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OUR TOWN -LUTON TOWN OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

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LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB 2020 LTD

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Analyst: Dan Bond



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THE MANAGER

Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for today's second home game of the Sky Bet Championship season.

Our first, against Peterborough a couple of weeks ago, was a really emotional day for everyone here, from the tribute to Mick Harford before the game to the celebrations that followed a terrific opening day performance.

From all of us, I would like to say thank you for the backing you gave the team that day. It was an occasion that will live long in the memory and just reminded us of what we've missed for the last year and a half.

Football is nothing without fans and for the new signings we've brought in this summer, and those who have been here a while now but never had chance to experience a packed Kenilworth Road, it told them that they are now representing one immensely proud and passionate club.

We'll need you again this afternoon. Birmingham are a different proposition to last season, and they have a very good manager at the helm in Lee Bowyer, who did a terrific job at Charlton. I welcome Lee, his staff and their players to the Kenny and wish them well for the season, after today.

It was a shame we couldn't follow the Peterborough performance up at West Brom, but we learnt lessons from a tough game at The Hawthorns against a side rightly tipped for an immediate return to the Premier League.

It was a difficult afternoon, not least because we were missing five of our best headers of a ball at centre-half, we gave them a start and then lost one of our most influential players to a very serious injury.

Thankfully Jordan Clark was released from hospital that evening and we look forward to welcoming him back when all the concussion protocols have been adhered to.

We had a positive last 20 minutes or so, and after being told a few home truths, the players deserved all the accolades they received on Tuesday night for the way they responded with a magnificent away performance at Barnsley.

We do enjoy a trip to Yorkshire, don't we? And you can't fail to when you score early and then keep a clean sheet to bring three points back down the M1. Our 31 successful tackles were more than any winning EFL teammanaged in a single game last season, which is testament to how determined the lads were to protect that lead.

The win was for Big Mick, who started his treatment that day, and the 748 fans who sang his name and held up their banner in support.

To see over 3,500 Luton fans travelling to three away games in a week – well, normal service has resumed and nothing surprises me about those numbers and the noise you make. Thank you.

Make the old place rock again today and enjoy the game. COYH!



NOTES FROM THE BOARDROOM

Good evening everyone and what a joy it is to welcome you in person. Hugs have never been so welcome.

Welcome to Birmingham City, Lee, his staff, and his team. After good results against Sheffield United and Stoke City I'm sure we will see a great game today.

It was great to see Pelly gain his 300th appearance. We all love Pelly and wish him many more games (only) in a Hatters shirt. He has been a major character in what has been achieved and his efforts have seen him play in all divisions bar the Premier League (for the moment...). We all thank him and wish him even more success.

From a personal perspective, it is wonderful to feel the energy that you all create inside Kenilworth Road. iFollow was a blessing for us all in allowing us to keep supporting the lads from our living rooms. When I was in Australia, Simon's commentary was always a welcome sound and congratulations must also go to his various cocommentators with Anthony, Benno and Forbsey - amongst many others - really adding colour to what we were seeing. Nevertheless, the Kenny lacked the 12th man.

I'm sure that, like myself, you can see that the absence of crowds led to some strange things - home advantage vastly reduced and referee decisions different to what you'd expect being just two. Even after three games with noisy crowds it's obvious that some officials are swayed by fans in the stadium. Whether it's subliminal to them, or they simply like playing to the crowd, witnessing the 270 minutes so far shows that home advantage is because of you, and you can (and do) affect decisions. I hope that referees can learn from the Euros and ignore everything bar the facts, allow play to flow, and are consistent; but in the meantime, it's not something we need to debate anymore - YOU make a difference; YOU are part of the team!

When we became custodians in 2008, one of our key objectives was about creating a family - a Club culture - and to spread that culture amongst future supporters. One of the greatest losses of the past year has been the inability for us all to introduce friends, family, and our kids to what we have built here. Yes, media partners help, but it's not the same and it does not capture the imagination like being here.

How many times have we tried to explain the atmosphere at the Kenny to friends? How many times have we tried to tell our kids that the goal just scored would have resulted in a deafening roar? How many times have we tried to explain to family that this isn't just football and that Luton Town is so much more?

Simply, there is nothing like a full Kenny.

It got me thinking. I thought about the people I have introduced to Luton Town over the years. Even those who do not follow football get hooked by us. Years later they still text after games with a happy or sad smiley. They start to like orange. They don't care about football, but they care about us. Why?

As I travel around the country with our tremendous away support [tipped hat to those at Oakwell who sung so well], I rarely pick up the vibes that flood the Kenny. No other Club has the philosophy we have created.

Not only do the Club staff, volunteers, and supporters' clubs do amazing things every single day in the community; not only do our coaches and players engage with thousands of schoolboys and schoolgirls every month; not only do our management provide resources for local charities to leverage; but all of this is done in with great skill, courtesy, compassion, kindness...'The Luton Way'.

We have never been just a football club and from gaining infamy around the world for the wrong reasons, we are now one of the most respected clubs in the country - cited by others as the example to follow. The same Luton who always seem to be written-off or ignored has truly changed the way people think in our national

game. Just think about that...against the might of the old boys clubs you have made a difference no one would have thought possible 15 years ago. Take pride!

All of you have gone quietly about your work. We know everyone who is 'not in the know' always places us as the underdog. We like that. In fact, we don't care what pundits, bookies, or outsiders think. We are being our best selves and we are proud of what we do.

People see this. They feel it. We all exude it.

When this new era started at Luton, you'd hardly see a Luton shirt in Bedfordshire. Now, whether it be Leighton Buzzard, Dunstable, Kempston, Bedford, Biggleswade, or Flitwick I see boys and girls in replica kits and it's a step change. Luton Town touches so many, and what's so amazing is that this is not just the Club or the staff - it's you too and how you spread the word. We are one team all doing our best for the same reason...and together we can achieve anything.

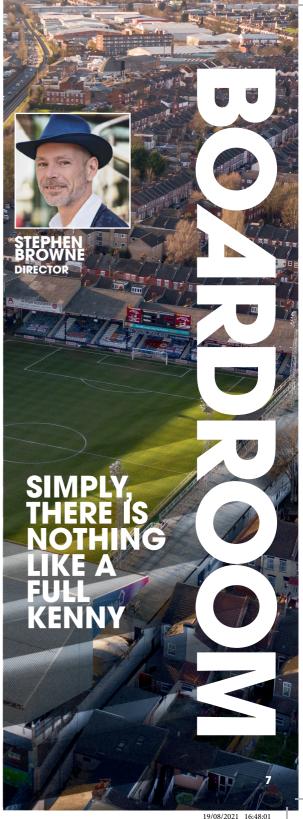
Congratulate yourselves - you have faced, and beaten, a truly horrible year. And during that year you have all given, supported, and cared. Together, we continue this fabulous journey enriched in ways we didn't expect. Who knows where it will lead us, but arm-in-arm we stand tall. We will bring others to our cause, we will welcome those who accept our high standards, we will give compassion to those in need. We are Luton Town.

On a personal note, today I welcome Darren and Caroline, very good friends and Caroline's first football match. You will sing, you will cheer, and Caroline will feel it. I know she will leave today and be yet another added to the Luton Army.

Sing loud and proud - you are special. Our Club is special.

COYH!

LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB SINCE 1885



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AICK HARFORD: A WORK OF ART! The re

Words: Dan Briard

Support for Hatters legend Mick Harford has come from wide and far and in a number of different forms, but football fan Jayson Swift has combined his interest and talent to create two eye-catching painted murals in local pubs, as well as hand drawn canvases!

Mick made it clear that he wanted to help others and raise awareness for prostate cancer when revealing his diagnosis last month, and Jayson promoted his support for our assistant manager around the community.

Despite starting his fight in December 2020, the 62-year-old has continued to perform his duties with the same commitment and determination fans have been so used to admiring over the years.

It was that, and the man he is, that inspired Jayson to produce a mural of Mick when he was approached by The Wheelwright Arms, whom he had previously produced work for before.

"I have always been interested in art and have been able to draw but it wasn't until I was approached by The Wheelwright Arms to put the Luton badge on their wall that I had done anything to this scale," says Jayson.

"After that, a player was suggested and there was only one standout candidate – Big Mick. I put the idea on paper and Helena Dalgarno – the pub owner – approved the image and the rest is history!"

Mick then officially re-opened the pub and unveiled the mural, which was fantastic for Helena and the local punters.

The response, Jayson admitted, has been phenomenal and Mick himself was said to be 'overwhelmed' by the mural.

Continuing, he explained: "The Green Man at Clophill got in touch as they wanted a different picture of Mick on their wall and Mick was just as pleased with this one as he was the first one.

"After I saw the news about Mick's diagnosis, I saw that he wanted to raise awareness and I just had to do something. He has been so gracious about the art that I wanted to help, so I created 34 hand drawn canvases and Mick kindly agreed to sign them all.

"I then sold all 34 on Facebook within 90 minutes of the post going up. We raised just under £900 for Prostate Cancer UK and raised plenty of awareness for the charity along the way.

"So many people asked me to pass on their best wishes to Mick which just shows how much he means to this town."

After raising almost £1,000, Jayson is keen to continue raising money for the club or helping to share awareness for prostate cancer, adding: "If there is any way I can help the club raise money or awareness or create some art for the club to raise money, I am more than happy to do so."



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ONE MICKY LARGE Wash



Lifting the Johnstone's Paint Trophy in 2009

While every Luton supporter and everyone at the club and the football world in general wish Mick a speedy recovery, today pits the Town against one of his former clubs, Birmingham City, where under wily manager Ron Saunders he was played to his strengths leading to the Hatters signing him for the first time in

December 1984.

Born in Sunderland in 1959, Mick was turned down by his boyhood favourites and went to work as an apprentice plumber while playing for a local Boys Club.

Four of the team were then signed by Lincoln City for a total £25, and it was not long before Mick was making his League debut for the Imps in 1977, who were then - as they are now - in the Third Division.

Three years of steady progress at Sincil Bank led to a big money move to Newcastle, which did not work out (although he did score the only goal for the Magpies in a victory at Kenilworth Road in January 1981), followed by a move to Bristol City and then on to Birmingham in March 1982.

At St Andrew's, Mick joined a team that was full of wayward personalities who came together in an explosive mix – older supporters can remember Mick's great friend and goalkeeper Tony Coton, Noel Blake, Pat van den Hauwe, Robert Hopkins and Howard Gayle in a team that battled for each other under Ron Saunders, himself a tough, old school centre-forward in his playing days.

Mick's goals kept the Blues in the top flight in

1981 -82 and the following season, but it was a bridge too far in 1983-84 and as he settled for Division Two football, a lifeline was thrown by Luton manager David Pleat in December 1984, who had to break the bank to bring him to Kenilworth Road for a monster (by Luton standards) £250,000.

Mick's time with Luton over the next five years is written into folklore. The Hatters side of the time was undoubtedly the best in its history, with Mick and Brian Stein gelling superbly up front, assisted by the likes of Ricky Hill and David Preece in midfield, while in defence Mal Donaghy and skipper Steve Foster formed a brilliant partnership.

Mick was not just an old-fashioned target man as he had silky skills on the floor, could bring others into play, could shoot accurately with either foot and, of course, was deadly in the air.

He was playing at a time where you needed to stand up to the dark arts practiced by so many of the defenders of the day, but Mick battled with them all, not willing to give an inch.

Now at the height of his powers and playing the best football of his career, it is a travesty that he was awarded only two caps for England.

It may well have been that Luton were regarded as an 'unfashionable' club, but when you consider that Kerry Dixon and Mark Hateley were chosen ahead of him, there would be no contest in the eyes of Luton supporters and no doubt those of Birmingham City.

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Mick bravely dives in to score against Manchester United in 1985



A typical Mick Harford header, netted against Portsmouth in 1988

After helping the club to finish a respectable 13th in 1984-85 and finishing top scorer after playing only half a season, he top scored again in 1985-86 as the team finished 9th. Injured for a large part of 1986-87 as the Town finished 7th, he was back with a bang in the following campaign which finished in Wembley glory when the Littlewoods Cup was lifted.

The following season ended in disappointment with a Wembley defeat to Nottingham Forest, despite Mick giving the Town a first-half lead, and with money problems starting to surface, the £480,000 offered by Derby in January 1990 could not be turned down.

At the Baseball Ground, Mick was still a Lutonian at heart, as proved by the own goal he scored at Kenilworth Road in the final game of 1990-91 which kept the Town up. Whether he meant to score or not is open to debate, not helped by the mischievous Mick who frequently changes his story!

Mick's stay at Derby was relatively short as David Pleat, now back at Kenilworth Road, was anxious to re-unite with the iconic forward and paid £325,000 for his services in September 1991.

In true 'Roy of the Rovers' fashion Mick scored two late goals, one of which was a glorious overhead

kick, to see off Oldham in his second coming. Sadly, even Mick's presence could not prevent the Town from being relegated at the end of 1991-92, and at the start of the following season a cheque for £300,000 took him to Chelsea. From there Mick had spells at Sunderland and Coventry before winding down his playing career at Wimbledon.

Mick was now about to enter his second career. He coached at Wimbledon and Swindon, was assistant manager at Colchester, Milton Keynes and Millwall, caretaker manager at Nottingham Forest and QPR and manager of Rotherham.

It is at Luton though that Mick has enjoyed his greatest triumphs. Lifting the Johnstone's Paint Trophy in 2009 at the end of a season where a draconian 30 points were deducted, and assuming the role of caretaker when the League One title was lifted in 2019.

From player, coach, assistant manager, manager, chief recruitment officer and Head of Recruitment at Kenilworth Road, or perm any combination at any given time, Mick is a true legend.

Come back soon, fit and well, and let us see if we can go full circle back to when you joined the club in the top flight in 1984.



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THE OPPOSITION

WORDS: RYAN PAYNE

The 2021/22 Sky Bet Championship season marks Lee Bowyer's first full season in charge at Birmingham City, having replaced Aitor Karanka in March.

Bowyer swapped The Valley for St Andrew's towards the tail end of last season, and guided the Blues to an 18th place finish in the second tier. Now with a transfer window and pre-season under his belt, the 44-year-old has made his mark on the side and will look to have a successful season this time out.

To help stamp his own imprint on the side, Bowyer has already brought in a number of new faces. Chuks Aneke joined on a free transfer from Charlton Athletic, reuniting with his former manager. Also joining the club are Gillingham's Jordan Graham, Ryan Woods from Stoke City, as well as Oliver Basey and Archie Matthews from Sunderland and Swindon Town respectively. Loan signings have also bolstered the Birmingham squad, with Juan Castillo, Tahith Chong, Dion Sanderson, and Matija Sarkic all signing temporarily.

Last season, the Hatters were unbeaten against Birmingham. At the Kenny, Matty Pearson's goal meant Luton had to settle for a draw after Lukas Jutkiewicz's earlier effort. In the reverse fixture in February, Dan Potts netted the only goal of the game as Nathan Jones' side finished as 1-0 winners.

Pre-season saw the Blues take on opponents from up and down the Football League, starting with a 3-0 win over League One side Cheltenham Town. A 1-1 draw against Barrow followed, before a 7-0 win over a Salford City XI. They ended their pre-season efforts with defeats to Northampton Town and West Bromwich Albion.

But in the league campaign, Bowyer's side got off to the perfect start. Playing away to recently relegated Sheffield United, Maxime Colin's first-half strike meant the Blues went home with all three points on the opening day, before a 1-0 Carabao Cup first round win over Colchester. Last Saturday they kept a third clean sheet in a row, drawing 0-0 at home to Stoke, before losing 2-0 at home to Bournemouth on Wednesday night.



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LUTON TOWN - V - BIRMINGHAM CITY 21/08/2021 | KENILWORTH ROAD



Boy/e.Sp. THIS IS BET.

THE GOALKEEPER: MATIJA SARKIC

Signed on loan from Premier League side Wolves, goalkeeper Matija Sarkic is one of the new faces to St Andrew's this summer. The 24-year-old graduated from Anderlecht's academy, before moving to Aston Villa. During his time at Villa Park, he had a number of loan spells away from the club. Spells at Wigan, Stratford Town, Havant & Waterlooville and Livingston gave him first-team football, before he left permanently for Wolves in 2020. Sarkic spent the 2020/21 season on loan in League One, playing for Shrewsbury, and featured in 26 league games.

THE DEFENDER: KRISTIAN PEDERSEN

Born in Denmark, Kristian Pedersen played at both Benløse IF and Ringsted IF, before making his professional debut at HB Køge. He spent two seasons playing regularly in the NordicBet Liga for the club, making 58 league appearances and scoring twice. His performances earned him a move to Germany, signing for 2. Bundesliga side Union Berlin. He spent two years in the German capital before moving on. In June 2018, he made the move to England and signed for Birmingham City. Since his move to St Andrew's, the Dane has been a regular in the Blues' defence.



THE MANAGER: LEE BOWYER

Bowyer enjoyed a successful playing career, remaining in the Premier League for the majority of his career. The 44-year-old had spells at Charlton, Leeds, Newcastle, West Ham, Birmingham, and Ipswich. He would eventually become manager at former side Charlton, first as caretaker then later permanently. Bowyer guided the Addicks to promotion into the Championship, beating Sunderland in the 2019 Play-Off Final. He resigned in March 2021 and became Blues boss following the sacking of Aitor Karanka, guiding the Blues away from relegation.



INITIATE STI



THE MIDFIELDER: TAHITH CHONG

A product of the Manchester United academy, midfielder Tahith Chong has made 16 appearances for the Red Devils in all competitions, including five in the Premier League. The 21-year-old does have first-team football under his belt, spending the 2020/21 season on loan at two different clubs. He spent the first half of last season in the Bundesliga with Werder Bremen, and spent the second half of the season in Belgium with Club Brugge. In July, Chong made his first loan move in English football, joining Birmingham. He made his debut in the 1-0 win over Sheffield United.



THE STRIKER: SCOTT HOGAN

Scott Hogan impressed in non-league, following his release from Rochdale as a youngster. The striker had spells at Woodley Sports, Halifax United, Stocksbridge Park Steels, Ashton United, and Hyde. He made a return to Rochdale in 2013, but only spent a year with the side before he joined Brentford. After impressing with the Bees, the 29-year-old spent time at Aston Villa, and also had loan spells at Sheffield United and Stoke. The striker also joined Birmingham on loan in January 2020, before joining permanently in September of the same year.

WATCH OUT FOR... JONATHAN LEKO

Making his senior debut as a 16-year-old, Jonathan Leko progressed through the West Bromwich Albion academy and broke into the first-team set-up. After a handful of Premier League appearances for the Baggies, Leko was sent out on loan. He had spells in the Championship with both Bristol City and Charlton Athletic, before making a permanent move to Birmingham in September 2020. Leko made 34 appearances for the Blues in his debut campaign, and will look to kick off this season after starting last season with injury concerns.





EALTH MODE

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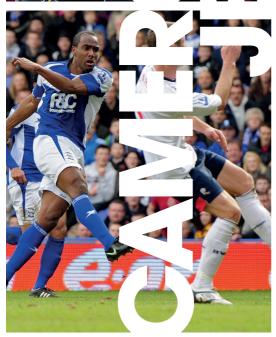
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A HAT IN BOTH CAMPS

Cameron Jerome joined Town this summer after leaving Milton Keynes. Having spent five years as a Birmingham City player, his striking talents will be more familiar to the away supporters.

Jerome, now 35, had spells at Huddersfield, Grimsby, Sheffield Wednesday and Middlesbrough in his youth. He would make his pro debut aged 18 for Cardiff City in a 0-0 draw against Leeds.

After two years and 27 goals in 79 appearances in the Welsh capital, the striker made the move to Birmingham in 2006. In his first season at St Andrew's he scored seven times as the Blues finished as Championship runners-up and won promotion into the Premier League. After relegation and another subsequent promotion, Jerome scored 11 Premier League goals in the 2009/10 season as City finished 9th.

The striker was also part of the side that won the 2011 League Cup, coming on as a sub as Birmingham beat Arsenal 2-1. After five years and over 200 appearances in all competitions with the club, Jerome left for Stoke City in August 2011. During his time with the Potters, the Jerome played Europa League football and featured regularly under Tony Pulis. The arrival of Mark Hughes saw Jerome loaned out to Crystal Palace, and eventually sold to Norwich City.

He would spend the next three-and-a-half-years at Carrow Road, and was part of the Canaries side that were Championship Play-Off winners in 2015. A move to Derby County then followed for Jerome, spending six months at Pride Park before moving to Turkish side Göztepe.

He returned to English football in October 2020, spending the 2020/21 season with Milton Keynes and scoring 13 league goals, before swapping Buckinghamshire for Bedfordshire to sign for the Hatters. He opened his account on debut at Stevenage in the Carabao Cup last week, before appearing against West Brom and Barnsley.

LUTON TOWN (2021-PRESENT)	
APPEARANCES:	3
GOALS:	- 1

APPEARANCES: 202
GOALS: 42

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HATTERS 1 BLUES 1

24th November 2020. Championship. Words: Roger Wash

The Town were sat comfortably in mid-table following a three game unbeaten run and looked forward to exacting revenge against a Birmingham side who had 'done the double' the previous season.

James Collins and Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu were back in the side and Luke Berry was about to make his 100th start for the club as the Town were stung by pre-match comments from Blues' goalkeeper Neil Etheridge, who thought that the Luton would be "battling probably towards the bottom" again. As it turned out, Etheridge put on a brilliant display while Collins had an evening to forget as he spurned a number of chances.

Collins had already missed a good opportunity when he headed a Berry cross narrowly wide when Blues were awarded a penalty after a cross from

Maxime Colin hit the outstretched arm of the sliding Elliot Lee. Lukas Jutkiewicz blasted home from the spot.

The Town then levelled on 37 minutes when Matty Pearson was quickest to react as a Berry corner caused chaos in the Birmingham defence.

From then on it was virtual one-way traffic with Rhys Norrington-Davies and the excellent Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall putting chances on a plate for Collins, only to be thwarted by superhuman efforts from Etheridge.

Etheridge then tipped over a Jordan Clark piledriver as he continued his one-man resistance to preserve a point for his side, while at the other end Simon Sluga had little do apart from turning a shot from Ivan Sunjic over the bar in the closing minutes.

A well earned point but it should have been all three!

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MEMORY MATCH

BIRMINGHAM CITY 1 LUTON TOWN 4

WORDS: ROGER WASH LUTON TOWN:

Barber, John Ryan, Buckley, Anderson, Faulkner, Litt, Jim Ryan, Husband, Alson, West, Aston.

BIRMINGHAM CITY

Latchford, Page, Bryant, Kendall, Gallagher, Pendrey, Calderwood (Smith), Francis, Burns, Hatton, Taylor The Town were promoted to the top flight in 1974 for the first time in 14 years. During the intervening years they had dropped to Division Four (now League Two) and back again – it was certainly never dul!!

Promotion to the top division in those days did not bring with it the untold wealth that television money provides now and, to be honest, the Town were not really ready for the step-up and the club's directors were worried about the financial impact.

Manager Harry Haslam and his team were going to enjoy themselves though and the season opened to blue skies, the green grass of a newly drained pitch and the white shirts of Liverpool, who were the first visitors to Kenilworth Road.

The Hatters scored first through previous season's top scorer Barry Butlin, but Liverpool, playing their first League game under Bob Paisley, simply did what they nearly always did when falling behind. They stepped up a gear and cruised to victory.

Points and goals were hard to come by for Luton early on in the season. It was not until game ten, with Carlisle the visitors, that the Town recorded their first win. Ironically, the victory was achieved without Butlin, whose transfer to Nottingham Forest had been finalised on the morning of the match. The £120,000 on offer apparently too good to turn down.

Without a recognised goalscorer, the Town went into free-fall, picking up only two points from their next eleven games. Haslam realised that he had to do something if the Town were not to register the lowest

number of points the top flight had ever seen and sensed that throwing in the youngsters could not make things worse.

The introduction of Steve Buckley and the Futcher twins, Paul and Ron, around Christmas turned out to be a masterstroke as suddenly the ship began to turn and three straight wins over the festive period revealed the slightest chink of light at the end of the tunnel.

The slow rise off the bottom was not without its setbacks as there was plenty of catching up to do but the youngsters coming through brought with them an infectious enthusiasm that rubbed off on the senior players. All of a sudden supporters started to believe the impossible.

The Town had climbed off the bottom rung by the end of March, following three wins in ten days, away at Carlisle and home to Leeds and Arsenal, which injected realistic hope with the supporters doing their part by turning Kenilworth Road into a cauldron which has rarely been bettered since.

Sadly, the Town came down with a bump over Easter, so often the graveyard of Luton Town hopes and ambitions. In a collapse of epic proportions, the Town lost 5-0 at future champions Derby, followed up by a 5-2 defeat at Wolves and

then 2-1 at fellow strugglers Tottenham with the winner coming from a blatantly offside position.

The show was now over, or so we thought, but the next two games brought two handsome wins leading up to the penultimate game, away at just about safe Birmingham City.

A crowd of 28,755 was at St Andrew's to see the Town attack from the first minute and taking a deserved early lead when full-back John Ryan hammered in a 30 yard free-kick. Although Blues hit the bar soon afterwards it was then all Luton with John Aston and Alan West tormenting the Birmingham defence.

Photo: The Town's second goal, from the boot of Adrian Alston is in the back of the net.



The second, and killer, goal came seconds before the interval when Adrian Alston, who had been recently recalled to the side after a period in the wilderness, received the ball well outside the penalty area before setting off on a run that left Birmingham defenders in his wake before smacking in a spectacular shot.

A third goal came on 48 minutes when Alston headed an Aston corner in at the near post and although Trevor Francis reduced the deficit on the hour mark it was always going to be the Town's day when Jimmy Husband, taking advantage of a slip by Malcolm Page, expertly chipped Dave Latchford in the Birmingham goal.

Birmingham frustrations boiled over in the final minute when Jim Ryan and Blues Kenny Burns clashed, with the latter going down as if hit by a sniper. Ryan was dismissed with Burns immediately jumping to his feet with a smile on his face.

Luton coach Roy McCrohan was then involved in an angry exchange with Burns when the final whistle sounded moments later.

The Town could only draw their last game, at home to Manchester City, while Tottenham amazingly thrashed Leeds 4-2 in their final outing to send us down but it had been a brilliant half-season!







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Birmingham Programme.indd 24 19/08/2021 16:50:14

FRED ONYEDIN/MA

Age: 24 Place Of Birth: Lagos

Matchday routine?

Vibes!

Superstitions?

None really, I'm not that kind of person.

Biggest influence?

I would say my family because of how much they have done for me.

Sporting hero?

Football wise it has to be Ronaldinho, he was an unbelievable player. Away from football, I would say Michael Jordan.





Best player you've played alongside?

That's tough. I would say Jack Powell and Eberechi Eze. I was with both of them at Millwall and I would have to say those two stand out for me.

Toughest opponent?

When I'm playing, I don't really focus on my opponent but there is one that stands out. When I was 17-years-old, I came up against Maynor Figueroa for Hull City. I guess it is an unusual answer, but I won't forget that game because it was really tough!

Most treasured possession?

I'm too care-free, it's not good! I'd

probably say my Millwall shirt when I made my debut in the FA Cup against Southend United. I have that framed so I would probably say that is my most treasured possession.

What would you do if you weren't a footballer?

I think I would have a couple of businesses. Other than that, possibly something to do with coaching or mentoring younger children. It wouldn't necessarily be about football but more life mentoring, I like the idea of helping others.

Best stadium played at?

Wembley Stadium. Pretty obvious, don't need to say anymore! I've played there three times, for Millwall against Barnsley which we lost, then I came on against Bradford the following season. With Wycombe I played the full 90 against Oxford United a couple of seasons ago.

Something people may not know about you?

I may or may not like a bit of dancing... but I don't want people to know that. You can't tell people you dance because they never stop going on about it! It's a hard one, maybe that I'm left-handed. Not sure people will know that, or care for that matter!

Favourite song?

Easy! Already Taken by Trey Songz.

Favourite film?

Planet of the apes, not the old ones though. It has to be the most recent one because there are a few versions!

Favourite meal?

Jollof rice is definitely my favourite.







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PELLY RUDDOCK

Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu signed on loan from West Ham United on 28th November 2013, and made his debut as a centre-back for the Hatters at Staines Town in the FA Trophy 1st Round two days later.

It was a crowd of just 621 at Wheatsheaf Park witnessing the goalless draw, but as he made his 300th appearance for Luton at the Hawthorns on Saturday, the total attendances for matches in which he has featured passed the 2 million mark.

Mpanzu was recalled by West Ham after just a month at Kenilworth Road, but with seven appearances without defeat to his name, Luton were able to sign the then 19-year-old on a permanent basis on 28th January 2014.

Two games later and his first goal, sorry, banger for the Club came on the hour in the 7-0 thrashing of Hereford United at Kenilworth Road. A lovely team goal was finished off by Mpanzu to make it 4-0 - after he'd been fouled for a penalty that had been dispatched by Jake Howells four minutes earlier.

A second goal banger of the season was to follow at Dartford as the Hatters came from behind to win 2-1.

It would transpire that whenever Pelly scored the Hatters won, with the only exception being his third Luton goal, against Bury in August 2014, but that was a late equaliser at Kenilworth Road earning a point for the Town.

That run of 19 goals in 18 unbeaten games was ended last Saturday though - as, despite their best efforts late on, the Hatters couldn't snatch a draw after his 20th goal on his landmark appearance.

[Just in case anyone is wondering the record for scoring and not losing is held by Stuart Fleetwood who netted

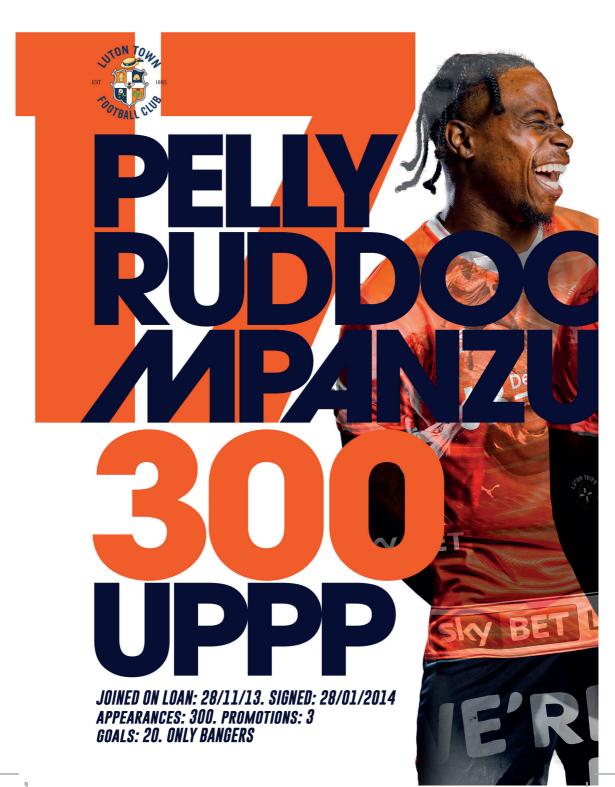
27 goals in 23 games during his time at Luton, with 19 wins and 4 draws]

Having started his Luton career playing non-League football, Mpanzu won his first promotion at the end of his debut 2013/14 season as the Hatters returned to the Football League, and then there were consecutive promotions in 2017/18 and 2018/19 as Luton reached the Championship.

His first goal at this level came against Bristol City in the 3-0 victory in October 2019, and at that stage it was 15 goals in 4 different Leagues!

Mpanzu is now 23rd in the all-time of appearances for Luton - it's just another 326 appearances to claim that No.1 spot Pelly!

19/08/2021 16:50:39







Birmingham Programme.indd 32 19/08/2021 16:50:57





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FRED ONYEDINMA



H: Julian Hyde A: LTFC Fool T: Available

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H: Available A: Available G: Available



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DYLAN BHUNDIA

'Athleticism'. It's become a bit of a buzzword at Kenilworth Road in relation to the Hatters' recruitment drive this summer, but what does it mean and how does 'adding athleticism' translate into the implementation of a style of play that yields more points?

At its core, athleticism represents a player's ability to physically compete with their opponent. So, Luton's desire to 'add athleticism' to the squad during the summer window means that Nathan Jones wants his side to be more physically competitive.

Athleticism encapsulates several different aspects of a player's physical attributes: an ability to out-strength an opponent, being quicker, being fitter, having good balance and the dynamism to rapidly change direction.

With the Hatters still operating on a budget towards the bottom end of the Championship, there are potential trade-offs to focusing on recruiting athletic players – perhaps, but not necessarily, to the detriment of technical ability or decision making.

Nonetheless, athleticism has proved to be a key aspect of Luton's recruitment, so what are the ideas that the Hatters' recruitment team have based this emphasis on athleticism around that they feel will translate into a playing style that

can improve on last season's strong 12thplaced finish?

Jones constantly speaks about the need for his team to 'do the basics' properly. What are these basics? Winning 1v1 duels, first balls, second balls, stopping crosses and being aggressive enough to deny the opposition time in dangerous areas.

Being a more athletic team aids all (and much more) of these aspects of defending 'properly' and allows Luton to press higher up the pitch, imposing themselves on their opponents and controlling games to a greater degree.

The Hatters usually set up man-marking the opposition midfield, and therefore this system requires players who are athletic enough to handle isolated 1v1 battles – someone like Jacob Butterfield, a technically fantastic player with a great range of passing, might struggle with this, whilst new-signing Allan Campbell is athletically able to cope with the style of play that Jones wants to implement, perhaps without offering the same technical quality as Butterfield.

Where athleticism greatly improves Luton is in the moments after they immediately win the ball. With the likes of Elijah Adeabyo, Harry Cornick and Fred Onyedinma leading from the front, Luton can get the ball forward quickly either by driving forwards 1v1 or looking for runners in behind, and the athleticism added to the squad will help the Hatters to score more goals within these phases of the game.

Luton have recruited to a style of play where they want to be more front footed and able to get the ball forward with greater speed. The key here is coherence – Jones has a vision for how he wants his team to play and Luton have recruited players who fit that vision, with adding athleticism being pivotal in achieving that.

www.ltfcanalysis.wordpress.com Twitter - @dylan_bhundia



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CASEY PETTIT



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ACADEMY UPDATE

Andy Awford



U21s

Since my last notes the Development Squad have enjoyed two away tests at Charlton Athletic & Colchester United. A fine display saw us beat Charlton 4-0 and then a young side went down 5-2 at Colchester. Both games offered up plenty of learning for the players on duty and we continue to mix things up with trips to Biggleswade Town on Tuesday and Slough Town the following week.

Congratulations to Ed McJannet, *pictured*, who has been in Hungary this week for two games with the Republic of Ireland U18s, and no doubt he will have represented the club and himself with pride, having been chosen as captain. Well done Ed.

Good luck to Jake Peck as he begins his loan in National League South with Concord Rangers.

111**2**e

The Youth Team bounced back in a positive way beating Stevenage 2-1 at the weekend, following an opening day defeat. Goals from Josh Allen & Oliver Lynch did the damage in the first half and a controlled, disciplined second half performance saw us see the game out well.

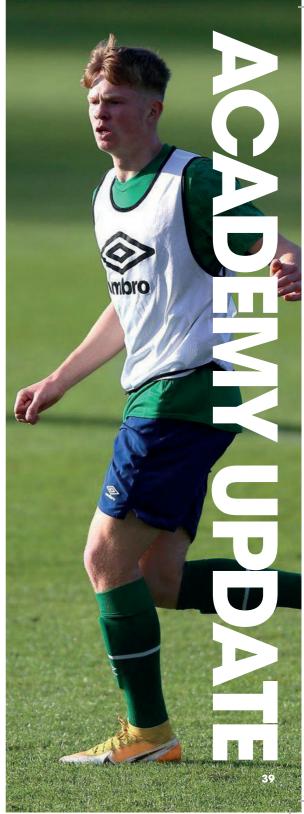
We took on Cambridge United this morning at our new matchday venue over at The Bedford Campus of Bedfordshire University. We are extremely grateful to our colleagues at the University for hosting our fixtures this season and look forward to enhancing the positive relationship we've built.

Next weekend we host Gillingham at the uni and with spectators now permitted, it would be great to see a few of you over there to cheer the boys on.

Staff

Finally, I would like to wish James Townsend (Under 15/16s Coach) the very best of luck following his departure from The Academy.

James moves on to West Ham United, having been with us for the past 9 seasons, whereby he has been a solid, reliable and important member of our team.





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JANNESON HORLICK

How did you get into football?

I got into football at a young age which started at school, going in on Saturday mornings with my dad and playing around. Moving on from that with my first team at Enfield Rangers, had fun there and blossomed into football. Moved to Woodside, played a couple seasons with them. Played other forms of football like futsal, went far into that and then managed to get picked up by Luton for a sixweek trial and then here I am.

Do you have a matchday routine?

I don't really get too much into routines because I feel like if one thing goes wrong, my head will go and that is the end of it. I try to stay away from routines, the only thing I do is strap up my wrists at the start of the game.

Who is your favourite footballer and why?

Being a goalkeeper and getting into it, I would say Joe Hart is my favourite footballer. I looked up to him as a role model when I first started out and even more so with the work he has done now with podcasts and helping younger players.

What music are you into?

I just listen to everything and anything. If I enjoy what is on then I will listen to it but if not, I'll skip it!

Favourite film?

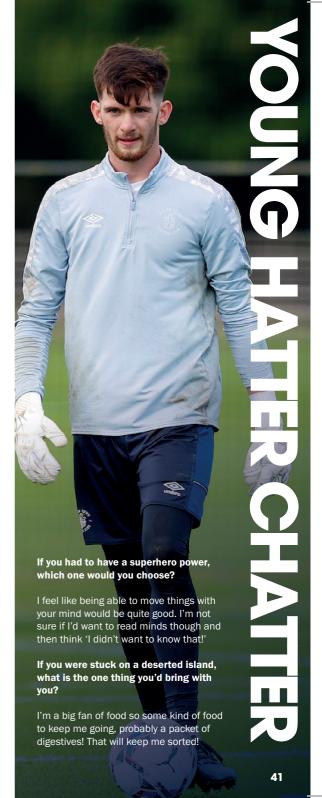
Similar to music really, there is a lot of different ones, it is always pick and mix. If I had to choose, probably Wolf of Wall Street.

What do you do to relax?

Just kick my feet up! I managed to grab a PS5 so I'm playing Warzone. If I'm not doing that then I'm watching Netflix.

Biggest fear?

I'm not the biggest fan of hospitals, I'm not really sure why but that is the closest thing I have to a fear.







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Our elite academy programme for both girls and boys squads is spread across three sites, with education at the Chalk Hills Sixth Form, games and training at our Ely Way Training Ground and practical gym and swim sessions at Active Luton's Lewsey Sports Village.

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FC coaching staff from the Trust.

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If you are a year 11 leaver and wonder - is this for me? Then if you meet one of the following this course could be for you:

- I have played a good standard of competitive football
- I am keen to study sport and achieve a qualification
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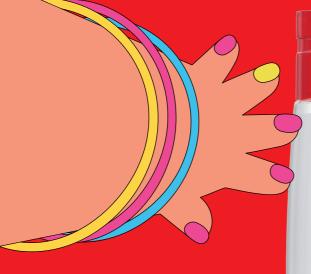
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JUNIOR HARTING TO THE RESERVE TO THE

TODAY'S MASCOTS



NAME: Zachary Flecknell AGE: 8 HOBBIES: Football, swimming and playing with mates FAVOURITE PLAYER: Sonny Bradley



NAME: Jacob Davis AGE: 7 HOBBIES: Playing football, riding bike, Nerf and playing with friends FAVOURITE PLAYER: Pelly-Ruddock Moanzu



NAME: Jack Howkins AGE: 1.1 HOBBIES: Football, Cricket and Computer games FAVOURITE PLAYER: Fred Onyedinma



NAME: Charlie Howkins AGE: 11 HOBBIES: Football, Cricket and Computer games FAVOURITE PLAYER: Harry Cornick



NAME: Oliver England AGE: 12 HOBBIES: Playing football for Maulden Magpies U13. Playing golf FAVOURITE PLAYER: Elijah Adebayo



NAME: Ronnie Cox AGE: 8 HOBBIES: Football, FIFA and Taekwondo FAVOURITE PLAYER: Fred Onyedinma



NAME: Finlay Jackson AGE: 13 HOBBIES: Playing FIFA FAVOURITE PLAYERS: Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu

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Birmingham wins - 24 **Manager:** Lee Bowyer



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Sat 26	3.00pm	Н	Derby County																					
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Sat 5	3.00pm	A	Middlesbrough						_															₩.
Sat 12 Wed 16	3.00pm 7.45pm	H	QPR Preston North End																					+
Sat 19		A	Hull City								\Box	\vdash										Н		\vdash
APRIL								_		_	_	_			_	_	_		_		_			_
Sat 2	3.00pm	H	Millwall																					F
Sat 9 Fri 15	3.00pm	A H	Huddersfield Town		-	-		-		\vdash	\vdash				_									+
Mon 18	3.00pm 3.00pm	A	Nottingham Forest Cardiff City			-	-				\vdash	\vdash										\vdash		+
Sat 23	3.00pm	H	Blackpool								\vdash											\vdash		+
Sat 30	3.00pm	A	Fulham																					\vdash
MAY													_			_		_		_				_
Sat 7	3.00pm	Н	Reading																					Ш.

KEY: Starting XI Substitute • Unused sub y: yellow card r: red card p: penalty scorer *: penalty missed *: lost 0-3 on penalties

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FOR MATCH REPORTS AND STATS, VISIT WWW.LUTONTOWN.CO.UK

AUEDATU	SLUGA	MENDES GOMES	LOCKYER	BURKE	MPANZU	CLARK	PEREIRA	KIOSO	ISTED	CAMPBELL	LANSBURY	ONYEDINMA	MUSKWE	BEIL	0HS0	BECKWITH	JEROME	JONES	MCJANNET		SUB TIMES		SUB TIMES		UB TIMES		TIMES		MES		IES		NT FF	
1	12	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	26	29	32	33	35	36	37	а	b	С	d*	L#	0#	GOAL TIMES								
1		b			С			•			С	1 b	а			Π	•		Ι	78	82	85				30, 68, 71								
					-		b			С		- "	1 b				1 a	•		72	82 72	79				2, 5, 26, 40								
1		•			1	b	•	С		ус	а	а	b		V		d			46	60	74	89			2, 36, 66, 70, 98								
y		٠	b						•	•	у		уc	1	b		а			69	88	90				4								
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REST IN PEACE, DUNCS

Luton Town are sorry to announce the death of one of its most loyal and ardent supporters.

After a short battle with pancreatic cancer, Paul Duncan (affectionately known as Duncs) passed away on 17th June 2021, aged 53.

Duncs attended his first Luton game with his dad Brian at the age of seven. After that he rarely missed a game and will be remembered for his photographic memory of all things Luton – he could describe past games going back years in absolute detail.

Another good one gone too soon, he will be sadly missed. COYH.

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KEY: ☑: Out on loan | ☑: Left club | **Team name colour:** Carabao Cup Match | **Team name colour:** FA Cup Match

SHEFFIELD UNITED I 28.08.21 I KO 3PM

UP NEXT



FORMED: 1889

NICKNAME: THE BLADES

LAST SEASON: 20TH IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE

FOLLOW THEM ON TWITTER: @SHEFFIELDUNITED

COLOURS: RED & WHITE SHIRTS, BLACK SHORTS

GROUND: BRAMALL LANE

MANAGER: SLAVISA JOKANOVIC

WHO?

The Blades won promotion from the Championship in 2019, just two years after winning the League One title, before surpassing all expectations on their return to the Premier League after 12 years by securing a top half finish. The Blades were relegated from England's top division last season, with long-serving boss Chris Wilder leaving the club and former two-time Championship promotion winner Slavisa Jokanovic taking the reins at Bramall Lane. The Yorkshire club have endured a difficult start to life back in the second tier, failing to score in their opening three matches and losing 1-0 at home to Birmingham and 4-0 away at West Brom, with a goalless draw at Swansea sandwiched in-between.

GROUND?

Bramall Lane initially played host to Sheffield F.C. from 1873-1884, before becoming Sheffield United's home ground when the club was founded in 1889. The stadium has undergone numerous expansions over the years, and currently has a capacity of 32,050.

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

The two sides last met in April 2006 in a Championship fixture at Kenilworth, with Michael Tonge's injury time equaliser stealing a point for the Blades. The Hatters have an inferior head-to-head record since the two teams first met in 1937, winning 15 and losing 18 against their South Yorkshire opponents, with 9 draws.

KNOWING ME, KNOWING YOU

Current Sheffield United wing-back Rhys Norrington-Davies joined the Hatters on loan at the start of last season before moving to Stoke City on loan in January, whilst former Hatter Martin Cranie arrived at Kenilworth Road in 2019 after winning promotion to the Premier League with the Blades.

Words: Dylan Bhundia

LUTON TOWN PLAYER STATISTICS

UTON TOWN	2020-21 SEASON											CAREER		
17 A 18	LEAG	UE		CUP			TOTA	L		CARDS		TOTAL		
TOOTBALL CLUS	APP	5	G	APP	S	G	APPS		G			APPS	G	
Elijah Adebayo	3	(0)	1	0	(0)	0	3	(0)	1	1	0	21	6	
Sam Beckwith	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	1	0	
Amari'i Bell	3	(0)	1	0	(0)	0	3	(0)	1	0	0	3	1	
Luke Berry	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	122	14	
Sonny Bradley	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	131	3	
James Bree	3	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	3	(0)	0	1	0	72	1	
Reece Burke	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	0	0	
Allan Campbell	2	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	2	(1)	0	1	0	3	0	
Jordan Clark	2	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	0	0	41	3	
Harry Cornick	2	(1)	2	0	(1)	0	2	(2)	2	1	0	173	25	
Danny Hylton	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	148	58	
Cameron Jerome	1	(1)	0	1	(0)	1	2	(1)	1	0	0	3	1	
Peter Kioso	1	(1)	0	1	(0)	0	2	(1)	0	0	0	6	0	
Henri Lansbury	1	(2)	0	1	(0)	0	2	(2)	0	2	0	4	0	
Elliot Lee	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	124	30	
Tom Lockyer	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	2	(0)	0	0	0	25	0	
Carlos Mendes Gomes	0	(1)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(1)	0	0	0	2	0	
Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu	3	(0)	1	0	(0)	0	3	(0)	1	0	0	301	20	
Admiral Muskwe	1	(2)	0	1	(0)	1	2	(2)	1	1	0	4	1	
Kal Naismith	3	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	3	(0)	0	0	0	26	1	
Fred Onyedinma	2	(0)	1	0	(0)	0	2	(0)	1	0	0	2	1	
Gabriel Osho	2	(1)	0	1	(0)	0	3	(1)	0	2	0	5	0	
Dion Pereira	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	2	0	
Dan Potts	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	176	11	
Glen Rea	0	(1)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(1)	0	1	0	196	8	
James Shea	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	86	0	
Simon Sluga	3	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	3	(0)	0	0	0	78	0	

2021-22 CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE

#	Team	PI	W	D	L	F	А	GD	Pts
1	West Bromwich Albion	3	2	1	0	9	4	5	7
2	Fulham	3	2	1	0	8	3	5	7
3	Queens Park Rangers	3	2	1	0	7	3	4	7
4	Bournemouth	3	2	1	0	6	3	3	7
5	Stoke City	3	2	1	0	6	3	3	7
6	Blackburn Rovers	3	2	1	0	5	3	2	7
7	Luton Town	3	2	0	1	6	3	3	6
8	Coventry City	3	2	0	1	3	2	1	6
9	Cardiff City	3	1	2	0	5	3	2	5
10	Middlesbrough	3	1	1	1	5	5	0	4
11	Bristol City	3	1	1	1	5	5	0	4
12	Derby County	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	4
13	Barnsley	3	1	1	1	2	2	0	4
14	Birmingham City	3	1	1	1	1	2	-1	4
15	Peterborough United	3	1	1	1	4	6	-2	4
16	Huddersfield Town	3	1	1	1	3	6	-3	4
17	Reading	3	1	0	2	6	7	-1	3
18	Hull City	3	1	0	2	4	5	-1	3
19	Milwall	3	0	2	1	3	4	-1	2
20	Swansea City	3	0	1	2	2	5	-3	1
21	Blackpool	3	0	1	2	1	4	-3	1
22	Sheffield United	3	0	1	2	0	5	-5	1
23	Nottingham Forest	3	0	0	3	3	6	-3	0
24	Preston North End	3	0	0	3	2	7	-5	0

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NATHAN JONES

- 01 JAMES SHEA
- 02 JAMES BREE
- 03 DAN POTTS
- 04 KAL NAISMITH
- **05 SONNY BRADLEY**
- 06 GLEN REA
- 07 HARRY CORNICK
- 08 LUKE BERRY
- 09 DANNY HYLTON
- 10 ELLIOT LEE
- 11 ELIJAH ADEBAYO
- 12 SIMON SLUGA
- 14 CARLOS MENDES GOMES
- 15 TOM LOCKYER
- 16 REECE BURKE
- 17 PELLY-RUDDOCK MPANZU
- 18 JORDAN CLARK
- 19 DION PEREIRA
- 20 PETER KIOSO
- 21 HARRY ISTED
- 22 ALLAN CAMPBELL
- 23 HENRI LANSBURY
- 24 FRED ONYEDINMA
- 26 ADMIRAL MUSKWE 29 AMARI'I BELL
- 32 GABRIEL OSHO
- 35 CAMERON JEROME

FOOTBALL CLUB

LEE BOWYER

- 01 NEIL ETHERIDGE
- 02 MAXIME COLIN
- 03 KRISTIAN PEDERSEN
- 04 MARC ROBERTS
- 05 GEORGE FRIEND
- 06 RYAN WOODS
- 07 TAHITH CHONG
- 09 SCOTT HOGAN
- 10 LUKAS JUKTIEWICZ
- TO LOTTING JOINILE
- 11 JEREMIE BELA 12 HARLEE DEAN
- 13 MATIJA SARKIC
- 14 JONATHAN LEKO
- 15 CHUKS ANEKE
- 17 IVAN SANCHEZ
- 18 RILEY MCGEE
 20 GARY GARDNER
- 21 DION SANDERSON
- 23 JUAN CASTILLO
- 24 JORDAN GRAHAM
- 27 CONNAL TRUEMAN
- 31 CHARLIE LAKIN
- 34 IVAN SUNJIC
- 40 ADAN GEORGE
- 44 CAOLAN BOYD-MUNCE
- 54 KEYENDRAH SIMMONDS

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MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE -

JOHN BUSBY

ASSISTANT REFEREE 1 -

MARK RUSSELL

ASSISTANT REFEREE 2 -MICHAEL GEORGE

FOURTH OFFICIAL -CHARLES BREAKSPEAR

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