

# TALK OF THE TOWN



## LUTON TOWN v STEVENAGE

SATURDAY 2nd  
MAY 2015

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# welcome TO KENILWORTH ROAD



“ Welcome back to Kenilworth Road for what will more than likely be the final time this season.

After last weekend's defeat at Southend the Town know that they need a handsome win over our visitors Stevenage this afternoon to gatecrash the Play-Offs. A big win allied with a hefty victory for title-chasing Shrewsbury against Plymouth could see the Hatters sneak in. It's long odds that will happen but you never know with Luton Town, do you?

Stevenage, who have already guaranteed their place in the top seven, will not be lying down – we can assure you that. And we congratulate them on a fine run of form which has catapulted them well into contention when the nerves and excitement of the Play-Offs begin. But while there's still hope in our own challenge we will still believe – and that's something you'll be able to ascertain from reading the notes of manager John Still and captain Stephen McNulty in these here pages.

Finally, as this is potentially our last issue of Talk of the Town of the campaign, we'd like to thank everyone who has assisted in the production of the programme: the contributors – especially club historian Roger Wash – plus the designers and printers for their hard work and enthusiasm. Roll on August!

Enjoy the summer – and remember the fixtures for next season are out on Wednesday 17th June! #COYH ”

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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 what may well be the final time this season.

I'd like to welcome everybody associated with Stevenage to Bedfordshire today. This afternoon's match has a little added spice with it being a local derby of sorts and our last game of the season.

Well, what a year it has been. Where has the time gone? It doesn't seem that long ago that we were embarking on our first season back in the Football League at Carlisle. It barely seems two minutes ago but here we are facing our last game of the campaign.

Since my last set of notes I have been pleased with the level of performance in the two matches, the 3-0 win over Hartlepool here and the defeat at Southend last weekend. Against Hartlepool we were good value for the win but we could have scored more goals and that result meant we went to Southend in good spirits with our Play-Off bid very much alive. Last Saturday's game showed what a cruel game football is, but we have to take it on the chin.

## Surprises

We entertain Stevenage today knowing we have to win and win well given the fact our fate could be decided by goal difference. All we can do this afternoon is try and score as many goals as we can and keep our fingers crossed elsewhere. I've been in the game long enough to realise that we face a tall order but by the same token I know that football can throw up surprises so you have to believe that anything is possible. At my former club we once won the first leg of a Play-Off tie 6-0 and everybody on the playing and coaching side is geared to giving it the best shot that we can.

I think it's fair to now reflect on the season. Has there been disappointments? Having been so close for so long there's no doubt there is disappointment but I can honestly say every single member of the team has given Luton Town everything. There's no doubt that we haven't scored as many as we would have liked – but

**YOUR BACKING OF THE TEAM HAS BEEN NOTHING SHORT OF REMARKABLE AND EVERY STAFF AND PLAYER SAYS THANKS FOR YOUR UNWAVERING AND PASSIONATE SUPPORT OVER THE COURSE OF THIS SEASON.**

looking at the league table not many other teams have scored too many either. The one thing I am disappointed in is the amount of goals we've conceded because the amount we have let in is very unlike us. Overall, however, I have been absolutely delighted with the attitude, desire and commitment of my team and to still have an outside chance of promotion going into the final day of the season is brilliant. Obviously it is tinged with disappointment but today we will be approaching this game with our usual heart and spirit.

## STILL UPBEAT

Every step of the way this season we have been lucky to receive the tremendous support from the terraces. Your backing of the team has been nothing short of remarkable and every staff and player says thanks for your unwavering and passionate support over the course of this season.

## Progress

Regardless of today we will look forward to next season whatever league we are in. The building progress remains, as does our aim to improve year on year. This is not restricted to progress on the pitch, either, and I think it is fair to say this club has made massive strides over the past two years.

I'd like to finish by saying thank you to my fantastic staff. Every single one of them has contributed massively in the rebuilding of this football club and it's important I make that clear. I'd also like to thank our magnificent youth structure, led by Wayne Turner and Paul Driver. We are delighted to welcome aboard three new professionals for next season in Luke Trotman, Craig King and Isaac Galliford and it will be exciting to see these young lads pushing on in their careers.

## Thank you

But let's get back to business. Whether I write in another programme or not this season remains to be seen, but if not, thank you all for everything, enjoy the summer and see you next season.

Enjoy the game.



# BOARDROOM

WITH CHAIRMAN NICK OWEN



Good afternoon and a warm welcome to Kenilworth Road for our final league match of the season.

Before I go any further, I must say congratulations to our visitors and near neighbours Stevenage for securing a Play-

Off place after a terrific late run which has seen them lose only once in their last 16 matches.

We, of course, are very much outsiders for a Play-Off place after such a wretched run which started, I suppose, back in February and led to nine defeats in 10, culminating in the unfortunate turn of events at Southend on Saturday. It's all bitterly disappointing after we had looked so good earlier in the season when we led the table for a while and seemed likely to finish in the Play-Offs places at worst.

I know the reasons for our poor form have exercised us all, but I really can't see past our extraordinary bad luck with injuries. I know all teams inevitably lose players to injury during the season, but the number of key players we've had to manage without for week after week has been frankly diabolical.

The men we've missed for a good chunk of the season include Mark Tyler, Nathan Doyle, Jonathan Smith, Alex Lawless, Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu and Paul Benson, plus the loss through suspension for a number of games of our charismatic leader and stopper Stephen McNulty. These guys are absolutely pivotal members of our squad and there comes a time when so many are missing that it is really difficult to get a settled line-up. On top of all that, Elliott Lee was looking so dangerous up front and then he was crocked against Wycombe. We lost him for three games and, although he is playing, he is still battling to get back to full fitness.

So much for the reasons, or excuses, if you like. I think we have also been extremely unfortunate with a number of decisions made against us or not made for us, but the table says we have simply not been good enough for long enough in recent months, despite the fact that we have played some excellent football at times. I firmly believe we deserved to beat Shrewsbury at home and I also think we could well have won home and away against Burton, but somehow managed to lose.

So we go again – both this afternoon and in the months ahead into next season. You'll be pleased to know that the players remain extremely positive and, until it is mathematically impossible to qualify for the Play-Offs, they will keep going in the hope that something remarkable might just happen today.

And let's just remember that we are in our first season back in the Football League after five in the Conference and to be this close to the top end of the table is a significant achievement. We have high expectations at Kenilworth Road and rightly so, but let's just reflect on those dreadfully tough seasons we spent trying to scramble out of non-league football and up to where we are today.

Wherever we finish this time, there have been some outstanding performers this season. Congratulations first of all to our captain for being named in the League 2 side of the year by the PFA. A considerable achievement and well deserved. Also, I am delighted for Nathan Doyle and Jonathan Smith for dominating the awards at the Luton Town Supporters' Club and Trust in Luton dinner on Sunday. They have been such an important part of the team this season and we really missed them when they were both out injured.

A special mention too for striker Lee Angol, who's scored 25 goals on loan at Boreham Wood, won three awards as players' player of the year, supporters' player of the year and young player of the year. His goals have helped fire Boreham Wood into the Conference South Play-Offs. How soon before he is banging them in for the Luton first team?

As ever, our crowds have been spectacular home and away, with our travelling support the best in the division. We have already sold approaching 4,400 season tickets for next time which is remarkable. On behalf of all of us behind the scenes at Kenilworth Road, thank you very much.

And while we're talking about matters off the field, a warm welcome to Ray Williams who is becoming our new finance director. Ray is a life-long Luton fan and a man with considerable experience in the property world – a quality that will be invaluable as we move closer to relocation. As you know from Gary Sweet's previous notes, that exciting prospect is edging ever nearer. Ray takes over from Roger Bannister who is retiring. We wish Roger all the best and, of course, our thanks go with him for all he's done here. Keep in touch, Roger, and don't just follow our results from a distance!

Meanwhile, there is a vacancy for club secretary and we are currently recruiting for that important role. Why? Because Kevan Platt has been promoted. Kevan becomes senior operations manager which will enable him to take on some of Gary's duties in the daily running of the football club, while Gary will have more time to concentrate on relocation.

So back to the game today. Are we good enough to be in the Play-Offs? Of course we are, but we've been nowhere near consistent enough. Could we make it this afternoon? Well, miracles can happen and Luton Town have experienced a few in our long and colourful history.

I know it is unlikely, but let's all give it our best shot, roar the team on as we always do for better or for worse and keep the faith. After all we've been through in recent years, that is still what we do: we believe and turn out in huge numbers, with support that other clubs envy.

Whatever happens today, I am so proud to be associated with this football club, approaching 57 years now of highs and lows, always with unwavering passion. John Still will work hard during the summer to improve the squad, helped in no small measure by his experiences this season. We have so much to look forward to. We only look up.

Have a good summer, bye for now.

*Nick Owen*



## 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



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# MACCA

THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN SPEAKING

FROM THE DRESSING ROOM WITH STEPHEN McNULTY



Let's be honest about today. We're going to need a small miracle to make the Play-Offs.

Football's a funny old game, though, and we will be giving everything we possibly can to sneak ourselves into the top seven. It is going to have to take something particular special but it's not entirely out of the question. However, even if we do win today our destiny is not in our hands and we will be relying on another team to do us a favour.

The one thing we've got going for us this afternoon is that there is no pressure on us. I think there are very few people who will be expecting us to win by five or six goals today, but don't worry - we are going to give it a good go. We can, however, enjoy the game, relax and we'll see where it takes us over the course of these 90 minutes.

It won't be easy because Stevenage, already in the Play-Offs themselves, aren't going to roll over and let us tickle them. If anything they are going to revel in making life difficult for us this afternoon. They are not going to want the game to turn into a basketball match. We need to attack - and we will - so you can't say that today's game isn't going to be interesting.

### Heart

In our quest for goals we can take heart from our last performance here at Kenilworth Road where we eased past Hartlepool. We could have been four or five goals up inside the first half, so if we can create anywhere near the same amount of chances this afternoon we must, must take them. And if we do, who knows what can happen?

When a season ends in this fashion it is always easy to look back on where we've gone wrong over the past 10 months, pin-pointing moments in games and thinking what might have been had we taken a point here or there.

**This season, while it's frustrating to think what might have been, will make us stronger. It will make us better players and professionals and I know that it will stand us in good stead for another crack at promotion next term.**

There's nothing we can do about that now but there's no doubt that our abysmal run of form in March was a major reason why we have fallen short this season.

Last weekend's defeat at Southend was one of the most bitterly disappointing and deflating moments of the campaign. The circumstances that led to the defeat obviously made it particularly hard to take but that's football for you. Having got the result against Hartlepool to draw level with the final Play-Off place it looked as though we had done enough to get at least a point. But it wasn't to be. It's the lowest we've felt all season but we need to pick ourselves up today and end the season on a high.

I think the campaign as a whole has been successful. Of course it's disappointing to have just missed out but I think there needs to be some

perspective. Let's not forget that this club spent the five previous seasons playing in non-league. Imagine being back there? This season, while it's frustrating to think what might have been, will make us stronger. It will make us better players and professionals and I know that it will stand us in good stead for another crack at promotion next term.

Finally, on behalf of the dressing room, I'd like to thank each and every one of you for your support this season. I've said before in these notes that words don't give your backing justice, but it fills us all with great pride when we walk out at a packed Kenilworth Road and when we see thousands of you in the away end on our travels.

Stay behind us, stay positive, have a good summer and we'll see you next season.

# REST IN PEACE CHRIS TURNER

Everyone at Kenilworth Road was saddened to learn of the death of Chris Turner at the age of 64 after a long illness.

St Neots-born Chris signed for Peterborough United as a youngster and after making his League debut in 1969 went on to make over 300 appearances for Posh as a tough and dominant centre-half.

When David Pleat, in his first close season as Luton manager, looked to revamp his side he turned to the big defender and used some of the money brought in from the sale of Paul and Ron Futcher to entice Peterborough to let him go. Chris became the lynchpin in the Luton defence but was always hankering after a return to the USA and the burgeoning NSAL where he had enjoyed two good summers with firstly Connecticut Bicentennials and then New England Tea Men.

After 34 first team appearances and five goals, Chris was reluctantly allowed to return to the USA, returning in the English football season to play for Cambridge United, Swindon and lastly Southend. Taking over as manager of Cambridge United in 1985, Chris steadied the ship before handing over the reins to John Beck before managing and then owning his first love Peterborough.

Our condolences go out to his family and friends.



# MARK OVENDALE MEMORIAL CUP

For the second time this season Hatters fans will take part in a special match in May to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support and SoLYD.

The game will see the Hatters Talk internet forum (including a certain Enoch Showunmi) and a Macmillan representative side contest the Mark Ovendale Memorial Cup on Saturday 30th May, in memory of the former Town goalkeeper who died from the disease aged just 37 in 2011.

A number of Mark's former clubs, including the Town, have donated various raffle prizes, and the game kicks-off at 2pm at Markyate Football Club (postcode AL3 8PT).

Entry is free so why not go along and help raise some money for two great causes.

Over £3,000 was raised last time and Hatters Talk want to better that this year so why not help this great cause?

To purchase raffle tickets search "Hatters Talk" on Facebook, follow them on Twitter @hatterstalk or you can buy them on the day, £1 each or £5 for a book.

# TODAY'S SCENARIO

The Town's chance of making the Play-Offs took a knock last week but the Hatters still have a chance of finishing in the top seven should results go in our favour.

For the record the Hatters will firstly need to win today against Stevenage and then hope Shrewsbury beat Plymouth. That will mean the Town will sit level on points with Argyle in the table.

The only way the Hatters can qualify for the Play-Offs will be by making up an eight-goal swing in goal difference. It means, for example, that a 4-0 win for the

Town and a 4-0 win for Shrewsbury would be enough. Obviously other score combinations that equal the same eight-goal swing apply, i.e we win 3-0 and Shrewsbury win 5-0 and vice-versa.

In the event that we do make the Play-Offs, the first leg will take place on Saturday 9th May (kick-off 7.45pm) with the second leg kicking-off at the same time on Thursday 14th.

One important date for your diary, however, is the release of next season's fixtures: the League have revealed that the 2015/16 fixtures will be released on 17th June.

# JUSTHAM PENS TWO-YEAR DEAL

Goalkeeper Elliot Justham has signed a contract extension with the Hatters, keeping him at Kenilworth Road until 2017.

Justham, 24, who joined the Town in the summer of 2013 from East Thurrock, has played the last 14 games for the Hatters and kept three clean sheets in his last five games.

Boss John Still told Talk of the Town: "The one positive from our run of bad form was Elliot's performances. He has come in and proven how good he is both on and off the pitch.

"He's showed us all why we brought him to this football club in the first place.

"It's great to be able to have two goalkeepers of their ability challenging for the number one spot – and I mean that, because now Elliot's had a taste of it he won't want to give up his position, whether he's friends with Mark or not!"

Remember to follow the official website and our social networks over the summer for the latest news on player contracts as well as the ins and outs at Kenilworth Road during the close season.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



A very happy 30th birthday to Hatters fan Shaun Woodcraft who is being treated to a birthday surprise by girlfriend Gemma this afternoon.

The couple have double cause for celebration following the birth of baby son Xander

last month. Shaun, who is originally from Bedford, now lives and works in Manchester but never tires of spreading the Luton Town gospel up north! Have a great birthday with us today Shaun!

# FANS FORUMS

Over the summer we will be inviting supporters to Kenilworth Road to give their opinions on various aspects of the business; from programmes and pies, to tickets and the tunes played over the public address system.

The meetings will be chaired by supporter liaison officer John Miller, together with the staff members behind the scenes at Luton Town.

Keep your eye out for the communications on our official website and social media channels over the course of the summer.



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# next season

The Town could face a trip to Coventry's Ricoh Arena next season if the Sky Blues are relegated from League 1 tomorrow

IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THE TOWN WILL BE IN LEAGUE 2 NEXT SEASON – BAR SOME SIGNIFICANTLY POSITIVE RESULTS – SO HERE'S A LOOK AT WHO THE HATTERS WILL (AND COULD) BE PLAYING NEXT SEASON.

## COMING DOWN

Four teams will come down from League 1 into League 2 this season yet, with only one game to play only one side, Yeovil, have definitely been relegated. The Glovers' fate was sealed a fortnight ago. Six teams are battling to avoid the remaining three demotion spots, with Coventry in 18th place just two points clear of the dropzone. Crewe, Notts County, Crawley, Leyton Orient (who lost in the League 1 Play-Off final last year) and Colchester are all fighting to stay up.

In tomorrow's final day fixtures, Crawley host Coventry in a potentially do-or-die clash, while Colchester host Preston with the visitors aiming for three points which would seal promotion to the Championship. Crewe take on Bradford at Gresty Road, Notts County travel to Gillingham while Orient go to Swindon.

Of those clubs in the mix to come down, the Town last met Coventry in January 2007 in the Championship. The last time we met Colchester was in the third round of the JPT in 2008, before we went on to win it. Crawley were promotion rivals of ours in the Conference season of 2010/11, while Crewe and Orient were last at Kenilworth Road in League 1 in 2008. Notts County were opponents of the Town's in our previous season at this level, the -30 campaign, in 2008/09, with the Hatters winning 2-0 at Meadow Lane in March 2009 thanks to goals from Tom Craddock and Chris Martin.

## STAYING DOWN

Burton and Shrewsbury are two sides the Town are unlikely to face next season with both sides promoted in the last fortnight. It will be the Brewers' first season in the third tier. Shrewsbury need to better Burton's result if they are to win the title – and the Hatters will be hoping the Shrews can put a few past Plymouth today to keep our own very slim hopes of reaching the Play-Offs alive.

The race to join Burton and Shrewsbury will go down to the wire this afternoon with Southend, Bury and Wycombe challenging for the final automatic promotion spot. Southend will be promoted if they win at Morecambe, but if the Shrimpers slip-up then that could open the door for the other two should they win.

Two of those three will contest the Play-Offs together with our visitors this afternoon Stevenage. Plymouth look set to finish seventh unless they lose heavily at Shrewsbury and the Town can win comfortably today.

With Tranmere and Cheltenham suffering relegation from League 2 last weekend the make-up of the division is already taking shape with 15 sides, including ourselves, set for next season.

## COMING UP

Barnet were crowned Conference champions last weekend following their 2-0 win over Gateshead at the Hive. The Town last met the Bees in the infamous New Year's Day win in the rain at Kenilworth Road last season. Bristol Rovers missed out on top spot by a single point and have to settle for a place in the Play-Offs. They take on Forest Green, while Grimsby meet Eastleigh – Conference South winners last year – for a place in the final. Should Bristol Rovers win promotion the Town will meet the Pirates for the first time since Boxing Day 2007 – a 1-1 draw in a game that saw the Hatters finish the game with eight men.

## AND MAYBE...

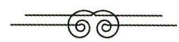
Well we can dream of turning the tables on Plymouth, reaching the Play-Offs and winning promotion – and that opens up a new can of worms. Maybe we'll include that information in the Play-Off programme, eh?!



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- First option on your seat for all cup games
- Priority booking for all-ticket away games
- Free admittance to all reserve and development games played at Kenilworth Road
- 10% discount on full-price merchandise in our club shops\*
- Entry to the Eric Morecambe Lounge for drinks and food before, during and after games†
- The chance to upgrade to hospitality areas for individual matches, with the cost of a match day ticket discounted†

\* On production of your season ticket

† Subject to match availability

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**WWW.LUTONTOWN.CO.UK**



# SPEAKING Commercially

WITH COMMERCIAL MANAGER DAVID HOSKINS

## MATCH SPONSORS: M&S WATER SERVICES



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## MATCHBALL SPONSOR: DARREN PULLEN



It is with pleasure that we welcome the family and friends of Darren Pullen to Kenilworth Road as matchball sponsors this afternoon.

Today's celebration is a birthday present for Darren, who is a life-long Hatters fan. He began as a Junior Hatter and is now used to the highs and lows of following the Town. Darren loves playing football on a regular basis and by all accounts isn't a bad goalkeeper. His favourite player is, unsurprisingly, Mark Tyler – and Darren hopes to meet the Hatters keeper this afternoon.

Happy birthday Darren from all of us here at Kenilworth Road and enjoy your time with us this afternoon.

## TODAY'S MASCOTS

- Rhys Southey.** Age 7  
Favourite player Jonathan Smith
- Stanley Eggleton.** Age 10.  
Favourite players Mark Tyler and Elliot Justham
- Ronnie Eggleton.** Age 6.  
Favourite player Mark Cullen
- Fletcher Banham.** Age 6.  
Favourite player Mark Tyler
- Archie Royle Robbins.** Age 2.  
Favourite player Jonathan Smith
- Chloe Robbins.** Age 9.  
Favourite player Elliot Lee
- Oliver Dunn.** Age 5.  
Favourite player Mark Tyler



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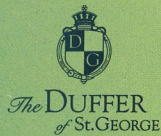
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# welcome

## STEVENAGE



It gives us great pleasure to welcome everybody associated with Stevenage to Kenilworth Road for our final game of the 2014/15 campaign.

Our visitors have enjoyed an excellent season having been relegated from League 1 last term and now face the possibility of an immediate return to the third tier having successfully confirmed their place in the League 2 Play-Offs.

Boro's 1-0 win over Carlisle meant Graham Westley's side guaranteed their place in the end-of-season lottery and extended their unbeaten run to seven matches. It was their fourth win in their last five games, so of all the sides currently in the Play-offs, no team is in better form than Westley's.

Their success this season has been down to their solid home form. Only Burton and Shrewsbury have won more points at home than Stevenage, with Boro winning 15 of their 21 home matches, losing five times – including once to the Town back in early October. Only Shrewsbury have scored more goals on home turf than Stevenage, so no team will relish making the trip to Broadhall Way in the Play-Offs.

Boro's form on the road hasn't been as good, with Westley's side winning just five times away from Broadhall Way. However, Stevenage haven't lost in their last seven matches on their travels, winning twice (at Cheltenham and Hartlepool) and drawing five. Their last defeat on the road came at Mansfield in early February.

The Stevenage support in the Oak Road end will have fond memories of their previous visit to Kenilworth Road when Boro ran out 1-0 winners back in September 2009 when a Scott Laird goal gave Westley's side all three points. That season Boro walked away with the Conference title with the Town finishing runners-up before losing in the Play-Offs.

Their success that season was the springboard for back-to-back promotions as Stevenage finished in the League 2 Play-Offs in the following campaign. And Westley masterminded a victory in the final at Old Trafford against a Torquay side managed by former Town boss Paul Buckle.

Westley left for Preston the following season but Boro's success continued with the side finishing in sixth place in League 1 before going out in the Play-Offs to Sheffield United. Last season saw Boro relegated despite Westley's return but this campaign has seen the Hertfordshire side steadily improve as the season has progressed. After a 2-0 defeat Newport in December, Boro were down in 15th place and nine points shy of the Play-Off places.

Westley almost started from scratch in the summer and his recruitment policy has paid off with a number of young players coming to the fore. Young midfielder Tom Pett, signed from Wealdstone, and centre-half Dean Wells, plucked from Braintree, have been mainstays in the Boro side and been a major force behind their success – as has former Town skipper Ronnie Henry who will be eager to get one over his old club this afternoon on his first return to Kenilworth Road since lifting the Conference title a year ago.

# in opposition



## OUR AT-A-GLANCE GUIDE TO THE MEN FROM BROADHALL WAY

### ► MANAGER

**GRAHAM WESTLEY.** 47-year-old boss in his second spell in charge. Guided Boro to the Football League in 2010 and then League 1 a year later. Left for Preston in 2012 but has since returned to Broadhall Way.

### ► GOALKEEPERS

**CHRIS DAY.** Hugely experienced keeper who has made over 300 appearances for Boro since signing in August 2008. Been on the books at Tottenham, Crystal Palace, Watford and Millwall. Also an England Under-21 international.

**SAM BEASANT.** Commanding 6ft 6in stopper signed in the summer from Woking. Began his career as a youngster at Chelsea and has also played for Wycombe. Is the son of Wimbledon cup winner Dave.

### ► DEFENDERS

**BIRA DEMBELE.** Former French Under-21 international who arrived at Broadhall Way in February last year. The tall, quick, tough-tackler spent time with Sedan, Rennes, Red Star and Boulogne in his homeland.

**JON ASHTON.** Hugely experienced centre-half who has played over 200 times for Boro since signing from Grays in 2009. Played in the Premier League with Leicester and also played for Oxford.

**DEAN WELLS.** Towering centre-half who joined Boro from Braintree in the summer for a £25,000 fee. Made over 100 appearances for the Iron and scored on his last appearances here at Kenilworth Road.

**JEROME OKIMO.** Defender who penned a deal at Broadhall Way in the summer after a successful trial period. Joined from Wealdstone who he helped win promotion last season.

**RONNIE HENRY.** Club captain and former Town skipper in his second spell with Boro. Made 329 appearances in his first spell before joining the Hatters, helping us to the Conference title, before rejoining this summer.

### ► MIDFIELDERS

**CHRIS WHELPDALE.** Summer arrival from Gillingham, where the winger made over 100 appearances in three years. Helped Peterborough to promotions having joined Posh from Billericay.

**SIMON WALTON.** Former England youth international who joined Boro this summer after two years at Hartlepool. Began at home-town club Leeds before spells at Charlton, QPR and Plymouth.

**TOM PETT.** Exciting winger who arrived at the start of the season from Wealdstone. Scored 13 times for the Stones last term as they won the Ryman Premier and has previously starred for Potters Bar.

**DAVID McALLISTER.** Midfielder who penned a permanent deal with Boro in January having left Shrewsbury. Started his senior career in Ireland before moving to Sheffield United.

**DEAN PARRETT.** Young midfielder who graduated from the Tottenham academy and made his senior Spurs debut in the Europa League away to Shakhtar Donetsk aged 17. Joined Boro at the start of last season.

**CHARLIE LEE.** Former Tottenham and Peterborough midfielder who signed for Boro in the summer after three years at Gillingham. A versatile player who has won four promotions during his career.

**TOM CONLON.** Teenage midfielder who signed on loan from League 1 Peterborough in January. Started his career in the Stoke City academy.

**BRUNO ANDRADE.** Lightning quick winger on-loan from QPR. Spent time on-loan with Boro last term and has also enjoyed temporary spells at Aldershot and Wycombe.

**JACK WEBB.** Young creative midfielder signed on loan from Arsenal until the end of the season. An England youth international who was a regular for the Gunners' Under-18s last term.

### ► STRIKERS



**DARIUS CHARLES.** Equally at home anywhere along the defence, the former Ebbsfleet man has made over 130 appearances for Boro since his arrival in 2010 and a real fans' favourite at Broadhall Way.

**ADAM MARRIOTT.** Summer signing from Cambridge City who hit 45 goals in all competitions last season. A former Norwich trainee he also enjoyed a spell with Cambridge United.

**CHRIS BEARDSLEY.** Striker in his second spell at the club after rejoining this summer. Previously played for Boro between 2009 and 2012 and returned after spells with Preston and Bristol Rovers.

**ROARIE DEACON.** Pacey attacker and March 2013 arrival after his contract at Sunderland expired. Has previously been on the books at Arsenal as a youngster.

# FROM THE OAK ROAD

Dreams of a grandstand finish to the season may have all but evaporated for the Town, but for Boro fan **Hilary Skinner** the excitement is only just beginning...

**TALK OF THE TOWN:** Stevenage have had a solid season following relegation last year – are you satisfied with the way things have turned out? What have been the highlights and low points of your campaign?

**HILARY:** It's turning out to be a better than solid season considering it is virtually a new team. I think the highlight was the 4-2 win against Southend United in February, when we couldn't even be stopped by hail. It was good to beat a promotion challenging team and it has been great to watch the emergence of our academy players like Ben Kennedy. The low points were conceding injury-time equalisers at Tranmere and Cambridge.

**TOTT:** Graham Westley has taken Stevenage to the highest place in their history – but continues to divide opinion. How would you sum up his various spells in charge? Are you happy with the team's style of play and tactics? Do you think he is the man to take Boro forward?

**HILARY:** Yes, I don't think Westley divides opinion amongst the Stevenage fans. He's pulled the club around and is well liked but suffers from a bad reputation in the media. Even during the recent game against Burton, the Sky Sports commentators said we were a big strong team, but we're not. The centre-halves Bira Dembélé and Dean Wells may be tall but the rest of the team are quite small and they are all skillful.

Westley does not deserve his negative reputation. There have been some great footballers who have



played under him – George Boyd, Luke Freeman, Steve Morison and currently Charlie Lee, Dean Parrett and many others. I'm glad he came back to manage Stevenage for a third time.

**TOTT:** How has Ronnie Henry settled back in to life at the Lamex Stadium?

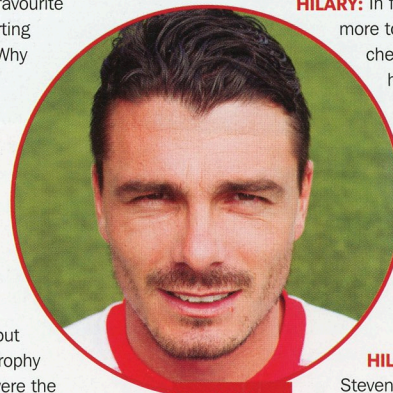
**HILARY:** Ronnie Henry has been brilliant this season. I was sad when he left for Luton and surprised by his move to be honest. He's strong and reliable and I think he works well under Westley to help keep the defence tight and the entire team together.

**TOTT:** There have been some dramatic games between the clubs in recent years – which ones stick in your memory and why? Tell us about the experience.

**HILARY:** My favourite was the first time we met in the Conference at Kenilworth Road and Scott Laird scored the winner with five minutes to go. I think you sacked your manager the next day because you had



Graham Westley



Ronnie Henry

lost to 'little Stevenage'? It felt strange going through someone's house to get into the away end too.

**TOTT:** If you could select your favourite moment from your time supporting Stevenage, what would it be? Why is the club special to you and what do you most enjoy about going along on matchdays?

**HILARY:** There's been so many great moments – John Mousinho's League 2 Play-Off winner at Old Trafford, Mark Roberts lifting the Conference trophy, Scott Laird's winner against Luton - but the best was probably our FA Trophy win at the new Wembley. We were the first team to lift a trophy at the new stadium and came back from 2-0 down to win 3-2 against Kidderminster. We've had some good trips around the UK supporting Stevenage, but the home games are good too. Stevenage has always been a family friendly club and I enjoy watching the matches with my family and seeing familiar faces both on and off the pitch. Brenda and Roy who sit near us have been supporting Stevenage since 1976!

**TOTT:** Does a Stevenage versus Luton 'rivalry' exist? How do 'Boro supporters see games between the two sides?

**HILARY:** In fairness the rivalry probably means more to Stevenage fans. There's always a cheer when the scores are read out at half-time if you are losing, but I guess for you your biggest rivals will always be Watford. However, given their current form you won't need to worry about them for a few years.

**TOTT:** Who do think will win promotion via the Play-Offs? What's your prediction for today's game?

**HILARY:** I really don't know. I think Stevenage will have a good go at the Play-Offs. I'm generally optimistic but don't think it would be a disaster if we didn't go up. I'm quite surprised we're in the Play-Offs considering we were in the lower half of the table only a few months ago, but our recent form has been tremendous. It's not mathematically over for Luton yet though is it? I think it's going to be a tough game today and am relieved it's not going to be a Play-Off decider for us. This last encounter of the season was always going to be a tough one. I expect fur to fly.



Stevenage celebrate their League 2 Play-Off triumph in 2011

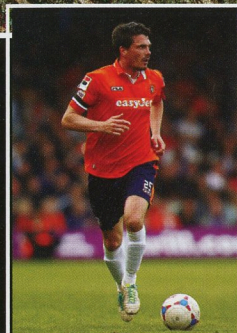
# THE HATTERS...

## AND STEVENAGE

### PLAYED FOR BOTH

Both squads have a player that has played for the opposition. In the Town's case Andy Drury has previously played for Boro, while in our visitors' case, Ronnie Henry has been here on the books at Kenilworth Road. Both players are in their second spells with their respective clubs.

Henry rejoined Boro this summer having spent two seasons with the Hatters in which he was captain and lifted the Conference title – the second time he has won the championship in his career having won it with Boro. He made his Town debut on the opening day of the 2012/13 season in the 2-2 draw with Gateshead at Kenilworth Road and went onto make 87 appearances for the Hatters. The 31-year-old began his career at Spurs but after leaving in 2004 for Dublin City he signed for Stevenage in 2005 and went onto make



Former Town man Ronnie Henry - now in his second spell with Stevenage

over 300 appearances in his first spell at Broadhall Way. In that time he also became the first winning captain at the new Wembley Stadium in Boro's 3-2 FA Trophy final win over Kidderminster.

Drury, also 31, rejoined the Town this summer four-and-a-half years since leaving for Championship club Ipswich. The midfielder began his career with home-town club Sittingbourne before moving to Gravesend and Lewes. Drury signed for Stevenage in 2008, helping the club to the Football League in 2010 but signed for the Hatters that summer.

He netted six times in 23 Conference matches before Ipswich came calling and Drury went onto enjoy two seasons with the Portman Road outfit. A loan move to Crawley turned into a permanent before he signed for the Hatters for the second time in June. Boro also have former Town winger Dave Martin in their ranks, while Stevenage also had former Hatters midfielder Keith Keane on loan earlier this season.

### HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

Today will be the sixth meeting between the two sides – not including pre-season friendlies – and only the second to take place at Kenilworth Road.

The Hatters have won four of the five previous meetings, including October's victory at Broadhall Way – a 2-1 win achieved thanks to goals from Luke Wilkinson and substitute Alex Wall.

A five-minute hat-trick from Ahmet Brkovic, reputedly the quickest in our history, gave the Town a 4-3 win in the first meeting between the two clubs – at Broadhall Way in November 2002 in the LDV Vans Trophy. Tony Thorpe scored the Hatters' other goal.

A year later but a round earlier the two clubs met again on Hertfordshire soil in the same competition.

That night a solitary strike from youth team forward Matthew Judge proved to be the difference.

The two sides met for the first time in a League fixture in the Conference in 2009/10. Boro walked away with all three points from their first – and currently only until today – previous visit to Kenilworth Road with Scott Laird's late winner giving Graham Westley's side victory. The Hatters parted company with manager Mick Harford the following day.

Later that season the Town won 1-0 at Broadhall Way thanks to a goal from substitute Matthew Barnes-Homer as both sides challenged for the Conference title. Despite that set-back, however, Boro went on to win their remaining games to take the title and seal promotion to the Football League.

# back to the future

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

### ► 1995/96 CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

**DES GALLAGHER:** Goalkeeper who was a key figure in Stevenage's rise, playing 124 Conference games before briefly joining Aylesbury United in July 1999, then had a spell with Leighton Town.

**KENNY WEBSTER:** Tough-tackling right-back who netted six goals in 69 Conference games prior to joining Harrow Borough in January 1997, then appeared for Aylesbury United and Harrow again.

**ROB MUTCHELL:** Reliable left-back who appeared for Barnet in the Football League. He scored once in 71 Conference games before joining Kettering Town in June 1997, then played for Tamworth.

**EFE SODJE:** Central defender who moved to Macclesfield Town in July 1997, then Luton, Colchester, Crewe, Huddersfield, Yeovil, Southend, Gillingham and Bury. Now Macclesfield's player-coach.

**MARK SMITH:** England Semi-Pro international central defender who joined Dagenham & Redbridge in July 2001. He rejoined Stevenage in November 2003, scoring 12 times in 281 Conference games.

**PAUL BARROWCLIFFE:** Midfielder who netted 11 goals in 82 Conference games before joining Brentford in August 1997. He later played under Graham Roberts at Chesham United and Slough Town.

**STEVE BERRY:** Experienced midfielder who joined Kettering in July 1996, then played for Stevenage again, netting three goals in 64 Conference games overall, before spells with Bedford and Cogenhoe.

**COREY BROWNE:** England Semi-Pro international who joined Slough Town in March 1997, then played for Aylesbury United, St Albans City, Harrow Borough, Chesham, Harlow and Boreham Wood.

**DAVE VENABLES:** England Semi-Pro international striker who scored 19 times in 83 Conference games prior to joining Kettering in December 1996, then Enfield, Cambridge City, Boston and Stamford.

**TONY LYNCH:** Experienced winger who had played in the Football League with Brentford and Barnet. He netted 17 goals in 61 Conference games while at Broadhall Way before hanging up his boots.

**BARRY HAYLES:** Leading scorer who moved to Bristol Rovers in June 1997, then Fulham, Sheffield United, Millwall, Plymouth Argyle, Leicester City, Cheltenham and Truro, gaining ten Jamaica caps.

### ► 2009/10 CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

**CHRIS DAY:** Former England Under-21 goalkeeper who starred as Stevenage reached the FA Cup fourth round and won promotion in 2010-11, then League One play-offs and FA Cup fifth round in 2011/12.

**RONNIE HENRY:** Favourite who featured prominently as Boro won promotion in 2010-11, then reached the League 1 Play-Offs and FA Cup fifth round in 2011/12. He joined the Hatters in June 2012 before returning to Boro in 2014.

**SCOTT LAIRD:** Attacking left-back who was ever-present as Stevenage reached the League 1 Play-Offs and FA Cup fifth round in 2011/12. He reunited with Graham Westley at Preston in May 2012.

**MARK ROBERTS:** Central defender who starred as Boro reached the League 1 Play-Offs and FA Cup fifth round in 2011/12. Scoring 14 goals in 132 League games, he joined Fleetwood in July 2013.

**JON ASHTON:** Central defender who was an influential figure as Stevenage won promotion in 2010/11, then reached the League One Play-Offs and FA Cup fifth round in 2011/12. He is still at the club.

**MICHAEL BOSTWICK:** Central defender who scored as Stevenage beat Newcastle United in the 2010/11 FA Cup third round, also helping win promotion. He joined Peterborough United in July 2012.

**ANDY DRURY:** Midfielder who moved to Luton in July 2010, then appeared for Ipswich Town and had a loan spell at Crawley Town. He returned to Crawley on a permanent basis in June 2013 and now here at Kenilworth Road.

**DAVID BRIDGES:** Former Cambridge United midfielder who helped Stevenage to win promotion in 2010/11 and joined Kettering Town in August 2011, then Chelmsford City and now Bury Town.

**CHRIS BEARDSLEY:** Striker who helped Boro to win promotion in 2010/11, then reach the League 1 Play-Offs. Following Graham Westley to Preston in August 2012, he was loaned to Bristol Rovers.

**YEMI ODUBADE:** Nigerian striker who was leading marksman in 2009/10 and helped win promotion again in 2010-11. He has since played for Newport County on loan, Gateshead and now Eastleigh.

**JOEL BYROM:** Midfielder who featured in Stevenage's 2010/11 promotion campaign, then helped them reach the League 1 Play-Offs in 2011/12. He followed Graham Westley to Preston in July 2012.

# TOWN 3-0 HARTLEPOOL

MC GEEHAN 5, HOWELLS 15 (PEN), GRIFFITHS 69



Scott Griffiths slides home the Town's third goal

Cameron McGeehan celebrates his opener



## WHAT'S THE STORY?

The Hatters ended a run of four successive home defeats by easing past struggling Hartlepool to breathe new life in to their Play-Off hopes.

Cameron McGeehan's header and Jake Howells' penalty had the Town two goals up inside 15 minutes and, although the visitors rallied in the second half, the Hatters secured three important points when Scott Griffiths poked home with 20 minutes to go.

The Hatters started well and led inside five minutes when Howells' right-wing corner was swung high to McGeehan and his header eluded a crowd of players in the box to cross the line in slow-motion.

With the Town boosted by an early goal, 10 minutes later the lead was doubled. Shaun Whalley ran directly at the visitors defence and as he broke into the box to weave between two defenders, he went down and referee Sutton pointed to the spot. Howells, on his 24th birthday, stepped up to roll home the Town's first successful penalty of the season in League 2.

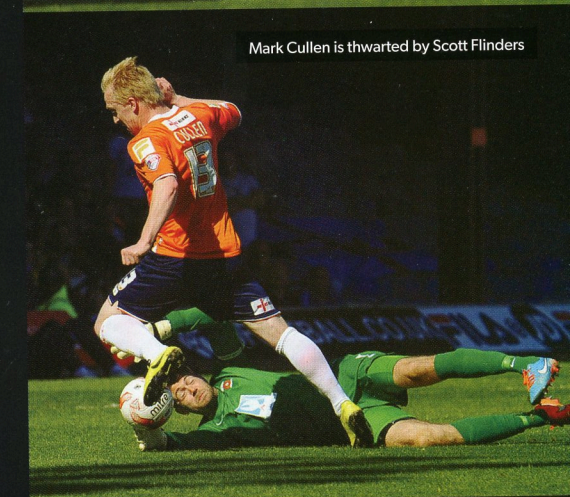
The chances kept on coming for the Town; Whalley had a shot cleared off the line and Mark Cullen and Elliot Lee were both denied by the Pools goalkeeper.

Hartlepool, in desperate need of the points at the other end to stave off the threat of relegation, never seriously tested Justham with their few half-chances, with the Hatters keeper alert in the first half to prevent Michael Harriman's deflection of Marlon Harewood's free-kick from finding the target.

After the break, Hartlepool were enjoying more of the ball but their inability to make their dominance count was punished by the Hatters with 19 minutes left on the clock. The visitors failed to clear Howells' right-wing corner and Griffiths pounced on the loose ball by nipping in to slide home his second goal of the season – and that completed the scoring as the Town ran out comfortable winners.



Cameron McGeehan heads the Hatters ahead



Mark Cullen is thwarted by Scott Flinders



Elliot Justham claims a Hartlepool cross

**TOWN:** Justham; Harriman, Griffiths, McNulty, Wilkinson, McGeehan, Smith, Whalley (sub Hall 75), Howells (sub Guttridge 82); Cullen, Lee (sub Miller 87). **SUBS NOT USED:** Lacey, Wall, Kinsella, King.

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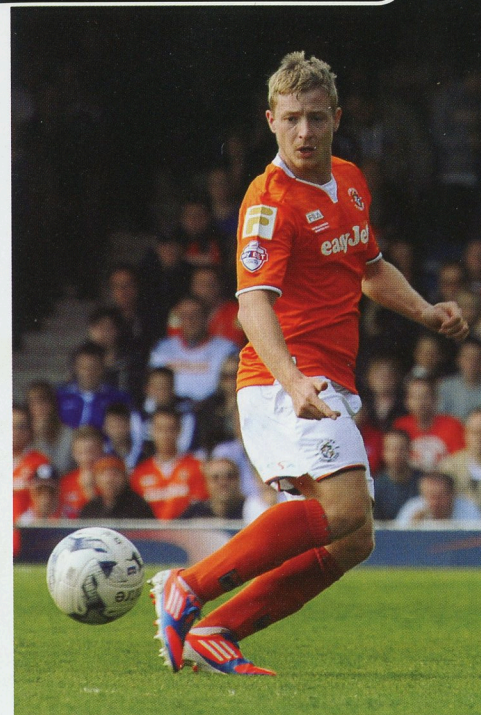
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...

# reaction

## GRIFFITHS BATTLING ON



Scott Griffiths is still determined to defy the odds and help the Town into the Play-Offs as he battles through the pain barrier.

The 29-year-old helped the Hatters record a comfortable win over Hartlepool last time out here at Kenilworth Road with the defender netting his second goal of the campaign to make it 3-0.

At the time the result lifted the Town level on points with the final Play-Off place with Plymouth, until last weekend's defeat at Southend meant the Hatters now face a difficult task this afternoon to overhaul the Pilgrims. But after revealing last month that he would delay an operation on a hernia, Griffiths is hoping that the Hatters can end the season by sneaking into the top seven.

"The manager said he wanted warriors and I hope that's what I'm providing," said the left-back.

"I don't want to let the team down but if this is the best way, by putting in performances and not feeling any discomfort, then the sacrifice will be worth it if we get to where we want to be.

"We're knocking on the team above us and it's down to us now, isn't it? If we can win it can certainly give us a chance but you don't get given anything in this life so we will have to work hard to get it.

"You get your rewards if you work hard enough."

His goal against Hartlepool, which wrapped up the Town's win over Pools a fortnight ago, was his third in Town colours since arriving at Kenilworth Road two years ago.

### Fantastic

And the former Dagenham man was happy that his performance helped the Hatters to an important three points.

"I said recently that I'd score before the end of the season and I was close against Burton," joked Griffiths, who came close to putting the Town ahead against the Brewers on 11th April. "This week's effort was a fantastic strike – the keeper never stood a chance!

"In all seriousness, it was good to score and we knew that a third goal would finish the game off. I'm happy that my goal helped but overall I thought it was a fantastic team performance. We showed great work rate and I was really pleased for the rest of the team.

"Another clean sheet is a bonus, if we're doing our jobs at the back that takes the pressure of the forwards."

## GREAT SCOTT!

Scott was an ever-present for the Town last season – playing every single minute in the Conference. He scored during that campaign, against Kidderminster – but has doubled his tally this term with goals against Exeter and Hartlepool. His header against Kiddy last season was his first goal since August 2009.

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2014-15 **STAT PACK**



**LEAGUE TWO TOP FIVES**

**GOALS**

1	 TUBBS	20
2	 CURETON	18
3	 REUBEN REID	18
4	 RICHARDS	18
5	 COLLINS	15

**SHOTS ON TARGET**

1	 COLLINS	62
2	 TUBBS	45
3	 REUBEN REID	44
4	 ELLISON	42
5	 HYLTON	42

**% OF GOALS INVOLVED IN**

1	 CURETON	44
2	 REUBEN REID	43
3	 HYLTON	43
4	 WALLACE	39
5	 AKINFENWA	36

**FOULS**

1	 AKINFENWA	133
2	 REUBEN REID	94
3	 CORR	92
4	 PIERRE	79
5	 HYLTON	77

**ASSISTS**

1	 BEAVON	11
2	 BOBBY REID	10
3	 FRANCOMB	10
4	 COULSON	9
5	 DONALDSON	9

**MINUTES PER GOAL**

1	 RICHARDS	132
2	 NICHOLS	153
3	 ROSE	172
4	 NARDIELLO	174
5	 CORR	188

**MINUTES PER CHANCE CREATED**

1	 DONALDSON	262
2	 WORRALL	274
3	 LAWRENCE	275
4	 FRANCOMB	276
5	 BOBBY REID	282

**MINUTES PER GOAL CONCEDED**

1	 GILLESPIE	58
2	 HANFORD	59
3	 HAMON	60
4	 PIDGELEY	60
5	 FLINDERS	60

**LEAGUE TWO SPOTLIGHT**

Oxford players have been flagged offside only 58 times this season, fewer than any other team.

**LEAGUE TWO SPOTLIGHT**

Tom Nichols' 14 goals have earned Exeter 18 points this season, more than any other League Two player.





# SOUTHEND 1-0 TOWN

TIMLIN 80



Jake Howells strides forward at Roots Hall

## WHAT'S THE STORY?

A mistake from goalkeeper Elliot Justham denied the Town of what could have been a vital point in their quest for the Play-Offs as they went down 1-0 at promotion-chasing Southend.

There seemed little danger on when Michael Timlin's goalbound shot bounced at Justham's feet but the ball squirmed through the keeper's legs to gift the home side victory with just 10 minutes left on the clock.

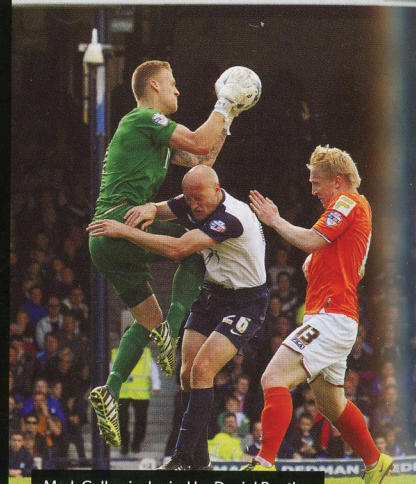
It was tough on the Hatters after such a valiant performance against in-form opponents, who had been reduced to 10 men midway through the second half, but the Town will need plenty of goals today and hope Shrewsbury see off Plymouth to stand a chance of miraculously gatecrashing the Play-Offs this afternoon.

The Town could have led inside two minutes when Elliot Lee shot wide but after that missed opportunity the Shrimpers bossed the first half with Justham alert to keep out Barry Corr's header and Jake Cassidy's low shot.

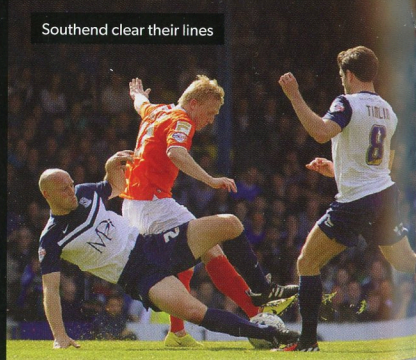
It was more of the same after the interval with the home side pushing the Hatters back but without seriously testing Justham but the momentum swung in the Town's direction following Ben Coker's straight red card for bringing down Shaun Whalley with 25 minutes left. With a man advantage the Hatters poured forward with Mark Cullen and Whalley both bringing saves from home goalkeeper Daniel Bentley.

However disaster struck on 80 minutes when Justham failed to deal with Timlin's effort and the Town now needed to go all out for an equaliser in the remaining minutes.

Scott Griffiths tested Bentley immediately after the Shrimpers' goal but the Town could not find that elusive goal and the home side held to celebrate an important three points in their own pursuit of promotion.



Mark Cullen is denied by Daniel Bentley



Southend clear their lines



Southend get to grips with substitute Alex Wall



Scott Griffiths feels the force of this Southend challenge

**TOWN:** Justham; Harriman, Griffiths (sub Wall 83), McNulty, Wilkinson; Smith, Doyle, McGeehan (sub Whalley 20), Howells; Lee (sub Guttridge 65), Cullen. **SUBS NOT USED:** Tyler, Lacey, Hall, Kinsella.

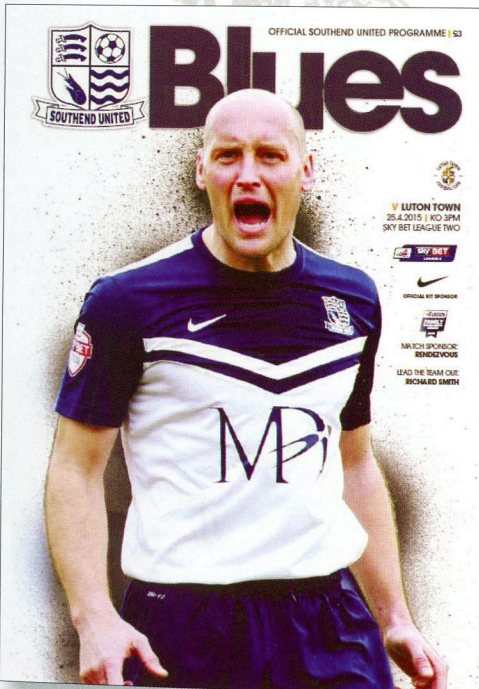
# Travellers' TALES

HATTERS FAN **KEVIN HARPER** HAS TRAVELLED THE LENGTH AND BREATH OF THE COUNTRY WATCHING THE TOWN THIS SEASON, DOCUMENTING HIS EXPERIENCES ON THE ROAD IN TALK OF THE TOWN. IN HIS FINAL FEATURE OF THE SEASON HE DESCRIBES LAST WEEKEND'S TRIP TO SOUTHEND

## THE JOURNEY

Our last away game of the season was the sort of game that being a football fan is all about. After a great win over Hartlepool the Town went to promotion chasing Southend backed by an army of well over 2,200 fans knowing we had to match or better Plymouth's result to keep our Play-Off dream alive.

Two Bobbers coaches left Luton station just after 11.30am on what was a sunny day full of anticipation and excitement for the day ahead. On the way down to Southend it was announced that my loyalty this season had earned me £15 off another journey which left me hoping the Town would get a result even more so that I could cash that in during the Play-Off semi-final!



After a pretty smooth journey we made it to Roots Hall just after 1.20pm which left plenty of time to find the away fans pub for a drink or two before the big game.

## THE GROUND

It had been a good while since I had been to Roots Hall and I must admit I couldn't remember much about the place but the away end itself hasn't changed much. Away fans are packed into an old stand behind the goal, not too dissimilar to the Oak Road end at Kenilworth Road where pylons get in the way if you sit in the wrong place but all in all the view wasn't too bad. The atmosphere in the away end was bouncing and with a low roof the Town fans were certainly making sure they were heard all day.

If there is a criticism of the place it would be with the facilities. The toilets were pretty tight and not the cleanest we've been 'treated' to all season and the ground itself is a little run down in all honesty.

## THE FOOD

One positive for Roots Hall was the burger bar in the away end. It was so good that the PA chap felt obliged to announce to the world that it was open midway through the first half, even though I dare say most people had already visited it before the game!

Inside the burger bar all sorts of food and drink were on offer. Burgers, pies, hot dogs, pasties as well as the usual array of confectionary, as well as the typical hot drinks and soft drinks. It all looked fairly well-priced and went down well after a pint in the pub on our way to the ground earlier.

## THE PROGRAMME

The programme for this match was a 68-page offering which had five pages dedicated to the Town's history and current squad where Michael Harriman, Mark Cullen and Andy Drury were portrayed as the three to watch. There was also a Q&A with the Luton News reporter who declared his prediction to be a 2-1 Southend win! Whether said reporter can show his face in KR again remains to be seen!!



Over 2,200 Hatters fans made for a crackling atmosphere at Roots Hall last Saturday

## THE MATCH

With Southend having not conceded in seven matches and the Town finding their best defensive form again this was always going to be a tight game and the first goal was likely to be crucial. The Town nearly grabbed it inside five minutes when Elliot Lee was played through but he could only curl into the stanchion behind the goal.

That gave us all belief that this was an assignment that we could complete successfully although our plans had to change when Cameron McGeehan picked up an arm injury midway through the first half and to be fair to Southend they controlled the rest of the half although Elliot Justham was only called into one decent save.

With the game still goalless, but news coming through that Stevenage and Plymouth were both winning, it became more important that we got something from the game. Southend heard that Bury were winning so they needed to match that result which gave the second half a bit of a cup-tie feel. Southend came out hard but other than a couple of crosses which flashed through our box we were comfortable.

A potential turning point came with 25 minutes to go when Shaun Whalley ran at the Southend back line. The backtracking left-back tripped him just as he was about to race towards the box and potentially get a shot away. There was a covering defender but despite that the referee sent the Southend player off. From there on the Town laid siege on Southend's goal with a couple of periods of pinball in their box not resulting in anything.

Then came the horror moment which stopped us in our tracks. Michael Timlin was given too much room to get a shot away 10 minutes from time. It looked innocuous but it managed to squirm through Justham's grasp and agonisingly over the line. It was harsh on Justham who had done so well in the matches he had played but hopefully he'll learn from that. We tried to get an equaliser but it never really looked like coming and bar a final day miracle the Town's season is over.

## MAN-OF-THE-MATCH

I thought Luke Wilkinson had a good game here. He dealt with an aerial bombardment in the first half and covered a couple of breaks when we were caught a little exposed down the flanks.

It was a dominant performance that we've come to expect from the central defender. It was just a shame that we weren't able to keep the clean sheet his performance deserved.

## SUMMARY

It was a day that promised so much but ultimately delivered so little. It was a horrible way for our season to end but we've taken worse blows and bounced back and I'm sure we will again.

The journey home didn't last long but it wasn't one of the most enjoyable experiences with everyone so down and glum. We were back in Luton before 7.30pm but that was merely a consolation on a disappointing day.



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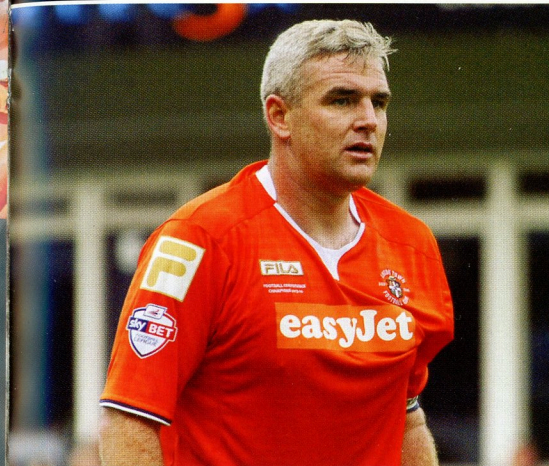
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# reaction

## MACCA HAS ONE EYE ON NEXT SEASON



The Town could still mathematically leapfrog into the final Play-Off place should results go their way this afternoon but given the probability of the Hatters overturning an eight-goal swing in goal difference, skipper Stephen McNulty is looking forward to next season.

The Hatters have struggled with injuries and suspensions throughout a campaign that promised so much, but McNulty believes the team spirit in the dressing room can lead to a successful campaign next year.

"As a group, we're mad as Hatters. We've got a bunch of great lads," the captain said after last weekend's oh-so-hard to take defeat at Southend.

"When we have to work hard, we work hard, but it's important that we have a good camaraderie and a good team spirit and we've got that. I think that rubs off and I think that's why, if you speak to the loan lads that want to make it permanent, they'll tell you, they do want to.

"It's a massive club, it's a great club to be at and it's run properly. We've got good staff and a good bunch of lads so I don't see a reason why the likes of Cameron [McGeehan] and Michael [Harriman] won't want to stay.

"When you speak to players that come in, every loan signing that comes to Luton Town loves it here, with the crowd and the fans.

"If we don't make the Play-Offs we've got to dust ourselves down, become stronger as a group, better as players and as a club and start preparing for next season and hopefully have another crack at it next season."

The experienced centre-half, who was named in the League 2 PFA team of the year last Sunday, has been in the game long enough to know that there will be changes at Kenilworth Road in the summer.

And McNulty acknowledges the fact that boss John Still will be bringing in some new faces over the course of the close season.

"It's football. It's the game we're in. The gaffer's always going to look to strengthen the squad," he said. "You'd have to ask him what areas he'd like to strengthen in but he is always going to bring fresh faces in. Clubs and teams always need freshening up and you need fresh faces and fresh characters in to give you another lift. I think they will do that.

"It's disappointing that some lads won't be here next season but that's the industry we're in and the game we're in. It's happened to me and it'll happen to us all, so that's just the game we're in. There will be signings and I think the signings he does bring in will strengthen us."

The Hatters' chances of sneaking into the top seven are slim at best following last weekend's 1-0 defeat at Southend. The Town looked set to collect at least a point after the Shrimpers were reduced to 10 men, but Elliot Justham's mistake handed the home side all three points to all but end the Hatters hopes of reaching the Play-Offs.

And the skipper was quick to defend the young goalkeeper who has impressed in the past two months in the absence of Mark Tyler.

"It's the position he plays in. He makes a rick and it goes in and it's going to be highlighted, but it's not just him," admitted McNulty.

"As a back four we should have been pushed up more and been tighter to the man shooting. Before he'd even had the shot it should have been stopped at source.

"Elliot's made a mistake, he'll hold his hands up, but he's come on leaps and bounds over the last 18 months.

"He's kept us in the game, made a few good saves, and he's kept us in games over the last few weeks, so he won't need much picking up.

"He's a big character and we'll all get around him, put our arms around him and he'll be fine."

# centre spot



The winners at last Sunday's player of the year awards night pose with their trophies

# PICTURE THE PAST

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



56 years ago today, the Hatters appeared at Wembley for the first time in the FA Cup final. Going down 2-1 to Nottingham Forest was a major disappointment as the Town were full of confidence leading up to the final, especially as they had beaten Forest 5-1 in a League game less than a month before. Here we see Ron Baynam (no gloves in those days) thwarting another Forest attack.

# Camera Never Lies

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



Despite the disappointment of the FA Cup final loss to Nottingham Forest in 1959, a huge crowd turned out in George Street on a wet morning to greet the gallant losers.





## PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2015



Nathan Doyle has been named the Luton Town player of the season, as voted for by members of Luton Town Supporters' Club and Trust in Luton.

The midfielder, who joined the Hatters in September, has been in fine form in the centre of the park since his arrival at Kenilworth Road.

Doyle was presented his award at the annual awards night at Luton Rugby Club on Sunday.

However, it was Doyle's midfield teammate Jonathan Smith who was the big winner on the night as he walked away with three awards.

Smith was named as players' player of the year by his fellow teammates and was the pick of young members of the supporters' club. Smith pipped Doyle to win the website player of the year award – as voted by readers of [lutontown.co.uk](http://lutontown.co.uk) – by just one vote.

Youth team graduate Luke Trotman, who penned a professional deal with the Hatters earlier this season, was named the young player of the season as voted by the Town's coaching staff.

Alex Lawless' strike against Southend back in October was voted the Hatters' goal of the season, while the Ian Pearce memorial trophy will be shared between Mark Cullen and Luke Guttridge after both won three man-of-the-match awards at home games this season.

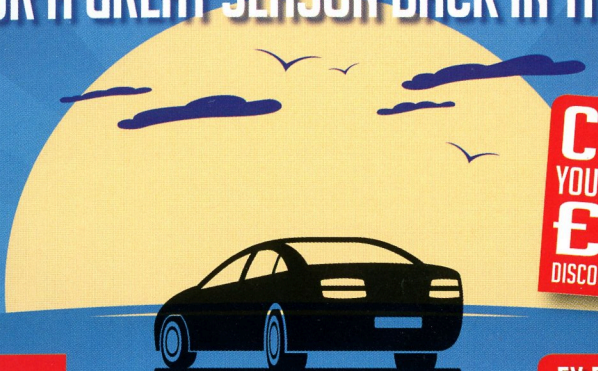
And last and by no means least, Town supporter Nigel Martin was presented with the Trust in Luton outstanding contribution to Luton Town award.

Congratulations to all the winners.





# THANKS FOR A GREAT SEASON BACK IN THE LEAGUE!



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# Justham

## KEEPER PENS TWO-YEAR CONTRACT

"A bit of a whirlwind" is how Elliot Justham describes the last two years of his life.

From working on the London Underground and playing for East Thurrock to playing in front of 10,000 people at Kenilworth Road, it's fair to say he's experienced plenty already in his short professional career with the Hatters.

Last weekend's unfortunate error at Southend aside, Justham has been one of the bright lights during a gloomy spell of form for the Hatters since February. In for the injured Mark Tyler, Justham has performed heroics between the sticks in his short time as the Town number one and manager John Still was quick to recognise his displays with a new two-year contract.

"The gaffer's been really good to me," Justham tells Hatters Player. "For him to come out and praise me even we've lost is good to hear. If I wasn't doing well I'm fair certain we would have told me!"

As was so cruelly highlighted at Roots Hall last weekend, the buck often stops with the goalkeeper but forgiving the mistake, Justham has been thrilled to be given the opportunity having joined the Town as an unknown in the close season of 2013.

"Before I got the call from the gaffer I was trying to sort out a deal playing part-time that season," explains the 24-year-old. "The next thing I knew I was signing a deal here. During my time here I've learned how to become a professional on and off the pitch. Mark Tyler's been brilliant in teaching me how to behave and Kevin Dearden's been excellent."

"Of course you're never too old to get picked up, and yes, perhaps at 23 I maybe thought my time had gone, but people say I'm young for a goalkeeper and luckily the gaffer's taken a chance on me and I'm delighted to be here for another two years. Hopefully I can repay the faith they've shown in me, especially the manager."

His appearance last weekend was just Justham's 22nd appearance for the Hatters. Compare that to the 266 of Mark Tyler and you can imagine how apprehensive Justham was when making his league bow.

But Tyler – and goalkeeper Kevin Dearden, who arrived at Kenilworth Road in December – have made Justham's transition from development squad regular to first team number one look easy.

"Mark's record speaks for itself," says Elliot. "He's played hundreds and hundreds of games in his career



and for Luton Town – but I can't stress how much he has helped me. He's been unbelievable.

"Kevin has a wealth of experience, he's had a great career and I'm taking on board all his advice. But Mark has been brilliant for this club and it was a tough job filling his boots as the fans expect the replacement to be no different. I'd like to think I've been consistent and I hope I've shown that since I've stepped in.

"Now I've been given a chance I can finish playing this season and next season I can challenge Mark for the number one spot."

As already alluded to, Justham's spell in the first team has not been the easiest but the keeper believes he has been mentally strong enough to deal with the recent disappointment.

"It was enjoyable having plenty of shots to save as it shows at least what you can do," he explains. "The defeats were tough, though, and you think to yourself 'is it me?'. I've had so many people saying to me 'since you've gone in, you've been losing, what's going on?'. All I say is that we lose as a team it's not just the keeper! Kevin Dearden's helped me keep my head up, and slowly myself and the back four have built up the relationship which is improving every week. There's a bit more trust there and that's showing with the recent number of clean sheets."

## JOHN STILL'S VERDICT:

"Elliot has come in and proven how good he is both on and off the pitch. He's showed us all why we brought him to this football club in the first place.

"Mark Tyler might have been out injured but Elliot has grabbed his opportunity with both hands and hasn't looked back."

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## MARCH FAN OF THE MONTH **JOE McCREA**

Exeter City fan Joe McCrea has been named the Sky Bet League 2 Fan of the Month for March.

Joe had not missed an Exeter game all season, and he did not intend missing the 700-mile round trip to Carlisle at the start of March.

But a missed alarm at 6am meant the supporters' coach he regularly uses for away games went without him.

Despite this set-back, Joe got a taxi to Exeter train station for 7.30am and paid £130 for a one-way ticket to Carlisle - a huge amount for a student - to ensure he was there to see the 3-1 victory.

Joe said: "I was gutted I had missed the coach and thought I was going to miss my first game of the season. I had to find a way of getting there.

"It feels awesome to have won the Sky Bet Fan of the Month award."

Exeter manager Paul Tisdale said: "I'm really pleased that Joe went beyond the call of duty and made it up to Carlisle, despite missing the supporters' coach, to keep up his perfect attendance record for the season."

Sky Bet Fan of the Month will be returning for the 2015/16 season. To Nominate a Mate next season visit - [www.skybet.com/fan](http://www.skybet.com/fan)



Joe's scorecast prediction:

**EXETER CITY ..... 2**  
**DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE.. 2**

WITH JAMIE CURETON  
TO SCORE FIRST - 66/1\*

\*subject to change

If Joe won the £250,000 Sky Bet Transfer Fund he would buy Jermaine Grandison from Shrewsbury Town!

# WIN £250,000 FOR YOUR CLUB

SUPPORT YOUR TEAM WITH  
US THIS SEASON

ARE YOU IN?  
[skybet.com/win](http://skybet.com/win)

18+. T&Cs apply.



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](http://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](http://www.player.lutontown.co.uk), provides in addition to the official website, [www.lutontown.co.uk](http://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](http://www.lutontown.co.uk).

### FREE CLOCKWATCH

On the homepage of [www.lutontown.co.uk](http://www.lutontown.co.uk) you can see our popular live, minute-by-minute text commentary, absolutely free, direct from the press box. Every incident is reported from the games - chances, goals, substitutions, bookings, you name it - it is the most comprehensive free service for Town games anywhere on the internet.

### LIVE COMMENTARY

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](http://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](http://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](http://lutontown.wap.com) on your phone. For full details, please visit the Mobile Services section of [www.lutontown.co.uk](http://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.

Visit [www.hattersplayer.co.uk](http://www.hattersplayer.co.uk) for more information.

### SIGN UP NOW AND ENJOY ALL THIS...

Subscribe to Hatters Player now for less than 10p a day and here's what you get:

- Live audio commentary
- Works on Mac and PC worldwide
- Home match and extended highlights
- Exclusive news and interviews
- High quality 1MB Flash stream
- See all premium content ad free



# community trust



## WITH HEAD OF COMMUNITY TRUST KEVIN THOBURN

What an incredible season the Trust have experienced since we returned to the Football League last year.

Our membership of the Football League Trust has seen significant growth in the number of individuals we regularly come into contact with and this has, in turn, meant a significant growth in staff numbers.

We now number over 30 fully-qualified male and female coaches, half of them full-time, and we now regularly coach over 3,700 individuals every week. This figure is larger than the average gate attendance for half the clubs in our division and illustrates just what the 'badge' means to our local community.

Not only does membership of the Football League Trust mean we receive central funding via the Professional Footballers Association and Premier League, but it has also meant we are eligible to access many national initiatives and programmes previously denied to us and we have now successfully incorporated some of these into our already comprehensive community offering.

Our core community programme is our Free Schools Coaching and School Sport project which sees the Trust deliver over 70 hours of free PE lessons into local schools each week reaching almost 2,000 pupils. We have received fantastic support from easyJet over the last five years for this project and this year were able to extend the programme with the support of the Premier League Charitable Trust.

We were also successful in joining the FA's national Female Football Development (FFD) Programme and through this funding now run over 12 weekly centres for over 140 school year 9-11 girls. On the back of this we were able to recruit four female coaches for the first time and the girls have now become a vital part of the team and coach on many of the other Trust projects as well.

Both the School Sport and FFD programme meant we were able to enter over 30 teams in the national Kinder +Sport Girls and Kids Cup which offers under-13 girls and under-11 boys the chance to play at Wembley. Both of our local finals took place on the pitch in front of a packed Kenilworth Road end and was an experience the girls and boys will never forget – our boys from Ramsey Manor eventually finished fourth overall in the southern section – just one game away from Wembley!

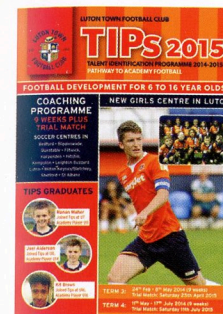
Our integration late night projects have also grown over the season with the Luton KiTS Active Luton project for Marsh Farm, Lewsey Farm and Farley Hill going strong and in a couple of weeks we bring all the boys together for a tournament at the Stadium. We've also teamed up with StreetGames and now have four doorstep clubs in Dunstable and Houghton Regis and we have a further late night session in Bedford with the Borough Councils Just Turn-Up project. Overall over 200 boys play every week to these sessions.

We've also teamed up with both the Prince's Trust and Luton Adult Learning to deliver community coaching programmes and have qualified over 45 adults as Level 1 coaches this season. One of our most satisfying achievements, however, has been the establishment of our Men's Disability Team in conjunction with Luton Borough Council's New Horizons group. The day the guys visited the first team training ground and met John Still, Terry Harris and Hakan Hayretin and the first team players will live in the memory for a long time, and we continue to enjoy our weekly coaching sessions and matches with all of the boys.

All in all it has been a great season – but if it sounds like we are shutting up shop for the summer then as you can read opposite how the Trust is now entering its busiest period. We will be flat out all through the close season engaging with our local community and putting Luton out there. Here's to an even better season ahead!



## TALENT IDENTIFICATION PROGRAMME 2014/15 TERM 4



Last Saturday we held our end of term 3 assessment games for all of the budding young footballers attending our weekly talent identification programme (TIPS) in Luton. Over 120 boys turned up for the games as our academy coaches put the boys through their paces to see who might be ready to begin the journey within our youth

development system. Two separate groups of under-7s and under-8s and under-9s to under-11s played mini games for over an hour in an attempt to catch the coaches' eye as they all look to make the first step from TIPS into our centre of excellence, the level at which they will train with us once a week. Progression from that level leads to our pre-academy squads which train twice a week and directly feeds the Hatters' main youth academy.

Next week we start Term 4 which is our last of this season in our search for young talent through our TIPS coaching centres. We have 14 regional football development centres throughout Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, with two in Luton. They are open to all youngsters in school year 2 up to year 11. The TIPS coaching centres offer a nine-week programme ending with a trial match for everyone and a technical report. Successful boys can then progress onto our centre of excellence and pre-academy development centres with eventual pathways into our youth academy.

To receive further details you can download our TIPS leaflet from the official website at [www.lutontown.co.uk](http://www.lutontown.co.uk) or to book a place from next week you can simply email [tips.@lutontown.co.uk](mailto:tips.@lutontown.co.uk) or call us direct in the community office on 01582 737568

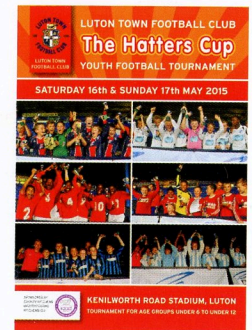
## HATTERS CUP WEEKEND – SATURDAY 16TH MAY – SUNDAY 17TH MAY

Once again, the club are turning the Kenilworth Road stadium over to the Community Trust later this month and over three days we will be holding lots of community and charity events.

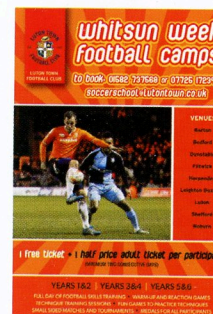
The major event is our annual two-day six-a-side Hatters Cup football tournament for local youngsters.

This has now become the biggest tournament of its kind in the South of England, and as usual, we were massively over-subscribed within weeks of announcing the dates before Christmas.

Over 160 teams will take part in the tournament that will see over 1,500 players in action. The opportunity to play at Kenilworth Road is very exciting for all of the young players and we are grateful to our sponsors this year, local company County Kitchens (incorporating Kitchens2Go) who are big Hatters fans, and whose sponsorship helps us staffing and stewarding the ground.



## WHITSUN HALF-TERM SOCCER CAMPS



In three weeks' time we look forward to welcoming hundreds of youngsters across Luton and Bedfordshire once again as they join our soccer camps and look to improve their skills and have a great time with their mates!

We have centres running in Barton, Bedford, Flitwick, Harpenden, Leighton Buzzard, Shefford and

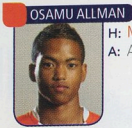
Woburn as well as lots in Luton and Dunstable.

If you've not tried a soccer camp before they are great fun, open to all abilities and run from 10am to 3pm each day and are great value at £15 each day you attend. Everyone receives the legendary LTFC medal as well as a great ticket offer to a home match at Kenilworth Road.

You can book direct with our community office on either 01582 737568 or 07725 172345 or ask for further information via the dedicated email at [soccerschool@lutontown.co.uk](mailto:soccerschool@lutontown.co.uk).

# Youth Team Sponsors

H: HOME | A: AWAY



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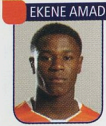
**ALEX ATKINSON**  
H: Available  
A: Available



**GEO CRAIG**  
H: Available  
A: Available



**KYRAN MCGHAN-GEORGE**  
H: Available  
A: Available



**EKENE AMADI**  
H: Available  
A: Available



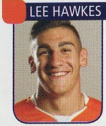
**LIAM GOOCH**  
H: P.J.R. Bacon Builders  
A: Available



**FRANKIE MUSONDA**  
H: Available  
A: Available



**ISAAC GALLIFORD**  
H: Available  
A: Available



**LEE HAWKES**  
H: Available  
A: Available



**CRAIG KING**  
H: Mike Tearle  
A: Available



**DARIL NGWALA**  
H: Available  
A: Available



**LUCAS PERRY**  
H: Available  
A: Available



**TUKI TAYALI**  
H: Available  
A: Available



**HARRY TAMPLIN**  
H: Allianz  
A: NPA Commercial



**LEEROY MAGURAUSHE**  
H: Available  
A: Available



**JAMES JUSTIN**  
H: Available  
A: Available

## BUILDING THE FOUNDATION OF FOOTBALL

Since 2000 the Football Foundation and its funders have invested in £1 billion worth of grassroots projects. This is providing quality playing surfaces and changing rooms for communities across the country – helping to increase participation and supporting player development.

[@FootballFoundtn](https://twitter.com/FootballFoundtn)  
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[linkedin.com/football-foundation](https://www.linkedin.com/football-foundation)  
[www.footballfoundation.org.uk](http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk)

**Football Foundation**



# THE ACADEMY

WITH HEAD OF YOUTH WAYNE TURNER

## SIGNING OFF

Signed as a 14-year-old schoolboy by David Pleat, scored 'that goal' at 24 and now leaving the club for the last time at 54!

In all that time I've had some unbelievable moments and memories that will keep me warm in my football retirement.

At the end of May I will be leaving my role of Academy Manager feeling very proud of what the staff and I have achieved in the last three years.

In that time, one of the biggest accolades that we can bestow on ourselves is that no player walked out of the club on a free! While we weren't a Football League club and without their protection that could have happened. We fought every corner and if a player left he went on our terms and with our blessing – and for the right valuation!

Of course we don't look to sell our best players, we want them to come all the way through to the first team. However, sometimes they outgrow the club, third parties and others get involved and they move on. With the first team now back as an established Football League team and building for next year that gap will close and the manager will still have the best players to choose from.

Having said that, I am very excited with the three lads who have just signed professional, and our under-17s, under-16s and under-15s groups have some real quality and potential. So not long now to see how they do!

Alongside that we have successfully gained our EPPP 3 status within the Premier League youth programme. Other clubs had 18 months to complete the process... we had five! Our license will last for three years and hopefully with the club's ambitions to grow at training ground and stadium status level, we can become a category 2 from 3 in the near future. (We have the players, we have the staff to compete at cat 2!) Those five months were very intense and that made me realise, that I would not be able to commit 24/7 going forward into next season.

The outstanding staff I will leave behind will cope fine, they are bright, well balanced and all have a great work ethic! None more so than Joe Deeney who is our under-16s and lead phase coach.

Four weeks ago Joe came into the office feeling under the weather. He didn't want to go out training, so I knew

there was something seriously wrong. He had several checks leading to him being hospitalised and two weeks ago he was diagnosed with lymphoma cancer, and he is currently undertaking treatment in Milton Keynes. I'm sure you will join the club and me in wishing Joe a full and speedy recovery so that he can get back to what he does best. Coaching, teaching and guiding our young players through, he is excellent at it, we miss him and we need him back! Doesn't that put everything in to perspective? Enjoy the game today and reflect on what a good season it has been. If someone would have said to me two years ago this week, we would be where we are today with one game to go, I would have bitten their hand off!

A word on our visitors. Ironically they were the last team I managed, leaving them over 13 years ago. How well they have done since then! An established League club themselves with a real chance in the coming Play-Offs. Well done to Phil Wallace and all his staff, there is some real nice people over there and along with the crowd they were always really good to me. Good luck to you all.

Back to us, where my loyalties truly lie. Now that I am leaving I can become a fan again, watching the first team down through the levels to the under-8s and enjoy it at leisure not as a necessity. It will be nice to pick up the monthly planner, choose a game that takes my fancy and pop along to add my support if needed.

Lastly talking of support there are three sets of people I must really thank before I go. Firstly Gary Sweet, the board and the Luton Town staff for their continued back up and commitment over the past three years.

Secondly, all the parents of the boys (all 104 of them!) who continually taxi the lads three to four times a week, to for fill their commitments to us, and maintain an excellent on-going communication with the academy staff. Without you there would be no youth set-up.

And lastly to all my staff, part-time and full who have been unbelievable in their dedication and desire to deliver the best for this Club. They have succeeded – well done gang!

May you all enjoy your summer break, and I hope to see all you fellow supporters next season.

Cheers, Wayne.



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# Youth & Dev

**NEWS FROM THE YOUTH TEAM & DEVELOPMENT SQUAD**

## **DEVELOPMENT SQUAD UPDATE: CHAMPIONS END ON WINNING NOTE**

The Hatters development squad wrapped-up their title-winning campaign with a comfortable 3-0 win over Gillingham at Kenilworth Road last week.

The Town fielded three trialists; 22-year-old striker Shaun Tuton from Buxton; Paulton Rovers winger Jon Davies, 24; and Concord Rangers' 19-year-old midfielder Taylor Miles.

A number of the Town's youth team players, together with the returning Fraser Franks, joined Curtley Williams and Matt Robinson in the starting XI.



Members of the Town squad pictured with the reserve league trophy before our game with Hartlepool

Tuton came close inside the first two minutes with a low shot from the edge of box but the Hatters led shortly before the quarter-hour when Isaac Galliford burst forward, swapped passes with Tuton and finished with aplomb from just inside the box.

On the half-hour the Hatters came close to doubling the lead when Frankie Musonda's header from Galliford's cross was saved before the Gills keeper then stopped Tuton's shot from 12 yards having been found by Galliford's disguised pass.

As half-time approached Luke Trotman came close to doubling the Town's lead when he thumped a shot inches wide of the target from the edge of the box.

After the break the Hatters continued to push the visitors back and the second goal did arrive early after the restart when Davies' left-wing cross was guided home by Tuton, sliding home in the six-yard box at the back post.

With the Town now in control and bossing possession, the clear-cut chances dried up for a 20-minute period, but after Galliford and Tuton both blazed over the former did make it 3-0 with another fine strike with three minutes left when crashing home from 20 yards.

The Hatters sensed blood in the final moments but Trotman was twice unable to convert having been found by Tuton and Robinson – and that was that.

**TOWN:** Gooch, Williams, Justin, Musonda, Franks; Robinson, Trotman, Miles; Davies (sub Rees 76), Galliford, Tuton. Subs not used: Famewo, Atkinson, Craig.

## **YOUTH UPDATE**

### **YOUNGSTERS FINISH RUNNERS-UP**

An eight-match unbeaten run which has included six victories ensured the Hatters' Under-18s finished runners-up in Youth Alliance Merit League 1, which ended two weeks ago today.

A 2-0 win over Stevenage in their last game meant the Town youngsters claimed second spot in the table, and also meant Paul Driver's side finished second out 23 Category 3 sides in the South of England.

The Hatters' youth coach told lutontown.co.uk: "It's a fantastic achievement for such a young group of lads who have come up against far more experienced players in the past three months

"A number of our senior squad have spent the second half of the season out on work experience, meaning we have played our first year scholars and a number of our under-16s.

"At this stage of the season it is always important to plan for next season and those who have come in have contributed brilliantly.

"As well as the younger players, senior players Luke Trotman, Isaac Galliford and Daril Ngwala have helped the less experienced out tremendously and contributed massively to our success."

Meanwhile the Hatters have offered goalkeeper Craig King and midfielder Galliford professional contracts for next season, and we'll give you more on their futures once they sign on the dotted line.

# Great save!

# 33% OFF\*

Luton to London return  
with a Super Off-Peak ticket



Buy a Super Off-Peak ticket now and start saving  
at [thameslinkrailway.com](http://thameslinkrailway.com)

Thameslink

\*Restrictions apply. Please see online for details.  
Super Off-Peak Day Return compared to a standard Off-Peak Day Return

# Luton Ladies

## LADIES END CAMPAIGN BY CRUSHING CANARIES

The Hatters' Ladies rounded off their season with their biggest away win of the campaign with a 4-0 victory over Norwich City.

Town were on the attack from the first minute and with any good fortune would have been two goals up in the first five minutes as Norwich failed to deal with the high tempo of Luton's attack. The front two of Rebecca Kane and Michelle Byrne caused huge problems for the home defence but some fine goalkeeping kept both strikers at bay.

Kane had a series of good chances but the nearest she came to breaking the deadlock was a shot which struck the inside of the post before rebounding to safety. Quite how the Canaries reached the interval with a clean sheet we will never know.

The second half was just minutes old when Luton finally grabbed the advantage. Lydia Radley picked the ball up close to the half way line and took on the full back. Just as she appeared to have been shown away from the goal she skipped past her marker, then past the centre-back before striking a shot low inside the near post to make it 1-0.

Just minutes later Radley turned creator sending Kane clear and this time she finished well slipping the ball under the advancing keeper.

The Town continued to press and the third goal soon followed when Zara Carroll played the ball into Kane and she struck a powerful half-volley into the top corner from just outside the box to make it 3-0.

It was one way traffic and it was no surprise when Erica Byron added the fourth, turning her marker inside out before striking the inside of the post with her shot. The ball was, however, deemed to have crossed the line to wrap up an excellent victory.

Manager Nikki Baker was delighted to finish the season on a high. "This has been a lengthy rebuild of the squad and we aimed for a top four finish which we've achieved," she told Talk of the Town.

"This is the highest finish we've achieved since relegation from the Northern Division five year ago and we must now add to the squad and if we do so I'm confident we will have a realistic chance of returning to the top flight."



First team manager Nikki Baker with new eight-year-old recruit, Hatters-mad Erica.

The Under-16 squad made their last appearance in youth football a memorable one defeating the League champions 5-0. Lucy Higgs grabbed a hat-trick with Chloe Fitzsimmons and Phoebe Brown adding the other goals.

At this point Luton Town Ladies would like to recognise the contribution of manager John Higgs, who has taken this squad from Under-10 right through to Under-16 which is quite some achievement.

Luton Town Ladies are pleased to announce the success of recent initiatives which are designed to reinvigorate our youth section and we hope to shortly be able to offer any player from eight years up the chance to represent the Hatters Ladies. Contact [lutontownlfc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lutontownlfc@hotmail.co.uk) for further details.

For more information on the Ladies visit [www.lutontownladiesfc.co.uk](http://www.lutontownladiesfc.co.uk)

# Finley Quaye

Saturday 27 June

Support from **Nakisha Esnard**

Doors 8pm

£12.50 adv / £15 on door

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**Box Office:** 01582 878100  
thehatfactory.org



**Luton Culture**  
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# JUNIOR HATTERS



**SPOT THE DIFFERENCE**  
CAN YOU SPOT THE 5 DIFFERENCES BELOW?



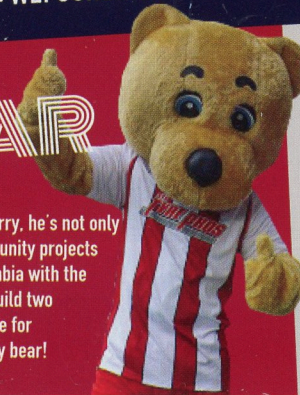
### WHERE'S HARRY?

Cheeky Happy Harry is hiding somewhere in this programme! Can you find him? Ask your parent or guardian to tweet us with a picture if you do.  
**#COYH #WEFOUNDHARRY**

Well done to @lucyLTFC on Twitter who found Harry in last week's programme

## BORO BEAR

Our visitors' mascot is **Boro Bear** and just like Harry, he's not only a keen supporter but loves to get involved with community projects and charity events. He's even flown to Kenya and Gambia with the Stevenage FC Foundation to help re-build a school, build two adventure playgrounds and generally help improve life for communities less fortunate than our own. What a busy bear!



### DID YOU KNOW...

...that Hatters Keeper Elliot Justham, who has recently signed a new contract with Luton Town once worked on the London Underground.





# FUT5AL CUP FINALS

- SUNDAY 17TH MAY
- COPPER BOX ARENA
- Soccer AM Semi-Final 1
- Soccer AM Semi-Final 2
- FLT Futsal Plate Final
- FLT Futsal Ladies Challenge
- Soccer AM V Select Team
- SOCCER AM FINAL**

+ Challenges | Music | Cheerleading

Futsal Fanatic?  
Or

First chance to see the electrifying football format?

Join Sky Sports cameras courtside as futsal fever strikes the Olympic Park. The six game futsal fiesta includes Max Rushden leading Soccer AM stars out in an exhibition match, before the final two U19 Football League clubs compete for the 2015 Soccer AM Futsal Cup crown.

U16 £2 | Adult £3 | Family\* £8 | Squad Special\* £25

**TICKETLINE.CO.UK**



Doors Open 10:00 AM | Action Starts 11:00 AM  
Copper Box Arena, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London E20 3HB

Ticket proceeds support The Football League Trust in changing lives through the power of sport

\*Family = 2 adults & 2 children OR 1 adult & 3 children | \* Squad Special = up to 3 adult coaches & up to 16 U16 players

# ON THIS DAY

## ► THE RECORD

An FA Cup final appearance in front of 100,000 at Wembley, an away game at Lazio, a home win over Watford and relegation from the top flight. Only Luton Town could list such a history on this day, eh?

Well those three games make up the 13 times the Hatters have played on 2nd May down the years which has seen the Town win more than they have lost. In total it's six wins, three draws and four defeats across those 13 matches. The Hatters have scored 22 and conceded 17.

On home soil the Town have never lost which is a good omen for today's game. At Kenilworth Road the Hatters have only played five times but have won four and drawn once, scoring 14 and conceding just five.



The Town played in their one - and so far only - FA Cup final on this day in 1959 when they went down 2-1 to Nottingham Forest

## ► CUP FINALISTS

As Roger Wash has featured with two photographs elsewhere in this programme, today is 56 years since the Hatters lost in the FA Cup final to Nottingham Forest at Wembley. Despite playing against 10 men and taking the lead through Dave Pacey, Forest came back to triumph 2-1 in front of 100,000 at the national stadium.

## ► ITALIAN JOB

On this very day in 1973 the Town were in Italy, taking part in the preliminary round of the Anglo Italian Cup. They came home with a point from 2-2 draw with Peter Anderson and John Ryan on target in front of just 4,000. It was the Hatters' final game in the competition that season having beaten Bari 4-0 at Kenilworth Road, losing 2-1 away to Verona and beating Fiorentina 1-0.

## ► HORNETS STUNG

The Hatters beat local rivals Watford in the top flight 2-1 on this day in 1988. The Hornets were on the verge of relegation to Division 2 and the Town all but put the final nail in the coffin thanks to this win at Kenilworth Road. 10,409 witnessed a Marvin Johnson own goal put the visitors ahead but a 19-year-old David Oldfield equalised shortly afterwards. Then, a minute before the break, a Danny Wilson penalty had the Hatters in front and that's the way it stayed.

## ► DOWN AND OUT

On this day in 1992 the Town played their last game in the top flight after going down 2-1 at Notts County. The Hatters needed the points to stay up and compete in the following season's Premier League. That looked likely at half-time as Julian James' 25-yarder had the Town in front. But two second half strikes from Rob Matthews - who would later go on to play for the Hatters - gave already relegated Notts victory and condemn the Town to relegation after 10 years in the First Division.

## ► BEST OF THE REST

In 1989 the Town hammered Charlton Athletic at Kenilworth Road with two goals from Danny Wilson and one each from Mick Harford, Kingsley Black and Roy Wegerle gave the Hatters a convincing 5-2 win... The Town biggest win on this day came in their first on 2nd May, back in 1921, with a 4-0 home victory over Southend... In 1981 the Town triumphed 3-0 away at Burnden Park against Bolton with goals from Brian Stein, Steve White and Kirk Stephens... A solitary goal from Mick Harford gave the Town a 1-0 win at Charlton on this day in 1987 in the top flight... And finally, the Town's last game in the Football League before relegation to the Conference took place on this day in 2009 - a 2-0 defeat at Brentford.

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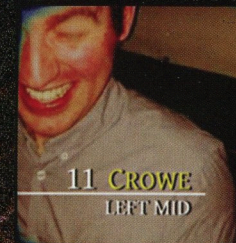


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# FROM LEFT Midfield

BY KEVIN CROWE



## THE EIGHT-GOAL SWING

One game of football is all that remains of the season that was to rubber stamp the renaissance of Luton Town, the Football League Club. Now all we need to creep into that final Play-Off spot is a tiny little miracle.

An eight-goal swing. That's all it'll take to drag this blistered, hobbling home-straight out for another couple of weeks before the odd numbered year in which we currently reside unleashes an endless summer of no football.

No football. No match day mayhem for three long months until we meet again one day in August, when summer's rays have rendered the pairing of your orange shirt and throbbing red forehead untenable in the familiar shade of Kenilworth Road.

An eight-goal swing. In the quiet words of John Lennon: eight is all we need.

We're less than a Joe Payne away from the Play-Offs here, lads. We've not had a twelve nill-er since 1936; statistically we must be due another one soon, eh? Let's just stick one of the full-backs up front? Come on, it's still on, lads! Lads? LADS!?

Well, yeah, alright, maybe it's not quite still on. I suppose we'd have more belief in a final day goal splurge if this wasn't the sort of season where the queue for the treatment room stretched longer than the one for the bar in the White House at 2pm on a Saturday, or where more men were suspended than ladies night at Cirque de Soleil.

This week finally nudged our 2015 from contemporary theatre into the realm of good old fashioned Billy Smart's Circus when two attacking options for our longed-for final day goal rush were ruled

out for being banged up in the nick on their way home from a team night out that saw footballers venture, as footballers never should, to Milton Keynes.

That's not to say the season's been all that bad. Or to say that all that's been bad has been down to bad luck either - some of the football's been more Mid Beds agricultural than the cosmopolitan brand your sophisticated Lutonian yearns for - but given that you've decided to carry on supporting a division four football team when other, shinier football teams are available on a TV near you, you'll have to shoulder some of the blame for that one, you beautiful genius.

With that briefly interrupted losing streak still fresh in our minds, it's with almost apologetic optimism that we can now start to gaze into the wide blue yonder of seasons yet to come. Looking down on our position with even an Andre Scarlett sized pinch of perspective, you have to concede that despite losing a load of League 2 football matches recently, we haven't been this well-placed for years.

You might argue there's been more success off the pitch than on it this season, if you can be so blasé as to take a top-half finish in the league above for granted. Either way, in the past year our club has genuinely felt more a part of its community than ever in recent memory, with initiatives like the Living Wage, links to Luton Foodbank and loads more outreach with local kids and disabled people.

Ironically it seems these strengthened local roots might finally result in the goodwill required for that bittersweet uprooting of our ancient Saturday Bury Park ritual, and on to a life after Kenilworth Road.

If the eight-goal swing doesn't happen (and it definitely, definitely will, mate), I'll see you lot on the other side.

Up the Town.

[leftmidfield.blogspot.com](http://leftmidfield.blogspot.com)

# Don't forget...

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# The FOOTBALL LEAGUE Paper

THE ONLY PAPER FOR THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE FAN

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BY CHRIS DUNLAVY

Nothing prompts debate like the PFA team of the year and here at the Football League Paper we have no intention of bucking that trend.

Because for every stonewall certainty like Matt Ritchie or Troy Deeney, there's are unsung heroes like Almen Abdi or Charlie Daniels who've played out of their skin only to be overlooked. So, those two aside, here are the players we think can feel mightily aggrieved not to have won the votes of their fellow pros:

#### DANIEL AYALA - MIDDLESBROUGH

Boro may not have troubled the goals for column much this term, but the back door has been chained, bolted and fortified with Spanish steel.

The men from Teesside have conceded just 37 goals in 45 games - or 0.8 per match - making them the toughest nut to crack in the division. Surely, then, they deserve more than one representative in the back four?

Step forward, then, Daniel Ayala, a centre-half so assured and positionally astute he often looks like he's gliding around in slow motion. Always in the right place, always at the right time, the 24-year-old is the kind of defender every keeper dreams of playing with.

#### CHRISTOPHE BERRA - IPSWICH

Ipswich remarkable run to the Play-Offs has been achieved on a budget dwarfed by that of their rivals. But when you drill a defence like Big Mick, money is no object.

And at the heart of that indomitable back-line is Berra, an indomitable wall of Scottish stone who has made more clearances and blocks than any other player in the Championship - not to mention scoring six times at the other end.

#### DAVID COTTERILL - BIRMINGHAM

Okay, so the Blues were wretched before Gary Rowett turned up. But with the former Burton boss in situ, Cotterill caught fire.

The Wales midfielder - signed from Doncaster in the summer - has scored nine times (including a string of thunderbolt free-kicks) and made eight more, meaning he has been directly involved in a third of all Birmingham's goals.



Middlesbrough's on-loan Chelsea striker Patrick Bamford

With a Championship-best 2.8 key passes per game to his name as well, nobody has contributed more to the St Andrews revival.

#### PATRICK BAMFORD - MIDDLESBROUGH

If the on-loan Chelsea striker was lucky to edge out Troy Deeney for the Player of the Year award, he can consider himself unfortunate to miss a berth in the All Star XI.

The 21-year-old has netted 17 goals this season, no mean feat in a side that creates fewer chances than anyone else in the top six. Indeed, Bamford's tally accounts for exactly a quarter of Boro's 68 goals so far, with a couple of assists into the bargain.

#### RUDY GESTEDE - BLACKBURN

Frenchan Gestede emerged from the shadow of £8m-man Jordan Rhodes to become Rovers' first-choice striker this term - thanks in no small part to his complete invincibility in the air. Of his 34 goals for Blackburn, 19 have come from headers, and final tally of 20 this season has prompted interest from Crystal Palace. A centre-back's nightmare.



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# league look

## LEAGUE 2 NEWS IN BRIEF

The Town know they will have to win comfortably this afternoon against Stevenage and hope Shrewsbury do the same to Plymouth to qualify for the Play-Offs. Stranger things have happened in the weird and wonderful history of ours so why not keep believing?

The Hatters will need to make up an eight-goal swing against Argyle, so a 4-0 win for the Hatters and 4-0 win for Shrewsbury would be enough (or 5-0 and 3-0, 6-0 and 2-0 and so on!). Shrewsbury, promoted last weekend following a 1-0 win at Cheltenham – a result which relegated the Robins – will be at least going for the title. Micky Mellon's Shrews sit two points behind current leaders Burton who travel to Cambridge today. With Tranmere relegated after their defeat at Plymouth last weekend, the real drama in League 2 today lies with the battle for the third and final automatic promotion place with Southend in the driving seat after their win over the Town.

The Shrimpers just need to win away to Morecambe to seal a spot in League 1 next term. Bury are two points behind with a marginally better goal difference and could pip the Shrimpers to third spot if Southend draw and the Shakers win at Tranmere. Don't rule out Wycombe either. The Chairboys might have dropped to fifth but they lie three points behind third place with a better goal difference. If Southend and Bury slip up they could still win promotion with a win away to Northampton.

Our visitors today Stevenage are definitely in the Play-Offs and are all but guaranteed to finish in sixth place (unless they beat us 5-0 and Wycombe lose 5-0). With the three sides above them still in with a chance of finishing in third place, Boro could be playing either of them as things stand before kick-off today.

## TODAY'S FIXTURES

Accrington v Mansfield, AFC Wimbledon v Cheltenham, Cambridge v Burton, Carlisle v Hartlepool, Exeter v Dagenham, Morecambe v Southend, Newport v Oxford, Northampton v Wycombe, Portsmouth v York, Shrewsbury v Plymouth, Tranmere v Bury.

## LEAGUE TABLE 2014/15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
P Burton Albion	45	27	10	8	66	37	29	91
P Shrewsbury Town	45	27	8	10	67	29	38	89
3 Southend United	45	24	12	9	53	35	18	84
4 Bury	45	25	7	13	59	40	19	82
5 Wycombe Wanderers	45	22	15	8	64	43	21	81
6 Stevenage	45	20	12	13	62	52	10	72
7 Plymouth Argyle	45	19	11	15	53	37	16	68
<b>8 Luton Town</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>65</b>
9 Newport County AFC	45	18	11	16	51	53	-2	65
10 Northampton Town	45	18	7	20	65	59	6	61
11 Exeter City	45	16	13	16	59	64	-5	61
12 Morecambe	45	16	12	17	50	51	-1	60
13 Dagenham & Redbridge	45	17	8	20	57	57	0	59
14 Oxford United	45	14	16	15	49	49	0	58
15 AFC Wimbledon	45	14	15	16	53	59	-6	57
16 Portsmouth	45	14	14	17	51	53	-2	56
17 Accrington Stanley	45	14	11	20	56	76	-20	53
18 Cambridge United	45	13	12	20	59	63	-4	51
19 York City	45	11	18	16	45	50	-5	51
20 Carlisle United	45	14	7	24	53	71	-18	49
21 Mansfield Town	45	13	9	23	37	60	-23	48
22 Hartlepool United	45	12	8	25	36	67	-31	44
R Cheltenham Town	45	9	13	23	39	66	-27	40
R Tranmere Rovers	45	9	12	24	45	66	-21	39

## PLAYER STATS 2014/15

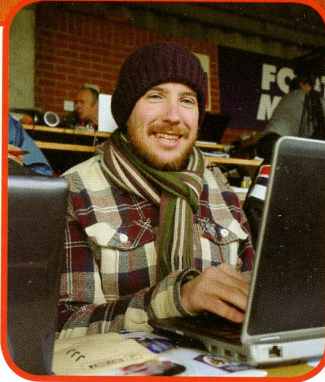
	THIS SEASON								LFC CAREER TOTAL		
	LEAGUE APPS	GLS	CUP APPS	GLS	TOTAL APPS	GLS	DISCIP Y	R	APPS	GLS	
Zane Barton	0	(0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0
Paul Benson	16	(5)	1	3	(0)	1	19	(5)	2	5	1
Paul Connolly	4	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	6	(0)	0	3	0
Mark Cullen	32	(9)	12	5	(0)	1	37	(9)	13	3	0
Nathan Doyle	26	(0)	0	4	(0)	0	30	(0)	0	8	0
Andy Drury	30	(5)	2	4	(0)	0	34	(5)	2	2	0
Fraser Franks	10	(3)	0	4	(0)	0	14	(3)	0	2	0
Scott Griffiths	34	(0)	2	4	(0)	0	38	(0)	2	2	0
Luke Guttridge	17	(9)	3	2	(1)	1	19	(10)	4	1	0
Ryan Hall	4	(1)	0	0	(0)	0	4	(1)	0	0	0
Michael Harriman	34	(0)	0	4	(0)	1	38	(0)	1	2	0
Jake Howells	27	(8)	4	3	(2)	1	30	(10)	5	1	0
Eliot Jusham	14	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	15	(0)	0	0	0
Lewis Kinzella	2	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	1	0
Alex Lacey	10	(8)	0	2	(0)	0	12	(8)	0	0	0
Ross Lafayette	1	(10)	0	0	(3)	0	1	(13)	0	2	0
Alex Lawless	7	(8)	3	0	(1)	0	7	(9)	3	1	0
Elliott Lee	8	(2)	3	0	(0)	0	8	(2)	3	3	0
Cameron McGeehan	12	(2)	3	0	(0)	0	12	(2)	3	3	0
Steve McNulty	40	(0)	0	4	(0)	0	44	(0)	0	9	2
Ricky Miller	2	(10)	1	1	(2)	1	3	(12)	2	1	0
Nathan Odawa	3	(8)	0	0	(0)	0	3	(8)	0	1	0
Andrew Parry	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0
Ian Rees	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0
Matt Robinson	7	(2)	0	1	(2)	0	8	(4)	0	0	1
Luke Rooney	8	(3)	3	2	(0)	2	10	(3)	5	2	1
Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu	10	(6)	1	0	(2)	0	10	(8)	1	1	0
Charlie Smith	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0
Jonathan Smith	34	(0)	2	5	(0)	0	39	(0)	2	5	0
Jim Stevenson	2	(9)	1	1	(0)	0	3	(9)	1	1	0
Jayden Stockley	11	(2)	3	0	(0)	0	11	(2)	3	3	0
Mark Tyler	31	(0)	0	5	(0)	0	36	(0)	0	2	0
Charlie Walker	0	(3)	0	1	(2)	0	1	(5)	0	0	0
Alex Wall	1	(6)	1	1	(0)	0	2	(6)	1	3	0
Shaun Whalley	14	(5)	3	1	(0)	0	15	(5)	3	2	0
Luke Wilkinson	41	(0)	4	6	(0)	0	47	(0)	4	8	2
Curtley Williams	3	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	3	(0)	0	0	0



# HOLD THE Back Page

WITH LUTON NEWS SPORTS EDITOR MIKE SIMMONDS

With a campaign that had promised so much, but, unless there are some crazy scores this afternoon, will see the Hatters line up in League 2 next term, it's time to once again take a look at the season's awards.



**PLAYER OF THE SEASON:** Unlike season's of past there isn't a stand-out candidate this term, but it's hard to knock the effort and determination from Jonathan Smith every time he has crossed the white line for Luton this campaign.

While the likes of Michael Harriman, Nathan Doyle and Scott Griffiths deserve honourable mentions, it's Smith who has shown great determination to come back from a serious leg injury suffered last season.

The midfielder is desperate to stay at the club too and with boss John Still confirming an offer was the table, it seems Smith will get his wish to have another crack at promotion next term.

**SIGNING OF THE SEASON:** Defensive midfielder Nathan Doyle has quickly become an absolutely crucial component of the Hatters' set-up and when fit, is easily one, if not the first, name on the team sheet.

The difference was palpable when he missed out with injury recently and agreeing another one-year deal is absolutely vital for Luton's chances of reaching League 1.

**GOAL OF THE SEASON:** Although Alex Lawless' curler against Southend deserves a mention, for me it has to be Luke Guttridge's stunner versus Newport County in the FA Cup. Around 30 yards from goal, the midfielder let fly with his supposed weaker left foot, sending one flying into the top corner with a truly superb effort.

**BIGGEST MISS OF THE SEASON:** Hatters have had that many injuries this year it's hard to pick, but the absence of Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu was most keenly felt.

After a slow start, the former West Ham midfielder was in truly superb form, dominating games with League 2 defences unsure of how to handle him. However, hamstring injuries then

dogged his campaign and it's a real hope Town can get to the bottom of the problem over the summer and unleash him once more.

**PERFORMANCE OF THE SEASON:** The controlled and professional display at Plymouth Argyle takes some beating for me.

The Hatters were composed from the off on what looked like a vast playing surface, Andy Drury side-footing in a measured finish. The ease at which Town held that lead was hugely enthralling as well, with Still's side looking real promotion contenders at that point.

**BEST FOOD:** You will have to go some way to beat the burgers served up at Newport County this season. Sort of food you wouldn't have minded ordering in a restaurant they were that good.

**WORST FOOD:** Without a doubt, there's nothing that comes close to what was on offer at Hartlepool. With what can only be described as paste rather than meat, it's safe to say myself and club photographer Gareth Owen won't be purchasing anything there next season.

**WORST JOURNEY:** Tranmere away. Breaking down at the M6 toll. Not getting home until 5.30am. Say no more.



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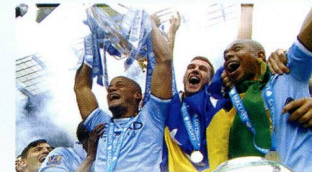
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Wentworth  
Friday 22nd May



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Saturday 23rd 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        | 26 Nathan Doyle     |
| 5 Stephen McNulty       | 27 Ryan Hall        |
| 6 Alex Lacey            | 28 Jim Stevenson    |
| 7 Alex Lawless          | 30 Luke Wilkinson   |
| 8 Andy Drury            | 31 Nathan Oduwa     |
| 9 Paul Benson           | 32 Brett Longden    |
| 10 Alex Wall            | 33 Mark Onyemah     |
| 11 Jake Howells         | 34 Zane Banton      |
| 12 Scott Griffiths      | 35 Charlie Walker   |
| 13 Mark Cullen          | 36 Charlie Smith    |
| 14 Andy Parry           | 37 Kynan Isaac      |
| 16 Elliot Justham       | 38 Elliot Lee       |
| 17 Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu | 39 Ian Rees         |
| 18 Ross Lafayette       | 40 Lewis Kinsella   |
| 21 Luke Guttridge       | 50 Cameron McGeehan |



## STEVENAGE

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Sam Beasant       | 19 Dean Wells         |
| 3 Bira Dembélé      | 20 Chris Beardsley    |
| 4 Harry Worley      | 22 Charlie Lee        |
| 5 Jon Ashton        | 23 Jerome Okimo       |
| 6 Andy Bond         | 24 Danny Johnson      |
| 7 Chris Whelpdale   | 25 Ronnie Henry       |
| 8 Simon Walton      | 27 Ryan Johnson       |
| 9 Darius Charles    | 28 Joseph N'Guessan   |
| 10 Calvin Zola      | 31 Fejiri Okenabirhie |
| 11 Tom Pett         | 33 Ben Kennedy        |
| 12 David McAllister | 32 Tom Conlon         |
| 14 Adam Marriott    | 34 Roarie Deacon      |
| 15 Connor Calcutt   | 36 Bruno Andrade      |
| 16 Chris Day        | 50 Dave Martin        |
| 17 Rohdell Gordon   |                       |
| 18 Dean Parrett     |                       |

## TODAY'S OFFICIALS



Nigel Miller



William Bull



Nigel Smith



4 Ian Dudley

## NEXT SEASON

2015/16 FIXTURES RELEASE DAY • WEDNESDAY 17th JUNE 2015

