

TALK OF THE TOWN



LUTON TOWN v
BURTON ALBION

SATURDAY 11th APRIL 2015

KICK-OFF 3PM

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LEAGUE 2

Celebrating our 130th birthday today

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66 Happy birthday to Luton Town Football Club!

On this very day 130 years ago this club we love so much was born. A lot of ups and downs, twists and turns and thousands of players later we're still here and very much alive and kicking.

In today's programme, club historian Roger Wash details how the formation of Luton Town came about as we begin our theme ahead of next season's special 130th anniversary campaign. You will see from the front cover we have tweaked our badge, while limited edition merchandise will also be available from the club shop. We have plenty of ideas to mark next season's anniversary but if you have any of your own please do get in touch.

On the pitch the Hatters team of 2015 will be aiming to carry on from where they left off on Easter Monday following the win at Tranmere. But today the Town are tasked with taking on the League 2 leaders Burton Albion who are enjoying a superb season and look set to be playing in League 1 next term.

You can read all about Burton and much more besides in today's issue of Talk of the Town and here's hoping for three points this afternoon.

Happy reading and enjoy the game #COYH

4 THE BOSS

John Still looks ahead to today's game



10 AROUND TOWN

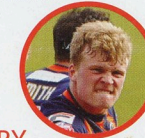
A round-up of the news at Kenilworth Road

20 BURTON ALBION

All you need know about our visitors from the Pirelli Stadium

24 LOOKING BACK

Photographs and reaction from our games with Exeter and Tranmere



40 AND IF YOU KNOW YOUR HISTORY...

Club historian Roger Wash delves into his archives

51 HATTERS ACADEMY

All the latest news from the Luton Town academy



72 FIXTURES AND RESULTS

Follow the Hatters' progress throughout 2014/15

LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB 2020 LTD

Kenilworth Road Stadium, 1 Maple Road,
Luton, Bedfordshire LU4 8AW

Switchboard: 01582 411622

Ticket office: 01582 416976

info@lutontown.co.uk | www.lutontown.co.uk

CLUB OFFICIALS

CHAIRMAN: Nick Owen

VICE CHAIRMAN: David Wilkinson

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Gary Sweet

DIRECTORS: Paul Ballantyne, Bob Curson,
Mike Herrick.

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FIRST TEAM COACH: Hakan Hayrettin

GOALKEEPER COACH: Kevin Dearden

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RETAIL & MERCHANDISING MANAGER:

June Walsh

TICKET OFFICE MANAGER: Mike Hooker

CATERING MANAGER: David Romans

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER: Tania Buonpane

PRESS OFFICER: Andrew Barringer

CLUB DOCTOR: Dr Paul Dealey

CLUB CHAPLAIN: Alan West

SAFETY OFFICER: Leon Blackburn

SUPPORTER LIAISON OFFICER: John Miller

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

EDITOR: Andrew Barringer

PHOTOGRAPHY: Gareth Owen and Liam Smith

CONTRIBUTORS: Andrew Barringer, Roger Wash,
Tom Skinner, Kevin Crowe, Simon Pitts and
Leigh Edwards.

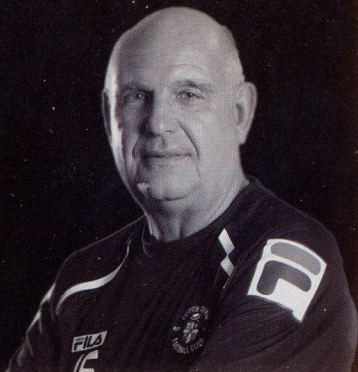
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The views in this programme are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editor and/or Luton Town.

JOHN STILL



Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for this game with Burton Albion.

In particular I would like to welcome Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, his staff and players plus the directors and supporters of our visitors who are enjoying an excellent season.

We entertain a Burton side who are battling hard at the top of the league for an automatic promotion place, and that tells us it is going to be a very, very tough game. Not too long ago we were challenging for a top three spot but unfortunately our form dipped. However, we have still left ourselves a great chance of making the Play-Offs so this game this afternoon represents a great challenge for both clubs.

On Easter Monday we faced a Tranmere side under Micky Adams desperately trying to get themselves out of relegation trouble at the other end of the table.

Micky is a very experienced manager and when he went in earlier in the season I felt they might come away from there but they've found it tough as the campaign has progressed.

Massive

With so much at stake for both sides it was always going to be a massive game, especially for ourselves having gone into it losing our previous seven matches. However, I felt we dealt with the occasion manfully and in a game of few chances we defended resolutely. I thought in the second half our attacking play was very good.

It was in the second 45 minutes in which we made some changes that we thought would affect the game and in the end we ran out 1-0 winners to keep us in and around the Play-Off places.

I was really, really pleased to put an end to the disappointing run and very encouraged to see so many supporters travel and be part of the team that helped us get over the line. Thank you.

During the run I can't speak highly enough of you.

YOU SHOULD NEVER FORGET WHO YOU ARE, WHERE YOU'VE BEEN AND WHERE YOU WANT TO GET TO.

I think 99 per cent of our supporters have stayed 100 per cent behind the team, recognising where we are and where we've come from over the past two years. All clubs have fans who voice their disappointment; I understand that and have no problems with it. But, in situations like this, you should never forget who you are, where you've been and where you want to get to.

Spice

The season is coming to its climax with just five games to go with every team we come up against having something to play for which gives an added spice. On Tuesday we go to my old club, Dagenham & Redbridge, where I enjoyed unbelievable moments.

People ask me if I am looking forward to it, but I think it's really hard to say. What I do know is that I am absolutely delighted for the Daggers that they have pulled themselves away from the wrong end of the table, and

STILL POSITIVE

I know, given my past there, that they are really going to make it a difficult encounter for us. Well done to the Daggers – I look forward to going back there and I look forward to your continued support there, too.

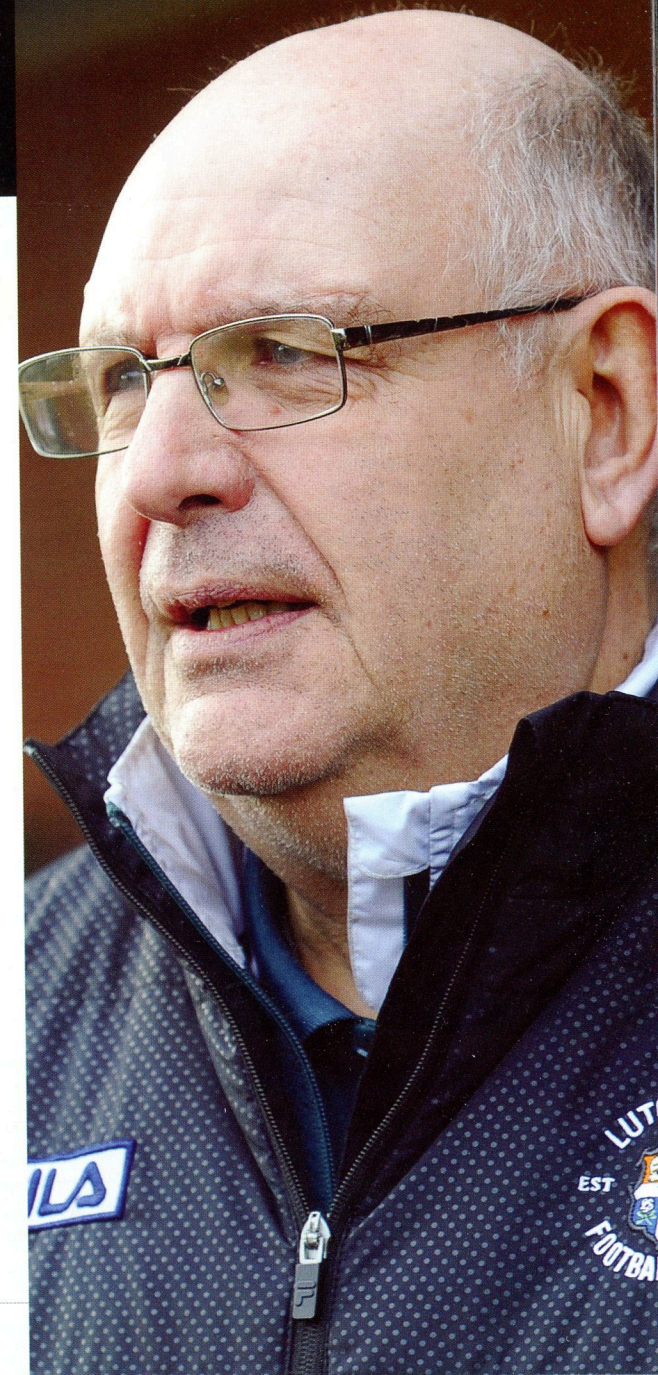
Let's see what happens today and on Tuesday – then we'll know where we stand with three games to go.

On the injury front there is good news as we go into this final stretch of the season, with Nathan Doyle, Jonathan Smith and Paul Benson's fitness improving all the time. We had good news that Scott Griffiths has delayed his operation on a hernia and we hope to have Elliot Lee also available for today after injury. At the minute a little bit of sun is coming out on what's been a dark and dreary patch for us.

Congratulations

Also this week we were delighted for our development squad who, under the guidance of Hakan, have won their league. Congratulations to all of those involved, especially the young players who have contributed, as well as the senior professionals who have always played with the right attitude.

So once again we have a big game today and as ever we need your support. Your backing has been fantastic and we need you to play your part once again so get behind us and enjoy the game.



BOARDROOM

WITH VICE CHAIRMAN DAVID WILKINSON



Good afternoon everyone and a very warm welcome to Kenilworth Road.

Today, we welcome officials, players and supporters from Burton Albion (the Brewers), who have had such a fantastic season under the stewardship of Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink.

He inherited a strong team when Gary Rowett left to join Birmingham in October, but has gone on to make them virtually certain of automatic promotion.

Despite several earlier incarnations Burton was founded in 1950 and spent the first 59 years in non-league football so they are just now starting to make their own history, something which is so important for supporters and to cement the club's identity. We wish them well.

Our Easter Monday visit to Tranmere was nerve-racking and exhilarating. The release of pent up frustration and relief for John and his team resulted in an emotional afternoon made even more so by the fact that a decent football club is fighting hard to stay out of the Conference. A fate we know only too well.

Today 11th April is our 130th birthday and although we have designed a commemorative crest and are planning some special events and merchandise by way of celebration, I thought I would make a few comments to try to put it all in some kind of context. I must say first of all that I haven't been coming to Kenilworth Road for all that time – although sometimes it feels like it.

On 11th April 1885 the Club was created by the merger of (Luton) Wanderers FC and Luton Excelsior FC. Perhaps strangely, professional football was not legalised in Britain until July of the same year.

Queen Victoria was on the throne. Britain had an Empire upon which the sun never set and was fighting wars in Sudan, Afghanistan and Burma.

Most houses had gas lights, but no electricity and outside loos were the norm. Electricity and telephones were being developed, but were beyond the reach of ordinary people.

In the same year the first car, a Benz Motorwagen, the first modern bicycle, a Rover safety bicycle and the first motorbike, Daimler Reitwagen, were all built and patented.

The Statue of Liberty was floated into New York harbour and they had a whip round to raise the money for a plinth to put it on.

The first Roller Coaster was patented. Do you see any significance there?

Luton was an affluent growing market town with a population of just under 25,000 most of whom, over 9,000 worked in the hat making industry. The vast majority of workers were women and it made the town very unpopular with its neighbours, because they could earn more money than most men. St Albans in particular had lost out to Luton in the Hat Making business and there was continual sniping in the local press. The feelings were exacerbated as Luton women were some of the best dressed in the country because of their redoubtable sewing skills, but they still couldn't vote.

A skilled textile worker earned £1-13shillings (£1.65p) per week. Rent for a home for family of four was around 11 shillings (55p) a week and a football jersey would have cost the equivalent of 20p.

It is often difficult to grasp the enormous changes that have taken place since the Club was formed, but what is certain is that we should be proud that we have lasted the pace despite everything that has been thrown at us. Many industries have disappeared.

Hundreds of companies have gone to the wall, but we are still here. None of us will be here to see it, but wouldn't it be great if our grandchildren are passing on stories to their grandchildren that we passed on to them.

It seems to me that it is so important to preserve and commemorate our history because it is what makes us what we are. The past is memories and the future hope. We all have different memories some recent and some way back and isn't it the co-mingling of all these that gives us the present and allows us to be hopeful about the future. It tells us that never in our 130-year history have we won back to back promotions it doesn't mean we won't ever do that, but it puts our achievements in perspective.

Dreams

We, the investors and members of 2020, are all major fans of this wonderful Club and as we have said many times we are trying to correct the wrongs of the past and ensure that the Club is self-sustainable and fit for the next 130 years. Off the field we are making huge strides toward fulfilling our dreams and as Gary said in his last notes we are closer to relocation than ever before, and it is this along with continued ambition on the field that gives us so much hope for the future.

Can I once again take this opportunity to thank you, our amazing supporters. Season tickets have been on sale since the beginning of March and yet again you have come up trumps. As at the end of the Early Bird offer period we have sold 4,300 season tickets, which is 94 per cent of sales at the same period last year. Considering our recent poor run of results and the early start it is a remarkable result. Thank you.

As for the last few weeks of the season, you never know...we are Luton Town and anything can happen.

There is a little quote from a recent movie that I like, which seems quite appropriate:-

"It will be alright in the end, but if it's not alright it's not the end"

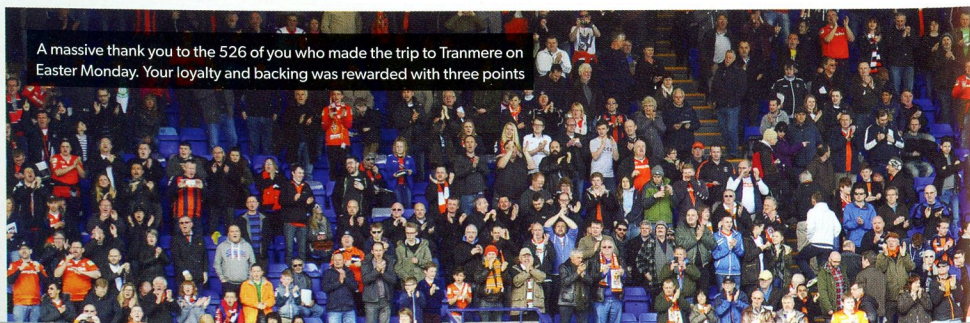
Enjoy the game.

Come on you Hatters!



HONOURS

- 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
- Skrill Premier Champions:**
2013/14
- 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



A massive thank you to the 526 of you who made the trip to Tranmere on Easter Monday. Your loyalty and backing was rewarded with three points

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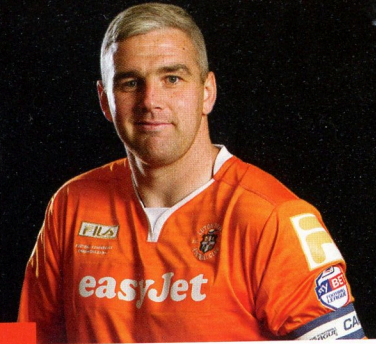
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MACCA

THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN SPEAKING

FROM THE DRESSING ROOM WITH STEPHEN McNULTY



Confidence plays a big part in football and I think it is easy to forget how well we have done over the past 18 months and how far we have come.

After a hugely disappointing run of seven straight defeats it was good to finally get that win on Easter Monday at Tranmere.

Having come so close to putting an end to the results against Exeter there was a lot of relief come the final whistle at Prenton Park. We knew the importance of getting three points because, put simply, we were desperately in need of a positive result. It wasn't the most exciting game you'll see, but what mattered most was the win and I think those who were there can testify how good it felt to come off the pitch winners.

This season we have been good at winning games 1-0 or 2-0 and our ninth 1-0 victory of the campaign was just like the Luton Town of earlier in the season. We set out to be hard to beat and took our chance – eventually – when it came along. I'd also forgotten what it was like for us to be awarded a penalty. There's no better feeling when you grind out a win away from home and now all we need to do is make sure that we kick-on now.

Confidence plays a big part in football and I think it is easy to forget how well we have done over the past 18 months and how far we have come. The statistics of the last month do not lie. We lost seven straight matches. But we have shown over the last two seasons that we are a good team, and good teams do not turn bad overnight. If there is one positive to draw from this bad run then it is that we have learned to deal with such gut-wrenching disappointment. The Exeter defeat was one of the most deflating endings to a game I can remember and having thrown away the lead in the manner in which we did really did knock us. To bounce back at Tranmere shows the character and resilience is still there and now all we can hope is that we have turned the corner.

At the start of the season we set ourselves the target of trying to get promotion because we felt we were good enough. For the majority of this season our results and league position indicated that we were.

The run of defeats has hindered us at an important stage of the season but now we've put a stop to it we


must look forward and try and grasp what is in reach: a place in the Play-Offs. We are just one point off sixth place and looking at the league table we're one of five teams eyeing two of the final four Play-Off places. With five games to go, I think if you had offered that scenario at the start of the season we would have bitten your hand off. Of course there is frustration

that we have thrown away the opportunity of winning automatic promotion but by the same token we should also be proud of what we have achieved so far, because don't forget two years ago we were losing at home to Hyde. Thankfully, those days are now well and truly behind us, and our realistic aim of winning promotion this season to League 1 is well and truly on. If we can finish in the top seven, who knows what we can achieve. We know that we can control our destiny. Win our remaining five games and we're in the Play-Offs.

Of course football isn't that simple, and today we welcome a Burton side to Kenilworth Road who have enjoyed an excellent season. They are within touching distance of promotion and will want to get over the line as soon as possible. They beat us 1-0 at their place back in November. We got done by a set-piece that day so we will be out to put that right this afternoon. Since that game they have continued to be remarkably consistent and they deserve to be where they are in the table. As players these are the games you relish playing and in front of a full house here we are looking forward to the challenge.

Your support can help us and, on behalf of all of the lads, I must whole-heartedly thank all of you for getting behind us over the difficult last month. You could have easily bailed out on us and given up but you've continued to support us. I hope those of you who went to Tranmere enjoyed the trip home. Here's to another three points today.

Enjoy the game.



DEV SQUAD WIN TITLE

The Town development squad clinched the Southern divisional title of the Final Third Development League with a 6-1 win over Gillingham on Tuesday afternoon.

A strong side were three goals to the good at half-time and the Town added another three after the break to seal the title with one game left to play.

Shaun Whalley netted a hat-trick, with his first two goals giving the Hatters a 2-0 advantage before Ricky Miller made it 3-0. Alex Lacey headed home a corner to make it 4-0 in the second half before Whalley completed his hat-trick to put the Town 5-0 in front.

Gillingham got one back but the Hatters made it six when Lacey headed home from another set-piece to seal a very comfortable victory.

Town first team coach Hakan Hayretin told lutontown.co.uk: "The attitude was spot on, just like it has been in this competition all season. We take all of these games very seriously and the boys did so again and their hard work paid off with an excellent performance."

CONNOLLY RELEASED

The Hatters mutually agreed the termination of defender Paul Connolly's contract this week.

The 31-year-old joined the Town in the summer and made his debut in the 1-0 win at Carlisle on the opening day of the season.

However the former Plymouth, Leeds and Derby man was restricted to just another five appearances in the Town first team, with his last appearance in the 2-1 defeat at Cambridge in the FA Cup in January.

Everyone at Luton Town would like to wish Paul the very best in the future.

STEVENAGE TICKETS

Tickets for our final home League 2 match of the season, against Stevenage at Kenilworth Road are, now on sale from the ticket office by phone or in person only.

Supporters will be unavailable to purchase tickets for this match online until further notice, and normal maximum purchasing limits apply. However, the Luton Town ticket office will monitor quantities of tickets sold to individuals, and will be sold dependant upon previous purchasing history on the ticket office database.

Normal matchday prices will apply and supporters are urged to buy tickets as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

WHEN HORNET TERRY DONNED OUR ORANGE

Watford fan Terry Wesley donned a Luton Town shirt and ran around Kenilworth Road all in preparation for the London Marathon on 26th April at our last home game with Exeter.

Joined by his Hatter friend, Nick Waldoek, Terry is raising money for his five year old son, Alec, with Cystic Fibrosis by running all 26.21 miles wearing a Luton Town shirt.

Terry completed the lap in front of a packed Kenilworth Road, with both sets of fans giving him a warm welcome as he ran round the pitch.

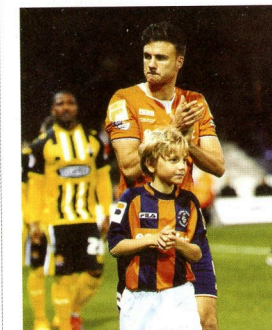
Prior to completing the run a nervous Terry waited in the tunnel ready to step out in front of 8,326 Hatters fans.

"For the first stretch my legs were like jelly however the crowd got behind me which really lifted my spirits and helped me to complete my lap," said Terry, whose son, Alec, suffers from Cystic Fibrosis, a charity he will be running the London Marathon to raise money for.

"I was overwhelmed with the support from the Luton fans and would like to thank everyone for their donations." Visit Terry's fundraising page to donate: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/TerryWesleyCF>.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



A very happy 10th birthday to Hatters fanatic Edward Hall, left, who will be at Kenilworth Road this afternoon with his friends and family. Happy birthday from everyone at Luton Town, Edward!

END OF SEASON DINNER TICKETS

We're excited to announce that our traditional end of season and kit sponsors dinner will be held on Sunday 3rd May 2015 at Venue 360 in Gypsy Lane, Luton.

This year's prestigious event will feature presentations from first-team manager John Still and his coaching team. Guests will be joined by the Hatters squad for a fantastic night in the company of the whole Luton Town FC team.

As with previous years we are expecting the demand for tickets to be high, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Tickets cost £70, including a two course meal - book yours now by emailing commercial@lutontown.co.uk

The dress code for the evening is lounge suits, and guests should arrive at 7pm prompt. Our thanks to the University of Bedfordshire for sponsoring this year's dinner.

KNOW THE SCORE!

This April is Bowel Cancer Awareness Month and players, managers and personalities from the world of professional football will be showing their support for the fourth annual Know the Score campaign.

Know the Score will run from 11-18 April and will see clubs, charities and governing bodies, including the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) and League Managers Association (LMA), unite to raise awareness of bowel cancer signs and symptoms. Bowel cancer is the second biggest cause of cancer death in the UK, and research has shown early diagnosis is key to survival.

Former England and Arsenal goalkeeper David Seaman is supporting Know The Score in his role as an ambassador for the Bobby Moore Fund, one of the charities behind the campaign. England World Cup winner Bobby died of bowel cancer in 1993.

LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS CLUB & TRUST IN LUTON

PLAYER OF THE SEASON PRESENTATION EVENING

Sunday 26th April 2015

7:00pm 'til late at Luton Rugby Club,
Newlands Road, Luton LU1 4BQ



MANAGEMENT, COACHING STAFF
AND PLAYERS IN ATTENDANCE



Smart Casual Dress • Cold Buffet • Grand Prize Draw
£20 Adults • £15 Accompanied Juniors (16 and under)

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Download and complete a booking form and then either email it, post it or drop it in to the Ticket Office. Tickets will also be available by calling 01582 416976.

Bookings by phone or in person will be taken from Tuesday 7th April 2015. Subject to availability.

let's go



THE HATTERS HIT THE ROAD ON TUESDAY NIGHT WHEN THEY MAKE THE SHORT TRIP AROUND THE M25 TO TAKE ON JOHN STILL'S FORMER CLUB DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE

DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE



WHO? Dagenham & Redbridge, aka the Daggers, from Dagenham, East London. It forms part of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham and is a stone's throw from the border with Essex. The club itself was formed in 1992 through a merger between

Redbridge Forest and Dagenham. Last season they finished in ninth place in League 2 and they are managed by Wayne Burnett.

WHERE? The Daggers play their home games at Victoria Road or – to give it its official title – the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Stadium. The ground has been used for football since 1917 but it wasn't until 1955 that a football team from Dagenham began playing there. Its capacity is 6,078, but the ground's record attendance is 7,200 for an FA Cup tie with Reading in 1967. Hatters fans have been given the newest stand inside the ground – the Traditional Builders Stand – a covered, all-seated stand raised above the playing surface behind the goal.

HOW TO GET THERE? Take the M1 south and M25 clockwise, and leave the M25 at Junction 27 and take the M11 towards London. At the end of the M11 continue onto the A406 towards Docklands (A13) and London City Airport. At the intersection with the A13, turn onto this road in the direction of the Dartford Crossing. At the junction with the A1306, leave the A13 and join the A1306 towards Dagenham. At the third set of traffic lights turn left just before the McDonalds into Ballards Road. At the end of this road you will come to a large roundabout at which you turn left into Rainham Road. Proceed up Rainham Road passing Dagenham East tube station on the left and Victoria Road is a quarter of a mile further on, on the same side of the road. The postcode for the ground is RM10 7XL.

HOW THEY DOING? The Daggers are one of League 2's most inconsistent teams. Able to beat the best one week before losing to one of the strugglers the next. Burnett's side currently sit in 15th place in the division, 10 points off the Play-Offs and 13 points clear of the final relegation place. The side have won 15, lost 19 and drawn seven. In their last match, on Easter Monday, a hat-trick from evergreen striker Jamie Cureton inspired the Daggers to a 4-0 home win over AFC Wimbledon.

HOME COMFORTS. No team in League 2 has lost more home games than the Daggers with Burnett's side losing 11 of their 21 fixtures at Victoria Road this season. No side in the division have drawn less on home soil than their two. Since the turn of the year Dagenham have won five of their 10 home games, scoring 14 but conceding only eight. Three of those games have been defeats, but have all come to teams challenging for promotion, with Wycombe, Burton and Southend all leaving with three points.

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE? Tuesday's trip will be the Town's third to Victoria Road and the Hatters will be aiming for victory for the first time. The Hatters lost 3-2, and courtesy of a golden goal, to the Daggers at Victoria Road in 2001 in the LDV Vans Trophy, when Dagenham were in the Conference. The Town's last visit came in the 2009 minus-30 season when two goals from Danny Foster gave the Daggers a 2-1 win. Ian Henderson scored the Hatters' goal.

CLUB CONNECTIONS. You don't have to look much further than manager John Still, who spent nine years in charge of the Daggers, during which time he guided the club from the Conference to League 1. The Town have former Daggers Paul Benson, Luke Wilkinson and Scott Griffiths, while Dagenham have ex-Town midfielder Andre Boucaud in their squad.

tickets please



DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE v LUTON TOWN

SKY BET LEAGUE 2

TUESDAY 14th APRIL 2015, KICK-OFF 7.45PM

We have been given an allocation of 1,414 tickets, including 1,206 in the Traditional Builders Stand and 208 in the B&D Family Stand. The family stand tickets are only available to supporters who book adult, concession and youth tickets together. **Selling arrangements:** Tickets are now on general sale and will remain on sale, subject to availability, until Tuesday 14th April at 2pm.

Prices in the Traditional Builders Stand: £21 adults, £15 seniors over-65, £12 under-17s, free for under-10s with a full-paying adult

Prices in the B&D Family Stand: £18 adults, £13 seniors over-65, £8 under-17s, £2 under-10s.



LUTON TOWN v HARTLEPOOL UNITED

SKY BET LEAGUE 2

SATURDAY 18th APRIL 2015, KICK-OFF 3PM

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

£20 adults, £15 seniors and young adults, £12 golden seniors, £8 youths, £5 juniors.



SOUTHEND UNITED v LUTON TOWN

SKY BET LEAGUE 2

SATURDAY 25th APRIL 2015, KICK-OFF 3PM

This is an all-ticket match for Luton Town supporters.

We have received 2,500 seats in the North Stand at Roots Hall. Tickets are in unreserved, covered seating.

Selling arrangements: Tickets are now on sale to diamond season tickets holders until close of business on Saturday 11th April at two per diamond season ticket holder. Tickets will be available to season ticket holders at one per person from Monday 13th April until close of business on Saturday 18th April.

Any remaining tickets will be available on general sale online from 6pm Saturday 18th April and, subject to availability, will be available from the Ticket Office from 10am on Monday 20th April.

Prices: £19 adults, £13 seniors over 60, £12 students and 17-20-year-olds, £9 under-16s, £4 under-8s. Disabled £12 with carer free of charge.

Wheelchair disabled supporters should contact Southend directly on 08444 770077.



LUTON TOWN v STEVENAGE

SKY BET LEAGUE 2

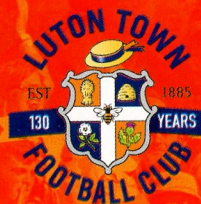
SATURDAY 2nd MAY 2015, KICK-OFF 3PM

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£20 adults, £15 seniors and young adults, £12 golden seniors, £8 youths, £5 juniors.

Tickets for this match will be available to supporters on the ticket office database.





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	PRIMETIME		ANYTIME	
	League 1	League 2	League 1	League 2
ADULT	£380.00	£360.00	£410.00	£390.00
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UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH (10-17)*	£140.00	£130.00	£150.00	£140.00
ACCOMPANIED YOUTH (10-17)*†	£100.00	£90.00	£110.00	£100.00
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* AGE CONCESSIONS: The date used to determine the correct age category for supporters is the first day of the 15/16 season. If you are purchasing a concessionary priced ticket, you are required to provide proof of age by post or in person when purchasing or collecting of your season ticket.

† Accompanied youth and junior season tickets must be purchased at the same time as the accompanying adult, and seated together.

** Disabled supporters are required to join the Luton Town Disabled Supporters Association (LTDSA) free of charge to qualify for concessionary price. For further details, please contact the ticket office.

SPEAKING Commercially

WITH COMMERCIAL MANAGER DAVID HOSKINS

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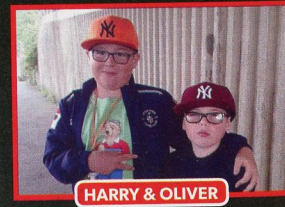
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TODAY'S MASCOTS

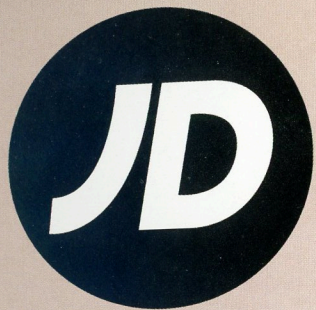
We'd like to welcome our four commercial mascots who will all get the opportunity to meet their favourite players and get their autographs before leading the team out onto the pitch before the game. We hope you all have a great afternoon with us.

- Jayden Reader**, Age 8.
Favourite player: Mark Cullen
- Charlie Courtney**, Age 8.
Favourite player: Elliot Lee
- Harry Presswell**, Age 9.
Favourite player: Mark Tyler
- Oliver Presswell**, Age 11.
Favourite player: Stephen McNulty



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H: HOME | A: AWAY | G: GLOVES

welcome

BURTON ALBION



It gives us great pleasure to welcome everyone associated with Burton Albion for their first visit to Kenilworth Road this afternoon.

Our visitors arrive on Bedfordshire soil in particularly high spirits, on top of the League 2 table and just two wins away from guaranteeing a place in the third tier of English football for the first time in their history.

Albion's rise through the football pyramid has been a steady success story, built courtesy of a number of years of management by some of the game's most recognised up-and-coming managers.

It was Nigel Clough who got the wheels in motion when he guided the Brewers into the Football League following promotion as Conference champions in 2009 – the season the Town were relegated from League 2.

Since that time the Brewers have enjoyed a healthy improvement over the years, and came close to winning promotion last season, only to be beaten in the League 2 Play-Off final by Fleetwood.

Then-manager Gary Rowett had already won plenty of plaudits for the way his side played last term and that has continued this season with the Brewers in and around the top three for the majority of the campaign. Rowett left the Pirelli Stadium in November to take over the vacant

manager's job at Birmingham City but the appointment of former Leeds and Chelsea striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink has been an inspired decision by Brewers chairman Ben Robinson.

Since Hasselbaink's arrival – which kicked-off with a win at Wycombe in his first game in charge and a victory over the Hatters in his first home match at the helm – the Brewers have gone from strength and strength and sit proudly on top of League 2 today.

The Albion faithful in the Oak Road end this afternoon have not seen their side lose in their last seven matches – winning five of those – as the Brewers strengthen their grip on an automatic promotion place with only six games to go.

It might be their first visit to Kenilworth Road but Hasselbaink's side will be aiming to make it win number 10 away from their Pirelli Stadium home this afternoon – their last win away from home came with a 4-1 demolition of Tranmere on 21st March.

Hasselbaink's side have been consistent all season with a group of solid performers all over the pitch which is set to cumulate in a year to remember. The Brewers won the Northern Premier League as recently as 2001/02 and now, 13 years later, the people of Burton will soon be welcoming the big boys of League 1 to the Pirelli next season.

in opposition



OUR AT-A-GLANCE GUIDE TO THE MEN FROM THE PIRELLI STADIUM

► MANAGER

JIMMY FLOYD HASSELBAINK. Former Leeds and Chelsea striker who was appointed at the Pirelli Stadium in November. A prolific striker as a player, he collected his coaching badges before being given his first managerial role by the Brewers this term.

► GOALKEEPERS



DEAN LYNESS. Young keeper who joined the Brewers in the summer of 2012 having left Kidderminster. Began his career as a trainee at Birmingham and has also played for Hearts in Scotland.

JON McLAUGHLIN. Commanding Scottish stopper who arrived at the Pirelli following his departure from Bradford this summer, where he had been on the books for six years.

SCOTT SHEARER. Experienced keeper who joined on loan from Crewe. Has had several clubs, including Rotherham, Bristol Rovers, Coventry, Wycombe, Wrexham and Crawley.

► DEFENDERS

DAMIEN McCRORY. Reliable left-back in his fourth season with the club having joined from Dagenham, where he had won promotion from League 2 with John Still.

IAN SHARPS. Hugely experienced centre-half who originally joined the Brewers on loan in January 2013 from Rotherham. Also played for Shrewsbury and Tranmere.

PHIL EDWARDS. Popular right-back and the man who scored the winner between the two clubs in November. Joined the Brewers from Rochdale and has previously won the Conference with Accrington.

SHANE CANSDELL-SHERIFF. Experienced and versatile Australian defender who began his career in the UK with Leeds. Also played for Preston, Tranmere and Shrewsbury and joined Burton this summer.

GEORGE TAFT. Left-back or centre-half who arrived at the Pirelli Stadium in the summer following his release from Leicester. An England youth international.

KELVIN MAYNARD. Dutch Suriname defender who has played in Holland and Hungary who joined the Brewers after leaving Royal Antwerp in Belgium.

STEFAN MALETIC. Tall and uncompromising Bosnian centre-back who arrived this year after a successful trial. Played in Holland, Denmark, Germany and Bosnia.

► MIDFIELDERS

JIMMY PHILLIPS. Albion's longest-serving player having joined the Brewers in 2009. The winger came through the ranks at Stoke before he was snapped up by Gary Rowett.

ROBBIE WEIR. Box-to-box midfielder who arrived at the Pirelli in May 2012 after leaving Tranmere. Came through Sunderland's academy and also played for York.

LEE BELL. Former Crewe midfielder now in his third season and third different spell with the club. Has also been on the books at Shrewsbury, Macclesfield and Mansfield.

MATTY PALMER. A product of the Brewers' academy who has flourished for the first team since joining the senior ranks in 2012/13.



JOHN MOUSINHO. Influential central midfielder and the Brewers' captain. Played for Brentford, Stevenage, Wycombe and Preston and joined Albion at the start of the season.

LUCAS AKINS. Young winger who signed from Stevenage for an undisclosed fee at the end of last season. Came through the ranks at Huddersfield and has also played in Scotland.

TOM NAYLOR. Central midfielder currently on loan from Derby. Started his career as a centre-half and began his career with Belper and Alfreton before signing for Mansfield.

► STRIKERS

ADAM MCGURK. Forward who signed from Tranmere in the summer of 2013. Scored 12 goals last term as Albion reached the League 2 Play-Off final.

STUART BEAVON. Experienced forward who arrived at the Pirelli from Preston last season. After prolific spells in non-league he signed for Wycombe before joining North End.

JACOB BLYTH. Highly-rated young striker currently on loan from Leicester. Spent time out on loan at Northampton and Notts County last term before signing for the Brewers.

NASSER EL KHAYATI. A prolific scorer in the third division in Holland this term saw the Brewers snap up the Dutch striker on a deal until the end of this season. Began his career as a youngster at PSV.

MICKAEL ANTOINE-CURIER. Former PSG and Nice youngster who has played for a host of clubs in the UK. Joined the Brewers from Hamilton in January.

FROM THE OAK ROAD

The Brewers are preparing for a right old knees up with a historic promotion to the third level of English football in touching distance for the first time in their history. Burton Albion Media Officer **Ash Willis** raises a glass to those making it happen.



TALK OF THE TOWN: Burton have had a fantastic season – what has been the secret to your success? What has been the highlight in your opinion?

ASH: Secrets? What secrets? As Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink always says in his post-match interviews, there are no secrets. It is all down to the team and hard work. We have a great bunch of lads here, from the first eleven to the backroom staff, everybody contributes and everybody deserves the credit. There have been many highlights - Jimmy's first game in charge resulted in a 3-1 win against promotion chasing Wycombe, then we had more great results against top sides all fighting for the top spot.

TOTT: After a solid start under Gary Rowett, Burton have gone from strength to strength under Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink. Are you surprised at how successful his spell in charge has been, given that he is a relatively unproven manager? What does Jimmy do differently to Gary in terms of approaching the game?

ASH: In some ways yes I am surprised, but in other ways I'm not. When Gary left for Birmingham, Sky Bet's odds on the next Brewers manager were up and down like a yo-yo. Our Chairman and our club have a brilliant reputation for starting new managers' careers – just think of Nigel Clough and Neil Warnock. So that gave me confidence when such a big name like Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink walked through the doors.



The boss

TOTT: Jimmy Floyd is of course one of a select number of black managers in the Football League. Do you feel an American-style 'Rooney Rule' should be introduced, meaning a club should have to interview at least one black/ ethnic minority candidate when advertising the manager's job?

ASH: To be honest, I don't think clubs avoid interviewing black managers. I don't think a rule should be brought in as such, but I do think clubs might need or want to take into consideration that interviewing more black managers would even the scales a little bit more.

TOTT: Who is Burton's star player and why?

ASH: I wouldn't like to say - all of the lads here are brilliant. We have different types of players. Our captain John Mousinho has been a real leader this season. We have also got Stuart Beavon up top who works his socks off every game without fail. It would be impossible to pick out one player.

TOTT: The development of Burton Albion has been a real project – year on year progress under Nigel Clough eventually saw the club gain promotion to the Football



League and you have continue to take steps forward. Tell us about how the club has advanced since you started supporting them. What have been the key factors behind this rise?

ASH: Yes, the club have been on the up for years. Season after season progress has been made. It was surreal when we made it into the Football League and I don't like to say it, but it is an amazing feeling knowing that we have got a good chance of progressing up the ladder once more. The success has to be filtered down to our chairman Ben Robinson. This man has made the club what it is, a stable, well run family club which has brought success to the town. As the fan's flag says 'to this man we owe it all'.

TOTT: What is your all-time favourite Burton Albion game and why? Tell us why it was so special.

ASH: Wow, again it is hard to choose. Manchester United in the cup was special. A 0-0 draw at the Pirelli

when we were a non-league side, then the replay at Old Trafford. Granted the score line wasn't the best (Burton lost 5-0) but we were huge underdogs and I believe we still hold the record for most away fans at Old Trafford - 11,000. I think there are still many amazing games to look forward to in the near future.

TOTT: Do you believe Burton can seal the title along with promotion this year? What is the scale of the club's ambition over the next five years? And what's your prediction for today's game?

ASH: The 'P word' isn't spoken about around here. Everybody has a cool head and the manager keeps the players firmly on the ground. Standing

back and looking at the big picture, you would like to think that we can seal promotion but the title is a whole different story. Becoming a secure League 1 club is the aim over the next five or so years.

My prediction for today's game: Luton Town 1-2 Burton Albion.



Stuart Beavon

A HATTER...

AND A BREWER

STEVE BUCKLEY

One of the best left-backs in the Town's history, Steve was signed by Luton manager Harry Haslam from Burton in 1974, and it was not long before his cultured left foot and surging runs down the wing became a feature of the Hatters' play.

He was a virtual ever-present in the Town side until an offer of £165,000 from Tommy Docherty's Derby in January 1978 was too tempting to turn away.

Becoming just as popular at Derby, Steve enjoyed eight consistent years at the Baseball Ground, where he was twice named as Player of the Year, before taking up a succession of managerial roles at non-league level.

In total Buckley played 135 games for the Town and scored nine times, having made his first appearance in a 3-0 defeat at Leicester in October 1974. His last

game for the Hatters came in a goalless draw at Orient in January 1978.

The Hatters once had Paul Peschisolido on their books, a man who went on to manage the Brewers. And one, although not a stringent link between the clubs, Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink's older brother Carlos once played for the Town during pre-season in 2000.

Burton do have a former Town man in their midst, however, in the shape of David Oldfield. The Australian-born striker was snapped up by John Moore as a trainee 1986 before going onto enjoy two spells at Kenilworth Road. In between those he spent time with Manchester City and Leicester. After his playing days ended, 'Skippy' managed Brackley Town and was caretaker for a short time at Peterborough before coaching at London Road. And after spells at Milton Keynes and West Brom as a coach he was appointed as Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink's assistant at the Pirelli Stadium in November last year.

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

This afternoon is the first meeting between the Hatters and Burton Albion at Kenilworth Road.

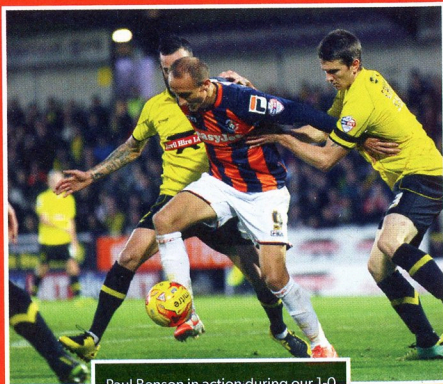
The two sides met for the first time back in November when Phil Edwards' second half header gave Burton all three points in a 1-0 win at the Pirelli Stadium.

However the Town have played one club from Burton before – and many moons ago. Burton once had a side under the name Burton Swifts, who played in the Football League in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The Town played the Swifts a total of six times between 1897 and 1900. The overall record between the clubs is a pretty straightforward one with two wins apiece and two draws.

In 1897/88 the first meeting on Luton soil ended 1-1 while the Swifts beat the Hatters 2-1 in Burton on Christmas Day in 1897.

The following season the Hatters won 3-0 at home in April 1899, four months after the sides had played out a 1-1 draw at Burton on Boxing Day 1898.

In 1899/1900 the two sides met for the final two times, with the Hatters running out comfortable 5-2 victors in the home fixture in September 1899. However, the Swifts got their revenge in what turned out to be the last meeting between the two clubs in February 1900 with a 3-1 victory.



Paul Benson in action during our 1-0 defeat at Burton back in November

back to the future

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

► 2001/02 NORTHERN PREMIER CHAMPIONS

MATT DUKE: Goalkeeper who joined Hull City in July 2004. Moving to Bradford City in August 2011, he appeared in the 2013 League Cup final and is currently playing for Northampton Town.

COLIN HOYLE: Defender who moved to Dagenham & Redbridge in January 2004, then played for Worcester, Ilkeston, Gresley and Mickleover. Now a site manager for Dunmar Development in Derby.

TERRY HENSHAW: Former Notts County reserve team captain who was an FA Trophy semi-finalist in 2001/02. He moved to Alfreton in June 2007, then Worksop, Carlton, Hucknall and Long Eaton.

JASON KAVANAGH: Ex-England Youth defender with considerable Football League experience who moved to Mickleover Sports in December 2002. He has since been employed as a financial consultant.

MARK BLOUNT: Former Sheffield United and Peterborough United defender who moved to Alfreton Town in August 2003, then finished his career with Mickleover Sports, settling in his native Derby.

STEVE EVANS: Midfielder who joined Tamworth in January 2003, helping win the Southern League title and reach the FA Trophy final, before spells at Hednesford, Rugby Town, Grantham and Quorn.

DARREN STRIDE: Long-serving favourite, dubbed 'Mr Burton Albion', who scored 124 goals in a club record 654 games for his hometown club, moving to Alfreton in May 2010, then Chasetown.

AARON WEBSTER: England Semi-Pro international who helped his hometown club reach the FA Cup fourth round in 2010-11 and League Two Play-Offs in 2012/13. He moved to Ilkeston in July 2013.

CHRISTIAN MOORE: Leading marksman who moved to Telford United in October 2003, then Worcester City, Kettering Town, Burton again, Hucknall Town, Hednesford and Mickleover Sports.

NIGEL CLOUGH: Ex-England international striker who was player-boss, guiding Burton to the brink of the Conference title. He took charge of Derby County in January 2009, now Sheffield United.

DALE ANDERSON: Striker who scored the winner on his England Semi-Pro debut against Holland in April 2002. He joined Solihull Moors in March 2006, then had a loan spell at Bromsgrove Rovers.

► 2008/09 CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

KEVIN MILLER: Goalkeeper who later played for Birmingham, Watford, Crystal Palace, Barnsley, Exeter again, Bristol Rovers, Southampton and Torquay. He is a goalkeeping coach at Truro College.

SCOTT HILEY: Right-back who joined Birmingham in March 1993, then Manchester City, Southampton, Portsmouth and Exeter again. He runs Eastcote Guest House with wife Tina in Clyst St Mary.

CHRIS VINNICOMBE: England Under-21 left-back who later played for Glasgow Rangers, Burnley, Wycombe Wanderers and Exeter again. He has managed Tiverton and runs Sukkerz Foot Spa in Exeter.

JIM McNICHOL: Former Scotland Under-21 international who netted 18 goals in 129 League games during two spells at St James' Park, then rejoined Torquay. He is licensee of The Exeter Inn in Ashburton.

SHAUN TAYLOR: Central defender and captain who netted 17 goals in 200 League games before moving to Bristol City in September 1996. He has since coached at Exeter and recently Torquay United.

CLIVE WHITEHEAD: Experienced midfielder who became Yeovil Town's player-boss, then rejoined Bristol City as reserve/youth coach. He has since been a financial adviser with the PFA and Openwork.

DARRAN ROWBOTHAM: Leading marksman who later played for Torquay United, Birmingham City, Crewe Alexandra, Shrewsbury Town, Exeter again and Weymouth. Now working for Leyland/DAF.

DANNY BAILEY: Midfielder who later had spells with Reading, Exeter again, Slough, Telford, Forest Green, Welling, Grays Athletic, Aylesbury and Waltham Forest. He has held Academy coaching posts.

BRIAN McDERMOTT: Ex-England Youth striker who netted four goals in 68 League games before moving to Yeovil Town in July 1990. He has since managed Slough, Woking, Reading and Leeds United.

STEVE NEVILLE: Much-travelled striker who later played for South China, Dorchester, Torrington and Clyst Rovers. He then coached Australian side Sorrento and is now a plasterer in Western Australia.

RICHARD DRYDEN: Favourite who later had spells at Notts County, Brighton, Bristol City, Southampton, Luton and Scarborough, then coach/manager at Tamworth, Worcester, Darlington and York.

TOWN 2-3 EXETER

GUTTRIDGE 21, CULLEN 34

HARLEY 51, MOORE-TAYLOR 76, WHEELER 90



Luke Guttridge fires the Hatters in front

Luke Wilkinson attacks a Town set-piece in the first half



WHAT'S THE STORY?

The Town let a two-goal lead slip to sink to their seventh successive defeat as an injury-time goal from Exeter's David Wheeler stunned Kenilworth Road.

First half goals from Luke Guttridge and Mark Cullen had the Hatters in control at half-time – but it was a different story in the second half.

Exeter halved the deficit six minutes after the restart when Ryan Harley hooked past Elliot Justham, and with 14 minutes left on the clock the Grecians levelled when Jordan Moore-Taylor poked home.

And just when it seemed the Town would hold on for a point to stop the rot, Wheeler popped up at the back post to divert the loose ball home after Christian Ribeiro's header had come back off the post.

Kenilworth Road was left thunderstruck as the Hatters contemplated yet another defeat – their ninth in 10 League 2 games.

That dramatic finale seemed a million miles away at half-time when the Hatters confidently went off the park after the first 45 minutes with a 2-0 lead.

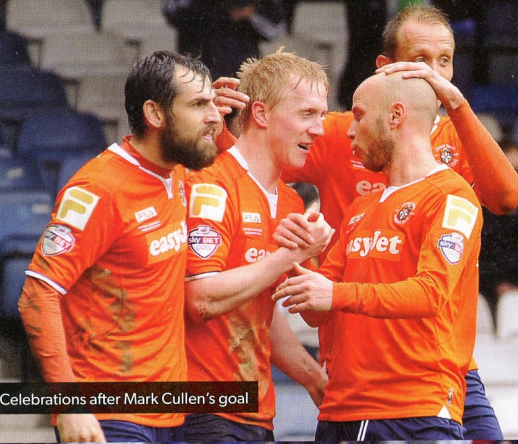
Guttridge's deflected strike had the Hatters ahead in the 21st minute before Cullen doubled the lead when racing through and firing home on the stroke of half-time.

The Grecians got back in the game through Harley's effort before Alex Lawless shot just wide for the Town when well-placed in the left-hand side of the penalty area.

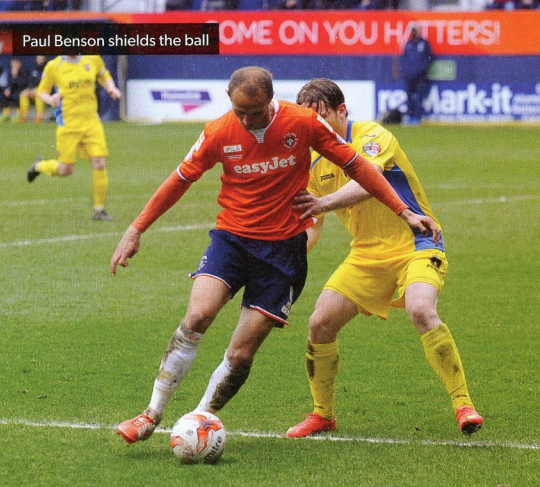
But as the rain teemed down, the Grecians gained confidence and it was 2-2 on 76 minutes when the Hatters failed to clear their lines and Moore-Taylor's low shot crept beyond Elliot Justham.

It was hearts in mouths for the Town two minutes into injury time when Exeter had the ball in the net a third time but to the Hatters' relief Arron Davies' back-post header was ruled out for offside.

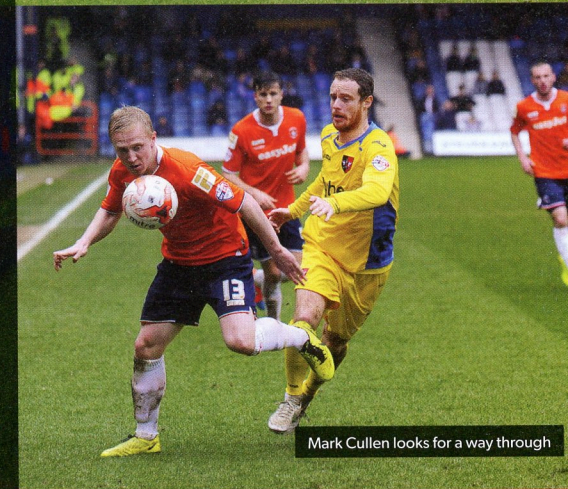
However, the Hatters weren't so lucky in the final minute of stoppage time when Ribeiro's header from a right-wing cross kissed the post and Wheeler pounced quickest in the six-yard box to leave Kenilworth Road stunned.



Celebrations after Mark Cullen's goal



Paul Benson shields the ball



Mark Cullen looks for a way through

TOWN: Justham; Harriman, Kinsella (sub Lacey 77), Wilkinson, McNulty, Lawless, Doyle, Smith (sub McGeehan 71), Guttridge, Cullen (sub Stockley 75), Benson. **SUBS NOT USED:** Miller, Hall, Oduwa, King.

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reaction

DOYLE'S EXETER DISAPPOINTMENT

Nathan Doyle admitted the Town have it all to do to secure a place in the Play-Offs after the late 3-2 defeat against Exeter in our last match at Kenilworth Road.

The Hatters led 2-0 at half-time thanks to goals from Luke Guttridge and Mark Cullen but the Grecians turned it around after the break to stun the Town and add themselves in the mix for a Play-Off spot.

"It was a knife to the heart," said Doyle after the last-gasp defeat. "We did well in the first half to grab the two goals.

"We're not playing badly, moving the ball about, but unfortunately we conceded from two free-kicks.

"It's not good enough from the players. We need to stay mentally strong and get that win to kick us back on.

"It's not good. It's bad for the players, it's bad for the fans. It's a game down now. We can't change anything about that, we can only change what can happen."

The defeat was the Hatters' seventh in a row and the third successive 3-2 home defeat after losses to Morecambe and Wycombe.

It's a far cry from the form that saw the Town go on an unbeaten run at Kenilworth Road which stretched for six months.

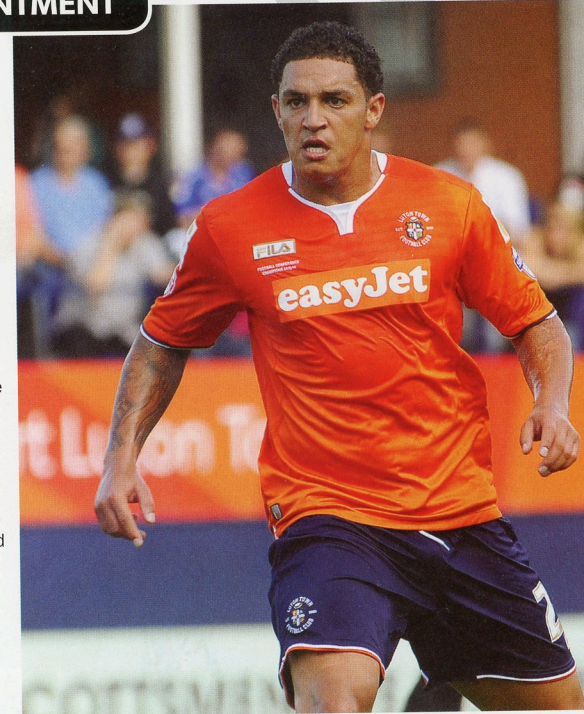
And Doyle says the squad will do all they can to arrest the form – which began two days after the Exeter defeat with the win at Tranmere.

Change

"Scoring two goals at home you expect to win the game but it's just the way football is at the minute at Luton Town," said the former Bradford midfielder.

"The players will have to change that around. We are working hard on the training ground, the gaffer and the staff are putting in tremendous effort behind the scenes to get that result. I'm sure that once we get it we'll get another.

"It's a six-game season for us now and we can only take one game at a time.



"It's not an accident why we were in the top three in the league earlier in the season.

"We've got good players in the changing room and tremendous support on and off the pitch but everyone has got to pull together. Hopefully we can do that."

Doyle has become an integral part of the Town side this season having put pen to paper on a contract back in September.

The Hatters' run of bad form had coincided with a knee injury that Doyle sustained in the 2-2 draw against York in February which had kept him out of the team for nine games before his return against Northampton last month.

But the midfielder played down his importance to the Town.

"It's not about me," he said. "I played at Northampton and against Exeter and we lost. No individual is bigger than the team and nobody is indispensable.

"It was obviously disappointing to be out of the team for so long but that's one of those things. Injuries happen in football."

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TRANMERE 0-1 TOWN

McGEEHAN 81



The teams exchange handshakes before kick-off



Cameron McGeehan celebrates after scoring the winner

WHAT'S THE STORY?

Birthday boy Cameron McGeehan hit a late winner as the Town ended a run of seven straight defeats with a hard-fought win at relegated-threatened Tranmere.

The midfielder celebrated his 20th birthday by helping the Hatters to three important points when following up in the 81st minute after striker Mark Cullen had seen his penalty saved by home goalkeeper Peter Brezovan – the Town's first penalty in six months.

But against a Tranmere side themselves low on confidence, and at the wrong end of League 2, the Town had goalkeeper Elliot Justham to thank for making a fantastic late save to ensure the Town held on to keep them in the hunt for a Play-Off place with five games to go.

After a first half that had seen Justham already keep the score blank when keeping out Jennison Myrie-Williams, clear-cut chances had been at a real premium until Cullen raced through onto Paul Benson's flick and was bundled over by Brezovan in the box. The Rovers keeper guessed right, diving to his right to keep out Cullen's effort, but McGeehan was quickest on the scene to follow up.

Rovers, battling against a possible second successive demotion, rallied but could not beat Justham whose save from Mark Laird's header from 12 yards out and with five minutes left was one of the best of the season so far.

But the Town held out despite late pressure from the home side to breathe new life into their quest to reach the Play-Offs.



The moment the Town won a penalty!



Ryan Hall pokes a shot goalwards



Jonathan Smith rises highest at Prenton Park

TOWN: Justham; Harriman, Griffiths, McNulty, Wilkinson; Smith (sub Howells 90), Doyle, McGeehan; Hall (sub Lawless 74), Cullen, Benson (sub Stockley 82). **SUBS NOT USED:** Lacey, Guttridge, Robinson, King.

Travellers' TALES

TOWN FAN KEVIN HARPER CONTINUES TO WATCH THE HATTERS AWAY FROM HOME THIS SEASON AND DOCUMENT HIS STORY IN TALK OF THE TOWN. HERE'S HOW HE SAW THE EASTER MONDAY WIN AT TRANMERE ROVERS

THE JOURNEY

After seven defeats on the trot, including the gut-wrenching defeat to Exeter on (not so) Good Friday, I have to admit there wasn't much enthusiasm or optimism in me for the day ahead when I set off to get the coach to Tranmere on Easter Monday.

Two packed Bobbers coaches set off from Luton station shortly after 9am on what was already a very sunny day. I admit I perked up a bit with the news that everyone who had done 15 away trips with the Bobbers was getting a free trip. I fell into that category so that was the first touch of the day!

After a brief stop at the services on the M6 toll road and a little bit of bank holiday traffic slowing us down, we finally made it to Birkenhead not long after 1pm.

When we got there a steward pointed out a couple of pubs to us and whether it was for Dutch courage or something a bit stronger I'm not sure, but we didn't need a second invitation so it was off to the boozier for a couple of liveners!

THE GROUND

It had been a good while since I'd been to Tranmere. The pub we went in was called Prenton Park, the same as the ground. It was right opposite the away end and was serving pints for less than £3 which was the second touch of the day! Unfortunately the Watford game was on TV which soured it a little but beggars can't be choosers and all that.

After the alcohol was consumed it was into the ground and when you go into the seats the first thing that strikes you is the size of the ground. We were in the Cowshed Stand behind one goal and that stand was big but the Kop Stand opposite us was twice as big and a really intimidating feature. Our end was all-seated but we still created an excellent atmosphere.

Underneath the stand were the refreshment kiosks, a bar, programme sellers and toilets, all of which appeared to be of a standard you would expect with such a big ground.

THE FOOD

After a couple of pints across the road food was needed. Options were burgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs and pies. I was starving so went for a 'double whopper burger' or a 1/2lb burger to us southerners! It was pretty tasty it has to be said and once that was devoured it was up to the seats, passing a sign telling us to keep all stairways and vomitories (a what!?) clear. I'm still none the wiser!

THE PROGRAMME

The programme was 72 pages but in truth there was nothing inside it really. There was a quote on the front which caught my eye 'Where there is faith, there is light and strength'. I'm assuming that referred to Tranmere's precarious position but needing something to cling onto I gladly attached that to our own season!



A magnificent 526 Hatters fans were rewarded for making the trip to Prenton Park with three points to celebrate

Not surprisingly there was no welcome to the Town from Mark Palios, now Tranmere owner, but there was from Micky Adams. Eventually you got to four pages about the Town but it wasn't the best programme.

THE MATCH

I saw our former manager Gary Brabin in the car park before the game and he guaranteed me Luton would win this game so, that coupled with my added optimism from the programme quote, meant by the time the game kicked off I was feeling much more positive – although I wasn't expecting a classic.

Scott Griffiths was back in our side which seemed to settle our defence down a bit and we started the game fairly brightly. Without creating anything of note in a fairly dull first half we did at least pop the ball around and were putting pressure on Tranmere all over the park. Already this was much better.

Unfortunately straight after half-time the game was held up after one of the Tranmere players – Max Power – appeared to faint while getting out of the way of a Ryan Hall cross. It didn't look good and needless to say I hope the lad is ok. He was stretched off but any concerns that would inspire Tranmere were soon snuffed out. The hosts had a couple of pot shots at goal, as we did but then came an amazing moment 10 minutes from time.

Paul Benson flicked a long ball on. Mark Cullen beat the defender to it and headed it past him. He ran round

the defender and beat the keeper to the ball before the keeper took him out in the box then to everyone's amazement the ref blew his whistle and GAVE US A PENALTY!!!! Understandably given how long it had been since we had a penalty, Cullen forgot how to take it and it was saved but as with our last two penalties all those hundreds of days ago, the rebound fell to us and Cameron McGeehan tucked it home on his 20th birthday. Elliot Justham was called into action to make a worldie save in the time that remained but we saw the game out well.

MAN-OF-THE-MATCH

Jonathan Smith was outstanding with his pressing of the opposition in this match and that allowed us to get the ball in good areas and launch our own attacks. When you think he is just coming back from injury and this was his second game in a little over three days it was a tremendous effort from the energetic midfielder and epitomised everything this Town side is about – high work rate and a never say die attitude.

SUMMARY

The journey back was a lengthy one thanks to bank holiday traffic but we were eventually back in Luton shortly after 9.30pm, but having finally got back to winning ways the journey seemed to pass by quicker than the last few to go before it. It may not have been the prettiest of games but it could well turn out to be a huge win.

Where there is faith, there is light and strength

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McGEEHAN EYES SUCCESSFUL END TO SEASON AGAIN



Cameron McGeehan believes the Hatters have what it takes to mount a promotion challenge for the second successive season after his match-winner at Tranmere got the Town back to winning ways in League 2.

McGeehan was quickest to react after Mark Cullen's penalty was saved by Rovers goalkeeper Peter Brezovan to tuck home his second goal of the season since arriving on loan from Norwich.

The victory, together with defeats for Plymouth and Newport, means the Town are now just one point shy of a top seven place and McGeehan, who helped the Hatters to the Conference title last term, sees no reason why the Town can't win promotion for the second campaign in a row.

"I know the team went on a good run earlier in the season, so we can do it again," said McGeehan, who celebrated his 20th birthday with the winner at Prenton Park on Easter Monday.

"The Play-offs are the aim and if we can get in that we really fancy ourselves. It's about putting a run together, like a lot of the teams are trying to do and it starts against Burton. I think we'll go on a little run now, we'll be up for the match and it's going to be a great game.

"The fans will be there with their voices loud and hopefully we can produce a similar sort of performance as we've got to make sure we get that four or five wins to get in the Play-Offs."

With injuries to Jonathan Smith and Nathan Doyle in recent weeks, McGeehan has been used in a variety of positions by John Still.

But with the defensive midfield duo back to fitness, McGeehan was used in a more attacking role against Tranmere and the youngster relished the chance against Rovers – and capped his performance with the winning goal.

"I'd just like to have a position. If I'm going to sit I'd be happy to sit and do that," explained the Norwich loanee. "If I'm playing in a number 10 role, that's what I like to do as well. I did it at Cambridge and scored a few goals.

"I've been stuck in limbo for the last few games, not knowing whether to push on, go and get a goal, or to sit. That's been addressed. I was playing high against Tranmere and that was my role.

"I hadn't played with Nathan Doyle before, so it was good to play with him and have the security in there to bomb on like I have been doing at Cambridge. I was doing more of the Doyle role last year, so we'll see what happens for the rest of the season."

Having made his senior debut in Luton colours last season it was with Cambridge earlier in this campaign that McGeehan was introduced to Football League action.

And the midfielder admitted he had found it tough being part of a Town side struggling for results in the past month.

"The first time I was on the bench I missed out on two games which was disappointing, but dealing with that wasn't easy," said McGeehan.

"I was just hoping the team gets that win, it didn't happen, but he's gone with me and I just want to repay his belief. I came in with the team not doing well and it's tough coming into a team that isn't doing the best at the time. It was tough to adapt to it. It's a different style of play to what I've been used to.

"I was here last year but coming back into it again and getting yourself reacquainted with the style of play and players, it was tough.

"I thought I'd come in and it would be all great and rosy like it was last year, but it's not always the way.

"I'll only become better and stronger for it and hopefully push on now. In the future it will help us and as a team make us come together stronger and iron out a few mistakes that have been glossed over because the team was doing well."

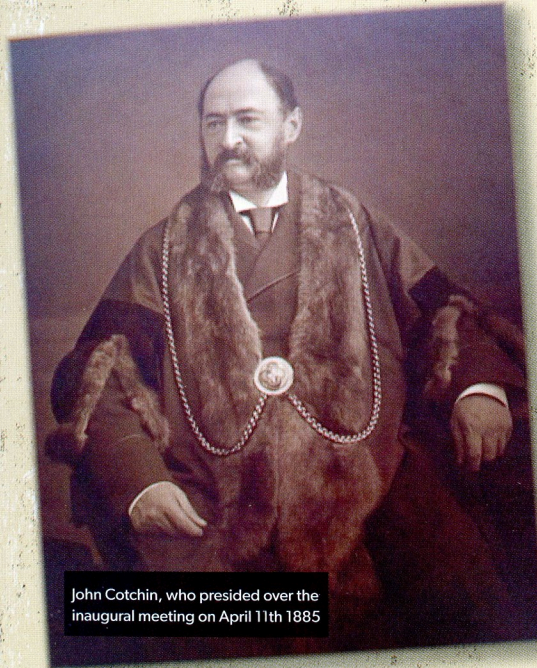
centre spot



Cameron McGeehan is first to the loose ball after Mark Cullen's penalty had been saved to put the Hatters in front at Tranmere on Easter Monday

Happy Birthday Luton Town

As the club celebrates its 130th birthday today, club historian Roger Wash details early formation of the Hatters



John Cotchin, who presided over the inaugural meeting on April 11th 1885

Although it has been re-told over the years that the Town were formed from an amalgamation of Luton Wanderers and Luton Excelsior, the two strongest clubs in the area at the time, doubt has now been cast as to the word 'amalgamation' following exhaustive research by Luton fan Brian Webb.

His website www.thestrawplaiters.com looks at the growth of football in the town and examines in depth the birth of the club in 1885, maintaining that the idea was to form a club featuring the best of ALL the up and coming players in the area.

There is no doubt, though, that at a meeting called on 11th April 1885 it was moved that a Town Football Club be formed, to be called Luton Town Football Club. The Excelsior body at the meeting was fully behind the merger but there was a pocket from the other camp that were not quite so keen as they had decided to change the name of the Wanderers to the Luton Town Football Club at a meeting held at St Matthew's School some three months before.

Football was obviously a different game compared to that played today. In 1885

professionalism had only just been legalised but was confined to northern clubs, there were no goal nets and the penalty kick was still six years away from entering the rule books. Players were courteous to each other but on the other hand play was brutal to say the least with little finesse being exhibited as the combatants kicked lumps out of each other. The Luton Town minute book on the following page famously confirms that the 'colors (note the American spelling) of the club should be navy blue and pink with a shirt and cap to be worn by each member when playing.'

How the players were expected to play while wearing a cap is anyone's guess but they were certainly still being worn the following year as it was reported that 'Messrs Beecroft's were to be taken to task for overcharging for the new caps.'

Adverts were placed in the popular 'Pastime' and 'Referee' magazine asking for fixtures and a list of likely opponents was also drawn up and letters written. Among the earliest invitees were Old Etonians, Grove House, Old Foresters, Old Wykehamists, Prairie Rangers, Hendon, Hotspur and St Albans. Although most of these names mean little to today's supporter they were, in fact, the Premier League of the day boasting international players galore.

ENGAGEMENTS

MATCHES.		GOALS.		MATCHES.		GOALS.	
OPPONENTS.	GROUND.	WOK.	LOST.	OPPONENTS.	GROUND.	WOK.	LOST.
1885	Hitchin Ferrers	Luton	1	JAN. 30	Hanover United	Wimbleton	
Oct. 5	St. Albans	Luton		FEB. 6	Rushden Wanderers	Luton	
" 17	Hitchin	Luton		" 16	City Barrilliers	Bedford	
" 24	Hemel Hempstead	Luton		" 18	Rushden Ferrers	Hatfield	
" 31	Grove House	Barnsbor		" 20	Hitchin Ferrers	Luton	
" 31	Marlow (R.C.T.)	Marlow		" 22	Wellingborough School	Hitchin's Bush	
" 31	Caswell	Luton		" 27	Hemel Hempstead	Luton	
" 31	Queens County	Luton		MAR. 6	Wellingborough Greatr. School	Wellingborough	
NOV. 7	Hitchin	Luton		" 13	Civil Service Wanderers	Luton	
" 14	Rushden Wanderers	Luton		" 13	Dunstable	Luton	
" 21	St. Neots	Rushden		" 13	Dunstable	Luton	
" 21	Obanians	Luton		" 17	St. Neots	Luton	
" 28	Chapman Rovers	Chapman		" 20	Forest Rovers	Kettering	
" 28	Watford Town	Luton		" 27	Luton Excelsior	Luton	
" 28	Watford Rovers	Watford		APR. 8	Hanover United	Luton	
" 28	Hitchin	Hitchin		" 11	Wellingborough Revellers	Luton	
" 19	Hemel Hempstead	Luton		" 23			
" 19	Hitchin	Luton		" 24			
" 19	Non-subscrips	Luton		" 30	Olympians	Luton	
1886	Dunstable	Dunstable					
JAN. 8	Dunstable	Dunstable					
" 9	St. Albans	St. Albans					
" 9	Luton	Luton					
" 9	Kettering	Kettering					
" 10	Chapman Rovers	Chapman					
" 10	Wellingborough Revellers	Wellingborough					

Matches marked thus, extra charge will be made.
OR FINE.
D. Puyers, Bookbinder, Luton.

The first fixture book

Negotiations were immediately entered into with John Sanders, the joint owner of the Dallow Lane ground previously used by Excelsior, and the annual rent of five guineas (£5.25) was swiftly agreed. The committee then confirmed that a ball should be purchased and scaffold poles erected for the goals.

This was then followed by the erection of a hut for the convenience of members as well as requesting that one constable should be present at each of the forthcoming games.

The ground at Dallow Lane (now Road) was situated immediately behind what was Dunstable Road School and hemmed in by the railway line to Dunstable. Steam trains chugged past the pitch while games were taking place and during an early local derby against St Albans, star centre-forward Harry Whitby missed a sitter and later claimed that smoke from a passing engine got in his eyes!

In those formative years the season stretched from October through to Easter finishing with two games played on Bank Holiday Monday. Apart from entry into the FA Cup, or English Cup as it was then known, and forays into local charity cup competitions the remainder of the matches were friendlies with the club's committee being forced to pay more and more out by way of financial 'guarantees' to the opposition as the popularity of the game grew. It is reported in the club's minutes that some clubs, particularly northern professional outfits, were seeking amounts that simply could not be afforded on home gates of just a few hundred people.

Although the birth of the club had been difficult

its life could quite easily have been over before it had chance to develop if the minutes from the first Annual General Meeting called for 15th May 1886 could be believed. It was reported that it was impossible to start the meeting at the agreed time as the attendance was so low which confirmed that 'the club was on its last legs' both support and money-wise.

Mercifully, although the committee was regarded as being

three bodies short, it was agreed that the club should continue and by March of the following year it was reported that the gate for the game to be played on 9th April against Hanover United should be for the benefit of three players. This would indicate that the club had overcome its initial financial worries and, as an aside, had ventured into quasi-professionalism earlier than previously thought.

LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB.

Season 1885-6.

GROUND: DALLOW LANE.

HEAD QUARTERS AND DRESSING ROOM: MIDLAND HOTEL.

Colours— Navy Blue and Pink.

President: J. LOMAX, Esq.

Vice-President: HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR.

Treasurer: MR. G. HUNT.

Committee: MR. G. PERLONG, S. PARKES, J. LONG, T. BROOKES, G. H. SMALL, G. DEACON, G. ABBOTT, T. BROWN, H. G. SPRELLY.

Hon. Secretary: MR. F. PERKIN, 71, Guildford Street.

Assist. Secretary: MR. P. FINDLAY, Nelson Street.

The first fixture book

Luton Town Football Club

April 11th 1885

At a public Meeting held this day at the Council Chamber, Town Hall Luton convened for the purpose of considering the advisability of forming a Town Football Club

John Cotchin Esquire Presiding

After a few preliminary remarks from the Chairman the following business was proceeded with

Mr J. H. Small proposed and Mr Ernest Lomas seconded the following resolution

That this Meeting establish a Luton Town Football Club

As an amendment Mr H. G. Spratley proposed and Mr Edward Knifton seconded

That as there was already a Town Club in existence it was not necessary to form a second Club

On the amendment being put to the Meeting there was an overwhelming majority against it, the original motion being subsequently carried almost unanimously

On the Motion of Mr J. H. Small seconded by Mr J. Brown it was decided that Mr H. H. H. H. H.

The Mayor for the year should be president of the Club and that John Lomas Esquire be Vice President

The business of appointing officers for the Club having been discussed the following appointments were then made

Mr Frank Dickin	Secretary
Mr J. A. Findlay	Assist. "
Mr J. G. Hunt	Treasurer

After some discussion it was decided that the Committee of the Club should consist of nine Members and a poll having been taken the following gentlemen were elected

Mr George Furlong	Mr Thomas Brooks
Mr John Long	Mr Charles Webb
Mr J. H. Small	Mr H. C. Brown
Mr Samuel Park	Mr H. G. Spratley
and Mr George Deacon	

It was resolved that the annual subscription to the Club should be two shillings and six pence

It was decided on the Motion of Mr J. Brown that the colors of the Club should be Navy Blue and Pink, a shirt and cap to be worn by each Member when playing

John Cotchin
Chairman

PICTURE THE PAST

Club historian **ROGER WASH** delves into his photographic archive



Signed from Burton Albion in 1974, full-back Steve Buckley soon made the position his own at Kenilworth Road before a big fee took him to Derby in 1978. With a hammer of a left foot, Steve was deputed to smash home any penalty kick that came our way as shown by this effort during the 3-0 home win over Chelsea in August 1975.

New Year... NEW CAR...

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reaction

GRIFFITHS AIMING FOR PLAY-OFF RETURN



Scott Griffiths wants the Town to make history and become the first Luton team to achieve back-to-back promotions – and be back fit in time to play a part in it.

The defender misses today's game having undergone an operation on a hernia injury on Thursday but the former Dagenham left-back is aiming to return should the Hatters make the Play-Offs. After seven successive defeats the Town bounced back to winning ways with a 1-0 win at Tranmere on Easter Monday with Griffiths returning to action with the Hatters light in the left-back area.

And with the win on Merseyside rekindling the Town's Play-Off hopes, Griffiths believes the Hatters can continue their good run of form and secure a top seven place.

"There's only one target in everybody's mind," said Griffiths, who was an ever-present for the Town last season. "We couldn't quite make automatic which is very disappointing, but if we can manage to get in the Play-Offs, we can do well in the Play-Offs.

"From what the gaffer said, no Luton team has done back-to-back promotions so if we can get anywhere near that, it will be a great feeling and a fantastic achievement."

Today the Hatters take on league leaders Burton, and although he won't be involved, Griffiths wants the Hatters to gain a modicum of revenge after losing 1-0 at the Pirelli Stadium back in November.

"That was a game we thought we should have got something from," said Griffiths.

"I remember they scored from a set-piece and other than that it was a game we dominated so it would be nice to get a win.

"They're going to want to go up as champions in the position they're in at the moment, though.

"Having been in that position a few years ago, you're not going to go anywhere and hold back, you're going to go out and want to be champions.

"It's best feeling in the world and might give us the opportunity to look at the little gaps they leave and hopefully get something from the game, so I'm optimistic."

Whether the Hatters extend their season in the Play-Offs or not, Griffiths is targeting a return for the final game of the regular season against Stevenage on 2nd May.

"I want to be jogging at least after a week, week and a half after the operation," he said. "I'm going to do everything I can to get back as quick as possible, I don't want to overdo it as I don't want to put myself back, but I'd love to be able to catch the last game of the season.

"If I can get back before that then great, but I'd be happy with the last game. There's ligament damage in there which doesn't help the cause and might add a little bit more time on. I'd like to think I'm a strong, fit young lad and hopefully my professional attitude off the pitch will help."

Griffiths revealed the hernia has been an issue for him for large parts of the campaign and that playing through the pain barrier was something he did for the good of the team – despite it causing him some discomfort at times.

And although he understands the need for the operation, it is with some disappointment it comes at a crucial period of the season.

"It's extremely aggravating, I'd love to be able to play through it, but the pain's ridiculous," he said.

"You do what you can for the team as the team comes first, but every training session, trying to struggle through, it's not doing me any good. I didn't do too bad [at Tranmere] but it couldn't come at a worse time but I'm going to do my best to get back for the team as I want to miss out on as little games as possible.



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WHAT'S IN STORE ONLINE AT THE HATTERS OFFICIAL WEBSITE

Hatters Player has been busy already this season with exclusive interviews, match highlights and exclusive live online commentary on the channel, which complements our official YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/lutontown.

Player really is the best way to keep up-to-date with everything at Kenilworth Road with the biggest change from previous seasons in the Conference being exclusive online match

commentary. Player is the only way that you'll be able to listen to commentary online through your computer or mobile device this season with the Hatters back in the Football League.

A number of previous subscribers have returned to the new improved video service and if you are wondering what complementary services the video subscription site, www.player.lutontown.co.uk, provides in addition to the official website, www.lutontown.co.uk, on a matchday, we have provided a taster below.

TEAMSHEETS

Match line-ups have to be confirmed in writing to the referee one hour before kick off; not long after the match officials have seen them they are available to for you to view on www.lutontown.co.uk.

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If you want to get closer to the action, Hatters Player's Match Live console brings you full live and interactive audio commentary in association with Diverse FM. Complemented with score flashes from around the country and real-time match stats everything you need to know will be right here.

FULL-TIME REPORT

As soon as the full-time whistle blows, a match report is available to read on www.lutontown.co.uk. Complemented by all the statistics that matter, as supplied to us by Opta, as well as our breakdown of the key incidents as the match unfolded.

POST-MATCH REACTION

We will bring you all of manager John Still's reaction from his post-match press conference on www.lutontown.co.uk. Hatters Player subscribers can then watch to a more in-depth interview on the site, later in the evening, along with player reaction from the dressing room.

SEE THE HIGHLIGHTS

Approximately 24 hours after the final whistle, you can re-live all of the action again with home match highlights on Hatters Player.

MOBILE INTERNET

If being by a PC isn't practical for you, you will be pleased to know you can view our Mobile Internet site on a handheld device. You can see the team line-ups, read the live updates, check the match report and find out what the manager and the players had to say after the game. Simply visit lutontown.wap.com on your phone. For full details, please visit the Mobile Services section of www.lutontown.co.uk. **STAY IN TOUCH AND HELP THE HATTERS TOO...**

On the occasions when you can't make it to a match, you can connect to the club's official services and keep abreast of event, knowing that the cost of these products is directly benefiting Luton Town.

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BUSY EASTER FOR DEVELOPMENT SQUADS

The last two weeks have been a busy time for our pre-Academy and Centre of Excellence squads. Our pre-Academy squads travelled to the Netherlands to compete in the Holland easter Open Tournament and our Centre of Excellence squads enjoyed a three-day residential visit to Stowe School in Buckinghamshire with games against Brentford and MK Dons.

PRE-ACADEMY HOLLAND EASTER OPEN TOURNAMENT 2015

Our pre-Academy squads returned from Holland on a high last weekend with four teams out of 10 making the age group finals with the Under-9s, Under-10s and Under-14s returning home winners. The statistics look even more impressive with all of the boys entering the full academy section and effectively playing up an age group to comply with European age qualifications which run from January and not September as in the UK.

The tournament attracts over 400 teams from all over Europe and took place over the Easter weekend and included teams such as Vitesse and Stuttgart as well as several English Development squads including Manchester City, Southampton and West Bromwich Albion.

Although we took 10 teams and over 140 boys, pride of place must go to our magnificent Under-9s who played seven, won seven and scored 63 goals and conceded just four goals – and they didn't even take a recognised keeper to the tournament! That's confidence for you! Academy Foundation phase

lead coach Ross O'Kane took the squad and was full of praise for the boys' work rate and desire which, together with their technical ability, made them irresistible in the tournament. The final turned out to be a real cliff-hanger though as the boys came up against PVCV from

Utrecht who they had met earlier in the qualifiers - beating them comfortably 5-1 - but finals being finals it was only a narrow 1-0 victory that saw the boys lift the trophy.

On to the Under-10s who most notably beat West Bromwich Albion 4-3 in the qualifiers – a game notable as we gave the Albion a goal which the referee had 'missed' to put ourselves 2-1 down. We were confident that our sportsmanship would be rewarded! As it turned out this was probably the boys' toughest game of the tournament, although they had to beat the hosts FC Volkel twice, once in the qualifiers 2-1 and eventually in the final again, this time running out 4-1 winners. Kyle Durcan took the squad and particularly praised the boys' determination, particularly as key players were injured on the first day which put the squad under pressure.

Before going onto the third winners, a special mention should also be given to our Under-11s who made it undefeated all the way through to the final only to come up against Serie B side

FC Brescia's academy who were just too strong, and our boys lost 4-1. It was still a fantastic achievement from the players to make the final and coach Matt Collett was particularly pleased with his side's 2-0 victory over West Bromwich in the semi-final and acknowledged the superior opposition in the final.



Our third winning squad was our Under-14s who, from a slow start against Finnish side FC Legirus Inter drawing 0-0 in their opening game, managed to dispose of neighbours MK Dons 2-0 on the way to the final only to meet the Finns again. It was another very tight game ending 1-1 and penalties. A special mention to Under-13 keeper Fahd Hussein playing boys two years older, who made the winning penalty save and also to goal machine Charlie Parker who notched 14 goals in the tournament. Coach Dan Lockeran praised the boys' resilience over the two days, especially with our opponents seeing Luton Town as a big scalp. The desire, togetherness and work ethic amongst the players was exemplary, and to concede just two goals and keep four clean sheets in seven games is a great testament to the team.

Competitive

This was a fairly common theme throughout the tournament and a reminder of our club's illustrious past – yes we are back in the Football League after a long absence, but Luton Town is still seen as a big name in Holland, with lots of souvenir hunters after our pennants and scarves we were handing out to our opponents. It also meant all of our games were extremely competitive, as we were seen as something of a scalp to a lot of teams – a great experience for our development boys being put in a position of having to win games under pressure for a change!

It was also a change of emphasis for all of the parents who travelled out to Holland who rather than politely



watching our development games at home as normal had to find their voices to make sure some of our European hosts weren't too biased – talk about 'Fergie time'!

It's now over to our Under-9 to Under-14 Centre of Excellence squads who go to Belgium next month to compete in the Hageland Cup to match their pre-academy team-mates success – no pressure there then lads!

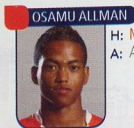
The Centre of Excellence boys will now spend the next few weeks preparing for their end of season tour to Belgium in May hoping to emulate the recent success of their pre-Academy team-mates in Holland.

Attending a three-day training camp at the fantastic facilities at Stowe School is a great team-building exercise for the boys, and gives our coaching staff a really good opportunity to see the boys both on and off the pitch. It also acts as good tour preparation as well as games against pre-Academy and full Academy boys, allowing all of our coaching staff the opportunity to assess almost 500 boys in development during the week. Good luck in Belgium boys!



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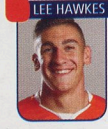
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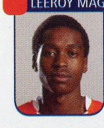
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WITH LEE COWLEY

DAY OUT WITH THE UNDER-15S

After an invite from Dereham Football Club asking if Luton would be interested in bringing our under-15s up to participate in a tournament to be played on the main ground over the Easter holidays. This was duly accepted.

We did have some concerns as we were going into the unknown having not taken part in this tournament in previous years. Travel time was a major consideration as it would take two hours plus to get there, which would mean a very early departure from Luton. It was decided that the benefits for the players and what we could learn about their characters in coping with an unusual and long day would be useful as we build up a more rounded opinion of the player's psycho-social capabilities. This proved invaluable as the boys needed to prepare differently too normal. Eating breakfast early and having food and drink to last them all day would help their performance. They passed this test with flying colours.

Our first game was at 10.30am; we arrived with 10 minutes to spare and after a quick change into match kit we had a short warm up which is not an ideal start to the competition. The boys did not allow this to affect them in any way, in fact it seemed to galvanize them to succeed in a tight encounter against very strong opposition whose first team play in a higher division. As it turned out, this was preparation for the final. The games that were to follow were equally tight. Considering the bobbly playing surface all the teams taking part tried to play attractive attacking football, which lent to an enjoyable day for staff, parents and players.

So to the final, which again proved to be very close. I do believe we showed at times we were the better side creating many more chances than our opponents. Having said that they did rattle our crossbar with a deflected shot from long range which we managed to clear. We kept playing progressive attacking football to gain the win in normal time but to no avail. Due to the lateness it was straight into the dreaded penalties. Five penalties were taken by both teams... and we managed to score with our last one to secure the win (come on you Hatters!). This again ticked the social psychological box because, as the picture shows, everyone loves winning a trophy.

On a personal note I would like to thank the players' attitude, commitment and application on the day. Not forgetting both staff members Ryan Flarry and Craig Hill who were a massive help. Also the parents that got time off work to support their children. We look forward to further success with this group next season.



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Luton Ladies

JOIN THE HATTERS LADIES!

Ever since the Hatters Ladies club was formed back in 1996 as an Under-12 squad our success in climbing through the leagues has very largely been based on producing our own players and preparing them for a high standard of senior football.

With this in mind we are currently in the process of expanding the Club to hopefully be in a position to be able to offer football to any female who wishes to play football for Luton Town. Links are now in place with Beds FA, a number of local schools and LTFC Community Department to achieve that aim.

We recently held an open session for girls up to the age of 13 and the results are very promising as we now look to be in a position where we can perhaps produce two Under-12 teams for season 2015/16.

If we are able to as a minimum no produce sufficient players for Under-14 and Under-10 age groups we will have achieved our aim to offer football for all females in the area.

What is important is that a young player joining the Ladies set up can identify an established pathway into a

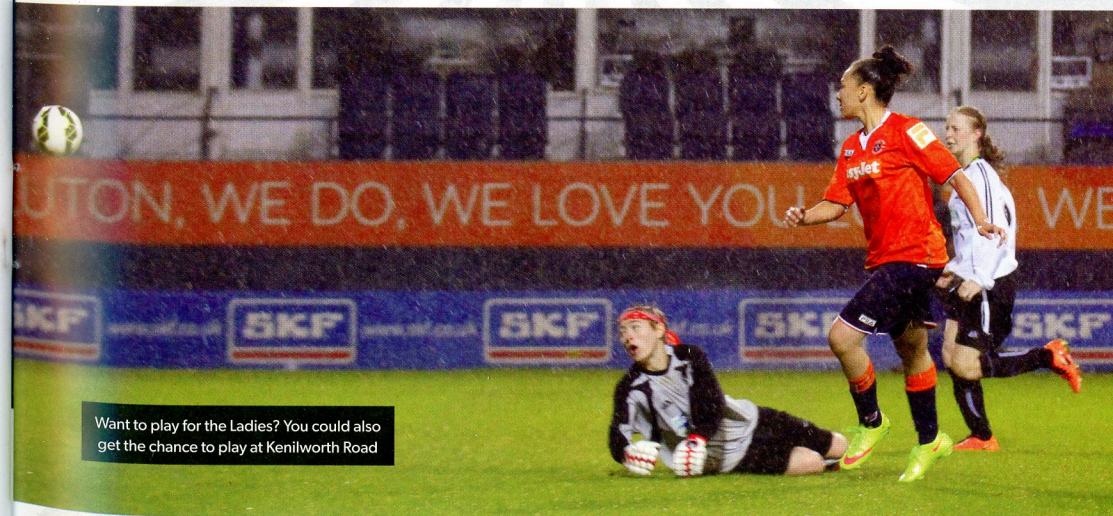
high level of senior football to match their ambition and we can of course offer that as a member Club of the FA Women's Premier League. We also run a reserve team who compete in Division One of the Greater London League that I used as a development stepping stone into the first team.

The key word in all of this is 'Development' and we therefore welcome players of all abilities as we take the view that it is the Clubs job via their coaching team to help develop players to their full potential. We have seen many players who have barely kicked ball before go on to play Premier League football with some style. All that we ask is for commitment from both the player and most importantly parents and we will do the rest.

We have our own dedicated youth team HQ where we play home matches and train during summer months.

Running a Club of this size requires a dedicated team of coaches, administrators and of course sponsors so if you would like to become involved at any level please make contact to discuss potential opportunities.

If you are an ambitious and committed female footballer of any age and would like to become part of the Hatters Ladies then please email lutontownlfc@hotmail.co.uk for further information.



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2014-15 STAT PACK



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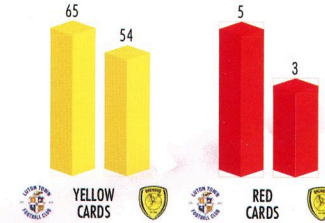
V

BURTON ALBION



MATCH FACTS

Luke Wilkinson was sent off for Luton in the reverse of this fixture, as Burton won 1-0.



MATCH FACTS

That victory for Burton was the first ever meeting between the two sides.



GOALS



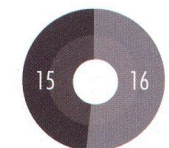
AV. GOALS PER GAME



SHOTS (EX. BLOCKED)



% SHOTS ON TARGET



CLEAN SHEETS



% GOALS TO SHOTS



CORNER KICKS



GOALS CONCEDED

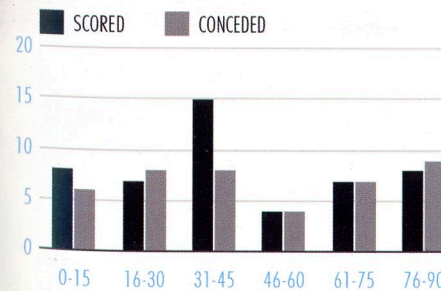


AV. GOALS CONCEDED PER GAME

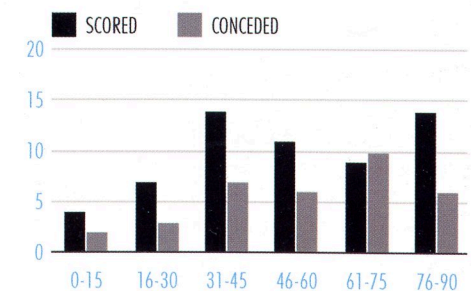


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JUNIOR HATTERS



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R	E	L	B	C	T	A	A	H	N
T	W	B	H	R	Y	Y	T	A	S
H	G	I	A	O	L	O	T	R	E
D	O	O	N	S	E	F	R	R	L
A	A	N	T	S	R	F	I	Y	L
Y	L	R	E	N	R	O	C	X	A
P	E	N	A	L	T	Y	K	Y	T
P	R	O	M	O	T	I	O	N	H

- BURTON
- ALBION
- KINSELLA
- PROMOTION
- PLAYOFF
- BIRTHDAY
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- PENALTY
- BALL
- CORNER
- HARRY
- WIN
- CROSS
- TYLER
- GOAL



WHERE'S HARRY?

Cheeky Happy Harry is hiding somewhere in this programme! Can you find him?

DID YOU KNOW...

The nickname of our visitors today - Burton Albion - is 'The Brewers', which comes from the town's brewing trade which dates back hundreds of years. The club has two mascots - Billy and Betty Brewer



ON THIS DAY

► THE RECORD

The Town hold a decent record on this day in the history books, winning 10 of the 23 matches on 11th April. Nine games have ended all square while the Hatters have been beaten only twice. Results on home soil have also favoured the Town down the years on this day with nine wins and four draws from the 13 home games, meaning the Hatters class of 2015 will be out to defend an unbeaten home record on 11th April. In total 63 goals have been scored across the 23 matches, working out an average of 2.7 goals per game.

► AWAY THE LADS

This afternoon's games is the Town's first on home soil at Kenilworth Road since a 3-0 home win over Queens Park Rangers in 1981. That particular day the Hatters romped to an easy victory over Rangers with Godfrey Ingram, Brian Stein and Raddy Antic on target in the Division 2 (now Championship) with 12,112 present at Kenilworth Road.

The Town have since had five away games since on 11th April, but without winning. Three have ended in draws and two in defeat. The first came in 1987 also came against QPR at Loftus Road in a 2-2 draw in the top flight with Mark Stein and Ricky Hill grabbing the Town's goals.

In 1992 – the Hatters' last campaign in the First Division (now Premier League) – the Town were thumped 5-1 at Oldham with Graeme Sharp grabbing four of the goals.

Three years later in 1995 the Hatters drew 0-0 at Bolton Wanderers and in 1998 the Town went down 2-1 at Gillingham in the Division Two (now League 1) with loan star Rory Allen on target.

You have to go back to April 2009 for the Town's last match on this day when almost 1,000 Hatters fans witnessed a goalless draw at Lincoln a week after they had seen the team lift the Johnstone's Paint Trophy at Wembley.

► HOME COMFORTS

Between 1925 and 1981 11 of the Town's 12 matches played on 11th April were at Kenilworth Road.

The biggest of the Hatters' 10 wins on this day came back in 1931 in Division Three (South) when the Town ran out 8-0 winners against Thames in front of a crowd of 6,029.

Compare that crowd to the one which crammed into Kenilworth Road of 27,025 to witness a goalless draw against Manchester United in the top flight in 1959 – the year the Town were runners-up in the FA Cup.

Other games of note during this run of home fixtures included a 3-0 win over Nottingham Forest in 1953, a 2-0 win over Walsall

(two goals from record goalscorer Gordon

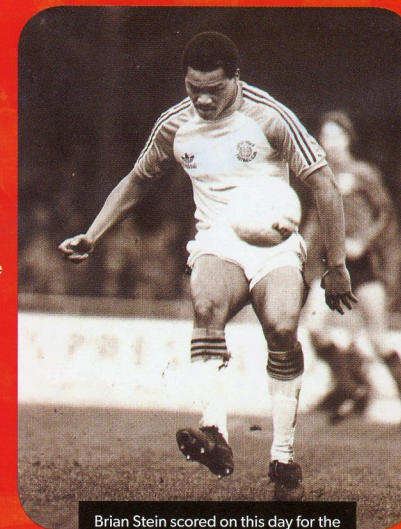
Turner) in 1962, a 3-1 win over Wrexham two years later and another win over Walsall, this time 3-0 in 1970.

► SOLE AWAY WIN

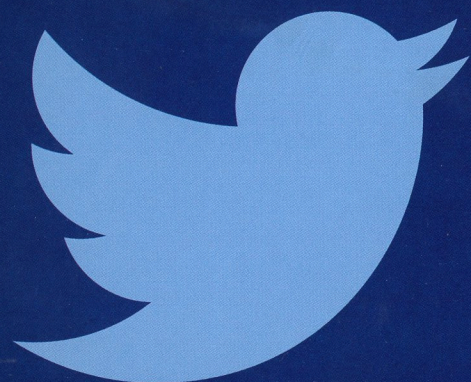
The Town's record away from home on this day is not the greatest with just one win and five draws from 10 matches. The only time the Hatters have won on their travels on 11th April came all the way back in 1908 with a 1-0 win at Bristol Rovers in the Southern League.

► BEST OF THE REST

The Town won their first two matches on this day with an aggregate score of 9-0. In 1896 the Hatters beat Clapton 6-0 and two years later Darwen were seen off 3-0...Darwen gained revenge a year later when beating the Town 4-1 on the same day...Wellingborough were then beaten 3-1 in 1903...The Town's heaviest defeat on this day came in 1955 when they were hammered 4-0 at Leeds United 29,583 at Elland Road.



Brian Stein scored on this day for the Town in 1981 in a 3-0 win over QPR



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FROM LEFT Midfield

BY KEVIN CROWE



11 CROWE
LEFT MID

LOVE WILL TEAR US APART

"Clap on, Happy Clapper with your head in the sand, you're kidding yourself, pal." "You what, you little Boo-Boy, all chubby with righteous rage?" "Settle down Morecambe Specs, you're just a moany old git with more programmes than brain cells." "Yeah well, you're just a Twitter kid with a nouveau niche, nothing more." "Better than a Main Stand menace and a Block C bore..."

Watching them lose week after week after week wasn't part of the plan was it, ladies and formerly gentle men. Once upon a time this season had fairytale return written all over it, only for it to be vandalised by hamstrings and knees and development squads with hernia ops and referees and referees and referees.

We were supposed to be greeting this spring sunshine with white knees and White House cigars, not with a run of form containing more L's than a stag do at a driving school in a provincial Welsh town with a really, really long sign.

Something about our rollercoaster of recent fortunes has amplified the highs and the lows more than I remember in seasons past.

Maybe it was ever thus - my memory for this type of thing is notoriously rubbish. Maybe it's just a bit louder this time around because the size of our support, loyal at least in number. Or maybe it's just because now we're all on the internet so much, we're suddenly, constantly surrounded by the conflicting sound bite of the self righteous blogger, the Twitter prat and the message board troll.

But either way the message is clear. "Never too high, never too low" is for wimps, Mr Still, mate. We're Howard Marks or Victor Meldrew and we've got hashtags to prove it. We might not be the hotbed of religious extremism that the Daily Mail once made us out to be, but get Luton Town on a bad run and you'll struggle to find a moderate Hatter in Kenilworth Road.

But don't read me wrong, dear reader, my dear. For this is no appeal for calm. Far from it...

Maybe in a tepidly parallel Wycombe Wanderer there would be a level-headed delight in the first season after a promotion, regardless of the results. Or maybe there wouldn't.

Reason

For Lutonian men, women and children at least, no reason is applied to Saturday/Tuesday/Saturday dismay. Our opinions are released in floods of bile or sugary joy depending on which gut-wrenching memory of wasted away day or tickertape parade formed them, and worn on our sleeves for days after like a persistent puke stain from the weekend before.

But deep down, whether our fellow fan is clapping them off or foaming at the tunnel, we sort of know where they are coming from, don't we? Because we were there too.

Whether three points at Tranmere means the start of a great end to this pantomime season, or whether it doesn't, we'll continue to throw train fares and post match pints at the problem until The Lovely Goals flow again.

Because whether we're moaning at the team, moaning at the manager or moaning at the moaners, we're only doing it because we're hopelessly in love.

And it's the love that tears us apart.

Don't forget...

LTFC season ticket holders travel at child rate on match days. Don't worry about parking, connect with the Busway at Luton Station and get dropped right outside the ground.



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The FOOTBALL LEAGUE Paper

THE ONLY PAPER FOR THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE FAN

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BY CHRIS DUNLAVY

Having started the season with no players, it came as a shock to no-one that Blackpool ended it by becoming the first club in England's top four divisions to be relegated.

Rotherham's 1-0 victory over Brighton on Easter Monday condemned the Seaside to League 1 on 6th April, still with six games to play.

Incredibly, that's eight days less that Luton lasted in 2009 - and they started that campaign with a 30-point deduction!

It's a sorry state of affairs for fans who just five years ago cheered their side into the Premier League... but it could be worse.

DERBY 2007/08

Still the benchmark by which Premier League competence is measured, the Rams weren't so much out of their depth as 20,000 leagues down with a lead weight on each ankle.

Promoted through the Play-Offs in 2007, Derby went down on 29th March, a Premier League and post-war top-flight record.

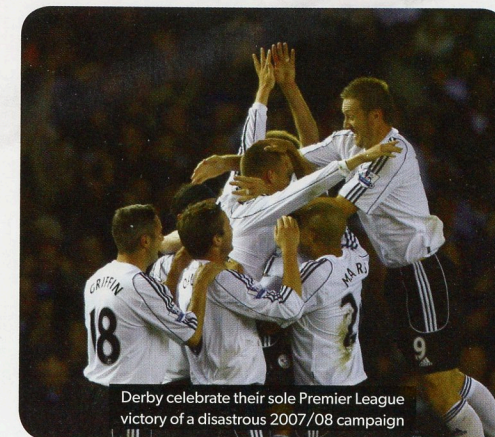
Along the way, they smashed records like plates at a Greek wedding. Their tally of 11 points was an all-time worst, beating Sunderland's haul of 15 set two years earlier. So too was a record of one win (a 1-0 victory over Newcastle, with whom they also drew at St James') in 38 games and a goals against column of 89.

They conceded six goals on four occasions, five twice, four three times and scored just 20 of their own - another Premier League low.

On top of that, the Rams failed to win any of their last 32 games which meant manager Paul Jewell - appointed to replace Billy Davies in November - didn't win any of his first 24 in charge. It was a ten-month nightmare from which they have only just recovered.

LANCASTER CITY 2006/07

It takes some dedication for part-time players who aren't being paid to pitch up and make a take a hiding every week - but that's exactly what the lads at Conference North Lancaster did in 2007.



Derby celebrate their sole Premier League victory of a disastrous 2007/08 campaign

Having started the season with two wins and three draws, the Dolly Blues' promotion bid collapsed amid financial meltdown.

Missed transfer payments to Crewe Alexandra and Moor Green, plus Football Association fees including a bill for 100 footballs, resulted in a transfer embargo. Bailiffs changed the locks, players walked out due to unpaid wages. By December, Lancaster were in administration and had been docked 10 points, leaving them on -1.

And there they remained, right until the day they were relegated on 11th March.

THIRD LANARK 1964/65

In 1961, Third Lanark - also known as the Hi-Hi - finished third in the Scottish top flight, scoring 100 goals in the process.

Yet just four years later the Scarlet-shirted Glaswegians would go down in history as one of Scottish football's worst-ever teams.

From November 1964 to the season's end in April, they failed to collect a single point, a remarkable - and still unsurpassed - run of 21 straight defeats. Though these were the days of two points for a win, the end still came early, with a 2-1 defeat to Dundee United on 17th February sealing their relegation.

Just two years later, amid accusations of boardroom corruption, the Thirds went bust, never to be seen again.



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league look

LEAGUE 2 NEWS IN BRIEF

With five games to go we are truly at the business end of the season - and the race is on to either go up or stay up.

Our visitors this afternoon could take one giant leap to securing a place in League 1 next season. Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink's side are 11 points clear of fourth-placed Bury, although the Shakers do have a game in hand. While they won't admit it, it seems only a matter of time before they can celebrate promotion - especially after their 1-0 win over Wycombe on Easter Monday.

The same can be said of Shrewsbury, one point behind Burton, with Micky Mellon's side 10 points clear of fourth. Wycombe remain third, six points behind Shrewsbury but four points clear of Bury. The Shakers let a lead slip against Morecambe last time out but their game in hand against Southend takes on particular significance with both sides now right in the hunt for automatic promotion after Wycombe's defeat at Burton.

While Wycombe, Bury and Southend are set to take two of the four Play-Off places, the final two spots in the top seven are up for grabs as six sides challenge for those Play-Off berths. Stevenage sit in sixth place on 62 points after a 1-0 win at Cheltenham, taking advantage of Newport's defeat at Exeter and Plymouth's loss to Portsmouth. The Town's win at Tranmere puts us right back in the mix - and just one point shy of Stevenage in sixth. Northampton's surprise home defeat to Cambridge leaves them five points adrift of the top seven. At the other end of the table Cheltenham are now three points from safety after their loss, while Tranmere remain in the relegation zone after their defeat to the Hatters. Hartlepool's good run of form came to an end with a home defeat to Southend, while Carlisle are just three points above the dropzone after a 3-1 defeat at Accrington.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

AFC Wimbledon v Oxford; Cambridge v Accrington; Carlisle v Dag & Red; Morecambe v Portsmouth; Newport v Bury; Plymouth v Mansfield; Shrewsbury v Exeter; Southend v Tranmere; Stevenage v Northampton; Wycombe v Cheltenham; York v Hartlepool.

LEAGUE TABLE 2014/15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Burton Albion	41	24	9	8	59	34	25	81
2 Shrewsbury Town	41	24	8	9	61	28	33	80
3 Wycombe Wanderers	41	20	14	7	60	40	20	74
4 Bury	40	21	7	12	53	39	14	70
5 Southend United	40	19	12	9	47	35	12	69
6 Stevenage	41	17	11	13	56	49	7	62
7 Newport County AFC	41	17	11	13	47	46	1	62
8 Plymouth Argyle	41	17	10	14	47	31	16	61
9 Luton Town	41	17	10	14	49	42	7	61
10 Exeter City	41	16	13	12	57	55	2	61
11 Northampton Town	41	17	6	18	60	53	7	57
12 Morecambe	41	14	12	15	44	46	-2	54
13 AFC Wimbledon	41	14	12	15	52	56	-4	54
14 Portsmouth	41	13	14	14	48	47	1	53
15 Dagenham & Redbridge	41	15	7	19	50	54	-4	52
16 Oxford United	41	12	14	15	43	48	-5	50
17 Accrington Stanley	41	14	8	19	51	67	-16	50
18 Cambridge United	41	12	11	18	53	55	-2	47
19 York City	41	9	18	14	42	46	-4	45
20 Mansfield Town	41	12	9	20	33	53	-20	45
21 Carlisle United	41	12	6	23	49	69	-20	42
22 Hartlepool United	41	11	7	23	33	61	-28	40
23 Tranmere Rovers	41	9	12	20	43	58	-15	39
24 Cheltenham Town	41	8	13	20	35	60	-25	37

PLAYER STATS 2014/15

	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTAL		DISCIP		LFC CAREER TOTAL				
	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	Y	R	APPS	GLS			
Zane Banton	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	0	0	6	0		
Paul Benson	14	(3)	1	(3)	1	(7)	(5)	2	5	60	20		
Paul Connolly	4	(0)	2	(0)	6	(0)	0	3	0	6	0		
Mark Cullen	30	(7)	12	(5)	1	(35)	(7)	13	3	78	23		
Nathan Doyle	23	(0)	0	(4)	0	(27)	(0)	0	7	0	27	0	
Andy Drury	30	(5)	2	(4)	0	(34)	(5)	2	2	65	10		
Fraser Franks	10	(3)	0	(4)	0	(14)	(3)	0	2	0	34	0	
Scott Griffiths	30	(0)	1	(4)	0	(34)	(0)	1	2	0	86	2	
Luke Guttridge	17	(5)	3	(2)	(1)	(19)	(6)	4	1	0	58	17	
Ryan Hall	3	(0)	0	(0)	0	(3)	(0)	0	0	0	3	0	
Michael Harriman	30	(0)	0	(4)	0	(34)	(0)	1	2	0	34	1	
Jake Howells	24	(8)	3	(2)	(1)	(27)	(10)	4	1	0	313	30	
Elliot Justham	10	(0)	0	(1)	0	(11)	(0)	0	0	0	18	0	
Lewis Kinsella	2	(0)	0	(0)	0	(2)	(0)	0	1	0	2	0	
Alex Lacey	10	(8)	0	(2)	0	(12)	(8)	0	0	0	51	1	
Ross Lafayette	1	(10)	0	(0)	0	(1)	(13)	0	2	0	14	0	
Alex Lawless	6	(8)	3	(0)	(1)	(6)	(9)	3	1	0	171	21	
Elliot Lee	4	(2)	3	(0)	0	(4)	(2)	3	3	0	6	3	
Cameron McGeehan	8	(2)	2	(0)	0	(8)	(2)	2	3	0	28	5	
Steve McNulty	36	(0)	0	(4)	0	(40)	(0)	0	7	2	108	2	
Ricky Miller	2	(9)	1	(1)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(11)	2	1	0	14	2
Nathan Oduwa	3	(7)	0	(0)	0	(3)	(7)	0	1	0	10	0	
Andrew Parry	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	(0)	0	0	0	26	4	
Ian Rees	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	(0)	0	0	0	4	0	
Matt Robinson	7	(2)	0	(1)	(2)	(8)	(4)	0	0	0	57	3	
Luke Rooney	8	(3)	3	(2)	(0)	(2)	(10)	(3)	5	2	1	19	5
Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu	10	(6)	1	(0)	(2)	(0)	(10)	(8)	1	1	0	42	3
Charlie Smith	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	(0)	0	0	0	3	0	
Jonathan Smith	31	(0)	2	(5)	(0)	(36)	(0)	2	5	0	96	5	
Jim Stevenson	2	(9)	1	(1)	(0)	(3)	(9)	1	1	0	18	1	
Jayden Stockley	11	(2)	3	(0)	(0)	(11)	(2)	3	3	0	13	3	
Mark Tyler	31	(0)	0	(5)	(0)	(36)	(0)	0	2	0	266	0	
Charlie Walker	0	(3)	0	(1)	(2)	(0)	(1)	(5)	0	0	0	6	0
Alex Wall	1	(5)	1	(1)	(0)	(2)	(5)	1	3	0	34	7	
Shawn Whalley	13	(3)	3	(1)	(0)	(0)	(14)	(3)	3	2	0	39	5
Luke Wilkinson	37	(0)	4	(6)	(0)	(43)	(0)	4	7	2	43	4	
Curtley Williams	3	(0)	0	(0)	(0)	(3)	(0)	0	0	0	3	0	

THE SEASON

Fixtures & Results

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	ATT	AWAY	POS	STARTING XI	SUBS
AUGUST									
Sat 9	3.00pm	A	Carlisle United	W 1-0	6,760	1,088	6	Tyler Connolly Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Lacey Robinson	Robinson
Tue 12	7.45pm	H	Swindon Town (C1C1)	L 1-2	4,410	436	-	Tyler Connolly Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Lacey Robinson	Robinson
Sat 16	3.00pm	H	AFC Wimbledon	L 0-1	9,101	690	14	Franks McNulty Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Robinson Drury	Robinson
Tue 19	7.45pm	H	Bury	D 1-1	7,890	289	14	Franks Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Robinson Drury	Drury
Sat 23	3.00pm	A	Accrington Stanley	D 2-2	1,562	586	12	Tyler Connolly Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Lacey Robinson	Robinson
Sat 30	3.00pm	A	Shrewsbury Town	L 0-2	5,888	1,037	18	Tyler Connolly Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Robinson	Robinson
SEPTEMBER									
Sat 6	12.15pm	H	Plymouth Argyle	L 0-1	7,864	527	19	Tyler Connolly Griffiths McNulty Lacey Ruddock Drury	Drury
Sat 13	3.00pm	H	Cheltenham Town	W 1-0	7,793	221	18	Tyler Williams Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Lacey Smith	Smith
Tue 16	7.45pm	A	York City	D 0-0	3,649	445	18	Tyler Williams Griffiths Lacey Wilkinson Smith	Ruddock
Sat 20	3.00pm	A	Cambridge United	W 1-0	6,533	2,050	13	Williams McNulty Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Lacey	Ruddock
Sat 27	3.00pm	H	Oxford United	W 2-0	9,101	868	10	Lacey Griffiths McNulty WILKINSON 1 Smith	Doyle
OCTOBER									
Sat 4	3.00pm	A	Stevenage	W 2-1	5,236	1,897	7	Tyler Lacey Griffiths McNulty WILKINSON 1 Smith	Doyle
Tue 7	7.45pm	H	Crawley Town (JPTZ)	L 0-1	2,186	125	-	Justham Lacey Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Smith	Doyle
Sat 11	3.00pm	H	Southend United	W 2-0	9,238	1,033	4	Tyler Harriman Griffiths McNulty WILKINSON 1 Smith	Doyle
Sat 18	3.00pm	A	Hartlepool United	W 2-1	4,225	525	4	Tyler Harriman Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Smith	Doyle
Tue 21	7.45pm	H	Dagenham & Redbridge	W 3-1	7,746	166	3	Tyler Harriman Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Smith	Doyle
Sat 25	3.00pm	H	Northampton Town	W 1-0	10,040	1,018	1	Tyler Harriman Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Smith	Doyle
NOVEMBER									
Sat 1	3.00pm	A	Exeter City	D 1-1	5,400	1,043	2	Tyler Harriman Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Smith	Doyle
Sat 8	3.00pm	H	Newport County (FAC1)	W 4-2	3,656	334	-	Tyler Harriman Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Lacey	Doyle
Sat 15	3.00pm	H	Tranmere Rovers	W 1-0	9,061	378	1	Tyler Harriman Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Franks	Doyle
Sat 22	3.00pm	A	Burton Albion	L 0-1	4,772	1,998	3	Tyler Harriman Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson	Doyle
Sat 29	3.00pm	H	Mansfield Town	W 3-0	8,418	294	2	Tyler Harriman Griffiths McNulty Franks Smith	Doyle
DECEMBER									
Sat 6	3.00pm	A	Bury (FAC2)	D 1-1	2,790	434	-	Tyler Harriman Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Franks	Doyle
Sat 13	3.00pm	A	Morecambe	L 0-3	2,263	731	4	Tyler Harriman Griffiths McNulty WILKINSON 1 Smith	Doyle
Tue 16	7.45pm	H	Bury (FAC2R)	W 1-0	2,923	182	-	Tyler Harriman Griffiths Franks Wilkinson Smith	Doyle
Sat 20	3.00pm	H	Newport County	W 3-0	8,383	317	3	Tyler Harriman Griffiths McNulty WILKINSON 1 Smith	Doyle
Fri 26	3.00pm	A	Wycombe Wanderers	D 1-1	7,539	2,566	4	Tyler Harriman Griffiths McNulty WILKINSON 1 SMITH 1	Doyle
Sun 28	3.00pm	H	Portsmouth	D 1-1	10,071	1,021	4	Tyler Harriman Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson SMITH 1	Doyle
JANUARY									
Sat 3	3.00pm	A	Cambridge United (FAC3)	L 1-2	7,063	1,380	-	Tyler HARRIMAN 1 Howells Franks Wilkinson Connolly	Smith
Thu 8	7.45pm	H	Shrewsbury Town	D 0-0	7,666	177	4	Tyler Harriman Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Smith	Doyle
Sat 17	3.00pm	A	Plymouth Argyle	W 1-0	8,420	802	4	Tyler Harriman Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Smith	Doyle
Sat 24	3.00pm	A	Cheltenham Town	D 1-1	3,611	1,282	4	Tyler Harriman Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Smith	Doyle
Sat 31	3.00pm	H	Cambridge United	W 3-2	10,054	939	4	Tyler Harriman Griffiths McNulty WILKINSON 1 SMITH 1	Doyle
FEBRUARY									
Sat 7	3.00pm	A	Oxford United	D 1-1	7,541	2,264	4	Tyler Harriman Howells McNulty Wilkinson Smith	Doyle
Tue 10	7.45pm	H	York City	D 2-2	7,763	173	5	Tyler Harriman Howells McNulty Wilkinson Smith	Doyle
Sat 14	3.00pm	H	Carlisle United	W 1-0	8,502	276	4	Tyler Harriman Griffiths Franks Wilkinson Smith	Robinson
Tue 17	7.45pm	A	Mansfield Town	L 0-1	2,998	801	4	Tyler Harriman Griffiths Franks Lacey Smith	Robinson
Sat 21	3.00pm	A	AFC Wimbledon	L 2-3	4,050	829	4	Justham Harriman Griffiths Franks Lacey Smith	McGeehan
Sat 28	3.00pm	H	Accrington Stanley	W 2-0	8,700	87	4	Justham Harriman Griffiths Franks Wilkinson Smith	McGeehan
MARCH									
Tue 3	7.45pm	A	Bury	L 0-1	2,915	328	4	Justham Harriman Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Smith	McGeehan
Sat 7	3.00pm	H	Morecambe	L 2-3	8,667	94	5	Justham Harriman Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Smith	McGEEHAN 1
Sat 14	3.00pm	A	Portsmouth	L 0-2	17,149	2,680	6	Justham Harriman Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson Drury	McGeehan
Tue 17	7.45pm	A	Newport County	L 0-1	2,526	349	6	Justham Harriman Howells McNulty Wilkinson Drury	McGeehan
TV Tue 24	7.45pm	H	Wycombe Wanderers	L 2-3	8,379	555	6	Justham Harriman Howells McNulty Wilkinson Franks	Drury
Sat 28	3.00pm	A	Northampton Town	L 1-2	5,668	913	8	Justham Harriman KinSELLA McNulty Wilkinson Smith	Doyle
APRIL									
Fri 3	3.00pm	H	Exeter City	L 2-3	8,755	429	9	Justham Harriman KinSELLA McNulty Wilkinson Smith	Doyle
Mon 6	3.00pm	A	Tranmere Rovers	W 1-0	6,035	526	9	Justham Harriman Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson	Doyle
Sat 11	3.00pm	H	Burton Albion	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tue 14	7.45pm	A	Dagenham & Redbridge	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sat 18	3.00pm	H	Hartlepool United	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sat 25	3.00pm	A	Southend United	-	-	-	-	-	-
MAY									
Sat 2	3.00pm	H	Stevenage	-	-	-	-	-	-

Drury	Howells	CULLEN 1	Benson	Franks	Wall	Rooney	Ruddock	Guttridge	Stevenson	Justham
Drury	ROONEY 1	Cullen	Benson	Lacey	Wall	Howells	Ruddock	Guttridge	Lafayette	Justham
Guttridge	Howells	Cullen	Benson	Lacey	Wall	Williams	Ruddock	Stevenson	Lafayette	Justham
Guttridge	Rooney	Cullen	Benson	Lacey	Wall	Howells	RUDDOCK 1	Stevenson	Lafayette	Justham
Drury	ROONEY 1	Cullen	Benson	Franks	Wall	Guttridge	Ruddock	Stevenson	Lafayette	Justham
Guttridge	Howells	Cullen	Benson	Lacey	Wall	Williams	Ruddock	Miller	Lafayette	Justham
Guttridge	Howells	ROONEY	Cullen	Smith	Lawless	Wall	Lafayette	Stevenson	Walker	Justham
Ruddock	Guttridge	CULLEN 1	Lafayette	Drury	Wall	Howells	Rooney	Stevenson	Walker	Justham
Drury	Guttridge	Howells	Cullen	Wall	Rooney	Lafayette	Whalley	Stevenson	Connolly	Justham
Drury	Guttridge	CULLEN 1	Wall	Drury	Lafayette	Whalley	Robinson	Doyle	Walker	Justham
Ruddock	Whalley	HOWELLS 1	Cullen	Drury	Lafayette	Stevenson	Robinson	Guttridge	Walker	Justham
Ruddock	Drury	Cullen	Benson	Howells	WALL 1	Stevenson	Robinson	Guttridge	Walker	Justham
Guttridge	Howells	Wall	Benson	Walker	Robinson	Stevenson	Lawless	Tyler	Walker	Justham
Drury	Ruddock	LAWLESS 1	CULLEN 1	Lacey	Benson	Wall	Guttridge	Stevenson	Walker	Justham
Drury	Ruddock	Miller	CULLEN 1	Lacey	Benson	Wall	Guttridge	Stevenson	Walker	Justham
Drury	Ruddock	Miller	CULLEN 3	Lacey	Benson	Wall	Guttridge	Stevenson	Walker	Justham
Drury	Ruddock	Lawless	CULLEN 1	Lacey	Benson	Wall	GUTTRIDGE 1	Stevenson	Walker	Justham
Drury	Howells	Cullen	Benson	Lacey	Miller	Rooney	Guttridge	Stevenson	Whalley	Justham
Smith	GUTTRIDGE 1	BENSON 1	Cullen	Franks	Griffiths	MILLER 1	Whalley	Rooney	Walker	Justham
Smith	Guttridge	Benson	Cullen	Lacey	Drury	Griffiths	Rooney	Ruddock	MILLER 1	Justham
Howells	Whalley	Guttridge	Benson	Franks	Drury	Cullen	Rooney	Ruddock	Miller	Justham
Drury	WHALLEY 2	BENSON 1	Cullen	Lacey	Howells	Rooney	Ruddock	Miller	Walker	Justham
Smith	Drury	Walker	CULLEN 1	Robinson	Howells	Miller	Stevenson	Rooney	Lacey	Justham
Smith	Drury	Whalley	Cullen	Lafayette	Griffiths	Miller	Stevenson	Rooney	Lacey	Justham
Drury	ROONEY 1	Whalley	Cullen	Lacey	Howells	Lafayette	Miller	Robinson	Lacey	Justham
Drury	ROONEY 1	Whalley	Cullen	Franks	HOWELLS 1	Lafayette	Miller	Connolly	Stevenson	Justham
Drury	Rooney	Whalley	Cullen	Franks	Connolly	Stevenson	Howells	Miller	Lafayette	Justham
Drury	ROONEY 1	Whalley	Cullen	Franks	Connolly	Stevenson	Howells	Miller	Lafayette	Justham
Stevenson	Drury	Miller	Cullen	Lacey	Rooney	Robinson	Ruddock	Lafayette	Walker	Justham
Drury	Howells	Rooney	Stockley	Franks	Cullen	Miller	Whalley	Robinson	Walker	Justham
DRURY 1	Howells	Whalley	Stockley	Lacey	Wall	Cullen	Robinson	Walker	Connolly	Justham
Drury	Howells	WHALLEY 1	Stockley	Lacey	Lawless	Wall	Cullen	Miller	Robinson	Justham
DRURY 1	Howells	Whalley	Stockley	Franks	Lawless	Wall	Cullen	Guttridge	Robinson	Justham
Drury	Hall	Whalley	STOCKLEY 1	Lacey	Wall	Cullen	Guttridge	Robinson	Oduwa	Justham
Drury	Hall	Oduwa	STOCKLEY 1	Lacey	Wall	CULLEN 2	Guttridge	Robinson	Whalley	Justham
Drury	Oduwa	CULLEN 1	Stockley	Lacey	Howells	Ruddock	Whalley	Guttridge	Hall	Justham
Tue 17	7.45pm	A	Mansfield Town	L 0-1	2,998	801	4	Tyler Harriman Griffiths Franks Lacey Smith	Robinson	Justham
Sat 21	3.00pm	A	AFC Wimbledon	L 2-3	4,050	829	4	Justham Harriman Griffiths Franks Lacey Smith	McGeehan	Justham
Sat 28	3.00pm	H	Accrington Stanley	W 2-0	8,700	87	4	Justham Harriman Griffiths Franks Wilkinson Smith	McGeehan	Justham
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Sat 11	3.00pm	H	Burton Albion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tue 14	7.45pm	A	Dagenham & Redbridge	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sat 18	3.00pm	H	Hartlepool United	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sat 25	3.00pm	A	Southend United	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MAY										
Sat 2	3.00pm	H	Stevenage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

HOLD THE Back Page

SIMON PITTS EXPLORES THE STATS ON OUR 130TH BIRTHDAY

Luton Town Football Club are celebrating 130 years of history today and a total of 5,257 competitive matches played, including Anglo-Italian Cup, Southern Alliance, Southern Professional Floodlit Cup, Texaco Cup, United League, Western League and even an appearance in the Watney Cup (and yes that counts!)

1,231 players have worn the shirt in these matches, with 13 of those making their debut during the 2014/15 season. Fred Hawkes leads the way with 625 appearances in all competitions, whilst Bob Morton is known for his 495 league appearances for the Hatters. Ricky Hill made 508 appearances whilst Brian Stein, still a regular at Kenilworth Road in a media role, was just behind on 496.

Of the current players Jake Howells leads the way on 313 appearances, and his next game will move him level with John Ryan. Jake of course became the youngest player to reach 300 appearances for the club, and should he feature in every remaining League game, or indeed any Play-Off matches, then he will move into 17th place in the all-time table, ahead of Alan West.

678 of the players to have featured for the Hatters have also scored, with Gordon Turner leading the way on 276 goals in all competitions, from his 450 appearances. Andy Rennie is next with 162 from 335. Seven players have scored in their only appearance for Luton, and a special mention should go to one of



those, a Mr Gibson, who netted a hat-trick against Leyton in a 5-1 victory on 16th October 1905 in the United League!

This was one of 202 matches that have seen a Luton player net at least three times, with Mark Cullen the most recent of these after his treble against Dagenham & Redbridge in October 2014.

A breakdown of the 5,257 matches shows 2,098 won,

1,278 drawn and 1,881 defeats. A total of 8,350 goals scored, 7,573 conceded and 1,391 clean sheets with Mark Tyler having kept eight per cent (111) of these.

The Town have played 3,665 League matches in the top four Divisions, with 1,389 victories, 928 draws and 1,348 defeats, scoring a total of 5,540 goals and conceding 5,292. This is an average of 1.39 points per game, or 64 points per 46 game season, which coincidentally the Hatters would reach this afternoon with victory over Burton!

Of the League games Luton have played 658 (18%) in the top flight, 1,424 (39%) in the League now referred to as the Championship, 1312 (36%) in League One and just 271 to date (7%) in League Two.

The most matches played in a season was 61 in the 2010/11 campaign, this beat the previous 60 matches played in 1996/97. The record consisted of 46 Conference games, five FA Cup, seven FA Trophy and three Play-Off matches. A total of 160 goals were seen in these matches, with Luton netting 111 and conceding 49.

47 games have already been played since August, and Hatters fans will be hoping that they see a total of 55 by the end of May.



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THE SQUADS



LUTON TOWN

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Mark Tyler | 22 Michael Harriman |
| 2 Fraser Franks | 23 Matthew Robinson |
| 3 Danny Fitzsimons | 24 Curtley Williams |
| 4 Jonathan Smith | 25 Jayden Stockley |
| 5 Stephen McNulty | 26 Nathan Doyle |
| 6 Alex Lacey | 27 Ryan Hall |
| 7 Alex Lawless | 28 Jim Stevenson |
| 8 Andy Drury | 30 Luke Wilkinson |
| 9 Paul Benson | 31 Nathan Oduwa |
| 10 Alex Wall | 32 Brett Longden |
| 11 Jake Howells | 33 Mark Onyemah |
| 12 Scott Griffiths | 34 Zane Banton |
| 13 Mark Cullen | 35 Charlie Walker |
| 14 Andy Parry | 36 Charlie Smith |
| 16 Elliot Justham | 37 Kynan Isaac |
| 17 Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu | 38 Elliot Lee |
| 18 Ross Lafayette | 39 Ian Rees |
| 19 Ricky Miller | 40 Lewis Kinsella |
| 20 Shaun Whalley | 50 Cameron McGeehan |
| 21 Luke Guttridge | |



BURTON ALBION

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Jon McLaughlin | 18 Dominic Knowles |
| 2 Phil Edwards | 19 Mark Shelton |
| 3 Shane Cansdell-Sherriff | 20 Adam McGurk |
| 4 John Mousinho | 21 Nasser El Khayati |
| 5 George Taft | 23 Matty Palmer |
| 6 Ian Sharps | 26 Joe Doyle |
| 7 Lee Bell | 27 Marcus Harness |
| 8 Robbie Weir | 28 Mickael Antoine-Curier |
| 9 Stuart Beavon | 30 Sam Austin |
| 10 Lucas Akins | 31 Kelvin Maynard |
| 12 Jacob Blyth | 32 Florent Cuvelier |
| 14 Damien McCrory | 33 Scott Shearer |
| 15 Tom Naylor | 34 Stefan Maletic |
| 16 Dean Lyness | 35 Callum Reilly |
| 17 Jimmy Phillips | |

TODAY'S OFFICIALS



Andrew Madley



Nicholas Hopton



Adrian Sannerude



Simon Beck

NEXT UP

v HARTLEPOOL UNITED • SATURDAY 18th APRIL 2015 • 3pm

SKY BET LEAGUE 2

