



SATURDAY 18TH JANUARY 2025 3PM

utilita

TUI

University of
Bedfordshire



WELCOM



Welcome back to Kenilworth Road! A lot has passed since we were last here on New Year's Day against Norwich City.

We said our goodbyes and thanks to Rob Edwards, Paul Trollope and Richie Kyle for their work that took us to the Premier League following their departure from the club.

Then, on Tuesday, we welcomed Matt Bloomfield as our new manager – and you can read all about his appointment throughout this programme.

Please give Matt a warm welcome to Kenilworth Road as we entertain Preston this afternoon with important Championship points on the line.

Come on Luton!

CONTENTS

4 Matt Bloomfield **6** Tom Lockyer
8 From the Boardroom **13** Welcome Matt!
19 Match Action **27** Welcome Preston
36 League Look **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 **63** Junior Hatters
65 Luton Town Ladies **69** Up Next
72 Fixtures and Results **74** Last Word

THE PROGRAMME

MADE IN LUTON

Print Barham Press

Editor Andrew Barringer

Design The Graphic Bomb

Photography Dave Horn, George Dunn Additional photos
Shutterstock Statistics Simon Pitts

Contributors Roger Wash, Dec O'Reilly, Zac Neal, Bradley
Dixon, David Foxen and Simon Oxley

With thanks to the media department at Preston North End

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



ME

4



60





| MATT BLOOMFIELD |

THE BOSS

Good afternoon and welcome to Kenilworth Road for this Championship game with Preston North End.

Let me begin by saying it is a genuine honour and a privilege to be here after being appointed as manager of this incredible club. It's a really, really proud moment for me and my family.

The past week has been very busy, but having met the board, recruitment team, staff and players I can't wait to get started this afternoon and meet you for the first time.

The fact that the board are all Luton supporters and that they care so much about the club really resonates with me. They also had a real desire for me to join and that also helped shape my decision.

As a manager, you want to go into a club where you feel comfortable, and the board's enthusiasm made me feel very wanted, which was huge for me. I want to work with people who care and as fans they certainly do. I want to work with people who want the best for their football club, and that's more than evident with Gary, the chairman and the board of directors.

Their knowledge base of what I stand for, who I am and what we've tried to produce at Wycombe left me in no uncertain times that this was the right move at the right time for me.

Of course, the board's passion is not the only draw for me. The club has just come out of the Premier League, the future is certainly bright with Power Court on the

way, and the support here has always been unbelievable.

I remember coming here in my playing days and always hated it. The crowd, close to the pitch, and the noise generated made it a horrible experience as an away player. Now I'm happy that I'll experience the 'other' side of that with you behind me, the staff and players.

Recent results might not have reflected the performances, which have been good to a degree and should have earned more points in my opinion – and the stats back that up.

But hard work has to be the cornerstone of what we do. That has to come first. We're certainly not looking to come in and rip up everything, though. We are fortunate to have inherited a

fantastic culture and squad as a result of the work of previous managers. However, we will certainly try to bring in a freshness and energy.

We will, naturally, aim to implement some principles that we've been building ourselves as a coaching unit and, of course, try to improve the group and build some results as we go – starting this afternoon.

A warm welcome to Paul Heckingbottom and his Preston staff and squad to Kenilworth Road. They will pose a threat this afternoon and come into the game off the back of a fine cup victory on Tuesday night.

We are stronger together so please get behind us from the first whistle until the last.

Enjoy the game.

“IT IS A GENUINE HONOUR AND A PRIVILEGE TO BE HERE AFTER BEING APPOINTED AS MANAGER OF THIS INCREDIBLE CLUB.”

| TOM LOCKYER |

CLUB CAPTAIN

6

Welcome back to the Kenny. Things have changed a little since my last notes against Norwich.

That game proved to be the last under Rob and this week we welcomed Matt to the club as the new manager.

The week Rob left was a difficult one. Nobody ever wants to see a manager lose their job, especially when it's someone like Rob who is such a good man.

He gave the players, staff and you the fans moments and experiences never thought possible in anyone's wildest dreams. The fact we got to the Premier League was incredible and that achievement helped secure the long-term future of the club with Power Court on the horizon.

That being said, and sad though it was, football is a results business but I hope all Luton fans appreciate what Rob has done and remember him fondly.

Football doesn't stand still either and this week we welcomed Matt and his staff, Richie, Lee and Ben, to the club. Please give them all a warm welcome today as we embark on a new era.

Although I'm writing this after working with them for just one day, as first days go, it was a really good one. The lads have all responded really well, in particular the presentation he gave us which was brilliant.

Since I've been at this club, I have become accustomed to what Luton Town stands for, its culture and ethics and from what I heard from Matt, I see no problem

with him fitting straight in. I think you will take to him very quickly.

He wants to build a connection with the fans and we're all looking forward to seeing what is in store for us as time progresses.

He was flying at Wycombe and got them into a great position in League One in the face of some very big clubs with big budgets in the third tier. For him to come here shows hunger and ambition.

Matt's another young manager, just like Nathan and Rob in the past, so please join me in welcoming him to Kenilworth Road.

It's the start of a new era this afternoon as we entertain Preston. It's a clean slate and we need to start climbing the table.

We know results haven't been what we've wanted in recent weeks but we're all looking forward to improving that and giving you all something to shout out.

Finally, a big welcome to the club to three new faces, Lamine Fanne, Christ Makosso and Isaiah Jones, who have already shown in their short time here the qualities needed to be a success with us.

Please be loud, be proud and get behind the lads this afternoon. Come on you Hatters.

**“PLEASE
BE LOUD,
BE PROUD
AND GET
BEHIND
THE LADS.”**

7

skybet



**EVERY
M1NUTE
MATTERS**

bet

Brit
Foun



BOARDROOM DAVID WILKINSON

8

Good afternoon, everyone, and a very warm welcome to Kenilworth Road.

We may only be into the first few weeks of the New Year, but the events and emotions of that brief time have been enormous.

But firstly, as is customary, I wish to welcome our visitors from Preston and wish everyone connected with the club a pleasant visit to Bedfordshire and a safe return back up the M1 and M6.

So, to the events of the past two weeks which have been a rollercoaster in typical Luton Town style. From the heartache of Rob leaving to the exhilaration of Matt joining, it's safe to say that life really is never dull at Kenilworth Road.

When we met at The Brache last week, Gary broke the news to all the staff, and Rob had the chance to say a few words to his squad and the support team. It was handled respectfully from both sides, and I feel there were no ill feelings. Rob is a wonderful human and we wouldn't expect anything else.

The biting cold weather was not the reason behind many moist eyes when saying goodbye to

Rob, Trolls and Richie. We wish them all well in whatever they decide to do next and thank them for what they gave us. We will never forget Wembley and last season and they will always be welcome at Luton Town.

The search was then on to find his replacement. As Gary has explained, the recruitment department and data played a major part in preparing a short list from a very long list. There

was a very specific list of idealistic criteria required that depict our playing style and we felt that Matt's vision aligned with our own. The alignment was uncanny.

Without going into too much detail, the research came up with an interesting list on which Matt featured most highly. Other names that may have been mentioned would have also appeared, but, frankly, the more we researched the

“THERE WAS A VERY SPECIFIC LIST OF IDEALISTIC CRITERIA REQUIRED THAT DEPICT OUR PLAYING STYLE AND WE FELT THAT MATT'S VISION ALIGNED WITH OUR OWN.”

more it became evident that he was the early front-runner.

It was then agreed that Wycombe would be asked for permission to talk to Matt to understand his level of interest, and that having been received, Gary and recruitment team met him over the weekend and the Board convened on Sunday afternoon to meet and interview him and enjoy his presentation.

The process has broadly been the same with our previous four appointments, so comparisons could be made. For what

it's worth I found the presentation compelling and educational, and compared very favourably to the previous experiences.

The rest of the Board was similarly impressed by that and the getting-to-know-you and question-and-answer sessions.

Matt left the room and there was a discussion, which resulted in a unanimous decision to immediately offer Matt the position. Matt accepted enthusiastically so we welcomed him to Luton Town.

Alongside this Gary and his team had to establish

which members of Matt's team he wanted to bring with him, and as a result, we welcome Richard Thomas, Lee Harrison and Ben Cirne.

The speed and professionalism of this process has been extraordinary and, apart from congratulating our team of Gary, Mick, James Mooney, Phil Chapple, Jay Socik and Yousuf Sajjad, we should express our gratitude to Wycombe for enabling a smooth transfer.

We all enjoyed meeting Matt and are excited to see how his ideas refresh our style and improve our results.

Matt and his team met the players and staff on Tuesday morning and took their first training session soon after.

You will probably have seen some of the media that Matt has done, which shows clearly what his philosophy is and how confident he is that he can be the breath of fresh air we need. The feedback we have had so far from those who have met him is very positive and quite exciting.

In the middle of all this, it is the transfer window, and last week we signed Isaiah Jones from Middlesbrough. Izzy is an exciting attacking player



Solar today. Brighter tomorrow.

Get your FREE home survey today.

 home.utilita.co.uk

 Trustpilot 



and, because of all the management changes, his arrival has gone a little bit under the radar, so welcome Isaiah! We hope you enjoy your time with us and look forward to seeing you play here at the Kenny after a promising debut at Forest last week. We also said our goodbyes to Joe Taylor, who joined Huddersfield on a permanent transfer last week. The scorer of one of those important penalties at Wembley against Coventry, we wish him all the best.

Lastly to our visitors Preston North End. They are the original Invincibles, having been founder members of the Football League, they were the first club to achieve the double, doing so without losing a game and winning the FA Cup without conceding a goal. Since that time, however, their only other major success was to win the FA Cup in 1938.

Early in this season we lost 1-0 at Deepdale, which as a matter of

interest is the oldest ground in continuous use by a Football League club having been established in 1875. Let's hope that we can reverse the result earlier in the season and give Matt and his team the initiation we all want.

"New beginnings are often disguised as painful endings" – Lao Tzu.

Enjoy the game and happy new year.

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

Manager:
Matt Bloomfield
Assistant Manager:
Richard Thomas
First Team Coaches:
Kevin Foley & Lee Harrison
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

Chief Finance Officer:
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

VICE PRESIDENTS

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



The TUI Sale is now on

Grab a free kid's place, even in
the school summer holidays.*



**SAVE UP TO £300
PER BOOKING****



ABTA
Travel with confidence

Offers are correct at time of going to print 18/01/2025. *Free kid's place offer applies to new bookings only, on selected holidays subject to limited availability. Only 1 free kid's place is available in each selected hotel room or selected apartment type or villa with a minimum of 2 full paying adults. Other children must pay the full brochure price. You'll need to pay a deposit but we deduct this from your final balance and will refund this when you pay for your holiday in full. If you change your booking, free child places on your new booking will depend on availability. **Save £100 per booking when you spend £1000 or more/Save £200 per booking when you spend £2000 or more/Save £300 per booking when you spend £3000 or more. Only one of the three discounts can be applied on an individual booking. The code will be available from 08:01 23rd December 2024 until 23:59 on the 3rd March 2025. Discount is valid on package holidays departing between 1st May 2025 and 30th April 2026 and is applied before any extras such as insurance, room upgrades & selecting seats, are added. There must be a minimum of 2 people on the booking (including children aged 2 and over) for the discount to apply. Offer does not apply to accommodation only, flight only, Marella, TUI River Cruise or Crystal bookings. This offer is only valid for new bookings and can only be applied once on each booking. This discount code cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount code. Please see <https://www.tui.co.uk/destinations/info/booking-terms-and-conditions> or the relevant brochure for booking terms and conditions. Offer is subject to availability and may be amended or withdrawn at any time without notice. All the flights and flight-inclusive holidays are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for the ATOL certificate and check to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels and other services) are listed on it. Please see our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: www.caa.co.uk. TUI is a trading name of TUI UK Limited, a member of TUI Group. Registered Office: Wigmore House, Wigmore Lane, Luton, LU2 9TN. Registered in England No: 2830117. ATOL No: 2524. ABTA No: V5126



A NEW ERA **BEGINS** 13

We were delighted to announce the appointment of Matt Bloomfield as our new manager this week.

The board complied with all compensation requests from Wycombe Wanderers to bring the 40-year-old to Kenilworth Road, along with his assistant Richard Thomas, first team coach Lee Harrison and senior analyst Ben Cirne.

Bloomfield has put pen to paper on a three-and-a-half-year contract.

The new boss, who made over 500 appearances as a midfielder for Wycombe over a 19-year period, arrives in Bedfordshire having worked wonders at Adams Park.

He departed the Buckinghamshire club having guided them to second place in the third tier, while also leading them into the FA Cup fourth round.

Town CEO Gary Sweet said: "It is with great pleasure and excitement that we are able to announce Matt's appointment on a long-term contract.

"Before anything else, I would like to thank Wycombe for their co-operation in ensuring a swift and smooth transition. It may be flattering to be on the receiving end, it's never pleasant, but we have made sure that we've gone above and beyond to compensate

Wycombe to secure his services, along with his trusted coaching team.

"Over the years in which we as a club have risen up the EFL, we encountered Matt at every step as a respected captain of his team, and together they have always shared our hunger and desire to improve and get to the next level.

"Since returning to Wycombe as manager we have been hugely impressed with his work in leading them back towards the top of League One, and especially in how they have done it in such an entertaining way, forging a reputation for front-footed attacking football.

"We identified Matt's personal and team-building qualities as the outstanding candidate to fit in with the culture we have long established here at Luton Town, and I'm sure every supporter will join me in welcoming him, along with Richard, Lee and Ben to Kenilworth Road.

"Finally, I'd just like to thank the immense amount of work and attention to detail our recruitment team have put into identifying the best candidate and impressing him in meetings, along with the fantastic, as ever, and unanimous support of the board in arriving at a quick decision after interviewing Matt."

CAREER **POWERED** EDUCATION

TEACHING BASED
**ON REAL-WORLD
PRACTICE**

Apply now at
beds.ac.uk/clearing





THE STORY SO FAR

A guide to our new boss' career to date

Matt Bloomfield has become the ninth different permanent manager of the Hatters since Luton Town 2020 took control of the club in 2008.

Born in Felixstowe, Suffolk, Bloomfield began his career as a trainee with Ipswich in 2001. Despite representing England at under-18, under-19, and under-20 levels, he struggled for opportunities in a crowded midfield and made just one first-team appearance before joining Wycombe Wanderers in December 2003.

Bloomfield, then 19, made his debut for the Chairboys in a 2-0 loss to Rushden & Diamonds and scored his first goal for the club against Queens Park Rangers in March 2004.

He skipped Gareth Ainsworth's side to

promotion from League Two alongside the Hatters in 2017/18, having already played in two Wanderers sides that went up from the third tier – first under Peter Taylor in 2008/09 and then under Gary Waddock in 2010/11.

Club captain at Adams Park for almost a decade, Bloomfield then led his team out at Wembley on the occasion of his biggest achievement, when Wycombe won promotion to the Championship in the Covid-interrupted 2019/20 campaign.

By the time of his retirement, following a concussion injury suffered in his first and only outing of the 2021/22 season in a League Cup tie at Exeter, Bloomfield had already moved onto the coaching staff at the Buckinghamshire club having made 558

appearances and scoring 42 goals – fourth in the Chairboys' all-time appearance list.

It was then, in September 2022, that Bloomfield took his first steps in management when appointed head coach at Colchester United.

With the Essex side just two places above the League 2 dropzone, he helped stave off the threat of relegation and won the January 2023 manager of the month award with four wins and one draw from six games.

A month later, following Gareth Ainsworth's departure to QPR, Wycombe were on the lookout for a new manager and they knew exactly who to turn to and the lure of a return to familiar territory proved too strong.

Wycombe finished ninth that season and

10th last term, but their form since New Year's Day 2024 has been promotion-winning stuff.

Collecting 91 points from 48 matches in that period is a promotion-challenging return, and this season the Chairboys have topped the League One table for several weeks, their 18-game unbeaten run in the league only coming to a halt in between Christmas and New Year.

With Bloomfield having completed his UEFA Pro Licence qualification in the summer and leaves behind a side second in League One.

With his credentials impressing the Kenilworth Road hierarchy, it gives us great pleasure to welcome Matt and his coaching staff for the next chapter in both the club and the manager's story.



MATT'S FIRST DAY+





Go behind-the-scenes
and watch this video of
the manager's first day.



New Year, New Network

On Your Sleeve, On Your Side



HPE **aruba**
networking



 **WIN!**

We want to see your sleeves!

Share a picture of you wearing Switchshop on your sleeve and tag Switchshop along with **#SwitchTheSleeve** for your chance to win an exclusive Luton Town x Switchshop hamper!



*Terms and Conditions apply - available at www.switchshop.co.uk/terms



NEW BOYS

LAMINE FANNE

Highly-rated midfielder Lamine, who was born in Senegal before moving to Spain as a child, has now joined from Swedish top-flight club AIK.

After passing a medical, putting pen to paper and meeting his new teammates at The Brache back in August, the 20-year-old defensive midfielder returned to Sweden where he finished the season in November.

He returned to full training for the Hatters shortly before Christmas and was given his debut at Queens Park Rangers earlier this month.

ISAIAH JONES

Right-sided attacker Jones, 25, arrives at Kenilworth Road after spending five successful seasons with Middlesbrough.

Lambeth-born Jones started his career with Tooting & Mitcham United

before moving to Boro in 2019, eventually breaking into Boro's first team in the 2021/22 campaign.

Jones contributed nine assists in 47 games in a season that saw them finish seventh in the Championship and reach the quarter-finals of the FA Cup.

The following season, Jones scored three league goals and laid on five more, helping Boro reach the Championship play-offs the season the Hatters won promotion to the Premier League.

Last term Isaiah enjoyed his best goal-scoring season to date, hitting nine goals and contributing five assists in all competitions as Boro finished eighth in the second tier and reached the semi-finals of the League Cup.

This season Jones, who was called up for international duty for Guyana last summer for

the first time, started eight times and made 12 appearances as a substitute for Michael Carrick's side.

CHRIST MAKOSSO

Centre-half Makosso, 20, who has already won three caps for his native Congo, joins us from Belgian second division outfit RWD Molenbeek.

Makosso has spent a year in Belgium having joined his previous club from French side Sochaux in January last year.

He joined Sochaux in 2023 having been scouted in the Congo, making his debut in France's second tier in 2022/23.

His performances led to him being called up by his country for the first time in November 2023, and he has since gone on to be a regular in their squad. His last cap came in an African Cup of Nations qualifier against South Africa in October.

IN OTHER NEWS...

Hatters striker **Bim Pepple** has joined League Two side Chesterfield on loan until the end of the season after scoring seven times in 19 games for Southend in the National League.

Fellow frontman **Joe Taylor**, meanwhile, has joined Huddersfield permanently for an undisclosed fee.

Joe arrived at Kenilworth Road from Peterborough in January 2023 and went on to make six appearances that season, including in the Championship play-off final where he converted a crucial penalty in the shootout victory over Coventry.

After enjoying two loan spells at Colchester and Lincoln last season, Joe appeared in 13 of our 26 Championship fixtures this term.

We wish both players success with their respective moves.

A STEP ONTO THE OTHER SIDE

20

He hated playing at the Kenny as a player but now the new boss can't wait to be in the Town dugout!

The heritage and history of Luton Town played a major role in persuading Matt Bloomfield to sign a three-and-a-half-year contract to become our new manager.

The 40-year-old played five times for former club Wycombe at the Kenny in three different divisions, scoring once in the Chairboys' 3-1 defeat to the Hatters in September 2016.

And now after watching the Town's journey from non-league to the Premier League, Bloomfield can't wait to be on the 'right' side of things from the dugout.

"I think the heritage of the football club was one of the things that interested me," said the new boss.

"I've had some real big battles here over the years, especially against Nathan Jones's team.

"I absolutely hated coming here as a player. I genuinely hated coming here because the atmosphere was fierce and the pitch was tight. We had some real tough moments here.

"So that kind of feeds into that – wanting to be on the other side, wanting to join the football club and have those fans back me rather than against me. It's really exciting for me

to have those guys on my side.

"The atmosphere that they create and the togetherness that this club stands for, the hard work, the work rate and the team ethics that Luton Town stands for really resonates with me.

"All those bits that go together and the long-term project are really exciting. To have the

new ground a couple of years away, the progression the club's made over the previous few years makes it all very, very exciting."

Bloomfield brings coaches Richard Thomas and Lee Harrison and analyst Ben Cirne with him to Kenilworth Road.

But Bloomfield is looking forward to working alongside members of the Hatters' existing staff, including coaches Kevin Pilkington and Kevin Foley and analysts Simon Dunn and Chloe Golding.

"I want to embrace the staff that we've already got and integrate ourselves with them," said Bloomfield.

"It's not about us being a separate entity. It's about the football club as a whole. It sounds a little bit cliché, and I apologise for that, but it takes a whole football club to win football matches.

"It's not just something that 11 players can go out on a pitch and do. It takes a whole football club, board of directors, chief exec, staff, fans, players.

"Everybody around the football club have to build into it and buy into it and move the place forward and that's something I love doing. I love people. I love people working with people and collaborating and building a strong unit.

"That's what really gets my juices going so I'm really looking forward to doing that here."

The new Hatters boss also explained what he expects from the group on and off the field while praising the work of former manager Rob Edwards.

Asked about his preferred style of play, the former Wycombe manager said: "Hard work has to be the cornerstone of any football club. It has to be the cornerstone of anything you do in life – hard work and a team ethos. The team has to come first in anything we do.

"I expect my group to be honest. Absolutely. We have to be honest with each other and how we go about our work, and the playing style will evolve.

"I'm not looking to come in and rip everything up because there's been some fantastic stuff that's been done here over the previous few managers, and Rob's done an incredible job.

"So we're not looking to rip anything up, but we're certainly trying to bring in a freshness and energy. We'll try to implement some principles that we've been building ourselves as a coaching unit, trying to improve the group and build some results as we go."



"I EXPECT MY GROUP TO BE HONEST. ABSOLUTELY. WE HAVE TO BE HONEST WITH EACH OTHER AND HOW WE GO ABOUT OUR WORK."



ALWAYS UMBRO

100 YEARS OF AUTHENTICITY ON AND OFF THE PITCH.





ACTION REPLAY



2

Yates 40'
Sosa 68'



0

23

The Town began life without Rob Edwards by exiting the FA Cup at Nottingham Forest.

It was a goal in each half that condemned the Hatters to an 11th straight defeat on the road against a much-changed Forest side.

However, the Town had chances, with Liam Walsh and Tom Holmes going close – but focus will now turn on climbing the Championship table.

With Mick Harford, Paul Trollope and Richie Kyle in temporary charge, the Hatters side showed one change to the team that lost at QPR on Monday with new signing Izzy Jones given his debut after signing from Middlesbrough.

Forest created the game's first big chance only for Taiwo Awoniyi to drag his shot wide of the target when free inside the box on 17 minutes.

But back came the Town, and Walsh's fine drive from outside the box looked destined for the top corner but Forest goalkeeper Carlos Miguel flew away to his left to turn away the shot with an excellent stop.

On 22 minutes the Hatters crossbar was shaking after Ryan Yates' effort from 25 yards kissed the woodwork with Thomas Kaminski beaten as Forest upped the ante.

As half-chances came the way of both sides it was the hosts that finally broke the deadlock five minutes before half-time. Ramon Sosa delivered an enticing cross from the left and Yates buried a header into the bottom corner.

After the restart Awoniyi spurned a great chance to double the home side's lead just three minutes into the second period.

Goalmouth action was at a premium, however, and it wasn't until the 68th minute that Forest doubled their lead. Jota Silva hared down the right flank and delivered a low pinpoint cross into the path of Sosa who swept home from close range.

Holmes saw a back-post header cleared off the line by the hosts' Morato on 71 minutes before substitute Jacob Brown saw his low shot saved by Miguel.

Forest made a quadruple substitution with 13 minutes remaining and one of those, Callum Hudson-Odoi, wasn't far away from adding a third with a run and shot that flew narrowly over the bar.

Carlton Morris' header was stopped by Miguel with seven minutes left before the Town captain was crowded out with the goal at his mercy in stoppage time.



24





ACTION REPLAY



TOUREEN GROUP

DELIVERING CONSTRUCTION EXCELLENCE

**OFFICIAL PARTNER OF
LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB**

THE TOUREEN GROUP IS A LONG-ESTABLISHED CONSTRUCTION GROUP WITH AWARD WINNING, SPECIALIST, IN-HOUSE DIVISIONS, DELIVERING HIGH QUALITY PROJECTS FOR A WIDE RANGE OF PRESTIGIOUS CLIENTS.

**DESIGN & BUILD
GROUNDWORKS**

RC FRAMES

BASEMENTS

DEMOLITION

RETAIL & PETROLEUM

EV & HYDROGEN INSTALLATIONS

REMEDICATION

**TOURENGROUP.CO.UK
0208 424 7999**

**in @TOURENGROUP
X @TOURENGROUP**

WELCOME



Its time for another Saturday in the second tier and this week its Paul Heckingbottom's Preston North End side who are in town for a big match for both sides.

Recently, the Lilywhites have had some bumpy form and have won two, drawn two and lost two in their last six. Most recently, they drew 1-1 at home against Oxford.

The Heckingbottom era at Preston began against the Hatters back in August when the former Sheffield United boss was unveiled as new manager at the start of the match. Preston went on to win 1-0 at Deepdale.

In recent weeks Preston ensured a torrid winless streak of 10 games before finally beating Cardiff in December to end this run.

However, last time on the road, Heckingbottom's side were defeated 3-1 away at West Brom. A brace from Josh Maja and a goal from Callum Styles was enough for the Baggies to win.

Since the Hatters were promoted back to the Football League in 2014, the Town have won two of their four home games against Preston.

3-0 and 4-0 wins in December 2020 and March 2022 respectively sandwich a 1-1 draw in June 2020 in Nathan Jones' first game back in charge following the resumption of football during Covid.

And most recently Preston secured all three points when an acrobatic strike from Dan Potts earned North End victory on their last visit to Kenilworth Road in August 2022.

A warm welcome to all those associated with Preston North End to Kenilworth Road today.

PRESTON
NORTH
END

THE SQUAD



- 1 GK Freddie Woodman
- 4 MF Ben Whiteman
- 5 DF Jack Whatmough
- 6 DF Liam Lindsay
- 7 FW Will Keane
- 8 MF Ali McCann
- 9 FW Emil Riis Jakobsen
- 10 MF Mads Frøkjær-Jensen
- 11 MF Robbie Brady
- 12 FW Ched Evans
- 13 GK David Cornell
- 14 DF Jordan Storey
- 16 DF Andrew Hughes
- 18 MF Ryan Ledson
- 19 DF Lewis Gibson
- 20 MF Sam Greenwood
- 21 GK James Pradic
- 22 MF Stefán Teitur Þórðarson
- 24 FW Felipe Rodriguez-Gentile
- 25 MF Duane Holmes
- 26 DF Patrick Bauer
- 28 FW Milutin Osmajic
- 29 DF Kaine Kesler-Hayden
- 30 MF Kian Taylor
- 31 DF Theo Mawene
- 33 DF Kian Best
- 34 DF Kitt Nelson
- 40 MF Josh Bowler
- 44 MF Brad Potts

PROFILES

Words by Zac Neal

THE BOSS

PAUL HECKINGBOTTOM

Experienced manager who joined the club in August 2024. First game in charge was a 1-0 win against the Hatters back in August.

GOALKEEPER

FREDDIE WOODMAN

Twenty-seven-year-old shot stopper with previous experience at Newcastle United, AFC Bournemouth and Swansea City.

DEFENDERS

LIAM LINDSAY

Scottish centre-back who began his career at Partick Thistle. Has amassed over 100 appearances for the club since signing in 2021.

ANDREW HUGHES ▼

Cardiff-born defender who has made over 200 appearances for North End since he signed back in 2018.



JORDAN STOREY

Another defender who has been a regular at Deepdale in the last few years. Spent a brief period out on loan to Sheffield Wednesday in 2022.

KAINE KESLER-HAYDEN

Young full-back who came through the Aston Villa academy and currently out on loan at the Lilywhites.

JACK WHATMOUGH

Experienced defender who has previously represented Portsmouth and Wigan Athletic but signed for Preston at the beginning of last season.

MIDFIELDERS

BEN WHITEMAN

Defensive midfielder who joined the Lilywhites from Doncaster four years ago and has been a regular on the teamsheet ever since.

ALISTAIR McCANN

Came through the St Johnstone academy and made it to the first team. Has now made over 100 appearances for Preston in his time at the club so far.

MADS FRØKJÆR-JENSEN

Signed from Danish club Odense in the summer of 2023. Scored in Preston's 3-3 draw away at Plymouth earlier this season.

STEFAN THORDARSON

Icelandic international midfielder who made his name at Silkeborg before making the move to Deepdale last year.



FORWARDS

EMIL RIIS JAKOBSEN

Danish striker who signed for Preston in 2021. Scored two in their recent 3-1 win against Sheffield Wednesday.

WILL KEANE ▲

Experienced Championship forward who has had two spells at the club. Scored the winner for North End against the Town in the reverse fixture earlier this season.

SAM GREENWOOD

Currently at the Lilywhites on loan from Leeds United. Spent last season on loan at Middlesbrough where he scored five goals.

MILUTIN OSMAJIC

Striker who joined Preston last season after previously playing for Cadiz. Scored two against Watford in a comfortable 3-0 win earlier this season.

JOSH BOWLER

Former Blackpool, Everton, Cardiff, Hull and Olympiacos man who joined Preston on loan from Nottingham Forest.

PRESTON KITBAG



1999/00 HOME

North End kept things simple at the turn of the millennium. They made the kit themselves, too. A plain white shirt, with a wonderfully tough, proper collar, was complemented by a navy blue BAXI sponsorship. Those fans of a certain age can close their eyes and still see Jon Macken finishing yet another chance at Deepdale. Lovely.

A FOOT IN BOTH



GRAHAM ALEXANDER

Signed for the Town from Scunthorpe in the summer of 1995 and four seasons as a regular saw him score 17 times in 183 times before he moved to Deepdale in 1999. He went onto make 400 appearances for Preston, helping the club to promotion in 2000, before ending his playing career at Burnley. His managerial career began as caretaker at Deepdale and is now at the helm at Bradford.

LILYWHITES CULT HERO

Known for his no-nonsense style, tough tackling and commanding presence, **Sean Gregan** embodied the gritty determination that Preston fans adored during his time at Deepdale.

A vocal leader on the pitch, his passion for the game resonated with Preston fans during his six-year spell at the club.

Gregan joined in 1996 from Darlington and quickly established himself as a cornerstone of the team as a midfielder (and sometimes a defender), with his physical presence, work rate and ability to dictate play.

As captain his leadership saw Preston enjoy a period of success that saw them win promotion to the First Division (now the Championship) in 2000, before he played an instrumental role in helping the club reach the Championship play-offs in 2000/01, narrowly missing out on promotion to the Premier League.

His appearance in the play-off final defeat to Bolton was his 251st and final appearance for the club before he moved to West Brom and then Leeds, Oldham and Fleetwood.



FIXTURE FLASHBACK

TOWN 4-0 PRESTON 6TH MARCH 2002

The Town climbed into the Championship play-off places with a resounding victory win over North End.

A brace from Luke Berry and one from Fred Onyedinma had the Hatters 3-0 ahead by half-time before Bambo Diaby put into his own net after the interval.

Victory was the Town's seventh win in their last

10 games as Nathan Jones' side continued their rise towards reaching the play-offs.

The Hatters led in the ninth minute when Berry struck first and shortly before the half-hour mark Onyedinma doubled the lead when finishing James Bree's cross.

Berry's second arrived just before half-time when he back-heeled

Harry Cornick's cross and the game was well and truly over on 59 minutes when Amari'i Bell's shot was saved by the keeper but rebounded in off Diaby.

Unhappy Preston boss was so frustrated with the performance that he promised to refund the travelling North End fans.

29





Side-by-side for seven years

Continuing a constructive partnership by proudly
sponsoring the backs of the away and third shirts

WWW.RYEBRIDGECONSTRUCTION.COM

24/25 LUTON TOWN BUSINESS PARTNERS

BUSINESS PARTNER PLUS



BUSINESS PARTNERS



LUTON TOWN BUSINESS CLUB BUSINESS CLUB MEMBERS



Call the Commercial Team on 01582 411622 or email
commercial@lutontown.co.uk for information on memberships.

FIRST TEAM KIT SPONSORS 2024/25

JAMES SHEA



H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE
TW AVAILABLE
G AVAILABLE

TOM LOCKYER



H H Block Con Clubbers
A You'll Never Take the Maple
T SAM Beast Consulting Ltd
TW AVAILABLE

PELLEY RUDDOCK MPANZU



H SAM Beast Consulting Ltd
A WHOSH
T Scandinavian Hatters
TW AVAILABLE

JORDAN CLARK



H Chris & Alex Browne
A AVAILABLE
T Keith Elkington Transport
TW AVAILABLE

ELIJAH ADEBAYO



H WHOSH
A SAM Beast Consulting Ltd
T 1981 Events
TW AVAILABLE

REECE BURKE



H Corey & Sheryl Mayes
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE
TW AVAILABLE

AMARI'I BELL



H A.B.S Thermal Insulation LTD
A Bobbers Travel Club
T AVAILABLE
TW AVAILABLE

CAULEY WOODROW



H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE
TW AVAILABLE

ALFIE DOUGHTY



H Kevin Lennon
A Bobbers Travel Club
T TP Extrusions Ltd
TW AVAILABLE

CARLTON MORRIS



H DLA Driving School
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE
TW AVAILABLE

MARVELOUS NAKAMBA



H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE
TW AVAILABLE

JOE JOHNSON



H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE
TW AVAILABLE

MADS ANDERSEN



H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE
TW AVAILABLE

TAHITH CHONG



H The Belvedere Group
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE
TW AVAILABLE

JACOB BROWN



H Gill, Julie, Neil & Yvonne
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE
TW AVAILABLE

TIM KRUL



H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE
TW AVAILABLE
G AVAILABLE

THOMAS KAMINSKI



H Bobby Moore
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE
TW AVAILABLE
G Liz Evans

TEDEN MENGİ



H Howdens Luton Thistle
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE
TW AVAILABLE

SHANDON BAPTISTE



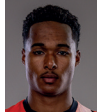
H The Knights
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE
TW AVAILABLE

TOM HOLMES



H LTFC Fool
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE
TW AVAILABLE

REUELL WALTERS



H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE
TW AVAILABLE

DAIKI HASHIOKA



H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE
TW AVAILABLE

ZACK NELSON



H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE
TW AVAILABLE

MARK McGUINNESS



H Bartham Press
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE
TW AVAILABLE

LIAM WALSH



H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE
TW AVAILABLE

TOM KRAUB



H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE
TW AVAILABLE

VICTOR MOSES



H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE
TW AVAILABLE

LAMINE FANNE



H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE
TW AVAILABLE

ISAIAH JONES



H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE
TW AVAILABLE

CHRIST MAKOSSO



H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE
TW AVAILABLE

MATT BLOOMFIELD



H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE
TW AVAILABLE

CHRIS PHILLIPS



H Bobbers Travel
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE
TW AVAILABLE

WANT TO SPONSOR A PLAYER?

Call the Commercial team on **01582 411622** or email commercial@lutontown.co.uk

P – Platinum Sponsor, H – Home Shirt Sponsor, A – Away Shirt Sponsor, T – Third Shirt Sponsor, TW – Training Wear Sponsor, G – Glove Sponsor



COMMERCIAL

A warm welcome to all of our commercial guests, sponsors and partners as we entertain Preston North End in Matt Bloomfield's first game in charge.

At our last home game here against Norwich on New Year's Day, Zack Nelson was named man-of-the-match.

The midfielder was presented with his award by match sponsors MuscleSquad before posing for photographs, signing autographs and answering questions post-match in the Eric Morecambe Lounge.

We also welcomed seven mascots, who got the VIP treatment and got to meet their favourite players before the game before leading the team out onto the pitch before kick-off.

There is still selective availability for sponsorship and mascot packages for our remaining home games this season.

If you're interested, all you need to do is email commercial@lutontown.co.uk or give us a call on 01582 411622.

LAST TIME OUT vs NORWICH CITY



TODAY'S FIXTURES

12.30pm
Cardiff v Swansea
Millwall v Hull
Plymouth Argyle v QPR

3pm
Coventry v Bristol City
Derby v Watford
Oxford Utd v Blackburn
Portsmouth v Middlesbrough
Sheff Utd v Norwich
West Brom v Stoke



SHOTS ON TARGET

Borja Sainz	36
Norwich City	
Tom Cannon	31
Stoke City	
Elijah Adebayo	28
Luton Town	
Fin Azaz	27
Middlesbrough	
Anis Mehmeti	26
Bristol City	



PLAYER INTERCEPTIONS

Jordan Storey	47
Preston North End	
Ebou Adams	44
Derby County	
Casper De Norre	44
Millwall	
Mattie Pollock	43
Watford	
Eiran Cashin	40
Derby County	

TABLE AND STATS 2024/25

AS OF 16/01/2025

		P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	PTS
1	Leeds	26	15	8	3	48	19	29	53
2	Burnley	26	14	10	2	31	9	22	52
3	Sheff Utd	26	16	6	4	36	17	19	52
4	Sunderland	26	14	8	4	39	22	17	50
5	Blackburn	26	12	6	8	31	23	8	42
6	Middlesbrough	26	11	8	7	43	32	11	41
7	West Brom	26	9	13	4	32	21	11	40
8	Watford	26	11	5	10	36	37	-1	38
9	Bristol City	26	9	10	7	33	30	3	37
10	Sheff Wed	26	10	7	9	38	40	-2	37
11	Norwich	26	9	9	8	43	37	6	36
12	Swansea	26	9	7	10	30	30	0	34
13	QPR	26	7	11	8	29	34	-5	32
14	Millwall	25	7	9	9	24	23	1	30
15	Preston North End	26	6	12	8	28	34	-6	30
16	Coventry	26	7	8	11	34	37	-3	29
17	Oxford Utd	26	7	8	11	29	41	-12	29
18	Derby	26	7	6	13	31	35	-4	27
19	Stoke	26	6	9	11	24	32	-8	27
20	Luton	26	7	4	15	27	44	-17	25
21	Cardiff	26	5	9	12	26	41	-15	24
22	Hull	26	5	8	13	25	36	-11	23
23	Portsmouth	25	5	8	12	30	44	-14	23
24	Plymouth	26	4	9	13	25	54	-29	21

PLAYER STATISTICS

PLAYER	LEAGUE			THIS SEASON CUP			TOTAL			DISCIPLINARY		LIFECAREER TOTAL	
	APP	SUB	GLS	APP	SUB	GLS	APP	SUB	GLS	YELLOW	RED	APP	GLS
Elijah Adebayo	23	3	5	1	1	0	24	4	5	1	0	169	47
Mads Andersen	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	1	0	14	1
Shandon Baptiste	7	4	0	0	1	0	7	5	0	2	0	12	0
Amari'i Bell	13	0	0	2	0	0	15	0	0	1	0	139	2
Jacob Brown	7	10	3	0	1	0	7	11	3	1	0	40	6
Reece Burke	9	0	0	1	0	0	10	0	0	4	0	93	4
Tahith Chong	22	1	2	1	0	0	23	1	2	5	0	62	7
Jordan Clark	22	2	3	1	1	0	23	3	3	8	0	163	15
Alfie Doughty	13	0	0	1	0	0	14	0	0	5	0	92	5
Lamine Fanne	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
Daiki Hashioka	9	4	0	0	0	0	9	4	0	3	0	24	0
Tom Holmes	13	3	1	1	1	0	14	4	1	0	1	18	1
Joe Johnson	3	3	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	1	13	0
Isaiah Jones	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Thomas Kaminski	25	0	0	2	0	0	27	0	0	1	1	65	0
Tom Krauss	17	3	1	0	0	0	17	3	1	0	0	20	1
Tim Krul	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0
Tom Lockyer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	117	7
Mark McGuinness	24	0	1	1	0	0	25	0	1	3	0	25	1
Teden Mengi	14	1	1	0	0	0	14	1	1	2	0	50	2
Carlton Morris	20	3	7	2	0	0	22	3	7	5	0	119	38
Victor Moses	12	5	1	0	0	0	12	5	1	0	0	17	1
PellyRuddock Mpanzu	1	8	0	0	0	0	1	8	0	1	0	411	23
Marvelous Nakamba	9	5	0	2	0	0	11	5	0	1	0	50	0
Zack Nelson	4	9	0	2	0	1	6	9	1	2	0	17	1
Chiedozie Ogbene	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	39	5
Josh Phillips	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
James Shea	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	110	0
Joe Taylor	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	1	0	19	0
Andros Townsend	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	32	1
Liam Walsh	4	7	0	1	1	0	5	8	0	0	2	13	0
Reuell Walters	8	3	0	2	0	0	10	3	0	3	0	13	0
Cauley Woodrow	1	12	0	0	1	0	1	13	0	1	0	78	6



LEAGUE LOOK

35

WORDS BY ZAC NEAL

As always in the Championship, the last few weeks have been filled with plenty of football and exciting action in the league.

However, as last week was an FA Cup week, we have to rewind back two weeks for the last matchday of Championship action.

In the early kick-off, Burnley beat Blackburn 1-0 at Ewood Park to get bragging rights over their rivals. A second half goal from Zian Flemming was enough for a narrow win for the Clarets.

Swansea and West Brom held each other to a 1-1 draw in South Wales thanks to a last minute Joe Allen equaliser for the hosts. Stoke also picked up a point at home as they drew 0-0 with Plymouth.

Bristol City earned a crucial 1-0 win against Derby at Ashton Gate to climb further up the table. However, Middlesbrough suffered a setback in their play-off push as Cardiff took a point from the Riverside in a 1-1 draw.

Hull drew 3-3 with Leeds in a remarkable 90 minutes at the MKM Stadium. Despite taking the lead, Hull found themselves 3-1 down with 10 minutes to play. However, late goals from Joao Pedro and Abu Kamara meant the points were shared.

Our visitors today Preston and Oxford, who we go to on Tuesday, shared the spoils at Deepdale in yet another draw. Sheffield United earned a big away win at Watford to put an end to some patchy recent form.

Sheffield Wednesday and Millwall drew 2-2 in an entertaining clash at Hillsborough with a late goal from Gabriel Otegbayo assuring the Owls got a point.

In Norfolk, Norwich secured a dramatic late win at home to Coventry as two injury time goals from Forson Amankwah won the Canaries all three points in a 2-1 win.

In the days that followed, Sunderland beat Portsmouth to continue their promotion push while the Hatters went down 2-1 at Loftus Road.



PRO35TM

A **NEW** INNOVATION IN
TOOL STORAGE



Get Organised[™]



**3-PIECE HEAVY GAUGE
STEEL CABINET FRAME**



**UP TO 40KG DRAWER
LOADING CAPACITY**



**5-STEP PHOSPHATE-FREE
RUST PROTECTION**



**ALL DRAWERS COMPATIBLE
WITH OUR MODULAR TOOL
CONTROL SYSTEM**

SCAN



DESIGNED IN SWEDEN



AROUND TOWN

DATE NEEDED FOR PLYMOUTH CLASH

Our home Championship game with Plymouth Argyle, scheduled for Saturday 8th February, has been postponed.

Following Argyle's progression to the fourth round of the FA

Cup, the league fixture will now need rescheduling.

The new date will be circulated once agreed with Plymouth and the EFL.



REST IN PEACE, PAKS

Luton Town lost a much-loved member of the community, Pankaj Patel on 12th January.

Paks, as he is affectionately known, was an avid Luton Town Luton Town & Indians Cricket Club supporter.

He was well known for his love of music and loved to DJ across the country and world which he absolutely loved.

Paks leaves behind his girlfriend Prity and his son Shay who he doted on and all of his family members and friends.

He has left a massive hole in everyone's lives and will be deeply missed.

Our condolences to all of Paks' family and friends at this sad time.



NEW CLUB SHOP COMING SOON

We would like to advise supporters that as part of the Hatters' off-field growth in 2025, the Luton Town club shop is relocating to new improved premises within the town centre.

The Park Street store closed on Saturday 4th January as we prepare to move back into a prime location in the Luton Point shopping centre after a break of six years.

Work is currently ongoing to create the new shop, and for the interim period between Park Street closing and the new facility being ready, the stadium shop at Kenilworth Road will be open on a daily basis from Monday 6th January.

Online shopping will be unaffected and shirt printing will only be available online during this period.

Any Park Street click and collect orders will be moved to the stadium shop.

Opening hours at Kenilworth Road will remain the same as Park Street:

Monday-Friday – 10am-4pm
Saturday – 9am-4pm
Sunday – Closed

We thank you for your understanding and support as the Club continues to progress within our local community. We will share more details in due course.

WELCOME
WELCOME
WELCOME



WELCOME

COVER

WATFLOOMFIELD





01582 453338
quinngroundworks.co.uk



HATTERS HERITAGE

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

BUD AHERNE. AN APPRECIATION.

The quiet, humble Irishman working as a welder at Vauxhall in the 1960s and 70s had an interesting past.

Not long before, Bud Aherne had been one of the finest full-backs on either side of the Irish Sea. He'd played for the old Belfast Celtic side in his younger days, and though 30 when he moved to England, had established himself in his adopted hometown as a First Division footballer. He was christened as Thomas, but everyone called him Bud.

If they did manage to get him talking about his playing days he might have revealed that he was particularly proud of keeping Stanley Matthews quiet when they faced each other. He may even have spoken about the remarkable game in August 1956 against Wolves, when the Hatters went toe-to-toe with one of the great sides of the era at Molineux and were unlucky to lose 5-4. Or how Charles Jeyes forked out £8,000 to sign him from Ireland, a notable sum for an older player. It proved money well spent.

Aherne was born in Limerick in 1919. A move north after leaving the army saw him join Belfast Celtic before a riot at Windsor Park in 1949 led to the closing of the club. It was then he received his call from Jeyes and made the move to Bedfordshire, becoming a regular in the side for the next six years and being part of the Hatters team that won promotion to the top-flight for the first time. He was a fast and mobile defender and known as one of the game's best volleyers.

He was 40 by the time Town reached the FA Cup

final but missed out due to injury. He was capped by both Northern and the Republic of Ireland during his time at Kenilworth Road and spent a short time on the coaching staff after retiring as a player.

In later life, Aherne was heavily involved with the St Joseph's club, who he helped become one of the top teams in the area, and he could often be found on the bowling greens or golf clubs of the town.

A packed St Joseph's church for his funeral in January 2000 attested to his popularity. It was attended by many Town

DID YOU KNOW?

Bud failed to score for Luton in his 288 games. Of outfield players, only fellow Irishman Seamus Dunne (326) played more times without scoring.

greats. Wally Shanks, a long-time teammate, said, "He was a very hard, 100 per cent-type of player. A nice guy and a real Irishman."

Will Foster

Bud leads out the Town side before an FA Cup tie at Manchester City in January 1953 ▼



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 Lillywhites.

42





1. Wally Shanks (in dark shirt) scores the only goal of the game in the Town's first ever visit to Deepdale in January 1950.
2. Billy Bingham, Luton's new marquee signing, raps in a shot against Preston at Kenilworth Road in September 1958. The eventual 4-1 win put the Town top of the Division One table for the first time ever.
3. Barry Butlin rises to head in a goal for the Hatters during the 4-2 home win over Preston during our promotion winning season of 1973/74.
4. Rowan Vine nets during the 2-0 victory at Kenilworth Road against North End in December 2006. The win ended a dismal run of seven straight defeats.



ON THIS DAY

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



In this rearranged FA Cup third round tie, both sides knew the prize for the victor would be a fourth-round trip to Premier League Newcastle.

Under the lights at Kenilworth Road, visitors Southend came out of the traps intent on earning a money-spinning visit to St James' Park.

The Shrimpers pulverised the Town defence in the first period and squandered three good chances.

Gary Jones ran onto a defence-splitting pass from John Hunt but shot wide of the post before Jason Lee's header dropped wide following Ricky Otto's cross.

However, it was a different story after the break and Paul Telfer showed the Essex outfit how to do it shortly after the break, when he hit a cross from Ceri Hughes on the run that flew into the top corner of the net on 51 minutes.

It was a goal worthy of winning any cup tie and Southend boss, Peter Taylor, had no excuses afterwards when asked how his side did not win.

The Hatters went on to earn a draw against Newcastle in the next round, winning the replay 2-0 on a night to remember at the Kenny.

David Pleat's side would then go on to reach the semi-final at Wembley, eventually losing to Chelsea.



Ceri Hughes plays a pass



David Preece attempts a shot

Preece keeps his eye on the ball



ALSO ON THIS DAY...

Matches involving the Hatters on this day began in 1908 with a goalless draw at Kenilworth Road against Plymouth... The Town saw off local rivals Watford here in 1930, winning 2-0... Our first top-flight success on this day came with a 3-0 win over Aston Villa in 1958. The Hatters would then beat Villa again 28 years later, with goals from Mike Newell and Brian Stein earning a 2-0 win... A Dwight Marshal goal earned the Town a win at Bath City in an FA Cup replay against Bristol Rovers in 1995... York City were thumped 5-0 in the Conference in 2011 (pictured below)... and our last game on this day was a goalless draw at Hinckley United in the FA Trophy.

45

Kerry Dixon awaits the corner



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.

Steve Howard makes a nuisance of himself to the Colchester defence



Following the defeat by bogey side Brentford in the FA Cup the Town could now concentrate on the League and regain the top spot in the table which they had given up two weeks before.

Before the home clash with bottom club Stockport, a report had been published highlighting the amount paid by Football League clubs to agents. Naturally, Luton manager Mike Newell, never backward in coming forward, vented his spleen on one of his favourite subjects.

"I just don't see the need for agents and I don't see how £5 million can be paid out by Football League clubs to them. If a player wants an agent he should pay for them himself, not the clubs.

"If we want to move house and use an estate agent then we pay for them ourselves so why can't it be the same for football agents?"

Back to the top-versus-bottom clash at Kenilworth Road, lowly Stockport had the first chance which was blasted wide by Rickie Lambert. The Town soon started to put pressure on County's defence with both Steve Howard and Chris Coyne going close before Steve Robinson's 28th-minute corner caused havoc with Curtis Davies and Kevin Nicholls seeing efforts cleared off the line

Chris Coyne rises highest against Colchester's former Hatter Gavin Johnson



leaving Coyne to smack in the second rebound.

Ahmet Brkovic crossed for Howard to poke home from close range nine minutes after the interval before Stockport skipper Jim Goodwin handled in the area leaving Nicholls to blast home from the spot and secure the three points that saw the Town regain top spot on goal difference.

What seemed on paper to be a comfortable victory was not echoed by Newell. "It was always going to be a tricky one because when you're playing the side that's bottom of the league, people expect you to just roll them over.

"We created plenty of chances and on another day it could have been six. But at the same

time they had chances too which I wasn't happy with."

Next up was a trip to Layer Road, Colchester to meet a side that had only won once at home since August and, after being early table-toppers, were now hovering just above the relegation zone.

That being said, Colchester had fully



Our deals are in a League of their own

Book an Advance fare
to Brighton from

£17.80*

Book your tickets now at:

thameslinkrailway.com →

*Terms and conditions apply. See website for details. Fare stated is based on our Weekend Super Off Peak Day Return ticket from Luton to Brighton

Proudly supporting Luton Town Football Club



ThamesLink/

2004/05 history

deserved their point at Luton over the Christmas period, so the Town were not looking at an easy ride. And so it proved as Colchester made things extremely difficult for a full-strength Hatters side.

There is no doubt that the Town were below par and Colchester raised their game but the team struggled to give 36-year-old Aiden Davison in the U's goal much to do all afternoon. It was fortunate that Colchester's best chances fell to their midfielders rather than their forwards but even then it took a couple of brilliant saves from Marlon Beresford to keep a clean sheet and retain a vital point.

"It was a difficult game and you have to give Colchester credit because they came at us and played some decent stuff at times," said Newell afterwards.

"I'm not too unhappy with the point because Marlon made an outstanding save at the death to keep us in it. It's not always going to be a win and the law of averages says you have to have a 0-0 draw at some stage and this is only our second of the season.

"Colchester have a threat up front and I'm surprised they've lost six games at home. I felt it was a good point against them last time and it's the same this time around."

Colchester boss Phil Parkinson said afterwards: "It was a very tight game and yet we created the best two or three chances. Their keeper saved well from Neil Danns and Kevin Watson but we couldn't quite get the breakthrough.

"I thought we won our individual battles out there. That's the second time we have proved ourselves to be better than Luton during the last month."



Kevin Nicholls nets from the spot against Stockport to make the three points safe

Steve Howard pokes in the Town's second goal against Stockport



DO YOU WORK AT HEIGHT?

- Friendly, professional advice at the end of the phone
- More cost effective than scaffolding and aluminium towers
- Safe and easy to use
- Next day delivery available
- Local company offering national coverage



0345 130 0000
hire@starplatforms.co.uk



Accreditations and Memberships



starplatforms.co.uk

TRAINING

SALES

HIRE



**1992-94
AWAY**

INSIDE A KIT COLLECTOR'S WARDROBE

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

Today we're featuring another shirt that divides opinion. Some say it is one of the best we've ever had, others argue that the design and colours are actually one of the worst!

Personally, I absolutely love this design and shirt. The template was used across two seasons between 1992 and 1994 seasons on both the home, away and super rare third shirt and was manufactured by DMF Sportswear. DMF took over from the iconic Umbro collaboration, so had big shoes to fill!

And boy, they did a great job with this shirt. We

are focusing on the blue away version used from the 1992/1993 season to the 1993/94 season. It's a lighter blue than we are used to for Luton Town shirts and features horizontal white stripes with an orange outline. This goes all the way across the body, and onto the sleeves. There is the same collar style as the home shirt, this time white and orange instead of navy and orange.

A popper keeps the collar together and also draws your eyes to the orange stripes going down either side of the collar itself. This is replicated on the back of

the shirt too. If you look closely, you can see the embossed DMF logo and the Luton Town badge woven into the fabric of the shirt.

Speaking of the fabric, this shirt is really thin and light to wear. The DMF logo and Luton Town badge (which doesn't even say "Luton Town Football Club" and just bares the Luton coat of arms part of the badge) are embroidered on, and the shirt also features the Universal Salvage Auctions sponsorship logo too. You could get the unsponsored version at the time, too.

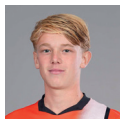
This shirt has so many details, you seem to find something new each time you look at it.

Over the course of the two seasons wearing this shirt, we had away wins at Brentford, Peterborough, Wolves, Notts County and Cardiff as we finished in 19th and 20th in the "New" Division One. We also reached the semi-final of the FA Cup in 1993/94.

Players such as Julian James, John Hartson, Mark Pembridge, Treavor Peake, Paul Telfer, Scott Oakes and the legendary David Preece all wore this beautiful shirt during its service for us!

ACADEMY SQUADS

U18s U21s



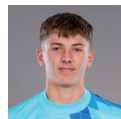
Archie Shepherd

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



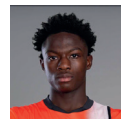
Benny Benagr

Martin Ely



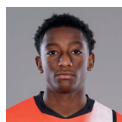
Charlie Booth

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



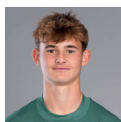
Christian Chigozie

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



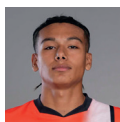
Kyron Roberts-Edema

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



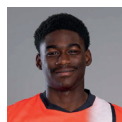
Lucas Thomas

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



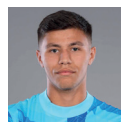
Samuel Hincapie-Alfonso

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



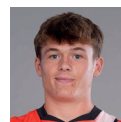
Jamie Odegah

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



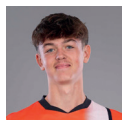
Cai Hockey

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



Charlie Emery

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



Dylan Stitt

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



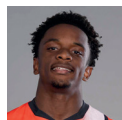
Isaiah Harvey

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



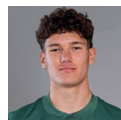
Jordan Iwhiwhu

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



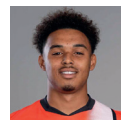
Matthew Takawira

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



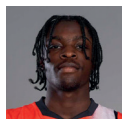
Oliver Pipa

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



Tate Xavier-Jones

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



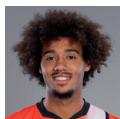
Enoch Sampson

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



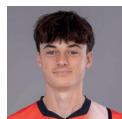
Lloyd Asamoah Jnr

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



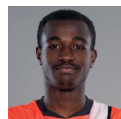
Aidan Francis-Clarke

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



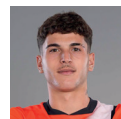
Axel Piesold

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



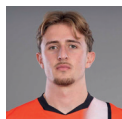
Claude Kayibanda

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



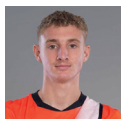
Dominic Dos Santos Martins

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



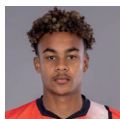
Jack Bateson

H Formby Hatters
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



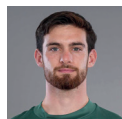
Jack Lorentzen-Jones

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



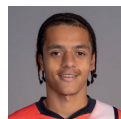
Jacob Pinnington

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



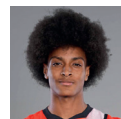
Jameson Horlick

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



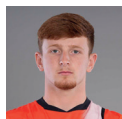
Jayden Lucker

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



Joshua Phillips

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



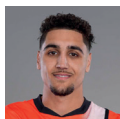
Oli Lynch

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



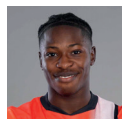
Sam Anderson

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



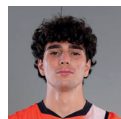
Taylan Harris

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



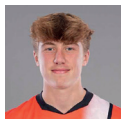
Tyrell Giwa

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



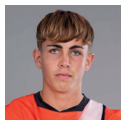
Vladimir Paternoster

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



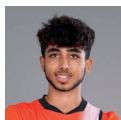
Harry Fox

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



Charlie Trustram

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



Zacharias Ioannides

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



Henry Blackledge

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE



Liam Coyne

H AVAILABLE
A AVAILABLE
T AVAILABLE

THE YOUTH OF TODAY

Hopes and dreams, favourite boots and small-sided games... we get the lowdown on our academy stars

Name... Oliver Pipa

Date of birth...
26/1/2007

Born... Colchester

Position...
Goalkeeper

Joined Luton Town... As an under-17

Previous clubs...
Stanway Villa
Reds, Colchester
United

Boots I'm wearing...
Nike Mercurials

Boots I'm cleaning... Thomas Kaminski's

Earliest Luton Town memory... Signing my scholarship

Coach who has had the biggest impact... Albert Bell – he's always there for me and provides great footballing knowledge

Football memory that makes me smile... Captaining the under-17s in my first season in cup against Swindon

Best moment of career so far... Playing in the final of the under-15 floodlit cup at Lincoln's ground

I would be a better player if... I had more accurate mid-range passes

Dream squad number... 1

Player I used to be in the playground...
Manuel Neuer

Teammate that can go all the way... Dylan Stitt

If I could with anyone it would be... Gheorghe Hagi

Favourite film... Taken

Favourite food...
Carbonara

Favourite training drill...
Small-sided games

Favourite school subject other than PE... Business

Hobbies outside of football... Going to spas and learning new business skills

Something you don't know about me... I was the only person in my family not to be born in Romania

I am... I'm a hard working goalkeeper who is great at shot stopping and claiming crosses who can also organise his defence to a high standard while being able to play out from the back. I have high standards and never like to drop these as my main goal is to make it to the top of the footballing pyramid. I'm resilient in all my work and strive to never give up no matter how hard the challenge is regardless whether it is on or off the pitch.





LTFC ACADEMY **ACADEMY UPDATE**

54

YOUTH **TEAM RISE** **TO THE TOP**

The Under-18s rose to the top of the Youth Alliance table after beginning 2025 with back-to-back wins in the past week.

Milton Keynes were seen off 5-1 at Ely Way last Friday in their first match in almost a month.

The game was only three minutes old when an unfortunate collision saw Matthew Takawira need treatment and the game was stopped for over half-an-hour.

When play resumed, the Town led in the ninth minute when Zach Ioannides' pass sent through Jamie Odegah on goal and the striker

outmuscled his marker to lift home a finish and make it 1-0.

The Hatters extended their lead by scoring twice in a minute. On 15 minutes a Harry Fox corner was headed back across goal by Enoch Sampson and Dylan Stitt was free to nod home from close range.

Immediately from kick-off it was 3-0 when Lloyd Asamoah crossed for Archie Shepherd to volley home brilliantly.

In control going into the second half, the visitors had a chance to pull a goal back from the penalty spot but Oliver Pipa – making his first appearance in two years after returning from injury – dived to his left to keep out the effort from 12 yards.

The save invigorated the Hatters and on 70 minutes it was four and Stitt scored his second when meeting Odegah's cross and lifted the ball past the Milton Keynes keeper.

And four minutes later it was 5-0 when Tate Xavier-Jones' cross was headed home by Odegah.

The visitors converted a penalty late on to score a consolation but the Town were excellent value for victory to earn three important points.

On Tuesday, Northampton were then beaten 2-0 as the Town won again.

The Hatters led in the seventh minute when Charlie Trustram fizzed in a cross for Shepherd to finish well.

As the Town dominated, Northampton began to get frustrated, picking up a number of first-half yellow cards.

And with 38 minutes on the clock, the Cobblers were reduced to 10 men when the left-back was shown a second yellow card for kicking the ball away.

Two minutes later the Town took advantage and Xavier-Jones doubled the lead with a fantastic low strike from 25 yards.

The Hatters showed their resilient side after the break as Northampton pushed for a way back into the game.

And the Town defence held firm and could have extended the lead only for two efforts to be cleared off the line by the Cobblers.

"I'm delighted with the victory and we were worthy winners against a physical Northampton side," said Deeney afterwards.

"It's been a good start to the year and I'm proud of their performance."

ACADEMY TRIO HEAD OUT ON LOAN

Oli Lynch, Aidan Francis-Clarke and Jacob Pinnington will continue their football experience out on loan for the remainder of the season.

Striker Lynch, 19 has joined Hemel Hempstead Town and scored twice on his debut in the Tudors' 4-1 win over Slough last weekend.

Young defensive duo Francis-Clarke and Pinnington have linked up with National League side Braintree Town.

Aidan, 20, will go out on loan for the first time this season after two spells with St Albans, helping the Saints to the National League South play-off final in 2023, and a period with Dagenham & Redbridge in the National League last season.

Full-back Jacob, also 20, was on loan with Solihull Moors earlier this season where he made nine appearances.

The pair made their debuts in the Irons' 2-2 draw against Aldershot in Tuesday.

Oli Lynch: scored twice on debut for Hemel



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	L 2-3
Sat 12th	Cambridge United Cup	W 3-0
Sat 19th	Northampton Town	P-P
Sat 26th	Bromley	L 1-2

NOVEMBER

Sat 9th	Gillingham	W 3-2
Sat 23rd	Mansfield Town PDLC	W 3-1
Sat 30th	Cambridge United	W 2-1

DECEMBER

Sat 7th	MK Dons Cup	W 6-1
Fri 13th	Crewe Alexandra FAYC	L 2-2*
Tue 17th	Sutton United	W 4-1
Sat 21st	Stevenage	P-P

JANUARY

Sat 11th	MK Dons	W 5-1
Tue 14th	Northampton Town	W 2-0
Sat 18th	Northampton Town	11am
Sat 25th	Gillingham	11am

FEBRUARY

Sat 1st	AFC Wimbledon	10:30am
Sat 8th	AFC Wimbledon	11am
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
---------	----------------	------

Home games listed in orange

*lost on penalties 4-3

CAPITAL SKY LTD.

**SUPPORTING THE
COMMUNITY OF
LUTON**

**Very proud supporters
of Luton Town FC**

Services we offer

About Capital Sky

Capital Sky is a company based in the Home Counties that cover the whole of the South East of England. We work with a variety of blue-chip clients and our outside-the-box thinking helps us cater to everyone's needs. We want to bring people along with us on the journey with our strong family values.

**Working closely with the community
supporting and promoting local
employment and apprenticeships.**

- Demolition and enabling works
- Tier 1 & Tier 2 main contractor
- Land Remediation
- Recycling & bulk excavation
- Transport and Haulage
- Groundworks and RC frames

**Recruiting in various areas of the
company for projects in our home
county and nationwide areas.**



Visit Our Website
www.capitalsky.uk
admin@capitalsky.uk

**Contractors of the Kenilworth Road
Luton Town FC development**



HE'S ONE OF OUR OWN!

RICHARD HARVEY

England schoolboy and youth international, Richard worked his way up through the ranks at Kenilworth Road before making his League debut as a 17-year-old in November 1986 in a 1-0 home win over Queens Park Rangers.

A strong, fast left-back or left-sided player with a powerful shot, Richard eventually became a regular member of the Hatters top-flight side.

While with the England Under-21s, he made appearances with the team in Rio de Janeiro's Maracanã stadium, Berlin's Olympic Stadium and at Wembley.

Richard then began to have appalling luck with injuries which left him missing the best part of three seasons before he fought his way back into contention with the Town now drifting down through the divisions.

Despite this, Harvey still went on to play 192 times, scoring five times in Luton colours before eventually leaving the Hatters to join Aylesbury in 1998, his last appearance coming in a 2-1 defeat at Wrexham in February that year.

He later became a postman in his home town of Letchworth.

APPEARANCES: 192

GOALS: 5

CAREER TIMELINE



COMMUNITY TRUST



58

EFL Utilita Girls Cup

A huge well done to Leighton Middle School, who represented Luton Town Football Club at EFL Utilita Girls Cup Area Final in Peterborough and played brilliantly throughout the day!

The EFL Utilita Girls Cup – alongside its sister competition – the EFL Utilita Kids Cup, are two of the country's biggest national football competitions for schools and children.

Since the very start of the Kids and Girls Cups (or the Community Cup as it was known back in 2004), the EFL estimates to have engaged over 350,000 schoolchildren.

In 2023/24, the Girls Cup competition saw almost 7,000 schoolchildren participate in competitive football.

From the local area rounds through to the

Grand Final ahead of the 2024 Bristol Street Motors Trophy Final, the Utilita Girls Cup is more than just a competition – it fosters boosts in confidence, engages girls to participate in team sport and encourages them to strive for the once-in a-lifetime opportunity to play on the hallowed turf of Wembley.

The rising popularity of the Women's Super League (WSL) and success of

the England Women's National Team ensures that young girls have visible role models for the next generation aspiring to emulate their heroes and dream of one day playing on the world stage.

At a pathways level, following the 2021/22 and 2022/23 seasons, there were 23 referrals in total to the FA England Women's Talent Pathway as a direct result of the Girls Cup.

February Half-Term Football Camps

With February half-term now just around the corner, we are fast approaching our first holiday camps of 2025.

Running throughout the week commencing 17th February 2025, the camps take place at a variety of venues in and around Luton and Dunstable. Our camps are open to anyone in school years 1 to 6, regardless of ability or previous experience of the game.

All our camps are run by professional coaches and provide opportunities for young people to learn new skills and develop their technique in a positive, fun, and safe environment.

The day starts with warm-up activities that specifically focus on individual SAQ (Speed, Agility, and Quickness) skills as well as ball mastery.

We then transition to individual and team games, encouraging participants to use their social skills to collaborate effectively with their teammates.

In the afternoon, all participants take part in football tournaments and matches, with the main emphasis on having fun rather than simply winning games.

To round off each day, we hold a mini awards ceremony to celebrate those who have displayed a positive attitude, shown determination, or excelled

in their performance. You never know who might drop in to say hello. Our camps have previously been visited by members of the first-team squad including Carlton Morris and Alfie Doughty.

Community Trust Football Development Manager, Alex Wallace, said: "We

take pride in the fact that our camps are open to all, whether you've been playing football for years or are just taking your first steps in the game. Everyone is welcome.

"We love fostering a sense of community where everyone feels supported by our

coaches and their peers, and we enjoy seeing new friendships develop."

To see a full list of our venues, please visit www.lutontowncommunity.co.uk. For further information, please contact us at community@lutontown.co.uk.

FEBRUARY FOOTBALL 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

WHAT TO BRING

FOOTBALL BOOTS/TRAINERS
SHIN PADS
WATERPROOF CLOTHING
SUNCREAM AND HAT
REFILLABLE BOTTLE
PACKED LUNCH

LUTONTOWNCOMMUNITY.CO.UK



COMMUNITY TRUST

RONNIE IS BACK AT THE KENNY!



Our Conference-winning captain Ronnie Henry is back at Kenilworth Road to join Paul Benson and Alex Lawless as part of the Hatters' Academy set-up.

Ronnie returns as Professional Development Phase Assistant Coach where, among his responsibilities, he will assist Under-21 lead coach Lawless and Joe Deeney with the Under-18s.

Henry, who made 87 appearances for the Town across two seasons, culminating in the record-breaking fifth-tier title triumph in 2013/14, is thrilled to be back on familiar territory.

The 40-year-old, who has previously been in charge of Stevenage's Under-18s, told lutontown.co.uk: "It's a pleasure to be back to work alongside some brilliant people that I have had great times with.

"When the opportunity came up I couldn't wait to get started. I have great memories from my playing days, so I'm hoping for more now in a coaching role where I'll bring experience and knowledge to the young players.

"Knowing the football club and being a previous captain helps, but I know it takes hard work, high standards and a desire and determination to succeed.

"But as well as aiming to help the players become better footballers, I'll be aiming to make them better human beings."

Academy manager Paul Benson said: "I'm really pleased to bring Ronnie back to the club as he will strengthen our coaching staff even further.

"He's another member of staff who understands what it takes to play for

this club. His knowledge and experience will be a massive asset to the players within the professional development phase.

"His character will fit in perfectly with the culture of the Academy and I'd like to welcome him back to the club he served so well as a player."

As well as welcoming Ronnie back to the

Kenny, we would like to also congratulate Craig Alcock who has been promoted to the position of Head of Coaching.

Alcock joined the Hatters in 2022, initially as U15/U16 Phase Lead Coach before stepping up to be PDP Assistant Coach last year. He replaces Dan Walder, who recently left the club to take up a new role at QPR.

"I KNOW IT TAKES HARD WORK, HIGH STANDARDS AND A DESIRE AND DETERMINATION TO SUCCEED"

61



KDW / financial planning

Our Financial Planners offer independent financial advice in Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and beyond. We deliver a simple approach to help you with every step of your financial journey, from mortgage advice to retirement planning.



Pensions Review, consolidate and maximise your pension, including utilising available allowances



Investments Finding out about your investment goals and working on an investment strategy with you to meet them



Tax Planning Guiding you through the complex area of tax planning to make sure you are making tax-efficient financial decisions



Mortgages First-time buyers, buy-to-let or simply re-mortgaging to get a better rate, we search the whole market to get the right product for you



Insurance Making sure you have the right insurance in place whether it be life, critical illness, health, income or mortgage protection - for future life events



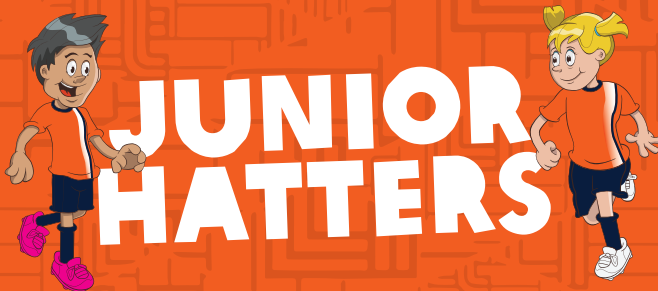
Equity Release Release a tax-free lump sum from the value of your home whilst continuing to live there, with a lifetime mortgage

t: 01727 85 22 99 e: mail@kdw.co.uk w: www.kdw.co.uk

KDW is a trading style of KD Wright Financial Services Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Registration No: 509886.

Registered Address: Centurion House, 136-142 London Road, St Albans, AL1 1PQ.

Past Performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of investments and the income from them can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the amount originally invested. Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage.



MY SCORE
PREDICTION



TODAY'S MASCOTS



**DARCEY
MOORE**

Age: 9

Hobbies: Football, Music

Favourite Player:
Thomas Kaminski



**HENRY
NORRIS**

Age: 8

Hobbies: Playing football,
watching football, talking
about Luton

Favourite Player: Jordan Clark



**RICHARD
DRELA**

Age: 12

Hobbies: Football

Favourite Player:
Elijah Adebayo

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.

- How many goals did Matt Bloomfield score for Wycombe?
- Against which club did Matt manage his first game when in charge of Colchester?
- In which year did Matt score against the Hatters for Wycombe at Kenilworth Road?
- Wycombe won promotion to the Championship beating Oxford in the play-off final – but who did they beat in the semi-final?
- Against which club did Wycombe play in Matt's testimonial in 2014?
- How many times have Preston won the English top-flight?
- Name the five clubs to have won all four English divisions.
- Preston beat Hyde in their biggest ever win in 1889 – what was the score?
- Mick Harford made his England debut against which nation?
- Which two Scottish clubs did Isaiah Jones spend time out on loan?

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 PITTS. Room for improvement but at least it's not minus 30.

ANSWERS: 1. 42. 2. AFC Wimbledon. 3. 2016. 4. Fleetwood. 5. Chelsea. 6. Twice. 7. Preston, Wolves, Burnley, Sheffield United and Portsmouth. 8. 26-0. 9. Israel. 10. St Johnstone and Queen of the South.

MUSCLESQUAD.COM

Fitness For All.

Based locally we are one of the leading fitness equipment companies in the UK. We expertly design a range of fitness equipment with a mission of making fitness accessible to everyone, all the time. If you're looking to workout from home, whatever the space, we have everything you need.

6% discount off all products using code **LUTON6**

From Dumbbells,
Cardio & Treadmills

To Weights, Rigs
& Squat Racks

Try before you buy
at our showroom

Gain expert advice & help
designing your dream space

Bespoke
quotes available

Our customers say **Excellent**



4.8 out of 5 Based on 5,900 reviews

 Trustpilot



LUTON TOWN LADIES

Derby day delight for Ladies

Luton Town Ladies travelled to Everett Rovers Football Club to take on Watford dev's on Sunday in their first game of 2025 and came away with a priceless 1-0 victory.

New signing Erin Price was named in the starting 11 for her debut, while Tsianne Leander also made her first appearance of the season, starting up top alongside Leyah Maddix, who started for the first time this campaign.

Leander made an instant impact just 90 seconds into the game when she produced a great turn away from a Watford defender but just as she was about to pull the trigger, her shot was well blocked.

Liz Mulvaney's strike from outside the area was the closest Luton came to an opener in the first 20 minutes but she prevented her shot from flying over the bar.

Just before half-time the Town came close to taking the lead when, in the second minute of additional time at the end of the first

half, Tanya Blacksley's header crashed against the crossbar.

The Hatters continued to press after the restart and, five minutes into the second half, they hit the woodwork again. Jess McKay was played through on goal via the right-hand side but her effort hit the outside of the near post.

However the Town were not to be denied shortly after the hour. Gabriella Spillman was introduced in the 63rd minute and instantly produced an incredible assist for

McKay to open the scoring. She picked up the ball outside the area and played an wonderful pass with the outside of her boot which opened the defence for McKay, who struck an excellent first-time finish past the Watford goalkeeper.

Spillman, who was lively when she came on, almost claimed a second assist of the afternoon. She picked up the ball on the right-hand side, sped past a Watford defender and picked out Tasha Fensome in the area who saw her shot well saved, onto the post.

That was the game's final chance as the Town held on to secure victory against their local rivals.

Town: Hudson, Wade, Blacksley, Farmer, Price, Mulvaney, Leighton, Swarres, McKay, Leander, Maddix.

Subs: Fensome, Lewis, Spillman, Partridge, Tucker.



AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE



KICKS OFF APRIL 2025





JUST THE TICKET

The latest from the Ticket Office

OXFORD UNITED v LUTON TOWN SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP TUESDAY 21ST JANUARY 2025, KO 7.45PM

Luton Town supporters have received a full allocation of 1,471 tickets for our fixture at Oxford United.

General Sale (With purchase history)

Subject to availability, tickets will go on sale on Thursday 16th January at 10am at one per person to any supporter with a previous purchasing history and any member without a previous booking history.

Prices

Adults £28
Seniors (Over 65) £21
Young Adult 18-24 £21
Students £21
Bluelight £21
Under 18s £16
Under 13s £12
Under 7s £8

Ambulant supporters will pay their age relevant price with a carer free of charge providing they are in receipt of Higher/Advanced PIP or DWP.

LUTON TOWN v MILLWALL SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP SATURDAY 25TH JANUARY 2025, KO 12.30PM

Please note the early kick-off time of this match

All sales phases are subject to availability and qualifying supporters can purchase one ticket per person unless stated. Available to book online (unique client reference number required), by phone or in person from the ticket office.

Tuesday 14th January 10am: General sale (with purchasing history) or Hatters Members (without a previous purchasing history before 1st October)

Prices (Cat B)

Adult £29
Senior (over 66) £25
Golden Senior (over 75) £21
Young Adult (under 22) £25
Under 19 £21
Under 17 £13
Under 14 £10

Further information

We recommend receiving your tickets digitally to enable you to print at home or send to any smartphone. Collection of tickets is available, but we advise you to collect in advance of the matchday if possible. If unable to do this, we strongly recommend you arrive early to avoid queues at the ticket office and at turnstiles.

We will offer postage of tickets ordered at this stage of the sales plan. Due to the time post appears to be taking currently in some areas, we recommend selecting digital tickets.

Buy backs

Season card holders are advised that if they are unable to attend this fixture, they should contact the ticket office via email up to 24 working hours prior to kick-off so their seat(s) can be released for other supporters to attend.

In return, we will arrange for a £15 voucher (£7.50 for Under 17) to be left for collection from the ticket office at the next home fixture. These vouchers can be used in either club shop or at LTFC catering units throughout the ground on a matchday. Vouchers will need to be used by the end of June 2025.

TRY A
JAMESON®
GINGER
& LIME



MUST BE A
JAMESON®
MATCHDAY

ENJOY RESPONSIBLY. be [drinkaware.co.uk](https://www.drinkaware.co.uk)



LET'S
GO



New manager Matt Bloomfield takes charge of his first away fixture for the Town when they make the short trip to Oxford United on Tuesday night.

Just 45 miles separate Kenilworth Road and the Kassam Stadium but in the Championship table the two clubs are four points apart, with the U's sitting in 17th place going into today's fixtures.

Like the Town, Oxford have a new man at the helm following the arrival of experienced manager Gary Rowett.

One win in 16 games led to the dismissal of Des Buckingham and since Rowett's appointment the Yellows are yet to taste defeat in five Championship games.

A 3-2 win over Cardiff kicked off the Rowett era with three points before wins over Plymouth and Millwall.

A 1-1 draw at Preston was followed by a defeat to Exeter in the FA Cup and this week saw their unbeaten league run continue with a point in a 1-1 draw at Plymouth on Tuesday.

Since their promotion from League One last season through the play-offs, United have relied heavily on their home form. The U's have lost just three times in 13 games so far this season ahead of today's clash with Blackburn.

The Hatters will be aiming to end a run of 11 successive away defeats when they visit the Kassam on Tuesday evening.

But the Town have a good record at the Oxfordshire venue, winning three of their five visits, including their last two.

In October 2018 a 98th-minute winner from Dan Potts earned the Hatters

a 2-1 Tuesday night win on their last trip to Oxford in League One.

Back in April 2016 two goals from Joe Pigott helped secure a 3-2 win for the Town over the Yellows in League Two.

Our only defeat at the Kassam came in 2009 when we met in the Conference (now National League). On a balmy September evening, a crowd of over 10,000 saw the U's run out 2-0 winners on a night that ended the Town's unbeaten start to the start and saw Kevin Nicholls sent-off.

You have to go back to 1993 for the last time the two clubs met in the second tier on Oxford soil – a solitary goal from Ceri Hughes gave the Hatters all three points at the Manor Ground.

ON THE ROAD

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



TAKE TIME TO THINK™

taketimetothink.co.uk



BeGambleAware.org[®]

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	18	2-2	11,397	1,322	Kaminski	Moses	Doughty	Burke	McGuinness	Mengi	Nakamba
🏆 SAT 5	SHEFFIELD UNITED	15:00	21	0-2	27,925	1,760	Kaminski	Doughty	Walters	Burke	McGuinness	Mengi	Nakamba
🏆 SAT 19	WATFORD	12:30	17	3-0	11,758	1,281	Kaminski	Moses	Doughty	Burke	McGuinness	Holmes	CLARK 1
🏆 WED 23	SUNDERLAND	19:45	19	1-2	11,332	1,252	Kaminski	Moses	Doughty	Hashioka	McGuinness	Holmes	Clark
🏆 SAT 26	COVENTRY CITY	12:30	22	2-3	26,409	1,737	Kaminski	Moses	Doughty	Hashioka	McGuinness	Holmes	Clark

NOVEMBER

🏆 FRI 1	WEST BROMWICH ALBION	20:00	21	1-1	11,665	1,343	Kaminski	Hashioka	Moses	Mengi	McGuinness	Bell	Clark
🏆 WED 6	CARDIFF CITY	20:00	19	1-0	10,646	1,035	Kaminski	Hashioka	Doughty	Mengi	McGuinness	Bell	Clark
🏆 SAT 9	MIDDLESBROUGH	12:30	21	1-5	23,692	675	Kaminski	Hashioka	Bell	Mengi	McGuinness	Holmes	Walsh
🏆 SAT 23	HULL CITY	15:00	16	1-0	11,386	1,049	Kaminski	Burke	Holmes	Mengi	McGUINNESS 1	Nakamba	Krauß
🏆 WED 27	LEEDS UNITED	19:45	16	0-3	35,340	1,087	Kaminski	Burke	Moses	Mengi	McGuinness	Bell	Nakamba
🏆 SAT 30	NORWICH CITY	15:00	19	2-4	26,719	1,888	Kaminski	Hashioka	Chong	Mengi	McGuinness	Bell	Clark

DECEMBER

🏆 SAT 7	SWANSEA CITY	15:00	18	1-1	11,264	1,295	Kaminski	Hashioka	Moses	Holmes	McGuinness	Bell	Nakamba
🏆 TUE 10	STOKE CITY	19:45	14	2-1	10,537	1,157	Kaminski	Chong	Moses	Holmes	McGuinness	Hashioka	Krauß
🏆 SAT 14	BLACKBURN ROVERS	15:00	19	0-2	13,857	705	Kaminski	Moses	Chong	Holmes	McGuinness	Hashioka	Krauß
🏆 FRI 20	DERBY COUNTY	20:00	14	2-1	11,667	1,335	Kaminski	Moses	Chong	HOLMES 1	McGuinness	Andersen	Krauß
🏆 THU 26	BRISTOL CITY	15:00	18	0-1	21,828	1,037	Kaminski	Moses	Chong	Holmes	McGuinness	Johnson	Krauß
🏆 SUN 29	SWANSEA CITY	15:00	19	1-2	16,414	770	Kaminski	Chong	Johnson	Holmes	McGuinness	Bell	Nakamba

JANUARY

🏆 WED 1	NORWICH CITY	15:00	20	0-1	11,828	1,338	Kaminski	Walters	Chong	Holmes	McGuinness	Bell	Krauß
🏆 MON 6	QUEENS PARK RANGERS	20:00	20	1-2	14,025	1,010	Kaminski	Walters	Bell	Holmes	McGUINNESS 1	Nakamba	Walsh
🏆 SAT 11	NOTTINGHAM FOREST (FA)	15:00	-	0-2	29,445	1,862	Kaminski	Walters	Bell	Holmes	McGuinness	Nakamba	Walsh

🏆 SAT 18	PRESTON NORTH END	15:00
TUE 21	OXFORD UNITED	19:45
SAT 25	MILLWALL	12:30

FEBRUARY

SAT 1	SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY	15:00
WED 12	SUNDERLAND	19:45
SAT 15	SHEFFIELD UNITED	15:00
SUN 23	WATFORD	12:00

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
-------	----------------------	-------

*QPR won 4-1 on penalties

THE NEW ERA BEGINS

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
CLARK 1	KRAUß 1	Brown	Adebayo	Mpanzu	Walters	Woodrow	Walsh		Shea, Holmes, Taylor, Nelson, Johnson
Clark	Krauß	Moses	Adebayo	Brown	Woodrow	Baptiste	Taylor	Nelson	Shea, Mpanzu, Holmes, Johnson
Krauß	Chong	MORRIS 1	Adebayo	Hashioka	Johnson	Nakamba	Mpanzu	BROWN 1	Krul, Nelson, Taylor, Woodrow
Krauß	Chong	Morris	ADEBAYO 1	Nelson	Brown	Woodrow	Taylor		Krul, Nakamba, Mpanzu, Johnson, Benagr
Krauß	Chong	MORRIS 1	ADEBAYO 1	Brown	Nakamba	Walsh	Woodrow		Krul, Mpanzu, Taylor, Nelson, Johnson
Krauß	CHONG 1	Morris	Adebayo	Baptiste	Brown	Walsh			Krul, Woodrow, Nakamba, Mpanzu, Taylor, Johnson
Krauß	Chong	Morris	BROWN 1	Adebayo	Baptiste	Nakamba			Krul, Holmes, Moses, Mpanzu, Walsh, Woodrow
Baptiste	Chong	Woodrow	Adebayo	Moses	Krauss	Morris	Nakamba	CLARK 1	Krul, Andersen, Brown, Mpanzu
Baptiste	Chong	Morris	Adebayo	Walsh	Hashioka	Brown	Mpanzu		Krul, Andersen, Moses, Taylor, Woodrow
Krauß	Clark	Morris	Brown	Hashioka	Taylor	Adebayo	Baptiste	Chong	Krul, Holmes, Mpanzu, Woodrow
Baptiste	BROWN 1	Morris	ADEBAYO 1	Moses	Woodrow	Taylor	Krauß	Holmes	Krul, Andersen, Mpanzu, Nakamba
Clark	Krauß	Morris	ADEBAYO 1	Brown	Andersen				Krul, Woodrow, Chong, Mpanzu, Taylor, Nelson, Johnson
Clark	Brown	MORRIS 1	ADEBAYO 1						Shea, Krul, Andersen, Woodrow, Nakamba, Mpanzu, Taylor, Nelson, Johnson
Clark	Brown	Morris	Adebayo	Walsh	Woodrow	Johnson	Taylor	Nelson	Krul, Andersen, Nakamba, Mpanzu
Clark	Brown	MORRIS 1	Adebayo	Nelson	Woodrow	Mpanzu	Taylor	Johnson	Krul, Nakamba, Pieters, Chigozie
Clark	Mpanzu	Morris	Adebayo	Woodrow	Nelson	Taylor	Phillips		Krul, Andersen, Nakamba, Pieters, Hashioka
Clark	Krauß	MORRIS 1	Adebayo	Nelson	Walters	Mpanzu			Krul, Moses, Woodrow, Pieters, Taylor, Hashioka
Clark	Nelson	Morris	Adebayo	Nakamba	Brown	Moses	Woodrow	Taylor	Krul, Andersen, Mpanzu, Hashioka
Nelson	Chong	Fanne	Morris	Adebayo	Brown	Woodrow	Clark	Hashioka	Krul, Andersen, Krauß, Mpanzu
Nelson	Jones	Fanne	Morris	Clark	Brown	Adebayo			Krul, Andersen, Krauß, Woodrow, Mpanzu, Hashioka



LAST WORD WITH



SIMON OXLEY

BBC THREE COUNTIES RADIO

It wasn't supposed to end as it did, but invariably in football it always does. Very few times does a manager depart amid flags and fanfares. They either get fired or snapped up by someone else. In the case of Rob Edwards it was mutual consent... a mutual feeling that despite best efforts, and more time than would normally be afforded, it isn't working. But given the magnitude of what was achieved, the word "sacking" won't cross our lips.

Writing this in the aftermath of an FA Cup third round weekend which, despite Tamworth's best efforts, largely waved the white flag to the Premier League, it would be hard to disagree with the notion that there's no sentiment in football. But affording someone

such dignity in departure showed sentiment and sensitivity which the decision demanded. Because this was different.

I haven't cried over a football match since Leeds United lost the 1975 European Cup Final a month after my ninth birthday. But I did at Wembley in May 2023 – both for personal and professional reasons. And it wasn't just myself and my colleague Justin Dealey being overcome by the moment. Our emotions resonated with so many of you because you were doing the same either at Wembley or listening or watching at home. Others felt the emotion two days later in St George's Square; or at Brighton on the opening day; or the first win at Everton; or when Tahith Chong scored against Liverpool; or the win

over Newcastle seven days after Tom Lockyer's collapse; or maybe much later at West Ham.

This season's disappointments had clouded those memories but having been reminded of them once again in a highlights package played out on 3CR following Rob's departure, I remarked to a colleague that those moments were exactly why it was such a difficult decision to make. We weren't changing energy supplier or deciding to try a different brand of tea. We were cutting ties with perhaps the greatest occasion this club will ever see.

Some of you probably think it should have happened post-Middlesbrough. Others might think it still shouldn't have

happened, and Rob should still be here. In the weeks after that interview on Teesside I have recalled many times the timing of the decision to part company with John Still maintaining his standing at the club after gaining promotion back into the Football League. The same had to happen with Rob, so he can take his place with John in a parade of former managers when we say goodbye to this place, or kick-off at Power Court... or both.

But now we move on with a new manager in charge today. Matt Bloomfield had already impressed my BBC colleagues with his calm authority at Wycombe, and his comments this week seem to have gone down well with all of you.

Time to board the next rollercoaster.

"IN THE WEEKS AFTER THAT INTERVIEW ON TEESSIDE I HAVE RECALLED MANY TIMES THE TIMING OF THE DECISION TO PART COMPANY WITH JOHN STILL MAINTAINING HIS STANDING AT THE CLUB."



FANTASY EFL IS HERE!

**Sign up and play - download
the app today!**

fantasy.efl.com



MANAGER

Matt BLOOMFIELD

MANAGER

Paul HECKINGBOTTOM

James SHEA	1	1	Freddie WOODMAN
Reuell WALTERS	2	4	Ben WHITEMAN
Amari'i BELL	3	5	Jack WHATMOUGH
Tom LOCKYER	4	6	Liam LINDSAY
Mads ANDERSEN	5	7	Will KEANE
Mark McGUINNESS	6	8	Ali McCANN
Victor MOSES	7	9	Emil Riis JAKOBSEN
Tom KRAUß	8	10	Mads FRØKJÆR-JENSEN
Carlton MORRIS	9	11	Robbie BRADY
Cauley WOODROW	10	12	Ched EVANS
Elijah ADEBAYO	11	13	David CORNELL
Marvelous NAKAMBA	13	14	Jordan STOREY
Tahith CHONG	14	16	Andrew HUGHES
Teden MENGI	15	18	Ryan LEDSON
Reece BURKE	16	19	Lewis GIBSON
Pelly Ruddock MPANZU	17	20	Sam GREENWOOD
Jordan CLARK	18	21	James PRADIC
Jacob BROWN	19	22	Stefán Teitur ÞÓRÐARSON
Liam WALSH	20	24	Felipe RODRIGUEZ-GENTILE
Erik PIETERS	21	25	Duane HOLMES
Lamine FANNE	22	26	Patrick BAUER
Tim KRUL	23	28	Milutin OSMAJIĆ
Thomas KAMINSKI	24	29	Kaine KESLER-HAYDEN
Isaiah JONES	25	30	Kian TAYLOR
Shandon BAPTISTE	26	31	Theo MAWENE
Daiki HASHIOKA	27	33	Kian BEST
Christ MAKOSSO	28	34	Kitt NELSON
Tom HOLMES	29	40	Josh BOWLER
Zack NELSON	37	44	Brad POTTS
Joe JOHNSON	38		
Aidan FRANCIS-CLARKE	39		
Christian CHIGOZIE	40		
Benny BENAGR	41		
Alfie DOUGHTY	45		

OFFICIALS

Referee: Tim Robinson

Assistant Referee: Scott Ledger

Assistant Referee: Steven Meredith

Fourth Official: Thomas Kirk