

ST LUTON V OXFORD UNITED MATCHDAY PROGRAMME - ISSUE 4 - £4



TUESDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2024 7.45PM



WELCOM



So here we are again. A Tuesday night under the lights at Kenilworth Road. Make the most of them! Give it a few years and we'll be in Power Court under the halo. Turn to page 33 to check out more images of our new ground following the news the application was validated by Luton Borough Council.

Tonight we welcome Oxford United, who are enjoying a fine season following promotion last season. If you had told anyone inside the ground after Keith Keane scored direct from a corner in the Conference back in 2010 that both clubs would meet in the Championship 14 years later, you might have received some strange looks. But here we are!

Enjoy the game. Come on Luton!

CONTENTS

4 Rob Edwards **6** Tom Lockyer **8** From the Boardroom **15** Match Action **23** Welcome Oxford United **33** Power Court **38** Centre Spot **41** Hatters Heritage **44** On this Day **46** Champions! 2004/05 **51** The Kit Collector **54** Academy update **57** Academy alumni **58** Luton Town Community Trust **60** From the Supporters' Trust **63** Junior Hatters **65** Luton Town Ladies **67** League Look **69** Play Safe **72** Fixtures and Results **74** Last Word

THE PROGRAMME

MADE IN LUTON

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With thanks to the media department at Oxford United

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



57

41



ME

33



| ROB EDWARDS |

THE BOSS

4

Good evening and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for tonight's game against Oxford United.

I'd like to extend my welcome to our visitors who have made the short trip this evening, including manager Des Buckingham and his staff and players.

Tonight represents an opportunity to bounce back from the disappointment of Friday night when we were poor at both ends of the pitch. I'd like to thank those supporters who made the long, long trip to Plymouth and apologise that we did not get the result any of us wanted.

We value your support and it means a lot to us. We're hurting because we don't want to let you down. Clearly, as was evident on Friday, parts of our game weren't

good enough. However, we will continue to work hard and adjust, tweak and change if necessary in order to improve.

We'll be aiming for that tonight against an Oxford side who have started the season well. I went to watch them on Saturday and they were excellent against a strong Burnley team. We've got to be really at it tonight if we're going to be on the right side of a result and that's the message we will be giving to the players before kick-off. Energy and intensity from the first kick will be key, and that's the mindset we'll be instilling in the players before we step onto the pitch.

We've shared some fantastic memories here at Kenilworth Road and we all want more of the same again this season. There has

been an incredible connection between the team and you, the fans and when we're united, this stadium becomes a fortress. We've experienced it before, and we're all eager to recreate that magic. With your voices behind us, there's nothing we can't achieve together.

Yes, we're not where we want to be in the league just yet, but the Championship is a marathon, not a sprint so the cliché goes. Every team in this division presents a challenge, and we're determined to rise to that. We know the quality in this squad, and I'm confident that with hard work, resilience and the support of you all in the stands, we'll get to where we want to be.

Tonight, we'll be encouraging the lads to play with bravery. This group has proven time

and again that they can rise to the occasion, and I'm certain they'll deliver a spirited performance for you tonight.

So let's get the Kenny rocking, show your support from the stands, and push for the result we know we can achieve. Let's keep building, together.

Enjoy the game.



**“ENERGY AND
INTENSITY FROM
THE FIRST KICK WILL
BE KEY, AND THAT’S
THE MINDSET WE’LL
BE INSTILLING IN
THE PLAYERS.”**

| TOM LOCKYER |

CLUB CAPTAIN

First of all, hats off to those of you who made the longest journey of the season down to Plymouth on Friday night. Over 1,000 of you made yourselves heard on a Friday night with the game on TV.

I can imagine it was not the happiest of trips home but our thanks go to all of you who travelled south. Your support was greatly appreciated and we're sorry we could not reward that with any points.

Of course, we are all now working towards getting back to winning ways this evening as we host Oxford here under the lights at the Kenny. The result down at Home Park was not what we were expecting after going into the game off the back of two victories.

The boys followed up the win over Millwall by earning our first home victory of the season against Sheffield Wednesday. We needed to dig deep to turn

around a one-goal deficit and it was great to see this place bouncing.

It was a real team showing too, with everyone contributing to the comeback, including those who came off the bench. Carlton stepped up from the spot in a pressure situation to coolly dispatch the pen and with two minutes left the roof was off when he tapped home from close range to win it.

We knew it was still not our best performance but the one takeaway was that we were able to win without being at the top of our game. They say the best signs of good teams are winning when not at your best.

We went to Plymouth confident in making it three wins in a row but we just couldn't find what was required on the night. One of the few bright spots was the goal from Victor and the way he caused them problems in his brief cameo.

What a player is he. Congratulations on your first goal and hopefully it's the first of many.

We all know how competitive the Championship is – the top two in the table right now both lost at the weekend – and it seems as though we're going to be in for another rollercoaster season. This league also gives you great opportunities to bounce back and build momentum with so many games.

So that's why it's important we stick together and get behind the lads this evening. Oxford have had a decent start and got a good result at the weekend but there's no doubt that we have quality in our squad to ensure Plymouth is a distant memory come half-nine tonight.

We'll need your backing as ever, so please raise the decibel level inside the ground and stick with the lads from the first minute.

Finally, I'd like to thank you, Rob and my teammates, who have supported the Sky Bet and British Heart Foundation's Every Minute Matters campaign.

Remember, learning CPR only takes minutes to learn and that could be the difference between life and death of a loved one who may require life-saving attention.

If you haven't done so yet, please do. For more information check out the British Heart Foundation website www.bhf.org.

Back to the football – join me in getting behind the lads tonight. Come on boys.



A man with a beard and short brown hair is sitting on a dark grey bench. He is wearing a red long-sleeved football jersey with 'sky bet' on the left sleeve, a club crest on the chest, and 'EVERY' on the front. He is also wearing dark blue shorts and grey football boots with pink accents. He is smiling and looking towards the camera, with his hands clasped over his knees. The background is a wall made of vertical wooden slats.

**“PLEASE RAISE
THE DECIBEL
LEVEL INSIDE
THE GROUND
AND STICK
WITH THE LADS
FROM THE
FIRST MINUTE.”**



BOARDROOM DAVID WILKINSON

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

Tonight's visitors are Oxford United, who like us have suffered and recovered in recent years. They won the League Cup in 1986, but like us were unable to compete in Europe due to the ban on English clubs.

They were relegated from the top-flight in 1988, which began an 18-year decline culminating in them being the first major trophy winner to be banished to the Conference, where again, like us, they remained for five years. We last met each other at the end of the 2018/19 season when a 3-1 win here at the Kenny confirmed us as League One champions.

We have had some exciting encounters over the years. One that

particularly sticks in my mind was when we knocked them off the top of the Conference to win with two goals in injury time. The winner coming straight from a perfect corner by Keith Keane. Let's hope that that kind of magic is repeated tonight.

They are newly promoted but have an impressive set up with impressive training facilities near Cowley where Mick and I watched our under-21s play last week.

I'm writing these notes on Saturday morning with bleary eyes after a 10-hour return trip to see us well beaten at Plymouth. It was a very quiet drive home and for me the frustration remains this morning. I think we all know that we are better than we are showing so far this season, and I believe it will come. However, we all need to stick together to support Rob, the coaches

and the squad to pick up the form and generate the excitement that we are used to and expect.

It is no surprise that we have suffered a bit of a hangover from last season when we often played very well without a positive result and lost the winning habit. Momentum is so important both in games and in sequences of results. There are 117 points still to play for so let's play our part in getting as many of them as we can and remember that form is temporary while class is permanent.

We have quality people operating throughout the club, who, I'm sure, expect us to remain confident in their abilities to turn things round. We would not be where we are today by making kneejerk decisions. That has been the unsuccessful philosophy of others, who shall remain nameless.

As most of you are aware the main rationale for 2020 from the outset was to ensure the future of the Club by making it self-sustaining. This means not having to rely so much on central funding, player

"I THINK WE ALL KNOW THAT WE ARE BETTER THAN WE ARE SHOWING SO FAR THIS SEASON, AND I BELIEVE IT WILL COME."

sales and shareholder loans. The plan was to achieve this by getting back to the Championship and building a new stadium with significantly increased capacity along with sizeable hospitality space and other commercial opportunities.

This means that having achieved our first target of reaching the Championship earlier than planned it is now vital to complete our new stadium plans. When 2020 first became involved, the Club owned nothing, so apart from preserving our tenancy, we had to find and acquire land for our new home. We don't have a bottomless pit of money, but unlike many we are taking a long-term view. Anyone who cares to look at our accounts can see

that significant funds have already been provided for this purpose.

We didn't want to have a soulless bowl out of town because we believe, as local people, that we should be in the heart of our community and use the development to benefit the town we love. So we bought two pieces of land, one for the stadium and the other to enable it.

The Power Court site was particularly complicated both in terms of ownership titles and because it had been the site of a coke-fuelled power station and has the river Lea running through it. All this time Gary and his team were also building relationships with relevant parties to see what was possible.

Gary, Mike Moran and their team of consultants then worked towards an application for outline planning permission for which was granted by the Council in 2019.

While all this was going on we went through a financial crisis, Covid and Brexit and the original plans for the site at Junction 10 had to change so it was sold with the profit earmarked for Power Court.

To go from outline to detailed planning involves an enormous amount of work. There are 106 different documents relating to the application, which are now available for inspection on the Council website. If you get the chance, take a look. It is impressive.



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“THE BOARD AND INVESTORS ARE EXTREMELY PROUD OF THE QUALITY OF THE APPLICATION AND LOOK FORWARD TO STARTING THE BUILD.”

I make no apology for repeating this information because the fact that the application has been validated demonstrates not only that it's for real but also shows how professionally and comprehensively this has been managed by our development team. The board and investors are extremely proud of the quality of the application and look forward to starting the build once we have received detailed planning permission in the next 12 weeks.

We have all been hearing about a new home for the club over the past 50

years, but never have so called plans reached this stage. Keep the faith – we're nearly there.

Finally, today is 1st October and International Day of Older People – a cause obviously dear to my heart! It is designated as a day to recognise the contributions of older people, be aware of the challenges they face and appreciate the contributions they make. Thank you to all our past players, staff and especially our supporters, who are in their later years, but still enlivened by their continued devotion to the Hatters.

“When defeat comes, accept it as a signal that your plans are not sound, rebuild those plans and set sail once more toward your coveted goal.” – Napoleon Hill, US Self-help author.

“Control the controllables.”

“Never too high, never too low.” – John Still

Enjoy the game.

COYH

David

CLUB HONOURS

LEAGUE CUP

Winners 1988
Runners-up 1989

FA CUP

Runners-up 1959

FOOTBALL LEAGUE TROPHY

Winners 2008/09

SECOND DIVISION/ CHAMPIONSHIP

Champions 1981/82
Runners-up 1954/55, 1973/74
Play-Off Winners 2022/23

THIRD DIVISION/ LEAGUE ONE

Champions 1936/37,
2004/05, 2018/19
Runners-up 1935/36, 1969/70

FOURTH DIVISION/ LEAGUE TWO

Champions 1967/68
Runners-up 2001/02, 2017/18

CONFERENCE PREMIER

Champions 2013/14



CLUB DIRECTORY

DIRECTORS & SHAREHOLDERS

Chairman: David Wilkinson

Chief Executive Officer:
Gary Sweet

Directors: Paul Ballantyne,
Stephen Browne, Bob Curson,
Mike Herrick, Rob Stringer CBE

Shareholders:

Kailesh Karavadra,
Luton Town Supporters' Trust

FOOTBALL MANAGEMENT

First Team Manager:
Rob Edwards

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

CLUB OPERATIONS

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Tom Schofield

Operations Director:
James Mooney

Commercial Director:
Chris Bell

Human Resources Director:
Jenn Smith

Club Secretary: Chris Clark
Football Operations Manager:
Kelly Francis

Safety Officer: Barney McGhee

Head of Press &
Communications:
Stuart Hammonds

Ticket Office Manager:
Mike Hooker

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Richard Banks,
Gary Chamberlain, Ian Gazeley,
Doug Knight, Ben Banks,
Emma Banks

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AROUND TOWN

REST IN PEACE

It is with sadness that we place on record the passings of two life-long Hatters fans.

In loving memory of **Robert Grantham**, who sadly passed away on 22nd August, aged 48 years. Rob was the much loved son of Sue and Brian and brother to Kim, Chris Abi and Craig and loving uncle to William, Alfie and George. He was a true Luton Town fan following the club from childhood and it was requested that people wear Luton colours to his funeral as a final tribute to him.



We also remember **Les Robinson**, a true Luton Town legend in his own

right. Saturdays were sacred for him, filled with the thrill of listening to commentary and watching the games whenever he could. He knew every player's stats and had opinions that could rival the best pundits! His passion for the Hatters was infectious, and we can all picture him passionately analysing matches, celebrating the wins and lamenting the losses.



Les was a loving grandad and great grandad, who loved sharing stories and insights about the team with his family. His family will of course carry on his love for LTFC. Cheers to you, Les.

RON'S MARCH

Join Town legend Mick Harford, manager Rob Edwards and David Pleat for Ron Hedley's latest walk to raise awareness and funds for prostate cancer research on Thursday 17th October.

The walk through Rothamsted Park in Harpenden starts at 2pm and will see walkers presented with a Ron's March T-shirt,

a Bob Willis Fund cap, badges and a booklet for the walk.

Tea and cake will be provided after the walk in the centre and parking will be available in the Leisure Centre car park. For more information, or to donate, visit www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/support-rons-march-for-prostate-cancer.

FRIENDS REUNITED

At our last home game against Sheffield Wednesday we had the pleasure of welcoming back two-time promotion-winning hero Max Dougan to Kenilworth Road.

Max, who was part of the Hatters teams that won promotions in 1968 and 1970, was reunited in the Eric Morecambe Lounge with teammate John Moore.

It was the first time the pair had seen each other in 57 years and they happily reminisced about the glory days as the Town went from the fourth tier to the second in three seasons.



DEVELOPMENT SQUAD AT HOME

Come and watch the next generation of Town players in action at Kenilworth Road later this week when the development squad take on Burnley in the Premier League Cup on Friday night.

Alex Lawless' side face the Clarets in their opening match of the competition with a 7pm kick-off.

The main enclosure is open with unreserved seating, with admission £5 for adults and £1 for under-17s. Any youth under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

Season card holders and members are entitled to one ticket free of charge. The ticket office will be checking seasonal and membership bookings before tickets are dispatched.

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ACTION REPLAY



2

Morris 77' (p), 88'



1

Bannan 52'

Carlton Morris' double earned us our first home win of the season defeating Sheffield Wednesday last time out at Kenilworth Road.

The Hatters started strong under the afternoon sun, with Elijah Adebayo and Alfie Doughty immediately putting pressure on Wednesday's defence. However, the attacking intensity left gaps at the back, which Wednesday looked to exploit. Just over 10 minutes in, Yan Valery's cross was tipped away by Thomas Kaminski before Barry Bannan volleyed high and wide.

Kaminski then made a series of crucial saves, first denying Michael Smith at close range and then Josh Windass from point-blank range, keeping the score level with some heroic goalkeeping.

As the first half progressed, the Town grew more dangerous, with Mark McGuinness winning aerial duels from set-pieces. Right before the break, an intricate passing move involving Marvelous Nakamba, Tahith Chong, and Doughty nearly set up Adebayo, but Town academy graduate Akin Famewo made a key interception.

The first half ended goalless, with neither side creating clear-cut chances, and Rob Edwards demanding more urgency for the second half.

Wednesday started the second half brightly, and in the 52nd minute, Valery's cross found an unmarked Bannan, who volleyed confidently into the bottom corner to give the visitors the lead.

Edwards reacted swiftly, bringing on three substitutes, including Tom Krauß for his debut. Minutes later, Doughty's free-kick led to a scramble in the box, and Di'Shon Bernard handled McGuinness' goal-bound header off the line. The Wednesday man was sent off, and the Town were awarded a penalty which Morris calmly slotted down the middle to level.

Victor Moses was introduced for his debut and added energy to the Hatters attack and with two minutes remaining, Doughty delivered another dangerous cross that wasn't cleared properly, allowing Morris to pounce and fire home the winner.

As the Town celebrated, Wednesday nearly equalised only for Kaminski to pull off another fine save from Svante Ingelsson's long-range effort.

After some game management in the corner, the final whistle blew, securing the first home win of the season.

15





ACTION REPLAY



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ACTION REPLAY



3

Al Hajj 8'
Cissoko 69', 90+3'



1

Moses 70'

The Town failed to make it three wins in a row as they were soundly beaten at Plymouth.

The Hatters, who saw three players substituted through injury in a 15-minute spell either side of half-time, were behind early and never recovered despite substitute Victor Moses' first goal for the club.

But Argyle, who in their last home game beat leaders Sunderland, got off to a flyer when Rami Al Hajj thundered a shot past Thomas Kaminski in the eighth minute after the Town failed to clear a pass into the box.

With their tails up the hosts should have doubled their lead four minutes later only for Michael Obefemi to shoot wide from 10 yards after being found by Morgan Whittaker's right-wing cross.

While the Hatters looked dangerous going forward, they could not profit from the mistakes in the Plymouth defence with Elijah Adebayo denied twice with shots that home defender Lewis Gibson blocked.

But while the Town struggled to create clear-cut chances, the home side were threatening whenever they poured forward, and the Hatters had Kaminski to thank for two fine saves to keep out the Pilgrims. Firstly the Belgian got down to deny goalscorer Al Hajj a second before using his feet to stop a goal-bound effort from home captain Joe Edwards five minutes before the break.

The half ended with Teden Mengi and Tahith Chong withdrawn with knocks and the Town's woes continued into the second period when Mads Andersen – on for Mengi – then limped off.

Half chances came and went as the Town chased an equaliser but the game seemed beyond Rob Edwards' men with 20 minutes left when Argyle substitute Ibrahim Cissoko finished brilliantly after taking Darko Gyabi's pass to make it 2-0.

However, almost immediately, the Hatters reduced the deficit to give them hope. Alfie Doughty's cross from the left swung into the path of Moses and he whipped a ferocious low shot past Dan Grimshaw at the near post.

With 19 minutes left on the clock, the Town went for the jugular with Edwards introducing Joe Taylor and Cauley Woodrow off the bench.

A series of corners put the home side under pressure but after Taylor swept a shot wide and Woodrow fired over the game was almost up.

Then, in the third of seven added minutes, it was. Cissoko found space in the Town penalty area and then had time to steer a low shot past Kaminski and that was that.

19





ACTION REPLAY





ALWAYS UMBRO

100 YEARS OF AUTHENTICITY ON AND OFF THE PITCH.



WELCOME



Tonight we welcome Oxford United to Kenilworth Road for what is sure to be another terrific Championship clash.

Des Buckingham's side have had a solid start to the season and look to solidify their spot in the second tier.

The U's were promoted to the Championship last season following a victory against Bolton Wanderers at Wembley in the play-off final. However, since that glorious day in the sun for Oxford their squad has changed a fair bit.

There was plenty of movement in the summer window. Some of the names who have come in include Siriki Dembele, Idris El Mizouni, Louie Sibley, Jack Currie, Jamie Cumming, Will Vaulks and former Hatter Peter Kioso and Matt Ingram.

Buckingham's side have started the season well – thanks to their fine home record that saw them win their first three games of the Championship season – following impressive victories over Norwich, Preston and Stoke.

It's been a different story on their travels, however, losing all four in league and cup this term. However those set-backs – at Coventry, Blackburn, Coventry again in the Carabao Cup and Bristol City – have all come by the odd goal.

Tonight the Town will be aiming to continue their good league record at home to the Yellows. Although United have won twice – in the Checkatrade Trophy and League Cup – since 1998, the Hatters are unbeaten in their last 10 meetings with the Yellows in league action, winning seven of those, the most recent the 3-1 victory on the final day of the 2018/19 season that saw the Town clinch the League One title.

A warm welcome to Kenilworth Road to all those associated with Oxford United.

Oxford United
23

THE SQUAD



- 1 GK Jamie Cumming
- 2 DF Sam Long
- 3 DF Ciaron Brown
- 4 MF Will Vaulks
- 5 DF Elliott Moore
- 6 MF Josh McEachran
- 7 FW Przemysław Placheta
- 8 MF Cameron Brannagan
- 9 FW Mark Harris
- 10 MF Matt Phillips
- 11 FW Malcolm Ebiowei
- 12 DF Joe Bennett
- 13 GK Simon Eastwood
- 14 MF Louie Sibley
- 15 MF Idris El Mizouni
- 16 DF Ben Nelson
- 17 MF Owen Dale
- 19 MF Tyler Goodrham
- 20 FW Rúben Rodrigues
- 21 GK Matt Ingram
- 22 DF Greg Leigh
- 23 FW Siriki Dembélé
- 24 DF Hidde ter Avest
- 25 FW Will Goodwin
- 27 FW Max Woltman
- 28 MF Marselino Ferdinan
- 29 MF Kyle Edwards
- 30 DF Peter Kioso
- 34 DF Jordan Thorniley
- 44 FW Dane Scarlett

PROFILES

THE BOSS DES BUCKINGHAM

Appointed United manager in November 2023 and guided the Yellows to promotion to the Championship at the first time of asking.

GOALKEEPER
JAMIE CUMMING
Chelsea academy youth product. Has been on loan to Stevenage, Gillingham and Milton Keynes before signing for Oxford permanently in the summer.

DEFENDERS
ELLIOTT MOORE
Signed for Oxford in 2019 and has been with the club ever since. Amassed nearly 200 appearances for the Yellows.

CIARON BROWN ▼
Began his career in non-league with Bedfont Sports before getting a move to the EFL. Northern Ireland international and been a regular for Oxford since joining in 2022.



GREG LEIGH
Jamaican international who came through the Manchester City academy. Previously played for Aberdeen, Ipswich, Morecambe and Bradford.

PETER KIOSO
Former Hatter who joined Oxford in the last window. Since leaving Kenilworth Road, Kioso has played for Rotherham and Peterborough.

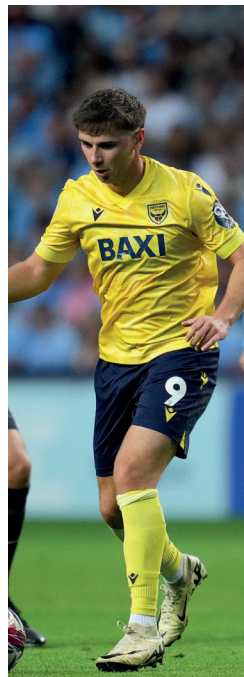
SAM LONG
Been at Oxford for over 10 years and has been a regular in the team since 2018. Played almost 30 games for the U's last season.

MIDFIELDERS
CAMERON BRANNAGAN
Featured almost 300 times for Oxford and is a modern-day Yellows legend. Scored 12 goals last season to help the U's reach the Championship.

MATT PHILLIPS
Midfielder with a wealth of experience for the likes of Wycombe, Blackpool, QPR and West Brom. Joined the U's on a free last summer.

TYLER GOODRHAM
Played over 100 games for the Yellows. Scored in Oxford's 3-1 win over Preston a couple weeks ago.

IDRIS EL MIZOUNI
Began his career with Ipswich and has been on multiple loans before joining Oxford permanently. Scored his first goal for the club in a 1-0 win over Stoke.



JOSH McEACHRAN
A Chelsea academy product who left the Blues in 2015 to join Brentford. Has since played for Birmingham and Milton Keynes before joining Oxford.

WILL VAULKS
Midfielder with a vast amount of Championship experience. Amassed over 100 games for Falkirk, Cardiff and Rotherham.

FORWARDS
MARK HARRIS ▲
Came through the ranks at Cardiff before joining the Yellows in 2023. He is United's top scorer so far this season.

RUBEN RODRIGUES
Portuguese playmaker who signed for Oxford from Notts County in 2023. Key player in Oxford's promotion last year.

DANE SCARLETT
Young striker who is on loan from Tottenham. Had previous loan spells at Portsmouth and Ipswich.

U's KITBAG



1991-1993 HOME

You know, yellow's not our colour, really, but we don't mind this one. Matchwinner made this yellow and navy offering for United's home shirt between 1991 and 1993. Nice and simple design, nothing over the top and a badge and sponsor that just... fits. Close your eyes and we can still see Jim Magilton knocking home a few in this.

A FOOT IN BOTH



DANNY HYLTON

Who else? A modern-day cult hero for both clubs, SDH helped Oxford to promotion in 2016 before heading to Kenilworth Road where he was part of the Town side that won back-to-back promotions. He notched 30 goals in 101 games for United and then struck 62 times in 170 games for the Hatters. He's now reunited with former Town boss Nathan Jones at Charlton.

UNITED HERO

John Aldridge joined United in March 1984 from Newport and, although sparingly used at first, the frontman formed a strong partnership with Billy Hamilton the following season. In 1984/85, Aldridge hit 34 goals, breaking Oxford's single-season scoring record and, more importantly, helped secure their promotion to the First Division.

In his first top-flight season, 'Aldo' netted 23 times, making him the division's third-highest scorer, behind Gary Lineker and Frank McAvennie. Aldridge

also scored six goals in Oxford's League Cup-winning run, culminating in a 3-0 win over QPR in the 1986 final.

In total, the striker scored 90 times in 141

appearances for United and notably scored four goals against Gillingham and one in a win over Manchester United in Alex Ferguson's first game as manager before leaving for Liverpool.



FIXTURE FLASHBACK

TOWN 7-4 OXFORD 6TH FEBRUARY 1988

There might be over 1,000 mentions of our Conference meeting with the U's in tonight's programme, so let's steer attention a bit further back in time here shall we?

Back in the late 1980s both sides were in the top-flight, punching above their weight against the giants of English football.

In this helter-skelter meeting in February

1988, the two sides met in league action in what was dubbed a 'dress rehearsal' for the upcoming Littlewoods Cup semi-final meeting.

Neither side gave any clues ahead of the cup meetings, as an open game saw both defences all over the place.

Mark Stein scored his first league hat-trick, but Mick Harford, with a

diving header, notches the Town's seventh and best goal of the game. Brian Stein and Darron McDonough are also on target.

After then seeing off Oxford in the league cup, the Town would lift the Littlewoods Cup at Wembley in the final and would end the league campaign ninth in the top-flight.



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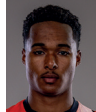
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COMMERCIAL

At our last home game here at Kenilworth Road against Sheffield Wednesday, two-goal hero Carlton Morris was named man-of-the-match by match sponsors AJ Electrical.

Carlton is pictured below with our guests from AJ Electrical receiving his award. We also had the pleasure of welcoming seven mascots to the game who got to meet all their favourite players before kick-off and then lead out the team on the pitch before the 2-1 win.

This evening we have two mascots who will get to experience the full matchday package, meeting the management and players and enjoying all the pre-match entertainment.

Hospitality, sponsorship and mascot packages are available for selected fixtures throughout the season. If you're interested, please get in touch with our sponsorship and hospitality team on 01582 411622 or email commercial@lutontown.co.uk.

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GOOSEBUMPS ON DEBUT FOR TOM

German midfielder gets das Gänsehautgefühl



Tom Krauß revealed that the crowd's reaction to the Town's come-from-behind win over Sheffield Wednesday at Kenilworth Road left him with goosebumps!

The German midfielder went on in the 60th minute for his Hatters debut, after a frustrating four week period recovering from an ankle injury sustained in training with parent club Mainz.

"It was great," said the 23-year-old, who is on a season-long loan from the Bundesliga side. "After the game I had goosebumps, so it's not normal, but it was a tough 30 minutes.

"I was out for four weeks, it wasn't so easy for me. But I'm happy I'm now on the pitch, I can see the fans and can celebrate with the fans. A perfect way to win."

Tom had only had a week training out on the grass before manager Rob Edwards pitched him into the heat of a Championship battle with the Owls.

"Last Monday was my first training session with the team, and after four weeks out I was so happy," he said. "It was a

tough game today, it was not such a good game from us.

"But a win is a win, and now with two wins in a row, it's important for us. Now we celebrate and on Monday focus on the next game."

Asked what the manager said to him before he went out onto the Kenilworth Road pitch for the first time, Tom replied: "He said 'You are perfect for Luton! When I went like this to the fans (gesturing with his hands), I loved it.

"To celebrate with the fans and to see that they are very happy after the win, that is really important for me. I'm an aggressive player and that is what Rob wants. It's a perfect way to start with a win, and now let's focus on the game on Friday."

On his fitness, he added: "I feel really good. I had a good session in the four weeks here with the (strength & conditioning) coaches. Thursday was my first full training session with the team.

"Now these 30 minutes are really important for me and I can't wait to start with the team. I feel really fit"



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POWER COURT UPDATE

Following our recent announcement that a detailed planning application for Power Court had been submitted to Luton Borough Council, we can now confirm that the process was formally and successfully validated last week.

This means all of the documents that were submitted by the

Club and 2020 Developments are now in the public domain and are therefore available to peruse on the council's website.

Town chief executive Gary Sweet said: "We wish to place on record our gratitude to the Council's officers and planning team for their promptness in validating these extensive set of plans."

If you're interested and want to read all about every detail about the project scan here







RECOLLECTIONS OF A PROMOTION SEASON

For Kevin Foley, the 2004/05 season holds special significance, marking a time when a determined Town squad overcame the odds to secure promotion. Foley, a product of the academy, reflects on the memorable campaign, the hurdles he faced as a young player, and the unity that propelled the Hatters to success.

Kevin Foley's journey with the Hatters started at a young age. So when we caught up with him to discuss our promotion 20 years ago, nostalgia soon washed over the right-back.

"I came to the club when I was about nine," recalls Foley, now 39 and the Town's first team coach. "I had just started playing grassroots football a bit later than others. But

soon after, in the first few games, I was scouted with two of my mates. We all went to train for six weeks. Luckily, I stayed on, but sadly, my two friends didn't make it. I stayed there until I was 22."

From those early days, Foley could feel that the club was committed to developing young talent.

"Luton had a reputation for giving chances to

young players. You could see that – players like Matthew Taylor and Matthew Spring were all breaking through at the time. We knew there was a path to follow, and it gave us younger players a lot of encouragement."

The dressing room atmosphere was a tough one to navigate, however. "It was a great environment but a challenging one. You

were tested straight away. Thinking of the characters there like Kevin Nicholls and Steve Howard – they really put you through your paces. You either sank or swam, but I loved it."

Making the first team is never easy for a young player, and Foley experienced the pressure firsthand.

"When you got the chance to train with the first team, you really had to make it count. You didn't want to slip up but still had to prove yourself. It was a tough business, but it helped me grow."

His breakthrough, back in April 2003, came during a financially unstable period for the Hatters, which ironically would work to the advantage of Foley and his fellow academy graduates.

"There was a transfer embargo," he explains. "Mike Newell had a fresh look at the squad, and I began playing more friendlies and training with the first team. I quickly impressed him. I still remember standing in the tunnel before our first game of the season against Rushden. It was scorching hot, and I wasn't sure if I was ready. But as we walked out, I told myself I had to be. We won that game."

After a solid first season in 2003/04 in which the Hatters finished 10th, the 2004/05 season was one Foley will never forget. Led by Newell, the Town made a strong start, surprising both themselves and their supporters by winning the

first six games and going unbeaten until October

"I think we shocked everyone, including ourselves," Foley admits. "We had a solid season the year before, but 2004/05 was something special. During pre-season, we began to believe, 'We've got a real shot here.'"

Leadership and resilience were central to the team's success.

"We had leaders all over the pitch. Kevin Nicholls was always pushing me to get around him and support him, but he was fantastic for me. I learned so much from players like Chris Coyne and Steve Howard too. Our team managed itself in a way; there were leaders everywhere."

That unity carried the Town through challenging periods. Foley recalls a stretch when they lost three games in a row, sparking doubts about their promotion hopes. However, Newell's calm demeanour kept them on course. "The manager showed us a video of one of those losses and told us there wasn't much wrong. He kept us grounded, and we went on beat Bradford 4-0 in the next game."

23rd April 2005, is a date forever etched in Foley's memory. The Town headed to Wrexham on St George's Day knowing victory could hand them the League One title. Despite trailing 1-0 at half-time, the Hatters turned the game around with two goals from Chris Coyne and Curtis Davies to clinch the championship.

"That game confirmed the title," Foley recalls. "It was unreal. A few years earlier, I was still at school, and now I was playing for Luton, celebrating promotion in front of my family and friends. It felt like a dream."

The bond within the squad was instrumental to their success. Foley reflects on the camaraderie they shared both on and off the pitch. "We were in such a good rhythm that season. After every match, we'd celebrate together. Win or lose, we stuck together. It was a close-knit team, and even Mike Newell and Brian Stein were part of that."

For Foley, that promotion season wasn't just about winning; it was a pivotal moment in his career. It taught him the importance of teamwork, perseverance, and making the most of every opportunity.

"That season gave me a glimpse of what was possible. It was an incredible environment to be in, and I'm grateful to Luton for all the chances they gave me," he says.

"Playing for Luton as a local lad, getting promoted – it's something I'll always cherish."







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HATTERS HERITAGE

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

When preparing these notes at Hatters' Heritage Towers we were racking our brains about which game to present.

We were hoping to feature a match dating back to the Victorian era, however, although Oxford United were founded in 1893 as Headington FC, adopting the name Oxford United in 1960, our first clash with the U's only came in Division Two during the 1970/71 season, a comfortable 4-0 victory for the Hatters with Matt Tees and Malcolm Macdonald both notching braces, against an Oxford United who had started the season unbeaten.

There have been memorable clashes at the top of the English pyramid between these two sides too, with the 1987/88 season being of particular vintage to the Hatters faithful, with a 5-2 victory (and five separate goalscorers) at the Manor Ground. The goals kept flowing with Luton hitting seven in the return fixture at Kenilworth Road, with Mark Stein grabbing a hat-trick, Mick Harford bagging a brace with Brian Stein and Darron McDonough also helping

themselves to a goal apiece during a 7-4 victory, which was the dress rehearsal for the upcoming Littlewoods Cup semi-final, with the first leg kicking off just four days later.

However, the game we settled on is not as glamorous as a major cup semi-final or a top tier clash, considering all the divisions we have competed against Oxford United, but have chosen to feature the one that most Hatters have on record as the loudest they have heard Kenilworth Road in recent memory.

Luton Town 2-1 Oxford United, or the late late show featuring local lad Keith Keane. After substitute Matthew Green's strike put Oxford ahead in the 74th minute just two minutes after coming on the pitch, it was looking like disappointment was on the cards against Chris Wilder's table topping Oxford.

But two late corners changed that. George Pilkington met Keane's flag-kick in the 93rd minute to make it 1-1, and then, in the 96th minute, the Hatters had another corner. Keane tried to find

Pilkington at the back post, but the ball sailed straight in, taking the roof of Kenilworth Road. For his celebrations Keane was giving his marching orders, but this gave the fans a night under the lights from the Conference years that will live in the memory forever.

All these matches are documented on the Hatters Heritage website, why not check it out?

Keith Keane's late corner nestles in the back of the Oxford net



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 U's.

1



2





1. Matt Tees is granted a free header during the 4-0 home win over Oxford in September 1970.
2. Mark Stein nets one of his hat-trick goals during the 7-4 home spectacular against Oxford at Kenilworth Road in February 1988.
3. Tim Breacker, watched by future Hatter John Dreyer, scores for the Hatters in the 5-2 win at the Manor Ground in September 1987.
4. George Moncur bangs in the decisive third goal against Oxford at Kenilworth Road during the final match of the League One championship winning season of 2018/19.



ON THIS DAY

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

A five-star performance got the Town back to winnings in the Conference against Barrow on this day in 2011.



After going three games without victory the Hatters came into the game with the Bluebirds in ninth place in the fifth tier, losing back-to-back games, at York and at home to Cambridge.

Yet Gary Brabin's side were in no mood to go easy against Barrow – not that the visitors read the script, taking an early lead through Jack Mackreth.

Robbie Willmott equalised after scoring the rebound from a penalty before the winger grabbed a second from close range to put the Hatters ahead.

Adam Watkins made it 3-1 with a cool finish before the Town found their stride in the second half with goals from James Dance – a fine hit from the edge of the box – and Amari Morgan-Smith sealing victory after rounding the keeper.

"We desperately wanted to get back to winning ways, but we equally wanted the performance as well. I am delighted with the performance and the result," said a happy Brabin afterwards.

"Apart from the early goal, when we were up against it, it was a good first half performance. In the second half we really got at them and made it count. It was a good 90 minutes."

The victory is the Hatters' biggest on 1st October and the only time they have scored more than three goals in a game.



Mark Tyler called into action



Amari Morgan-Smith rounds the keeper to complete the rout with the fifth goal



Robbie Willmott scores his and Town's second goal



Adam Watkins celebrates his goal



James Dance adds the fourth goal

ALSO ON 1ST OCTOBER...

The Hatters' first game played on this day was a 3-0 win over Gainsborough Trinity in 1898... We lost 3-1 at Manchester United in the top-flight in 1955 at Old Trafford... A David Moss penalty saw the Town beat Aston Villa 1-0 in the old First Division in 1983... More recently the Town won 2-1 at Cardiff in the Championship in 2005 with Dean Morgan and Peter Holmes on target.



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. Club historian Roger Wash tells the story of a season to remember.

Paul Underwood hits home the Town's second goal against Peterborough at Kenilworth Road



2004/05 history

With their unbeaten start to the league season still intact, manager Mike Newell was quick to praise the players and, given the injury problems that had bedevilled the side the previous year, commented that nine players had remained ever present during the opening eight games.

Ever mindful that the situation could swiftly change with injuries, suspensions and loss of form, Newell brought in forward Gary McSheffrey on a month's loan from Coventry. 'Little Sheff' had enjoyed a loan spell at Kenilworth Road the previous season, had been highly successful and had become an instant crowd favourite.

The next game on the road to promotion was a trip to Stockport where the home side boasted a forward in Warren Feeney who, if he wasn't already on Mike Newell's radar, certainly made himself known early on by turning the speedy Curtis Davies and going close with a fierce shot.

The Town settled down and slowly took control of the game. A Steve Robinson corner smacked off the near post and a Steve Howard header was disallowed for pushing before the pressure finally told on 33 minutes with Robinson's superb volley from a Kevin Nicholls knock down breaking the deadlock.

Two minutes later Rowan Vine raced through to

latch on to a long ball from Kevin Foley to put the Town two up and when Ahmet Brkovic headed home on 54 minutes the convincing victory craved by Newell was on the cards.

The Town, however, much to Newell's disappointment, took their foot off the gas and allowed Rickie Lambert to fire in a spectacular 30-yard free-kick 10 minutes from time.

"The opportunity to score a lot of goals doesn't come along that often and it would have shown that we meant business," said Newell afterwards but the Town were now seven points clear at the top so he could not moan too much!

During the week preceding the visit of Peterborough the Hatters strengthened their squad still further by offering professional contracts to two promising products who had come through the youth system. Leon Barnett and Calvin Andrew signed on the dotted line and both would go on to enjoy long careers.

Fifteen minutes into the clash with Posh the Town were forced into a change of personnel when goalkeeper Marlon Beresford limped off with a groin injury leading to Dino Seremet being handed his full home debut.

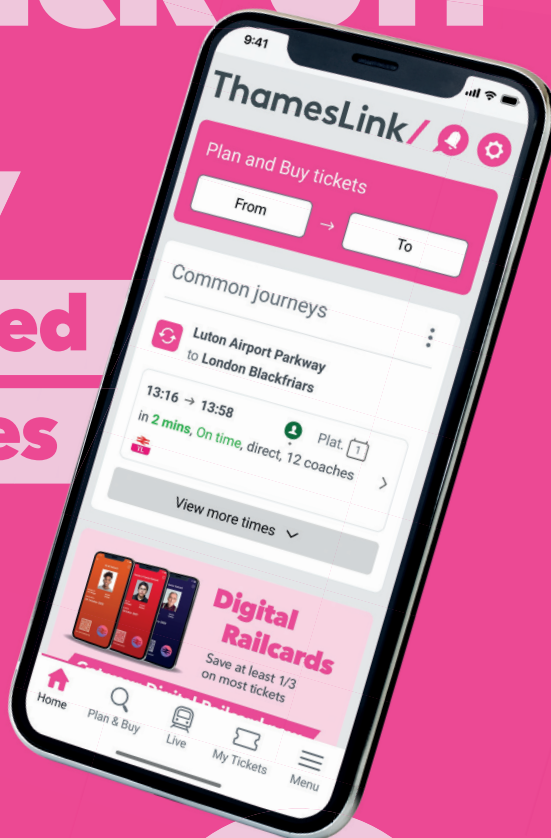
The change did not appear to affect the Town, however, as on 31 minutes

Ahmet Brkovic shapes to shoot against Stockport



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2004/05 history

a spectacular overhead kick from Brkovic fell into the path of Vine who touched the ball home.

Peterborough boss Barry Fry obviously had words with his players at the interval as shortly after the break Curtis Woodhouse ghosted in to net from a cross from Steve Jenkins.

The Town stepped up a gear after this setback and following a Nicholls drive which was palmed on to a post by future Hatter Mark Tyler, Paul Underwood netted a scruffy goal just before the hour mark.

The introduction of McSheffrey in the last quarter injected more urgency into the side which had started to drift and hit the bar with a fierce shot before going close with two further efforts.

"It's another win, but it's still not convincing," said Newell afterwards while his Peterborough counterpart, and self-confessed Hatters fan Barry Fry said, "I think they will win the league by Christmas."

Newell was probably not relishing the long mid-week trek to Swansea in

the LDV Vans Trophy and signalled his indifference to the competition by making eleven changes to the side that had started the game against Peterborough.

In this, the Town's last ever trip to the Vetch Field, the 79 Town fans in the crowd of 3,559 who made the 450-mile round trip watched as Leon Barnett was dismissed after only 12 minutes for fouling former Hatter Adrian Forbes, who looked blatantly offside as he sped through.

The 10 men in the makeshift side did

remarkably well to hold off a Swansea outfit who had made only two changes from their previous game but were finally undone in the 90th minute when a cross was swept home past Seremet by substitute Kevin Nugent. A second goal followed seconds later with Sam Ricketts firing home from 15 yards.

Mike Newell said afterwards, "I don't like losing – whatever the competition," but was secretly glad that his 'first team' would be refreshed ready for the trip to second placed Tranmere the following Saturday.

A spectacular overhead kick from Ahmet Brkovic leads to the Town's first goal at home to Peterborough



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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

During black history month we at Hatters' Heritage will be recounting some of the iconic black players who have turned out for Luton Town.

Where better to start than the first black player to pull on the jersey at Luton Town, Eddie Parris. Born in January 1911 in Pwllmeyric to a Welsh mother and a father, Eddie Senior, who had emigrated from Barbados in 1900 and would go on to serve in the British Army during World War One.

Eddie attracted the attention of local club Chepstow Town, joining them at the age of 16 as a tricky winger.

It was not long until Eddie came on the radar of Bradford Park Avenue, at the time playing in Division 2 (now the Championship), where he made over 100 appearances, as well as attaining his solitary

cap for Wales in a 4-0 loss to Ireland in 1931. Eddie was the first black player to turn out for the principality.

In 1934 Eddie transferred to Bournemouth & Boscombe to make a further century of appearances before transferring to Luton in 1937. However, Eddie was unable to recapture the form from his time at Bradford and Bournemouth, being limited to just seven appearances at Kenilworth Road, finding difficulty in nailing down a spot in a team that was about to win the Division Three (South) title.

To seek out regular first team football, Eddie moved on to Northampton Town with his football being disrupted due to the outbreak of World War 2, where he worked in a munitions factory, before playing for Bath City, Swansea Town and Cheltenham Town

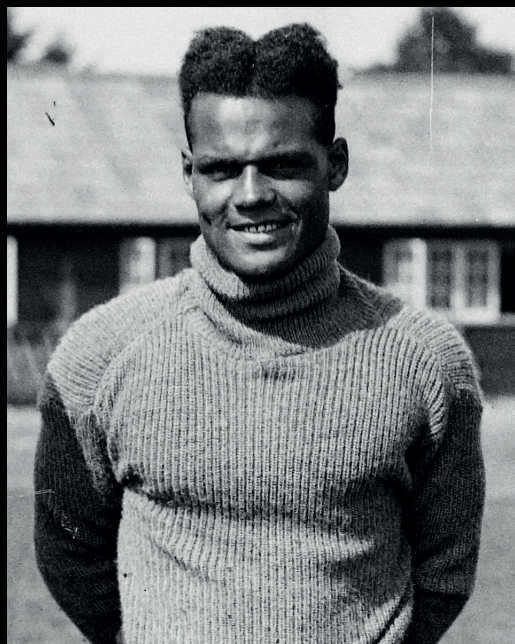
during the war years and finishing up his career as a player/coach at Gloucester City, finishing his footballing career at the age of 37.

Staying in Gloucester, Eddie passed away in that city in February 1971 at the age of 60.

Eddie Parris will forever be remembered as a trailblazer.

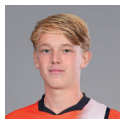
Eddie Parris in action during the 3-2 win over Northampton at Kenilworth Road in 1937 ▲

Eddie Parris ▼



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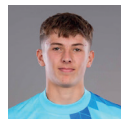
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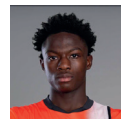
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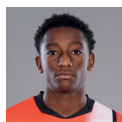
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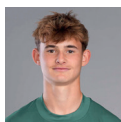
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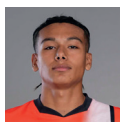
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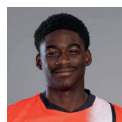
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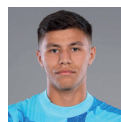
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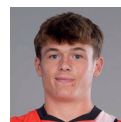
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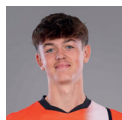
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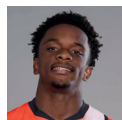
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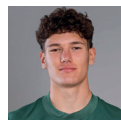
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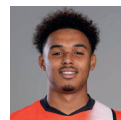
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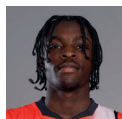
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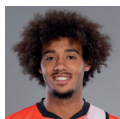
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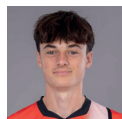
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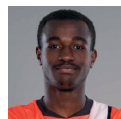
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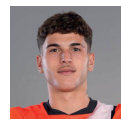
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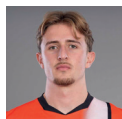
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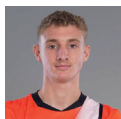
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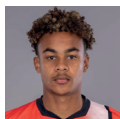
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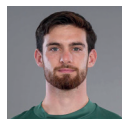
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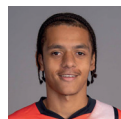
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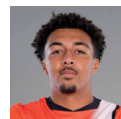
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Jayden Luker

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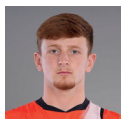
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Liam Coyne

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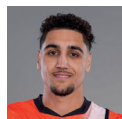
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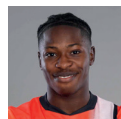
Sam Anderson

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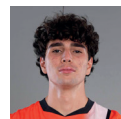
Taylan Harris

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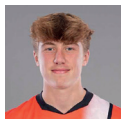
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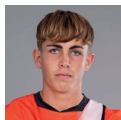
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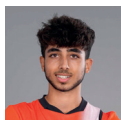
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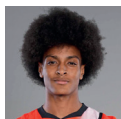
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Henry Blackledge

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Joshua Phillips

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THE YOUTH OF TODAY

Hopes and dreams, favourite films and handling drills... we get the lowdown on our academy stars

Name... Lucas Thomas.

Place of birth... Bedford.

Position... Goalkeeper.

Joined Luton at... Under-10.

Played for... Bedford Town Eagles.

I'm wearing... Adidas Crazyfast black.

First teamer's boots I'm cleaning... All of them.

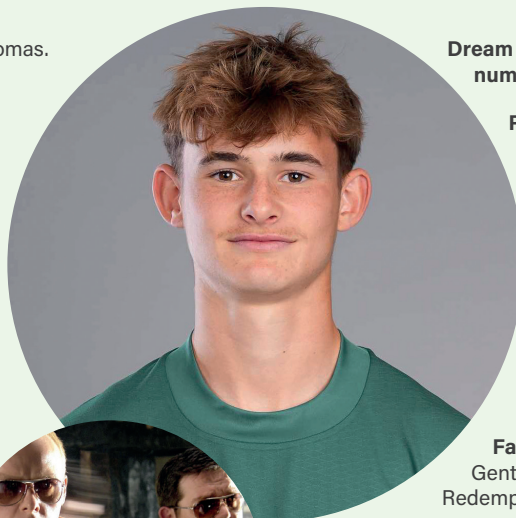
Earliest Luton Town memory... My best game at Stoke which was my second match.

Coach who's impact me the most... Albert Bell – it's okay to make mistakes.

Football memory that makes me smile... Training with the first team.

Best moment of my career so far... Again, training with the first team.

I would be a better player if I... had more confidence in my ability during a match and sharper with the ball at my feet.



Dream first team squad number... 53.

Player you used to be in the playground... Joe Hart.

Teammate that could go all the way... Harry Fox.

If I could play with anyone it would be... Prime Gareth Thomas.

Favourite film... The Gentleman or Shawshank Redemption or Hot Fuzz.

Favourite training drill... Handling drills.

Favourite school subject other than PE... Biology.

Hobbies outside football... Golf.

Something you don't know about me... I used to be scared of the wind and the colour of the clouds.

I am... a person with a good attitude who likes to learn from their errors and mistakes. I am nervous quite a lot which makes me play better.





LTFC ACADEMY

DEVELOPMENT SQUAD LATEST With Alex Lawless

A young under-21 squad started the season with some challenging pre-season fixtures against senior opposition, gaining invaluable experience in the process.

The same could be said with numerous players who had the opportunity to train and play with the first team in their preseason preparations. A few others have taken a different route in being exposed to senior experiences by venturing on loan.

The season took off with a good win away to Northampton, which was the start of a private organised league between us and five other clubs in which we will play each other twice in the usual home and away format. This was followed by a good competitive performance and victory against Glasgow Rangers in front of fans at Kenilworth Road.

The Rangers game was a good taster of the type of experience the team will be exposed to in the Premier League Cup coming up in which we have been grouped with Burnley, Reading and Brighton.

Our clear aim is to proceed past the group stage playing our way and being competitive in every game, whether that be at home under the lights at the Kenny like this coming Friday against Burnley, or on away turf in unfamiliar territory. Your support would be greatly appreciated as it helps your developing young Hatters gain a richer experience.

Kick-off on Friday is at 7pm so please get down here to support the boys.

GOALKEEPER TALENT ID DAY

Do you know a young goalkeeper who may have the potential to eventually play for the Hatters?

The Academy are holding a Goalkeeper Talent ID Day during the half-term school holiday next month in a bid to unearth untapped talent ready to progress through the Club's youth ranks, as current first-team squad member and Under-21 keeper Jameson Horlick has.

Two sessions will be held on Monday 28th October at The Brache training ground for youngsters currently playing from Under-9s to Under-16s.

U9-U12: 14:00 – 15:00

U13-U16 – 15:00 – 16:00

Registration is via the below link which closes at 12 noon on Thursday 17th October. Players who register will receive further details via email. <https://www.teamworksapp.com/ext2/10360f41-8a54-42ca-8f4c-3435d34a67fd>

UNDER-18S SETTLE FOR POINT AT PLYMOUTH

The Hatters Under-18s were held to a dramatic draw at Plymouth Argyle on Saturday morning.

After a goalless first half, the Town took the lead 10 minutes into the second period when Dylan Stitt converted his third penalty of the season after Isaiah Harvey was fouled after an excellent run forward from Christian Chigozie.

The lead lasted just four minutes when Argyle levelled in controversial circumstances. A ball played into the Town box from a set play saw the Argyle captain seemingly handle the ball into the net which the linesman flagged for immediately. However, after a long consultation, the referee gave the goal.

Despite the frustration, the Hatters rallied and in

the final minute they led once more. Jamie Odegah won a free-kick in the corner and Benny Benagr delivered an excellent delivery that was met by Harry Fox to head home at the front post for his first goal of the season.

Unfortunately for the Hatters, straight from the kick-off, a defensive mix-up led to a Plymouth equaliser and the points were shared.

Under-18s Boss Joe Deeney said: "Overall I'm pleased with the lads. I'm especially happy with how disappointed they are with the draw which shows a real desire to win.

"We created some really good chances and just need to find composure at the big moments.

Togetherhness was evident throughout. I said to the players at the end it feels like a loss for some of them having been so close to victory.

"It's a mistake and that's all it is. I can accept technical mistakes – they are part of development. No individual sets out to make an error and it's all part of the learning curve. But I'm proud of our effort levels, tenacity and energy levels as always."

Town: Thomas, Harvey, Benagr, Chigozie, Emery, Sampson (sub Shepherd 76), Ioannides (sub Fox 64), Stitt, Hincapie-Alfonso, Asamoah (sub Odegah 64), Xavier Jones.

Subs not used: Roberts-Edema, Giddens.

"I'M PROUD OF OUR EFFORT LEVELS, TENACITY AND ENERGY LEVELS AS ALWAYS"

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	W 3-0

SEPTEMBER

Sat 7th	Bristol Rovers	W 5-0
Sat 14th	Northampton Cup	D 3-3
Sat 21st	Cheltenham Town	W 4-2
Sat 28th	Plymouth Argyle	D 2-2

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

Dylan Stitt: On target again from the spot



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LUTON**

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of Luton Town FC**

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30/09/2024 11:21

COMMUNITY TRUST

Supporting Luton into Employment

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 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 on building participants' confidence, resilience, raising aspiration and improving self-esteem."

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



October Football Camps

We're excited to announce that booking is now open for our October Holiday Football Camps, running from Monday 28th October to Friday 2nd November.

These camps will take place at various venues in and around Luton and Dunstable. Open to all children in school years 1 to 6, regardless of ability or previous experience, our camps provide a fantastic opportunity for young players to develop their skills in a fun, supportive, and safe environment.

Led by professional coaches, each day begins with warm-up activities focused on individual SAQ (Speed, Agility, and Quickness) skills and ball mastery.

As the day progresses, participants will take part in both individual and team games, helping them improve their technique while learning valuable social and teamwork skills. In the afternoon, the focus shifts to football tournaments and matches, with an emphasis on enjoyment rather than competition. We round off each day with a mini awards ceremony, celebrating those who have shown a positive attitude, determination, or outstanding performance.

Adam Woulds, Head of Operations at the Community Trust, said: "We're proud that our camps are

open to everyone, whether you've been playing for years or are just taking your first steps in football. Our aim is to create a sense of community where participants feel supported by both our coaches and their peers. It's always rewarding to

see new friendships form and young players grow in confidence."

To book your child's place please visit www.lutontowncommunity.co.uk. For further information please contact us at community@lutontown.co.uk.

OCTOBER HOLIDAY CAMPS

£18.50
PER CHILD

AGES
5-11

**MONDAY-
FRIDAY**

LUTON TOWN FC COMMUNITY TRUST WILL BE HEADING TO

LUTON & DUNSTABLE

ARRIVAL 10AM - COLLECTION 3PM

LOCATIONS

QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL, LUTON, LU2 9AG
CREASEY PARK, DUNSTABLE, LU6 1BB

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COMMUNITY
TRUST

LUTON
TOWN



SUPPORTERS' TRUST

With vice-chair Mark Chapman

Hello and welcome along to what we hope will be an entertaining evening of football. If the past is anything to go by it certainly will be as these two teams usually deliver great matches. I have supported Luton long enough to remember when we beat Oxford 7-4 in 1988.

That same season we beat Oxford in the Littlewoods Cup semi-final to book our place at that famous day at Wembley. Younger supporters might remember the amazing night when a Keith Keane corner in injury time lifted the roof off of Kenilworth Road. Let us hope we get more of the same tonight!

We now know that the amount of times we will visit Kenilworth Road is limited with detailed plans for Power Court now online and available to view.

What a stunning venue it looks from the pictures and I can assure you from the updates we receive when we meet with the board that no stone has been left unturned in

making sure our new home is incredible and as much like Kenilworth Road in terms of atmosphere as possible.

One of those meetings was just prior to our last home game against Sheffield Wednesday where a number of heads of departments at the club met with Trust board members to forge stronger relationships and allow us to provide a better service for our membership.

We will continue to update you of that progress in the coming weeks.

September 100+ Club Winners

A new season has brought about a new project as we launched our 100+ Club, available solely to Trust members. The September draw was done a couple of weeks ago where the winner pocketed £166.59. There are still a couple of weeks until the October draw, so if you would like to enter make sure you do so ASAP!

SoLYD Hospitality Event

Our under-21s are in Premier League Cup

action against Burnley here at Kenilworth Road on Friday night and the last few tickets to our hospitality event are still available.

Tickets are £30 which includes a pre-match meal, half-time tea or coffee plus cakes, a guest speaker before the game and directors area seating.

Booking closes on Wednesday so go to this link to book yours now! - <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/68748>

Football Content Awards

Our podcast has made the final nominations for the best Football League podcast at the Football Content Awards!

We now require your vote for a chance to win. If you would like to support the boys check out the pinned posts on our socials for details of how to vote for them!

Enjoy tonight's game.

COYH!





MY FAVOURITE GOAL...

Graham Custance explains his all-time favourite Luton Town goal

I have three memorable goals to choose from for different reasons. Having supported Luton since the 1960s when my late father took me to see us play against Barrow, (my great grandfather was pulled from the crowd to referee a match - but that's another story!).

Standing behind the goal when Brian Stein scored the winner at Wembley in 1988, our first major honour, I was exhausted having gone through so

many emotions on that day with the ebb and flow of the game.

Another is being with my late father at Wembley when Claude Gnaka scored the winner in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy Final in 2009 and seeing the look on his face at the final whistle.

The best though was the penalty shootout against Coventry – all six penalties for us were perfect and I had tears in my eyes when I realised

we had been promoted to the Premier League. It was something I never thought I would see and sharing the feeling with my own children, who are now the next generation of Hatters.

My three children – Darren, Matthew and Joanne – had never seen the Town play in the same league as the big clubs and could only listen to my memories of David Pleat's teams in the 1980s. My wife Sue and our future son-in-

law Ollie completed the whole family group at Wembley that day. There was a huge buzz of nervous excitement as we all boarded the train to London hoping for a Luton win.

The atmosphere at Wembley was electric. The grave concern when Tom Lockyer was stretchered off, the jubilation when Jordan Clark scored that stunning goal, feeling completely flat when Coventry equalised, and then the disappointment when Joe Taylor's late goal was disallowed.

And so it went to penalties. Before every Coventry penalty I was just praying they would miss one, at the same time scarcely believing ours were so good. Dabo looked nervous as he took that final penalty, I just remember seeing it fly over the bar before becoming engulfed in a sea of orange.

To share such a momentous occasion with my family was something so special and one that I will never forget. I had tears in my eyes at just what we had achieved and what this meant to all Luton Town supporters.



Claude Gnaka scores at Wembley in 2009

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JUNIOR HATTERS



MY SCORE
PREDICTION



TONIGHT'S MASCOTS



JAMIE PEACHAM

Age: 8
Hobbies: Playing football, swimming & catching up with friends
Favourite Player: Carlton Morris & Thomas Kaminski



JAKE OLIVER

Age: 10
Hobbies: Football & Running
Favourite Player: Alfie Doughty

WORDSEARCH

Try and find the Championship sides nicknames in today's wordsearch...

RAMS, CANARIES, ROBINS, BLADES, TIGERS, PILGRIMS, CLARETS

N	T	K	A	F	S	S	E	N
I	E	S	D	A	C	S	X	S
I	W	P	M	H	M	R	T	S
O	S	B	L	A	D	E	S	S
I	Z	S	M	I	R	G	L	P
O	O	X	W	A	U	I	Q	R
P	R	D	L	P	A	T	C	A
X	S	C	S	I	Y	S	E	N
M	T	R	O	B	I	N	S	A
O	T	E	A	K	Y	J	Q	C

WHO'S UNDER THE HAT?

63



A



B

UNDER THE HAT: A. Victor Moses, B. Joe Taylor

TRY A
JAMESON®
GINGER
& LIME



MUST BE A
JAMESON®
MATCHDAY

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LUTON TOWN LADIES

Lethal Luton Ladies overwhelm Chigwell

Luton Ladies kicked off their new FA Cup campaign last week with a dominant performance against tier-7 side Chigwell.

Last season's impressive cup run saw the Hatters reach the fourth round, where they faced WSL side Brighton.

Despite some resilient defending from Chigwell in the opening stages, Luton took just nine minutes to break the deadlock. Fiona Buttigieg scored directly from a corner, curling the ball into the top corner.

The Hatters' second goal came in the 15th minute when Jess McKay pounced on a loose ball at the back post, firing past the goalkeeper. Moments later, Bridget Adu nearly added a third, but her shot was blocked, and Elly Wade's follow-up header went wide.

At the 32-minute mark, Luton were awarded a penalty after Wade was tripped in the box. Tasha Fensome stepped up and confidently smashed the ball into the net, making it 3-0.



Less than a minute later, the Town struck again. Cesca Partridge netted the fourth, courtesy of McKay's pinpoint delivery, which Partridge controlled beautifully before finishing superbly.

Just before half-time, Fensome scored her second and Luton's fifth. Partridge played a fantastic ball out wide to Wade, who found McKay. McKay's shot was parried but Fensome was quickest to react, slotting the ball home from close range.

Luton showed no signs of letting up in the second half. Just three minutes after the restart Buttigieg's cross looped over the goalkeeper extending the lead to 6-0.

Luton's seventh goal came from Partridge, whose composed finish into the bottom-left corner made it 7-0. Chigwell managed to hold at bay off for a while longer but in the 70th minute Fensome completed her hat-trick, slotting home a brilliant cross from Chloe Martin.

Just a minute later, Martin added another for the Hatters, as her shot deflected off a Chigwell defender and spun into the back of the net.

With 12 minutes remaining, Fensome scored her fourth goal of the match. Amber Leighton delivered a superb ball over the defence, and Fensome headed it over the keeper before guiding it into the net.

The final goal of the game came from Adu, who reacted quickest to a loose ball and headed in Luton's 11th, capping off a comprehensive 11-0 victory and a place in the next round.

Fixtures

18/08/24	Royston Town	L 2-3
25/08/24	Stevenage	W 1-0
01/09/24	Haringey Borough	W 4-1
08/09/24	Wroxham A-A	
15/09/24	Needham Market	W 5-0
22/09/24	Chigwell (FAC)	W 11-0
29/09/24	Dussindale & Hellesdon Rovers	W 5-0
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



1999-2001
THIRD

INSIDE A KIT COLLECTOR'S WARDROBE

67

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

I honestly do not know if I love or hate this shirt. It divides opinion and I change my mind every time I look at it.

I am talking about our grey and blue, 1999/2001 third shirt. It was manufactured by Olympic Sport (OS) and is quite unique for a number of reasons.

Firstly, let's look at the design. It is grey, not a colour you would associate with Luton Town. The light grey then has lots of little holes in it, with a black layer just

behind it, just to make it even weirder. Finally, we have blue pin stripes, a blue collar and blue neckline.

We have 'LTFC' embossed on the back of the collar, and the 90s Luton badge, complete with SKF sponsor.

The whole multiple fabric layering makes this shirt prone to snags and pulls, which means nowadays it is hard to find one in good condition. I cannot recall a shirt that has been made like this before, or since. The material

is also quite heavy, so I cannot imagine it was that comfortable for the players.

There was a famous case with Manchester United and a grey shirt; the players said they could not see each other on the pitch, so Sir Alex Ferguson made them switch at half-time after trailing 3-0 to Southampton.

Our grey number was used in such epic clashes as Sunderland 3-0 Luton in September 2000 in a League Cup tie and that is it!

We had a noticeably young team that day, with the likes of Emmerson Boyce, Matthew Spring, Andre Scarlett, Peter Holmes, Trevor Kandol and Matthew Taylor appearing for the Hatters in this unique shirt.

So, where do you sit with this shirt? Are you on team "I love it," "I hate it," or, like myself, are you sat on the fence?

Either way, this is such a unique shirt, and it certainly deserves a bit of love!



**Know your role in safeguarding.
Watch, Listen, Talk, Act.**



In partnership with
NSPCC





HATTERS PLAY IT SAFE

Play Safe is the Football Association's national campaign to focus attention on the vital importance of safeguarding in our national game.

The campaign is supported by the NSPCC and this week will be promoted across every level of English Football including the Premier League, English Football League, Barclays Women's Super League and Barclays Women's Championship, National League and across the grassroots game.

Play Safe is a year-round campaign that amplifies the importance of safeguarding in football.

This year's Play Safe weekend took place the weekend just gone, with the theme this year to make sure everyone knows their role in safeguarding and what Play Safe is all about. Together, we can make the game safer, fun and enjoyable for everyone, everywhere, every time.

Here at Luton Town Football Club safeguarding comes first, so we 'Play Safe' every weekend. We are proud to be supporting this national initiative which sees English football unite across one weekend, every season to highlight the importance of safeguarding.

Anyone's love of football can be taken away by negative behaviour and abuse. Safeguarding prevents this from happening. A Play Safe weekend at the start of each season is there to put safeguarding at the forefront of people's minds. It reminds everyone to watch, listen, talk, act in every football environment.

Stuart Cornish, our academy safeguarding manager, had this to say about the club supporting the 'Play Safe' Weekend: "As the academy and matchday safeguarding manager, it is my role to ensure that safeguards are in place in the club and academy. However, safeguarding is

everybody's responsibility, and that is why we are promoting safeguarding and supporting Play Safe.

"Officials, managers, coaches, parents, spectators, and players should all know what safeguarding is in football, feel comfortable and act if they have a safeguarding concern.

"At Luton Town we promote a positive environment. An environment where we keep our children safe, and we can all enjoy our football."

This year's Play Safe weekend has two main messages:

- **'Everyone, everywhere, every time' should have an understanding of safeguarding in football.**
- **Everyone should 'watch, listen, talk and act' if they have any safeguarding concerns.**

We therefore pledge to remind everyone that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

and ensure that they are clear about the vital role they can play in keeping children and young people safe, no matter what the football setting.

Safeguarding is about creating safe environments and preventing children from experiencing harm or abuse.

Put simply, safeguarding refers to measures we take to protect our children – and keep them safe and well. Whether that's your kids, the opposing players or even the ref, every young person has the right to enjoy football.

Our team captains and managers throughout our first team and academy will also sport 'Play Safe' armbands and pin badges as we also pledge to raise awareness of the campaign.

This means no matter what role you have in football, you know your role and responsibility in making it a safe space for all.

FEWER THAN 1 IN 10 SURVIVE AN OUT-OF-HOSPITAL CARDIAC ARREST*

That's why Sky Bet is teaming up with the British Heart Foundation to urge 270,000 people to learn CPR by the end of the 2024-2025 football season - the equivalent of 3 Wembley Stadiums.



STEP UP AND LEARN CPR
IN JUST 15 MINUTES
SEARCH RevivR

sky bet

In partnership with



British Heart
Foundation

*UK data



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18+



FIXTURES & RESULTS 2024/25

KO POS F-A ATT AWAY

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	23	1-2	11,798	1,340	Kaminski	Walters	Doughty	Burke	McGuinness	Bell	Clark

SEPTEMBER

🔥	SAT 14	MILLWALL	12:30	19	1-0	14,804	1,964	Kaminski	Doughty	Bell	Burke	McGuinness	MENGI 1	Nakamba
🔥	SAT 21	SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY	15:00	15	2-1	11,805	1,326	Kaminski	Walters	Doughty	Burke	McGuinness	Mengi	Nakamba
🔥	FRI 27	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	20:00	19	1-3	16,616	1,113	Kaminski	Walters	Doughty	Burke	McGuinness	Mengi	Krauß

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 CITY	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 CITY	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 general football-related questions. Sadly, you'll win no prizes, just the utmost respect from our editor and quizmaster.

1. Which Arsenal player became the first to be booked before he had even made his first team debut?
2. Keane Keith scored direct from a corner in a 2-1 win over Oxford in 2010 - but who scored the Town's equaliser in that match?
3. Candy, Carlsberg and Standard Chartered all sponsored which club?
4. Who is the manager of Bromley?
5. Which National League club play at Gander Green Lane?
6. Which club did Kevin Keegan start his playing career?
7. The Hatters beat Oxford 3-1 on the final day of the 2018/19 season to clinch the League 1 title - who scored two goals in that game?
8. What was the name of Oxford's ground before they moved to the Kassam Stadium in 2001?
9. Against which club did Carlton Morris score his first goal for the Hatters?
10. Which club have won the Championship/second tier title the most times?

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. Myles Lewis-Skelly. 2. George Pilkington. 3. Liverpool. 4. Andy Woodman. 5. Sutton United. 6. Scunthorpe United. 7. George Moncur. 8. The Manor Ground. 9. Swansea City. 10. Leicester City (8).

Baptiste	CHONG 1	Morris	Adebayo	Townsend	Mpanzu					Shea, Bell, Woodrow, Taylor, Holmes, 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
Baptiste	Chong	Morris	Adebayo	Mengi	Walsh	Taylor	Nelson			Shea, Mpanzu, Nakamba, Holmes, Woodrow
Clark	Walsh	Chong	Adebayo	Morris	Mpanzu	Holmes				Shea, Andersen, Moses, Nelson, Taylor, Woodrow
Clark	Walsh	Chong	Adebayo	Krauß	MORRIS 2	Nelson	Taylor	Moses		Shea, Holmes, Mpanzu, Woodrow
Clark	Nelson	Chong	Adebayo	Andersen	Brown	MOSES 1	Woodrow	Taylor		Shea, Mpanzu, Nakamba, Walsh

LADIES LINK STRENGTHENED

Ties between the Club and Luton Town Ladies will become stronger following the signing of a new restructured agreement which will further aid the development of the women's team off the pitch.

The collaboration will see the Club provide additional support to the Ladies, who will be able to lean on the full-time resources of departments at Kenilworth Road.

A part of the agreement also includes the staging for future ladies' matches at Kenilworth Road.

Town operations director James Mooney said: "It is really important to the

Club to bring Luton Town Ladies closer to the men's club and work together on many projects.

"The new agreement will add great value to the Ladies in terms of learning how things operate on a professional level, as well as having the support of club staff to help improve their infrastructure and processes.

"Dave and Nikki Baker have been incredibly open to ideas of the systems they already have in place, which have brought them a lot of success over the years and captured national attention with their run to the FA Cup fourth round last season.

"This is a way of building on those solid foundations and hopefully leading to more success in the years to come."

Luton Town Ladies general manager Nikki Baker, and football operations manager Dave Baker said: "We are really excited to kick-off this new in-depth commitment to the partnership with Luton Town.

"Although there has been a formal agreement in place since 2001, the increased level of support will enable us to grow the club faster.

"We are all committed to the aim of the Ladies climbing the

women's pyramid but that progress must be both sustainable and progressive, and it is wonderful that the Club are investing in the project to help achieve those ambitions.

"We have a proven line of talented youth players who have progressed into senior football with their home town club, and this agreement can only enhance the prospects that these players remain with the club and are able to wear the orange shirt as a senior player."



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



JAMES CUNLIFFE

LUTONIAN JOURNALIST

"It's a bittersweet symphony, that's life." I doubt football was the inspiration for Richard Ashcroft when he penned the lyrics to that 90s classic, but if the Puma King boots fit...

For fans of a younger vintage, this is the song that used to lead you into the adverts for the ITV England coverage. Ask yer dad!

But the past week alone has been the very definition of bittersweet, one that has arguably ignored John Still's mantra of "never too high, never too low" in favour of near Oasis levels of excess on both.

Exactly one week ago, Luton Town's detailed plans for their 25,000-capacity Power Court stadium were revealed, to near universal acclaim. Rightly so. More than that just football, the plans are transformational for the town. Our town.

After all the changes to the original plans – some from outside forces and others the pay-off for a season in the Premier League – the continued inclusion of a 1,800-capacity music venue is you-know-what to my ears.

For a town of Luton's size, which does have The Bear Club and The Castle regularly keeping concerts alive, it's criminal that there's been nothing bigger.

But BBC Radio 1's Big Weekend this summer showed that our town is capable of hosting huge music events, so I'll have none of this nonsense that I've heard with the stadium from those in the 'they'll never fill it' camp. This year alone has

shown that Luton is ready for the big time in both music and football.

With the former, it probably helps that Town director Rob Stringer is the CEO of Sony Music and that Harry Styles has already paid Kenilworth Road a visit. Perhaps he could be destined for an opening night show at the new Power Court, which has three big summer concerts per year as part of the plans.

But, of course, football will be the new HQ's bread and butter come 2027. It's just the start of this 2024/25 campaign that we're struggling to get a tune out of.

Just when it seemed the Hatters were starting to play some of the

right notes, though not necessarily always in the right order, with two victories on the spin, that was an awfully out-of-tune performance at Plymouth.

It's one I've discussed on the now award-nominated Luton Town Supporters' Trust Podcast, so you can listen to more on that. And while you're at it, I'd really appreciate your vote to help us win the Best Football League Podcast at the Football Content Awards. You can cast it here: www.footballcontentawards.com/voting/.

So I won't dwell on the past here, but against Oxford tonight, let's hope Town play with much more verve, so that the result is all the more sweet and not bitter.

"MORE THAN THAT JUST FOOTBALL, THE PLANS ARE TRANSFORMATIONAL FOR THE TOWN. OUR TOWN.."



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MANAGER

Rob EDWARDS

James SHEA	1
Reuell WALTERS	2
Amari'i BELL	3
Tom LOCKYER	4
Mads ANDERSEN	5
Mark McGUINNESS	6
Victor MOSES	7
Tom KRAUß	8
Carlton MORRIS	9
Cauley WOODROW	10
Elijah ADEBAYO	11
Marvelous NAKAMBA	13
Tahith CHONG	14
Teden MENGI	15
Reece BURKE	16
Pelly Ruddock MPANZU	17
Jordan CLARK	18
Jacob BROWN	19
Liam WALSH	20
Tim KRUL	23
Thomas KAMINSKI	24
Joe TAYLOR	25
Shandon BAPTISTE	26
Daiki HASHIOKA	27
Tom HOLMES	29
Jameson HORLICK	31
Jayden LUKER	34
Zack NELSON	37
Joe JOHNSON	38
Aidan FRANCIS-CLARKE	39
Christian CHIGOZIE	40
Benedict BENAGR	41
Alfie DOUGHTY	45



MANAGER

Des BUCKINGHAM

Jamie CUMMING	1
Sam LONG	2
Ciaron BROWN	3
Will VAULKS	4
Elliott MOORE	5
Josh McEACHRAN	6
Przemysław PŁACHETA	7
Cameron BRANNAGAN	8
Mark HARRIS	9
Matt PHILLIPS	10
Malcolm EBIOWEI	11
Joe BENNETT	12
Simon EASTWOOD	13
Louie SIBLEY	14
Idris EL MIZOUNI	15
Ben NELSON	16
Owen DALE	17
Tyler GOODRHAM	19
Rúben RODRIGUES	20
Matt INGRAM	21
Greg LEIGH	22
Siriki DEMBÉLÉ	23
Hidde TER AVEST	24
Will GOODWIN	25
Max WOLTMAN	27
Marselino FERDINAN	28
Kyle EDWARDS	29
Peter KIOSO	30
Jordan THORNILEY	34
Dane SCARLETT	44

OFFICIALS

Referee: James Bell
Assistant Referee: Hristo Karaivanov
Assistant Referee: Shaun Hudson
Fourth Official: Oliver Langford