike was enough to take all three points and maintain Halifax's impressive run of form, which has seen the Shaymen chalk up seven successive clean sheets.

Gateshead took a huge stride towards the Play-Offs with a gritty 0-0 draw at sixth placed Braintree. A second win for the Iron in a week would have been enough to sneak their way into the final Play-Off place but the Heed stood firm to retain a three-point advantage.

Halifax, though, are currently leading the pack behind Cambridge, to join the U's on the road to Wembley but with nine teams still mathematical contenders for promotion with the Hatters it could be a nail-biting finish for football fans across the Skrill Premier

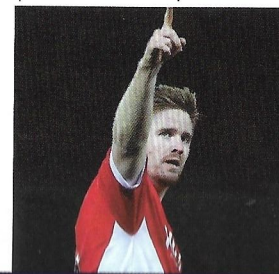
The relegation scrap is heading right down to the wire as well with five places separated by just five points.

Dartford and Hereford are currently the ones in trouble after both fell to slender 1-0 home defeats. The Darts face a tough run-in including a home tie with already relegated Tamworth this Easter weekend.

Hereford, meanwhile, face a similar tricky conclusion with fellow strugglers Aldershot pitting a final day desperate six-pointer which could make or break either's

season. The Shots currently hold the cards, however, as they look tentatively over their shoulders at their fellow stragglers. A last-minute penalty from 21-goal Brett Williams snatched a point away at Macclesfield last weekend to give Andy Scott's men some momentum heading into the final few fixtures.

Chester and Southport could also see their names dragged into the drop zone come next weekend as they both face teams at the top end of the division in the run in. Aldershot could be seen as the favourites to survive the drop with their favorable run of form, goal difference and fixtures all looking in their favour.



Michael Gash celebrates scoring for Kidderminster against Cambridge - a goal that sealed the Town's promotion

LEADING GOALSCORERS

Gregory (FC Halifax)	28
Gray (Luton)	27
Williams (Aldershot)	21
Benson (Luton)	17
Norwood (FGR)	17
AKindo (Alfreton)	16
Boden (Macc)	16
Tomlinson (Lincoln)	16

AVERAGE ATTENDANCES

Luton Town	7,266	Woking	1,459
Grimsby Town	3,337	Nuneaton Town	1,240
Cambridge United	3,065	Dartford	1,240
Wrexham	3,006	Forest Green Rovers	1,171
Lincoln City	2,323	Salisbury City	1,007
Chester FC	2,214	Southport	1,003
Kidderminster Harriers	2,035	Tamworth	963
Aldershot Town	1,842	Braintree Town	960
Hereford United	1,726	Alfreton Town	764
Barnet	1,722	Welling United	733
FC Halifax Town	1,548	Gateshead	729
Macclesfield	1,506	Hyde	598

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Woking v Aldershot (1pm)
Cambridge v Chester
Dartford v Tamworth
Grimsby v Hyde
Hereford v Alfreton
Kidderminster v Nuneaton
Macclesfield v Gateshead
Salisbury v Welling
Southport v Halifax
Wrexham v Lincoln
Barnet v Braintree (5.15pm)

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First Capital Connect

where next?

With the Town's promotion back to the Football League secure, attention has turned to who and where the Hatters will be playing in League 2 next season.

DOWN FROM LEAGUE 1?

The battle to say in the third tier is going to go right down to the wire with the majority of clubs in danger of dropping down to League 2 having just four matches to play.

Near-neighbours Stevenage currently prop up League 1 and are four points from safety with four games left. Shrewsbury lie a point above Boro in the table on 41 points whilst Crewe sit in 22nd place on 43 points. This is where it gets tight with Carlisle in the final relegation spot also on 43 points but having played a game less. Notts County sit in the place immediately above the dreaded dotted line, also on 43 points.

Tranmere lie in 19th spot on 46 points – that's three points above the relegation zone, as do Colchester in 18th, although their minus 11 goal difference is far superior to those clubs around them. Oldham sit in 17th, four points above the bottom four but with a game in hand. Gillingham in 16th are five points ahead of the relegation zone, whilst Coventry – deducted 10 points at the start of the season – aren't completely out of the woods yet. The Sky Blues lie in 15th but are six points clear of danger with four games left.

LEAGUE 2

Promotion and relegation in League 2 will be decided over the next few weeks with all 24 clubs having played 42 matches.

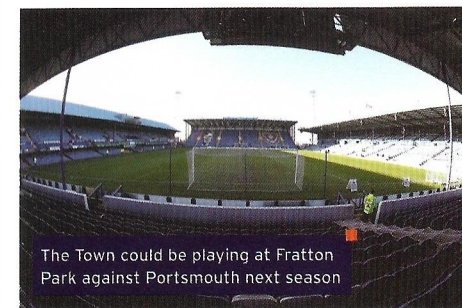
It looks increasingly unlikely that the Hatters will face Torquay next season. The Gulls prop up the entire Football League and are seven points from safety with just 12 points up for grabs left.

Just like relegation from League 1, the race to avoid the drop is well and truly on with as many as 10 teams fighting to steer clear of relegation to the Conference.

Northampton currently sit in the final relegation place, but only on goal difference ahead of Wycombe. Both clubs have 46 points. One place and one point above those two sides are Bristol Rovers. In 20th place on 43 points – yes, one ahead of Bristol Rovers – are Exeter, whilst Morecambe and Hartlepool lie a further point above the Devon club on 49 points. Accrington sit in 17th on 50 points, and Portsmouth – who have hit a good run of form in recent weeks – lie in 16th on 51 points, five points clear of the relegation zone.

Scunthorpe, Rochdale and Chesterfield seem set to win promotion – the trio seven, six and five points clear respectively of fourth-placed Fleetwood. Burton, Southend, Oxford, York, Plymouth and Mansfield harbour hopes of promotion via the Play-Offs.

Mid-table Bury, Dagenham & Redbridge, Newport, AFC Wimbledon and Cheltenham are five clubs the Town fans stand a definite chance of visiting next season.



The Town could be playing at Fratton Park against Portsmouth next season

UP FROM THE CONFERENCE

With the Town gloriously up as champions and with no worries of the Play-Offs for once (thank goodness), Hatters followers will still have a vented interest in who joins them in League 2 next term.

Cambridge are guaranteed a place in the Play-Offs but the race remains on for a host of clubs to secure the three remaining places.

Halifax beat Grimsby last Tuesday to leap into third place, level on points with the Mariners but above them on goal difference. Those two clubs have a four-point buffer over sixth-placed Braintree. The Iron, who beat the Town at Kenilworth Road, are three points behind Gateshead who lie fifth.

Kidderminster, whose win over Cambridge gave the Town the title, sit five points off the top five whilst Alfreton, in eighth, still hold an outside chance, sitting six points from fifth. Forest Green, Barnet, Woking and Salisbury can still mathematically reach the Play-Offs but their chances look slim.

Of course this programme went to print before the Easter weekend so the picture will probably be a lot clearer now!

from left midfield

BY KEVIN CROWE

LUTON ARE BACK. WE NEVER WENT AWAY.

I remember the night well. It was Friday 13th of September 2013.

You might have been at the match in Wrexham. I was in a north London pub ignoring my mates and watching the tragedy unfold on BT Sport. The dismissed Alex Wall sat alone in the dressing room, head down, whilst the remaining dire minutes of a non-league football match ebbed away painfully on the pitch.

Luton hearts sank from Stopsley to Stockholm, from Barton to Bury. The rain outside was unrelenting and the fixture list stretched out in front of us all, just as slippery and exhausting. This was our fifth year of Non-League football, and it would be our last. The year we finally made it back.

Hang Luton flags from your Bedford Trucks, dust off your boater and ask your kids what a hashtag is. Take a photo of Ricky Hill into the Barbers and one of Wegerle's pout to your plastic surgeon... Because Luton ARE back.

Get tattoos. Get Luton tattoos. Get John Still quotes inked on your boat and smile at passers-by with a Champions glint in your eye because now is the time to let the world know you're Luton.

Luton are back. We're actually back! Back in the Football League. They are literally going to have believe us! Why have you worn your Luton shirt to work? You're a 45-year-old accountant, man. Show some bloody decorum!

The night we finally did it will live long in the memory. But it's a football memory unlike any other in the booze-drenched misremembered Cup runs and occasional promotions of my teens and twenties, or those fragile early years watching TV with my dad while I naively tried to understand the gravity of the big moments.

On Tuesday night, when the final whistle finally went in Kidderminster, Lutonians the world over could stop holding their breath and refreshing their Twitter feed, I let out the celebratory roar of a blood-thirsty psychopath across the terraced streets of south Tottenham, my current place of exile. I hugged my wife and poured an irresponsible measure of Scotch into a glass and stood arms aloft in my living room alone as tears streamed down my face. I am 31 years old and I have a Luton problem.

Frantically scrolling through Twitter I soon found that I was not alone. There were thousands of you. Thousands around the world just like me, pathetically crying, smiling and drinking and taking stupid photos of your dog and your baby dressed up in orange black and white. There were ex-players and sort-of-famous people and fans of other teams all wishing us well too. My mum even rang me up.

Kidderminster 2 Cambridge 0. The stuff of absolutely no one's dreams ever.

We'd become obsessed by how and when we'd do it hadn't we? The Braintree game couldn't have been more perfect. Everyone was there. 10,000 or more returned to Bury Park, bathed in the spring sunshine of Eric's famous smile. The TV cameras were there, too. The cursed TV cameras that when pointed in the direction of a Luton match this season have turned champions into also-rans with the devastating certainty of a David Moyes team talk.

I'd written in the programme that we would be champions by the afternoon. The talk in the pubs before was of people's various pitch invasion plans. "You going on straight away or you gonna wait for the Trophy?" "Stuff the TV cameras I'm going on the pitch, it's been five years".

As you know the invasion was eventually aborted thanks to three goals from a Braintree side that had absolutely no sense of occasion and to be honest, I'm never having them round again.

Fearing the unthinkable and pretty much impossible, and with the perfect moment out of the way, the mood across Lutonia well and truly shifted from "I want to be there when we win it" to "JUST CROWN US CHAMPIONS NOW PLEASE".

The journey from Alex Wall's lonely dressing room vigil in Wrexham to drunkenly tweeting YouTube clips of break-up songs to the Football Conference account on a Tuesday night in April (again, I'm 31 years old) has been a staggering one, and I feel privileged to have shared it with you, mate.

How did we get here? Well I've come to the same conclusion as you.

From day one, John Still has been a manager that we so wanted to believe in. He's pragmatic, he's realistic and he doesn't get too carried away, but the over-riding sense that he exudes at all times is that everything's going to be alright. Stick with me, lads, I know what I'm doing. I've done it before.

The thing with Luton is we know managers and players who have been successful elsewhere. We've turned promising young strikers into bench warmers and coaches with Premier League pedigree into shadows of their former selves. What has been the difference with our John Still?

Our John is a root-to-branch reformer; A father figure for the unruly children of modern football that roam the terraces of Kenilworth Road. He may have more catchphrases than Roy Walker but the glint in his eye and the points on the board tell a deeper story of a serious professional, a man of gravitas and contacts and tactical nous.

A man whose substitutions always score.

A cynic might call his rapport with supporters "good PR", but with Still it's natural. He came here with a plan to lead all of us out of the mire; not like a bull in a china shop, rather a lighter of many small fires to spark a revolution. More than anything else, he is a bloke who knows what it really means to support a football club. And my god do we love him for it.

We told men like John Still, his staff and his players that if they did it, if they could become the manager and the squad of players to get us out of this forgotten quicksand pit of a league, then they would become legends overnight. Their names would rank up there with the FA cup-setters of the 90s, the beige suited jigs and top-flight stints of the 80s, the flair and swagger of the 70s and the England caps and Wembley finals of the 50s. A history that, for the first time in years, we feel confident can stretch further into the future than it stretches into the past.

This team and 2020 behind them become legends because we knew that this was a mountain that, if we were unable to climb soon, it felt like we might die trying. Well do it they did and legends they are, and I just cannot stop smiling.

While the rest of the world comes to terms with what thousands of the most dedicated supporters in football have known for months, be safe in the knowledge that whatever was thrown at us over the years, you're not only part of a Luton Town that are finally back... you lot reading this, you're the Luton Town that just wouldn't go away.

leftmidfield.blogspot.com

fixtures and results

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	ATT	AWAY	POS	STARTING XI
AUGUST								
Sat 10	3.00pm	A	Southport	1-0-1	2,210	839	18	Tyler Smith Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Tue 13	7.45pm	H	Salisbury City	W 2-0	6,520	92	12	Tyler Smith Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 17	3.00pm	H	Macclesfield Town	0-1-1	6,216	80	13	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 24	3.00pm	A	Forest Green Rovers	0-0-0	1,858	653	14	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Mon 26	3.00pm	H	Cambridge United	0-0-0	7,517	963	11	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 31	3.00pm	A	Kidderminster Harriers	W 2-0	2,866	821	11	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
SEPTEMBER								
TV Sat 7	5.30pm	H	Grimsby Town	D 0-0	6,131	265	14	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
TV Fri 13	7.45pm	A	Wrexham	L 0-2	3,122	190	14	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Tue 17	7.45pm	H	Dartford	W 3-0	5,433	142	11	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 21	3.00pm	H	Lincoln City	W 3-2	6,203	227	9	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Tue 24	7.45pm	A	Woking	W 4-0	1,955	731	5	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 28	3.00pm	A	Hereford United	D 0-0	2,368	580	6	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
OCTOBER								
Sat 5	3.00pm	H	FC Halifax Town	W 4-3	6,519	260	5	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Tue 8	7.45pm	A	Aldershot Town	0-3-3	2,693	840	4	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 12	3.00pm	H	Hyde	W 4-1	7,081	30	3	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 19	3.00pm	A	Tamworth	W 4-3	2,066	1,199	3	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 26	3.00pm	A	Woking (FAC4Q)	W 1-0	1,452	537	-	Justham Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
NOVEMBER								
Sat 2	3.00pm	A	Gateshead	D 0-0	1,080	302	3	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 9	3.00pm	A	Welling United (FAC1)	L 1-2	1,555	740	-	Justham Parry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Tue 12	7.45pm	A	Braintree Town	W 2-1	1,518	728	2	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 16	3.00pm	A	Chester FC	D 1-1	3,291	890	3	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 23	3.00pm	H	Welling United	W 2-1	6,592	124	3	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Tue 26	7.45pm	H	Southport	W 3-0	6,057	16	2	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 30	3.00pm	A	Staines Town (FAC1)	D 0-0	621	0	-	Justham Chabata Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
DECEMBER								
Tue 3	7.45pm	H	Staines Town (FAC1R)	W 2-0	911	47	-	Justham Chabata Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 7	3.00pm	A	Alfreton Town	W 5-0	1,279	649	2	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 14	3.00pm	H	Wrexham (FAC2)	W 2-0	1,617	89	-	Justham Longden Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 21	3.00pm	H	Gateshead	W 4-2	6,913	23	2	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Thur 26	3.00pm	A	Barnet	W 2-1	3,608	1,700	2	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 28	3.00pm	H	Kidderminster Harriers	W 6-0	8,488	203	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
JANUARY								
TV Wed 1	12.00pm	H	Barnet	W 2-1	7,543	292	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 4	1.00pm	A	Lincoln City	D 0-0	2,928	974	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 11	3.00pm	A	Cambridge United (FAC3)	D 2-2	3,194	687	-	Justham Longden Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Tue 14	7.45pm	H	Cambridge United (FAC3R)	L 0-1	2,312	326	-	Justham Trotman Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 25	3.00pm	H	Nuneaton Town	W 3-0	7,310	182	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
FEBRUARY								
Tue 11	7.45pm	A	Macclesfield Town	W 2-1	1,705	401	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 15	3.00pm	H	Hereford United	W 7-0	7,111	156	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 22	3.00pm	A	Nuneaton Town	W 5-0	3,480	1,991	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Tue 25	7.45pm	H	Wrexham	W 5-0	7,526	124	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
MARCH								
Sat 1	3.00pm	H	Alfreton Town	W 3-0	8,412	79	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 8	3.00pm	A	Salisbury City	D 0-0	2,633	1,543	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Tue 11	7.45pm	A	Cambridge United	D 1-1	6,050	2,286	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
TV Mon 17	7.45pm	H	Woking	L 0-1	6,683	97	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 22	3.00pm	H	Chester FC	W 3-0	8,475	229	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Tue 25	7.45pm	A	Grimsby Town	W 2-1	3,789	410	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 29	3.00pm	A	FC Halifax Town	L 0-2	3,586	1,179	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
APRIL								
Tue 1	7.45pm	A	Dartford	W 2-1	2,869	1,828	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 5	3.00pm	H	Aldershot Town	W 1-0	8,558	240	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Tue 8	7.45pm	H	Tamworth	W 2-0	8,554	13	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
TV Sat 12	12.52pm	H	Braintree Town	L 2-3	10,020	96	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 19	12.30pm	A	Welling United					
Mon 21	3.00pm	H	Forest Green Rovers					
Sat 26	5.30pm	A	Hyde					

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	ATT	AWAY	POS	STARTING XI
AUGUST								
Sat 10	3.00pm	A	Southport	1-0-1	2,210	839	18	Tyler Smith Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Tue 13	7.45pm	H	Salisbury City	W 2-0	6,520	92	12	Tyler Smith Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 17	3.00pm	H	Macclesfield Town	0-1-1	6,216	80	13	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 24	3.00pm	A	Forest Green Rovers	0-0-0	1,858	653	14	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Mon 26	3.00pm	H	Cambridge United	0-0-0	7,517	963	11	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 31	3.00pm	A	Kidderminster Harriers	W 2-0	2,866	821	11	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
SEPTEMBER								
TV Sat 7	5.30pm	H	Grimsby Town	D 0-0	6,131	265	14	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
TV Fri 13	7.45pm	A	Wrexham	L 0-2	3,122	190	14	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Tue 17	7.45pm	H	Dartford	W 3-0	5,433	142	11	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 21	3.00pm	H	Lincoln City	W 3-2	6,203	227	9	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Tue 24	7.45pm	A	Woking	W 4-0	1,955	731	5	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 28	3.00pm	A	Hereford United	D 0-0	2,368	580	6	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
OCTOBER								
Sat 5	3.00pm	H	FC Halifax Town	W 4-3	6,519	260	5	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Tue 8	7.45pm	A	Aldershot Town	0-3-3	2,693	840	4	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 12	3.00pm	H	Hyde	W 4-1	7,081	30	3	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 19	3.00pm	A	Tamworth	W 4-3	2,066	1,199	3	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 26	3.00pm	A	Woking (FAC4Q)	W 1-0	1,452	537	-	Justham Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
NOVEMBER								
Sat 2	3.00pm	A	Gateshead	D 0-0	1,080	302	3	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 9	3.00pm	A	Welling United (FAC1)	L 1-2	1,555	740	-	Justham Parry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Tue 12	7.45pm	A	Braintree Town	W 2-1	1,518	728	2	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 16	3.00pm	A	Chester FC	D 1-1	3,291	890	3	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 23	3.00pm	H	Welling United	W 2-1	6,592	124	3	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Tue 26	7.45pm	H	Southport	W 3-0	6,057	16	2	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 30	3.00pm	A	Staines Town (FAC1)	D 0-0	621	0	-	Justham Chabata Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
DECEMBER								
Tue 3	7.45pm	H	Staines Town (FAC1R)	W 2-0	911	47	-	Justham Chabata Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 7	3.00pm	A	Alfreton Town	W 5-0	1,279	649	2	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 14	3.00pm	H	Wrexham (FAC2)	W 2-0	1,617	89	-	Justham Longden Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 21	3.00pm	H	Gateshead	W 4-2	6,913	23	2	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Thur 26	3.00pm	A	Barnet	W 2-1	3,608	1,700	2	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 28	3.00pm	H	Kidderminster Harriers	W 6-0	8,488	203	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
JANUARY								
TV Wed 1	12.00pm	H	Barnet	W 2-1	7,543	292	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 4	1.00pm	A	Lincoln City	D 0-0	2,928	974	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 11	3.00pm	A	Cambridge United (FAC3)	D 2-2	3,194	687	-	Justham Longden Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Tue 14	7.45pm	H	Cambridge United (FAC3R)	L 0-1	2,312	326	-	Justham Trotman Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 25	3.00pm	H	Nuneaton Town	W 3-0	7,310	182	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
FEBRUARY								
Tue 11	7.45pm	A	Macclesfield Town	W 2-1	1,705	401	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 15	3.00pm	H	Hereford United	W 7-0	7,111	156	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 22	3.00pm	A	Nuneaton Town	W 5-0	3,480	1,991	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Tue 25	7.45pm	H	Wrexham	W 5-0	7,526	124	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
MARCH								
Sat 1	3.00pm	H	Alfreton Town	W 3-0	8,412	79	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 8	3.00pm	A	Salisbury City	D 0-0	2,633	1,543	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Tue 11	7.45pm	A	Cambridge United	D 1-1	6,050	2,286	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
TV Mon 17	7.45pm	H	Woking	L 0-1	6,683	97	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 22	3.00pm	H	Chester FC	W 3-0	8,475	229	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Tue 25	7.45pm	A	Grimsby Town	W 2-1	3,789	410	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 29	3.00pm	A	FC Halifax Town	L 0-2	3,586	1,179	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
APRIL								
Tue 1	7.45pm	A	Dartford	W 2-1	2,869	1,828	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 5	3.00pm	H	Aldershot Town	W 1-0	8,558	240	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Tue 8	7.45pm	H	Tamworth	W 2-0	8,554	13	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
TV Sat 12	12.52pm	H	Braintree Town	L 2-3	10,020	96	1	Tyler Henry Griffiths McNulty Lacey Taiwo ↑ Guttridge 1 Martin ↑ Whalley
Sat 19	12.30pm	A	Welling United					
Mon 21	3.00pm	H	Forest Green Rovers					
Sat 26	5.30pm	A	Hyde					

LEAGUE TABLE 2013/14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
C Luton Town	43	27	11	5	95	33	62	92
2 Cambridge United	43	23	13	7	72	31	41	82
3 FC Halifax Town	43	21	10	12	81	54	27	73

hold the back page

WITH LUTON NEWS SPORTS EDITOR MIKE SIMMONDS

Well, well, well, that was some week wasn't?

Tuesday night finally ended five years of life as a non-league club for the Hatters with Cambridge United's defeat at Kidderminster ensuring Town can now once again call themselves a Football League club.

Sounds good doesn't it?

The outpouring of joy and emotion via social media was immediate and non-stop on the final whistle, with Twitter especially going particularly mental, showing just how much the club matters to so many people all over the world.

The likes of former Mick Harford, Ricky Hill, Marvin Johnson, John Hartson Steve Howard and Claude Gnakpa

were a few quick to pass on their congratulations, while it even reached the non-footballing world, as Lutonians Colin Salmon and Monty Panesar tweeted as well.

It wasn't confined to the internet either, as sitting on a desk full of Hatters fans in the News/Gazette, there were clenched fists and permanent smiles on entering the office the following morning.

Meanwhile, heading to the development game against Crystal Palace on Wednesday afternoon, I even received a massive hug from the ticket office attendant who couldn't contain his delight that his club had 'finally done it'.

Even at the end of the game, where Town won 3-2 against a youthful Eagles side, "that's why we're going up" came a chant from a few supporters in the ground.

So how come this season has been so different to others?

A number of managers have tried and failed to bring the good times back to Kenilworth Road, but a certain John Still has managed to do it.

He quickly noted that having the fans inside would be a huge factor and combined with Ronnie Henry, did just that, with the home games now free of an atmosphere filled with tension during past seasons.

There hasn't been a weak link in the side either, with Andre Gray grabbing the headlines after banging in 27 goals, while players like Steve McNulty, Luke Guttridge, Scott Griffiths and Paul Benson deserve special mention too.

So what next for the Town? Well League 2 will bring an expectation of another promotion campaign, and why not, with the likes of Crawley and Stevenage showing you can go right through the division with the momentum gained from winning the Conference.

Certain things can be looked forward too now, with the stand outs, the Capital One Cup draw, Johnstone's Paint Trophy, fans being able to play as their beloved side on FIFA, even seven subs on a match day.

Whatever happens, the Town will be back where they rightfully belong. And today's celebrations will last long into the night.

#CHAMPIONS

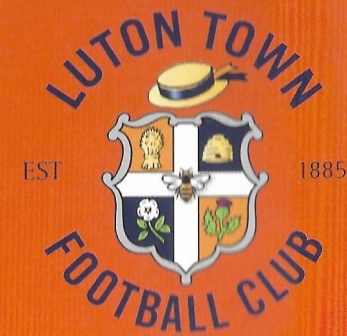
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#ABillionGirlsFolLikeThis
#paradevousings
Paranormal Activity
Tears
Happy 10th
Nettie

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The Town were popular on social media after winning the title



The Town will be able to defend the Johnstone's Paint Trophy next season. How good does that sound?



KEEP CALM

SEE YOU IN LEAGUE 2!

academy update

WITH HEAD OF YOUTH WAYNE TURNER

THE LADS HAVE DONE IT!

Well done to everyone connected to the club, we have made history together! Special thanks must go to John Still and his two disciples Terry and Hakan.

With Gary and the board support they have done a fantastic job. Five years and four managers later (who all played there part) we have arrived back where we belong in the Football League. It's been a testing time for everyone, none more so than the youth department where we had to survive up against the odds, making sure our players are here with us at this destination today.

Gregg Broughton started it (a big thank you to him) and I am finishing it with the help of my loyal, talented and workaholic staff. They are easy to name Paul Driver, Joe Deeney, Lee Cowley, Jordan McCann, Kevin Thoburn and the "New kid on the block" Marc Tracy, who has been a revelation since I acquired him six weeks ago from of all places Cambridge United! Marc has got 17 years of experience in his role and for him it is a breeze. I'd also like to say a huge thanks to those part-time staff and volunteers who have helped me and the academy this season. Their work has not gone unnoticed and for that I thank them unreservedly. We now, as a group take the youth department forward into a new era. EPPP 3 status

with a realistic chance of a category 2 status in a couple years' time. There is very bright future which we can look forward to with confidence. With the future in mind comes decisions now, and it's a sad time of the year when we are releasing players at all age groups.

Three Under-18s have been signed and three have been released, with two further lads recovering from injury, and there decisions being suspended for the time being. Three different emotions there alone:- happiness, sadness and nervousness. All have to be dealt with in their own individual ways.

The Under-16s have been a hard group to sort, at one stage we could not see where we would get our intake from but then all of a sudden bang! Five came crashing through which we are delighted with. Sadly we let quite a few boys go we had to be cruel to be kind. If I along with the staff didn't believe they had a genuine chance to be professional in two years, why sign them? Parents and players might be upset, I am truly sorry but we did it for the right reasons.

Back to today and now. Enjoy the game, no pressure! Enjoy the summer and the World Cup (we hope) and come back refreshed into the Football League! Loving it loads! Good luck.

academy update

UNDER-18S MANAGER PAUL DRIVER
REVIEWS THE 2013/14 CAMPAIGN



OFFICIAL SPONSORS OF
THE LUTON TOWN ACADEMY

At the start of the season, we set ourselves two main goals as a team - the primary one of which was to reach the third round of the FA Youth Cup. Along with this was to, at least, match last season's third place finish in the Youth Alliance.

An excellent set of performances, particularly in tough away trips at Boston and Gateshead, helped us to achieve the main objective in the Youth Cup and we almost surpassed this when we put in a gallant performance to take Huddersfield Town all the way at their ground in the third round before losing in extra-time having taken the lead with just 13 minutes to go.

When we consider that Huddersfield were flying high, hammering teams in their league which is a level above ours and went on to defeat West Brom and Manchester United in the following rounds, this shows how far we had come as a team by Christmas.

To add further credibility to our progress, we were right at the top of the league with eventual champions, Colchester United, having won eight of our nine matches at Christmas.

At this point, though, the emphasis changed with the group. Zane Banton and Ian Rees, who I will mention again later, had achieved professional contracts and moved up and we felt that we needed to expose the older boys to the senior game to help them kick on and join their two team mates in the senior squad so Ben Barnes and Charlie Smith, initially, went out to Waltham Forest and Hitchin Town.

Tougher

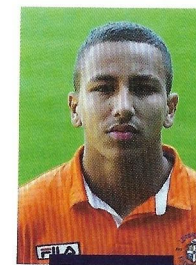
This left us with a very young, inexperienced group made up of first year scholars and Under-16 players so life in the league became tougher for us. Despite this, we continued to be competitive and picked up excellent wins against Stevenage and Northampton plus good points against Watford and Colchester.

We ended up fifth in the league table which was below the original target, but we take great heart from what has been some encouraging early progress of next year's team and there are a number of positives to be had.

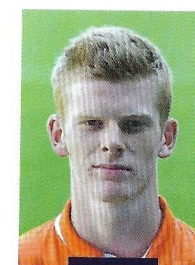
Despite only playing nine of our 21 games with our full side, we finished with more points from the same amount of games as last season, we had the best defensive record in the league and had extremely close games towards the end against strong sides put out by

the eventual winners, runners up and third placed teams of Colchester, Peterborough and Gillingham.

In any season, though, the measure of how we have done is what we see progressing through to the first team which was the sole reason for changing the emphasis from the team to the individuals within it. As mentioned above, the performances in Development Games and the FA Trophy saw the early offer of contracts to Ian and Zane and we expect to be adding Charlie Smith to that shortly following his spell at Hitchin Town where he had secured himself a regular start position in a good side playing in a tough league so my congratulations go to those boys.



Zane Banton



Ian Rees

It is always the worse day of the year when I have to give out the bad news to the boys who will not be getting offered pro contracts and, sadly, this happened recently with Ben Barnes, Jemale McKenzie-Lowe and Tinashe Chabata. I have known all three boys for three years now and have enjoyed my time working with them since I first met them on a tour to Austria in June 2011 and I wish them every success in their lives, both in and out of football.

As always, I like to finish on a high note and this year's it's easy!

Our promotion back to the Football League is what each and every person involved with this great club fully deserves and I am sure we are all looking forward to another great campaign next season so well done and thank you to John Still, Terry Harry, Hakan Hayrattin, Dave Richardson, Jeff Wood and Simon Parsell for what they have done to give us such a brilliant team to help us achieve our club goal this season.

COYH



Celebrating the release of the Wonderful Town EP by UK Decay on behalf of Luton Town

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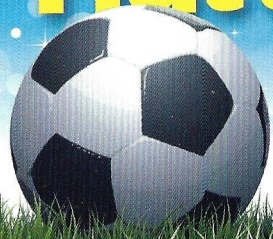



Thank you all who helped in making this happen! You know who you are, you know who you are!
 A Big Special Thanks to: Alan, James and Tom - Our Young One Club, One Family
 Funded by: John Still on behalf of Luton Town (shared by Mark Billing)
 Released by: UK Decay
 Produced by: UK Decay
 Special thanks to: Luton Town Football Club, Church, Quarry, St. Saviour's, Luton Town
 LutonTown.com is a professional production, work in motion.

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The Hatter's Cup, now in its 8th year, has become the biggest stadium football tournament in Southern England with over 1,200 youngsters taking part on the pitch at Kenilworth Road Stadium.

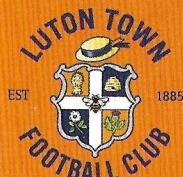


For entry forms contact James Hatch: **01582 583618** or james.luton@live.co.uk
You can also download the application form from www.lutontown.co.uk
Closing date for entry forms: **27/04/14**

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

TERM 4 STARTS IN THREE WEEKS

Last chance this season to gain entry onto our youth development system.
Nine weeks coaching programme and trial matches for under 7's to under 16's. Contact our Football development Officer, James Hatch by email at james.luton@live.co.uk or 01582 411622



TIPs - Talent Identification Programme
Luton Town FC
Football Development for 6 to 16 year olds
Youth Development 2013-14

TERM 1
Sept 16th -
Nov 22nd 2013
(9 weeks)
TRIAL MATCH
Sat 9th &
16th Nov 2013

TERM 2
Nov 25th 2013 -
Feb 14th 2014
(9 weeks)
TRIAL MATCH
Sat 1st &
8th Feb 2014

TERM 3
Feb 24th -
May 9th 2014
(9 weeks)
TRIAL MATCH
Thurs 24th April
& 1st May 2014

TERM 4
May 12th -
July 18th 2014
(9 weeks)
TRIAL MATCH
Thurs 3rd &
10th July 2014



TIPs GRADUATES

Jack Dunn
Joined TIPs at U7
Academy player U10

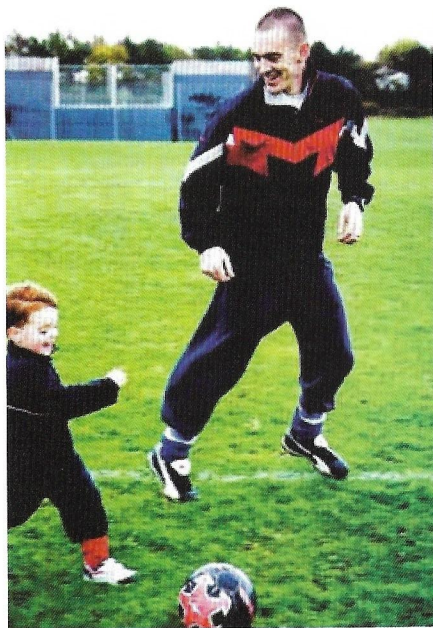
Tyrelle Newton
Joined TIPs at U7
Academy player U10

Fahd Hussein
Joined TIPs at U10
Academy player U12

Joe Hankins
Joined TIPs at U11
Academy player U15

Coaching Programme 9 Weeks Plus Trial Match

Soccer Centres in Bedford, Biggleswade, Dunstable, Flitwick, Harpenden, Hitchin, Hemel Hempstead, Kempston, Leighton Buzzard, Luton, Milton Keynes/Bletchley, Shefford and St Albans



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Luton Ladies

DAVE BAKER ROUNDS-UP THE
LATEST WITH THE LADIES

Firstly, all at Luton Town Ladies are delighted to add our congratulations to John Still, the players and staff of the Club on our promotion back to the Football League.

Many of us are lifelong fans who have followed the Club through years of ups and downs and it is so refreshing to feel that we have not just regained our League status but are part of the rebirth of the Club.

It is unfortunate that the Ladies cannot claim such a level of on field success this season with the first team flirting with relegation at times and only recently ensuring survival with a league double over Ebbsfleet United.

Growing

Whilst a complete rebuild was always going to be a gamble it was considered the right time to do it with the likelihood of promotion remote due to two clubs being funded to an estimated 15 times more than our own modest self-funded club. We now have a growing squad of very capable players going forward and now aim to add further players to strengthen both senior squads with a view to having them both in the Premier League set up from 2015.

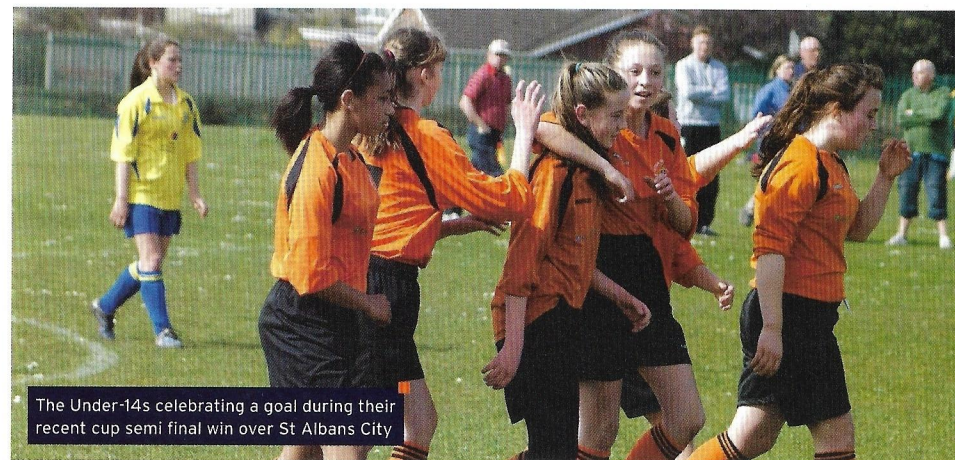
What must not be underestimated is the ability of our youth players who are already beginning training with the senior players with a view to making an impact next season.

The Town are due to take on Bedford on 27th April in the County Cup final when we will be seeking a record sixth title.

It is very pleasing to be able to report on progress in both our youth teams with the Under-15s finishing league runners-up and reaching the League Cup final on 11th May. Skipper Lilley Coleman has led the defence well throughout the season, but the pure weight of goals has been impressive with Phoebe Brown (32 goals), Chloe Fitzsimmons (24) and Aimee Esser (23) leading the way.

The Under-14s have progressed considerably and have been in the top three positions in the table all season. They have also reached their League Cup final on 10th May knocking out the League champions Watford 2-0 en route. What has been tremendously impressive about this group is that seven players have been ever-present which can only help when chasing trophies. Jodie Bellinger is the main source of goals having struck on 34 occasions this season.

If there is any individual or organisation that is able to assist Luton Ladies with either funding or in a practical way, please to contact us. Similarly, we are always seeking to improve our playing strength in all squads and that includes our new proposed Under-10 and Under-14 squads planned for next season. Please email lutontownlfc@hotmail.co.uk for further details.



The Under-14s celebrating a goal during their recent cup semi final win over St Albans City

my only luton

A FAN'S TALE

MY NAME: Stuart Phillips

MY AGE: 44

MY LOCATION: Guildford, Surrey

MY TIME SUPPORTING LUTON TOWN

Although I have always lived around 60 miles from Luton I have supported them for around 30 years. My local team went defunct and it was Luton's style of football that attracted me to watching them. Once I begun to see them regularly I made many friends in the area of Luton. I have held a season ticket for around 27 years and my boys since the age of four.

During my time following the team I have been lucky to have two boys to share trips to games with, Liam who is 16 and Joel who is eight. During my time following the Hatters I have now watched them in excess of 1,000 times. Considering we travel a 120-mile round trip to home games I don't think this is at all bad.

Both my boys begun to attend games regularly from the age of around three, and I remember them initially sitting on my lap before getting their own seat. We all sit together in the Kenilworth Upper.

I'm quite proud that they have continued to support the side when all their mates follow Chelsea and are happy to wear their replica kit and admit it. We have been all rewarded with lots of experiences and memories, highs and lows, League titles, promotion, Cup finals, Wembley appearances and Play-Offs. Most of all I love going to away games, it's a great opportunity to go together and see other parts of the country.

MY FIRST LUTON GAME

It took me a while to get to my first game as I couldn't drive and had to go on my own to games initially, but it was 8th November 1986 away to Wimbledon. I believe Mike Newell headed back across goal to Mark Stein to score in a 1-0 win.

MY FAVORITE LUTON GAME

Well, that's a really difficult one to answer in my opinion. Different games mean different things to people and for different reasons. However, I prefer to pick a few for different reasons:

The 2009 Johnstone's Paint Trophy Final v Scunthorpe for the amazing support and some great goals, particularly considering our position at the time.

The 1988 Littlewoods Cup v Arsenal. We were given no chance in this game and really shocked the football world when we won against a strong Arsenal side.

The FA Cup fourth round tie at Norwich last season. I think the best ever win by a non-league club. Yes we only got one chance in the game, but we took it.

The 3-1 win at Swansea in 2002 to clinch promotion. I remember having to run back to the car afterwards as the Welsh lads weren't too happy with the result!

The 2-1 win at Wrexham to clinch the League 1 title. A great achievement season topped off with some key wins such as this towards the end of the season.

The 1-0 win over Hull City in 2004/05. Kenilworth Road just went mental. A key result that eventually led to us winning the League 1 title.

MY FAVORITE LUTON GOAL

Again so many to choose from, I would be here all day... but I have to go for Matt Spring at Watford as an individual effort. It was the right goal for the occasion and certainly one to crow over.

As for a team goal there have been a few this season especially. The third at Alfreton and the sixth against Kidderminster particularly good examples this season.

MY FAVORITE LUTON PLAYER

Again there have been a few, but I'd have to go for Mick Harford. The man was unplayable at times and just scared the opposition to death. You just don't get centre forwards like him anymore and when he trod on the Watford players as a Wimbledon play whilst they were doing the 'dying fly' it was just priceless.

MY ALL-TIME LUTON TOWN XI

GOALKEEPER – Ian Feuer – The guy was just pure entertainment and had a great attitude. I remember him once taking a player out in the box, then shaking his hand when he didn't get a penalty and how personally he took the defeat to Crewe in the Play offs – a real character.

A special mention to Les Sealy who once offered me a lift home after a pre-season game at Hendon and I lived 50 miles in the wrong direction.

RIGHT-BACK – Tim Breaker – The guy was an express train and delivered a great ball. I will never forget his goal at Derby to keep us up.



Stuart (left) with sons Joel (centre) and Liam (right)

LEFT-BACK – Matt Taylor – A really hardworking and entertaining player. Scoring 10 or so goals from left-back in 2001/02 was a real achievement. He should have gone onto play for England in my opinion but made the wrong move to Portsmouth.

CENTRE-HALF – Mal Donaghy – What can you say? The man was top drawer. That showed when Man United and Chelsea engaged him in his later years. The coolest defender I think I've seen.

CENTRE-HALF – Steve Davis – A good leader and capable of scoring goals. A decent defender in his time with us. He was just one of those players the fans took too immediately.

MIDFIELD – Kevin Nicholls – What a player. The guy was as hard as nails and gave 100%. I remember extra time in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final he lifted that team to victory. He was a great motivator and no one messed with him. The sort of player you rarely see these days.

MIDFIELD – Ricky Hill – He should have played for England more. Ricky moved around the pitch gracefully and scored some great goals. It was a shame his management skills were nowhere near the same level, but he will always be a Luton legend.

MIDFIELD – David Preece – Another graceful and talented midfielder, who is sadly missed. He linked the play brilliantly and scored his share of important goals.

MIDFIELD – Roy Wegerle – A really talented player who probably didn't get the recognition his ability deserved. During his short time with Luton he scored some quality goals, the 35-yard strike against Neville Southall a particular favourite. He bought me a pint in a nightclub once.

FORWARD – Mick Harford – Just the perfect centre forward, brave, physical, great in the air and scored his fair share of goals.

A Luton Legend and another player who should have appeared more for England. He even scored an own goal for us to help us out.

FORWARD – Lars Elstrup / Steve Howard – I've included two players here. Lars Elstrup was a quality signing and scored some excellent goals. He outpaced Des Walker for one and it was a real waste when he left the game to join some religious group.

Steve Howard deserves a mention for scoring over 100 goals for the club. I remember his start wasn't too hot at York City during a penalty debacle, but he recovered well to become one of the club's highest goal scorers.

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

There is never a dull moment, the club is a soap opera for sure, but for every poor period there is a good period. Both myself and my boys have some amazing memories supporting the team.

This is not just from the playing side, but things the club have done for us. I've been fortunate enough to see Luton at nearly every British ground bar one or two, and abroad as well.

I've met lots of friends through supporting Luton Town and it's funny that wherever you go in the world you always come across a Hatters supporter.

Particularly at the moment the current owners are brilliant at engaging with the fans and answering correspondence. They have been very good at making the experience at the club a good one.

I am particularly grateful to John Dreyer who during his time at the club used to sort me out tickets for away games when I had broken my leg. A really nice guy.

Luton Town is part of our life and, despite the bad times, I don't ever see that changing.

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.

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 | |



FOREST GREEN ROVERS

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Sam Russell | 15 Eddie Oshodi |
| 2 Jared Hodgkiss | 16 Aarran Racine |
| 3 Chris Stokes | 17 Stephen Brogan |
| 4 Al Bangura | 20 Luke Oliver |
| 5 Jamie Turley | 21 Paul White |
| 6 Dale Bennett | 22 Paul Green |
| 7 James Norwood | 23 Anthony Barry |
| 8 Yan Klukowski | 24 Marcus Kelyl |
| 9 Danny Wright | 26 Luke Rodgers |
| 10 Magno Vieira | 29 Lee Hughes |
| 12 Ed Asafu-Adjaye | 30 Bradley Jordan |
| 14 Matty Taylor | |

Referee: **D. Treleaven** | Assistant: **S. Ogles** | Assistant: **C. Pollard** | Fourth official: **M. Eva**

UP NEXT
v HYDE

SATURDAY 26th APRIL 2014 • 3PM
SKRILL PREMIER

