

ISSUE 4

LUTON TOWN F.C.

v STOKE CITY

Match Day
Magazine
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Welcome to **KENILWORTH ROAD**

What's inside your matchday programme tonight...



5 **THE BOSS**

John Still looks ahead to this evening's game with the Potters

6 **FROM THE BOARDROOM**

With vice chairman David Wilkinson



11 **AROUND TOWN**

A round-up of the latest news at Kenilworth Road



17 **WELCOME STOKE CITY**

All you need to know about the men from the Britannia Stadium

40 **HATTERS IN THE COMMUNITY**

The latest from our community projects around Luton and Bedfordshire

52 **SPEAKING STATISTICALLY**

Stats, facts, fixtures and results this season

COVER STORY



Throughout the 2015/16 season our programme covers will be a nod to the covers of yesteryear. Today's cover is based on a Stoke City fixture from November 1994. To find out more, turn to page 24.

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Thoughts, feedback and announcements are welcome by post, phone or email #COYH

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



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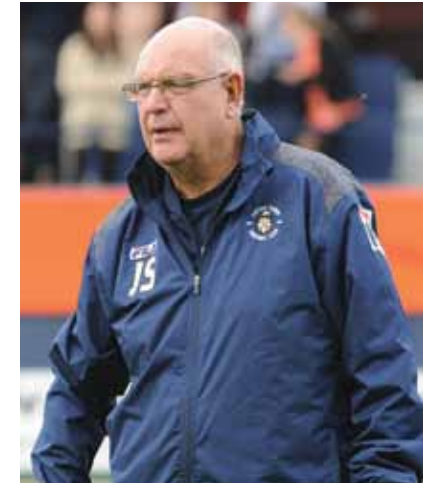
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JOHN STILL

NOTES FROM THE MANAGER

Good evening and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for the first of three successive home games here in three different competitions.



I'd like to extend a warm welcome to Mark Hughes, plus his players, staff and the directors and supporters of Stoke City to Bedfordshire for this evening's Capital One Cup second round tie in front of the Sky Sports cameras.

No matter what competition you enter you want to test yourself against the best and our visitors tonight certainly fall into that category. Mark has done a terrific job in the last few years at the Britannia Stadium and you only have to look at the talent in their squad and the kind of players they are able to attract to know the level of ambition at the club. It goes without saying that we face a tougher test than usual tonight but these are the kinds of games our players should be relishing and, in front of a live television audience, it gives them the platform to show the watching public that they too are good players.

The one thing I expect tonight, however, is a better showing than on Saturday at Yeovil. The result and performance was a massive disappointment. It was our second successive defeat and the second time in three matches that we let a two-goal lead slip.

My staff and I know that is simply not good enough and the players do too.

A good opening 20 minutes and one exceptional strike from Craig Mackail-Smith aside, Saturday was a hugely frustrating afternoon. I did not think it was a team performance at all. I am not one at the start of every season to be too disappointed, because often teams take time to get into their stride. But so far we have not been good enough.

The Bristol Rovers display in our previous match was just as bad. In a word it was poor. Having played so badly a week ago I expected those involved on Saturday to be better than they were. When you are winning a football match by two goals you do not expect your team to capitulate in the manner in which we did and I know as Luton Town supporters you deserve better. Those of you who made the long trip deserve better, as do those listening at home.

I do believe that this football team will improve and I believe it will challenge for success this season. The players know that too, but they, like myself, know that Saturday wasn't good enough.

I had hoped that the Oxford result – or rather the last 10 minutes – would act as a little reminder not to get complacent... and then I had hoped the poor showing against Bristol would be an even stronger reason to make sure we did the right things against Yeovil. Sadly, as we know, that was not the case.

Tonight gives us an opportunity to bounce back from these recent disappointments. The victory over Bristol City and the first half against Oxford are examples of how good we can be this season. We are going to have to work hard for a positive result tonight – just like we should be doing in each and every match we play.

Without wishing to look too far ahead, we're also here at Kenilworth Road on Saturday when we entertain Portsmouth. After such an indifferent start to the campaign I am pleased that we have two high-profile games. Why? Well your support is going to make a big difference so please get behind us this evening.

Enjoy the game.

John Still is sponsored by: **Thompsons Accountants and Country Properties (Hitchin) 01462 452951**



From the BOARDROOM

WITH VICE CHAIRMAN **DAVID WILKINSON**

GOOD EVENING EVERYONE AND A VERY WARM WELCOME TO KENILWORTH ROAD.

Today we welcome the officials, players and supporters from Stoke City, the first Premier League side to visit Kenilworth Road since 2020 took over the Club, and since we played Liverpool in the FA Cup third round in 2008.

Our visitors seem to have established themselves in their division and their continuing ambition is backed up by their recent club record signing of Xherdan Shaqiri from Inter Milan. My most vivid memories of our past contests are the 4-4 draw in 1982, and Sol Davis's infamous tackle in the 0-0 draw in 2007. Strange what we remember isn't it? At least, unusually, more of you might also remember those as they are more recent than most of my reminiscences.

Since our brilliant performance against Bristol City in this competition, our League form has been, to put it mildly, disappointing, so it will be interesting to see whether the immediacy and lack of expectation tonight makes a difference.

It is particularly difficult to write these notes after a defeat and even more so after throwing away a 2-0 lead twice in the space of a week.

We are currently having a Tiger Woods moment. Football, like most other sports, is played as much in the head as it is on the pitch.

The smallest things can disturb the psychological balance of a team and it can take time for partnerships to develop and for those to work within the overall structure.

EXPECTATION

It is conceivable that the pursuit of our ambition is partly to blame. The summer signings, which have all been from a higher level, have created greater expectation among you as well as us in the boardroom, and more competition for places, which can be both positive and negative.

We are fortunate to have had the opportunity to see our players perform away from the spotlight and are confident that once they settle-in their talent, ability and commitment will be there for all of us to see.

On a more pleasant note we congratulate Andre Gray on his move to Burnley and hope he continues to enjoy the success.



So many promising players jump straight into Premier League clubs and then get lost in the system. That there is perhaps an interesting lesson in what Andre has done.

He has moved to clubs who need him to play and has, therefore, been in the shop window for his talent and strengths to be recognised.

TALENTED

I would like to think that we have all played our part in giving him the opportunity.

Like many things in life, it is important to be in the right place at the right time and there are many talented sportsmen who never get the break needed to help them fulfil their dreams. Andre has always been very generous with his remarks about Luton Town, for which we thank him.

As has been widely reported the Club will be a beneficiary of a percentage of the profit Brentford

A big thank you to the 820 of you who made the long trip to Yeovil on Saturday

make on the deal, which will, of course be very welcome. The playing budget has been increased this year, which has enabled John Still to bring in players from a higher level, and we continue to run at a loss, albeit a controlled and budgeted one, so hopefully the investors will not be required to find so much for the foreseeable future.

INVESTED

I have read some unfair and untruthful comments on various social media sites, which are probably not worthy of comment after so much time and money has been invested in an attempt to make this a better Club with a long and sustainable future, but I can confirm that no dividends or interest has ever been paid to investors and there are no plans to do so.

Our history is laden with joy and disappointment and football can be a cruel game, but form is temporary, and class is permanent and we know from

their past performances that our squad has a lot of ability. Oh, and by the way, Tiger Woods is performing again.

We also know that it is even more important to stick together when times get tough. It's easy to support a winning team, but sometimes you have to support a losing one to make them win. After all we have still got 42 games left to play in League 2 this season.

Thank you to all of you who made the journey to Yeovil. We know it wasn't easy to travel to, or to watch.

Rest assured we, the Board, will continue to support in all ways possible to help to reverse the recent trend and get back to the upward spiral we all desire.

Enjoy the game.
Come on you Hatters.



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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:**
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MACCA

THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN SPEAKING...

A lot has changed since my last set of notes. We've lost two successive matches and given very bad performances in both.

As players, any blame is firmly placed on us. The gaffer and his staff prepare us right for every single game and after we walk over that white line it is down to us to go out and perform. Against Bristol Rovers and Yeovil we haven't played anywhere near what we are capable of. On behalf of all the lads, I'd like to apologise for the last two results.

I've said in my previous notes that our expectations are just as high as yours, but it's clear so far we are not reaching the standard of performance we expect. On Saturday we started well, scored two goals, with Macca scoring a sensational goal. We know he has that in his locker and that the same can be said of all the lads in the squad. The quality is there, we just have to start showing it.

We've shown it in flashes in probably all of our matches so far, bar perhaps last Tuesday's defeat to Bristol Rovers. That was a completely unacceptable performance in which we really struggled to create chances before we were hit with a sucker punch with the last kick of the game.

Hurt by that I thought that we would be on our game at Yeovil, and for the first 20 minutes it looked as though we were on

course to record our first League win of the season. We were two goals to the good against Oxford the week before and you would hope from a group of experienced players that we would learn our lesson but it was not to be and we allowed Yeovil to get back into the game shortly before half-time and the rest is history.

While there are, unfortunately, plenty of negatives so far this season, we must remember that it is still early days and that there is still pretty much a whole campaign left to play.

POSITIVES

We must, however, get our act together quickly. As I've said, there have been a few positives signs and I think it is only a matter of time before we begin to show consistency and with that, winning performances.

Football can be a funny old game and the fine lines between success and failure are so minute. Oxford were fortunate to get back into the game against us with a deflected shot that we could do nothing about. Had that not happened then who knows? It does get you thinking, and in a way, it gives us encouragement because we were the better side against Oxford and looked all set to record all three points. We aren't a bad team and this group of players certainly doesn't lack quality.

Tonight we turn our attention away from the League with a cup tie against a side containing several truly world class players.



We will give Stoke the respect they deserve but not too much. We want to cause an upset and set the record straight after two very bad results. We can take heart from our previous result in this competition in which we played some excellent football and achieved a fine result against Bristol City. That is what we are capable of and I hope we can recreate that kind of performance against a side of Stoke's calibre. We certainly owe you one.

Thank you for your unbelievable backing so far this season, in particular on Saturday when those who made the trip continued to sing your hearts out in the pouring rain at Yeovil. Enjoy the game tonight.



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WELCOME OLLY LEE!

Last week we announced the news of another new arrival in the shape of Olly Lee, who has joined the Club on a short-term deal with the option to extend based on certain performance triggers.

Lee, who describes himself as an 'all-round midfielder' has been training with the squad over the past few weeks and made appearances for the Town during pre-season.

Olly started his career with West Ham United then spent periods on loan with Dagenham and Gillingham among others. He later joined Birmingham where he made 16 appearances, as well as making 15 appearances for Plymouth Argyle last season, scoring two goals.

Olly is the older brother to Elliot Lee, who joined the Hatters on loan



last season. On joining the Hatters Olly said: "I'm really pleased to sign and get it all done, I'm looking forward to getting started now.

I've been training with the lads for a couple of weeks now, so it's great to get it all tied up."

When asked how he'd describe himself as a player Lee added: "I like to get on the ball and get the team passing and hopefully I can score a few and create a few goals, too."

On his new signing John Still told our official YouTube channel: "Olly's been with us for a few weeks, he's a good footballer, he did well at West Ham and Birmingham – we know his brother Elliot obviously and the family – he's got a good pedigree.

We were looking for a good passer of the ball, and he's that. He's a good lad too, a bright lad and he knows where the goal is – so hopefully he'll do well here at Luton."

DUO GO OUT ON LOAN

Matthew Robinson and Andy Parry have both left Kenilworth Road for a month in loan deals to National League clubs Grimsby and Altrincham respectively.

Robinson, 21, signed for the Hatters in the summer of 2012 following his release from the Leicester City academy. He made his debut in a 2-0 away win at Kidderminster when coming on as a late substitute and he scored his first senior goal in a final-game-of-the-season win at Southport.

In 2013/14 Robinson helped the Hatters to the Conference title, playing 27 times and scoring two important goals, in victories over Chester and Grimsby.

Last season the midfielder was unfortunate to be sent-off in a 2-0 defeat at Shrewsbury and, after falling down the pecking order in the Hatters side, he was loaned to Kidderminster where he played six times.



Town boss John Still told lutontown.co.uk: "Matt is joining a good club with ambitions of promotion this season and I am positive he will be a big success on Humberside."

Meanwhile Parry, who was also a part of the title-winning Conference squad, has made 23 appearances for the Town, scoring three times.

We'd like to wish both players the best of the luck over the next month.



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Home ticket prices for the 2015/16 season

	Cat A	Cat B	Cat C
Adult	£22	£20	£18
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Golden Senior (75+)	£14	£12	£10
Youth (10-17)	£10	£8	£6
Acc. Junior (U10)	£7	£5	£3

H PORTSMOUTH



Saturday 29th August 2015, 3pm

Tickets for this match are now available from the ticket office and online at category A match prices.

H LEYTON ORIENT



Tuesday 1st September 2015, 7.15pm

Please note the earlier kick-off time of this match. Prices: £12 adults, £8 seniors and young adults, £5 golden seniors, £3 under-18s, free for accompanied under-16s with an adult. This match will be unreserved seating. Please note the David Preece will be closed for this fixture. The Kenilworth Road end will be open in the lower tier, central section only. The Oak Road end will be available to both sets of supporters, while the main stand and enclosure will be open as usual.

CAMBRIDGE UTD A



Saturday 5th September 2015, 3pm

This is an all-ticket match for Luton Town supporters. We have been allocated 1,433 seats in the South Stand. Any remaining tickets are now available on general sale online or in person or via phone on 01582 416976 until 2pm on 4th September, subject to availability. Prices: £20 adults, £15 over-62s, students with ID and 17-21-year-olds, £10 under-16s. Wheelchair disabled seats should be purchased from Cambridge on 01223 566500. Ambulant disabled tickets will be sold at relevant price with a carer free of charge from the Luton Town ticket office.

NOTTS COUNTY A



Saturday 12th September 2015, 3pm

We have yet to receive ticket details from Notts County. Admission prices and selling arrangement will be published in due course online and in future programmes.

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COMMERCIAL TALK...

WITH COMMERCIAL
MANAGER **DAVID HOSKINS**

Good evening and welcome back to another Tuesday night under the Kenilworth Road floodlights.

A big welcome to all of our commercial partners, sponsors, and the family of our mascot, as well as all of our guests in our suites and boxes tonight. Remember if you would like to be a mascot, hire a box or become a matchball sponsor at any of games this season please do get in touch with us here at Kenilworth Road.

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MASCOT

SHAY GAVIN



Please give a warm welcome to our commercial mascot this evening who is 11-year-old Shay Gavin from Luton. Shay comes to matches with his mum, dad and grandad and he attends Cardinal Newman School.

As any football-mad youngster he listed his hobbies as just "football!" Shay's favourite Hatters player is midfielder Cameron McGeehan and he will get to meet Cameron and all of the players in the dressing room before the match and then lead the team out onto the pitch before kick-off. We hope you have a wonderful evening with us Shay!

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Welcome to Kenilworth Road **STOKE CITY**



TEAM PROFILE STOKE CITY

Nicknames: The Potters
Ground: Britannia Stadium
Last season: Premier League
Manager: Mark Hughes
Last match:
Norwich 1-1 Stoke City

HATTERS v POTTERS

Luton wins 13
Draws 14
Stoke City wins 16

It gives us great pleasure to welcome everybody associated with Stoke City to Kenilworth Road this evening for our first meeting with the Potters in the League Cup.

You have to go back to February 2007 for the last time the two sides met in a goalless draw at the Britannia Stadium and the fortunes of both clubs couldn't have been more opposite since then.

While the Hatters plummeted from the second tier to the Conference in the space of three years, City meanwhile won promotion to the Premier League in 2007/08 under Tony Pulis – and have stayed there ever since.

Now recognised as an established top flight club, the Potters have defied the odds in their time in the Premier League. After staving off the threat of relegation in their first season in 2008/09, City have continued to progress each season and in 2010/11, the club reached their first ever FA Cup final, where they lost to Manchester City.

After a 13th place finish at the end of the 2012/13 campaign, the Potters hired former Blackburn boss Mark Hughes and the past two campaigns have seen City finish ninth twice.

The style of football at the Britannia Stadium has changed dramatically since Hughes has taken over. No longer are Stoke famed for long throws, but the side are now encouraged to play exciting football. And with the squad at Hughes' disposal, especially this time round, hopes are high in the Potteries that the team can break into the top seven in the Premier League.

Our visitors are blessed with a squad full of highly-rated international players, led by their newest and most expensive recruit – at £12m – in Swiss international Xherdan Shaqiri. Hughes has also been able to lure former Barcelona attackers Ibrahim Afellay and Bojan to the Britannia, and when you combine those players' talented with the likes of Charlie Adam, Stephen Ireland, Glen Johnson, Jonathan Walters and Ryan Shawcross, then you realise how much of a force Stoke could be in the top flight this term.

Six of the last seven seasons have seen Stoke reach the fourth round of the League Cup, and City supporters in the Oak Road end tonight will be encouraged to know that their side are unbeaten in their last three visits to Kenilworth Road, winning two of those.

Their last visit came in the Championship in 2006 in a 2-2 draw that saw Leon Barnett and Richard Langley score for the Hatters. City won 3-2 here in 2005 with Ahmet Brkovic and Kevin Nicholls scoring for the Town. You have to go back to 8th February 2000 for the last time the Hatters won at home to Stoke. That day two goals from Phil Gray gave the Hatters all three points in a Division Two (now League 1) clash in front of just 5,396.

LAST MEETING

Stoke City 0-0 Luton Town
Championship 17/2/2007

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Meet the VISITORS



OUR GUIDE TO THE MEN FROM THE BRITANNIA STADIUM

THE BOSS

MARK HUGHES



Former Manchester United and Wales striker in his sixth managerial job, having previously been in charge of Wales, Blackburn, Manchester City, Fulham and QPR.

BETWEEN THE STICKS

JACK BUTLAND

Capped once by England, 22-year-old Jack began his career at Birmingham. Has spent time out on loan at Birmingham, Barnsley, Leeds and Derby in the last two years. Now the Potters' number one.

IN DEFENCE

GEOFF CAMERON

Versatile American defender Geoff joined City in 2012 from Houston Dynamo. Capped 31 times for his country, he began his career at Rhone Island Stingrays.

GLEN JOHNSON

England international right-back Glen arrived at the Britannia Stadium in the summer following his release from Liverpool. Previously on the books at West Ham, Chelsea and Portsmouth.

MARC MUNIESA

Spanish defender capable of playing at centre-half or left-back, Marc moved from Barcelona to the Potters in 2013. A Spain Under-21 international he was a regular for Barcelona B.

ERIC PIETERS

Dutch international left-back Pieters joined the Potters for £2.5m from PSV Eindhoven in 2013. Began his career at Utrecht and won the Under-21 Euros in 2007 with Holland.

PHILIPP WOLLSCHIED

Summer arrival from Bayer Leverkusen, Phillip has deputised in the absence of the injured Ryan Shawcross. Only 26, the German has two caps for his country and has also played for Nurnberg.

THE MEN IN THE MIDDLE

CHARLIE ADAM

Scotland international who joined City from Liverpool in 2012. He began his career at Rangers before moving to Blackpool where his performances led to a fee of almost £7m.

IMBRAHIM AFELLY

Dutch international winger with 50 caps to his name, Afellay signed at the Britannia Stadium this summer from Barcelona. Began his career at PSV, where he won the title four times.

STEPHEN IRELAND

Attacking midfielder Stephen came through the Manchester City academy, making over 150 appearances before moving to Aston Villa. He is now in his second season with Stoke.

XHERDAN SHAQIRI

City's club record buy Xherdan joined two weeks ago from Inter Milan for £12m. The Swiss international shot to prominence with FC Basel in his homeland before moving to Bayern Munich in 2012.

GLENN WHELAN

Vice-captain and veteran of over 250 appearances for City, Glenn joined the Potters from Sheffield Wednesday in 2008 for just £500,000. The midfielder has been capped 61 times for Republic of Ireland.

MARCO VAN GINKEL

Young midfielder currently on-loan from Chelsea. A Dutch international, Marko joined the Blues from Vitesse Arnhem in 2013 for £9m.

UP FRONT

MARCO ARNAUTOVIC

Austrian international forward Marko joined City from Werder Bremen for £2m in September 2013. Spotted playing in the youth teams in Austria he moved to Holland with FC Twente in 2006.

JONATHAN WALTERS

Experienced forward who has now played over 200 times and scored 50 times for Stoke since arriving from Ipswich in 2010. A Republic of Ireland international with 33 caps to his name.

PETER CROUCH

Hugely experienced striker with over 600 appearances and 185 career goals to his name. Joined City 2011 from Spurs and has played for QPR, Portsmouth, Villa, Southampton, Liverpool and England.

MAME BIRAM DIOUF

Senegal international frontman Mame began his career in Norway with Molde. He spent a short spell with Manchester United but joined Hannover in 2012. Signed for Stoke in 2014 and scored 12 goals last season.



DEFINING MOMENTS

FOOTBALL HISTORIAN **LEIGH EDWARDS** SELECTS EIGHT KEY MATCHES AND MOMENTS THAT HAVE SHAPED STOKE CITY'S POST-WAR ERA

1963 SECOND DIVISION CHAMPIONS

Stoke City won the Second Division championship in 1962/63. Legendary winger Stanley Matthews had rejoined Stoke in October 1961 and Eddie Stuart arrived from Wolves. Dennis Viollet netted four goals in a 6-3 win over Charlton and newcomer Eddie Clamp starred in an 18-match unbeaten run. They remained on course for promotion after the 'Big Freeze', signing Jimmy Mollroy from Burnley in March and gaining six straight wins. Stoke clinched the title with a 2-0 win over the Hatters. Dennis Viollet and Jackie Mudie scored 43 goals, while other stars included Tony Allen, Bill Asprey, Jimmy O'Neill and Don Ratcliffe.

1964 LEAGUE CUP FINALISTS

Tony Waddington guided Stoke City to the League Cup final in 1964. Peter Dobing and Bobby Irvine made their debuts as Stoke began life back in the top-flight with

a 2-1 victory at home to Spurs. They also beat Aston Villa 3-1 before a poor spell sent them sliding down the table. John Ritchie was successfully introduced to the attack, while new-boys Calvin Plummer, Lawrie Leslie and George Kinnell improved results as Stoke consolidated higher status. The Potters defeated Scunthorpe 1-0, Bolton 3-0, Bournemouth 2-1, Rotherham 3-2 and Manchester City 2-1 in the League Cup before losing 4-3 to Leicester in the final.

1972 LEAGUE CUP WINNERS

Tony Waddington plotted Stoke City's 1972 League Cup final triumph. First Division results were again disappointing but in the League Cup they beat Southport 2-1, Oxford United 2-0, Manchester United 2-1, Bristol Rovers 4-2 and West Ham 3-2 after a marathon semi-final. Goals by Terry Conroy and George Eastham secured a 2-1 victory over Chelsea in the Wembley final: Gordon Banks, Jackie Marsh, Mike Pejic, Mike Bernard, Denis Smith, Alan Bloor, Terry Conroy, Jimmy Greenhoff (John Mahoney), John Ritchie, Peter Dobing, George Eastham. Stoke lost 2-1 to holders Arsenal in the FA Cup semi-final replay.

1979 FIRST-CLASS RETURN

Stoke City won promotion back to the top-flight under Alan Durban in 1978/79. New signings Mike Doyle and Sammy Irvine made their debuts as Stoke kicked off with a 1-0 victory at Cambridge United. The Potters were early leaders after an eight-match unbeaten start, with Brendan O'Callaghan and Garth Crooks forming an exciting partnership in attack. Stoke reached the League Cup fifth round and



The Potters players show their delight following promotion to the Premier League in 2008

maintained their promotion challenge by remaining undefeated in 13 successive games. Paul Randall arrived from Bristol Rovers and Stoke clinched promotion in third place after winning 1-0 at Notts County in their last match.

1993 RECORD POINTS TOTAL

Stoke City stormed to the Second Division championship with a record 93 points in 1992/93. Lou Macari's side won just one of their first seven games, then Wayne Biggins joined Barnsley in October. Newcomers included Nigel Gleghorn and Dave Regis as results improved, with Stoke going top after a 3-1 victory at Blackpool in November. The Potters remained in pole position with a record 25 match unbeaten run that ended with a 1-0 defeat at Leyton Orient in February. Mark Stein was top scorer with 26 goals and other stars included Ian Cranson and Vince Overson as Stoke clinched promotion with a 1-0 win over Plymouth.

2002 PROMOTION WINNERS

Gudjon Thordarson plotted Stoke City's 2001/02 Second Division play-off final triumph. Summer signings included Peter Handyside, Peter Hoekstra, Chris Iwelumo and Sergei Shtanyuk, then Neil Cutler arrived from Aston Villa in September as Stoke soared into the promotion frame with a ten-match unbeaten run. They briefly went top of the table after a 5-1 victory at home to Wycombe in December and maintained their challenge with a 5-0 trouncing of Cambridge, then won

seven out of ten games to qualify for the play-offs in fifth position. Stoke defeated Cardiff 3-2 on aggregate, then beat Brentford 2-0 in the Play-Off final.

2008 MASTER POTTERS

Tony Pulis guided the Potters back to the top-flight after an absence of 23 years in 2007/08. The Potters lost just one of their opening 10 Championship games, then maintained their promotion challenge with a mid-season 12 match unbeaten run. Ricardo Fuller and Liam Lawrence netted hat-tricks in consecutive matches against West Brom and Barnsley over Christmas. Stoke went top of the table with five straight wins in February but then managed just one victory in eight games. They clinched promotion as runners-up with a 0-0 draw at home to Leicester on the final day. Fuller and Lawrence scored 29 goals between them.

2011 FA CUP FINALISTS

City were FA Cup finalists for the first time in 2011. Tony Pulis' side defeated Cardiff City 2-0, Wolves 1-0, Brighton 3-0, West Ham 2-1 and Bolton Wanderers 5-0 to reach the Wembley final. Yaya Toure's second-half goal gave Manchester City a 1-0 victory over the following Stoke team: Thomas Sorensen, Andy Wilkinson, Marc Wilson, Robert Huth, Ryan Shawcross, Glenn Whelan (Danny Pugh), Jermaine Pennant, Rory Delap (John Carew), Kenwyne Jones, Jon Walters, Matthew Etherington (Dean Whitehead). The Potters lost seven of their opening 11 Premier League games and finished in 13th place.



City celebrate during their 1972 League Cup final win over Chelsea

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Numbers **GAME**

CITY AND THE HATTERS IN NUMBERS

DID YOU KNOW?

Kerry Dixon scored a hat-trick in that match, but the one player to score more goals in a game against Stoke for the Hatters was Gordon Turner. Our all-time record goalscorer hit all four Town goals in 4-1 victory over the Potters at Kenilworth Road in February 1961.

6-2

As you will have read already the Hatters' biggest margin of victory over the Potters came here at Kenilworth Road as recently as November 1993. David Pleat's side overcame a 2-0 deficit to win 6-2.

HEAD 2 HEAD

43 PLAYED

13 LUTON WINS

14 DRAWS

16 STOKE WINS

69 LUTON GOALS SCORED

68 CITY GOALS SCORED

1911 YEAR OF FIRST MEETING

Stoke, actually known just then simply as 'Stoke' held the Hatters to a 1-1 draw at Kenilworth Road in the Southern League in front of 8,000.

12

Bristol Rovers have won 12 times against the Hatters on Bedfordshire soil and have won on three of their last five visits, with victories in 2007, 2000 and in 1999.

8

In a 10-year period between 1984 and 1994 the Hatters enjoyed an eight-match unbeaten record against Stoke, winning six and drawing twice. During that time the Town scored 24 goals to Stoke's nine. As well as the 6-2 win in 1994, the Town also recorded 4-0 and 4-1 wins in 1985 (in the top flight) and 1988 (in the Simod Cup) respectively.

4-4

Back in 1983 the Hatters burst onto the scene in the top flight with a number of eye-catching and high-scoring games. One match in particular was an eight-goal thriller against Stoke at the Victoria Ground in which both sides scored four times. Despite two from Brian Stein and further goals from Paul Walsh and Mal Donaghy the Hatters could not secure victory.

DID YOU KNOW?

Both clubs spent a short time playing in the Western League in the early 1900s, with the Hatters winning one and drawing the other in the two meetings at this level.

STOKE CITY TROPHY CABINET

FOOTBALL LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION: 1933, 1963, 1993

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION THREE NORTH: 1927

LEAGUE CUP WINNERS: 1972

FOOTBALL LEAGUE TROPHY WINNERS: 1992, 2000

City were also FA Cup runners-up in 2011 and beaten finalists in the League Cup in 1964.

34,168

The biggest attendance to witness a Luton versus Stoke match came back in the old Second Division (now Championship) in May 1963. The Potters needed victory to secure the title and a 2-0 win did precisely that. They finished one point ahead of second-placed Chelsea and third-placed Sunderland. The Town, meanwhile, finished bottom and were relegated.



COVER STORY

Club historian ROGER WASH tells the story of the match behind today's programme cover

LUTON TOWN 6 STOKE CITY 2

27TH NOVEMBER 1993

After escaping relegation from Division Two (now the Championship) in 1993, in what would have been the Town's second successive demotion, manager David Pleat and his players hoped that the new campaign would bring about a period of stability and perhaps even a return to the top flight.

Unfortunately, after a bright opening game, when local rivals Watford were seen off at Kenilworth Road, the Hatters went on a run of six games without tasting further victory which sent them tumbling down the table once more.

The poor run was finally ended in emphatic style when Barnsley were thrashed 5-0 at Kenilworth Road although the Tykes played for most of the game with only 10 men after

Gerry Taggart was sent off for a bad foul on Julian James. Celebrations were cut short, however, when it was pointed out that the Town's two victories had been against depleted sides, as Watford had actually been reduced to nine men on the opening day!

By the time of the visit of Stoke to Kenilworth Road on 27th November the Town had played another nine games since beating Barnsley but had won only three of them and losing the other six and it was no surprise that we were hovering just above the relegation places only two points off the bottom.

Off-field problems had raised their head once more in the shape of Chairman David Kohler's decision to sell the club to the Ellingham and Mitchell consortium. The 'will they, won't they' saga went on for weeks with claims and counterclaims reverberating around the corridors of Kenilworth Road which obviously had an unsettling effect on all those involved with the club.



The Town had been due to play Wolves at Kenilworth Road the week before the visit of Stoke but the game had been called off at the 11th hour due to an icy pitch. It was hoped that the extra week would give David Pleat the time to get some of his injured players fit. As it turned out he was unsuccessful as Marvin Johnson, Julian James, David Greene and David Preece all failed to make the starting line-up. Paul Telfer was a late casualty and John Dreyer was out through suspension.

Stoke had eyes on the other end of the table and were sitting comfortably in eighth spot and only seven points off the top. They had, though, suffered a blow earlier in



the month when Lou Macari, who had led them to promotion the previous season, had decided to move to Celtic, one of his old clubs, as manager. His replacement, Joe Jordan, had only one decision to make before the trip to Kenilworth Road which was whether to use loan signing from Celtic, Gordon Marshall, in goal or recall out of form Mark Prudhoe. He decided to give ex-Scotland international Marshall his debut.

GIFTED

The supporters' heads were in their hands as early as the second minute when a mistake from young Jamie Campbell, deputising for Dreyer in central defence, gifted the ball to Potters' Dave Regis who made no mistake with a low strike. It got even worse a few minutes later when Des Linton headed Toddy Orligsson's corner into his own net.

The players did not have long to feel sorry for themselves as

within two minutes Kerry Dixon had reduced the deficit. Dixon, probably the only player to have benefitted from the enforced lay-off the previous week after being out for a large part of the season through injury, took a pass from Ceri Hughes in his stride and hammered a 25-yard shot into the top corner.

Suddenly the Hatters had clicked into gear and almost everything they tried came off. After 35 minutes Hughes hit a 25-yarder past Marshall from a short free kick taken by Alan Harper and two minutes later the recovery was complete when Scott Oakes fired a left foot drive into the bottom corner of the net. Mitchell Thomas, on loan from West Ham and making his second home debut after seven years away from Kenilworth Road, hit a low cross to the back of the penalty where another loanee, Paul Dickov, sold the Stoke defence a dummy leaving the way open for Oakes. The Potters changed formation for

the second half in a bid to save the game and for time caused a few anxious moments in the Luton defence. Trevor Peake, however, swept up brilliantly to hold together the makeshift Hatters back line as the game gradually swung away from Stoke once more.

Minutes after John Hartson came on for Dickov, who had broken his nose, the Town made the game safe when, after a good run and pass from Oakes, a thundering right foot shot from Dixon gave the goalkeeper no chance.

The scoring was still not complete for on 79 minutes Dixon converted an Oakes cross with his head for his first ever hat-trick in Luton colours. Tony Thorpe was then introduced to the fray for his first taste of League action, replacing the tiring Jason Rees, and was instrumental in the four-man move that set up Hartson to side-foot in a last-minute goal to make it a resounding 6-2 victory, The Town's best for five years.

THE PROGRAMME



Although Football League meetings between the Town and Stoke City did not start until 1953, the two teams did actually meet in the Southern League in the years leading up to World War One.

Back tracking by Roger Wash



The Town produced a colourful 40-page programme for the visit of Stoke.

David Pleat's normal column was hijacked by Chairman David Kohler where he was hoping that the club would be under new ownership by kick-off time. As it turned out the takeover did not happen.

The Town's American goalkeeper Juergen Sommer was interviewed in an article where he hoped for a call up to the USA squad for the forthcoming World Cup. His

dream did come true as he was to earn three caps for his country while at Kenilworth Road.

Another international, Geoff Aunger, who had played 12 times for Canada, was reflecting on his first team debut for the Hatters where he had scored in a 3-2 defeat at Crystal Palace a few weeks before. Sadly this was as good as it got for him as he was to make only five appearances before asking for his contract to be cancelled.

Anyone remember the Town's ClubCall telephone line which was the only way to get up to date information in those pre-internet days? I must have spent a fortune at '36p per minute cheap rate and 48p at other times'!

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Development Squad **SUCCESS**

The Luton Town Cedars Under-18 Development Squad built on the successes of last season with a further three winners trophies, one runner-up spot, one third place and two semi-finals from the nine competitions they entered.

But when you're a young striker Additional to the trophies the programme has provided very real opportunities for the players to progress into Paul Driver's Luton Town professional scholars Under-18 group. This season has seen Callum Gregory and Luke Dunstan go back into the club on Day release to work with the club's professional scholars.

Head Coach Stuart Smith said: "As well as the lads have performed this season in some respects we are all a little disappointed with the final trophy haul. We felt that with the quality we possess we should have finished the season with six or seven trophies.

"Unfortunately injuries to key forward players at important times impacted on our ability to score goals which obviously costs games, particularly in knock out tournaments.

"However, the most satisfying aspect of the season has been the vastly improved quality of the football played. He have asked the lads to play a more possession based game and be more patient with the ball.

The lads have responded to this and our match analysis tells us that our targets are being achieved. However we are in the professional development stage so as well as developing the lads technically we must improve them tactically.

"The progress in this area has also been very satisfying with the lads being capable of playing in a number of different shapes. Going forward the lads now must improve their ability to close games out, a skill that will be vital in their progressions in to competitive adult football.

"We are looking to develop intelligent technical players who play the game in the right way but at the same time understand how to manage and win a game which is ultimately what a first team manager requires.

"The lads' development is in no small measure down to the excellent work of Joe Deeney and Andy Zeller whose time and coaching expertise has been invaluable to the lads, who in turn have shown a great willingness to learn."



DEVELOPMENT SQUAD ROLL OF HONOUR

Southern Counties Floodlit Youth League: Corinthian Division WINNERS

Southern Counties Floodlit Youth League: Divisional Champions Play Off RUNNERS UP

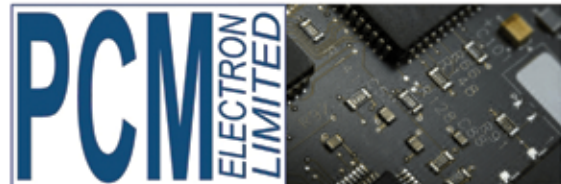
Southern Counties Floodlit Youth League: Colwyn Cup SEMI FINALISTS

Southern Counties Floodlit Youth League: Brian Hitchings Cup SEMI FINALISTS

Bedfordshire Schools County Cup WINNERS

South Beds District Schools Cup WINNERS

Football Conference Youth Alliance, London / South East Division THIRD PLACE



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CENTRE SPOT

Craig Mackail-Smith is concentration personified as he lines up his first goal in Luton colours in Saturday's game at Yeovil. More pictures and reaction from Saturday's game will appear in our programme with Portsmouth this coming weekend.



PICTURE the PAST

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

Ricky Hill slaloms through the Stoke defence during the amazing 4-4 draw at the Victoria Ground in September 1982.



THE CAMERA never LIES

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

Luton skipper Steve Foster levels late on during an FA Cup third round tie at Kenilworth Road in January 1985 much to the disgust of the Stoke players. The Town won the replay 3-2 and fought their way through to the semi-final where they went out in heartbreaking fashion to Everton at Villa Park.



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Joining FORCES

Luton Town and Barnfield College have joined forces to rescue a popular educational scheme which looked set to be scrapped.

The scheme had operated successfully for a number of years, in conjunction with Hitchin Town.

Thankfully, following the recent announcement of Barnfield College as the Hatters' main sponsor for 2015/16 the Club are delighted that Barnfield College have stepped into the breach to ensure the continuation of this popular and successful course. The college will benefit through increased revenues and the young players will receive extended top-class coaching from Club staff.

The course, which allows 16-year-old school-leavers to participate in a BTEC Extended Diploma in Sport course, giving them a minimum of 16 hours of academic tuition per week plus 12 hours of football coaching each week from highly qualified Luton Town coaching staff, which includes their FA Level 1 & 2 coaching badges.

The boys play in the Football Conference Youth Alliance against some of the top professional clubs in the country and in recent seasons the team have won regional league and cup competitions.

At the end of the course there are a number of career and playing options open to the boys as the qualification they earn counts towards the University admissions

system; they have coaching qualifications which might open up opportunities to move into coaching either locally, maybe within Luton Town's Community Trust or as far afield as the United States, where some ex-students are now working.

Luton Town always monitors the progress of the boys and many of the players extend their playing experience via Hitchin Town or other local semi-professional clubs.

Tim Eyton-Jones, Principal and CEO of Barnfield College said: "This is an exciting opportunity for Barnfield College to engage with both Luton Town and Hitchin Town.

"Plans exist at the college to develop and progress further high quality led teaching, which naturally go hand in hand with the coaching provision offset against the classroom environment; supportive, team work and excellence as the benchmark.

"We look forward to welcoming students to the college over the coming season."

Hatters chief executive Gary Sweet said: "This educational programme is an important part of the Club's link with the local community.

"Not only does it allow us to keep a close eye on the development of those players who narrowly missed out on a scholarship place, it also provides a real opportunity for more

THE HATTERS
AND BARNFIELD
HELP SAVE
EDUCATIONAL
SCHEME



local lads to find a career path within football. I am delighted that Barnfield College have entered into this partnership with us."

Mark Burke, Hitchin Town first team manager said: "We have always had an excellent relationship with Luton Town and this relationship has flourished with the delivery of the college programme based at the Arena in Baldock.

"We are grateful to Barnfield College for stepping in and ensuring the course will continue for both existing and new learners. We look forward to this new and exciting partnership that can only benefit all parties involved"

With the new term due to start on Tuesday 1st September there are still places available on the course for 2015/16 with training/recruitment sessions taking place at the Baldock Arena on Friday 21st, Monday 24th, Wednesday 26th and Friday 28th August from 1pm finishing at 3.30pm.

If you think this course might be for you then contact Hitchin Town FC by email on info@htcfc.co.uk for further details or to book yourself on one of the sessions as listed above.



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2015-16 STAT PACK



LUTON TOWN

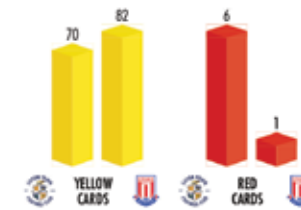
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STOKE CITY



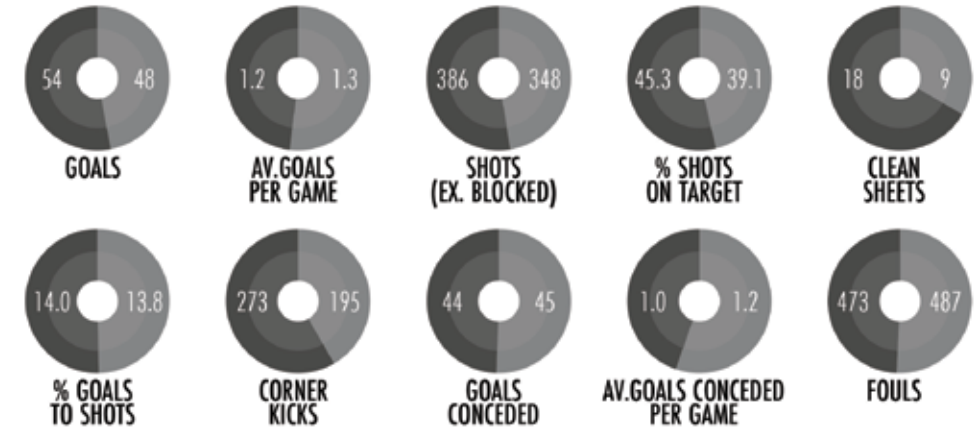
MATCH FACTS

Luton have won five of their last seven home League Cup games.

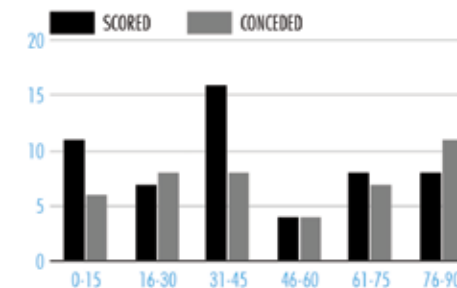


MATCH FACTS

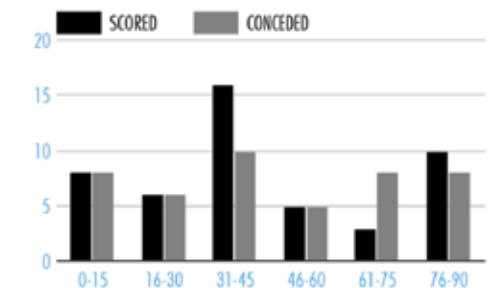
Since promotion to the Premier League in 2008, Stoke have lost just one second round fixture, a 4-3 home defeat to Swindon in 2012.



GOAL TIMES

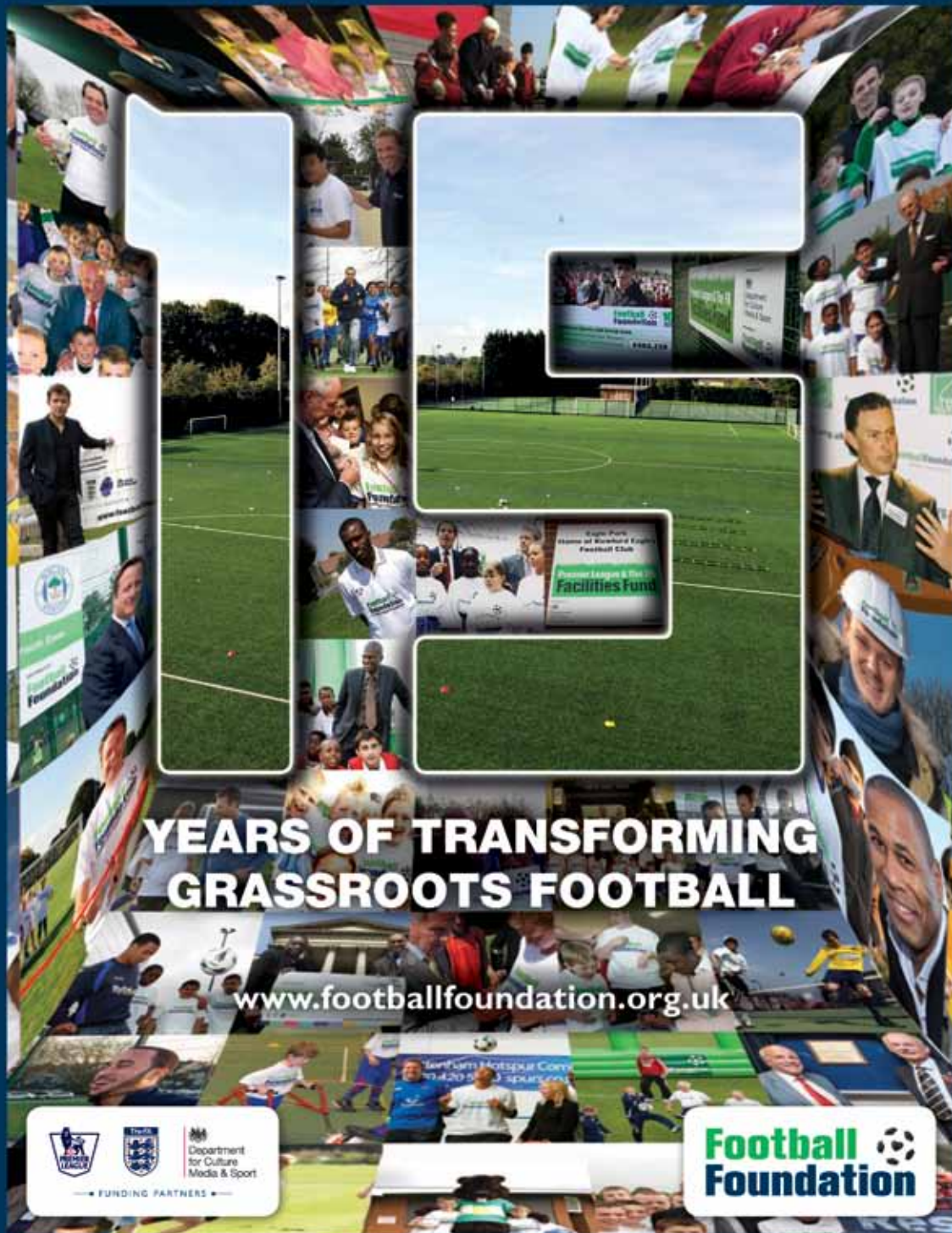


GOAL TIMES



*2014/15 League data (including play-offs).





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JUNIOR HATTERS

PLAYER PROFILE

PADDY McCOURT

DATE OF BIRTH: 29TH SEPTEMBER 1990

FROM: DERRY, NORTHERN IRELAND

HEIGHT: 5FT 11 1/2

POSITION: MIDFIELD

PADDY McCOURT WAS ANOTHER OF JOHN STILL'S SUMMER SIGNINGS ENJOYED 5 YEARS AND 66 APPEARANCES WITH SCOTTISH GIANTS CELTIC. NOT TO MENTION 17 CAPS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND. WHILST AT DERRY CITY, HE EARNED HIMSELF THE NICKNAME "THE DERRY PELE" THANKS TO HIS NEAT SKILLS.

WHO'S THAT GUY?

CAN YOU GUESS WHO'S FACE WE'VE HIDDEN IN LESS THAN NUMBER TWO GUESSES?



FACE PAINT PICS



FACT FILE

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STOKE CITY

Stoke City finished 9th in the Premier League last season. The last time the two teams met was in the Championship in 2007 a match that ended goalless. In head-to-head results, the Hatters have won 11 of their 44 meetings, with 14 draws and 16 defeats. #COYH!



Luton Town in the COMMUNITY

NATIONAL CITIZEN SERVICE WITH LUTON TOWN

The Trust are always looking at schemes that offer exciting opportunities for local youngsters and this summer we got involved in delivering the National Citizen Service (NCS) programme on behalf of the Football League Trust for 15 to 17 year olds. It led to a great month long adventure for 15 young local Bedfordshire lads as they finished up giving a group of adults with learning disabilities a day out they will never forget.

It led to a great month long adventure for 15 young local Bedfordshire lads as they finished up giving a group of adults with learning disabilities a day out they will never forget.

NCS is a government backed scheme and so far over 65,000 young people nationwide have taken part. The scheme aims to promote a more cohesive, responsible and engaged society and offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that helps young people build skills for work and life, while taking on new challenges and meeting new friends through working in teams and facing challenging activities which take them out of their comfort zone. They live and work with their team during residential weeks away at an activity centre and locally sample student life before getting involved in the local community by delivering a social action plan of their choice.

Step one involved recruiting 15 likely lads to take part who wanted to spend four weeks of their summer break in a team having fun and putting the

world to rites! Pretty much all of the boys came from our previous youth development squads and so most of them sort of knew each other but it wasn't until they had spent a week at an outdoor residential centre in Swindon that the fun and games began!

As well as experiencing the freedom of being away from home with new and old friends, the boys got the chance to take part in adrenaline-fuelled activities like rock climbing, canoeing, tunnelling and high wire dare-devil challenges – they also broke the centre record for the death defying milk crate stacking – 14 crates high - who knew! In an action packed week the boys also played a visiting Italian academy side and won

2-1 (naturally!) but also attended the pre-season friendly as guests of Swindon Town for the visit of Premier League Aston Villa.

After a busy week the boys were given the weekend off to recover before being reunited with team leaders Andy Cornwell and Matt Collett at the University of Bedfordshire student halls of residence in the centre of town. Week two was all about the group learning to live away from home in university style accommodation, learning to cook and budget for themselves with strict cash budgets for the week and one big shop in ASDA. The week also looked at learning some big life skills by meeting organisations like the Police, Fire Brigade and

Keech Hospice from our local community and learning about the issues facing them as well as developing new personal skills of teamwork, leadership and communication. The boys then put all of their new skills to good use as they also did first team ball boy duty on all three of our pre-season friendlies as well as



visiting our LTFC men's disability team on Friday match day down at the Beds FA.

It was another weekend off before the serious work of week three and four kicked in. This meant giving the boys the opportunity to put all the skills and experiences of the past two weeks into practice by collectively agreeing on a social action project that the boys felt would really make a mark in the local community. So the boys met bright and early at Kenilworth Road to thrash out a plan. After much discussion the boys decided they would help two groups: Keech Hospice and our LTFC men's disability team.

Keech Hospice rely on charitable donations and constant fund raising activities to provide palliative care for all Bedfordshire residents and one of their big events is the Star Walk which is an 10-mile fund raising walk for girls only starting at Barnfield College 10.30pm on Friday 12th September. The boys decided to help drum up recruits for the walk with a big promotion with the help of Tesco in Dunstable and with some polite canvassing on the day to some

startled shoppers managed to sign up over 20 recruits on the day with lots of other interested shoppers considering supporting the event. If you're reading this and want more information about this event you can visit www.keech.org.uk/starwalk.

Project number two which the boys had decided upon was to raise sufficient funds to take our LTFC Men's learning disability teams for a day trip and tour of Wembley Stadium.

Including coach hire and tour costs, the boys calculated they needed to raise almost £700.

A successful approach to the fire fighters at Stopsley Fire Station led to an arranged two day sponsored car wash with the proceeds to be split equally between the boys and the Stopsley fire fighters charities. Prior to the car wash all of the local businesses in and around Stopsley and the airport were canvassed by the boys to drum up interest and on the day Happy Harry joined the boys and Fire fighters to make sure enough cars were washed! Good old Harry did the trick and turned out to be a huge draw on the Hitchin Road with over 500

cars being washed over the two days – fans were even pulling up and making donations just to have a photo with Harry – he's a real ladies' man apparently!

With the cash raised, the boys trip was organised and thanks to Marshall's Coaches in Leighton Buzzard and Wembley Stadium who helped the boys on the budget, the day out to remember for our disabled footballers took place last Friday. Lots of social barriers were crossed on the day and the teamwork and leadership skills the boys had developed over the last month really came to the fore on the day.

Yes – 15 ordinary local lads had really made an impact on lots of lives less fortunate than themselves – a real social impact project but one which impacted on both the deliverers as well as the recipients. It was a great effort boys!

If you or any friends fancy NCS with the Hatters and would like further information just call our community office on 01582 737568 or drop us an email at community@lutontown.co.uk – we're doing it all again in October half-term.



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A WORD FROM The Football League Paper

BY CHRIS DUNLAVY

Never go back? Try telling Stuart Downing, whose return to the Riverside after six years away got off to the perfect start last weekend.

The 31-year-old - an England player just 10 months ago - inspired boyhood club Middlesbrough to a rip-roaring 3-0 win over Bolton, showing exactly why the Teessiders paid West Ham £5.5m to retrieve their favourite son.

Scorer of 17 goals in 181 games first time round, the winger departed in 2009 and has since played for Aston Villa, Liverpool and the Hammers - but said the lure of guiding Boro to promotion was too good to turn down.

And he isn't the only one to let heart rule head this summer with Bobby Zamora making an emotional return to Brighton, the club where he made his name as a teenager.

Time will tell if past glories can be rekindled. Meanwhile, here are some other players who couldn't resist the pull of an old flame.

PETER BEARDSLEY NEWCASTLE UNITED

Part of a sensational Toon side featuring Chris Waddle, Kevin Keegan and - later - Paul Gascoigne, Beardsley scored 61 goals in 147 games in his first spell at St James' Park.

'Pedro', as he was christened by the Geordie masses (on account of his foreign flair), then signed for Liverpool and won baubles galore, not to mention the hearts of the Kop who were furious when Graeme Souness flogged him to Everton for just £1m.

But when Newcastle were promoted to the Premier League in 1993, Keegan asked his old mate to come home. Paying £1.5m for a 32-year-old seemed madness but, ten months and 25 goals later (plus another 41 for strike partner Andy Cole), Newcastle were in Europe.

DEAN WINDASS HULL CITY

Surely one of the greatest returns of all time. When Windass joined his boyhood club as a 22-year-old in 1991, they were a tinpot outfit perpetually haunted by the threat of relegation to the Fourth Division. Indeed, his 57 goals in 176 games were the only thing keeping the Tigers out of it - they went down in 1996, a year after Windass departed.

But in 2007, by then pushing 40, Windass returned to the KC and, in his first season, volleyed the Wembley play-off winner that shot them into the Premier League.

STEVE CLARIDGE WEYMOUTH

Given the number of clubs he represented (21 in 29 years), it would be a statistical miracle if Claridge hadn't made repeat visits and he did - several times.

Undoubtedly, though, the most notable was Non-League Weymouth. Having made his name in the seaside town as a teenager, Claridge returned as player-manager in 2003 at the age of 37.

Still in decent condition - he'd won the League Cup with Leicester just three years earlier - the striker predictably made hay in the Southern League, netting 24 goals in 47 games and coming within a whisker of promotion to the Conference.

JUNINHO MIDDLESBROUGH

Downing needn't look far for inspiration. Bizarrely, the Brazilian magician loved Middlesbrough just as much as they loved him, returning not once, not twice, but three times. Sensational first time round - he came second to Gianfranco Zola in the 1997 PFA Player of the year awards despite Boro's relegation - the little maestro first rejoined on loan from Atletico Madrid in 1999, then made a £6m switch in 2002. Though a broken leg meant he never recovered his sparkling best, Juninho did help Boro win the 2004 League Cup and has since been named the club's greatest ever player.

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THE HOME MATCHES HERE AT KENILWORTH ROAD CONTINUE TO COME THICK AND FAST AS ON SATURDAY THE HATTERS WELCOME PRE-SEASON PROMOTION FAVOURITES PORTSMOUTH

WHO? Portsmouth, aka, Pompey, become the second visitors to Kenilworth Road for Sky Bet League 2 action when they make the trip up from Fratton Park this coming weekend. The biggest club in the division – who won the FA Cup as recently as 2008 – are now in their third season in the fourth tier. In 2013 they became the largest fan-owned club in England after Pompey Supporters Trust successfully gained possession of Fratton Park.

IN CHARGE. Pompey persuaded Paul Cook to leave Chesterfield for Fratton Park this

summer in a bid to finally get the club out of League 2. Cook, who is best remembered for his playing days with spells at Wigan, Wolves and Burnley, enjoyed an excellent record in charge of Chesterfield. He guided the Spireites to the League 1 title in 2014 – the same season in which they reached the JPT final. Cook then helped the Derbyshire outfit to within one place of the League 1 Play-Off places last term.

THIS SEASON. As with every season Portsmouth play at this level, a weight of expectation is heaped on the staff and players at the South Coast club. With Cook's credentials, they are possibly fancied even more to do well. With Matt Tubbs a proven goalscorer at this level he should continue to fire home the goals, but Cook has recruited well too this summer with the additions of Burton's Adam McGurk and Chesterfield winger Gary Roberts two signings of real intent.

PREVIOUS FORM.

Pompey have begun the season in good form, opening the campaign with a 3-0 win over Dagenham

& Redbridge and earning an excellent 2-1 win away from home at Plymouth. Cook's side also dumped out a full-strength Derby team of the Capital One Cup and tonight they go in search of another Championship scalp in the same competition when they host Reading.

HATTERS MATTERS.

The Hatters will be aiming to continue an excellent record over Portsmouth on home soil that has seen the Town win 27 of the 39 meetings in Bedfordshire. That's an impressive win percentage of 69 per cent.

Pompey have won just six times here, the last back in 1992. That 4-1 victory was Pompey's first in 70 years. Last season both sides drew 1-1 at Kenilworth Road but Portsmouth earned a 2-0 win in the return fixture at Fratton Park in March. The last time the Hatters beat Pompey was a 3-1 win at Kenilworth Road in 1995 with Steve Davis, Dwight Marshall and Bontcho Guentchev on target.

TICKETS. Fancying coming the game? Well, tickets for the match against Pompey are now on sale at the ticket office at category A prices, details of which can be found on page 13. Portsmouth have already sold-out their 1,000 allocation.

PORTSMOUTH FACTFILE

Formed: 1898
 Nickname: Pompey
 Last season: League 2 16th
 Follow them on Twitter:
 @officialpompey
 Colours:
 Blue and white
 Ground: Fratton Park
 Manager: Paul Cook

OUR 130TH YEAR

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	ATT	AWAY	POS	STARTING XI	SUBS
AUGUST									
Sat 8	3.00pm	A	Accrington Stanley	D 1-1	2,359	1,175	13	Justham Cuthbert Griffiths McNulty Wilkinson	Doyle SMITH 1 Green ▲ McCourt ● McQuoid ◆ Mackail-Smith Tyler Potts McGeehan Benson● Marriott▲ Ruddock● Guttridge
Tue 11	7.45pm	H	Bristol City (Capital One Cup 1)	W 3-1	3,948	427	-	Tyler Cuthbert McNulty Wilkinson Potts	O'Donnell ● O'Brien ● Ruddock McGeehan BENSON 1 MARRIOTT 2 ▲ Justham Lawless Hall Griffiths ◆ Guttridge McQuoid ▲ Doyle ●
Sat 15	3.00pm	H	Oxford United	D 2-2	8,877	781	15	Tyler Cuthbert McNulty WILKINSON 1 Griffiths	O'Donnell ● Doyle ● McCourt ▲ McGEEHAN 1 Benson Mackail-Smith ◆ Justham Lawless Ruddock ● Potts McQuoid Smith ▲ Marriott ●
Tue 18	7.45pm	H	Bristol Rovers	L 0-1	8,061	553	18	Tyler Cuthbert McNulty Wilkinson Griffiths	O'Donnell Doyle ● McCourt McGeehan ◆ Benson Mackail-Smith ▲ Potts Smith ● Lawless Ruddock ◆ Marriott ▲ McQuoid Justham
Sat 22	3.00pm	A	Yeovil Town	L 2-3	3,830	820	22	Tyler Cuthbert Griffiths McNulty ● Wilkinson	Smith McGeehan Green ▲ Hall ◆ BENSON 1 MACKAIL-SMITH 1 O'Donnell Lawless ◆ McCourt ▲ Ruddock McQuoid O'Brien ● Justham
Tue 25	7.45pm	H	Stoke City (Capital One Cup 2)						
Sat 29	3.00pm	H	Portsmouth						
SEPTEMBER									
Tues 1	7.15pm	H	Leyton Orient (JPT 1)						
Sat 5	3.00pm	A	Cambridge United						
Sat 12	3.00pm	A	Notts County						
Sat 19	3.00pm	H	Mansfield Town						
Sat 26	3.00pm	H	AFC Wimbledon						
Tue 29	7.45pm	A	Morecambe						
OCTOBER									
Sat 3	3.00pm	A	Hartlepool United						
Sat 10	3.00pm	H	York City						
Sat 17	3.00pm	A	Crawley Town						
Tue 20	7.45pm	H	Leyton Orient						
Sat 24	3.00pm	H	Plymouth Argyle						
Sat 31	3.00pm	A	Dagenham & Redbridge						
NOVEMBER									
Sat 14	3.00pm	H	Barnet						
Sat 21	3.00pm	A	Stevenage						
Tue 24	7.45pm	H	Carlisle United						
Sat 28	3.00pm	A	Newport County						
DECEMBER									
Sat 12	3.00pm	H	Northampton Town						
Sat 19	3.00pm	A	Exeter City						
Sat 26	3.00pm	H	Wycombe Wanderers						
Mon 28	3.00pm	A	Portsmouth						
JANUARY									
Sat 2	3.00pm	A	Bristol Rovers						
Sat 9	3.00pm	H	Yeovil Town						
Sat 16	3.00pm	H	Cambridge United						
Sat 23	3.00pm	A	Mansfield Town						
Sat 30	3.00pm	H	Notts County						
FEBRUARY									
Sat 6	3.00pm	A	Wycombe Wanderers						
Sat 13	3.00pm	A	AFC Wimbledon						
Sat 20	3.00pm	H	Hartlepool United						
Sat 27	3.00pm	A	York City						
MARCH									
Tue 1	7.45pm	H	Morecambe						
Sat 5	3.00pm	A	Leyton Orient						
Sat 12	3.00pm	H	Crawley Town						
Sat 19	3.00pm	A	Plymouth Argyle						
Fri 25	3.00pm	H	Dagenham & Redbridge						
Mon 28	3.00pm	A	Barnet						
APRIL									
Sat 2	3.00pm	H	Stevenage						
Sat 9	3.00pm	H	Accrington Stanley						
Sat 16	3.00pm	A	Oxford United						
Tue 19	7.45pm	A	Carlisle United						
Sat 23	3.00pm	H	Newport County						
Sat 30	3.00pm	A	Northampton Town						
MAY									
Sat 7	3.00pm	H	Exeter City						



Paddy McCourt looks for a way through the Bristol Rovers defence in our last home match here at Kenilworth Road

MEET THE REF

PAUL TIERNEY

Lancashire whistler Paul makes his first return to Kenilworth Road since taking charge of our Capital One Cup tie against Swindon Town here last season in which he sent-off Luke Rooney for a second bookable offence. Paul's first season as a Football League referee came in 2009/10, and took charge of his first match involving the Hatters in an FA Cup tie against Rotherham United in November 2009 - a 2-2 draw. So far this season Paul has overseen four matches, showing 10 yellow cards. On Saturday he was in charge of Bristol City's 1-0 win at Middlesbrough in the Championship. Please give a warm welcome to Paul and his fellow officials this evening.

LUTON TOWN

1885-PRESENT DAY
THE FULL RECORD

PLAYED: **5267**
WON: **2101**
DRAWN: **1281**
LOST: **1885**
GOALS SCORED: **8363**
GOALS CONCEDED: **7583**

LEAGUE TABLE 2015/16

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Leyton Orient	4	4	0	0	11	3	+8	12
2 Wycombe Wanderers	4	3	1	0	7	1	+6	10
3 Plymouth Argyle	4	3	0	1	9	3	+6	9
4 Bristol Rovers	4	3	0	1	5	2	+3	9
5 Hartlepool United	4	3	0	1	5	3	+2	9
6 Portsmouth	4	2	2	0	8	4	+4	8
7 Cambridge United	4	2	1	1	9	8	+1	7
8 Exeter City	4	2	1	1	5	6	-1	7
9 Oxford United	4	1	3	0	7	5	+2	6
10 Northampton Town	4	2	0	2	4	4	+0	6
11 Crawley Town	4	1	2	1	5	3	+2	5
12 Mansfield Town	4	1	2	1	4	3	+1	5
13 Accrington Stanley	4	1	2	1	3	3	+0	5
14 AFC Wimbledon	4	1	1	2	4	6	-2	4
15 Morecambe	4	1	1	2	4	6	-2	4
16 Notts County	4	1	1	2	4	6	-2	4
17 Stevenage	4	1	1	2	4	7	-3	4
18 York City	4	1	1	2	2	5	-3	4
19 Yeovil Town	4	1	0	3	5	7	-2	3
20 Carlisle United	4	0	3	1	7	10	-3	3
21 Barnet	4	1	0	3	3	7	-4	3
22 LUTON TOWN	4	0	2	2	5	7	-2	2
23 Newport County	4	0	1	3	4	9	-5	1
24 Dagenham & Redbridge	4	0	1	3	3	9	-6	1

PLAYER STATS 2015/16

	THIS SEASON										LIFEC		
	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTAL		DISP		CAREER TOT				
	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	APPS	GLS	Y	R	APPS	GLS			
Zane Banton	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	0	0	6	0	
Paul Benson	3	(1)	1	1	(0)	1	4	(1)	2	0	67	22	
Scott Cuthbert	4	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	5	(0)	0	0	5	0	
Nathan Doyle	3	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	3	(1)	0	0	35	0	
Danny Green	2	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	0	2	0	
Scott Griffiths	4	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	4	(1)	0	0	96	3	
Luke Guttridge	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	63	17	
Ryan Hall	1	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	24	0	
Elliot Justham	1	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	7	0	
Alex Lawless	0	(1)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	173	21	
Craig Mackail-Smith	4	(0)	1	0	(0)	0	4	(0)	1	0	4	1	
Jack Marriott	0	(3)	0	1	(0)	2	1	(3)	2	0	4	2	
Paddy McCourt	3	(1)	0	0	(0)	0	3	(1)	0	1	0	4	
Cameron McGeehan	3	(0)	1	1	(0)	0	4	(0)	1	0	37	7	
Steve McNulty	4	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	5	(0)	0	1	0	118	2
Josh McQuoid	1	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	1	(1)	0	0	2	0	
Mark O'Brien	0	(1)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(1)	0	0	2	0	
Stephen O'Donnell	2	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	3	(0)	0	0	3	0	
Magnus Okuonghae	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	0	
Dan Potts	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	1	0	
Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu	0	(3)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(3)	0	0	46	3	
Jonathan Smith	2	(2)	1	0	(0)	0	2	(2)	1	1	1	0	
Mark Tyler	3	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	4	(0)	0	0	270	0	
Luke Wilkinson	4	(0)	1	1	(0)	0	5	(0)	1	1	0	53	5



HOLD THE BACK PAGE

WITH SIMON OXLEY

Glimpses of Stoke City in recent seasons have been limited to driving past the ground on the way to some far-flung north-western outpost, such as Accrington a fortnight ago, using the lovely A50 to avoid much of the M6.



The Britannia Stadium in my experience is one of the "new" grounds to maintain the atmosphere of its predecessor, in this case the Victoria Ground, and the club is now firmly established in the top flight.

I last saw them in the Championship when, under Tony Pulis, they gained the second automatic promotion place, and unlike many before or since they have stayed put.

Tonight, though, for many of their number, will be a new experience - especially for the Barcelona contingent!

Now, when I think of Stoke City versus Luton Town one name comes to mind. Peter Thomson. They say that everyone has one great game in them, and that was his.

It was the 2nd December 2000, and the Hatters were under the caretaker management of Lil Fuccillo following the departure of Ricky Hill. It didn't work out for Ricky, arguably this club's greatest ever player, and Thomson was one of the signings that left supporters scratching their heads.

He had played non-league football in this country, but was signed for a six-figure fee from Dutch football. Now don't get me wrong, many players emerge from non-league to make a name for themselves, but this was a big transfer fee for the Hatters and much was expected. Sadly nothing much materialised, except for that Saturday afternoon at Stoke.

He scored twice in a 3-1 win, one a spectacular long range effort, which briefly lifted hopes of an escape from relegation. It prompted calls of astonishment to 3CR after the game.

I can't recall what incoming manager Joe Kinnear made of the striker, but even if I could I doubt any of it would be printable!

So whatever happened to Thommo? Well he returned to non-league, and played for the likes of Southport, Lancaster and Stafford, before four appearances for Manchester United. Sorry, make that FC United of Manchester, but he had his moment in the sun, and that moment was for Luton at Stoke.

Maybe somebody will make a name for themselves tonight. It has been a start to the season which has given us plenty of talking points. Tyler or Justham? 4-4-2 or 3-5-2 or 3-4-1-2? Should there be room for CMS and Marriott? And where will that new stadium be?

I have been impressed with the many new initiatives and work off the pitch. The work in the community for example, and the club's social media output, but we need that new stadium to make everything come together on and off the pitch.

Our visitors tonight still recall the old Victoria Ground with much fondness, but would I'm sure acknowledge that their success in recent years would not have been possible without the Britannia Stadium.

So Stoke tonight, Portsmouth on Saturday - two great names for those of us hankering for the glory of days gone by.

The following Saturday it's back to Cambridge - again! I think the 3CR car can drive itself there by now.

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TEAMSHEET



LUTON TOWN

- 1 Mark Tyler
- 2 Stephen O'Donnell
- 3 Dan Potts
- 4 Jonathan Smith
- 5 Stephen McNulty
- 6 Scott Cuthbert
- 7 Alex Lawless
- 8 Cameron McGeehan
- 9 Paul Benson
- 10 Ryan Hall
- 11 Danny Green
- 12 Scott Griffiths
- 14 Jack Marriott
- 15 Paddy McCourt
- 16 Elliot Justham
- 17 Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu
- 18 Magnus Okuonghae
- 19 Olly Lee
- 21 Luke Guttridge
- 22 Craig Mackail-Smith
- 23 Josh McQuoid
- 24 Curtley Williams
- 25 Mark O'Brien
- 26 Nathan Doyle
- 30 Luke Wilkinson
- 31 Craig King
- 32 Luke Trotman
- 33 Mark Onyemah
- 34 Isaac Galliford
- 35 Zane Banton



STOKE CITY

- 1 Jack Butland
- 2 Phil Bardsley
- 3 Erik Pieters
- 5 Marc Muniesa
- 6 Glenn Whelan
- 7 Stephen Ireland
- 8 Glen Johnson
- 9 Peter Odemwingie
- 10 Marko Arnautovic
- 11 Joselu
- 12 Marc Wilson
- 14 Ibrahim Afellay
- 15 Marco Van Ginke
- 17 Charlie Adam
- 18 Ryan Shawcross
- 19 Mame Diouf
- 20 Jonathan Walters
- 21 Geoff Cameron
- 22 Steve Sidwell
- 23 Xherdan Shaqiri
- 24 Dionatan Teixeira
- 25 Shay Given
- 26 Peter Crouch
- 27 Philipp Wollscheid
- 28 Bojan
- 30 Jakob Haugaard
- 31 Choulay
- 35 Oliver Shenton
- 36 Daniel Bachmann
- 38 Dominic Telford
- 39 Eddy Lecygne

TONIGHT'S OFFICIALS



Paul Tierney



Chris Powell



Darren Blunden



4 John Norbury

Back cover photograph taken in F Block.

Email us your Kenilworth Road pictures info@lutontown.co.uk