

**OFFICIAL PROGRAMME Price £3 ISSUE 19**

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO

# Luton Town v. Hartlepool United

Saturday, 20th February, 2016 Kick-off 3 p.m.



# Open Day

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>  
February 2016

5pm - 7:30pm

At:  
New Bedford Road  
& Enterprise Way

 **BARNFIELD**  
COLLEGE



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 **Official website:**

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## **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 Hartlepool United fixture from September 1967. To find out more, turn to page 22.



### **LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB 2020 LTD**

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### **OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME**

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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.





# NATHAN JONES

## NOTES FROM THE MANAGER

GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME BACK TO KENILWORTH ROAD FOR YET ANOTHER IMPORTANT MATCH IN SKY BET LEAGUE 2.

I would like to warmly welcome everybody associated with Hartlepool United to Bedfordshire today, in particular Craig Hignett and Curtis Fleming who I know well from their Middlesbrough days. They will be aiming to bounce back after a defeat to Notts County on Tuesday, a game which had seen them battle back from two goals down.

We, on the other hand, come into today's game after two away games and two contrasting performances against Wycombe a fortnight ago and at AFC Wimbledon last weekend.

At Wycombe I was filled with pride after what I felt was an absolutely outstanding second half performance.

I said after the game that we could count ourselves lucky not to be a goal down inside the first 25 minutes but gradually we grew into the game after taking the lead.

We never looked back and always looked the more likely to score the next goal. It was obviously pleasing to keep yet another clean sheet away from Kenilworth Road and, roared on by

a fabulous away support we were unfortunate not win by a greater margin.

However, after such a pleasing result and satisfying week's training we could not build on that positive against Wimbledon. The defending at times was not good enough and, although the first two Wimbledon goals had a tad amount of fortune about them, we cannot use that as an excuse.

### CONSISTENCY

Consistency is key and I am challenging the players to improve this because I feel that performing on a consistent basis will lead to an improvement in results.

We are now entering an important stage of the season

which will define where teams are going to finish.

The league is very tight and all the clubs will be fighting for different things: promotion, or the Play-Offs or for safety. Our goal is simply to improve. Our performances have been generally good, our results have been inconsistent. If we can gain a level of consistency then who knows what we can achieve.

One thing that has remained constant during my time in charge so far has been the unbelievable backing of the team we have received home and away. Against Yeovil I genuinely thought your vocal support in the closing stages would have helped us over the line. Decision-making and that little bit of luck you need deserted



us in the final few minutes that night and I still believe that was a hugely encouraging display against tough opposition.

Do not forget how much of an important part you play in helping us achieve success. It is an often over-used cliché in sport, but do not think we can win today without you backing us from the terraces.

Thank you for the support so far and please keep it up.

I would like to end by mentioning the success of Paul Driver's youth team who have reached the quarter-finals of the FA Youth Cup. To have won through to the last eight, particularly having faced four successive away ties, is an absolutely phenomenal

achievement and I would like to wish them all the very best of luck at Blackburn on Tuesday. We are very proud of them and everybody right the way through the club is behind you.

Enjoy the game.





# From the BOARDROOM

WITH CHAIRMAN **NICK OWEN**

GOOD EVENING AND WELCOME BACK TO KENILWORTH ROAD FOR OUR LEAGUE 2 MATCH AGAINST YEOVIL. A WARM WELCOME TO ALL THE OFFICIALS, PLAYERS AND SUPPORTERS WHO'VE MADE THE LONG JOURNEY HERE FROM SOMERSET.

Like us, they've had a tough old season and it's still infuriating to think we gave up a two-goal lead to lose at Huish Park way back in August. Little did we know then how wretchedly inconsistent we would be this season.

Like us, they've had a tough old season and it's still infuriating to think we gave up a two-goal lead to lose at Huish Park way back in August. Little did we know then how wretchedly inconsistent we would be this season.

Nothing illustrated how frustrating this game can be than Saturday's match against Notts County. I think most people would agree we were excellent at times.

The signs are there of a significant improvement in our approach – far more positive and direct, full of purpose and intent. We could easily have been two up at half-time and there was nothing to indicate we wouldn't go on and

win in the second half.

We certainly weren't quite as good after the break but we still had plenty of the play – the stats bear that out – yet somehow we ended up conceding two horrible goals and losing at home for the eighth time this season. Inconceivable before the campaign got under way. What's more, we haven't scored at Kenilworth Road since 12th December and we're now in February.

It's sobering to think we haven't come from behind to win a match since our last home game in the Conference!

But, as I said earlier, we are starting to look a far sharper outfit and it seems to me all of us appreciate that. Anyone who went to Mansfield will know just what I mean. We were totally in control at Field Mill, scored an early superb goal through Paddy McCourt and never looked in trouble. Pelly's power and skill for the second was breathtaking.

I can assure you that, despite Saturday's defeat, there is a new buzz about the place, the players are fully committed to the new regime and confident in the



knowledge that performances are improving significantly. Results will surely follow in the coming weeks.

And while we're talking about the future, wasn't it thrilling to see our Under-18s on the pitch at half-time on Saturday to receive the South East Youth Alliance Trophy? What a phenomenal season they have had, and who knows what lies ahead in the FA Youth Cup after their dogged victory at Oldham in midweek in vile conditions. I'd like to think that many of those lads can go on to become the backbone of Luton Town for the next generation. The signs are extremely hopeful and already Nathan has made it very clear he is keen to promote our younger players at the earliest opportunity.

For those of us with rather long memories, Yeovil is closely linked with one of our former managers. The idiosyncratic Alec Stock! He was Yeovil's renowned player-manager when they were a non-league side shortly after the war and they went on a sensational FA

Congratulations to our Under-18s, who were presented with the championship trophy at the weekend

Cup run in 1949 which included beating the mighty Sunderland on the way to the fifth round where they were soundly thrashed by Manchester United in front of 81,000 spectators. Incidentally, Alec had been a tank commander in the Second World War and was blown up but survived at Caen in France.

Alec had a successful career as a manager, notably with QPR, but he was here at Kenilworth Road from 1968 to 1972 and took us to promotion into the second flight. Amongst others, he signed strikers Malcolm Macdonald and Don Givens. I see a lot of Don these days and he is always telling me stories about Alec. How he put notices up around the dressing room area with catchphrases or words of wisdom to inspire the troops!

"He was a really nice man," said Don. "Rather posh, enormously experienced, a man who knew so much about the game and commanded huge respect."

When he signed Don, he offered him a club house to rent at £1.50 a week (!), but advised him to 'do the best thing' and buy a house for himself. "Best bit of advice I ever had," said Don.

"I think my house in Luton cost me about £8,000 and the value doubled within eighteen months!"

It'll be good to welcome one of our own back tonight, Alex Lacey, who spent five years of his young career here at Kenilworth Road before moving to Somerset and became a highly popular figure with the fans. An interesting night too for Nathan Jones, who served seven years at Yeovil as player and coach.

So, could this be the night we sort out our bizarre home form and start on a run that could still see us squeeze into the Play-Offs? Football is a game that is positively marinated in hope and, as long as it is mathematically possible, I will always cling onto that hope. As ever, the sometimes deafening roar from the stands can play a major part, so do please keep up your tremendous backing for the team and perhaps we'll enjoy an exhilarating ride from now until May. Momentum's what we need - we certainly have the quality players.

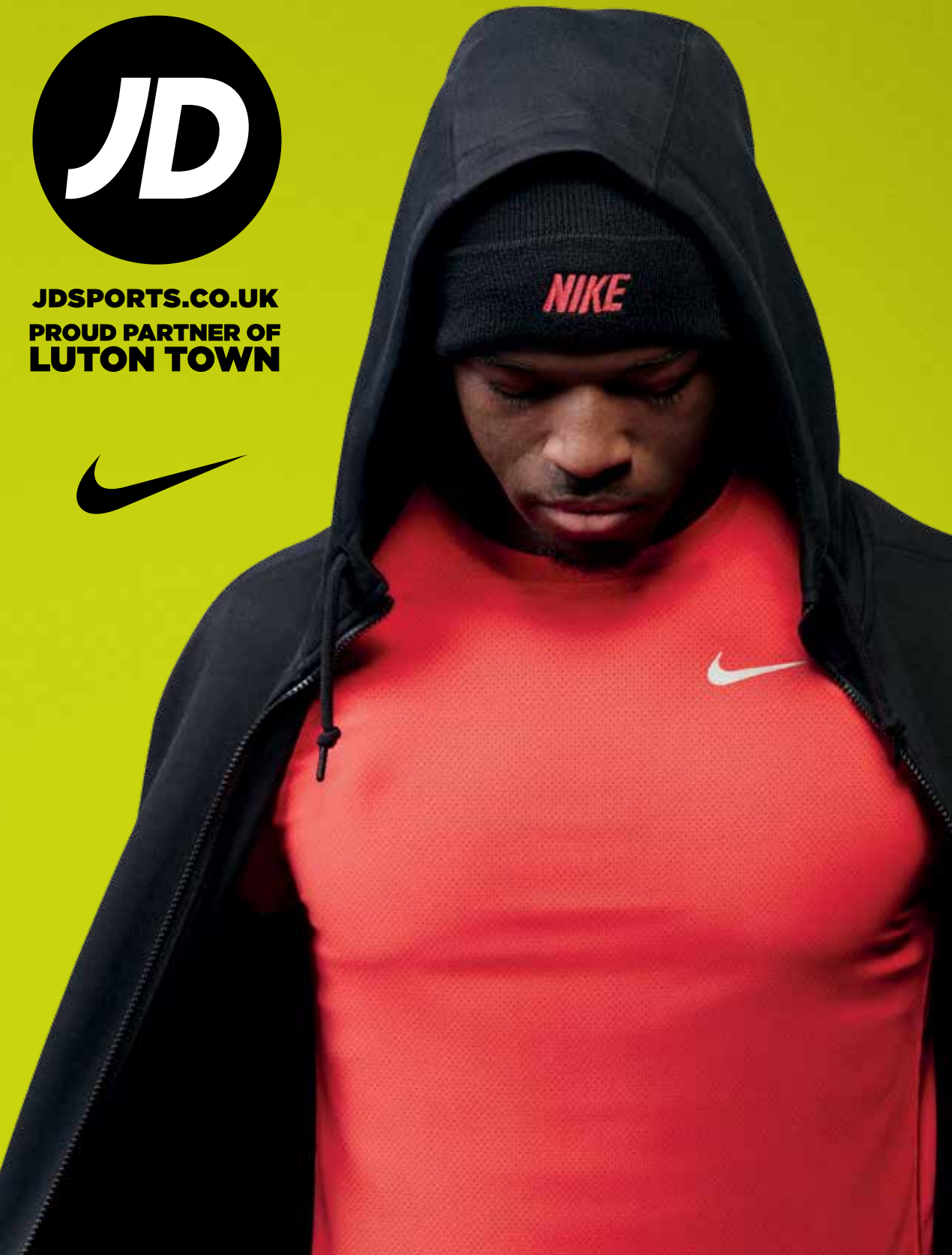
Bye for now.







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# GREAT SCOTT

## THE CAPTAIN'S LOG

Since my last notes we've picked up four points from three games and, typically of our season so far, have experienced plenty of ups and downs.

Against Yeovil I thought we looked comfortable until they scored. They barely tested Elliot throughout the evening but going behind meant we were chasing the game. Thankfully, and deservedly, we levelled through an absolute worldie from Alan Sheehan. After that we pressed and pressed in the closing stages but couldn't find a winner despite our best efforts. I think if the game had gone on another five minutes we would have found it.

A lot has been made of our home form this season given our poor return of just three wins so far in League 2. We all know that is unacceptable for a club our size. We are often asked by the media if we are scared or nervous playing at home. There's no other way to answer that other than simply saying we're not. We relish playing at Kenilworth Road and are desperate to turn our form on home soil around and give your fantastic support something to smile about. Hopefully three points this afternoon against Hartlepool can do precisely that.

Looking back two weeks ago we recorded a superb win at Wycombe. They went into the game having won at Plymouth and having played them here on Boxing Day we knew we'd be in for a tough game. After a first half-an-hour under the cosh we gradually found our feet and started to find confidence on the ball. Cam scored a fantastic goal and we never looked back after that. I felt we were superb all over

the pitch, especially in the second half. We controlled the game, restricted Wycombe in our own box and could have added a couple of more goals.

A result like that, in front of another brilliant away following, gave us the confidence to go to Wimbledon and pick up another result on the road. Sadly, that wasn't to be and we were undone by Wimbledon's threat from set-pieces. Defending set-plays are vital in this division and if you are sloppy in those situations you are going to get punished.

It was disappointing because we controlled the game for large parts and played some nice, patient football on a real pudding of a pitch. The first two goals took some wicked deflections and sometimes they cannot be helped. The two quick goals at the start of the second half, however, cannot be excused.

The result is a set-back in what's been a positive start under the new gaffer and I hope you can see how he wants us to play. We have all embraced his style and methods and training has been very enjoyable. However, after such a poor result we are focused on putting things right today.

Turning attention away from the first team, on behalf of all the lads, I'd like to congratulate the youth team on their penalty shootout win over Preston last week. On Tuesday they travel to Blackburn knowing a win would put them in



the semi-finals of the FA Youth Cup. It is a tremendous achievement to get this far and full credit to all the boys, Paul Driver and everyone associated with the academy. Good luck lads!

Finally today we are lending our support to our official players' charity, Happy Days. Keep an eye out for the bucket collections around the ground and please give generously to what is a wonderful charity.

Enjoy the game, thank you for your support and get behind us.



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## HELLO HARPS!

We'd like to give a warm welcome to Ratoath Harps Under-9s to Kenilworth Road this afternoon, who have travelled over from Ireland to take on a Hatters academy squad in a friendly this weekend.

The team's mini-tour has been organised by the Harps' Paul Harris who is originally from Bedfordshire and once had a trial at Kenilworth Road. Led by coaches Bob Sherry and Mark Bizzell, the young Harps are also taking on Bedford Town youth tomorrow. The boys are in the crowd this afternoon with many of them attending their first ever professional football match. We hope you enjoy your days with us and good luck for the rest of the season!



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Edraya and Daisy Folland are 13 and 12 respectively and are the third generation of Follands currently attending Kenilworth Road. Edraya's birthday was yesterday while Daisy's big day is today! Lyn Folland, who got in touch with us, has supported the Town since 1959, while her son Kevin has been following the Hatters since 1976. The newest member of the Folland family is Danielle, who was introduced in 2008! Have a great day with us!

## YOUTH CUP QUARTER-FINAL ON TUESDAY

The Town Under-18s' FA Youth Cup quarter-final away to Blackburn Rovers will take place at Ewood Park on Tuesday 23rd February (kick-off 7pm).

Entry at Ewood Park will be £4 for adults and £2 concessions. Our scheduled Youth Alliance League Cup semi-final at home to Swindon has subsequently been rearranged and will now take place

at Kenilworth Road on Thursday 3rd March (7.30pm).

Paul Driver's side booked their place in the last eight by beating Preston North End on penalties, and travel to face a Rovers side who lie fifth in the Premier League's Under-18 North Section.

The Bobbers Travel Club will be running a coach to this game. Their fare is £29 adults and £26 concessions and they leave Luton railway station at 12.30pm.

## RIP JOHN PERRY 3rd June 1925 – 20th January 2016

Everyone at Luton Town were saddened to hear of the death of Town fan John Perry on 20th January.

He saw his first Hatters match, an FA Cup replay with Chelsea, on 16th January 1935 so had just clocked up 81 years as a supporter.

He witnessed Joe Payne score 10 goals in 1936 and his often-repeated account of the 4-3 win, from 3-0 down, over Newcastle in 1946 is a family legend.

John was at Wembley for the defeats by Nottingham Forest in 1959 and 1989 and he was there too in 1988 when the League Cup was won. At the age of 62 he wept openly at the final whistle.

He held a season ticket from 1955 until 2010. His favourite

all-time player was Joe Payne, although latterly he would grudgingly admit some admiration for 'young Mick Harford'.

Declining health meant he was unable to attend matches in recent years but he would sit avidly in front of the television on a Saturday afternoon keeping abreast of the scores and then carry out face to face and telephone analysis with family members who had been there.

His legacy will live on through three children and six grandchildren who have all been imbued with his love for Luton Town.

## TICKING OFF THE 92 FOR LEWIS

Also here at Kenilworth Road today are the family and friends of Lee O'Neil who are visiting all 92 Football League grounds in memory of his son Lewis, who died aged four.

A flag has been made bearing Lewis's name which has been photographed inside and outside of each ground visited so far.

There are only seven stadia left for Lee and his family to tick off – six after today. We wish you every success in completing the 92!

For all the latest news at Kenilworth Road visit our official website [www.lutontown.co.uk](http://www.lutontown.co.uk)



# LET'S GO

## THE TOWN HIT THE ROAD NEXT WEEKEND WHEN THEY MAKE THE JOURNEY NORTH TO TAKE ON YORK CITY AT BOOTHAM CRESCENT

**WHO?** York City, aka the Minstermen from Bootham Crescent, York, Yorkshire. First founded in 1908, City won promotion back to the Football League in 2012 at the Town's expense, winning at Wembley 2-1 in the Conference Play-Off final thanks to goals from Ashley Chambers and Matty Blair.

**WHERE?** Bootham Crescent has been City's home since 1932 but the club are expected to move into a new Community Stadium with the local rugby club in the next few years. Hatters fans have the choice of standing on an open terrace behind the goal or in covered seats in the Popular Stand beside the pitch.

**HOW TO GET THERE.** From the Maple Road car park to the Bootham Crescent main entrance it's a good three-and-a-half hour drive and the best part of 185 miles. You can go via the M1 or A1 north, but coming off the A1, take the A64 to Scarborough and York. When you near York, join the A1237 Ring Road and continue on it until you reach the junction with the A19. Turn right at the junction and take the A19 towards York City

Centre and keep going until you get to a pub on your left called the Burton Stone Inn, at which point you turn left into Burton Stone Lane. Then take the first right into Grosvenor Road for the ground. The satnav for the ground YO30 AQ. The Bobbers are also running a coach to York. Their fare is £29 adults, £26 concessions. Call 01234 856542 to book your seat.

**HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?** The Town hold an overall advantage in head-to-head record between the two sides, winning 11 to York's nine. However, the Hatters have won just once in the last 14 meetings – a 5-0 win at Kenilworth Road when York played a midfielder in goal! The Hatters last won at Bootham Crescent in September 2001 but in the six games since the Town have failed to win and failed to score. It's been 556 minutes since Ian Hillier scored the winner for the Hatters in that 2-1 victory.

**THIS TIME ROUND.** The Minstermen have struggled this season and find themselves deep in relegation trouble at the foot of the table. City axed manager Russ Wilcox in October after nine

games without a win and hired former Scotland international Jackie McNamara as boss. The Hatters were held to a 1-1 draw at Kenilworth Road in October with Cameron McGeehan's penalty earning the Town a point.

**KNOWING ME, KNOWING YOU.** The Town have two former City players on their books in the shape of midfielders Alex Lawless and Jonathan Smith. Smith played and was sent-off for York in the Town's last win against City – that 5-0 win at Kenilworth Road in January 2011. Lawless was part of the York side that beat the Town in the 2009/10 Play-Offs, before his move to Kenilworth Road the following season.

### YORK FACTFILE

Formed: 1908  
 Nickname: The Minstermen  
 Last season: 18th League 2  
 Follow them on Twitter: @yorkcityfc  
 Colours: Red and blue  
 Ground: Bootham Crescent  
 Manager: Jackie McNamara

# TICKET OFFICE

## TICKETS FOR HOME MATCHES

You can buy tickets for games here at Kenilworth Road in three simple ways. You can either pop into our ticket office in Kenilworth Road, or alternatively at our club shop in the Mall; telephone our ticket office on 01582 416976; or purchase tickets online at our online ticket website [www.eticketing.co.uk/lutontown](http://www.eticketing.co.uk/lutontown). Matchday tickets vary slightly depending on categorisation of matches this season. Each match will be assigned a category A, B or C and are outlined on this page and on our websites.

### Home ticket prices for the 2015/16 season

	Cat A	Cat B	Cat C
Adult	£22	£20	£18
Young Adult (18-21)	£17	£15	£13
Senior (65+)	£17	£15	£13
Golden Senior( 75+)	£14	£12	£10
Youth (10-17)	£10	£8	£6
Acc. Junior (U10)	£7	£5	£3

A



## YORK CITY



Saturday 27th February 2016, 3pm

We have received an initial allocation of 500 terrace spaces and 300 seats for this fixture. If required, the maximum allocation is 1,700 terrace places and 300 seats. Tickets are now on sale to Diamond and Season Ticket holders at two per person until close of business today. Any remaining tickets will be available on general sale online from 6pm today and from the Ticket Office by phone or in person from Monday 22nd February. Tickets will remain on sale until 3pm on Friday 26th February. Subject to availability, tickets will be available on the day at Bootham Crescent. **Prices:** Terracing: £18 adults, £12 over-65s, under-16s and students, free for under-5s. Popular Stand seating: £19 adults, £12 over-65, under-16s and students, free for under-5s. Wheelchair Disabled/Carer, Ambulant Disabled/Carer: £18 adults, £12 concessions plus carer free of charge (middle/higher rate).

## THREE GAMES IN THE OAK FOR £30 IN MARCH

Adults will be able to watch all three of the Town's home games in March in the Oak Road end for just £10 per match.

The Hatters take on Morecambe (1st), Crawley (12th) and Dagenham on Good Friday (26th) and we're offering fans the opportunity to watch all three games in the Oak Road end of Kenilworth Road for a combined £30.

The offer saves up to £28 on usual ticket prices and must be purchased together at the same time from the ticket office before 2pm on 1st March.



## MORECAMBE



Tuesday 1st March 2016 7.45pm

Tickets for this match are now on sale at category c prices.



## LEYTON ORIENT



Saturday 5th March 2016, 3pm.

We have received a full allocation of 1,385 seats for the fixture. Tickets are now on sale to Diamond and Season Ticket holders at two per person until close of business today. Any remaining tickets will be available on general sale online from 6pm today and from the Ticket Office by phone or in person from Monday 22nd February. They will remain on sale until 3pm on Friday 4th March. **Prices:** Popular Stand seats: £22 adults, £14 over-65s, students, armed forces, unemployed, £5 under-18s Wheelchair Disabled/ Carer / Ambulant Disabled / Carer Free of Charge with Middle / Higher rate Disability. Subject to availability, tickets will be available on the day at Brisbane Road but prices will increase £2 adults and £1 concessions.



# COMMERCIAL TALK...

WITH COMMERCIAL MANAGER **DAVID HOSKINS**

## MATCH SPONSOR

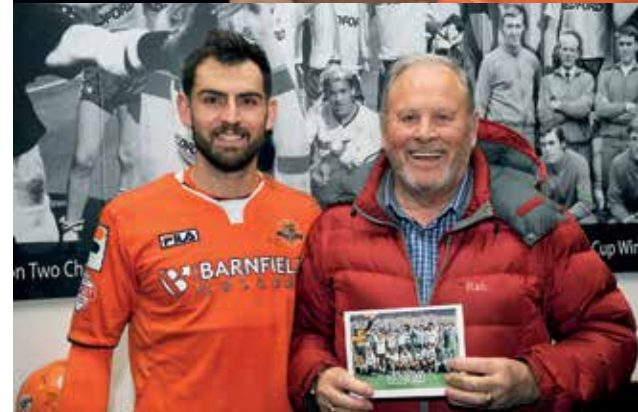
### ROB HALL

Today's match sponsor is Rob Hall. Rob, a life-long Luton fan, is sponsoring today's match on the day of his 50th birthday and is joined at the game by friends and family. Rob was booed by the Kenilworth Road faithful when he last sponsored a game here, but has since had the opportunity to apologise to Ed Asafu-Adjaye, clearly the best player on the park that day, for his poor decision! He's hoping that someone gets a hat-trick today in order to save his blushes this time around!

## MATCHBALL SPONSOR

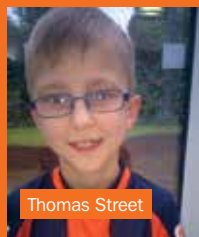
### PAUL STEPHENS & CO.

Paul Stephens, Graham Everitt, Rachel and Amy Burns, Mark Bradbury and Julian and Ann Hyde are seven season ticket holders from rows e and f in the Kenilworth Road stand. With almost 250 years supporting the Hatters between them they are proud to be match sponsors this afternoon. Following the Town home and away down the years the seven all have different opinions which often leads to some 'healthy' debate after games! Among their all-time favourite players are: Mick Harford, Jonathan Smith, Mal Donaghy, Ricky Hill, David Moss and Jake Howells.



## TODAY'S MASCOTS

We have the pleasure of welcoming three Luton mascots to Kenilworth Road this afternoon. They will get to meet manager Nathan Jones, all the Town players and Happy Harry before leading the team out on the pitch prior to kick-off. Our first mascot is nine-year-old Elliott Harding, who comes to matches here with his brother Josh and his dad. Taylor Hall is our second mascot. Taylor is nine and his favourite Hatters player is goalkeeper Mark Tyler. Last but by no means least we have nine-year-old Thomas Street as our third mascot. His favourite Town player is striker Craig Mackail-Smith. We hope you all have a great afternoon with us!



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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>1</b> MARK TYLER<br/>H: Tim Fordham<br/>A: Whosh<br/>G: Alan Francome</p>     | <p><b>2</b> STEPHEN O'DONNELL<br/>H: Dean Kemp<br/>A: Nigel, Ben &amp; Sam Martin</p>                         | <p><b>3</b> DAN POTTS<br/>H: Maddie Knight<br/>A: AVAILABLE</p>                                      | <p><b>4</b> JONATHAN SMITH<br/>H: Holly Kemp<br/>A: SoLYD Gold Hatters</p>   |
| <p><b>6</b> SCOTT CUTHBERT<br/>H: Whosh<br/>A: G. Owen Ceramic Tiling Ltd</p>       | <p><b>7</b> ALEX LAWLESS<br/>H: David Goodge<br/>A: Gill, Julie &amp; Yvonne</p>                              | <p><b>8</b> CAMERON MCGEEHAN<br/>H: Ben &amp; Richard Banks<br/>A: Simon Pitts &amp; Rick Hooper</p> | <p><b>9</b> PAUL BENSON<br/>H: Emma Banks<br/>A: The Mad Hatter</p>          |
| <p><b>10</b> RYAN HALL<br/>H: Kathy Baldry-Mitchell<br/>A: AVAILABLE</p>            | <p><b>11</b> DANNY GREEN<br/>H: Ben Gray<br/>A: Keyholder Lettings and Management</p>                         | <p><b>12</b> SCOTT GRIFFITHS<br/>H: CME Heating<br/>A: AVAILABLE</p>                                 | <p><b>14</b> JACK MARRIOTT<br/>H: Jonathan Perry<br/>A: Tommy Lennon</p>     |
| <p><b>15</b> PADDY McCOURT<br/>H: Raj Koyes<br/>A: Luton Celtic Supporters Club</p> | <p><b>16</b> ELLIOT JUSTHAM<br/>H: Les Miller, Miller &amp; Company<br/>A: AVAILABLE<br/>G: Mark Francome</p> | <p><b>17</b> PELLY RUDDOCK MPANZU<br/>H: David Alexander<br/>A: Liz Herrick</p>                      | <p><b>18</b> MAGNUS OKUONGHAE<br/>H: A-Top Properties<br/>A: AVAILABLE</p>   |
| <p><b>19</b> OLLY LEE<br/>H: Tradeline Recruitment Ltd<br/>A: Whosh</p>             | <p><b>22</b> CRAIG MACKAIL-SMITH<br/>H: Mark Warne<br/>A: Tom</p>                                             | <p><b>23</b> JOSH McQUOID<br/>H: Peter &amp; Linda Little<br/>A: George &amp; Chris Stonier</p>      | <p><b>25</b> MARK O'BRIEN<br/>H: SsangYong Motor UK Ltd<br/>A: AVAILABLE</p> |
| <p><b>26</b> NATHAN DOYLE<br/>H: Sports262<br/>A: AVAILABLE</p>                     | <p><b>31</b> CRAIG KING<br/>H: AVAILABLE<br/>A: AVAILABLE</p>                                                 | <p><b>32</b> LUKE TROTMAN<br/>H: Jacqui Peacock<br/>A: Bobbers Travel</p>                            | <p><b>33</b> MARK ONYEMAH<br/>H: AVAILABLE<br/>A: AVAILABLE</p>              |
| <p><b>34</b> ISAAC GALLIFORD<br/>H: AVAILABLE<br/>A: AVAILABLE</p>                  | <p><b>35</b> ZANE BANTON<br/>H: AVAILABLE<br/>A: Kelly Knight</p>                                             | <p><b>40</b> JAKE HOWELLS<br/>H: Neil Ehrenzweig<br/>A: Heather Roberts</p>                          |                                                                              |
| <p><b>M</b> NATHAN JONES<br/>H: Thompsons Accountants<br/>A: Country Properties</p> | <p><b>P</b> SIMON PARSELL<br/>H: Bobbers Travel Club<br/>A: AVAILABLE</p>                                     | <p><b>PAUL DRIVER</b><br/>H: COYH<br/>A: AVAILABLE</p>                                               |                                                                              |

H: HOME | A: AWAY | G: GLOVES

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# Welcome to Kenilworth Road HARTLEPOOL UNITED



## TEAM PROFILE HARTLEPOOL UNITED

Nicknames: The Pools  
Ground: Victoria Park  
Last season: 22nd League 2  
Manager: Craig Hignett  
Last match:  
Hartlepool 2-3 Notts County 16/2/16

It gives us great pleasure to welcome everyone associated with Hartlepool United to Kenilworth Road this afternoon – especially those supporters in the away end who have made the long trip down from the North East.

Pools come to Bedfordshire on the edge of the relegation zone, and will be eyeing three points in a bid to put daylight between themselves and the bottom two, which currently sits at just three points.

Hartlepool have been in League 2 since the 2013/14 season having been relegated from League 1, but are under threat from exiting the Football League altogether, with 17 defeats from their 28 League 2 games to date.

Today's visitors have recently changed their manager in a bid to maintain their Football League status, replacing Ronnie Moore with Craig Hignett, who oversaw the 3-2 home defeat to Notts County on Tuesday night.

Pools had been 2-0 down early on, but fought back to level the game up before Jon Stead fired

a late winner to consign Hignett to a defeat in his opening home match. Hartlepool marks the first managerial stint for Hignett, although he was assistant manager at Middlesbrough, leaving he and manager Aitor Karanka were "not compatible with each other".

Last season had seen Moore pull off the a great escape for a Hartlepool side who somehow avoided relegation, and the team kept their good form going in winning their first three league games of the campaign, while also progressing past League 1 outfit Fleetwood in the Capital One Cup.

A victory at York sandwiched comfortable home wins over York and Newport County, but their next win was not to come until September 26 when Brad Walker's late goal secured a vital win at fellow relegation-threatened club Yeovil.

But it was the home form which most concerned the Pools fans, losing 3-0 and 4-1 to Bristol Rovers and the Hatters in the space of five days, going almost three months without victory at Victoria Park until overcoming Leyton Orient in mid-November.

Today's trip to Kenilworth Road ends a run of four successive league games at Victoria Park for

Hignett's side, who don't have a happy record at the Hatters, last prevailing in Bedfordshire on Easter Monday 1967.

In Billy Paynter, today's visitors have one of the Football League's most-travelled players, with Hartlepool marking the 11th club of the 31-year-old's career to date, most recently plying his trade at Carlisle United in the season previous. And the striker will definitely be on the radar of the Hatters' back four, scoring in his last three games, as well as the first three in all competitions this season, as part of his tally of 10 from 22 outings.

As well as the 4-1 victory at Victoria Park earlier this season, the Hatters enjoyed doing the double over Pools last year, when Cameron McGeehan, Jake Howells and Scott Griffiths netted in the 3-0 victory at Kenilworth Road, while Jim Stevenson netted just moments after coming on in the 2-1 win away from home.

**HATTERS v HARTLEPOOL**  
Luton wins: 12  
Draws: 1  
Yeovil wins: 7

**LAST MEETING**  
Hartlepool 1-4 Luton  
3/10/15

# Meet the VISITORS

## OUR GUIDE TO THE MEN FROM VICTORIA PARK

### THE BOSS

#### CRAIG HIGNETT

Former Crewe, Middlesbrough and Barnsley midfielder Craig was given his first managerial job by the Hartlepool board last week. An hugely experienced player, he played briefly for Pools before embarking on a coaching career that saw him join the staff at Middlesbrough.

### BETWEEN THE STICKS

#### TREVOR CARSON

Northern Ireland international Trevor joined Pools from Cheltenham. Was the Robins' Player of the Year last season but returned to the North East having spent six years at Sunderland.

### IN DEFENCE

#### CARL MAGNAY

Versatile defender Carl arrived at Victoria Park from Grimsby. Able to play at either full-back or centre-half, he scooped six end-of-season awards for the Mariners last term. Previously on the books at Leeds, Chelsea and Gateshead.

#### JAKE CARROLL

Irishman Jake signed for Pools this summer having been released by Huddersfield. Also able to play in midfield, he made his name with St Patrick's before joining the Terriers.

#### SCOTT HARRISON

Whole-hearted and aggressive centre-half Scott penned a permanent deal at Victoria Park in January last year. Initially joined Pools on-loan and was crowned the supporters' and players' player of the year.

#### DAN JONES

Young left-back Dan has risen through the youth ranks at Victoria Park and made his debut last season. Made 20 appearances last term and is a danger from set-pieces.

#### ADAM JACKSON

Up-and-coming centre-half Adam joined Pools on loan from Middlesbrough at the start of October. A former England Under-18 international, he has captained Boro's reserve team in the past.

### ACROSS THE MIDDLE

#### NATHAN THOMAS

Left-winger Nathan arrived at the Vic in January this year from Mansfield. Began his career as a trainee at Newcastle and Sunderland before moving to Plymouth and then Motherwell.

#### NICKY FEATHERSTONE

Experienced midfielder Nicky joined Pools in October 2014 having dropped out of the pro game to sign for Harrogate. Started at Hull before signing for Hereford and then Walsall.

#### MICHAEL WOODS

Talented midfielder Michael signed for United at the beginning of last season following a successful trial. A former England youth international who has had spells with Leeds, Chelsea, Yeovil and Doncaster.

#### JAKE GRAY

Highly-rated attacking midfielder Jake signed on loan from Crystal Palace in October. The teenager hit two goals in a televised win



over Orient and recently penned an extension until the end of the season.

#### LEWIS HAWKINS

Hard-working academy graduate Lewis penned a pro deal in the summer of 2014. Made his debut last season and is capable of playing anywhere across the middle, including in wide areas.

### UP FRONT

#### RAKISH BINGHAM

Striker who was United's first signing of the summer, Rakish joined Pools from Mansfield after impressing on-loan last season. Began his career at Wigan and is blessed with plenty of pace.

#### BILLY PAYNTER

Pools' top goalscorer in all competitions, experienced centre-forward Billy joined Pools at the start of this season. Can name Port Vale, Hull, Southend, Swindon, Leeds, Doncaster and Carlisle as his former clubs.

#### SCOTT FENWICK

Striker Scott joined Pools from non-league Dunston last season following a successful trial. Has the knack of finding himself in the right place at the right time. Left a job in civil engineering to turn pro.

#### RHYS OATES

Young forward Rhys signed in the summer after his release from Barnsley. The big, pacy striker had been at Oakwell since he was six and has spent several spells out on loan in non-league football.



# From the OAK ROAD

AFTER PULLING OFF THE GREAT ESCAPE LAST SEASON, HARTLEPOOL HAVE FAILED TO BUILD ON THEIR LEAGUE 2 HOUDINI ACT THIS TIME ROUND. PHIL DUNN GIVES HIS VERDICT ON ALL THINGS POOLS AHEAD OF TODAY'S GAME

## THE SEASON AHEAD...

After narrowly avoiding relegation last year, what were the expectations at Victoria Park heading into this year?

I think it's safe to say most Pools fans expected a little more than we have got, especially with the way we ended last season. I think most fans would have settled for a nice 'middle-of-the-road' type of campaign after the excitement and shredded nerves of last time.

It seems Hartlepool have struggled to find the net this term, would that be a fair reflection having scored just 23 goals?

Yes. We've suffered badly because our main striker Billy Paynter has been missing for such a long spell with injury. There have been matches where we have created plenty of opportunities but haven't been able to stick the ball in the net there have also been games when we've created very little. Hopefully getting Luke James back in on-loan will be the answer.

You started the season really well with three wins, but it's not been great since then. Any reason in particular for that?

Again, Billy Paynter was flying and we've missed not just his goals, but his leadership on the pitch too. We really did look good in those opening weeks and as well as the League results we won away at Fleetwood in the League Cup too.

Although it's been a disappointing season so far for Pools, who has impressed you in the squad?

Listen, this Pools squad is full of talent and in my opinion is FAR better than recent campaigns. Trevor Carson in goal is a superb signing, and Carl Magnay, Scott Harrison, Jake Gray and Michael Woods have all impressed me so far.

How has boss Ronnie Moore fared during his time managing the club, and what are the expectations for the rest of the season?

Nobody should ever forget what Ronnie Moore did for this club last season. We were dead and buried and I'd written us off at Christmas. He's 'Old School' is Ronnie, and I'm certain he will come good for the rest of this campaign too. The owners have said they will back him so I'm still dreaming of a mid-table finish once we've caught up our five games in hand!



## SEASONS PAST...

Tell us about you. Why do you support Hartlepool? When did it all start? What was your first game? What do you remember about it?

Like most young kids growing up in the 70s it was through my Dad. We lived fairly near to Middlesbrough's ground too so it was one of those...half of our village supported Boro, half Pools. Luckily my Dad followed Pools. My first game was in 1970 and we drew 1-1 with Workington. I can still remember everything about the match and the atmosphere, even the smells and the shouts. We had a blond-haired striker called Ralph Wright and I can still picture his goal and his white curls!

What do you love so much about Victoria Park?



Celebrations after Jake Gray (far left) scores for Pools against Derby in the FA Cup

It's home, and it's so compact. You can hear every word everybody in the ground says and you are so close to the action. It's the same faces around our section of the terrace that's been going for decades. Only their kids have been added over the years!

What's been your best memory as a Pools fan?

Well in 2005 we got to the Play-Off final to go up into the Championship. We actually lost to Sheffield Wednesday in extra-time but the whole day was incredible... Just spoiled by the last eight minutes, that's all...

Tell us about the great escape of last season. Did you think you were already relegated?

Yeah I'd given up. Seriously, there was no way we would survive at 10 points adrift in December. I still look back at the series of results and think "how on earth...?" Not just OUR results, but those of Tranmere and Cheltenham. It was incredible. I don't think it could ever happen like that again. Ever.

## LUTON AND HARTLEPOOL

What are your best and worst memories of United and Luton clashes? Do any games in particular stick out?

I always make sure I've got an aisle seat in your away end! It's not built for people with legs, is it? Actually I've never seen us win at Kenilworth Road in five visits. At The Vic we've had some cracking games, but the most memorable was our 4-3 win in 2004. Hugh Robertson our Scottish full-back absolutely created the winner, on the volley, in the last minute. What a night.

What do you expect from today's game? What's your prediction? Are you looking forward to sitting in the away end?

Come on...let's have a point eh? 1-1 draw with Luke James notching for us. I'll be the one on the end of a row with his long legs outstretched!

## QUICKFIRE

**Terrace or Seats?** Terrace

**Who are your rivals?** Carlisle United

**Favourite all-time manager?** Cyril Knowles

**Favourite promotion season?** 1990/91

**Guess your player of the season** Trevor Carson

**If you could bring back one player from the past back in the Pools team who would it be?** Brian Honour

**Most treasured Hartlepool piece of memorabilia?**

The programme from my first game in 1970. I got Ralph Wright to sign it last year!

**What league will Pools be in next season?** League 2.

**Who will win promotion from League 2?** Portsmouth Northampton and Wycombe





# COVER STORY

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

## LUTON TOWN 1 HARTLEPOOLS UTD 0

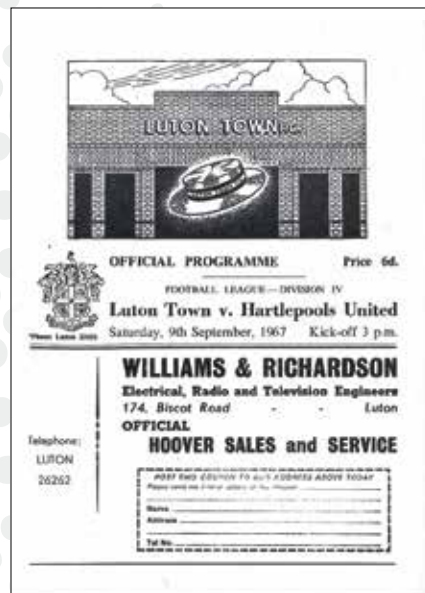
9th September 1967

The summer of 1967 saw, for the first time for many years, a groundswell of optimism at Kenilworth Road with supporters finally feeling it was going to be our year after several seasons of gloom that had seen the Town sink from the top flight to the basement.

The 1966/67 season had finished with the Hatters only four points off the re-election zone but the astute signings made by manager Allan Brown, who had been appointed in November 1966, encouraged me to start a scrapbook for the first time so that I could record the commencement of the resurgence in fortune.

The Town had picked up only six points on the road in 1966/67 but started the new campaign with a hard earned draw at Wrexham in a bad tempered clash which saw two dismissals and a late leveller from new striker Rodney Green.

A healthy crowd of 7,887 (which eventually turned out to be the lowest of the season) filed into Kenilworth Road the following week to see Barnsley put to the sword with goals from Bruce Rioch and Keith Allen. In the next game, at Swansea, a late error from new skipper Terry Branstons gifted the home side a point in a 2-2 draw but we were all happy as we maintained our unbeaten record and picked up our second away point – something that had taken us until just before Christmas the previous season.



We were not so happy when we lost 3-0 at Southend in the next game though. In mitigation the Town needed to make seven changes through injury, gave a debut to 17 year old winger Ken Beaven, and lost Green with what turned out to be a long term knee injury after 20 minutes.

Despite this, Chairman Tom Hodgson summed up the spirit and morale at Kenilworth Road by saying: "It feels like a new club. Spirit is bubbling over throughout the ranks. You can feel it in the boardroom, in the dressing room and on the terraces. You can even feel it in the town. Everyone is happy, everyone is confident. This is

'Golden boy' Bruce Rioch



something that has not happened for a long time. It's all due to the new blood in the club and the wonderful way Allan Brown is leading them on."

Next up were Hartlepoons United (as they were then known) who visited Kenilworth Road unbeaten and fresh from doing the 'double' over the Town the previous Easter. The Town welcomed back three of the previously injured players with Keith Allen taking up the striker role vacated by Green.

The first half of the game bore the unmistakable hallmark of a draw with Hartlepoons packing their defence in a grim bid to preserve their unbeaten status. Allen battled manfully up front on his own but the Town were missing the punch

of Green to take advantage of the wingplay of Graham French and Ray Whittaker.

Chances were few and far between in the first half with the Hartlepoons defence content to soak up pressure and hope to catch the Town on the break. Terry Branstons and John Moore in the Luton defence were wise to this and closely shackled Pools dangermen Ernie Phythian and Jim Mulvaney.

The game was developing into a bore draw until in the 56th minute came a goal that was completely out of keeping with all that had gone on before.

Golden boy Bruce Rioch picked up a clearance header from Bill McDerment just inside the

Hartlepoons half, accelerated towards goal, beat a defender and then rocketed a shot past visiting goalkeeper George Smith.

"Rioch for England" chanted the Oak Road choir, not realising that their man would go on to captain Scotland in later years!

The game sparked into life after the goal and it became one-way traffic as the Town sought to increase their lead.

Hartlepoons had difficulty in breaking out of defence and their goal led a charmed life as shots and crosses rained in.

Try as they might the Hatters could not increase their lead but a final score of 1-0 was good enough as the team moved closer to a return to former glories.

# THE PROGRAMME



The Town produced a 12-page programme for the visit of Hartlepoons.

The programme was, quite frankly, an embarrassment and came hidden inside the national magazine Football League Review. All other clubs subscribing to the Football League Review used it as a filler!

The Town were due to play at mighty Leeds in the League Cup the following Wednesday and it was announced that arrangements had been made with British Railways to stop a Leeds bound train at Luton so supporters could travel to the match. The return train would stop at Luton at 4.12am.

A strong appeal was made to supporters, and children in particular, not to run on the pitch at the end of the game pointing out that police dogs would be available to stop this nuisance.

A large advertisement had been inserted announcing the arrival of a new local newspaper, The Evening Post, which was to start on 11th September. The Hartlepoons game was therefore the first to be reported on by the paper and its sports editor Roger Duckworth.



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PROUD TO PRINT THE LUTON TOWN MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

# Numbers **GAME**

## HARTLEPOOL AND THE HATTERS IN NUMBERS

### MARVIN!

The closest Pools have come to winning again at Kenilworth Road came in December 2001 when the Hatters needed a late equaliser from Marvin Johnson to earn a point at Kenilworth Road. Pools led 2-1 with six minutes to go until Marv popped up to level to make it 2-2.

**4-0**

Pools' biggest win over the Hatters came at Victoria Park in February 2008 – a 4-0 victory that kept the Town in the League 1 relegation zone.

### HEAD 2 HEAD

- 20** PLAYED
- 12** LUTON WINS
- 1** DRAWS
- 7** HARTLEPOOL WINS
- 37** LUTON GOALS SCORED
- 29** HARTLEPOOL GOALS SCORED
- 1966** YEAR OF FIRST MEETING

The Town came out on top 2-1 against the then-named Hartlepoons (note the s) in February 50 years ago. John O'Rourke scored both the Hatters goals in front of 6,131 at Kenilworth Road.

**1**

Hartlepool have only ever won once at Kenilworth Road – and that came 49 years ago in 1967. Since that victory, Pools have lost six and drawn one of the following seven meetings on Bedfordshire soil.



**4**

Pools won their first four home meetings against the Town between 1966 and 1968. Three wins came in Division Four (now League 2), while one came in Division Three (League 1).

**5**

No Luton player has scored more goals against Hartlepool than an ex-Poolie... Steve Howard! The striker, who joined the Town from Northampton, started his career at Victoria Park. He scored the five goals in four successive appearances against Pools between 2001 and 2004. He scored a brace in the 3-2 home win against Pools in August 2003.

**33**

After the Hatters lost 1-0 at Hartlepool in December 1968 the two sides would go 33 years before meeting each other again in the Football League. The Town won 2-1 at Victoria Park in December 2001 thanks to goals from Dean Crowe and Matt Taylor – it was the Hatters' first ever win at Hartlepool.

**6**

The Hatters have won an impressive six of the last seven meetings with Hartlepool home and away. October's 4-1 win at Victoria Park was also the Town's fifth in seven trips to the North East. It was also the first time that the Hatters had scored more than three times against the Pools.

**13,415**

The biggest attendance to watch a Luton versus Hartlepool game came in October 1968 at Kenilworth Road. The Hatters ran out 3-0 winners thanks to goals from Laurie Sheffield, Brue Rioch and Brian Lewis.

### HARTLEPOOL UNITED TROPHY CABINET

League Two (Formerly Division Three)  
**Third Place and Promotion (1990/1991 and 1967/68)**  
 Runners Up and Promotion (2002/2003)  
 Runners-Up and Promotion (2006/2007)





**ATTENDANCE**  
**7,538**  
**132 YEOVIL**



# TOWN 1

# 1 YEOVIL

## WHAT'S THE STORY?

A superb late goal from defender Alan Sheehan earned the Town a point against Yeovil at Kenilworth Road.

The defender volleyed home a stunning left-foot shot with seven minutes to go to cancel out the Liam Walsh's opener for the Glovers.

Yeovil, Nathan Jones's former club, led thanks to Everton loanee Walsh's strike on 70 minutes – the visitors' only real clear-cut chance of the game.

But Sheehan rescued a point for the Town on 83 minutes when he volleyed home Olly Lee's left-wing corner in the top corner for his first goal since joining on-loan from Bradford.

Back on level terms the Hatters lay siege on the Glovers' goal in the closing stages and the Town came close to finding a late, later winner when Cameron McGeehan saw an effort come back of the post in the 97th minute.



## JONES SAID:

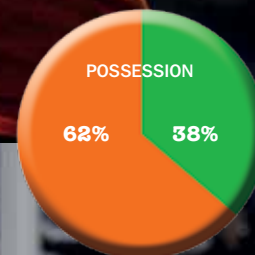
“We had enough chances to win the game but it's taken an absolute worldie to earn us a point.

“I felt our all-round play was good but their goal has come from nothing which I'm gutted about because we could have done better. It was a typical scrappy League 2-type goal.

“If we had won the game 1-0 I would have been pleased, but we've got to start keep clean sheets because I always believe we've got a goal in us with the players we've got.

“I'm just disappointed because the amount of times we got into a number of really fine areas but we didn't find that final ball. There wasn't enough chances put on a plate for people. We just didn't use the possession we had well enough when we got into those good positions. “But it's something to build on, we were better again and it's a little step.

“We've really got to start showing more composure and quality in the final third and that's why I'm disappointed.”

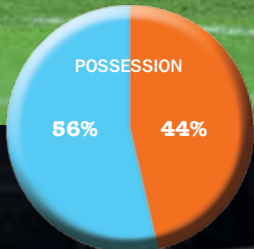


LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB	VS	YEOVIL TOWN FC
<b>TUESDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2016</b>		
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<b>SUBSTITUTES</b>		
TYLER, SMITH, BENSON, MINIBETTI, MCCORMY, BAGGINS, BARTON		DANSON, LARG, BIRD, WALL, CAMPBELL, WILLET

LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB	VS	YEOVIL TOWN FC
6	CORNERS	1
3	SHOTS ON TARGET	6
6	SHOTS WIDE	1
13	FOULS	7
2	OFFSIDES	1



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WYCOMBE WANDERERS	V	LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB
SATURDAY 6TH FEB 2016		
ALLSOP JOMBATI JACOBSON McCARTHY PIERRE HARRIMAN BEAN BLOOMFIELD COWAN-HALL HAYES(C) UGWU		JUSTHAM O'DONNELL HOWELLS CUTHBERT(C) SHEEHAN LAWLESS McGEEHAN LEE MARRIOTT MACKAIL-SMITH PIGOTT
SUBSTITUTES		
RICHARDSON, McGINN, STEWART, THOMPSON, WOOD, AMARI-HOLLOWAY, O'RIEN		TYLER, SMITH, BENSON, McCORT, RIDDICK, MANCE, DEUNWALAE, BANTON



3	CORNERS	6
2	SHOTS ON TARGET	1
7	SHOTS WIDE	4
19	FOULS	12
2	OFFSIDES	3



## JONES SAID:

“Wycombe came out of the blocks, they were sharp, they were on it and we were lucky not to be one or two down if I’m honest.

“We didn’t start well enough. I asked for them to be relentless and we weren’t. We’ve got to be better than that on the second ball, we had an extra man in midfield and they dominated in midfield, so that wasn’t acceptable.

“But I’m so, so proud of them for the second half performance, I thought they were absolutely outstanding. To come away from home, that type of performance, it’ll do for me.

“That’s a team I can be proud of and can put out there. They were excellent, they gave me what I asked for, I asked them to be relentless and they were second half.

“The challenging, the work-rate, what we did, was superb and then that goal was fitting to win any game, another worldie.

“At times you have to be brave, I have a way of playing, sides think they can work you out, but you have to be brave.

“I thought we showed a lot of bravery, in that second part of the first half and we came through.”

## WHAT'S THE STORY?

Cameron McGeehan’s first-half wonder-strike helped the Hatters grind out an impressive victory over high-flying Wycombe Wanderers at Adams Park.

McGeehan struck on the volley from 25 yards for his 10th league goal of the season after the Town were much the weaker side for large periods of the first half.

Wycombe, who came into the game fresh from a 1-0 win at leaders Plymouth the week before, began on the front foot but failed to seriously test Elliot Justham in the Town goal.

And, as the Hatters began to find their passing game, McGeehan thumped home from outside the box to give his side the lead at the interval.

After the break the Town continued to fashion chances with Craig Mackail-Smith shooting across goal and substitute Paul Benson hitting the post.

Wanderers had a goal ruled out for a foul on Justham but the Town defence held out well to secure Nathan Jones’s second win in charge and extended the Hatters’ unbeaten record at Adams Park to 11 games.

**ATTENDANCE**  
4,597  
1,298 LUTON







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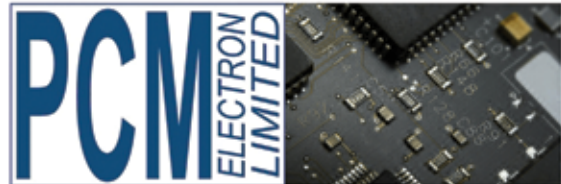
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# Traveller's TALES



ARDENT HATTERS FAN KEVIN HARPER CONTINUES TO DOCUMENT HIS TRAVELS AROUND THE COUNTRY FOLLOWING THE TOWN. HERE'S HIS TAKE ON THE HATTERS' VICTORY AT WYCOMBE

## The journey

As usual two Bobbers coaches left the Luton Interchange for the short journey to Wycombe. The journey went pretty quickly as you would expect and we were parked up outside the ground just after 1.30 on what was a windy day with more than a hint of chill in the air.

Rating: ⚽⚽⚽⚽

## The ground

Apart from the absolute headache of getting out of the place, Wycombe's ground is one of the better ones in the league. The away end is all seated behind the goal and the 1,300 or so Town fans in attendance were able to generate a really good atmosphere.

Rating: ⚽⚽⚽⚽

## The food

Inside the ground I found the food wasn't the best last year so we grabbed some food from one of the burger bars outside the ground which was really good. As with last year, Wycombe put up a marquee for away fans to drink in and there was plenty of singing and enjoyment. I did hear that the tent ran out of real ale which wasn't good!

Rating: ⚽⚽

## The programme

Not the worst one to be fair. There were half-a-dozen pages dedicated to the Town. That included bits about the current squad and players who've played for both clubs. There was also a Q&A with yours truly where the correct score was successfully predicted! (if only I'd backed it!)

Rating: ⚽⚽⚽⚽

## The match

The 'game of two halves' cliché was true of this one except it was a game of the first half hour and the second hour! In the first half an hour we looked awful, couldn't get going and did well not to concede but in the last hour we were brilliant and gave a perfect away performance.

To say we had to weather a storm would be an understatement. Balls came into our box and chances came and went and somehow we made it to 30 minutes all square and began to grow into the game.

Five minutes before half time we took the lead and Craig Mackail-Smith laid a ball off to Cameron McGeehan who hit a 25-yarder into the top corner. A fine strike worthy of winning any game.

The second half we were perfect. We invited Wycombe onto us and countered brilliantly and should've had more goals.

We hit the post twice and the keeper made a couple of saves too. In the end we were comfortable winners.

Rating: ⚽⚽⚽⚽

## Man-of-the-Match

I thought Craig Mackail-Smith was outstanding in this match. He ran tirelessly, always offered an option and was a real threat on the break. The only thing his performance didn't include was a goal but it deserved one. Every other part of his game was superb.



## Summary

Thankfully it didn't take too long to get out of the ground and I was home in good time to celebrate a really good win. It was so nice to see Luton play how we did so all was good and it made for a very enjoyable weekend!

OVERALL RATING  
17 out of 25

MILES TRAVELLED  
THIS SEASON  
3722.9





# WIMBLEDON 4

# 1 TOWN

## WHAT'S THE STORY?

The Town lost for the first time away from home under Nathan Jones as they were soundly beaten by AFC Wimbledon at Kingsmeadow.

The hosts scored four goals in two two-goal bursts in each half to put the game beyond the Hatters as early as the 49th minute.

Ryan Sweeney's header following a right-wing corner on 23 minutes was followed by a deflected header from Lyle Taylor three minutes later.

Barely two minutes into the second half it was 3-0 when substitute Sean Rigg arrowed a low shot from outside the penalty area beyond Elliot Justham.

And two minutes later, on 49 minutes, it was four when Taylor swept home his second goal following another right-wing corner.

The Town, who had looked good in possession before the Wombles' opener, had chances in the first half with Cameron McGeehan's left-foot strike and Paul Benson's shot saved by home goalkeeper Kelle Roos.

Jack Marriott reduced arrears with his ninth goal of the season on the hour, thumping a well-struck effort on the turn beyond Roos.

McGeehan saw an effort ruled out for offside – which would have made it 4-2 with 14 minutes to go – but after that the hosts were able to hold on to their three-goal lead and consign the Hatters to defeat.



**SATURDAY 13TH FEB 2016**

<b>ROOS</b>	<b>JUSTHAM</b>
<b>FULLER (C)</b>	<b>O'DONNELL</b>
<b>MEADES</b>	<b>HOWELLS</b>
<b>REEVES</b>	<b>CUTHBERT (C)</b>
<b>ROBINSON</b>	<b>SHEEHAN</b>
<b>BULMAN</b>	<b>McCOURT</b>
<b>SWEENEY</b>	<b>McGEEHAN</b>
<b>BARHAM</b>	<b>LEE</b>
<b>FRANCOMB</b>	<b>MARRIOTT</b>
<b>TAYLOR</b>	<b>MACKAIL - SMITH</b>
<b>ELLIOTT</b>	<b>BENSON</b>

**SUBSTITUTES**

SHEA, KENNEDY, AKINFENWA, RIGG, AZEEZ, FITPATRICK, GALLAGHER	TAYLOR, SMITH, PUGH, OBIOMOGAE, PITTS, BREEN, BIDDICK, INYANGI
--------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------



12	CORNERS	3
7	SHOTS ON TARGET	8
5	SHOTS WIDE	5
10	FOULS	6
0	OFFSIDES	0



### JONES SAID:

“When you defend like that you get punished at any level and we got punished today. I didn't really see that coming after what we done, but that's what happened. I'm very, very disappointed. “It was an unfortunate goal, the first one. We weren't dominate enough, but the others are avoidable. “We got what we deserved today because we didn't deserve anything. “The defending was poor.”







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# Traveller's TALES



ARDENT HATTERS FAN KEVIN HARPER CONTINUES TO DOCUMENT HIS TRAVELS AROUND THE COUNTRY FOLLOWING THE TOWN. HERE'S HIS TAKE ON THE HATTERS' DEFEAT AT WIMBLEDON

### The journey

Still buzzing from last week, I was really looking forward to the trip to Wimbledon even though our record there was beyond awful. With a lower amount of tickets than usual and not the best place to go there was only one Bobbers coach this week. It left Luton station at 11.30am and off we went.

We were down in Kingston just before 1.30pm and it was off to the chippy from there!

Rating:

### The ground

Not one of my favourites this. The view from the terrace is terrible and it isn't much better from the seats and the facilities were beyond woeful. I'm glad Wimbledon are going back home because this ground is an awful one to visit.

Rating:

### The food

As we got there early I went to the chippy which was the right move. Inside the ground there was a pretty expensive burger bar which did the usual food and drink. I didn't have anything from there but talking to people who did the general consensus was it wasn't great.

Rating:

### The programme

A fairly decent read actually even for a neutral I would say. There were half-a-dozen pages on the Town and a few highlighting ongoing things with AFC Wimbledon which I found interesting. One of the better ones I've picked up this season.

Rating:

### The match

If ever a game and a performance resembled the weather and the surroundings it was this one from us. The weather was dank and miserable and our performance wasn't even that good, particularly defensively. The ground is rotten which was more in keeping with both the game and how we played.

We actually began the game quite well, knocking the ball about nicely on a pitch which was cut up after the warm up let alone during the game. You'd have to say we didn't really get anywhere with our passing but we looked comfortable. Then it all changed.

A corner wasn't cleared and a looping header found the corner then straight away a ball bounced, a cross that shouldn't have come in did and a weak header hit Alan Sheehan and rolled into the corner.

Within five minutes of the second half starting it was game over.

A cross broke to the edge of the box and was thumped in and then another corner was volleyed home. Jack Marriott scored the goal of the game later on but it carried little significance. We were well beaten.

Rating:

### Man-of-the-Match

Tough to pick anyone here such was our performance. Jack Marriott kept going and did score a great goal so I'll give it to him but the competition wasn't exactly fierce.

### Summary

A thoroughly miserable day whichever way you look at it. Apart from a fella, who had obviously had a few samples too many of the local brew, who tried to serenade the seated area with his version of an ode to Paddy McCourt, there wasn't much to remember from the day! At least we were back home by 7pm which was some relief but only scant consolation really. A day to forget.

OVERALL RATING

12 out of 25

MILES TRAVELLED

THIS SEASON

3,839.5



# CENTRE SPOT

Alan Sheehan celebrates after his superb volley brought the Hatters level against Yeovil in our last home match here at Kenilworth Road







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# Cameron **MIDFIELDER HAILS NEW BOSS' IMPACT** MCGEEHAN

Hatters midfielder Cameron McGeehan has described Nathan Jones' impact as "unbelievable" for his and the team's development since joining the club.

Jones arrived at Kenilworth Road on 6th January and McGeehan, who scored against Wycombe a fortnight ago, feels the new manager's style is as important as the result, and that the new mentality suits his type of play as an attacking central midfielder.

"Jones has come in and been unbelievable for me," said the 20-year-old. "Training has been geared right up, the meetings we have are very in-depth and it's a very different approach.

"He plays very tactically, looking to get the ball down and play. As a young player that's what I want to learn, and he knows how to play in a lot of the way I want to.

"John Still was amazing for me. He gave me my chance and I'm grateful to him for that, but his time comes to an end, just like it does with everyone – even Jose Mourinho and Sir Alex Ferguson."

While the Hatters currently in mid-table in League 2, McGeehan believes the push for a Play-Off place is well and truly on if the side can string results together.

"It's not too late to get the play-offs and it's what we're all still hoping for. A bit late, maybe, but we're going to keep pushing for that and fighting for it because it's what the fans want and deserve," McGeehan added.

"It's been a bit of a transition lately and hopefully we can push on. We need to concentrate on winning games because we haven't

done that enough this season and then we can go from there.

"We could go under the radar. We believe as a team we can do that. We haven't been good enough in the first half of the season which is why we're in the position we are now."

McGeehan has enjoyed a prolific season in front of goal, with his wonderful effort at Wycombe the tenth this campaign, and he backs himself to get more before the term is out.

But a run of six games without finding the net left a few jittery moments before eventually reaching double-figures in his 30th game in all competitions

"The way the gaffer plays we're going to get a lot more chances in and around the box so it's perfect for me, and we work on shooting every day.

"Psychologically it can be difficult because you want to get to a certain target, and you get close and then start snatching at a few chances so I've put it out of my mind a bit."

Now the young midfielder is looking to push on and use Jones' tactical nous to help push his game from strength to strength.

"I'm young, enjoying every experience and I learnt a lot playing



out wide where I could develop other parts of my game, but I feel I'm better deployed in the middle," McGeehan continued.

"We're more of a passing team now so there's a chance to get creative.

"The gaffer's philosophy is all about that. Even though the results haven't been what they might have been, the performances have been there. Wycombe wasn't a great example of that but it was a tough game."

## CAM'S GOALS

TOTAL:	16
INSIDE AREA:	15
OUTSIDE AREA:	1
HEADERS:	5
PENALTIES:	2



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# SCOTT CUTHBERT

## JONES ARRIVAL GIVEN SKIPPER CONFIDENCE

Town captain Scott Cuthbert has revealed that the arrival of Nathan Jones has given the centre-half a new lease of confidence at the back.

One of Jones' first acts as Hatters manager was to give Cuthbert the captain's armband, and his faith was rewarded with three clean sheets from the first five games.

The defender now hopes the excellent defensive record can continue alongside the new style of football Jones has brought to Kenilworth Road.

"He made me captain which was great, and he's also given me the confidence to play," said Cuthbert.

"I think I've been showing that on the pitch and just hope I can keep that going. He's been phenomenal for all the boys, coming in with a real spark and enthusiasm and it looks as if that's showing with the performances.

"I know the way he wants us to play, he's clear on that, and he won't switch for anyone. Our team and our philosophy won't change for anyone. But it's still early days and we just need to continue that."

The Hatters completed an impressive 1-0 away win at Wycombe a fortnight ago, the second away victory under Jones' tenure.

But the skipper is now hoping the performances can be transferred to Kenilworth Road, where Jones still awaits victory after three matches.

Cuthbert added: "The last two away games have been excellent, now we need to get that going in front of the home fans.

"I'm delighted with the result – Wycombe are a good team and they outplayed us at home on Boxing Day so it was an excellent win.

"We know how Wycombe set up, very direct and put us under a lot of pressure with set plays.

"We had to stay strong. It wasn't our best performance, but defensively we were excellent right through the team."

"Every week you're playing for your place regardless of your squad size, you're only one bad performance away from missing out on the team. It keeps everyone on their toes, and hopefully we can keep on going and pushing up."

Cuthbert was also quick to praise Cameron McGeehan, who notched his tenth of the season with a fantastic half-volley for the game's only goal at Adams Park.

"We've been missing that bit of spark in front of goal the last couple of games. Cam pops up in the right place and he can score unbelievable goals. He's a great lad to have in your team, and he's a



young lad who's only going to get better.

"Jack [Marriott] is another excellent prospect. At that age they're still learning, and we've got a lot of experience in the squad they can learn from too, the likes of Paul Benson, Craig Mackail-Smith and Paddy McCourt.

"I think we've got the right manager there for us to develop, to play in the right way with a bit of confidence."

In Alan Sheehan, Cuthbert has enjoyed the experience of a new central defensive partner with the Hatters, but is not unfamiliar with the 29-year-old's style of football.

"Sheens is quality. As you can see he's quality on the ball and can defend as well," he added.

"We played together for a couple of years at Swindon, and it looks as though we're working quite well together. Long may it continue."





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# REACTION

DISAPPOINTING DAY ALL-ROUND SAYS JACK

Striker Jack Marriott was left confused after the Hatters suffered a heavy 4-1 defeat to AFC Wimbledon last Saturday.

The Town were given a double sucker-punch, conceding two goals in two bursts to all but end the game at 4-0 just after half-time.

Marriott got on the scoresheet himself with a second-half thunderbolt, but it wasn't enough to prevent his side suffering a first defeat away from home under Nathan Jones.

"It was a disappointing day all round really, but I haven't a clue what happened," explained Marriott. "It's four crosses we've conceded from, but I just don't know how really."

The Town had yet to concede away from home under their new manager, making the result even more of a shock for Marriott and the rest of the side.

"It's just come out of nowhere – we'd had a good week in training, doing a lot of work on shape, and generally training really well.

"They scored twice in quick succession, and that really knocks you. We dominated the start of the game, but you've just got to try to keep your head straight and focus."

Lyle Taylor scored twice for the Dons, while Sean Rigg also scored after the scoring was opened by an own-goal just after the 20-minute mark.

But the Town fought back, first with Marriott's excellent strike before Cameron McGeehan had a goal of his own chalked off as the visitors chased an unlikely recovery.

But despite the result, Marriott was pleased to get back amongst the goals for the first time since November.

He added: "In that situation, you've just got to keep going. We were unlucky not to get a second when Cam's goal wasn't given, and if it could then it could have been 4-4.

"Obviously it's a disappointing result, but I was glad to get on the scoresheet. We were hoping for two goals quickly like they did and hit them with their own medicine.

"We kept plugging away but obviously it wasn't enough. I'm glad to have made a nice contribution, and really made a push for the team, but it would have meant a lot more if we'd have got something out of the game.

"My goal was just instinct really, I tried to roll him and luckily it's came to be nicely. It's my fifth start since the last goal, so I was desperate to get back scoring and get it back.

"Some people would say it's [McGeehan's disallowed goal] hand, some shoulder, personally I couldn't say, it was a difficult one to see. There was no intention from him to handle it, but that's what was given."

The trip to AFC Wimbledon marked a third start for Marriott under Nathan Jones, but the 21-year-old has found himself playing

a variety of roles since the new manager came in.

The youngster hopes that can lead to an improvement in his game, as well as adding to the nine goals he has bagged already this term.

"I've played in a couple of different positions," Marriott continued. I've been playing on the right, the left, in the number ten role as well as being the number nine as focal point up front, and it's nice to have a bit more freedom on the ball.

"Jones is a top manager, and I'm really enjoying what we're doing. We're all doing things we know we could do, but maybe not that we did before he came on."





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# Happy Days!

We'd like to give a massive warm welcome to the Players' official charity this season, Happy Days.

## About Happy Days Children's Charity

### What a difference a day makes...

Last year, Happy Days helped over 23,000 courageous kids with life-limiting illnesses, mental and physical disabilities and those who had suffered abuse and neglect, with a vital respite break. We also gave magical days out to children who had lost a parent or sibling, as well as young carers supporting their families. Happy Days receives no government funding and we rely on the support of people just like you to continue our vital work.

At a time of economic uncertainty, cuts to care support and fears of unemployment, families who already struggle are facing even harder times. The increased stresses on families already struggling to cope with additional pressure can ultimately lead to turmoil, ill health, debt and other effects that can tear families apart.

## Organising magical breaks for very special kids

Happy Days is a small charity based in Luton that works in communities to support some of the most vulnerable children in the UK with a vital respite break. We all need a holiday from time to time and for families caring for children with special needs, a simple day out at the seaside or a trip to a farm park can be a vital lifeline.

However you choose to help, we're always grateful for your support.

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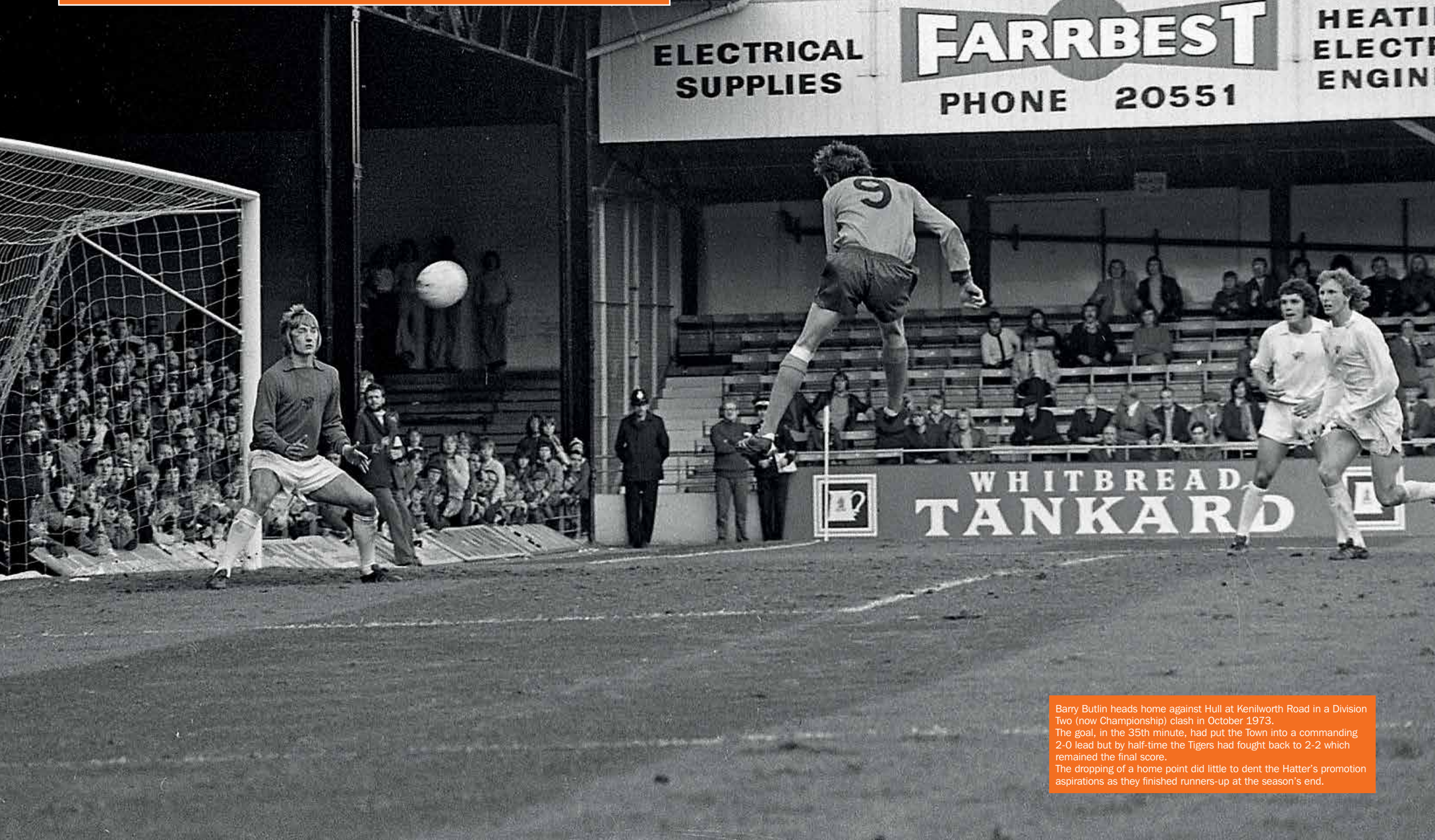


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# PICTURE the PAST

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



Barry Butlin heads home against Hull at Kenilworth Road in a Division Two (now Championship) clash in October 1973. The goal, in the 35th minute, had put the Town into a commanding 2-0 lead but by half-time the Tigers had fought back to 2-2 which remained the final score. The dropping of a home point did little to dent the Hatter's promotion aspirations as they finished runners-up at the season's end.



# THE CAMERA never LIES

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



Graham French watches on as Luton goalkeeper Sandy Davie makes a failed attempt to save a Francis Lee penalty at Manchester City in the FA Cup in January 1969. The game finished 1-0 and John Moore, who played that day, still spits feathers when the penalty incident involving himself and Lee is mentioned. I am behind that goal somewhere and can vouch for the fact that Moore did not touch Lee who was renowned for going down in the area as if hit by a sniper!





# Luton Town in the COMMUNITY

BY KEVIN THOBURN, HEAD OF THE HATTERS COMMUNITY TRUST

## Luton Town FC Men's Disability Football

What a fantastic reception our men's disability teams received from all of our supporters at our half-time presentation at the Yeovil Town game and that includes the Yeovil supporters and both sets of players who were out on the pitch. All of our players and staff were proudly parading their victorious FA People's Cup organised locally by the Bedfordshire FA and judging by the reception they all received they now all truly feel part of the football club.

Disabled or non-disabled, most of us either know or can remember what we got out of playing or watching football – it's a great leveller and for our men's disability team it's no different. That could have been any of the players parading the Conference title trophy – to our disability players it was! That is the real benefit of the group training and playing every week with our coaches – that session allows them to be whoever they want to be at least once a week and the presentation was a great reward for their hard work. Thank you all for your continued support!



## Community Cohesion Award for KITs Project

The Trusts work was recognised last week by the Bedfordshire Police Community Cohesion Team led by Inspector Hob Huque principally for our work with young adult males in Lewsey Farm and Marsh Farm around gang prevention. Myself and Daniel Douglas, our Community Operations manager, who runs our Community Integration Through Sport (KITs) project with Active Luton, received the Community Cohesion Award in recognition of the Trust's continuous work toward community cohesion.

Currently, the Club's Community Trust along with Active Luton deliver football coaching using the sport and our badge to engage with the lives of mostly disadvantaged young men in the Marsh Farm, Lewsey Farm and Farley Hill areas of town. The integration projects runs every Thursday at Lea Manor 8.30 pm and in Lewsey and Farley Hill at BSA and BWA on Friday 18.30 and boys aged 14-22 can simply turn up and join in.

The sessions are lively and the banter is even livelier, but so far no sign of trouble, so don't believe everything you read or hear about certain parts of town – there are far more good young people around than people would imagine.

Recently the boys at the Marsh Farm centre have been joined by Police Superintendent Sharn Basra and his team who have got their kit on and joined in with the boys – real community cohesion at work and fairly ground breaking on both sides!

Our football club is trying to make a difference in Luton and the team led by Daniel Douglas deserve their recognition!

## Talent Identification Programme 2014/15 Term 3 starts next week

Last week we held our second assessment trial matches of the season for boys on our talent identification programme and next week we start Term 3 as we continue our search for young local talented footballers.



The successful TIPs Development programme is now in its 10th year of operation and the centres aim to provide high quality coaching for up and coming footballers. Whether you are an ambitious player

wanting to progress towards becoming a professional, or a new-comer, wanting to develop the basics, the TIPs programme has something to offer you. The cost is £45 per term, which includes nine practical sessions and one assessment match. In addition to the trial match, players will receive a report on their personal development during the nine-week programme.

In the last 10 years over 70 players have been signed by our Academy through our TIPs programme and if your coach feels you have shown the right levels of ability and attitude during the term you will be given the opportunity to progress to the Centre of Excellence/Pre-Academy. Players who display talent can be moved through the programme after only a few weeks if appropriate.

## TIPs Centres - Venues, Days and Times

### BEDFORD

Bedford Modern School, Manton Lane, Bedford MK41 7NT  
Tuesdays: Yrs 2-6 18:00 - 19:00 Yrs 7-11 19:00 - 20:00

### BIGGLESWADE

Biggleswade Town FC, The Carlsberg Stadium, Langford Rd, Biggleswade, Beds SG18 9JT  
Tuesdays: 18:00 – 19:00

### DUNSTABLE

Creasey Park Stadium, Creasey Park Drive, Dunstable LU6 1BB  
Fridays: 17:30 – 18:30

### FLITWICK/AMPTHILL

Redbourne Upper School  
Flitwick Road, Beds MK45 2NU  
Mondays: 17:00 - 18:00

### HARPENDEN

Sir John Lawes School  
Manland Way, Harpenden AL5 4QP  
Fridays: 18:00 – 19:00  
(Term 2 & 3 will be held indoors at Sir John Lawes school and Redborne recreation centre)

### HITCHIN

Hitchin Boys School, Hitchin SG5 1JB  
Fridays: 18:00 – 19:00

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Lealands High School LU3 3AL  
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Powerleague, Fyfield Barrow, Walnut Tree MK7 7WH  
Tuesdays: Yrs 2-6 18:00 – 19:00

### SHEFFORD

Robert Bloomfield Middle School  
Shefford, SG17 5BU  
Wednesdays: 17:00 -18:00

### ST ALBANS

Nicholas Breakspear School  
St. Albans Herts, AL4 OTT  
Wednesdays: 17:00 -18:00

To receive further details you can download our TIPs leaflet from the Club's main 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 on 01582 737568.







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# Hatters through the GENERATIONS

IN THE NEXT IN OUR FIRST SERIES OF TALKING TO TOWN FANS OF THEIR EXPERIENCES OF WATCHING THE HATTERS DOWN THE YEARS, **DANNY JAMES** EXPLAINS HOW MUCH OF A ROLE THE CLUB PLAYS IN HIS LIFE.

The allure of Kenilworth Road is something that can catch on from a young age, and it's no different for Danny James, who went to his first Hatters game with his dad at the age of six.

Now the father of two is taking his children to watch new heroes take to the park on a Saturday afternoon. Danny's story is one shared by thousands of Hatters fans up and down the country, whose stories we are celebrating for the 130th anniversary season. His memories, however, of his first trip to Kenilworth Road, watching Luton beating Stoke City 2-0 on a summer's day in 1984 are limited to stuff that happened off the pitch.

"I can't really remember anything about the game," said Danny. "I remember getting out of the car seeing loads of lads being lads just running down Dunstable Road having a good time on a nice sunny day at the start of the season."

## CELEBRATE

"We were sitting in an uncovered part of the Main Stand, and I was watching that great scoreboard we had flashing every time we scored a goal and men taking their hats off to celebrate."

It was a no-brainer decision for Luton Town to be the club for Danny, who has witnessed the good times, watching the Hatters lift the Littlewoods Cup in 1988. He was also a season-ticket holder for the two years the Hatters were in the Championship in the 2000s.

"I was born and went to school in Luton, so when I was at that age, it was easy for me to support Luton and for my mates to as well."

"We were in the First Division, one of the top 10 or 12 teams in the country. I wouldn't have dreamed of supporting anyone else, and except for the odd Arsenal fan, I don't really remember anyone at school supporting any other team."

"Now, for anyone knew looking for a team to support, it's not so easy. I applaud the supporters who cheer on



Danny with Archie after the Forest Green game in April 2014

the team week in, week out, because we've certainly had our ups and downs recently, so I admire the younger fans who go down there for the first time.

"I had an apprentice working for me two years ago who was about 17. He told me he'd never seen Luton play in the Football League, just the Conference, and he started going when he was 12."

"He and his mates still went every week and that blew my minds! I'm not sure I could have done that when I was their age."

But despite the rollercoaster that has been the recent years of Luton Town Football Club, Danny still holds fond memories of a decade ago, when the side were flying high in the second tier of English football.

"The season when we finished 10th in the Championship was great, but there are three games in





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particular that stand out to me during that campaign: Beating Norwich 4-2 at Kenilworth Road when we were 4-0 up at half-time. Winning 3-2 against Reading at home, the only defeat they had all season after the opening game, was also fantastic.

“And of course the Liverpool game in the FA Cup. I’ve never seen a Luton team play that well for 60 minutes at Kenilworth Road.

“The football was unbelievable and they were the European champions at the time. I remember thinking: ‘This is like the high water mark’. We’re not going to get any better than this.

“What was great is that so many of those players had come through the divisions with us, the likes of Steve Howard, Kevin Nicholls and Chris Coyne helping us play good football.”

### GREATEST

Danny was also among the 95,000 at Wembley in 1988 for arguably the Hatters’ greatest moment, the Littlewoods Cup victory over Arsenal, tasting the experiences of Wembley Way and the crowd’s reaction to the Town’s 90th-minute winner.

Now the father of two, who gets to about seven or eight games a season with Louis, nine, and Archie, five, hopes his new generation of Town fans can be inspired by the likes of David Preece, as he was growing up.

“David was a brilliant midfielder,” said Danny. “He was tiny, but he could run all day and I loved that about him.

“We went on a cup run in 1994, the year we played Chelsea at Wembley in the semi-finals, and he was amazing in that run, especially against Cardiff and West Ham. I was lucky, being born at the right time for success.

“Louis loves it every time he comes, and Archie’s first game was the 4-3 defeat to Northampton just before Christmas.

### CHANGES

“It was brilliant for him to see so many goals, just not enough of them from a Hatters perspective!”

Like many fans, Danny has been there through the Hatters’ five-year stint in non-league, and he has observed some noticeable changes since the Town’s return, which he hopes the new Kenilworth Road manager can take advantage of.

Danny said: “It’s been a bit up and down since Nathan Jones came in, but I think it will take half a season for everything to come together.



Danny’s son Archie (left) pictured at his first game

“I reckon it will be a bit like when John Still came in for that half a season [in February 2013]. He brought in a couple of players, had a look at what we had and then the next year we could take off. There is a chance we could get the Play-Offs, but it will need a good run.

“I think Nathan could bring Luton what Bournemouth had with Eddie Howe: A young manager with new ideas and a new perspective of how football should be played. John Still was brilliant for what he did, but didn’t have that style of football.

“The Football League we got relegated out of is a lot different to the way it is now. The likes of Oxford, Northampton and Wycombe all play football.

“Back then, the way of playing was to have a big man at the front, a big man at the back, and that was also the style we had to play to get out of the Conference.

“Now the standard of player is a lot better, and you need to play football and be a bit more tactically astute.”

Asked how he thinks the new manager will bring the success required, just a few words were needed to emphasise Danny’s emotion: “I hope so. I’ll be there with him.”



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## ACADEMY UPDATE

WITH DEVELOPMENT & ACADEMY  
MANAGER ANDY AWFORD

Good afternoon and welcome to today's game versus Hartlepool United.

More praise, and fully deserved, for our Under-18s as they progressed through to the quarter-finals of the FA Youth Cup with a penalty shootout victory away at Preston North End last week.

After taking an early lead, controlling the game for large parts, having a perfectly good second goal disallowed, we were pegged back in the final seconds of normal time and, although we finished the stronger of the teams, in extra-time we were given a lifeline when Preston missed a spot-kick in the last minute.

The tie was a real good cup tie and had a bit of everything and thankfully we held our nerve to win 5-3 on penalties. A huge well done to Paul Driver and the squad, who now face Blackburn Rovers on Tuesday night up at Ewood Park.

We are now the only Category 3 rated Academy left in the competition and the opposition will obviously now get tougher. Blackburn are a Category 1 Academy and will therefore provide us with our toughest test yet, but the boys will go up there full of confidence and give it absolutely everything.

The success that the Under-18s have enjoyed in the FA Youth Cup has been aided by us being able to prepare as professionally as possible for the long away trips we have been presented with, and I would like

to once again extend my sincere thanks to SoLYD, who along with the Bobbers Travel Club, covered the cost of the travel for the long trip to Preston.

Another successful cup run, this time in the League Cup, sees the Under-18s host Swindon Town in the Southern Area Final at Kenilworth Road on Thursday 3rd March (7.30pm kick-off). Shrewsbury await the winners in the National Final - fingers crossed!

The progression made in both of the cup competitions, along with wrapping up the league title early, has allowed us to blood our Under-16 and some Under-15s in the Under-18 Merit League fixtures and this is fantastic experience for these young players. The opportunity to play in the Under-18s games programme earlier than normal, will no doubt help them develop their game and enhance their football experience. To date, the boys have shown great maturity and handled themselves very well against older and physically stronger teams, with the staff delighted with their overall progress.

Finally, I would like to congratulate our Under-9s Coach, Pedro Carreira, who has successfully completed his UEFA 'B' Coaching Qualification. Pedro has been chasing this award for a little while and we at the Academy are all delighted that his hard work and long hours has finally paid off - 'Bem Feito' Pedro! Enjoy today's game. COYH!

**Andy**

## YOUTH ALLIANCE FIXTURES

### AUGUST

Sat 8 Barnet H W 4-0  
Sat 15 Peterborough United A W 3-1  
Tue 18 A.F.C. Wimbledon H W 5-0  
Sat 22 Milton Keynes Dons A W 8-2  
Sat 29 Gillingham H D 1-1

### SEPTEMBER

Tue 1 Bristol Rovers (Cup) A W 2-0  
Sat 5 Cambridge United A W 2-0  
Sat 12 Leyton Orient H W 3-0  
Sat 19 Dag & Red H W 4-0  
Sat 26 Northampton Town A W 1-0

### OCTOBER

Sat 3 Dag & Red (Cup) W 2-0  
Sat 10 Southend United A W 2-1  
Sat 17 Peterborough United H W 4-1  
Fri 23 Barnet A W 5-0  
Fri 30 Leyton Orient (Cup) H W 4-3 pens

### NOVEMBER

Mon 2 Colchester Utd H (FAYC1) W 3-1  
Sat 7 A.F.C. Wimbledon A W 4-1  
Mon 16 Leyton Orient A (FAYC2) W 1-0  
Sat 21 Gillingham A D 1-1

Tue 24 Milton Keynes Dons H W 2-0

### DECEMBER

Sat 5 Cambridge United H W 3-0  
Tue 15 Notts County A (FAYC3) W 3-1  
Sat 19 Dagenham & Redbridge A L 1-3

### JANUARY

Sat 2 Leyton Orient A W 1-0  
Tue 12 Stevenage A W 2-0  
Sat 16 Bournemouth A (Cup) W 4-2  
Wed 20 Southend United H W 1-0  
Sat 23 Stevenage H L 0-1  
Wed 27 Oldham Athletic A (FAYC4) W 1-0  
Sat 30 Northampton Town H L 0-3

### FEBRUARY

Wed 10 Preston North End (FAYC5) A D 1-1 (W 5-3 PENS)  
Sat 13 Leyton Orient H 10.30am L 0-1  
Sat 20 AFC Wimbledon H 11am  
Tue 23 Blackburn Rovers (FAYCQF)A 7pm

### MARCH

Thu 3 Swindon Town (LC SF) 7.30pm  
Sat 5 Bournemouth A 11.30am  
Sat 12 Gillingham H 11am  
Sat 19 Cheltenham Town H 12 noon  
Sat 26 Exeter City A

### APRIL

Sat 2 Barnet A  
Sat 9 Plymouth Argyle H 1pm  
Sat 16 Southend United A 11am  
Sat 23 Portsmouth A



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# YOUTH TEAM REACH CUP QUARTERS

HATTERS YOUNGSTERS BECOME FIRST YOUTH TEAM TO MAKE LAST EIGHT STAGE SINCE 1997

**Youth Team boss Paul Driver was full of admiration for his side after they were prevailed to the last eight of the FA Youth Cup with a dramatic victory at Preston last week.**



The Town took the lead through Jack Snelus, but were pegged back in the dying stages which sent the game to extra-time, where the hosts had a chance to win the game with a penalty.

But the Hatters got a stroke of luck before when North End's Ryan Davidson struck the crossbar before the Town youngsters held their nerve in the penalty shootout, to set-up a quarter-final tie with youth Premier League outfit Blackburn Rovers next week.

"Preston deserved a goal on their second half performance," said Driver. "We got through to extra time and from somewhere the boys got the energy and I thought we were the better side for that period.

"We were the better side from the start, getting a nice early goal then a scramble where the keeper has made two great saves.

"Jack scored one [which was given offside] which we think was okay – that would have made it 2-0 and would have been a huge difference to the game."

Both sides suffered from tired legs on the full-size Deepdale

pitch, but the Town put in a dogged shift to take the game to penalties, despite being without captain Frankie Musonda through injury.

And Driver believes it's moments like this that could be the making of the Town youngsters for years to come.

"Whatever happens now, what they will learn will help them from years and years to come," he said. "In their younger professional years, the nerve and the way they dug in and the understanding that you have to work hard even when they're dead and falling down, still being able to get up and go again is fantastic.

"It's a testament to the strength of squad that you can bring three subs on that all change the game positively. Kavan [Cotter] and [James] Verney added that energy, while Ciaren Jones as a 16 year-old came in there against a good centre forward and did well.

"Blackburn here we come! We like the North West!"

Driver was also thankful to Supporters

of Luton Youth Development (SoLYD) for their part in getting the Hatters to Preston a day early for extra preparation.

He said: "The preparation helps, especially with the fact that we could come up here the day before and the SoLYD Bobbers Travel helped with the funding of the hotel and the coaches. You can't measure that.

"That's massive for the boys but it's what the group's about. Preston had 10 second year players, and we had three and a 16-year-old. I don't know where the youngsters get it from, but I can't say anything more than if we'd got beat I'd have still been so, so proud."

So the Hatters head to Ewood Park on Tuesday with full coverage on lutontown.co.uk. Good luck boys!

## THE ROAD TO THE QUARTER-FINALS

- 1st round – Colchester home W 3-1
- 2nd round – Leyton Orient away W 1-0
- 3rd round – Notts County away W 3-1
- 4th round – Oldham away W 1-0
- 5th round – Preston away W 5-3 pens





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# Luton LADIES



With the weather again putting paid to the first team fixture, the development squad continued their improvement in a high scoring affair away to Bromley.

In a real humdinger of a match dominated by the attacks, the Town came out on top in a high scoring encounter by 8-4.

Natasha Fensome bagged a hat-trick while Tamera Bayne netted twice.

Lucy Higgs was again on target and the Kent side did themselves no favours by also adding to the Town tally with an own goal. Incredibly just four points covers places fifth to 11th in a hotly-contested division.



## BIDDING

The Under-16s moved a step closer to bidding for the League and Cup double despatching St Albans City 5-0 in the League Cup. Jodie Bellinger, Natalie Case, Choe Fitzsimmons, Chloe Jenkins and Daisy Slowey were the scorers.

They followed there cup form up with a crushing 8-1 away league win against Bedford to leave them needing four points from the remaining three games to secure

the title. Bellinger netted another four with Fitzsimmons scoring twice. Funmi Babalola scored the other two for a rampant Town.

## STOP START

The Under-13s continued their recent good form with a 1-0 win over Flitwick Eagles courtesy of a goal from Alicia Ahmed.

First Team manager Nikki Baker said: "It's been a bit stop start of late with the poor weather but we hope to get back in action this

Sunday in our county cup semi-final at home to Bedford.

## CONCENTRATION

"Form goes out of the window in these ties and although Bedford have struggled of late we know that this will be a tight bidding where we will need to concentrate for the entire 90 minutes to come out on top."

The tie will be held tomorrow at Stockwood Park Athletics Stadium with a 2pm kick-off.

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



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# JUNIOR HATTERS

## PLAYER PROFILE

### ALAN SHEEHAN

DATE OF BIRTH: 14TH SEPT 1986

FROM: ATHLONE, IRELAND

HEIGHT: 5ft 11

POSITION: DEFENDER

WHEN DEFENDER ALAN SHEEHAN JOINED THE HATTERS ON LOAN FROM BRADFORD HE BECAME NATHAN JONES' FIRST SIGNING AS LUTON MANAGER. SINCE THEN, SHEEHAN HAS BEEN A REGULAR FEATURE IN THE LUTON XI - EVEN FINDING THE SCORESHEET WITH AN ABSOLUTE SCREAMER AGAINST YEOVIL. GREAT GOAL ALAN!



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# A WORD FROM The Football League Paper

BY CHRIS DUNLAVY

Once upon a time Marseille could attract Chris Waddle. Now, the best they can manage is a misfiring Sunderland striker.

The transfer of Steven Fletcher to the French giants was one of the deadline day's more bizarre transfers but the Scot is in good company.

Because while we all know about superstars like Gazza and David Beckham earning megabucks moves to the continent, history is full of lesser lights who pitched up across Europe to leave foreign fans thinking 'Who is this bloke?'

### Franz Carr Reggiana (1996/97)

Famously described as "the best corner-flag hitter in the business" by Brian Clough, Carr came from that long, distinguished line of lightning-quick but technically hopeless wingers. Though a regular with Forest, by 1996 the 30-year-old's pace was diminishing and the excitement that greeted his arrival in Italy soon dissipated. His Romanian coach complained that Carr's crosses "ended up in the parking lot" and he eventually played just six times (the last in a 6-1 hiding at Lazio) as newly-promoted Reggiana made an instant return to Serie B.

### Micky Quinn PAOK (1995/96)

Hardly your archetypal 'foreign-style' striker, Quinn unsurprisingly took to life in Greece like a duck to quicksand. "The football was so slow and laborious," he said. "There were

70 passes before you even crossed the halfway line. You'd get one chance and if you missed it you'd be slaughtered in the papers."

Then there were the unpaid wages, the concrete thrown from the terraces, the three managers in two months and the chairman who carried guns for self-protection. After one goal in ten games, Quinn bailed out and promptly retired.

### Vinny Samways Las Palmas (1996-2002)

Derided as 'Skinny Sideways' during his days with Spurs and Everton, Samways' measured holding play was out of place in the hurly-burly of early nineties English football. So in 1996, out of the blue, he switched to Las Palmas, a Spanish Second Division side based in the Canary Islands. There, he became club captain, folk hero and even developed a reputation as a hard-man. His crowning glory came in 2000 when he skippered the side to the title, earning himself the chance to play against Zinedine Zidane and the rest of Madrid's galacticos.



Micky Quinn: Not your archetypal foreign-style striker

### Danny Dichio Sampdoria (1997/98)

What the mighty Sampdoria wanted with a bang-average, 6ft 4ins QPR striker, only Sven Goran Eriksson - the man who signed him - can say. Maybe it was the Italian name. Either way, he was onto a loser. Dichio already had Jurgen Klinsmann and Beppe Signori to displace, then Eriksson left for Lazio. In his place came hardline Marxist Cesar Luis Menotti, who spent four hours of Dichio's first training session expounding on the evils of imperialism and telling the young Brit why he must always refer to the Falklands as 'Malvinas'. Baffled and browbeaten, Dichio never recovered and, after two games, joined Lecce on loan. He spent just half a season there before fleeing to Sunderland.

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# LEAGUE LOOK

Northampton are firmly in the box seat for promotion after a successful last week which saw them extend their lead at the top of League 2 with a superb 4-0 win at Leyton Orient.

The chasing pack kept up with them, though with Plymouth winning 3-0 at home to Mansfield and Oxford winning 4-2 at Morecambe.

The biggest game of last weekend saw Portsmouth beat Bristol Rovers 3-1 in front of almost 18,000 at Fratton Park. The three points lifted Pompey back in the Play-Off places.

There were also wins for Accrington and Wycombe meaning the Town's defeat at Wimbledon drops the

Hatters 10 points off the final Play-Off spot.

At the other end of the table it was a bad day for Dagenham & Redbridge, whose 2-0 home defeat to Barnet, allied with York's win over Notts County, sunk the Daggers to bottom place. John Still's side are now six points from safety.

Today's visitors Hartlepool inched away from the relegation zone with a home victory over fellow strugglers Yeovil.

Elsewhere last weekend there were wins for Newport – at home to Carlisle – and Stevenage – at home to Exeter. There wasn't a single draw in the 12 matches in League 2.

In the pick of today's action, leaders Northampton host Wycombe while promotion chasers Oxford and Accrington meet at the Kassam Stadium.

## TODAY'S FIXTURES

Barnet v Wimbledon

Bristol Rovers v Morecambe

Cambridge v York

Carlisle v Stevenage

Crawley v Plymouth

Exeter v Newport

Mansfield v Dagenham

Northampton v Wycombe

Notts County v Leyton Orient

Oxford v Accrington

Yeovil v Portsmouth

### LEAGUE TABLE 2015/16

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Northampton Town	30	21	4	5	56	31	25	67
2 Plymouth Argyle	30	18	5	7	46	26	20	59
3 Oxford United	30	15	10	5	48	28	20	55
4 Accrington Stanley	28	14	7	7	48	33	15	49
5 Wycombe Wanderers	30	14	7	9	36	29	7	49
6 Portsmouth	29	12	12	5	48	26	22	48
7 Mansfield Town	32	13	9	10	43	37	6	48
8 Bristol Rovers	30	14	5	11	40	32	8	47
9 Leyton Orient	31	12	10	9	46	45	1	46
10 AFC Wimbledon	29	12	9	8	46	36	10	45
11 Cambridge United	31	12	8	11	44	43	1	44
12 Carlisle United	28	11	10	7	46	42	4	43
13 Exeter City	30	11	7	12	39	43	-4	40
14 Notts County	29	11	6	12	44	50	-6	39
15 LUTON TOWN	31	10	8	13	43	45	-2	38
16 Crawley Town	31	11	4	16	36	52	-16	37
17 Morecambe	31	10	6	15	52	57	-5	36
18 Barnet	29	10	6	13	38	44	-6	36
19 Stevenage	32	8	10	14	42	54	-12	34
20 Newport County AFC	29	7	9	13	33	43	-10	30
21 Hartlepool United	28	8	3	17	28	47	-19	27
22 York City	30	6	8	16	33	53	-20	26
23 Yeovil Town	30	5	9	16	31	46	-15	24
24 Dagenham & Redbridge	30	4	8	18	30	54	-24	20

### PLAYER STATS 2015/16

	THIS SEASON										LFC		
	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	6	0		
Paul Benson	12	(4)	4	1	(2)	1	13	(6)	5	2	1	81	25
Scott Cuthbert	28	(0)	4	0	0	32	(0)	0	1	1	32	0	
Nathan Doyle	6	(5)	0	2	(1)	0	8	(6)	0	2	0	45	0
Danny Green	12	(1)	5	2	(3)	1	14	(4)	6	6	0	18	6
Scott Griffiths	17	(1)	0	3	(3)	0	20	(4)	0	1	0	115	3
Luke Guttridge	6	(2)	2	3	(0)	0	9	(2)	2	1	0	74	19
Ryan Hall	5	(4)	0	0	(3)	0	5	(7)	0	1	1	18	0
Jake Howells	10	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	10	(0)	0	1	0	327	31
Elliot Justham	7	(1)	0	2	(0)	0	9	(1)	0	0	0	33	0
Alex Lawless	15	(6)	1	3	(0)	0	18	(6)	1	6	0	196	22
Oilly Lee	19	(3)	1	5	(0)	0	24	(3)	1	5	0	27	1
Sean Long	7	(2)	0	2	(0)	0	9	(2)	0	2	0	11	0
Craig Mackail-Smith	23	(4)	3	1	(0)	0	24	(4)	3	1	0	28	3
Jack Marriott	10	(16)	7	4	(0)	2	14	(16)	9	2	1	30	9
Paddy McCourt	10	(9)	1	1	(0)	0	11	(9)	1	3	0	20	1
Cameron McGeehan	24	(3)	8	2	(2)	2	26	(5)	10	4	0	64	16
Steve McNulty	9	(1)	0	2	(0)	0	11	(1)	0	3	0	125	2
Josh McQuoid	15	(7)	2	4	(2)	2	19	(9)	4	1	0	28	4
Frankie Musonda	0	(1)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	1	0
Mark O'Brien	2	(4)	0	3	(0)	0	5	(4)	0	1	0	9	0
Stephen O'Donnell	15	(0)	0	3	(0)	1	18	(0)	1	2	0	18	1
Magnus Okuonghae	6	(1)	0	2	(1)	0	8	(2)	0	2	0	10	0
Joe Pigott	2	(2)	0	0	(0)	0	2	(2)	0	1	0	4	0
Dan Potts	4	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	6	(0)	0	0	0	6	0
Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu	4	(5)	1	3	(0)	0	7	(5)	1	0	0	54	4
Alan Sheehan	5	(0)	1	0	(0)	0	5	(0)	1	1	0	5	1
Jonathan Smith	24	(3)	4	4	(0)	0	28	(3)	4	5	0	131	9
Mark Tyler	24	(0)	4	4	(0)	0	28	(0)	0	0	0	294	0
Luke Wilkinson	20	(0)	3	4	(0)	0	24	(0)	3	3	0	72	7









# HOLD THE BACK PAGE

WITH MATT WRIGHT

We're just over a month on from Nathan Jones being appointed as Luton manager and it's fair to say we've already seen a great deal of change under the new boss.

On the pitch, we've seen a new style of play emerge with players who, for one reason or another, were not first-team regulars in the first half of the season, like Jake Howells, Stephen O'Donnell and Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu, making the most of a fresh start.

Off it, last month saw the return of a legend and a new head of recruitment in Mick Harford, someone who knows this club like few others.

The opening six games of Jones' reign have been encouraging, on the whole, and the fact that he's been able to exert as much influence in a relatively short space of time belies his managerial experience.

The word 'novice' was banded about after news the former Brighton and Yeovil defender had got the job broke, but this wasn't fair as he's been coaching since 2009 – while he was still playing.

That is plenty of time for someone to come up with their own ideas about how they want their team to be set up and to absorb the best qualities of the managers they work under.

When you think that he won Gary Sweet over out of 135 applicants for the job, that takes

some of the risk element out of his appointment.

But back to his impact on the pitch, and the clearest thing to emerge so far is that the Hatters' tendency to self-destruct defensively has become far less of a problem.

It was their previous instability at the back that ultimately cost John Still his job in December. Throwing matches away became too much of a habit under Jones' predecessor.

## CONSISTENT

Building from the back was a necessity if Luton are to fight their way back into the top half at least and hopefully a more consistent cutting edge in attack will develop as a result.

The next task is to sort out the home form. Visiting Kenilworth Road hasn't exactly been an ordeal for Town's opponents this season.

The players won't need telling that three home wins in the league by mid-February isn't enough and hopefully today is the start of this statistic being rectified.

Less of an issue has been getting results on the road, with Town picking up impressive victories at a couple of promotion-chasers in Mansfield and Wycombe in recent weeks.



It's been an encouraging start for new boss Nathan Jones

In fact, the Hatters' away record as a whole this season stands up to scrutiny with only the top six being able to boast more wins on their travels than the their seven.

If this can be maintained, with this ground becoming more of a fortress on top of that, then there may be still be more excitement for the supporters than they would have expected in the remaining months of the season.

Jones' arrival has brought change from a journalistic standpoint as well.

It's fair to say he played with his cards close to his chest in his press conferences at first, but the fact that his answers are to the point again demonstrates the clear ideas he has for this club.

It means the half-hour pressers we had under Still are a thing of the past, although this does make listening to them back a bit easier!

Matt is the sports editor for the Bedfordshire on Sunday

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- 1 Mark Tyler
- 2 Stephen O'Donnell
- 3 Dan Potts
- 4 Jonathan Smith
- 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 Oly Lee
- 22 Craig Mackail-Smith
- 23 Josh McQuoid
- 24 Curtley Williams
- 25 Mark O'Brien
- 26 Nathan Doyle
- 31 Craig King
- 32 Luke Trotman
- 33 Mark Onyemah
- 34 Isaac Galliford
- 35 Zane Banton
- 36 James Justin
- 37 Frankie Musonda
- 40 Jake Howells
- 44 Alan Sheehan
- 45 Joe Pigott



## HARTLEPOOL UNITED

- 1 Trevor Carson
- 2 Carl Magnay
- 3 Jake Carroll
- 4 Harry Worley
- 5 Scott Harrison
- 6 Matthew Bates
- 7 Nathan Thomas
- 8 Brad Walker
- 9 Rakish Bingham
- 10 Billy Paynter
- 11 Kudus Oyenuga
- 12 Ebby Nelson-Addy
- 13 Adam Bartlett
- 14 Michael Woods
- 15 Rhys Oates
- 16 Nicky Featherstone
- 17 Scott Fenwick
- 18 Lewis Hawkins
- 19 Jordan Richards
- 20 Dan Jones
- 21 Michael Duckworth
- 22 Josh Nearney
- 23 Connor Smith
- 24 Kieran Green
- 26 Adam Jackson
- 28 Josh Laurent
- 30 Jake Gray
- 31 Peter Denton
- 32 Ellis Harrison
- 33 Luke James

## TODAY'S OFFICIALS



Andy Davies



Christopher Husband



Adrian Sannerude



4 Michael Webb

Back cover photograph taken from main stand block E.  
Email us your Kenilworth Road pictures [info@lutontown.co.uk](mailto:info@lutontown.co.uk)