

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME - ISSUE 2 - £4



FRIDAY 30TH AUGUST 2024 8PM

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Good evening and welcome back to our home for the second time this season. After three away fixtures it certainly is good to be back in familiar surroundings.

We've had a busy time since we were last here for the Burnley fixture both on and off the pitch, none more so than welcoming in a number of new faces – more of which you can read about elsewhere in this programme.

Tonight, under the lights and in front of the television cameras, we welcome old foes QPR to the Kenny. We go way back with the Hoops so, for the second time this week, it's a big hello to everyone associated with the Loftus Road club.

But get behind the boys and enjoy the game. Come on Luton!

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THE PROGRAMME

MADE IN LUTON

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With thanks to the media department at QPR

The views in this programme are not necessarily those of Luton Town Football Club



23



57

ME

31

6





4

“IT IS STILL EARLY IN THE
SEASON AND WE HAVE
SHOWN GLIMPSES OF
OUR QUALITY IN ALL
FOUR MATCHES”

| ROB EDWARDS |

THE BOSS

Good evening to you all and welcome back to the Kenny for tonight's Championship game against Queens Park Rangers.

Since my opening notes of the season we have played four games but yet to taste victory. Sitting here writing that makes me feel very frustrated but in all of those matches we have shown good levels of performance in all of those, particularly in our last three.

Burnley put us to the sword here with a ruthless display of finishing and on the night I thought we lacked fluency in the final third. We carried a greater threat into our game at Portsmouth and should have been a couple of goals ahead before being reduced to 10 men. We showed a different side of ourselves after that which was pleasing, as was the clean sheet.

Our trip to Preston saw us dominate for long spells and create numerous chances, the only disappointment being our failure to take our chances. Like at Fratton Park, we played some excellent football and looked solid at the back and I was really pleased with the debut of Mark McGuinness, who we signed from Cardiff City in the days leading up to the game.

Lastly, to wrap up my thoughts on our recent fixtures, the Carabao Cup tie at QPR saw us put in a good performance. I feel it was a game we should have won, but, the fact is, we didn't. As a manager you are of course frustrated, but the positive signs are there. It is still early in the season and we have shown glimpses of our quality in all four matches.

Tonight we face a QPR side who showed on Tuesday how much of a good side they are. I'd like to welcome Martí Cifuentes and his staff and players to Bedfordshire. Martí has been a great appointment for Rangers since he came in November last year and they will be hoping for a successful season this time around.

When you read these notes the transfer deadline will still be open for a few more hours. It's not an ideal time, juggling matchday preparation with the closing of a busy transfer period, but it is what it is. This window has come with its challenges but I'm delighted with our new arrivals. Together with Mark last week we also welcomed Tom Krauß and Liam Walsh to Kenilworth Road and I wish them, together with Reuell Walters and Shandon

Baptiste, the very best in their careers with us. The signs have been hugely encouraging so far and they are all going to improve as the season progresses.

Finally thank you to the supporters who have clocked up the miles at the past three away fixtures. We know it's an expensive time of year with summer holidays, and your loyalty – not to mention the decibel levels – is greatly appreciated.

Please get behind us once more tonight and bring the noise like you always do.



5

| TOM LOCKYER |

CLUB CAPTAIN

6

We're three games into the Championship season and there is so much football left to play, starting tonight as we host QPR.

So we're yet to get that first win from our first four games in league and cup but I think anyone who has watched those games would agree that we should have got off the mark already.

That's football, though. Sometimes you don't always get what you deserve. However, there have been a lot of changes and a number of new players and, especially at this time of year, things take time.

Green shoots are there, there's no doubt about that. Against Burnley we came up against a side ruthless in their finishing but at Portsmouth we looked incredibly dangerous and were

unlucky not to take the lead. Thomas' red card changed the game but we defended comfortably after that and I think on another day we walk away with three points.

It was a similar story at Preston. We dominated the ball and the chances but they took the one real opportunity they had. Of course it's disappointing, but I've been in football too long to know that a win is just around the corner.

The only thing we've been missing is sticking the ball in the back of the net. When you're playing well and creating chances it's only a matter of time before the results start to come. It's strange how football works like that really. How one goal or one win can breed confidence. But that's how it is and tonight, under the lights here at the Kenny, we'll

be aiming to get three points against QPR.

If we can put everything together in one performance we're going to give a team a thumping soon so I am excited to see how we progress in the coming matches knowing how well we've been playing in general.

I think we also need to remember how we got success in the first place. And that's togetherness. On and off the pitch we're one big family and it's important that we stick together. We're not always going to have it all our own way, and just because we're in the Championship doesn't mean we have a divine right to win every week. Teams want to beat us. Teams want to make it difficult for us. So bring your support tonight and show the lads your backing.

On a personal note, it goes without saying that I'm over the moon to be back on the grass at The Brache. It's been a long road since that day in Bournemouth and I am by no means ready to get back on the pitch at the Kenny despite wanting to! However, the support I have received in this rehabilitation process has been incredible so thank you to everyone involved so far. I will keep working hard - while still taking it day by day - as I aim to be back on the pitch here. So watch this space.

Let's stay together because we're all Luton.

Enjoy the game.







BOARDROOM DAVID WILKINSON

8

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

Sadly, it is another unconventional kick-off time, which in this case doesn't affect everyone too badly, but I wonder if the time will ever come when supporters' interests and travel arrangements are taken into account when timing of games is decided upon.

We saw during lockdown what the game is like being played behind closed doors without a crowd and it's not the same. TV and the money it provides is vital to the game, but supporters make it an event not a soap opera. A happy medium would be nice. We have 19 games before Christmas and only six of those are 3pm kick offs.

Fans are the lifeblood of the game and need more and better consideration. Our away support is bound to dwindle and away fans visiting the Kenny from distance likewise. We know how much extra we are getting from TV revenue for allowing all but 3pm Saturday games to be broadcast, but I wonder how much extra that is costing clubs and their fans.

Tonight, we welcome QPR, who as you will be aware beat us on

penalties in the Carabao Cup on Tuesday. We played well and should have got a different result, but despite our superiority we could only find the net once. And what a strike that was from young Zack Nelson, an academy graduate, and what a game he had.

One of the most satisfying things for fans is to see the development of our young players and it is gratifying to see a number genuinely in and around the first team squad. Integration

is never easy and it's often simpler to bring in an established player than take the risk to give an emerging talent the time necessary. Football thinking is so short-term these days, but it is always so exciting when taking the risk works out.

Our season to date has seen one poor performance and three poor results, but there are a lot of factors behind that. It is understandable that fans who have never seen a relegation

“WE LOVE OUR FOOTBALL CLUB AND WANT FUTURE GENERATIONS TO LOVE IT TOO. WE WILL STICK TO OUR PRINCIPLES SO THAT IT IS HERE FOR THEM TO ENJOY.”

or even a losing run get frustrated, but as someone who has supported this club for 66 years there is not much I haven't seen. We clearly have a more talented squad than the one that got us promotion to the Premier League.

Of course, we lost a couple of amazing talents in Ross Barkley and Sami Lokonga, who would both understandably feel too good for the Championship but we had the joy of watching them for a season at little cost and wish them well in their new homes.

As Rob and Gary have said before, this is the most difficult window they have seen and it's still going. It started late because of the Euros, is fraught with Financial Fair play considerations and for us is affected by the fact that we have been in the Premier League with many believing we should be paying more for players given the parachute payment we receive.

Our whole philosophy is based upon the long-term future of this football club. We have had "fly by nights" in charge of club in the past and

have learned that while "blowing your brains out" may have short term benefits, it is more than likely to lead to long-term decline. We see it all around us and won't get sucked in.

We love our football club and want future generations to love it too. We will stick to our principles so that it is here for them to enjoy. As a board we bleed orange and have hundreds of years of following the club. Of course, we are ambitious and are still building the club. New stadium, improved training facilities, >>

A big welcome to Kenilworth Road to Mark McGuinness



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>> academy upgrade, additions to the squad all to make us more effective and more sustainable.

We were sad to see Cheio Ogbene leave the club, but we never stand in the way of a player wishing to better himself. Good luck at Ipswich from us all.

On a happier note we welcome new signings Mark McGuinness, Liam Walsh and Tom Krauß. We hope they enjoy their time here. They bring us up to five new signings so far in this window.

I know that Gary, Phil, Mick and the recruitment team are still working flat out in a difficult market and as I write there are three stressful days ahead.

It has always seemed to me that it is crazy for the window to be open once the season has started because you really don't have a settled squad until it closes. "Is someone going to come and tempt away one of our most important players? Will a bid we have made be accepted at the last minute?"

I'm told the main reason is that it gives those clubs who qualify for UEFA competitions a chance to bolster their squads. That's a reason for disrupting everyone else?

"Ambition is the path to success. Persistence is the vehicle you arrive in." Bill Bradley.

Enjoy the game.

COYH

David

"AMBITION IS THE PATH TO SUCCESS. PERSISTENCE IS THE VEHICLE YOU ARRIVE IN."

CLUB HONOURS	LEAGUE CUP Winners 1988 Runners-up 1989	THIRD DIVISION/ LEAGUE ONE Champions 1936/37, 2004/05, 2018/19 Runners-up 1935/36, 1969/70
	FA CUP Runners-up 1959	FOURTH DIVISION/ LEAGUE TWO Champions 1967/68 Runners-up 2001/02, 2017/18
	FOOTBALL LEAGUE TROPHY Winners 2008/09	CONFERENCE PREMIER Champions 2013/14
	SECOND DIVISION/ CHAMPIONSHIP Champions 1981/82 Runners-up 1954/55, 1973/74 Play-Off Winners 2022/23	



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Chief Executive Officer: Gary Sweet

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Shareholders: Kailesh Karavadra, Luton Town Supporters' Trust

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Assistant Managers: Paul Trollope, Richie Kyle

Team Operations Manager: Kevin Dearden

Head of Goalkeeping: Kevin Pilkington

Head of Medical: Danny Murphy

Head of Performance: Jared Roberts-Smith

Chief Recruitment Officer: Mick Harford

Head of Scouting Operations: Phil Chapple

Head of Recruitment Analysis: Jay Socik

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AROUND TOWN

WATCH ENGLAND UNDER-21S AT THE KENNY

England men's under-21s will be heading to Kenilworth Road in September when they face Austria for an U21 international.

The game will take place on Monday 9th September (7.45pm BST), following on from England's UEFA U21 EURO qualifying game in Northern Ireland on Friday 6th September.

The under-21s' last game at Kenilworth Road came back in February 1993, when England beat San Marino by 6-0 with goals coming from Richard Hall, Darren Anderton, Garry Flitcroft, Mike

Sheron, Jamie Redknapp and Steve McManaman.

Tickets for the game cost £15 for adults or £10 for Luton Town season ticket holders and members and concessions (66+, U22 & U17) are £7.50 or £5 for Luton Town season ticket holders and members.

Six tickets or less can be purchased online, but for orders of seven tickets or more, please contact the Luton Town ticket office on 01582 416976. For group tickets (ten or more), the cost is £10 adults and £5 for concessions, please contact the ticket office.

REST IN PEACE IAN BLAKEMAN

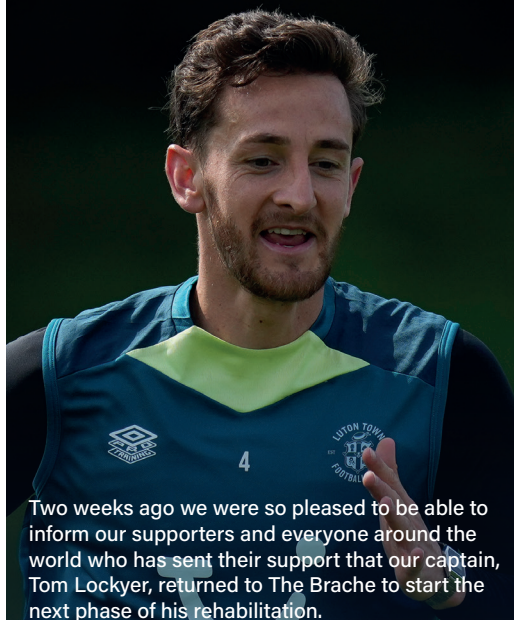
It is with sadness that we announce the passing of life-long Town fan and season ticket holder Ian Blakeman.

Seeing us get promoted to the Premier League, pictured here at Wembley, was a dream come true for Ian having followed the Hatters passionately throughout all of our ups and downs.

He was so proud of everything the club has achieved and his support never waned – even in the club's darkest moments.



LOCKS IS BACK ON THE GRASS



Two weeks ago we were so pleased to be able to inform our supporters and everyone around the world who has sent their support that our captain, Tom Lockyer, returned to The Brache to start the next phase of his rehabilitation.

Tom has been under the guidance and care of leading consultants in London and Amsterdam, where he has been completing the most recent phase of his rehabilitation at a specialist clinic.

For now, Tom will work individually back at The Brache, but his very presence around the training ground will be welcomed by all of his team-mates, manager Rob Edwards and the coaching staff.

Whilst continuing his rehab, Tom will continue his work with the British Heart Foundation in spreading the importance of knowing CPR and how to use a defibrillator, and he will now be focussing fully on his next stage of the rehabilitation.

We ask that he is allowed to do this at his own pace, in private, to ultimately give himself the best chance of completing the next phases of his rehabilitation program.

Welcome back, Locks!

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ACTION REPLAY

The Town's return to the Championship saw us take one point from our opening two fixtures against Burnley and Portsmouth in the opening week of the campaign.



1

Chong 55'



4

Brownhill 6'
Odobert 37'
O'Shea 72'
Vitinho 80'



0



0

An impressive display of ruthless finishing from the visitors saw the Hatters' first game back since relegation from the Premier League end in defeat at Kenilworth Road.

The Clarets, who also came down with the Town from the top-flight, were ahead on six minutes when Josh Brownhill finished past Thomas Kaminski and eight minutes before half-time Wilson Odobert doubled their lead.

After the break the Hatters rallied, Elijah Adebayo saw an effort cannon back off the crossbar while at the other end Kaminski made a string of fine stops to keep the visitors at bay.

The Town did get back in it when Tahith Chong's close-range strike halved the deficit but with 20 minutes left to play Dara O'Shea restored Burnley's two-goal cushion with a header from a corner.

However as the Town looked to stage a late comeback the Clarets, in Scott Parker's first game in charge, stole a fourth goal on the counter attack when Vitinho slammed home after a pacey break from Lyle Foster.

After playing for over an hour with 10 men following the red card shown to Thomas Kaminski the Town had to settle for a share of the spoils in a goalless draw at Fratton Park.

The Hatters could count themselves unlucky not to be in front in a first half in which they created several excellent opportunities.

Tahith Chong swept a left-foot shot inches wide of the post in the opening minutes before Carlton Morris' low shot was well saved by the legs of Pompey goalkeeper Will Norris.

Elijah Adebayo's towering header following a wonderful cross from Chiedozie Ogbene was then kept out brilliantly by the fingertips of Norris before Kaminski's red card for a second bookable offence.

Having bizarrely been booked for time wasting by the referee despite Teden Mengi being the player taking his time to find a team-mate from a goalkick, Kaminski was shown a second yellow moments later after racing out of his goal and clattering an opponent.

Captain Carlton Morris made way for substitute goalkeeper James Shea but in truth the Town stopper was largely untroubled as the defence held the host at arms' length in the second period.



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ACTION REPLAY

In our two most recent fixtures in the past week, the Hatters dominated in both but their efforts on the pitch were not rewarded with positive results.



1 0

Keane 39'

The Hatters fell short in the north west with a narrow defeat at Deepdale despite creating enough chances to win the game.

Elijah Adebayo headed narrowly over from an Alfie Doughty corner in the fourth minute before home keeper Freddie Woodman tipped a header from Carlton Morris over the bar on 36 minutes.

But the home side took the lead seven minutes before from the break, Will Keane scoring past James Shea following a cross from Emil Riis.

After the break Woodman then did well to prevent Jordan Clark's low shot on 57 minutes from creeping home and on the hour the Town felt they should have had a penalty when Adebayo went down under a challenge only for referee Whitestone to deem the offence to take place outside the area.

Doughty's low shot was blocked with 20 minutes to go before Teden Mengi's piledriver was deflected over yet the Town, for all their possession, could not force a leveller with Doughty slamming a right-foot shot high and wide when well placed with 14 minutes left - the pick of their half-chances in the closing stages.



1 1

Santos 11'

Nelson 16'

QPR win on penalties 4-1

The Hatters' first penalty shootout since the Championship play-off final at Wembley ended in defeat as Queens Park Rangers booked their place in the next round of the Carabao Cup on Tuesday.

Cauley Woodrow and Tahith Chong missed their spot-kicks in the shootout and, with Rangers scoring all four, the Hatters were dealt a quick exit from the competition they won back in 1988.

An entertaining game went to penalties after a 1-1 draw in normal time. The Town, who made five changes to the side that lost at Preston including a first start since December for Marvelous Nakamba, were on top for large parts.

However, Rob Edwards' side were behind on 11 minutes when Everton Santos tucked home the rebound after Thomas Kaminski failed to hold onto Elijah Dixon-Bonner's shot but a stunning equaliser from Zack Nelson - his first senior goal - restored parity.

The Town went close to winning the tie with chances in both halves but after being denied by Rangers, the tie went to penalties where Rangers held their nerve to secure their spot in the third round.



20





ACTION REPLAY





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WELCOME



The Hatters welcome Queen's Park Rangers to Kenilworth Road for what is bound to be an exciting Friday night under the lights. Martí Cifuentes' team are looking like a new side under the Spanish manager and are looking to kick on in the Championship.

The Hoops finished 18th in the second tier last season despite being favourites to go down, Cifuentes came in, steadied the ship and guided the club to safety.

QPR were sure to bolster their squad for the season ahead in the summer transfer window. Matteo Salamon, Paul Nardi, Daniel Bennie, Heverton Santos, Liam Morrison, Zan Celar and Jonathan Varane all joined the club on a permanent basis. QPR have also brought in Koki Saito and Karamoko Dembele on loan deals to help and improve their attack.

Rangers arrive at Kenilworth Road also in search of their first win of the season having taken two points from their first three games. A defeat on the opening weekend of the season at home to West Brom has been followed by two draws. A fine comeback saw the R's fight back to draw 2-2 at Sheffield United before they were held by Plymouth at Loftus Road last Saturday.

The Hoops have faced the Hatters a lot throughout history, and it's always been a fiery encounter. QPR won both games against Luton in the 2021/22 season, but the Hatters won both in the 2023/24 season. This is all set to be a cracker.



THE SQUAD



- 1 GK Paul Nardi
- 3 DF Jimmy Dunne
- 4 MF Jack Colback
- 5 DF Steve Cook
- 6 DF Jake Clarke-Salter
- 7 MF Karamoko Dembélé
- 8 MF Sam Field
- 10 MF Ilias Chair
- 11 FW Paul Smyth
- 12 FW Michael Frey
- 13 GK Joe Walsh
- 14 MF Koki Saito
- 15 DF Morgan Fox
- 16 DF Liam Morrison
- 18 FW Žan Celar
- 19 MF Elijah Dixon-Bonner
- 20 DF Reggie Cannon
- 22 DF Kenneth Paal
- 23 DF Hevertton Santos
- 24 MF Nicolas Madsen
- 25 MF Lucas Andersen
- 26 FW Rayan Kolli
- 28 FW Alfie Lloyd
- 40 MF Jonathan Varane

PROFILES

THE BOSS

MARTI CIFUENTES

Highly rated Spanish coach was appointed to be the QPR manager in October 2023. Has previously managed Swedish side Hammarby IF.

GOALKEEPER

PAUL NARDI

French youth international with experience for Gent, Monaco, Cercle Brugge and Lorient. Made his QPR debut in a 3-1 defeat to West Brom.

DEFENDERS

JIMMY DUNNE

Amassed over 100 appearances for QPR since signing in 2021. Recently scored in a 2-2 draw with Sheffield United.

JAKE CLARKE-SALTER

Came through the Chelsea academy and has had numerous loans in the Championship. Joined QPR permanently in 2022.

STEVE COOK

Experienced centre-back with plenty of Championship and Premier League games under his belt. Played over 30 times for the Hoops last season.



KENNETH PAAL

Played mainly in the Netherlands before joining the Hoops two years ago. Has been a regular for QPR at the back since signing.

MIDFIELDERS

JACK COLBACK

A central midfielder with plenty of experience in the top two tiers. Sent off in QPR's 2-2 draw with Sheffield United two weeks ago.

SAM FIELD

Played over 100 times for the Hoops. Been a regular in midfield for the last couple years for Rangers.

LUCAS ANDERSEN

Signed for QPR in February this year after his contact was terminated at Aalborg BK. Experience with the Danish national team.

JONATHAN VARANE

Joined the Hoops this summer for an undisclosed fee from Sporting Gijon. Half-brother of World Cup winner Raphael Varane.

ILIAS CHAIR

Morocco international who has been with the Hoops since 2017. Has made over 200 appearances for QPR.

KOKI SAITO

Japanese youth international who has joined on a season-long loan from Lommel SK. Played for Sparta Rotterdam on loan last season.



PAUL SMYTH

Second spell at QPR after success away at Leyton Orient. Started in the Hoops' opening day defeat to West Brom.

ELIJAH DIXON-BONNER

Came through the academy at Liverpool and joined QPR two years ago. Made his debut for the Hoops against Rotherham United.

FORWARDS

MICHAEL FREY

Joined QPR in January 2024 from Royal Antwerp. Has previously played for Young Boys, Lille, Young Boys, Fenerbahce and Schalke.

ZAN CELAR

Previous experience with FC Lugano and joined the Hoops this summer. Made his QPR debut against West Brom earlier in the month.

KARAMOKO DEMBELE

Highly-rated winger who spent last season with Blackpool in League One. Came through the ranks at Celtic where he made his debut for them at just 16.

HOOPS KITBAG



1983-85

Guinness were busy brewing the Black Stuff in nearby Park Royal when they became Rangers' first ever kit sponsor for 1983/84. With Adidas in charge of putting together the kit, they came up with a classic, featuring the sponsor logo on the traditional blue and white hoops. The red trim is the icing on the cake.

A FOOT IN BOTH



DON SHANKS

An England youth international defender, Don signed after leaving Fulham, making his debut for the Hatters in 1971. A tough tackling marauding full-back, Don helped the Town to promotion in 1974 but was then sold to QPR for £35,000 in November of that year. Don enjoyed a successful seven years at Loftus Road before a period at Brighton followed by football in Hong Kong, USA and Malta.

HOOPS HERO

You could see there was still magic in his boots in the twilight of his career at Kenilworth Road, but QPR fans were lucky enough to see **Kevin Gallen** in his pomp across two spells. He signed pro forms on his 17th birthday and went onto score 36 goals in 171 league appearances for his boyhood club. Spells at Huddersfield and Barnsley followed but he returned to Loftus Road a year later and hit 54 goals in 194 league games, helping Rangers to promotion in 2003. He left Rangers for the last time in 2007, making the switch to Kenilworth Road in 2009 before winding down his career in local non-league circles.



FIXTURE FLASHBACK

TOWN 3-3 QPR 6TH JANUARY, 2001

The Town are two up in this cup tie and looking comfortable thanks to goals from Andrew Fotiadis (pictured) and Liam George – but Rangers come back to draw level. Stuart Douglas nets a third and a home tie against Arsenal beckons until Lee Nogan needlessly handles the ball in the final minute which gifts Rangers both a penalty and a replay – one which they go onto win.



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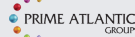
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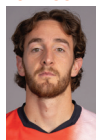
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MARK MCGUINNESS



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ROB EDWARDS



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COMMERCIAL

For our first home game of the season against Burnley, Toureen Group were our match sponsors and they named Zack Nelson man-of-the-match and presented the young midfielder with the trophy post-match.

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MEET THE NEW BOYS

Since we were last at Kenilworth Road we welcomed three new faces to The Brache in the shape of Mark McGuinness, Liam Walsh and Tom Krauß.



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SCAN



DESIGNED IN SWEDEN



MARK McGUINNESS

Position: Centre-back
Age: 23
Previous clubs: Arsenal,
Cardiff, Sheff Wed (loan)
International career:
Rep of Ire U19, U21

Commanding centre-half Mark joined for a significant undisclosed fee from Cardiff City.

Boosting the Town's options in defensive areas, the 23-year-old arrives at Kenilworth Road following three seasons in south Wales where he became a fans' favourite for his towering presence in the Bluebirds' backline.

Rob says: "He's a big, big player for us – and a signing which shows our intent. He might be only 23 but he's a leader. We see him as a big influence in the dressing room and on the pitch.

"He's had a great upbringing, played lots of games, and is a threat in both boxes. He wants to defend but he can play, too.

"Last year it showed that we needed bodies in defence, but now, with Amari'i Bell back and Reece Burke and Mads Andersen resuming

training, we're starting to look really strong in that area.

"Mark believes we're the right club for the next step in his career. He wants to play in the Premier League and he sees us as the opportunity to do that, so this further highlights how strong of an acquisition he is for the football club."

Mark says: "Cardiff was a great platform for me to go and develop, and get to that next stage and that next level – and for me, Luton Town was the perfect next stage.

"I think it's the whole culture, it's the whole of Luton Town. It really suits me as a player and as a person. I'm excited to be here already.

"It's one day in, but I can sense the vibe and the positivity. From all the way from the top to the bottom, from the players and coaching staff, to catering and everyone – everyone seem to be on the same wavelength and everyone wants to be successful together."



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A portrait of a young man with dark hair and a slight smile, wearing an orange and white football jersey. The jersey features the Umbro logo on the left chest and the Luton Town Football Club crest on the right chest. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

LIAM WALSH

35

Position: Central
midfield

Age: 26

Previous clubs:
Everton, Bristol City,
Swansea, Yeovil (loan),
Birmingham (loan),
Coventry (loan), Hull
(loan)

International career:
England U16, U18.

After spending three weeks training at The Brache the 26-year-old arrives in Bedfordshire as a free agent after leaving Swansea City at the end of last season.

A former England youth international, the Everton academy product has a vast amount of Championship experience through his spells with Bristol City and Swansea,

as well as loans at Birmingham and Hull.

Rob says: "It's a really positive signing. Liam's a super talented footballer, with a great football brain and technically very good.

"I saw him when he was 16 playing for Everton and thought then he'd go onto a be a real superstar. There's no reason in the future he can't kick on again, and we're backing him.

"He made 20 appearances for Swansea last season, working well for them in a team that saw a lot of the ball, and we've had the benefit of having looked at him in training over recent weeks.

"He'll be the first to admit that he needs to stay fit now, and that's his and our challenge that we'll work on together.

"He's not one who is going to come in and play 90 minutes straight away, but he can certainly come onto the pitch, help us get control of the ball when we need it, or find that killer pass.

"He's someone who can do a bit of everything, either as a deeper midfielder player or a midfielder who can get up and down – or even higher – and I'm really pleased to get him in. He's going to really help us over the course of the season."

Liam says: "I'm over the moon. I've spoken to the gaffer through the weeks that I've been training here and I've been eager to sign here since I started. It's a perfect fit for me.

"I watched Luton last year and how they play, and as I've spoken to Rob he's even brought up things from when I was younger, and how he's had me on his mind since then.

"He's brilliant with what he brings to the team, and how they want to play this year. The training's been tough, but it's what I needed, and I'm excited to be here now as a Luton player."

ENGLAND U21 AUSTRIA U21



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TOM KRAUß

Position: Central
midfield

Age: 23

Previous clubs:
RB Leipzig, Mainz,
Nürnberg (loan),
Schalke (loan)

International career:
Germany U15, U16, U17,
U18, U19, U20, U21.

Defensive midfielder Tom has swapped the German top-flight for a campaign in the Championship after agreeing a season-long loan from Bundesliga outfit Mainz.

German Under-21 international Krauß, pronounced 'Krauss', has enjoyed the past two seasons in Germany's first division in his homeland, featuring 61 times in the Bundesliga for Schalke in 2022/23 and Mainz last term.

Rob says: "Once we knew there was an opportunity and an interest, we undertook a lot of work to look at Tom – and he's shown he's a player that suits Luton Town really, really well.

"He's 23 but has a wealth of experience in the Bundesliga and is an under-21 international. He's young but he's hungry to find a home again. He's at an age

where he's still got lots of room for growth.

"What we like about Tom is that he's aggressive, full of running, wants to press, wants to play and wants to recover the ball quickly."

Tom says: "I'm really excited to take my first step outside of Germany and I'm ready for my next chapter here at Luton.

"I like English football and English fans, and that's why I'm here and I can't wait. I can't wait to play my first minutes in front of the supporters. I've seen the last two games and the fans in England are crazy, and I'm like that as a player.

"For me, the fans are what football is all about. They are important for clubs and for the players, so I like to speak with them and celebrate with them during games.

"It's a different style of football compared to Germany but I've had a lot of experience in the first and second leagues, playing 130 games or so in four years – lots of games against Bayern Munich – and that's helped me."







utilita

MARKS





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HATTERS HERITAGE

Preserving and appreciating the heritage and history of Luton Town Football Club

LONDON'S (NOT) CALLING

For many years an uncashed postal order hung in the Luton boardroom. It was for the princely sum of 1/8 (13p) and represented the Town's share of the gate receipts from the Third Division (now League 1) meeting with Thames on the 6th December 1930. With only 469 fans through the turnstiles, it remains the lowest recorded attendance in the history of the Football League.

The match was played at the West Ham Stadium, not to be confused with the modern stadium of the same name. It was built in 1928 as a greyhound venue and designed by the famous football ground architect Archibald Leitch. Situated at Custom House, near to the present day Prince Regent DLR station, it could hold 120,000 spectators and, ironically, remains the largest venue to regularly hold Football League matches.

Keen to maximise revenues at the weekend a group of local businessmen decided to start a football team based at the ground. Thus, in 1928, Thames

AFC were born, starting in the Southern League and being elected to the Football League for the 1930/31 season. In such a congested area they struggled to attract spectators and the nadir was reached when the Hatters visited a few months into that first campaign.

Though Thames had lost three in a row, and were second bottom of the table, the main reason for the especially sparse crowd was the weather. Local supporters, knowing how heavy the fog was and how close the ground was to the river, assumed the match would surely be postponed.

Those attending were not rewarded for their hardiness and optimism. With the space between the stands and the pitch so large, and the fog unrelenting, it was almost impossible to make out what was happening. Even the only goal of the game from Thames' striker Wilf Phillips, 20 minutes into the second half, was barely noticed until a group of players were seen celebrating. An attempt to improve visibility by lighting the arc lamps around the greyhound track only

made matters worse and they were quickly turned off again after cries of complaint from the stand.

Despite the inclement weather, 'Crusader' from the Luton News was very complimentary about the club and the ground in the match report but less so about the quality of the Thames side, writing "I am fairly sure they will be beaten comfortably at Luton if they do not have a better side." He was right. We would run out 8-0 winners at Kenilworth Road the following April.

Thames lasted just one more season before financial problems led to them being replaced in the league by Aldershot. The stadium fared better, continuing to host a range of events until its closure in 1972.

DID YOU KNOW?

QPR are the team Luton have faced most often in the FA Cup (15) and in overall competitive fixtures (141).

Tottenham refer to the 'infamous' 1/8 gate receipt postal order on their programme front cover for the match vs Luton, Jan 1938.



www.hattersheritage.co.uk

THROUGH THE ARCHIVES

Club historian Roger Wash delves into the Hatters Heritage archives to unearth these hidden gems from encounters between the Town and the Hoops.

1



42



2



1. Happy Hatters on the Loftus Road terraces for an FA Cup match in 1948.
2. Kung Fu had just hit the TV screens around this time. David Court and Rangers' Ian Watson demonstrate their martial art skills at Kenilworth Road in 1971.
3. Ricky Hill blasts in the Town's winner on the occasion of the first game on Rangers' artificial pitch in 1981.
4. Lee Mansell scores in the opening seconds on his debut during an FA Cup replay at Loftus Road in 2001.

ON THIS DAY

We go back in time on this day in the Hatters' history books



The Town ran out 3-0 winners over Chelsea on this day in 1975. Peter Anderson scores the first goal against a young Blues side after a header from John Faulkner rebounds off the post. Steve Buckley then converts from the spot after Ron Futchner, who later scores the third goal, is fouled by Brian Bason. John Aston is dismissed with 17 minutes left after a tangle with Ian Britton.



Andy King gets in a brave header



Ron Futchner battles with Chelsea's John Dempsey



ATTENDERS FIRE A CLEAR WARNING

JOHN ASTON won't be going to Portsmouth on Saturday. He lost his head for the first time in his long and distinguished soccer life on Saturday — and landed a retaliatory left hook on the jaw of Chelsea's Ian Britton.

He was booked and sent off. He automatically misses the next match and accumulates 12 disciplinary points.

"The referee had no option but to dismiss me," he said. "I was a damned fool. It's the first time in my life I have retaliated."

"I know I shouldn't have done it. I don't know what came over me. Perhaps it was some of the threatening atmosphere in the ground that crept into me. Now I just feel that I have let everyone down."

It was the threatening atmosphere that almost ruined superb Luton victory. It spilled on to the pitch in the shape of a couple of hundred boisterous Chelsea fans.

It brought a call for the return of birching from Bristol referee Eric Read.

And it left a trail of damaged property, damaged cars, damaged railway carriages and damaged people.

When the wounds have healed it is to be hoped this match will be remembered for the stunning football played by Luton — and not the turning savagery perpetrated by the hots from the back streets of London.

The Town served up one of their best displays of flowing football for years.

From the start they looked victors. Every member of the team played above himself, and Luton's promise to return to the First Division at the first attempt will be fulfilled if this is a preview of things to come.

Centre-forward Ron Futcher was my man of the match but others also did extremely well. Twin brother Paul had a marvellous match as Chelsea's attacking ideas were crushed under the authoritative boot of the Luton defence.

You can't forget the crowd invasion. You can't forget the Aston sending off. You can't forget the fire bookies. But most of all you can't forget the distinguished performance of this ambitious-looking Luton side.

They murdered Chelsea. In

modern soccer terms — they were magic.

One of the men most responsible was Peter Anderson. He swept his two previous luke-warm performances under the carpet, came back with a bang and was boss in midfield.

Andy on song in a match winner. With Alan West and the talented Andy King giving him considerable help, Anderson fashioned this Luton victory.

He scored the first goal himself and showed his delight during a lap of glory thumping inhibition.

But always there was the latent power of Ron Futcher. Somehow you know he was going to score. He has strength, control, skill and

MATCH DETAILS

LUTON TOWN: Barber, John Ryan, Buckley, Anderson, Faulkner, Paul Futcher, King, Alston, Ron Futcher, West, Aston, Sub: Chambers.
CHELSEA: Sherwood, Graham Wilkins, Sparrow, Bason, Droy, Dempsey, Britton, Ray Wilkins, Maybank, Swain, Cooke, Sub: Ron Harris.
REFEREE: Mr. E. Read (Bristol)
GOALS: Anderson 27 min
Buckley (pen) 46 min
Ron Futcher 57 min
ATT: 19,024

above all the nerve to take people on and shoot.

Luton were leading by Anderson's goal at half-time, and it could have been a lot more.

A minute after the break Ron Futcher was unseated by Bason and Steve Buckley scored his first League goal from the resulting penalty.

He had to take it because Jimmy Ryan, the usual spot-kicker, is suspended.

Chelsea were gone. With Aston probing, West pushing, King prompting and Alston producing his skilled turns and passes, it looked just a matter of how many Luton would score.

Buckley hanged in a free-kick which the clever Alton nudged into the middle for Ron Futcher to score the third from, and by the time of the invasion it could have been 2-0 to Luton.

John Faulkner had a fine match in defence, and somehow managed to beat his opposite number, the giant Mickie Droy, in aerial battles when Chelsea won corners.

John Ryan gave his customary distinguished performance, lacking with authority, and he deserves a medal with bar for standing up to the evil attentions of the seam in the Chelsea crowd who pelted him with farts, coins, stones and toilet rolls.

In goal Barber was complete master of the Chelsea attack and he deserves a medal with bar for standing up to the evil attentions of the seam in the Chelsea crowd who pelted him with farts, coins, stones and toilet rolls.

And let us not forget Brian Chambers who replaced West in the second half when the Luton captain had to go to hospital to have a wrenched shoulder X-rayed.

Suspension

It is to be hoped West will be fit for Saturday. With Aston already missing, the Town can't afford further handicaps for their visit to Pompey.

Jimmy Ryan will be available after his three-match suspension, but he is not match fit. However hard you have trained, there is no short cut to Second Division football, when you have only played friendlies since the previous season.

It is surprising that so many people were booked in such a good game of football on Saturday. Charlie Cooke went into the book for dissent, Buckley for a foul on Bason, Droy for a foul on Buckley, Britton for a foul on Aston, and Aston for hitting back.



Peter Anderson scores the first goal

ALSO ON 30TH AUGUST...

The Town beat Cardiff 2-1 the last time we played on this day in 2022... drew back-to-back games with Hayes and Yeading United in 2010 (1-1, home) and 2011 (2-2, away)... and were held QPR to a goalless draw at Loftus Road in the top-flight in 1989.



A Luton effort goes wide



2004/05
history

Champions!

Over the course of the season we'll be looking back 20 years to the glorious League One championship winning season of 2004/05.

So many club league records were tumbled during a momentous campaign which was even more remarkable considering that the summer of 2003 saw the arrival of new 'owner' John Gurney and his crackpot ideas, which ultimately led to the Hatters needing to enter administrative receivership, with all its problems, to get rid of him. This is the story of a season to remember.

Ahmet Brkovic after netting his second goal at Blackpool



After opening the season with three straight wins next up were newly promoted Torquay at Kenilworth Road and the chance to make history and become the first Town side to win their opening four games.

The Hatters included both Keith Keane and Ahmet Brkovic in the side, for their first starts of the campaign, in place of Kevin Foley and Stephen O'Leary but the well organised Gulls made the Town huff and puff in the early stages by playing deep, before the deadlock was finally broken on 35 minutes.

A cross from Keane saw Steve Howard head home powerfully from 15 yards. This meant that Howard had scored in his last eight games to set up a Luton record of sorts. The previous record was seven games but these were consecutive and Howard had missed one match – the final game of the previous campaign – so the arguments started.

There was no doubt, though, that Howard was in a rich vein of form but try as he might he could not find a second goal to calm the nerves and, as the game wore on and with the Gulls smelling blood, it took all the organisational skills of skipper Kevin Nicholls to keep the Town goal intact. It was hearts in mouths time, though, when Ade Akinfenwa trundled through in the final minute, clear on goal, but rolled his effort wide.

Manager Mike Newell appeared quite relaxed about the shaky end to the game but was probably secretly relieved that his players had managed to hang on to a fourth win on the spin.

Next on the long road was a first time trip to Boston United in the League Cup. The area suffered two massive storms a few hours before kick-off and the referee had no option but to call the game off because the pitch was waterlogged. A great many Luton supporters had made the trip but then had to endure further storms on the way home. The game would need to be rescheduled but minus Paul Gascoigne, who had been on trial at York Road.

A trip to Blackpool was the next game and with an unchanged side the Hatters got off to the worst possible start, conceding to a Scott Taylor snap shot after only four minutes.

The score remained the same until a two-goal burst in 60 seconds by the Town on the hour mark turned the game on its head. Firstly Howard nodded home a cross shot from Rowan Vine and then the clever feet of Brkovic saw him in the clear to net the second.

Two goals in a minute certainly sent the Town fans into raptures. Housed in a temporary stand the weight of the

Steve Howard rises high against Bournemouth watched by Eddie Howe



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ThamesLink/

2004/05 history

jumping fans saw part of the wooden floor giving way and three supporters fell under the stand. Fortunately it happened on one of the lower rows meaning that the drop was not great and the only casualty was a man with a leg injury.

Part of the stand was cordoned off with the supporters moved elsewhere, but they all saw Brkovic net his second goal in the closing moments to make the game safe.

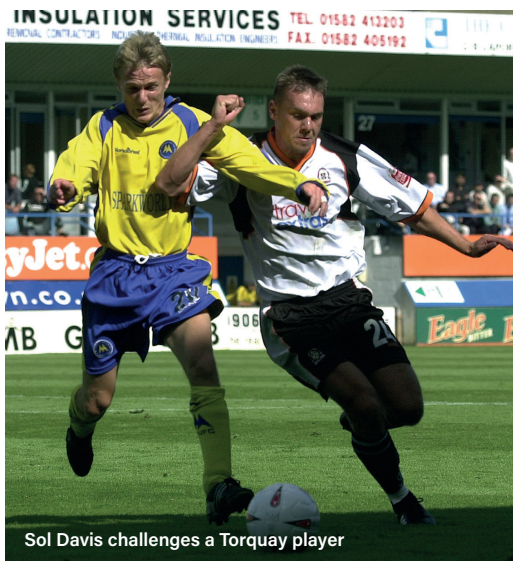
The players did not have time to rest on their laurels as they were back at Kenilworth Road two days later for a Bank Holiday clash against Bournemouth.

With Kevin Foley coming back in the side for Keith Keane the Hatters came

up against yet another side clearly intent on earning a point. With five strung across the middle the Cherries made it difficult for the Town but, just as the game seemed about to end in a scoreless stalemate, skipper Nicholls stepped up to save the day.

The midfielder moved upfield with nine minutes left to curl a 25-yard shot past Neil Moss for a goal to win any game. This time the team was not left hanging on at the end and saw the game out comfortably to secure their sixth straight win which put them six points clear at the top.

"We always had to be wary of them, but it was comfortable in the end," said manager Newell afterwards. "That's



Sol Davis challenges a Torquay player

probably the least nervous I've been at the end of a game and I didn't feel Bournemouth were going to score."

Much was made of the fact that the Town joined

Arsenal and Chelsea as the only sides in the League with 100 per cent records. Newell was subsequently being compared to both Arsene Wenger and Jose Mourinho!

49

Kevin Nicholls shoots for goal against Bournemouth



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TRAINING

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1996-98
AWAY



INSIDE A KIT COLLECTOR'S WARDROBE

51

Town shirt collector, David Foxen, aka @lutontownkits, goes through his selection of shirts in orange, white, blue – and all colours in between.

Let's get the obvious out of the way; it's yellow. I know, what on earth were Pony and the club thinking at the time?

A yellow, outfield, Luton Town shirt? Maybe the designers were secret fans of the team down the M1?

Either way, here is the only yellow outfield shirt we've had. The 1996/97 away shirt, one that also came back the following

season as a third shirt. At least there's bits of blue on it, right...

It's another Pony effort, and this shirt features the same collar structure as the previous season's home shirt, but this time has a much deeper, blue "v" with orange accents. At least there's a little bit of orange on there.

Universal Salvage Auctions were once again the sponsor, and their blue logo matches

the colour scheme for this shirt nicely. We have blue panelling down the arms and the sides of the shirt too, with the same style on the collar being used for the cuffs on the sleeves.

The material is very pully, much like the shirts of that era. It is hard to find an example of this shirt without a pull or bobble, but if you do find one, they go for a surprisingly high amount of money.

The Town's first appearance in yellow came in a 3-2 defeat at Brentford in August 1996 and Lennie Lawrence's side failed to record a win in these shirts all season (often choosing white or the orange and black striped kits on the road instead). However, in 1997/98, a 1-0 win at Carlisle was the first victory achieved in these colours – one of seven wins in yellow that season.

ACADEMY SQUADS

U18s U21s

* Academy headshots
coming soon



**Archie
Shepherd**

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**Benedict
Benagr**

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**Charlie
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Hockey**

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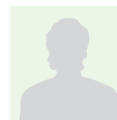
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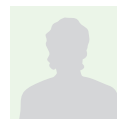
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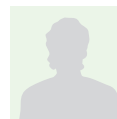
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THE YOUTH OF TODAY

Hope and dreams, favourite films and small sided games... we get the lowdown on our academy stars

Name... Zacharias Ioannides.

Place of birth... London.

Position... Central defensive or attacking midfield.

Joined Luton...
At the end of the under-11s.

Played for...
Whetstone and Focus Football.

I'm wearing...
Adidas X's.

I'm cleaning...
All the players boots – nobody in particular.

Earliest Luton Town memory... On tour in France with the team when I was 11 or 12 years old.

Coach who impacted me the most... Paul Reed. He trusted me, encouraged me and gave me confidence.

Football memory that makes me smile...
Scoring in the under-15s floodlit cup semis away against Cardiff.

Best moment of career so far... Not so much the 'best moment' but I really enjoyed playing 90 minutes with the under-21s against St Albans recently.

I would be a better player if I... was naturally quicker or more agile.

Dream squad number... 10.

In the playground I was...
Messi – he loved to dribble past people for fun.

Team-mate that could go all the way... Archie Shepherd.

If I could play with anyone it would be...
Bukayo Saka.

Favourite film... Wolf of Wall Street.

Go to food... My Grandad's curry chicken and roti.

Training drill I love the most... Small sided games.

Favourite school subject... Maths or drama.

Hobbies outside of football... I like to play chess, listen to music and spend time with family and friends.

Tell us something we don't know about you... My dad is Greek Cypriot and my mum is from Trinidad and Tobago.

I am... a hard-working, creative and technical midfielder. If I had to compare my playing style to a professional footballer I would say Jamal Musiala or Bernardo Silva. I love to dribble and beat players. I would also describe myself as reliable and versatile with a good game understanding which allows me to play multiple positions.



LTFC ACADEMY



Academic Academy Success

It's been a huge summer for our scholars in the Academy. I am pleased to inform you that all our Under-18s have successfully passed their Sporting Excellence Performance (SEP) level 3 qualification gaining Distinctions.

The Academy boys have shown tremendous dedication, excelling both on and off the pitch. Their hard work in training and commitment to their studies have been truly impressive. Their teamwork, discipline, and perseverance have paid off, and they continue to grow as both players and individuals. Keep up the great work!

Along with this each of them also completed a Level 3 BTEC qualification and everyone of them hit or

exceeded their targets, this showcasing their dedication to both football and academics. Congratulations to Max, Marcus, Will, Joe, Jack, Claude and Tyrell!

Scholar of the Year

A huge congratulations to Joe Johnson who not only achieved all of this but also completed his A Level Maths. It has been a very busy year for Joe both on and off the pitch.

Alongside his education success he has also represented England at the World Cup in Indonesia, faced Manchester City in the FA Cup and made his Premier League debut.

These successes led him to be named Luton Town's very first Premier League Scholar of the Year.

Manager Rob Edwards, who has been extremely supportive with all the Academy players'

education, said: "Joe has shown excellent growth in that time and shows a great desire to improve every day.

"He tests himself and his comfortable being out of comfort zone – the best way to improve.

"I love his mentality, he is calm, assured, confident but extremely humble. He is very technical and can operate in several positions, due to his bright football brain – a 'must have' for the modern footballer.

"We have really high hopes for Joe if he keeps up the great work and continues to develop the way he is."

Our Head of Education, Kobie Dee, added: "I'm delighted to commend Joe for consistently demonstrating exceptional commitment to academic excellence, effective communication, and commendable effort throughout his two years as an apprentice.

"His work consistently exhibits a remarkable level of quality, showcasing a deep understanding of both BTEC and A Level Maths. Joe's dedication to producing high-calibre assignments and projects sets a stellar example to all other academy players."

We warmly welcome our new scholars to the Academy and wish them the very best in both their education and football journey. Your potential is limitless, and we're excited to see you grow and excel on the pitch and in the classroom. Here's to a successful and rewarding experience ahead!

TOWN WIN TEN-GOAL EPIC

The Hatters Under-18s came out on top in a 10-goal thriller at The Brache on Tuesday morning beating Ipswich 6-4 in the Professional Development League Cup.

Joe Deeney's side started well and were two goals ahead inside four minutes. Matthew Takawira headed home Isaiah Harvey's cross for the opener before Charlie Emery's volley from the edge of the box made it two.

Ipswich then scored twice in a four-minute spell to level the score but by the 27th minute the Town were back in front when quick thinking by Dylan Stitt saw his free-kick find Takawira and he set-up Charlie Trustram to finish clinically into the bottom corner.

It was then 4-2 to the young Hatters moments before the break when, from another high press, Stitt squared for Trustram. His shot was saved by the Ipswich keeper but Samuel Hincappie-Alfonso was on hand to finish, knocking home the rebound.

Three minutes after the break Ipswich pulled another back but the Town restored their two-goal advantage shortly after the hour when Trustram converted from the penalty spot having been fouled in the area.

Once more back came Ipswich, making it 5-4 with 25 minutes to play but the Hatters wasted no time in adding a sixth when Benedict Benagr overlapped on the left before squaring for Stitt whose excellent first touch found the back of the net to complete the scoring.

A breathless Deeney told lutontown.co.uk: "It was a great game for the neutral. I thought our high pressing game was outstanding on the day leading to a lot of chances to increase our lead.

"Ipswich are a very good side and I'm delighted with my players that they got the win. There is loads of room for improvement but our attitude and work rate yielded a positive result. It is imperative we take those elements of the game into Saturday."

The under-18s aim to continue their goalscoring form when they welcome Exeter City to The Brache tomorrow in the Youth Alliance.

Charlie Trustram:
At the double
against Ipswich



"I THOUGHT OUR HIGH PRESSING GAME WAS OUTSTANDING ON THE DAY LEADING TO A LOT OF CHANCES"

U18 Fixtures

AUGUST

Sat 10th	Oxford United	L 0-3
Sat 17th	Swindon Town	W 2-1
Sat 24th	Stevenage YAC	L 1-2
Tue 27th	Ipswich Town PDLC	W 6-4
Sat 31st	Exeter City	2pm

SEPTEMBER

Sat 7th	Bristol Rovers	12pm
Sat 14th	Northampton Cup	10:30am
Sat 21st	Cheltenham Town	10:30am
Sat 28th	Plymouth Argyle	1pm

OCTOBER

Sat 5th	Peterborough United PDLC	
Sat 12th	Cambridge United Cup	10:30am
Sat 19th	Northampton Town	10:30am
Sat 26th	Bromley	11:30am

NOVEMBER

Sat 9th	Gillingham	10:30am
Sat 16th	AFC Wimbledon	11am
Sat 23rd	Mansfield Town PDLC	
Sat 30th	Cambridge United	11am

DECEMBER

Sat 7th	MK Dons Cup	10:30am
Sat 14th	Leyton Orient	11am
Sat 21st	Stevenage	10:30am

JANUARY

Sat 11th	MK Dons	10:30am
Sat 18th	Northampton Town	10:30am
Sat 25th	Gillingham	11am

FEBRUARY

Sat 1st	AFC Wimbledon	10:30am
Sat 15th	Cambridge United	10:30am
Sat 22nd	Sutton United	11am

MARCH

Sat 8th	Leyton Orient	10:30am
Sat 15th	Stevenage	10:30am
Sat 22nd	Bromley	
Sat 29th	MK Dons	10:30am

APRIL

Sat 5th	Portsmouth	10:30am
Sat 12th	Forest Green Rovers	11am

MAY

Sat 3rd	Newport County	12pm
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Home games listed in orange

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HE'S ONE OF OUR OWN!

JOHN HARTSON

Hatters scout Cyril Beach recommended several Welsh youngsters to the Hatters with striker John Hartson another off the conveyor belt signing professional terms in December 1992.

Having scored goals for fun at youth level, Swansea-born John made his debut as a substitute in a 1-0 League Cup defeat to Cambridge in August 1993, going onto score on his league debut against Nottingham Forest.

Soon the Welshman's precocious talents came to the fore, none more so during our famous televised win over Newcastle in the FA Cup in February 1994, in which he scored the opening goal.

The big clubs came sniffing around and Arsenal paid a record fee for a teenager of £2.5 million for the powerful striker in 1995.

After three seasons and 14 Premier League goals he transferred to West Ham in 1997, scoring 15 times in 1997/98.

After spells at Wimbledon and Coventry the frontman – who was a regular for Wales – was a massive hit in Scotland with Celtic, scoring 109 goals in just 201 games, winning the title three times.

APPEARANCES: 63

GOALS: 13

CAREER TIMELINE



DID YOU KNOW?

John scored on his last appearance for the Hatters in a 1-1 FA Cup draw with Bristol Rovers on 7th January 1995.

COMMUNITY TRUST

Luton Town Football Club Community Trust is delighted to launch a new employability programme, 'Supporting Luton into Employment'.



The 12-week courses will focus on providing qualifications within the sports sector with the aim of improving participants' chances of finding employment, or enhancing their current employment status.

We aim to offer a variety of qualifications such as, Introduction to Coaching Football, Level 2 Certificate in Spectator Safety, Level 1 Qualification in Sports Leadership and many more.

There will be a blend of classroom based learning and in-the-field activities. This includes

support available from our partner organisations, information about possible career pathways, and opportunities to shadow our Premier League Kicks, Talent Identification, Football Development and Disability programmes.

The specific criteria for potential participants include:

- 1. Age:** Individuals must be aged 18 or above.
- 2. Qualifications:** Participants will not hold qualifications above level 3. The programme

is designed for individuals seeking qualifications at or below this level.

- 3. Employment status:** Participants will be currently unemployed or on zero-hour contracts. There will be a focus on providing opportunities for those seeking stable employment.

- 4. Location:** Currently living in Luton

Bert Klemmer, Programmes Manager (Education, Learning & Employability) said: "We are very excited to launch

our new employability programme to support our local people's chances of finding employment or improving their current employment status.

"The programme puts a huge importance to build participants confidence, resilience, raise aspiration, and improve self-esteem."

Courses are due to start at the end of September. Please email community@lutontown.co.uk if you have any questions about the programme or are interested in taking part.

Mini Hatters sessions

We are now taking bookings for the next cohort of our Mini Hatters sessions, starting on 7th September 2024.

Taking place on Saturday mornings, our Mini Hatters sessions offer 3 to 5 year olds the opportunity to experience their first taste of playing football.

As well as learning the basic skills they need to get started in the

game, these sessions are all about making sure our youngsters enjoy themselves and have the opportunity to build new friendships and their own self-confidence.

The sessions take place at Queen Elizabeth School in Luton in the sports hall. Our indoor base means we are now able to run these sessions all year round whatever the weather! Each session is tailored specifically to the relevant age group, with individual sessions for 3, 4 and 5 year olds

delivered by Luton Town FC Community Trust staff.

Community Trust Head of Operations, Adam Woulds, said: "These sessions are very popular and offer a great way for youngsters to start their football journey.

"We make sure these sessions are fun, light hearted and that everyone goes home with a smile on their face, including the adults, who we encourage to get involved."

There is also the opportunity for our

youngsters to win the 'Hatter of the Week' award, rewarding those that display a positive attitude. While these sessions are very much focused on enjoyment for the youngsters, they also offer a solid foundation to playing the game.

To book your child's place for Mini Hatters please head to www.lutontowncommunity.co.uk and click 'book a course'. For further information please contact us community@lutontown.co.uk.

MINI HATTERS

SOCCER SCHOOLS



LUTON
TOWN



SUPPORTERS' TRUST

with Kevin Harper

Hello and welcome to our second home game of the season and one which I'm sure we all picked out as the pick of the games early in the campaign when the fixture list came out.

In a strange twist of fate, having drawn them in the Carabao Cup earlier in the week, this will be the second time we face QPR in a few days. Let us hope that the result this evening is better than that at Loftus Road on Tuesday night!

It is fair to say that the season hasn't started as any of us would have hoped or expected but we were in a similar situation two seasons ago and that didn't work out too badly did it?! I've full faith in Rob and the boys and their ability to turn results around and get us on the path we all want to be on.

Today is also transfer deadline day and on

behalf of my fellow Trust board members I would like to welcome all those who have arrived at Kenilworth Road recently and thank all those players who have left our great club in this window for their efforts.

On Trust matters, I am honoured to be continuing to serve as the media officer. Thankfully this summer has not been quite as hectic as the previous one, although I would much prefer to have been busier and the club still be in the Premier League! On the bright side it does mean that you haven't had to put up with me on your TV recently!

You may have seen or heard me on the LTST Podcast which is now into an eighth season. As was the case last season, the podcast will preview and review every league game Luton play and most cup games. We really appreciate the

support that the podcast gets. There isn't a match that goes by where fans are not coming up to me and thanking us for doing them and that support means the world to us so thank you.

As the podcast continues to go from strength to strength in our new studio, I am working on lots of other content that can be brought to our members throughout the season and beyond which will be communicated hopefully during the upcoming international break.

We continue to remain very active on social media. If you would like to be a part of our growing community either on Facebook, X or Instagram, please search for us. Our handle is @lutontownst.

Enjoy the game tonight. Get right behind the lads as always and hopefully the first win of the season is our reward!

COYH!



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www.lutontownsupporterstrust.com



MY FAVOURITE GOAL...

Town fan Freya Nicholson chooses her favourite all-time moment the Hatters found the target

My dad took me to my first ever Luton game in May 2000, against Oldham Athletic. I was seven years old. I have been supporting Luton for 24 years since so there is plenty of choice when considering my favourite ever Luton goal.

Countless memories, from the Claude Gnaka Wembley winner in the JPT, George Moncur's free-kick in the snow against Portsmouth in League One, Jordan Clark's strike at Wembley in the Championship play-off Final to Ollie Lee's long-range effort from our own half against Cambridge.

However, my favourite Luton goal has to be Ahmet Brkovic's late winner against Hull City in League One. It was February 2005; a top of the table clash, with only one point separating us and the high-flying Tigers. I was nervous before the game, especially as we were without my favourite Luton player, Steve Howard, and wondering how much of a miss he would be.

We dominated the game and Brkovic could arguably have scored a hat-trick. A breakthrough felt like it was on the cards – anything is possible at

Kenilworth Road. And in true Hatters style, the breakthrough came in the 88th minute. Kevin Nicholls passed the ball out wide to Steve Robinson, who crossed the ball from the right. The cross hung in the air for an age. Brkovic rose highest to head home the winner.

I had a great view of the goal sitting in the Kenilworth Road lower tier and I knew it was going in as soon as it left his head.

At the time, I was 12 years old and I'd never experienced an atmosphere like it when that goal went in. The noise was deafening and almost took the roof off the Kenny. I remember leaving the game with such adrenaline, I'd never felt such elation after winning a game.

That goal cemented my love for the Town. The breathless late winner gave us a vital three points in this promotion

tussle, putting us four points ahead of Hull. As fans, we knew this was a step closer to the Championship and a long-awaited return to the second tier of English football.

Being a third generation Luton supporter, I cannot wait to see what special moments my three-year-old son has to look forward to, supporting this amazing and historic club.



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JUNIOR HATTERS

TONIGHT'S MASCOTS



**ARCHIE
KORKLIN**

Age: 7
Hobbies: Playing
football, building lego,
playing drums, drawing
Favourite Player: Jacob
Brown & Jordan Clark



**BEN
TAYLOR**

Age: 9
Hobbies: Football,
Cricket, Rugby
Favourite Player:
Carlton Morris



**JAKE
VIGAR**

Age: 12
Hobbies: Football,
Theme Parks
Favourite Player:
Thomas Kaminski



**TOBI
CURL**

Age: 10
Hobbies: Gaming &
Football
Favourite Player: Tom
Lockyer

63

CREST MASH-UP

Can you guess the Club crests?



MY SCORE PREDICTION



GUESS WHO?



CREST MASH-UP: Manchester United & Everton. GUESS WHO: Aston Villa & Wycombe Wanderers.



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LUTON TOWN LADIES

Luton Ladies fend off Stevenage

Ladies secure first win of the season against Boro

Report by Owen Williams

Luton Town Ladies hosted Stevenage on Sunday afternoon looking to claim their first three points of the season following a frustrating 3-2 loss to Royston the week prior.

Managerial duo Myles Maddix and Fadi Mazloun made three changes from the defeat at Royston with new signings Chloe Martin, Elizabeth Mulvaney and Nicole Farmer making their debuts from the start.

Martin almost made an instant impact on her debut, five minutes in, when she put a ball into the box from the left hand side but the ball narrowly missed the head of Natasha Fensome.

Luton looked to be through on goal, via Gabriella Spillman, but a Stevenage defender made an incredible last ditch sliding challenge to prevent the 17-year-old from getting her shot off.

Fensome came close to getting her first competitive goal back

in a Luton shirt after Fiona Buttigieg sent the ball to the back post but Fensome was unable to direct her header on target.

Up the other end Tanya Blacksley then made the best challenge of the game with a strong tackle which ended a Stevenage counter attack.

Just after the break Martin gave Luton Ladies the lead. Amber Leighton picked up the ball in midfield and perfectly slotted the ball through to Martin, who took her time and expertly finished past the keeper.

Minutes later Spillman almost doubled the lead.

The ball fell to her at the back post, but incredibly the Stevenage keeper got down low and stopped her effort from yards out.

With seven minutes left to play, Stevenage were awarded a penalty after Sarah Hudson allegedly made contact with a Stevenage player. However the Hatters were let off the hook when the penalty was smashed over the bar.

A late surge of Stevenage corners were all defended well and the Ladies were able to claim all three points.

Up next for the Ladies is a trip to Haringey Borough FC on Sunday.



Fixtures

18/08/24	Royston Town L 2-3
25/08/24	Stevenage W 1-0
01/09/24	Haringey Borough
08/09/24	Wroxham
15/09/24	Needham Market A ko 2.30
22/09/24	Bowers & Pitsea H
29/09/24	Dussindale & Hellesdon Rovers
06/10/24	Enfield Town Ladies
13/10/24	St Albans City
20/10/24	Cambridge City
27/10/24	Watford Ladies Development
03/11/24	Hertford Town CUP KO 1.30
10/11/24	Royston Town
17/11/24	Haringey Borough
24/11/24	Wroxham
01/12/24	Needham Market
08/12/24	Bowers & Pitsea KO 3pm
15/12/24	Stevenage
05/01/25	Dussindale & Hellesdon Rovers
12/01/25	Enfield Town Ladies Firsts
19/01/25	St Albans City
26/01/25	Cambridge City
02/02/25	Watford Ladies Development

KO 2pm unless otherwise stated

Home games listed in orange

AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE



KICKS OFF APRIL 2025





67



LEAGUE LOOK

Last weekend in the Championship was a busy one as always which saw all 24 sides in action. Let's take a look at what unfolded in each game.

On Friday night, Leeds beat Sheffield Wednesday 2-0 at Hillsborough after goals from Brendan Aaronson and Daniel James as the Elland Road outfit picked up their first win of the season.

There were three early kick-offs on Saturday which saw three draws.

Bristol City drew 1-1 with Coventry City, Hull City drew 0-0 with Millwall and nine-man Plymouth managed to hold on to a point against our visitors tonight at Loftus Road.

In the 3pm kick offs, Blackburn Rovers beat Oxford 2-1 after coming from behind to win. Mark Harris scored a goal of the season contender for Oxford, but it wasn't enough for a result.

Middlesbrough drew 2-2 with Portsmouth after a last-minute Tommy

Conway penalty salvaging a point for Middlesbrough. Norwich and Sheffield United also played out a draw at Carrow Road, 1-1 the score.

As we know the Hatters lost 1-0 on the road against Preston after a narrow defeat at Deepdale. West Brom picked up a 2-1 win away at Stoke thanks to first half goals from Karlan Grant and Josh Maja.

Sunderland picked up an impressive 1-0 win against Burnley after Romaine

Mundle's strike in the 26th minute to put the Black Cats top of the league. Derby also fell to a narrow defeat away at Watford.

Sunday also saw another huge game in the Championship as Swansea City and Cardiff City played out a 1-1 draw in the South Wales derby. Liam Cullen put the Swans ahead, but Callum Robinson equalised for the Bluebirds.

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LET'S GO



The Hatters are back on the road in our next match after the international break two weeks tomorrow when they head to south east London to face Championship side Millwall at the Den.

Last season the two sides were in separate divisions but come the end of the season both teams would be back in the same league with the Hatters narrowly missing out on staying up.

Spending 98 seasons in the Football League, the Lions had a two-year stint in the top division between 1988/90 before bouncing between the second and third tiers of English football, finishing runners-up in the FA Cup in 2003.

This is the seventh consecutive season in the Sky Bet Championship for the London side since their promotion to the second division in 2017 after winning the play-off final against Bradford City under Neil Harris.

The E14 side has seen several managerial changes with Gary Rowlett, Adam Barratt and Joe Edwards all taking charge of the club following their League One playoff-winning season in 2017.

With hopes of improving on their mid-table finishes, they re-appointed former promotion-winning manager Harris but were only able to finish the 2023/24 season in 13th place 14 points behind the play-off spots.

However, all eyes would turn to the London side this time during the off-season when the sad news would come out that first-choice goalkeeper Matija Sarkic had passed away following suffering a sudden heart failure whilst on international duty for Montenegro. The 26-year-old had made 32 league appearances for the Lions and will be sorely missed by all at Millwall.

The Hatters will head to the Den for the first time since April 2023 when

they were involved in a goalless draw in week 40 of the Town's play-off final winning season but will hope to improve their record away from home against Millwall.

In the last 40 league games, the Town have only won six with the start of this Sky Bet Championship season beginning with two losses and one draw the head-to-head form isn't much better with the Hatters beating Millwall six times in the last 20 meetings, winning at the Den three times.

You have to go back to the Championship season and October of 2021 for the last win against the Lions away from home with then striker Harry Cornick grabbing a brace in a 2-0 win as the Hatters took all three points in East London.

Here's hoping for a similar result for the travelling Hatters.

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FIXTURES & RESULTS 2024/25

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AUGUST

MON 15	BURNLEY	20:00	23	1-4	11,777	1,335	Kaminski	Ogbene	Doughty	Walters	Mengi	Johnson	Nelson
SAT 17	PORTSMOUTH	12:30	20	0-0	20,293	2,168	Kaminski	Ogbene	Doughty	Walters	Mengi	Bell	Clark
SAT 24	PRESTON NORTH END	15:00	23	0-1	15,245	1,248	Shea	Ogbene	Doughty	Mengi	McGuinness	Bell	Clark
TUE 27	QUEENS PARK RANGERS (CC2)	20:00	-	1-1*	7,132	1,045	Kaminski	Walters	Doughty	Burke	Bell	Nakamba	Clark
FRI 30	QUEENS PARK RANGERS	20:00											

SEPTEMBER

SAT 14	MILLWALL	12:30
SAT 21	SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY	15:00
FRI 27	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	20:00

OCTOBER

TUE 1	OXFORD UNITED	19:45
SAT 5	SHEFFIELD UNITED	15:00
SAT 19	WATFORD	12:30
WED 23	SUNDERLAND	19:45
SAT 26	COVENTRY	12:30

NOVEMBER

FRI 1	WEST BROMWICH ALBION	20:00
WED 6	CARDIFF CITY	20:00
SAT 9	MIDDLESBROUGH	12:30
SAT 23	HULL CITY	15:00
WED 27	LEEDS UNITED	19:45
SAT 30	NORWICH CITY	15:00

DECEMBER

SAT 7	SWANSEA CITY	15:00
TUE 10	STOKE CITY	19:45
SAT 14	BLACKBURN ROVERS	15:00
FRI 20	DERBY COUNTY	20:00
THU 26	BRISTOL CITY	15:00
SUN 29	SWANSEA CITY	15:00

JANUARY

WED 1	NORWICH CITY	15:00
MON 6	QUEENS PARK RANGERS	20:00
SAT 18	PRESTON NORTH END	15:00
TUE 21	OXFORD UNITED	19:45
SAT 25	MILLWALL	15:00

FEBRUARY

SAT 1	SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY	15:00
SAT 8	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	15:00
WED 12	SUNDERLAND	19:45
SAT 15	SHEFFIELD UNITED	15:00
SAT 22	WATFORD	15:00

MARCH

SAT 1	PORTSMOUTH	15:00
SAT 8	BURNLEY	15:00
TUE 11	CARDIFF CITY	19:45
SAT 15	MIDDLESBROUGH	15:00
SAT 29	HULL CITY	15:00

APRIL

SAT 5	LEEDS UNITED	12:30
TUE 8	STOKE CITY	19:45
SAT 12	BLACKBURN ROVERS	15:00
FRI 18	DERBY COUNTY	15:00
MON 21	BRISTOL CITY	15:00
SAT 26	COVENTRY	15:00

MAY

SAT 3	WEST BROMWICH ALBION	15:00
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*QPR won 4-1 on penalties

TOWN TEASERS

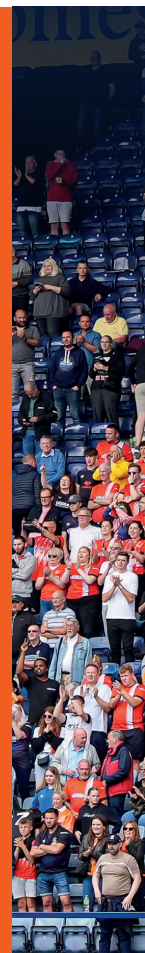
Put your football knowledge to the test and answer these Luton Town and football-related questions. Sadly, you'll win no prizes, just the utmost respect from our editor and quizmaster.

1. Who scored the first Premier League goal of the season?
2. In which year did the Town last win at Portsmouth?
3. From which club did the Hatters loan Tom Krauß from?
4. Which player scored a hat-trick for the under-21s last week?
5. Which team play their home matches at the Pirelli Stadium?
6. Who scored the Luton goals in our last home win over QPR in October 2022?
7. Which player won the PFA Player of the Year award last week?
8. Who was the first manager in the Championship to leave their club this season?
9. At which club did Mark McGuinness start his career?
10. In which season did QPR last play in the Premier League?

HOW DID YOU SCORE?

8-10 SIMON PITTS. Standing ovation from our #1 commentator.
4-7 COURTNEY PITT. A performance of a half decent loan signing.
0-3 THE PITS. Room for improvement but at least it's not minus 30.

ANSWERS: 1. Joshua Zirkzee, 2. 1976, 3. Mainz, 4. Benny Bengt, 5. Burton Albion, 6. Elijah Adebayo, Cameron Jerome and Luke Freeman, 7. Phil Foden, 8. Ryan Lowe, 9. Arsenal, 10. 2014/15.



Baptiste **CHONG 1** Morris Adebayo Townsend Mpanzu

Shea, Bell, Woodrow, Taylor, Homes, Francis-Clarke, Chigozie

Baptiste Chong **Morris** Adebayo **Shea** Holmes Mpanzu **Taylor**

Woodrow, Nelson, Johnson, Francis-Clarke, Chigozie

Baptiste Chong **Morris** Adebayo **Walsh** Walters Woodrow **Taylor** Nelson

Horlick, Andersen, Burke, Mpanzu

NELSON 1 Chong Morris Adebayo **Holmes** Andersen Walsh **Baptiste** Woodrow

Shea, Mpanzu, Taylor, Johnson

A huge thank you to those supporters who have travelled to the past three away fixtures at Portsmouth, Preston and QPR over the past two weeks.

COME ON YOU MATTERS!

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Luton Town Football Club's commitment is to promote inclusion and to confront and eliminate discrimination, whether by reason of age, disability, gender reassignment, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief. People can be assured of an environment in which their rights, dignity and individual worth are respected, and in particular that they are able to work and watch football in an environment without the threat of intimidation, victimisation, harassment, bullying and abuse. Should you wish to report a specific incident, please contact your nearest steward, email myvoice@lutontown.co.uk or download Kick It Out's free confidential reporting app on the App Store or Google Play.

LAST WORD WITH



GEOFF DOYLE

BBC THREE COUNTIES RADIO SPORTS EDITOR

So Luton Town find themselves playing on the evening of transfer deadline day - again. It happened last year and it must be so inconvenient and an added annoyance.

Transfer windows are always a nightmare and this one seems worse than ever because of the Euros across the summer, internationals having breaks and more and more clubs going away on overseas trips and tournaments. Everything seems to have been put back so the manic scramble for players has taken place in a week rather than three months.

I think it's doubly harder for teams who've been relegated from the Premier League. Many of the players have proved they are good enough at that top level despite relegation and so will be major targets of clubs still in the Premier League or teams who have just been promoted.

These few weeks must have been so unsettling with rumours flying around online and on social media. Agents will be in the ear of players who won't know whether they're coming, going or staying.

When you throw in injuries hanging over from last season, plus misfortune at both ends of the pitch, it's been a testing period for the Hatters.

But this was kind of expected. Manager Rob Edwards hinted about this when he kindly came into the BBC Three Counties Radio studio a few weeks ago to talk through pre-season and transfers, and he also highlighted the difficulties with this summer's transfer window. (You can still watch it by the way - follow the links on our social media pages.) There are so many things at play which most of us don't realise and don't know about.

Following tonight's game the window will thankfully be closed and we can get on and get down to settled business. Luton lost to QPR at Loftus Road midweek but they created enough chances to win the game and it feels like a win is around the corner. Everyone just needs to strike the ball as cleanly as Zack Nelson did the other night! What a strike. Balance, timing and technique. How is he going better that this season?

It was great to see the return of players back from injury, particularly

Marvelous Nakamba who's been out for such a long time and who was a real presence again in midfield for Luton in West London.

BBC Three Counties Radio once again has live commentary of every Hatters match this season on digital radio and you'll always be able to hear from manager Rob Edwards before and after games, on BBC Sounds. Follow our social media links.

Enjoy the game.

“THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS AT PLAY WHICH MOST OF US DON'T REALISE AND DON'T KNOW ABOUT.”



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MANAGER

Rob EDWARDS

James SHEA	1	1	Paul NARDI
Reuell WALTERS	2	3	Jimmy DUNNE
Amari'i BELL	3	4	Jack COLBACK
Tom LOCKYER	4	5	Steve COOK
Mads ANDERSEN	5	6	Jake CLARKE-SALTER
Mark McGUINNESS	6	7	Kader DEMBÉLÉ
Tom KRAUß	8	8	Sam FIELD
Carlton MORRIS	9	9	Lyndon DYKES
Cauley WOODROW	10	10	Ilias CHAIR
Elijah ADEBAYO	11	11	Paul SMYTH
Marvelous NAKAMBA	13	12	Michael FREY
Tahith CHONG	14	13	Joe WALSH
Teden MENGI	15	14	Koki SAITO
Reece BURKE	16	15	Morgan FOX
Pelly Ruddock MPANZU	17	16	Liam MORRISON
Jordan CLARK	18	18	Žan CELAR
Jacob BROWN	19	19	Elijah DIXON-BONNER
Liam WALSH	20	20	Reggie CANNON
Tim KRUL	23	22	Kenneth PAAL
Thomas KAMINSKI	24	23	Hevertton SANTOS
Joe TAYLOR	25	25	Lucas ANDERSEN
Shandon BAPTISTE	26	26	Rayan KOLLI
Daiki HASHIOKA	27	27	Daniel BENNIE
Tom HOLMES	29	28	Alfie LLOYD
Jameson HORLICK	31	29	Alfie TUCK
Jayden LUKER	34	30	Lorent TALLA
Zack NELSON	37	31	Ray JONES RIP
Joe JOHNSON	38	32	Matteo SALAMON
Aidan FRANCIS-CLARKE	39	40	Jonathan VARANE
Christian CHIGOZIE	40		
Benedict BENAGR	41		
Alfie DOUGHTY	45		



MANAGER

Martí CIFUENTES

OFFICIALS

Referee: Robert Madley
Assistant Referee: Blake Antrobus
Assistant Referee: Darren Williams
Fourth Official: James Bell