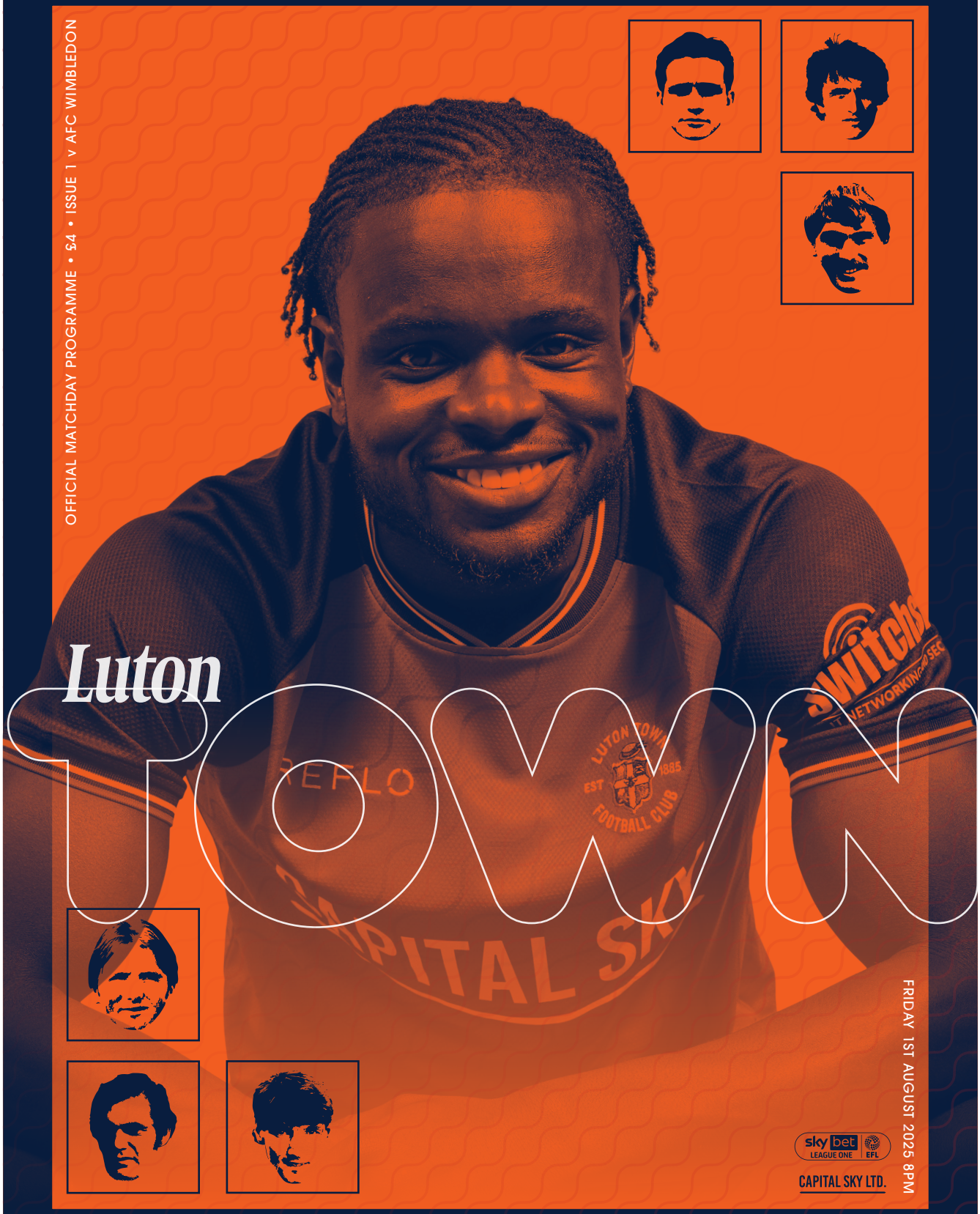
OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME • £4 • ISSUE 1 v AFC WIMBLEDON



Luton TOWN

FRIDAY 1ST AUGUST 2025 8PM

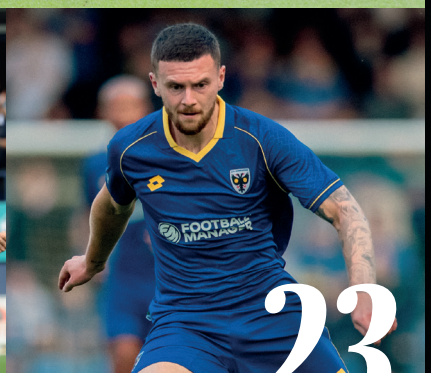
sky bet LEAGUE ONE | EFL

CAPITAL SKY LTD.

S1 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 1 30/07/2025 11:53







COVER CHARACTERS













Mick Harford – Who else? Littlewoods Cup winner and a Luton legend in every sense, the striker ended his career with Wimbledon in 1998.

Luton career 217 games, 92 goals.

Clive Goodyear – Played for the Hatters between 1979 and 1984 and after a spell at Plymouth joined Wimbledon, winning the FA Cup in 1988. Later became our physio.

Luton career 99 games, four goals.

Ceri Hughes – Welsh midfielder who came through the Hatters academy, making his debut in the top-flight. Joined Wimbledon in 1997 and ended his career with Portsmouth.

Luton career 205 games, 20 goals.

John Hartson – Another Welshman who came through the ranks, the teenager moved to Arsenal for £2.5m in 1995 and had a spell at Wimbledon between 1999 and 2001.

Luton career 63 games, 13 goals.

Raddy Antic – The scorer of our famous goal at Manchester City which secured top-flight survival in 1983. Ended his career at the Kenny and went on to become a top manager in Spain.

Luton career 108 games, 10 goals.

Graham French – Known as the 'Poor man's George Best' the mercurial winger is credited with scoring one of the best goals at Kenilworth Road against Mansfield in 1968.

Luton career 202 games, 23 goals.

S1 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 2 30/07/2025 11:53



CONTENTS

4 Matt Bloomfield
6 From the boardroom
10 Kal Naismith 14 Pre-season
23 Welcome AFC Wimbledon
27 Meet the new guys
36 Luton Town Supporters' Trust
41 Hatters History
48 From the Academy
64 Fixtures and results

the PROGRAMME

MADE IN LUTON
Print Bartham Press
Editor Andrew Barringer
Design Darren Gillick
Photography George Dunn, Dave Horn
Additional photos Shutterstock and Duncan Jack
Statistics Simon Pitts
Contributors Roger Wash, Dec O'Reilly, Zac Neal, Bradley Dixon, David Foxen, Mike Simmonds, Owen Williams, Will Foster and the Luton Town Supporters' Trust
With thanks to the media department at AFC Wimbledon
The views in this programme are not necessarily those of Luton Town Football Club

Welcome

Welcome back to Kenilworth Road for another season – one in which we celebrate 140 years following our formation back in April 1885.

It's fair to say it's been a rollercoaster existence ever since, with our rises and falls ups and downs through the divisions well-documented. Joy and pain pretty much in equal measure. Life is certainly never dull being a Hatter.

As ever, it has been a busy pre-season and, as we went to press ahead of tonight's game with AFC Wimbledon, we welcomed eight new faces into the squad and said our goodbyes to many long-standing ones.

You can read about our new recruits elsewhere inside tonight's new-look programme, as well as columns from the boardroom, the manager and captain and all your usual favourites.

It promises to be an exciting season in our anniversary year, so let's all get behind the players and staff as we attack League One head-on!

Come on Luton!

S1 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 3 31/07/2025 09:45

THE BOSS

Matt BLOOMFIELD

Good evening and welcome back to Kenilworth Road as we start the new season under the lights against AFC Wimbledon.

I'd like to welcome those associated with our visitors, including manager Johnnie Jackson, who worked wonders last season to get the Dons back into the third tier. They will come here full of confidence and no fear which will make them a tough nut to crack.

As for ourselves, we come into this curtain raiser buoyed by a good pre-season. Results have been encouraging but for me the most important part was seeing just how much hard work, effort and determination there has been from the players.

Since last season ended there have been plenty of changes and we have recruited eight new faces and characters. As with any new group, it takes time and, importantly, patience for style and philosophy to evolve. However, I cannot be more impressed with the lads' application and attitude during what has been a rigorous month.

I have also enjoyed seeing the lads knit together on and off the pitch. Pre-season is always a crucial time for the squad to get to know each other in terms of play and personality, and I am incredibly happy with what I saw. Our trip to Slovenia played a huge role in developing this, and I am sure this will stand us in good stead throughout the coming months.

All that work is over and tonight signals the start of the 'real' work. I'm really excited about the challenge we will face over the next 46 games and can't wait for us to attack them head-on with enthusiasm and energy.

I have spent many seasons in League One and, from my experience, our biggest danger is to underestimate anyone in this division. Having come down from the Championship we will be one of the clubs who will have a target on our backs. We're all aware and the lads are prepared for what to expect.

It won't all be plain sailing – and that's when we'll need your support. Since I walked into the building your loyal backing has been tremendous and we will need your ferocious support every step of the way over the next 10 months.

The atmosphere you generate, especially at Kenilworth Road, definitely played a role in lifting the lads at points last season – you only need to look at some of the results here to see that. Kenilworth Road can be an intimidating place, and not only do we want that level of fear on the pitch we need you to bring the noise off it.

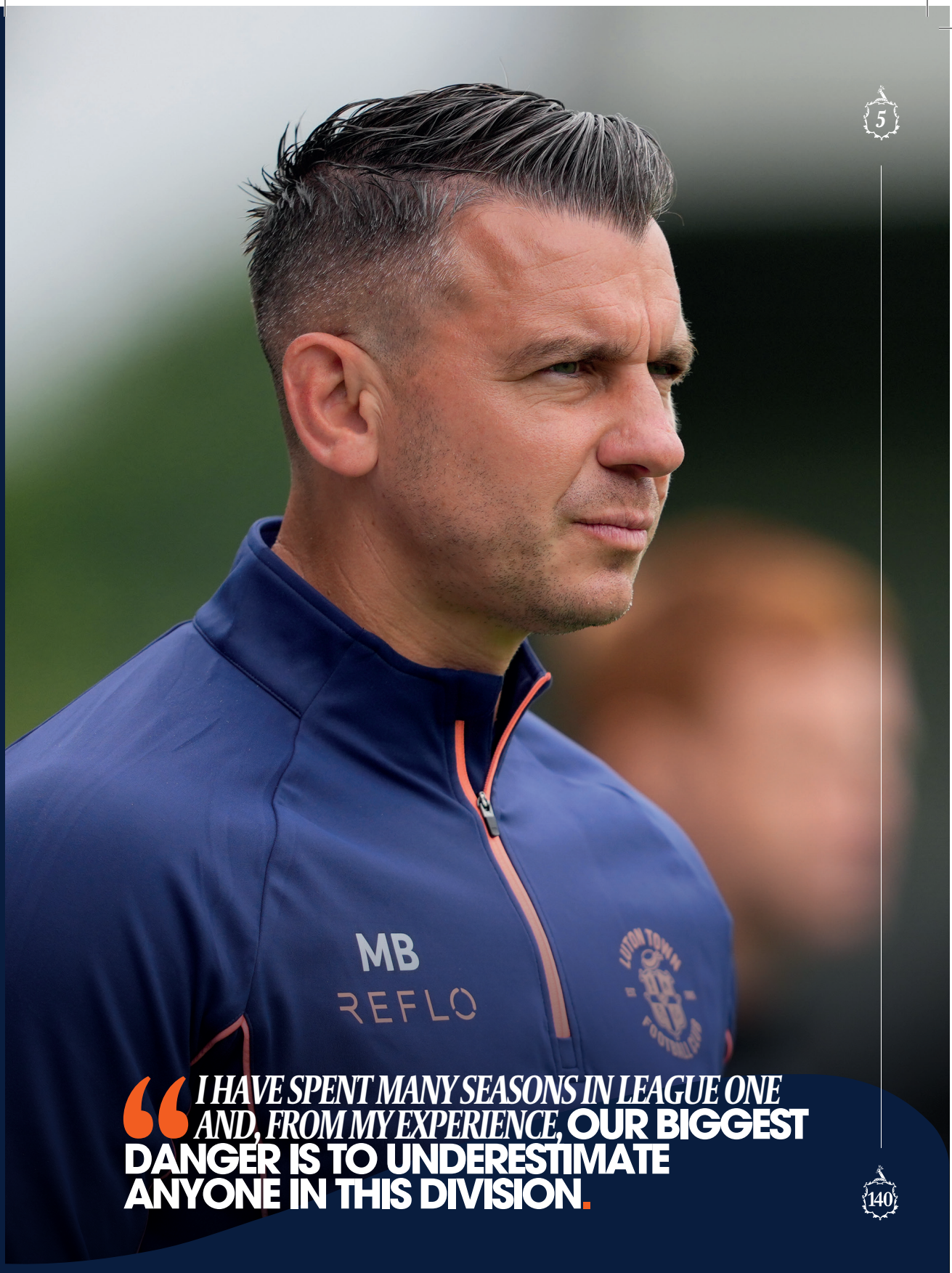
A big thank you to everyone who came to watch the friendly with Tottenham. It was a different test to what we experienced in our previous friendlies, but what impressed me most was the level of maturity running through the team. This summer has seen us bring some real leaders to the group and for me that has shone through all summer. Their know-how is going to be essential throughout the campaign.

So that's pre-season done and the talking over. It's now time to attack this season with positive energy.

Please get behind the lads and enjoy the game.



S1 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 4 31/07/2025 09:45



"I HAVE SPENT MANY SEASONS IN LEAGUE ONE AND, FROM MY EXPERIENCE, **OUR BIGGEST DANGER IS TO UNDERESTIMATE ANYONE IN THIS DIVISION.**

S1 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 5 31/07/2025 09:45

BOARDROOM

David WILKINSON



Good evening everyone and welcome to Kenilworth Road for the first League One game of the week and of the 2025/26 season.

The last time we played at this level we only stayed one season on our way to the Championship in 2018/19. However, I can remember many years witnessing us play in what was then called the Third Division. There were some great days in the 1960s watching legends such as Graham French, Bruce Rioch, John O'Rourke and David Pleat. Therefore, I keep telling myself that the Championship and Premier League do not have a monopoly of good football, and this division, as it was then, is a good base to build from.

So we find ourselves back at this level aiming to bounce back to the Championship after last season's relegation. When I wrote the review of the last campaign I expressed the massive disappointment with the outcome, but said we as a Board would review, regroup and rebuild, and that's what we have done over the course of the summer.

We are not frightened by relegation. In fact it provides a timely opportunity to restructure and re-nurture that definitive culture that so importantly shaped the foundation of our recent rise, which may not be available to us otherwise.

What has been fundamental to this is that our hand isn't forced in this restructuring, and that decisions made are done so within our control and with the collective support of all involved. Decisions on whether to retain players or not are largely influenced by their desire to take accountability and help us regain Championship status – but given that every player's earnings will be adjusted contractually according to which division we are in, it's inevitable we have a few who feel they will want to move on for greater rewards elsewhere in the short-term.

We promised to reshape the squad and we are happy with the way it has evolved since the end of last season. We have said our goodbyes to 13 players and welcomed eight new faces, all of whom will not just give us quality, but will add personality and character to the dressing room. We hope that by the time you read this we may have more positive news for you.

Pre-season has been extremely encouraging. Against varying types of opposition, we have gone undefeated, scoring goals and keeping clean sheets. The football feels more positive and structured, but it's unreasonable to expect it to be exactly the way Matt wants it for a window or two, but to me the early signs look positive.

Of course we are always sad to see our heroes leave. They are part of our family. How could we not miss Pelly? Carlton? Alfie? However, we thank them for their service and wish them well in the knowledge they will always be welcome here or at Power Court.

One thing to explain about transfer business and squad budgeting in League One, is that the EFL has implemented a SCMP (Salary Cost Management System), meaning every club is limited to spending a fixed percentage of its turnover. Bearing in mind that fees, salaries and bonuses are all included, we still must be prudent, especially as we will not have a parachute payment next season. Of course, we appreciate many would love us to spend big on transfer

S1 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 6 31/07/2025 14:09

fees but the cost of a player isn't just about a fee – and we have been very ambitious so far considering the pedigree of player we have recruited.

It is also worth noting that there will be significant deductions from the initial fee, including sell-on percentages to previous clubs, agency fees and the obligatory EFL levy, while the remainder will generally be repaid to us over the period of a player's contract, so long-term financial planning based on certainty is paramount.

As a Board we are always aware of the complications, and are supportive of the process. It is hugely competitive, particularly as we are playing against clubs who have the financial and status advantage of the Championship and we never comment on rumour or speculation. Confidentiality is not just professional behaviour, but it certainly helps in the recruitment process.

During the course of the close-season, we have been actively engaging with both the Supporters' Trust and Loyal Luton Supporters' Club, who have visited our offices and were given the opportunity to question the Board and management on the failings of last season.

The Supporters' Trust are shareholders. They are invited to examine and question the accounts shortly after they are published and we hold regular meetings with members of the committee. They had a major input into the design of our new kit, with the right of veto, and we recently invited the committee to visit The Brache to see the improvements that are being made, as we do every summer.

Meanwhile, the future off the pitch is taking shape in many ways, whether that is at Kenilworth Road, The Brache or Power Court.

The off-season, as you would expect, has been busy, and in other areas of the business we have been particularly active.

Not only have there have been several additions of senior staff to crucial departments but also a raft of new partners who have signed on to be a part of this season's journey. I would like to sincerely thank them for their phenomenal financial and commercial support. >>

> *"WE PROMISED TO RESHAPE THE SQUAD AND* **WE ARE HAPPY WITH THE WAY IT HAS EVOLVED** *SINCE THE END OF LAST SEASON.*



Four of our summer signings in discussions during last week's friendly against Tottenham

S1 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 7 31/07/2025 14:09



PROUD PRINCIPAL PARTNER OF

LUTON TOWN FC

AT CAPITAL SKY WE RUN OUR COMPANY LIKE A FAMILY, WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE COMMUNITY SUPPORTING AND PROMOTING LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND APPRENTICESHIPS. OUR CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION PROJECTS ARE CARRIED OUT ALL OVER THE UK, BUT WE ARE PROUD TO CALL LUTON OUR HOME.

CAPITAL SKY LTD.

SCAN ME

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.CAPITALSKY.UK
CONTACT:
ADMIN@CAPITALSKY.UK

CS

>> Your support in the stands also continues to astound us, with season card numbers pointing towards a real enthusiasm for the season ahead.

We have delivered on ensuring kit is available in the club shop ahead of tonight's game and were delighted to announce a series of forward-thinking changes to our membership offering.

All of the projects and business that we conduct, especially Power Court, has been helped with funds generated following our promotion to the Premier League. The vibrant environment and top-level facilities at The Brache are a major draw for incoming players and has been a big reason why Championship level players have wanted to join.

On the subject of Power Court, the project remains on schedule to be fully operational for the start of the 2028/29 season. As you would expect, it hasn't always been plain sailing – particularly when having to rely upon third parties – but it all bodes well as I write these notes. We will communicate further updates in due course.

Finally, thank you. We know last year was a tough watch. It was for us too. We on the Board are, and always will be, Luton fans like you. The Board have made massive sacrifices because of their love for this Club and are all united in our collective desire that we can become a successful, self-sustainable, community-based football club long after we are all gone.



Thank you for your continued loyal support

We have seen changes on the Board in the last year and we thank both Mike Herrick and Stephen Browne for their input and support over the years and welcome Glyn Taylor, an important addition, as our corporate lawyer.

Turning attention back to the pitch, our visitors tonight are our friends from AFC Wimbledon, who were promoted from League Two last year, for which we congratulate them heartily.

The season will be sure to test us in many ways but, from what we have witnessed in pre-season, the mood in the camp is buoyant and confident and I am really looking forward to seeing the way Matt moulds what looks like a talented squad into playing in his positive style.

Thank you again for your magnificent support and join me in getting behind the team this evening and for the rest of the season.

"The secret of change is to focus all your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new."
– Socrates

Enjoy the game.

COYH

David

CLUB HONOURS

LEAGUE CUP
Winners 1988, Runners-up 1989

FA CUP
Runners-up 1959

FOOTBALL LEAGUE TROPHY
Winners 2008/09

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

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

FOURTH DIVISION/LEAGUE TWO
Champions 1967/68
Runners-up 2001/02, 2017/18

CONFERENCE PREMIER
Champions 2013/14

CLUB DIRECTORY

DIRECTORS & SHAREHOLDERS

Chairman: David Wilkinson
Chief Executive Officer: Gary Sweet
Directors: Paul Ballantyne, Glyn Taylor, Bob Curson, Rob Stringer CBE
Shareholders: Kailesh Karavadra, Stephen Browne, 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
Club Ambassador & Senior Scout: Mick Harford
Head of Recruitment Analysis: Jay Socik
Player Recruitment Manager: Yousuf Sajjad
Chief Scout: Marc Tracy

CLUB OPERATIONS

Chief Revenue Officer: Ben Kensell
Chief Finance Officer: Tom Schofield
Operations Director: James Mooney
Human Resources Director: Jenn Smith
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

S1 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 9 31/07/2025 14:09

THE CAPTAIN

Kal NAISMITH

Good evening and, on behalf of myself and the rest of the team, a massive welcome back to you all to Kenilworth Road for the opening night of the season.

First of all, it gives me great pleasure to write these programme notes, my first as captain. Everybody knows how special this place is to me, and, as I've said before, it's more than just a club where I'm employed to play football – the relationships I have been fortunate to forge with everyone here mean the world to me.

It will be a special moment to lead the lads out tonight but having the armband naturally also comes with great responsibility, and I am well aware that I have big shoes to fill, following in the footsteps of some unbelievable leaders. It is a responsibility that I will take incredibly seriously, and I'll be making sure I put every single person attached to this club before myself.

Let me tell you that we have a great dressing room. As a captain, that is incredibly helpful. The lads we have added to the squad over the summer have integrated really quickly, which is not only exciting but also bodes well for the challenges that lie in wait.

And so the journey begins tonight as we host newly-promoted AFC Wimbledon at what will be a packed Kenny. It's the first game of the EFL season and it's live on the box, too. It certainly adds to that new-season-excitement – and we can't wait.

What's important for us is that for the next 10 months and 46 games of football, we stick together no matter what. Just like the history of Luton Town, a season is a rollercoaster and that's why we need your support from minute one starting tonight.

This club has always bounced back and together we are stronger – and we will need that this season. One of the driving forces behind any successful team is the support it receives from its fans in the stands. That's where you have always been, sticking by the team no matter what.

There is absolutely no doubt that we will need you at times this season. In all sorts of circumstances. Whether that be a goal down with a minute left or hanging on to a lead in the dying moments. Your backing is vital, and we need you every step of the way on this journey which begins at eight o'clock tonight.

We are all hoping for a special season and I'm excited for us to get out there and show you what we've been working on during pre-season. It has been a hugely positive past month and I am looking forward to showing you the kind of feeling we've felt as a squad. It is of a team that will fight for the badge and show passion and energy. One that we hope will make you proud to be a Luton fan.

It will be a journey and this is just the beginning. There will be highs. There will be lows. But, through it all, we've got to stand together side-by-side.

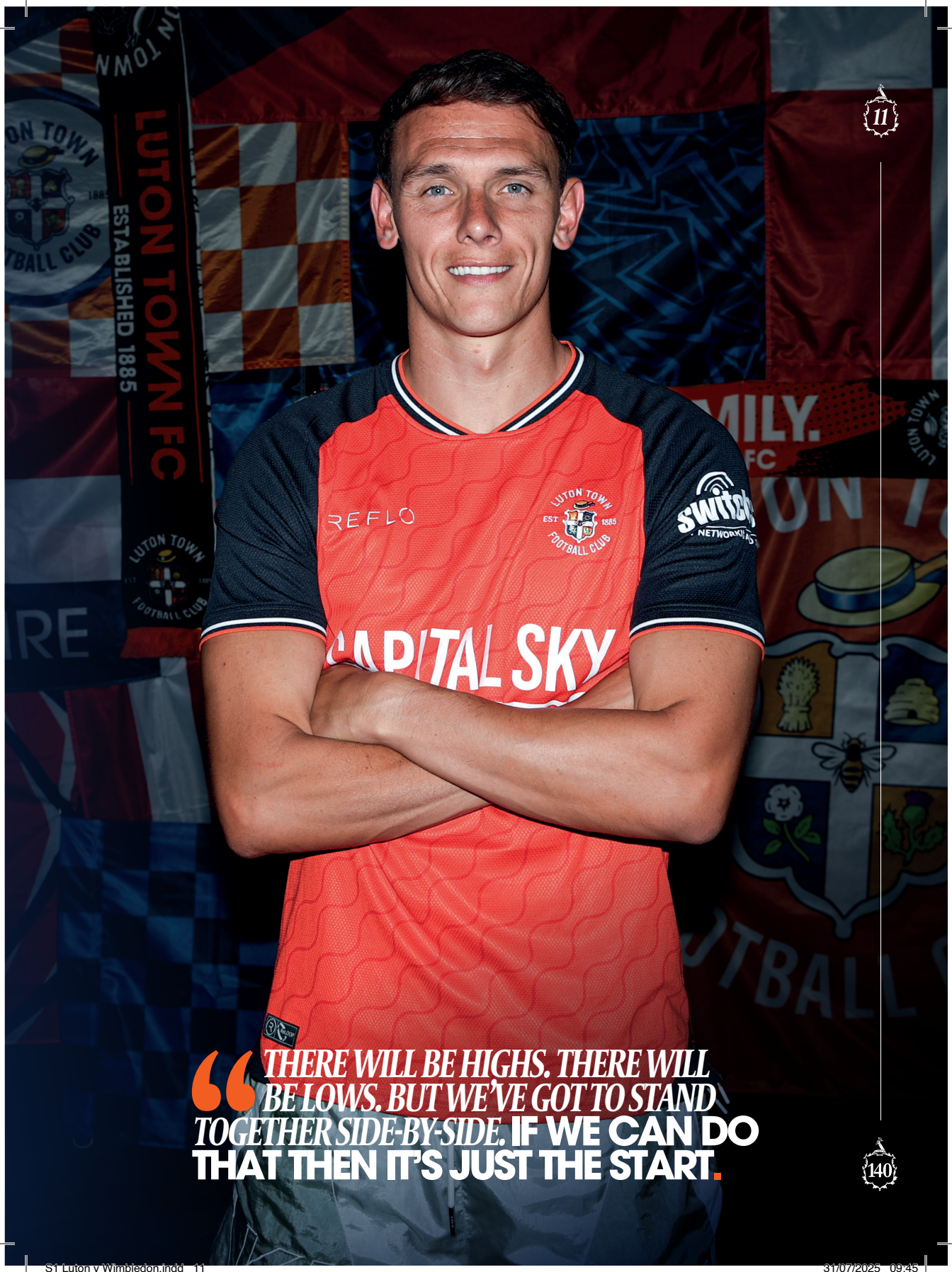
As you always do, get behind us and sing loud. Your support can and does make the difference. I know first-hand the noise this old place can generate when the team are flying, so sing your hearts out tonight – and for the rest of the season.

Let's do this together.

Enjoy the game.



S1 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 10 31/07/2025 09:45



"THERE WILL BE HIGHS. THERE WILL BE LOWS. BUT WE'VE GOT TO STAND TOGETHER SIDE-BY-SIDE. **IF WE CAN DO THAT THEN IT'S JUST THE START.**

S1 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 11 31/07/2025 09:45


REFLO
LUTON TOWN
EST 1885
FOOTBALL CLUB
Home Kit
NOW AVAILABLE
AT THE
CLUB SHOP
VISIT
REFLO.COM

THE HATTERS HERALD

140TH SEASON LIMITED EDITION

LUTON TOWN V AFC WIMBLEDON

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS!

Jacob Brown and Elly Wade were crowned our PFA Community Champions by pupils and staff at Tithe Farm Primary School in Houghton Regis over the summer.

The pair were nominated for the awards by the Luton Town Community Trust for the work they have done in the local community – often going above and beyond to assist in the Trust's projects and events in the past year.

Brown was selected for his brilliant support of the Trust's anti-discrimination work in local schools, while Wade, who left the Hatters Ladies in the summer, was put forward due to her outstanding work in the community to inspire more women and girls involved with football.

Congratulations to you both!



STADIUM TOURS

Come and see backstage at Kenilworth Road before it's too late!

Would you like to have a comprehensive tour of the stadium conducted by knowledgeable guides from Hatters' Heritage?

The popular tour allows fans to see the changing rooms, the Oak Road entrances, our trophies and so much more around our much-loved home.

Bookings are now being taken up until October so, with the new season now upon us, book now at lutontown.co.uk before the dates fill up.



BEN'S BACK

We are delighted to welcome Ben Strevens back to Luton Town as Head of Academy Coaching after two years away from The Brache.

Ben previously coached in the academy during the 2022/23 season before leaving to take over as manager of National League side Dagenham & Redbridge.

The 45-year-old returns as a replacement for the departing Craig Alcock, who has left his role after three-and-a-half years to take up a new post with an EFL club closer to his home.

Speaking about his role overseeing all academy coaches from foundation phase up to the Under-21s, Ben said: "I'm delighted to be back. It's something I'm really looking forward to. The academy has been on an upward trajectory in recent years and hopefully I can add some impact following on the great work that Craig has done in the role."

S1 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 13 31/07/2025 09:45

2025/26

pre-season

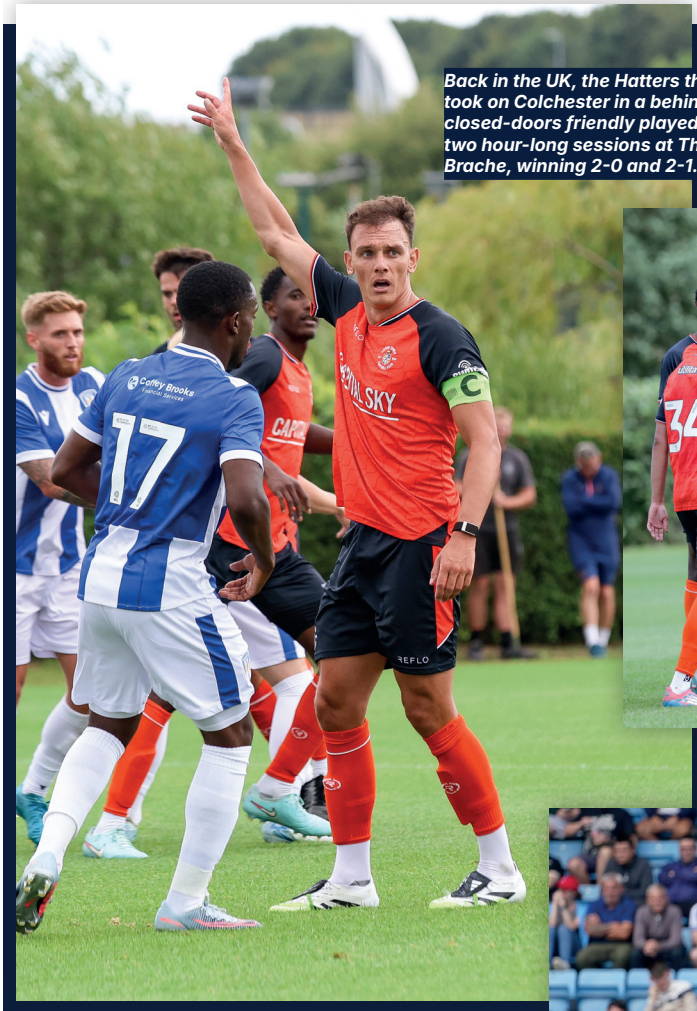
The Hatters got off to a winning start in pre-season with a 3-0 victory at Boreham Wood with Cauley Woodrow and Lamine Fanne, with two, on target....





It was off to Slovenia next for the Town and, at the end of their training camp, ran out 8-1 winners against NK Trivlag Kranj...

S1 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 14 31/07/2025 09:45



Back in the UK, the Hatters then took on Colchester in a behind-closed-doors friendly played in two hour-long sessions at The Brache, winning 2-0 and 2-1...







It was then to Kent for a friendly against Gillingham where a first-half brace from Jordan Clark and a second-half penalty save from James Shea earned a 2-0 victory...

S1 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 15 31/07/2025 09:45

2025/26

pre-season



Three days later, the Hatters made it back-to-back 2-0 wins with a hard-fought triumph at Southend thanks to goals from Cauley Woodrow and Lasse Nordås...



S1 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 16 31/07/2025 09:45



The friendly action then came to a close last weekend with a goalless draw against a strong Tottenham side at Kenilworth Road, wrapping up an unbeaten pre-season campaign





S1 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 17 31/07/2025 09:45

SPONSORS 2025/26



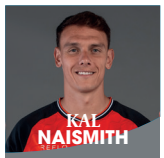
JAMES SHEA

AVAILABLE



REUELL WALTERS

AVAILABLE



KAL NAISMITH

H Stewart Robertson Crossco Luton Ltd
A Bobbers Travel Club



MADS ANDERSEN

AVAILABLE



MARK McGUINNESS

H Sheryl & Corey Mayes
A AVAILABLE



MILLENIC ALLI

H The Angell Family
A WHOSH



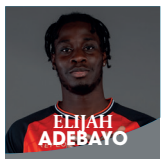
LIAM WALSH

H DLA Driving School
A AVAILABLE



CAULEY WOODROW

AVAILABLE



ELIJAH ADEBAYO

H AVAILABLE
A SAM Beast Consulting Ltd



MARVELOUS NAKAMBA

AVAILABLE



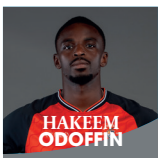
TAHITH CHONG

AVAILABLE



TEDEN MENGI

AVAILABLE



HAKEEM ODOFFIN

AVAILABLE



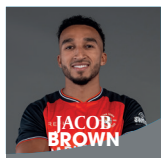
NIGEL LONWIJK

AVAILABLE



JORDAN CLARK

H Julie & Yvonne
A Ben Bowler



JACOB BROWN

AVAILABLE



LASSE NORDÅS

H Scandinavian Hatters
A AVAILABLE



NAHKI WELLS

H Community Interest Luton
A AVAILABLE



LAMINE FANNE

AVAILABLE



GEORGE SAVILLE

AVAILABLE



JOSH KEELEY

AVAILABLE



ISAIAH JONES

AVAILABLE



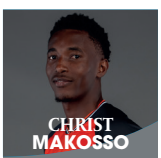
SHANDON BAPTISTE

H TP Extrusions Ltd



JAKE RICHARDS

AVAILABLE



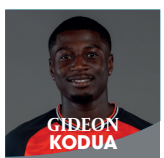
CHRIST MAKOSSO

H WHOSH
A AVAILABLE



TOM HOLMES

AVAILABLE



GIDEON KODUA

AVAILABLE



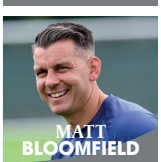
ZACK NELSON

H LTFC Fool
A AVAILABLE



JOE JOHNSON

H SAM Beast Consulting Ltd
A AVAILABLE



MATT BLOOMFIELD

Mel Westwood Accountancy



MICK HARFORD

AVAILABLE



CHRIS PHILLIPS

Bobbers Travel Club

SPONSOR A PLAYER

To get your name on this page and to sponsor your favourite player this season, give our commercial team a call on 01582 411622.

S1 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 18 31/07/2025 09:45

SPONSORSHIP & HOSPITALITY

At our pre-season friendly against Tottenham last week, goalkeeper Josh Keeley was named man-of-the-match by our match sponsors Alpha Centre.

We also had the pleasure of welcoming match ball sponsors Office Portfolio who also got the VIP treatment against Spurs.

All of our guests had the pleasure of meeting Josh and hearing from him in the Eric Morecambe Lounge post-match.







A WARM WELCOME BACK TO OUR PARTNERS

Tonight's match sponsors **Capital Sky** have become our principal sponsor and will adorn the front of our home shirts.

Utilita become our official back-of-shirt partner while **Switchshop** are our official sleeve partner.

KDW become official back-of-short partner, **Teng Tools** continue their relationship as an official club partner, while the **University of Bedfordshire** remain our official education partner.

Finally, we welcome on board sustainable sportswear manufacturer **Reflo**, who, as we announced at the end of last season, become our new teamwear partners.

It's great to have you all on board with us!

VIEW OUR CORPORATE BROCHURE FOR 25/26!

Scan the QR code

S1 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 19 31/07/2025 09:45

University of Bedfordshire

CAREER POWERED EDUCATION



TEACHING BASED ON REAL-WORLD PRACTICE

CLEARING COVERED

Apply now at beds.ac.uk/clearing

BUSINESS CLUB MEMBERS

CLUB PARTNERS

CAPITAL SKY

utilita

switchshop
IT NETWORKING AND SECURITY

University of Bedfordshire

KDW financial planning

REFLO

ThamesLink

QUINN GROUNDWORKS & Construction Ltd

TENGTOOLS

REGIONAL PARTNERS

Ontime
AUTOMOTIVE

BUSINESS PREMIUM

MUSCLE SQUAD

GWF

FPM Facility Services

CW Audit Solutions
Compliance Audits • Loss Prevention

VENNSCAPES LTD.
Landscaping • Fencing • Maintenance

SOUTH57

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

Trustpilot

utilita

Solar from the energy saving experts

Scan to find out more!



S1 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 22 31/07/2025 09:45



AFC WIMBLEDON

AFC Wimbledon are in town as the Hatters and the Wombles kick off their season campaigns under the lights here at Kenilworth Road.

Johnnie Jackson's side are back in League One for the first time since 2022 after they won the League Two play-off final back in May this year.

Last season, the Dons had a strong campaign and finished fifth in the fourth tier. This was enough for a play-off spot and they faced Notts County in the semi-finals.

They won 1-0 in both matches and qualified for the final at Wembley Stadium where they faced Walsall. Yet again, the Dons ran out 1-0 winners and gained promotion to the third tier.

Over the summer there has been a fair few ins and outs in the Wimbledon squad. One notable outgoing is Luton Town academy graduate Josh Neufville who left the Dons to join fellow League One side Bradford City at the beginning of the window.

The last time the Dons came to town the Hatters were denied victory by an injury-time equaliser from Steve Seddon.

Elliot Lee had the Town in front only for Joe Pigott to equalise but a James Collins goal six minutes before the break seemed to have the Hatters on course for victory.

But the Town couldn't beat an inspired Aaron Ramsdale in the Wimbledon goal and Seddon had the last laugh with a leveller deep, deep into stoppage time to break Hatters hearts.

Whether there's more drama again here tonight, a big welcome to everyone associated with the Dons to Kenilworth Road.

AFC WIMBLEDON AT-A-GLANCE

FOUNDED: 2002

MANAGER: Johnnie Jackson

NICKNAME: The Dons or the Wombles

STADIUM: Plough Lane

MAJOR HONOURS: League Two play-off winners 2016, 2025

FIERCE RIVALS: Milton Keynes

LAST TIME AT THE KENNY: Luton 2-2 Wimbledon League One 23/4/2019

S1 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 23 31/07/2025 09:45



AFC WIMBLEDON

THE AWAY END

The Gaffer

JOHNNIE JACKSON
Appointed AFC Wimbledon manager in May 2022 following their relegation from League One. He has since helped guide the Wombles back to the third tier in and enters his fourth season as Dons manager.

Goalkeeper

NATHAN BISHOP
25-year-old goalkeeper who spent last season on loan at Cambridge United, making 14 appearances for the U's.

Defenders

RYAN JOHNSON
Experienced defender who played 49 times for the Dons in all competitions last time out. Played the full 90 minutes for Wimbledon at Wembley in their victory over Walsall in the play-off final.

STEVE SEDDON
Back at AFC Wimbledon for his second spell at the club. Scored for the Dons the last time they played at Kenilworth Road in a 2-2 draw back in 2019.

RILEY HARBOTTLE
Came through the Nottingham Forest academy and spent time on loan at the likes of Wealdstone, Mansfield Town, Hibernian and Colchester before joining the Wombles permanently last summer.

JOE LEWIS
Welsh centre-back who signed for Wimbledon from Stockport County back in July 2023. Has since been a regular at the back for the Dons.

Midfielders

JAKE REEVES
Experienced central midfielder who is also in a second spell with the club. Has featured over 200 times for the club across both spells.

ALISTAIR SMITH
Featured 54 times for the Dons last season and managed 10 goal contributions along the way from midfield. Played almost every minute last season.

DELANO McCOY-SPLATT
A 20-year-old Fulham academy product who has joined the Dons on a permanent deal this summer.

MYLES HIPPOLYTE
Another experienced midfielder for the Dons who scored the winner in the League Two play-off final against Walsall in May this year.

CALLUM MAYCOCK
Signed from Solihull Moors last summer and featured 37 times across the season for the Dons largely in centre midfield.

Forwards

OMAR BUGIEL
31-year-old striker who featured 47 times for AFC Wimbledon last season and got 11 goal contributions, helping the Dons to promotion.

MATHEW STEVENS
Was the top scorer for AFC Wimbledon last season as he bagged seventeen goals in forty-six League Two matches and was third top scorer across the whole division.

MARCUS BROWNE
West Ham academy product who spent time with Oxford United and Middlesbrough before joining the Dons at the start of last season.

S1 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 24 31/07/2025 09:45

HATTERS *versus* DONS

Historic meetings between the clubs down the years

OCTOBER 2018

A WIN ON THE ROAD! >>

The Town are on their way to the League One title and earn their first league win away against AFC Wimbledon thanks to goals from Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu and Elliot Lee.

MAY 2011

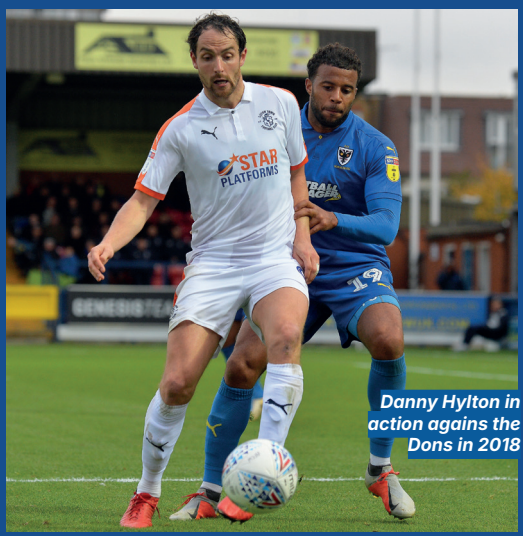
PLAY-OFF HEARTBREAK

AFC Wimbledon's rise from the ashes was complete when they beat us on penalties in the National League play-off final in 2011. We had chances – Jason Walker's header hit the post on a day that wasn't to be.

AUGUST 2009

TO NEW BEGINNINGS

Our first game after relegation from the Football League in 2009 ends all square. A Tom Craddock penalty puts us in front but the Dons earn a point thanks to a spot-kick of their own.



Danny Hylton in action agains the Dons in 2018



Goalkeeper Ian Feuer joins the attack as the Town look for an equaliser against Wimbledon in 1996

APRIL 1988

WHITE HART PAIN!

The Town go down in the FA Cup semi-final despite taking the lead through Mick Harford. The Dons fight back as John Fashanu nets from the spot before Dennis Wise hits the winner. The Wombles go on and defeat Liverpool in the final.

NOVEMBER 1996

SO CLOSE <<

This was to be our final meeting with the original Wimbledon. The Hatters led the Premier League Dons in this League Cup tie thanks to Ceri Hughes' goal but an equaliser deep into injury time broke our hearts and the visitors went on to win in extra time.

S1 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 25 31/07/2025 09:45

PRO35™

TENGTOOLS®

MADE FOR PROFESSIONALS
BUILT TO LAST



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

S1 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 26 31/07/2025 09:45



Jake Richards and Kal Naismith

A warm Luton Town welcome to seven new faces and one very familiar face to the squad! Here's our guide to our new players who have arrived at Kenilworth Road over the summer.

MEET THE NEW BOYS!

KAL NAISMITH
// DEFENDER

Experienced left-footed defender Kal re-joined the Hatters after last season's loan from Bristol City.

Previously spent a 18-month spell with us that began in 2021 and has a wealth of experience since starting out as a youngster at Glasgow Rangers.

Matt says: Manager Matt Bloomfield said: "It's really important that Kal is signing for us. He's an incredibly well-respected figure here and has a fantastic history with our football club.

"He's going to be a real leader for us in the dressing room and on the pitch, he has got lots of quality and a great left foot.

"Above all, he has fantastic organisational and leadership skills and he's going to play an integral part on and off the pitch for us next season."

JAKE RICHARDS
// MIDFIELDER

Teenage midfielder Jake arrives in Bedfordshire with a growing reputation having already made 32 appearances for Exeter since his senior debut, which came on his 16th birthday in an August 2023 Carabao Cup tie against Crawley.

Jake picked up the Exeter City Supporters' Trust Young Player of the Season, as well as being named LFE League One Apprentice of the Season at the 2025 EFL Awards.

Matt says: "Jake played against us twice last year at Wycombe and, although he's a young boy, he's already gained great experience, so he is ready to come in and hopefully affect the first team group as soon as possible.

"He's someone who can accept the ball in tight areas, he can wriggle out of tight situations and he can play in midfield, attacking midfield or behind the striker in the 10, so he has nice versatility about him and good dynamic movements.

"It's a big move for him and we need to give him time to settle, but he's been in training with us this week and he already feels like he's at home with the boys. We want to progress his career and help develop him, and he's a really exciting signing for the football club."

>>

S1 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 27 31/07/2025 09:46



01582 453338

quinngroundworks.co.uk





"GEORGE HAS CHOSEN US OVER SOME CHAMPIONSHIP OFFERS WHICH SHOWS HIS BELIEF IN OUR CLUB.

GEORGE SAVILLE
// MIDFIELDER

Northern Ireland international midfielder George joins us after four seasons at Millwall.

A product of the Chelsea academy who has a League One title under his belt when at Brentford back in his young days.

Matt says: "We're really pleased to sign George not just because of the experience and quality he'll bring, but because he's really enthused about the challenge that lies ahead.

"He's chosen us over some Championship offers which shows his belief in our club, and that's the type of character we're after.

"He's going to be an important component of the squad as we start to mould the group for what we need next season, and I'm extremely happy to have got this first piece of important business over the line already."

NIGEL LONWIJK
// DEFENDER

Dutch defender Nigel arrives on a season-long loan with an obligation to buy from Wolves should certain criteria be met.

He won the third-tier title with Plymouth in 2022/23 and has previously spent time on loan at Wycombe with Matt Bloomfield in 2023/24.

Matt says: "We had Nige for a few months at the end of season before last at Wycombe and he was fantastic for us. I tried to get him back last summer but we didn't have as much money as Huddersfield at that point, so I couldn't get him, but he's someone who we think highly of.

"He's had a bit of a stop-start season last year and he's not quite hit the heights that we all believe he can get to, but he's got a really high ceiling and is another great lad.

"He's got good versatility and can play anywhere in the back four or back five, and has incredible athleticism, he's really good on the ball and we're really pleased to give him a home." >>

S1 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 29 31/07/2025 09:46

NAHKI WELLS
// FORWARD

Experienced striker arrives after five-and-a-half years of service at Bristol City where he scored 48 times in 237 appearances across all competitions for the Robins.

The Bermudian international frontman scored 10 times last term as City reached the Championship top-six, where his experience was invaluable to one of the youngest sides in the second tier.

Matt says: "Nahki is a proven goalscorer, has fantastic experience and good leadership too. He's someone with extreme know-how and a real desire to still go and score goals, a real desire to go and achieve something and a real desire to be a part of what we are building.

"He is someone who is so highly thought of in the world of football. Some of the references I had about him were just incredible.

"He is someone who is obviously really well-known and liked within the game, highly respected and someone with a real know-how in the penalty area, which is what we're really pleased to be bringing into the building."



HAKEEM ODOFFIN
// DEFENDER/ MIDFIELDER

Hakeem joins us as a free agent after leaving Rotherham United and can operate at centre-half, right-back or defensive midfield.

He was the Millers' captain and won both supporters' and players' player of the season awards for 2024/25.



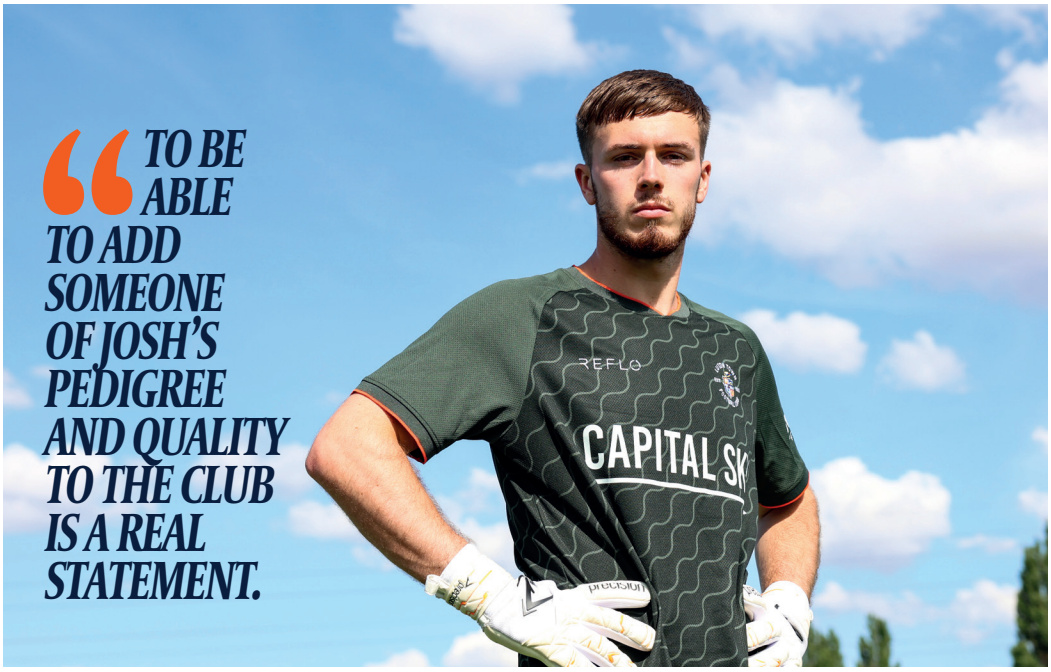
Matt says: "Hakeem is a real leader and someone I've been aware of for a number of years. I know the club have been following him closely as well.

"He knows the level, knows how to win at the level and he can play in a variety of positions in defence and midfield, which absolutely helps. He is someone who we feel can have the personality and character to have a real impact for us.

"He's a London boy and he's been away from home for a number of years. When I met him a week or two ago, he'd been home to see his mum and he had a big smile on his face, so it's nice when it seems to fit at the right stage of his life and his career."

> **"NAHKI IS SOMEONE WITH EXTREME KNOW-HOW AND A REAL DESIRE TO STILL GO AND SCORE GOALS.**

S1 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 30 31/07/2025 09:46



"TO BE ABLE TO ADD SOMEONE OF JOSH'S PEDIGREE AND QUALITY TO THE CLUB IS A REAL STATEMENT.

JOSH KEELEY
// GOALKEEPER

Goalkeeper Josh put pen to paper on a permanent contract, signing from Tottenham to add competition for the number one jersey after an excellent season on loan at Leyton Orient in League One last term.

The Republic of Ireland youth international was named by the Orient supporters as their Young Player of the Year and picked up the Merit Award after his displays between the sticks helped them reach the third-tier play-off final.

Not only did he keep 16 clean sheets in 36 games in League One, Keeley also won the O's Goal of the Season award after scoring a remarkable injury-time equaliser in an FA Cup tie against Oldham in November.

Matt says: "Josh is a young, agile, athletic goalkeeper who had a great season last year in League One.

"He is an excellent shot-stopper and can play out from the back and sweep up behind the defence.

"To be able to add someone of Josh's pedigree and quality to the club is a real statement. He's someone of big potential that we're excited to add to our group."

GIDEON KODUA
// ATTACKER

Attacker Gideon was our most recent recruit, joining on a season-long loan from West Ham with an option to buy.

The young forward, who can play in a variety of central or wide attacking areas, is no stranger to Matt Bloomfield, whom he links up with for a third time, having twice joined Wycombe on loan over the past two seasons.

Matt says: "He's a boy I love; he's got a steel, a resilience and a determination about him.

"He came through as captain of West Ham's Under-18s and we signed him twice before, so it stands to reason we think a lot of him.

"He offers options both at wing-back, in attacking wide areas and in a high 10 position, and brings good dribbling ability while linking play.

"He's got pace and power, he's a great lad, and he will be someone who our fans will love watching."



S1 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 31 31/07/2025 09:46

LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB
EST 1885

switchshop
IT NETWORKING AND SECURITY

Hewlett Packard Enterprise

HPE aruba networking

2025 / 2026

OFFICIAL SLEEVE PARTNER

More than a sponsor. More than a sleeve.

We don't just back the Hatters.

We power connectivity, security and communication for organisations across the UK.



PROUD SLEEVE SPONSORS FOR THE 25/26 SEASON

www.switchshop.co.uk
sales@switchshop.co.uk
01438 831870



THE VIEW FROM THE PRESS BOX

*BBC Three Counties Radio's **Simon Oxley** looks ahead with positivity towards the new season*

"Baptiste! You couldn't make this up! I swear, in 30 years, I've never seen anything like this!"

I still stand by that commentary from the last league game here. But, as we've come to appreciate down the years, it's the hope that kills you, and the optimism of that Bank Holiday Monday afternoon evaporated at the Hawthorns five days later.

Nothing is guaranteed, and with so many chasing so much in the Championship you can't afford many slip-ups. You certainly can't afford as many as we experienced last season. But we weren't the only ones wondering where it all went wrong. Take Sheffield United for example.

But we move on with lessons hopefully learned, but with typical new season optimism. Football never stands still. Rob Edwards is back in the Championship, and so too is Nathan Jones, and the transfer activity this summer encourages me that Matt Bloomfield can also return.

The experience of George Saville and Nahki Wells has been combined with youngsters like Josh Keeley and Jake Richards, with the likes of Christ Makosso and Milli Alli hopefully building on their encouraging performances last time around.

There were inevitably going to be departures. Carlton Morris wore the shirt with pride, and took the captain's armband in the hardest of circumstances; Thomas Kaminski was heralded as our finest ever keeper; Reece Burke kept Arsenal's new striker quiet at Wembley; and we shouldn't under-estimate Amari'i Bell's contribution either.

So tonight (and I'm trying to resist revisiting the kick-off time debate) we start the whole EFL season, against an AFC Wimbledon side who will offer me the opportunity later in the campaign to tick off another ground.

I've covered games between the two sides at the old Plough Lane, Selhurst Park and Kingstonian, and of course in Manchester back in 2011. For younger readers still glowing in Sunday's success in Switzerland... penalty shoot-outs don't always work out the way you hope for.

Elsewhere in the division, Huddersfield look serious contenders; Plymouth under Tom Cleverley should challenge; and from a BBC 3CR perspective, there's added interest in games against Wycombe and Stevenage.

Once again we will cover every Hatters game, primarily on digital radio, with improved access to interviews coming up on BBC Sounds.

We might have left the Hawthorns cursing, some earlier than others, but we knew we'd be back here come August.



S1 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 33 31/07/2025 09:46



S1 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 34 31/07/2025 09:46



St Lutton v Wimbledon.indd 35 31/07/2025 09:46

LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS' TRUST

with Paul Stephens, Trust Chair





We're certainly not in the league we'd expect or wish to be after the disappointment of last year, but I'm personally feeling very upbeat about our reshaped squad and looking forward to success under the guidance of Matt Bloomfield and his staff.

We showed encouraging signs towards the end of last season, though too little too late unfortunately. But the way Matt is turning things around was evident at the pre-season camp in Slovenia.

I was fortunate enough to visit for the game against NK Triglav Kranj (more results like that this season, please!) with other members of the Trust board and a small group of fans, with tickets organised through the Trust for the club.

We also had an opportunity to spend some time with members of the Board and Matt Bloomfield, and I came away impressed with the spirit and determination to get us back on track and on the way back up. They know what's needed – and we'll be seeing a very different Town in action tonight and throughout the season.

We'll be continuing that engagement with the club throughout the year, with regular meetings and one-to-ones. We held our annual financial review with the club in June, too – details are on the Trust website – and have worked closely with the club on new shirt designs and pricing.

We're also the fans' voice in consultation about aspects of Power Court, along with Hatters Heritage, so if you want to have a say, make sure you join the Trust by emailing:

membership@lutontownsupporterstrust.com.

We're now offering FREE Junior Membership to all under 16s if taken out with a new or existing adult, senior or lifetime membership. Simply send their name and date of birth, and your membership number, to the email address above.

In the meantime, here's a quick rundown of what's been happening on the Trust front this summer....

S2 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 36 31/07/2025 09:46

Charity partner

Introducing Caraline Eating Disorder Services, Luton – our new charity partner for seasons 2025/26 and 2026/27.

We put the choice of our new charity partner to a members vote, and Caraline came out on top in a close run race.

Founded in 1994, this Luton-based charity is committed to providing early evidence-based intervention therapies to those living with eating disorders and their friends and families. In the last financial year they:

- **Supported 220 individuals, delivering...**
- **1,319 individual therapy sessions to 96 clients**
- **56 Eating Behaviour Group sessions for 30 clients**
- **Monthly Peer Support and Friends and Family groups to 49 clients**
- **165+ support calls**
- **Along with other service delivery, including training, and transition planning with our NHS partners**

With the always generous financial support of our members, we're looking forward to promoting this invaluable work and exploring how we can help them extend their services to even more people in the local area. Look out for more details!

We'll also continue to promote and support events at the stadium with our previous charity partners, Beds Prostate Cancer, of course. Their work is so important: a real life-saver.

Caraline
30 years 2024

It's Okay Not To Be Okay

Talking Hatters is your opportunity to chat about mental health issues, football and life with fellow Hatters.

Talking Hatters, our new weekly Zoom chat meeting is open to all and designed to support anyone who might be struggling with stress, depression, anxiety, loneliness or any other issues which affect their mental health and wellbeing.

That's most of us at some time or other, and this is YOUR safe and accessible space to talk about it – and about Luton Town and life of course!

This weekly online meeting, hosted by the Trust, aims to:

- **Raise awareness of mental health within the supporter community**
- **Offer regular, informal spaces for discussion and peer support**
- **Reduce stigma and encourage open conversation about mental health as well as football**
- **Help to build mental health knowledge and offer access to professional support**

Talking Hatters takes place every Sunday between 7pm and 8pm (apart from when the Town have a Sunday fixture) and you can access it through this web address: https://tinyurl.com/Talking-Hatters

SoLYD



This summer, SoLYD has funded new benches for the Academy at the training ground, and flights to a tournament in Scotland.

Academy coach Alex Lawless said this was a real boon – and got the boys used to travelling by air – which helped them deal with last-minute flights to boost the playing squad at the Slovenia when extra numbers were needed.

Come and see us at matches! – Look out for the Trust's new gazebo on the Kenilworth Road apron at every game, where we'll be promoting our activities and partnerships.

S2 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 37 31/07/2025 09:46



Offering
Independent Financial Advice
since 1978

- Pensions & Retirement Planning
- Investments
- Tax Planning
- Mortgages & Equity Release
- Insurance
- Commercial Lending

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: 136-142 London Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, 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.

Future of Football

As you may have seen in the news, the Football Governance Act has now passed into law, granting powers to a body independent from government and football authorities and establishing a regulator to oversee the men's game in England's top five divisions.

The Trust has been deeply involved in this initiative, from presenting to MP Tracey Crouch's initial fan-led review of football governance, through to supporting Fair Game's campaign to support and strengthen the details of the bill as it passed through parliament, with a member of the Trust board presenting to MPs and interested parties in the House.

The Trust have a meeting lined up with Martyn Henderson, interim COO of the new independent regulator for football, and will feed back details once that meeting has taken place.

We had a strong presence at the Fair Game 2025 conference this summer too, with a presentation of the club's struggles in times of bad ownership and a speaker on one of the panels, with David Wilkinson, club chairman, also taking part in one of the discussions on the main stage.

It's a matter of some pride that clubs across the spectrum respect the way our Trust and club work together towards a sustainable model for football – the only way our traditional football pyramid structure can survive and thrive.

You can view our reaction to the Football Governance Bill being passed at https://www lutontownsupporters trust.com/ltst-reaction-to-football-regulator-bill-becoming-law/

Keep CALM and join us this Sunday! Celebrity Charity Cricket Fun Day, Sunday 3rd August, 9am-8pm, LTICC Wardown Park Luton It's fun and it's FREE!

With an all-star celebrity cricket match featuring Mick Harford, David Wilkinson, David James, Monty Panesar and our own David Wilkinson following an England Disability T20 (starts 9.30) and lots of fun for all the family please join the Trust and other sponsors in supporting CALM – the Campaign Against Living Miserably!

Luton Town Academy v Pakistan Street Child team, 13th August at the Brache – followed by a fundraising event for Street Child United

Over the last year, the Trust has been developing links with Street Child United, whose work shines a spotlight on children living in street situations, the adversities they face and the fundamental rights they lack.

Worldwide, that's a staggering 150 million children who are denied even having an official identity.



SCU activities centre around events like the Street Child World Cup, which brings together teams of street children – boys and girls – to compete in a tournament which has enormous impact, with governments worldwide and runs in parallel with the World Cup.

These links have led to this match, being held at The Brache at 12.15pm on 13th August, and upcoming Trust/SCU events which we'll tell you all about when we have details.

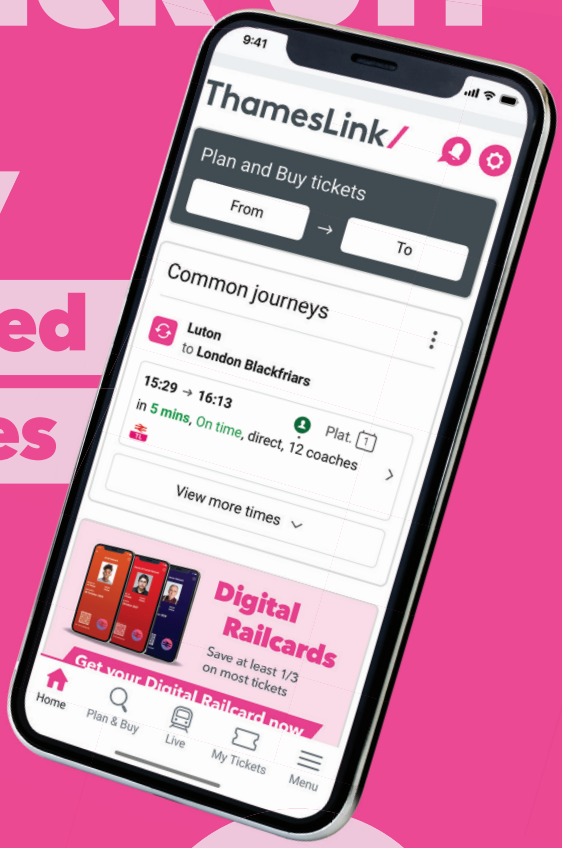
And finally...we have lots more events and activities lined up throughout the year, so look out for details in these programme notes.

> *"HERE'S TO A GREAT SEASON ON THE PITCH, STARTING TONIGHT – AND AS ALWAYS, LET'S GET THE GROUND ROCKING AND SING OUR HEARTS OUT FOR THE LADS!.*

S2 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 39 31/07/2025 09:46

Never miss kick-off

with personalised travel updates



No booking fees

Personalised updates on your regular journeys

Download our app today

Proudly supporting Luton Town Football Club



ThamesLink/

Our resident kit collector ***David Foxen*** *runs the rule over the hits and misses of our kits from the past.*

Wearing HISTORY

2003-2005 Away

Today we cast our minds back to just over 20 years, and to one of the final shirts that Xara ever made for us.

We are featuring the 2003-2005 away shirt – an away shirt that feels like it could have been an absolute classic, but just missed the mark.

This orange away shirt featured a deep, white V-neckline and a royal blue shoulder and side panelling. For the first time, and the only time, we were sponsored by Travel Extras whose white and blue logo works nicely into the aesthetic of this shirt.

Why I believe this just missed the mark for being an absolute banger is the deep V-neck, but the real issue for me is the shade of blue; it is simply too light. If you look back at our past shirts where blue was used, it was a slightly deeper, darker shade. We were so close to having a similar shirt to the 1997/99 away shirt, which would have been incredible.

This shirt was sold in both short and long sleeves in the club shop and lasted two seasons as our away shirt, 2003/04 and 2004/05, before Xara was replaced by Diadora.

We had success in this shirt. Firstly a 10th place finish in the Old Division Two in 2003/04, before winning the new League One in 2004/05 under Mike Newell.

Enoch Showumni immediately comes to mind when I think of this shirt, mainly thanks to his goal away at Bournemouth. With Luton down to 10 men after Russ Perrett was sent-off, Enoch scored a close-range winner in the closing stages to seal a crucial 1-0 win in the race for the title.

Other notable games in this shirt include a 3-2 win at Hartlepool, thanks to a Kevin Foley winner, a 4-1 victory at Milton Keynes that saw Steve Howard hit a hat-trick, and a 1-1 draw away at Huddersfield with our goal coming from Ahmet Brkovic.



S2 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 41 31/07/2025 09:46

Club historian ***Roger Wash*** *delves deep into the Hatters Heritage image library*

From the Archives



S2 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 42 31/07/2025 09:46

As football continues to encroach into the cricket season it seems appropriate to show a photo from the Luton Town FC annual match against Luton Town CC held at Wardown Park.

This picture from 1955 shows, back row left to right: umpire, Bernard Streten, Peter MacEwan, Alan Thompson, Gordon Turner, Les Jones, Umpire. Front row left to right: Terry Kelly, Sos Allen, Syd Owen, Roy Davies, Bob Morton.

Inset: A young autograph hunter tries to avoid being burnt by Bernard Streten's cigarette.



S2 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 43 31/07/2025 09:46

Of all the dates for this game to fall on... today will be the first time the Hatters play on 1st August in a competitive game (no, we're not counting pre-season friendlies against Walsall and St Johnstone!), so instead, here's a look back from some of our most memorable first games of the season that took place here at the Kenny...

ON THIS DAY

FIRST HOME GAME MEMORIES









18TH AUGUST 1956
Gordon Turner hits four goals as the Hatters stun Sunderland 6-2 in their biggest opening home top-flight victory. John Groves and Mick Cullen are also on target in front of over 23,000 at Kenilworth Road (left, above).

19TH AUGUST 1978
It's raining goals at Kenilworth Road in the second tier as the Hatters thrash Oldham 6-1 with Bob Hatton and David Moss both scoring twice in an incredible game that saw the Town trail 1-0 at half-time! (above, right).

14TH AUGUST 1993
In the only time the Town have hosted Watford on the opening day of the season, David Pleat's side get their First Division (now Championship) season off to a flyer against the nine-man Hornets thanks to goals from Paul Telfer and Kerry Dixon (right).

5TH AUGUST 2006
The Hatters go top of the Championship for albeit a few hours as goals from Leon Barnett and Carlos Edwards earn a 2-0 win over Leicester. (top of page, left).

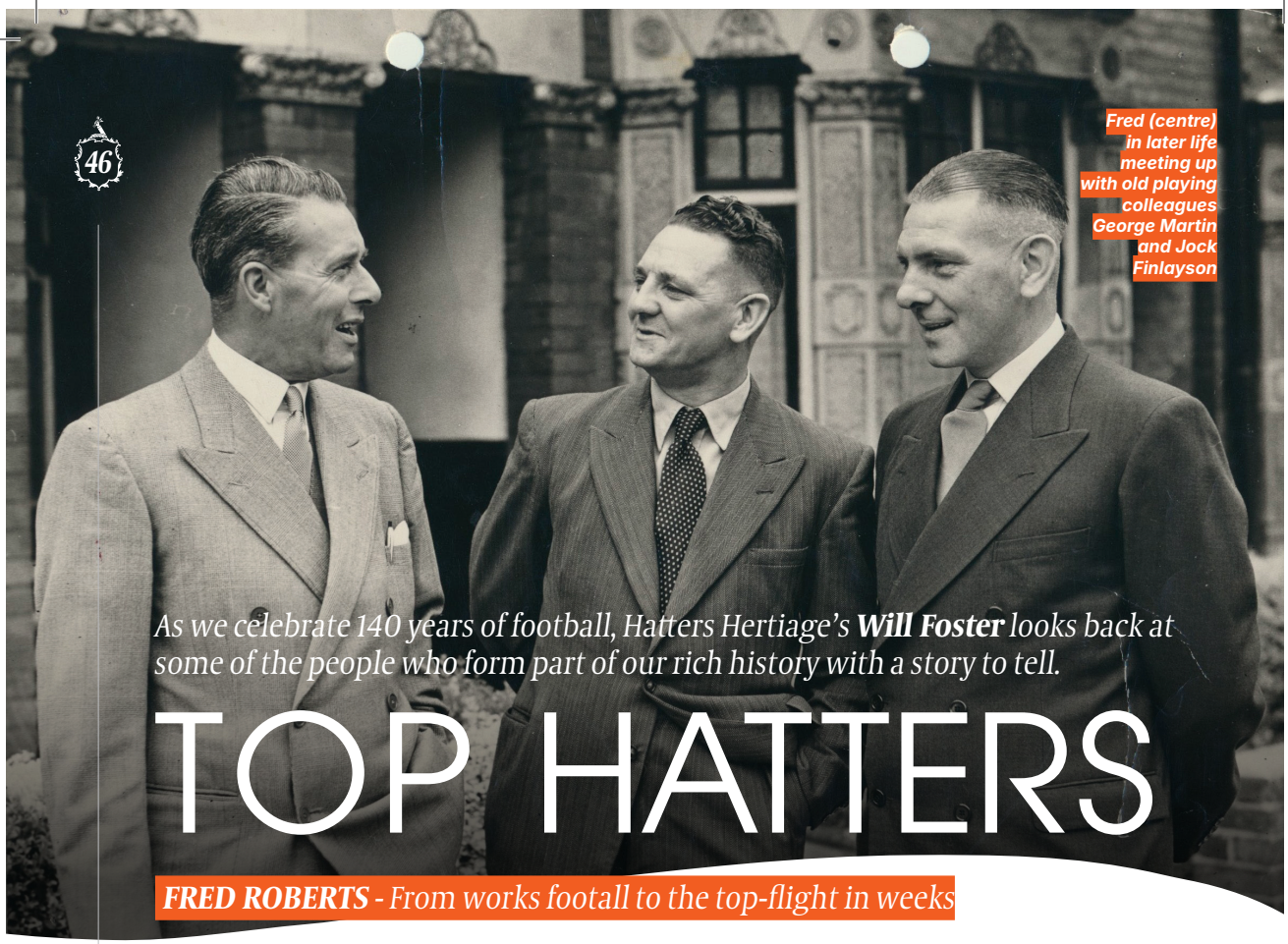
5TH AUGUST 2017
James Collins scores a hat-trick as the Hatters beat Yeovil 8-2 to go top of League Two. Isaac Vassell scores twice, Olly and Elliot Lee both find the net and Alan McCormack hits a beauty (opposite page, below).

2ND AUGUST 2019
Two years later and the Hatters are in the Championship and Friday night under the lights sees the Sky cameras witness a helter-skelter six-goal thriller against Middlesbrough with Sonny Bradley's stunner the pick of the goals (right).





S2 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 45 31/07/2025 09:46



Fred (centre) in later life meeting up with old playing colleagues George Martin and Jock Finlayson

As we celebrate 140 years of football, Hatters Hertiage's ***Will Foster*** *looks back at some of the people who form part of our rich history with a story to tell.*

TOP HATTERS

FRED ROBERTS *- From works footall to the top-flight in weeks*

The record books will tell you the 30,069 in attendance for the FA Cup quarter-final replay in March 1959 against Blackpool is the largest crowd Kenilworth Road has seen. However, if every Luton fan who claimed to be in the ground on Easter Monday 23 years earlier were to be believed, there must have been at least 100,000 in attendance.

The match in question is, of course, Joe Payne's 10-goal salvo against Bristol Rovers. Some of the multitudes watching might have ventured that one of the goals belonged to George Martin, with the future Town boss bundling in a Payne header only for the referee to decide the ball had already crossed the line. This opinion wasn't shared by one of the men closest to the action.

"I was in the goalmouth," Fred Roberts said in a 1974 interview. "And it was Joe's goal for me."

Fred Roberts was born in Greets Green, West Bromwich in 1908, the son of an ironworker and the youngest of eight children at the time of his birth. His route into professional football was not a straightforward one. In his mid-twenties, he was still playing for Piggotts, a works side, when he was offered trials by a number of clubs, including Stoke City, which were all unsuccessful.

Birmingham City were interested too though, and signed Fred in October of 1933. Remarkably, just a few weeks after playing in local football, he was lining up at centre-forward in the old First Division (now Premier League) to face Wolves in front of over 30,000 people at St Andrews, the game ending in a 0-0 draw. A report in the *Birmingham Daily Gazette* remarks, "even if he didn't cut up any trees, (Roberts) gave indication of developing into a very useful leader".

He would score eight times in 28 games during that first season and was singled out by legendary Arsenal manager Herbert Chapman for his performance at inside-left after a draw at St Andrews in December 1933. Regardless, he found himself out of favour the following season and was persuaded by Town boss Harold Wightman to drop down two divisions and join Luton in December 1934.

While some at Birmingham had decided that Roberts was better suited as a half-back, Wightman had certainly wanted an inside-left, and it was in that position where Fred made his debut a few days later at Millwall, scoring the first of his 45 goals for the Hatters in a 4-1 win.

"On this showing the Town have a very useful

S2 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 46 31/07/2025 09:46

acquisition, and when his colleagues become accustomed to his manoeuvres, there will be good results," wrote J.J. Hunt, aka Crusader, in his match report.

This would prove to be very true. With chairman Charles Jeyes determined to provide the growing town with Second Division football or better, Roberts became an almost ever-present fixture at inside-forward during one of the most exciting times the club had ever known, and he barely missed a game for the next four and a half seasons, ending with 198 appearances in total.

Described as a 'schemer' he was a scorer as well as a provider of goals, and Joe Payne in particular was to benefit from the service he provided. His consistency and lack of injuries were likely due in large part to a focus on diet and fitness that was ahead of its time, including cutting out white bread and potatoes and halving his sugar ration.

> *"I HAVE NEVER HAD A SINGLE CAUSE TO REGRET THE MOVE, AND NO CLUB COULD HAVE TREATED ME BETTER.*

After the near miss in 1935/36 in which Town fell short of promotion by a single victory, the following year would prove to be the highlight of Fred's career as that elusive Third Division title was finally secured. He played in every match, a feat equalled only by Bill Fellowes, and scored 12 times.

"For me it was the best side Luton have had," Fred would say in later life. "It had everything."

The arrival of Eddie Connelly in March 1938 would see Fred move back into the half-back line where he proved himself to be equally adept and was eventually awarded the captaincy.

Sadly though, the outbreak of war would essentially end his career, which wound down with a couple of seasons at Kettering when football returned.

Remaining in Luton for the rest of his life until his passing in 1979, he worked for a number of local companies such as SKF and as a courier for the Luton College of Technology while living on Leicester Road with his wife, Mary.

He remained in contact with his adopted club and, when Birmingham released a centre-half by the name of Syd Owen, it was Fred who recommended him to the Town.

"The best day's work I ever did was when I came to Luton," Fred said in a 1939 interview. "I have never had a single cause to regret the move, and no club could have treated me better."



Fred Roberts in 1938



Fred scoring against Stockport at Kenilworth Road in January 1938

S2 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 47 31/07/2025 09:46

LTFC academy

Head of Academy PAUL BENSON looks ahead to the new campaign





Academy graduate Zack Nelson was involved in 39 first-team matchday squads last season

Good evening, everyone and welcome back to another season of football. What a great place to start, under the lights at Kenilworth Road!

You can't beat that feeling the first game of the season brings, I've experienced it as a player and a supporter, and the sense of optimism remains the same no matter what role you are playing.

I've been fortunate enough to witness up close the work put in by all staff involved since the close of last season, so there's every right to feel optimistic ahead of this current campaign.

We are full of optimism within the academy this season. Following off the back of a season full of progress in 2024/25, staff are enthused and ready to push on further and achieve more in 2025/26. I thought I would share some numbers from last season to help understand the work put in by the players and staff at our academy.

First-Team Integration:

Seven academy graduates were involved in first-team matchday squad's last season. Notably, Joshua Phillips, Taylan Harris and Benedict Benagr, who made the matchday squad for the first time.

In total, six per cent of matchday squads involved an academy graduate last season.

Out of a maximum of 48 squads (46 League, 2 Cup) the following players achieved the below:

Zack Nelson – 39 (squads)

Joe Johnson – 19

Christian Chigozie – 3

Aidan Francis-Clarke – 2

Joshua Phillips – 1

Taylan Harris – 1

Benedict Benagr – 1

Three academy graduates were involved in first team fixtures this season. Notably, Joshua Phillips made his Championship debut in December 2024, featuring as a substitute in the away game vs Bristol City.

In total, 1,412 minutes were completed by academy graduates last season, this number was made up from the following:

Zack Nelson – 939 (minutes)

Joe Johnson – 470

Joshua Phillips – 3

S2 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 48 31/07/2025 09:46

Scholarships & Retention

Over the summer, 10 players signed their first development contract for the 2025/26 season.

Oliver Pipa (GK)

Charlie Trustram (CM)

Zach Ioannides (CM)

Dylan Stitt (CM)

Tate Xavier-Jones (CF)

Jamie Odegah (CF)

Lucas Thomas (GK)

Christian Chigozie (CB)

Benedict Benagr (LWB/LW)

Sam Anderson (CF)

Eight under-16s were offered scholarships for the 2025/26 season. All demonstrated technical ability, strong attitudes and character that aligns with the club's values.

Finley Evans (CB)

Rufus Barnes (CB)

Luca Knote-Reed (CM)

Jerome Passley-James (CM)

Nassim El-Gourja (CM)

Tatenda Takawira (RWB/RW)

Dawid Gawel (CF)

Excel Ed-Okungbowa (CF)

Hard work and striving to be world class at the basics are the messages we drill into the players daily. The numbers above give me pride from the work that gets put in daily by the staff and players, but also optimism moving forwards that we can achieve more for this coming season.

It's a season we're all set to get behind Matt and his team, the relationship between the first team and academy has never been better and we're determined to support in helping to achieve the ultimate goal this season, promotion!

Enjoy the game tonight and come on you Hatters!

Congratulations to Jude! A true role model on and off the pitch



We're incredibly proud to congratulate our Academy player Jude Rouse on receiving the Relationship Award at Ridgeway Academy, recognising his outstanding ability to build strong, positive connections with students, teachers, and younger peers.

This award is a reflection of Jude's character, someone who consistently shows empathy, kindness, and leadership, supporting others when they need it most.

What makes this achievement so special is that it speaks to who Jude is beyond football. His attitude on the pitch is full of energy, discipline, and determination but it's his behaviour off the pitch that truly sets him apart. Whether helping younger students settle in or being a dependable presence among staff and teammates, Jude leads by example and makes those around him feel valued.

Hatters Head of Education Kobie Dee said: "Many congratulations to Jude. We're proud of you at Luton Town Football Club for the way you play, but even prouder of the person you are becoming. Keep leading the way, on and off the pitch."

2025/26 U18 FIXTURES

AUGUST

Tue 12 Leyton Orient 2pm

Sat 16 PDLC Oxford Utd 10:30am

Sat 23 Cheltenham 10:30am

Sat 30 Forest Green 12pm

SEPTEMBER

Sat 6 Exeter City

Sat 13 Oxford Utd 10:30am

Sat 20 Newport

Sat 27 Swindon 10:30am

OCTOBER

Sat 4 PDLC Colchester 11am

Sat 11 Portsmouth

NOVEMBER

Sat 8 Bristol Rovers 12pm

Sat 15 Wycombe 10:30am

Sat 22 PDLC Watford 10:30am

DECEMBER

Sat 6 Milton Keynes 10:30am

Sat 13 Cambridge Utd 10:30am

Sat 20 Northampton 10:30am

JANUARY

Sat 3 Stevenage 10:30am

Sat 10 Sutton United 11am

Sat 17 AFC Wimbledon 10:30am

Sat 24 Barnet 11am

Sat 31 Bromley 10:30am

FEBRUARY

Sat 7 Cambridge United 11am

Sat 14 Gillingham 10:30am

Sat 21 Leyton Orient 11am

Sat 28 Wycombe 10:30am

MARCH

Sat 7 Milton Keynes 11am

Sat 14 Northampton 10:30am

Sat 21 Stevenage 10:30am

Sat 28 Gillingham 10:30am

APRIL

Sat 11 Sutton United 10:30am

Sat 18 AFC Wimbledon 10:30am

Sat 25 Barnet 10:30am

MAY

Sat 2 Bromley 11am

Bold denotes home fixture

S2 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 49 31/07/2025 09:46



S2 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 50 31/07/2025 09:46

youth PROFILE

Vladimir Paternoster

YOUR NAME? Vladimir Paternoster

WHERE ARE YOU FROM? Milan

WHAT POSITIONS DO YOU PLAY? Centre-back

WHEN DID YOU JOIN THE ACADEMY? The summer of 2024

WHO WAS YOUR FOOTBALL HERO GROWING UP? Paolo Maldini

GO-TO BOOTS RIGHT NOW? Tiempos

FIRST TIME YOU KICKED A BALL? As soon as I could walk

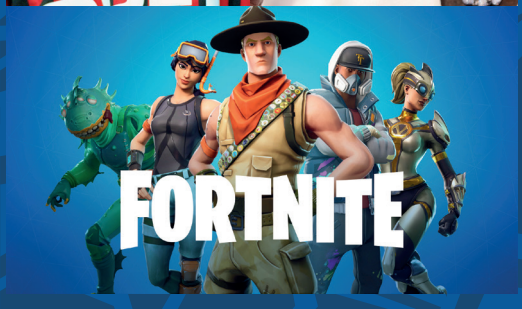
BIGGEST LESSON FOOTBALL'S TAUGHT YOU? Resilience

FUNNIEST TEAMMATE? Jack Lorentzen-Jones

HARDEST WORKER? Liam Coyne







BIGGEST INSPIRATION OUTSIDE FOOTBALL? My dad

TEAMMATE MOST LIKELY TO BE A MANAGER? Oli Pipa

MOMENT YOU'LL NEVER FORGET? Signing my professional contract or scoring my first goal

BEST BIT ABOUT BEING AT LUTON? Really nice teammates and great coaches

ONE THING YOU'RE WORKING ON? Left-foot ball striking

PRE-MATCH ROUTINE OR SUPERSTITIONS? None I'm afraid

FAVOURITE MUSIC… Gunna, NBA Youngboy, Drake

FAVOURITE GAME… Fortnite

GO-TO CHEAT MEAT… Nando's

IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER? I'd be a football coach or banker

PERSON YOU'D SWAP PLACES WITH FOR A DAY? Cristiano Ronaldo

THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE YOURSELF. Funny, hard-working, out-going

ONE THING PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU? I speak four languages

BIGGEST FOOTBALL DREAM? To play in the Premier League

S2 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 51 31/07/2025 09:46

LUTON TOWN FC COMMUNITY TRUST

Welcome from Daniel Douglas, Head of Community Trust

It's a real privilege to reintroduce myself as Head of Luton Town FC Community Trust.

As someone who believes deeply in the power of football to unite and inspire our communities, I'm incredibly proud to be leading the club's charitable arm at such an exciting time for the club and town.

As a Trust, we seek to engage with all members of our community regardless of ability, race, age, religion, gender or sexual orientation. By using the positive influence of the football clubs badge we will continue creating improved health, education, employment and sporting opportunities for all, across Luton and Bedfordshire.

Over the coming season, my vision is for the Trust to grow into an even stronger force for good, reaching more people, deepening our local partnerships, and delivering high-quality programmes that are inclusive, impactful, and rooted in the needs of our town. Whether it's helping young people raise their aspirations,



supporting mental and physical wellbeing, or tackling social isolation, we're here to show what football can achieve beyond the pitch.

It's been a busy summer of activity so far for the team. From running free holiday camps which provide safe spaces for hundreds of children to participate, to supporting local events and deepening our work with grassroots and local partners. We've also been working closely with local schools, community organisations and funders to shape our delivery for the season ahead, ensuring we're responding to real needs with meaningful action.

Looking ahead, we're excited to build on this summer's momentum. One of the standout developments is the launch of Premier League Inspires, a brand-new project for the Trust, funded through the Premier League Charitable Fund. This marks an important step in expanding our reach into new communities and working even more closely with local secondary schools to support young people's personal development and wellbeing. Premier League Inspires will sit proudly alongside our existing flagship programmes, including PL Kicks and PL Primary Stars, helping us deliver valuable opportunities to even more young people across Luton and Bedfordshire.

Community is at the heart of everything we do, and we would love to hear from anyone who wants to get involved as a participant, partner or supporter to help us grow our impact. For more information on what we offer and how you can collaborate with the Community Trust please reach out to community@lutontown.co.uk.

Thank you for your continued support. Together we are making a difference. Come on you Hatters.

S2 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 52 31/07/2025 09:46



FOOTBALL CAMPS *are back!*

Looking for a fun and active way to keep the kids entertained this summer?

Our Football Camps are back, offering children aged 5–11 the chance to enjoy an action-packed, football-filled summer.

Whether they're new to the game or already play regularly, these camps provide the perfect opportunity for young players to develop their skills, build confidence and make new friends in a fun, safe, and positive environment.

Sessions will be held at two convenient locations: Queen Elizabeth High School in Luton and Tithe Farm Recreation Ground in Houghton Regis.

Each day costs just £18.50, making it an affordable way for children to stay active and engaged throughout the summer holidays.

To find out more and book a place, simply visit lutontowncommunity.co.uk and click on "Book a Course".

S2 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 53 31/07/2025 09:46

SMOOTHER THAN A DOUBLE NUTMEG



SCAN TO SHOP NOW

JAMESON®

ENJOY RESPONSIBLY. be**drinkaware**.co.uk

Luton Town LADIES

TEN NEW FACES ARRIVE TO BOLSTER LADIES SQUAD

It has almost been three months since the Ladies secured their league and League Cup double, which saw them earn promotion to the Women's National League Division One South East.

In this time there have been plenty of changes.

There have been 10 additions to the ladies' squad over the summer so far. Trio, Emily Wilson, Amy McLean and Taylor O'Leary have all made the switch across Bedfordshire, joining from Real Bedford. They made a combined 57 appearances in all competitions for the title-winning Pirates.

Forward Summer Gayle is another welcomed addition to the Hatters' frontline. She joins from Ashford Town Women where she made 15 appearances last campaign. Summer is no stranger when it comes to double-winning teams, she won staff player of the season in the 2022/23 league and League Cup double campaign for Notts County Women.

The Ladies also picked up talented left-sided defender, Lisa Milliken from Northampton Town Women. Milliken was a key part of Northampton's County Cup triumph last season. She also featured 26 times for Real Bedford during their 2023/24 treble-winning campaign.

Meanwhile Ellie Sargeant has made her return to the squad, after spending the last two seasons in the States and Jánaye Beaufort arrives at the Town from Actonians. The attacking midfielder previously represented AFC Wimbledon and London Bees.

Chesham United defensive duo Sasha Smith and Kiyana Fryer have also joined the Hatters for the 2025/26 campaign.

We also announced the arrival of goalkeeper Nicole Melling, who started her youth career at QPR, playing alongside Lionesses hero, Chloe Kelly. Nicole then went onto join Arsenal, before returning to QPR in the summer of 2023, where she stayed until signing for the Hatters this summer.

Following the departure of Elly Wade, long-serving forward Leyah Maddix was named as the new captain, while midfielder, Shianne Swarres has stepped up to the vice-captain role.

The Hatters also retained the services of a number of their title-winning squad. Tanya Blacksley, Sarah Hudson, Amber Leighton, Fiona Buttigieg, Elizabeth Mulvaney, Shanice Lewis, Nicole Farmer, Erin Price and Tasha Fensome have all signed on for the upcoming campaign.



The ladies' tier-four journey begins when they host Dulwich Hamlet Women at Barton Rovers on Sunday 17th August. Their league cup campaign begins three days after, where they host Tottenham Hotspur PGA, also at Barton.

Summer arrivals are not done yet so stayed tuned to their social media channels @ltlfc_official.

2025/26 FIXTURES

AUGUST
17 Dulwich Hamlet
20 Tottenham (NLC)
24 Cambridge Utd
31 Actonians
SEPTEMBER
7 Milton Keynes (NLC)
14 Norwich City
21 Milton Keynes
28 Oxford Utd (NLC)
OCTOBER
12 AFC Sudbury
29 Chesham Utd
NOVEMBER
2 London Bees
16 QPR
30 Chatham Town
DECEMBER
7 Fulham
14 Dulwich Hamlet
JANUARY
4 Cambridge Utd
25 Norwich City
FEBRUARY
8 Actonians
18 Chesham Utd
22 AFC Sudbury
MARCH
8 Milton Keynes
22 London Bees
29 QPR
APRIL
12 Fulham
26 Chatham Town

S2 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 55 31/07/2025 09:46

Kellogg's FOOTBALL CAMPS

Kicks off April 2026



Available nationwide



EFL | Kellogg's

OFFICIAL PARTNER

© 2025 Kellanova.



A big shoutout to our mascots at the Tottenham game!

UP THE TOWN

JUNIOR HATTERS



HATTERS! HATTERS! HATTERS!

SPOT THE BALL

Can you guess where the correct ball is?

SIGN HERE

Can you grab a players autograph tonight?

COYH!

SPOT THE BALL ANSWER: The tennis ball

FANTASY | EFL

WIN ONE OF 72 SEASON TICKETS



SIGN-UP TODAY

S2 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 58 31/07/2025 09:46

TICKET *news*

HOME **TICKETS**

Category A	Category B
£29 Adult	£26 Adult
£25 Senior (over 66)	£22 Senior (over 66)
£21 Golden Senior (over 75)	£18 Golden Senior (over 75)
£25 Young Adult (under 22)	£22 Young Adult (under 22)
£21 Under 19	£18 Under 19
£13 Under 17	£10 Under 17
£10 Under 14	£8 Under 14

AWAY **TICKETS**

v Peterborough United
Saturday 9th August, kick-off 12.30pm

Tickets are now on general sale to supporters with a previous purchasing history or Hatters Membership (without a previous purchasing history).

Prices
Adults £25, Seniors (over 65) £21, Young Adults (18-23) £16, Under 18s (14-17) £10, Under 14s (2-13) £3.

Further information
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.

Headsets for match commentary are available for visually impaired fans from main reception.

v Coventry City
Carabao Cup first round
Tuesday 12th August, kick-off 7.45pm

Tickets are now on general sale to supporters with a previous purchasing history or Hatters Members (without a previous purchasing history.

Prices
Adults £20, Seniors (Over 65+) £15, Young Adults (18-21) £15, Under 18s £10.

Further information
Disabled supporters will pay their relevant price band with a PA free of charge.

HOME GAMES NOW ON general sale

v Wigan Athletic

Tuesday 19th August, 7.45pm
Category B

v Cardiff City

Saturday 23rd August, 12.30pm
Category A

v Plymouth Argyle

Saturday 13th September, 3pm
Category A

S2 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 59 31/07/2025 09:46

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

taketimetothink.co.uk

TAKE TIME TO THINK

18+ GambleAware

*UK data

sky bet

CHECK THE FACTS WITH OUR

PROFIT & LOSS TOOL

taketimetothink.co.uk

TAKE TIME TO THINK

18+ GambleAware


Supporting the businesses
behind the badge
Sage powers the millions of small business owners and accountants who support all 72 EFL Clubs across the country, week in, week out.
EFL
EFL | Sage
OFFICIAL ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE PARTNER

LEAGUE LOOK

sky bet LEAGUE ONE EFL

A new season, a new league. Here's our club-by-club guide to our 23 opponents in League One over the coming 10 months.

AFC WIMBLEDON
Manager: Johnnie Jackson
Last season: League Two 5th (promoted via play-offs)
Previous meeting: Town 2-2 AFC Wimbledon League One 23/4/2019

BARNSLEY
Manager: Conor Hourihane
Last season: League One 12th
Previous meeting: Town 2-1 Barnsley Championship 8/2/2022

BLACKPOOL
Manager: Steve Bruce
Last season: League One 9th
Previous meeting: Town 3-1 Blackpool Championship 10/42023

BOLTON WANDERERS
Manager: Steven Schumacher
Last season: League One 8th
Previous meeting: Bolton 1-2 Town FA Cup 17/1/2024

BRADFORD CITY
Manager: Graham Alexander
Last season: League Two 3rd (promoted)
Previous meeting: Bradford 0-1 Town League One 12/3/2019

BURTON ALBION
Manager: Gary Bowyer
Last season: League One 20th
Previous meeting: Burton 2-1 Town League One 27/4/2019

CARDIFF CITY
Manager: Brian Barry-Murphy
Last season: Championship 24th (relegated)
Previous meeting: Cardiff 1-2 Town Championship 11/3/2025

DONCASTER ROVERS
Manager: Grant McCann
Last season: League Two 1st (champions, promoted)
Previous meeting: Town 4-0 Doncaster League One 23/3/2019

EXETER CITY
Manager: Gary Caldwell
Last season: League One 16th
Previous meeting: Exeter 1-0 Town League Cup 26/9/2023

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN
Manager: Lee Grant
Last season: League One 10th
Previous meeting: Huddersfield 1-2 Town 1/1/2023

LEYTON ORIENT
Manager: Richie Wellens
Last season: League One 6th (play-off finalists)
Previous meeting: Town 2-2 Orient League Two 14/4/2017

LINCOLN CITY
Manager: Michael Skubala
Last season: League One 11th
Previous meeting: Town 4-2 Lincoln League Two 1/1/2018

MANSFIELD TOWN
Manager: Nigel Clough
Last season: League One 17th
Previous meeting: Town 2-1 Mansfield League Two 2/4/2018

NORTHAMPTON TOWN
Manager: Kevin Nolan
Last season: League One 19th
Previous meeting: Northampton 2-0 Town League Twon 30/4/2016

PETERBOROUGH UNITED
Manager: Darren Ferguson
Last season: League One 18th
Previous meeting: Peterborough 1-1 Town Championship 5/4/2022

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE
Manager: Tom Cleverley
Last season: Championship 23rd (relegated)
Previous meeting: Town 1-1 Plymouth Championship 19/2/2025

PORT VALE
Manager: Darren Moore
Last season: League Two 2nd (promoted)
Previous meeting: Port Vale 4-0 Town League Two 30/12/2017

READING
Manager: Noel Hunt
Last season: League One 7th
Previous meeting: Reading 1-1 Town Championship 19/4/2023

ROTHERHAM UNITED
Manager: Matt Hamshaw
Last season: League One 13th
Previous meeting: Rotherham 0-2 Town Championship

STEVENAGE
Manager: Alex Revell
Last season: League One 14th
Previous meeting: Stevenage 2-2 Town League Cup 10/8/2021

STOCKPORT COUNTY
Manager: Dave Challinor
Last season: League One 3rd (lost in play-off semi-finals)
Previous meeting: Town 1-0 Stockport National League 19/3/2013

WIGAN ATHLETIC
Manager: Ryan Lowe
Last season: League One 15th
Previous meeting: Wigan 0-2 Town Championship 21/1/2023

WYCOMBE WANDERERS
Manager: Mike Dodds
Last season: League One 5th (lost in play-off semi-finals)
Previous meeting: Wycombe 1-3 Town Championship 10/4/2021

S2 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 63 31/07/2025 09:46

FIXTURES & RESULTS 2025/26

		KO	RES	POS	ATT	AWAY
AUGUST						
FRI 1	**AFC WIMBLEDON** TV	**20:00**				
SAT 8	PETERBOROUGH UNITED	12:30				
TUE 12	COVENTRY CITY (CC1)	19:45				
SAT 16	BRADFORD CITY	15:00				
TUE 19	**WIGAN ATHLETIC**	**19:45**				
SAT 23	**CARDIFF CITY** TV	**12:30**				
SAT 30	BURTON ALBION	15:00				
SEPTEMBER						
TUE 2	**BARNET (VT)**	**19:30**				
SAT 6	BLACKPOOL	15:00				
SAT 13	**PLYMOUTH ARGYLE**	**15:00**				
SAT 20	LINCOLN CITY TV	12:30				
SAT 27	**DONCASTER ROVERS**	**15:00**				
OCTOBER						
SAT 4	STEVENAGE	15:00				
TUE 7	CAMBRIDGE UNITED (VT)	19:00				
SAT 11	**HUDDERSFIELD TOWN**	**15:00**				
SAT 18	**MANSFIELD TOWN**	**15:00**				
SAT 25	NORTHAMPTON TOWN	15:00				
TUE 28	**BRIGHTON & HA U21 (VT)**	**19:00**				
NOVEMBER						
SAT 8	STOCKPORT COUNTY	15:00				
SAT 15	**ROTHERHAM UNITED**	**15:00**				
SAT 22	BARNSLEY	15:00				
SAT 29	**BOLTON WANDERERS**	**15:00**				
DECEMBER						
TUE 9	LEYTON ORIENT	19:45				
SAT 13	**PORT VALE**	**15:00**				
THU 18	READING TV	20:00				
FRI 26	**WYCOMBE WANDERERS**	**15:00**				
MON 29	**LEYTON ORIENT**	**15:00**				
JANUARY						
THU 1	EXETER CITY	15:00				
SUN 4	DONCASTER ROVERS	15:00				
SAT 10	**STEVENAGE**	**15:00**				
SAT 17	**LINCOLN CITY**	**15:00**				
SAT 24	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	15:00				
TUE 27	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	19:45				
SAT 31	**BLACKPOOL**	**15:00**				
FEBRUARY						
SAT 7	**BRADFORD CITY**	**15:00**				
SAT 14	CARDIFF CITY	15:00				
TUE 17	WIGAN ATHLETIC	19:45				
SAT 21	**BURTON ALBION**	**15:00**				
SAT 28	PORT VALE	15:00				
MARCH						
SAT 7	**READING**	**15:00**				
SAT 14	WYCOMBE WANDERERS	15:00				
TUE 17	**EXETER CITY**	**19:45**				
SAT 21	**STOCKPORT COUNTY**	**15:00**				
SAT 28	ROTHERHAM UNITED	15:00				
APRIL						
FRI 3	**PETERBOROUGH UNITED**	**15:00**				
MON 6	AFC WIMBLEDON	15:00				
SAT 11	**NORTHAMPTON TOWN**	**15:00**				
SAT 18	MANSFIELD TOWN	15:00				
SAT 25	**BARNSLEY**	**15:00**				
MAY						
SAT 2	BOLTON WANDERERS	15:00				

REST IN PEACE

It is with sadness that we learned of the passing of the following Hatters supporters over the summer.

Once a Hatter, always a Hatter. Rest in Peace.



After a shockingly sudden unexpected illness, **Marc McAleer**, a life-long Town supporter, tragically passed away at aged 52.

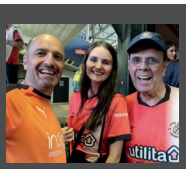
A Hatter with a huge heart, he will be deeply missed by his partner Paula, family, friends and colleagues.

His love of the club went back to April 1982, when he attended our famous 4-1 victory against Shrewsbury where Marc, his father, Brian, and brother, Ken, were amongst the happy supporters storming the pitch at the end of the game.

When not at Kenilworth Road with Paula, he would be raising funds for Cats Protection North Herts or training to support other causes close to his heart.

Dr Chris Gillespie was born in Mumbai in 1941 and later settled in Luton after India's independence.

A dedicated clinical psychologist, he served the NHS for over 40 years. A lifelong supporter of Luton Town Chris shared his passion with his family, reating cherished memories across generations, including watching the Hatters compete in the Premier League.



Despite travelling from Derby to attend home games, he rarely missed a match, with his final one being a victorious 3-1 win over Bristol City in April 2025.

Games will never feel the same, but attending Luton Town matches will keep Chris's memory forever close.

The family and friends of **Alex Eves** would like to pay tribute to lifelong Hatter Alex who we sadly lost in June.



Alex had been a season ticket holder for many years, attending games with his family and friends, both away and at home in the Main Stand enjoying the ups and downs of the Hatters.

His family and friends are supporting men's mental health via the charity CALM with a campaign in collaboration in Alex's name to help prevent losses under these circumstances.

Alex will continue to be loved, remembered and sorely missed by many.

THE QUIZ

New season but same old quiz. Here are 10 questions on our summer arrivals. Have you been paying attention? No prizes, just pride and honour.

1. How many goals for Bermuda has Nahki Wells scored?

2. Against which club did goalkeeper Josh Keeley score for Leyton Orient last season?

3. Gideon Kodua captained West Ham to the FA Youth Cup in 2023, but who did they beat and what was the score?

4. Which Swiss club did Nigel Lonwijk play on loan at in 2023?

5. Against which club did Kal Naismith make his Luton debut in January 2021?

6. Which award did Jake Richards win last season at Exeter?

7. Against which nation did George Saville make his international debut for Northern Ireland?

8. At which club did Hakeem Odoffin start his professional career?

9. Which other football club announced a partnership with Reflo this summer?

10. How many goals did the Hatters score and concede in pre-season?

How did you do? 0-3 The Pitts. 4-7 Courtney Pitt. 8-10 Simon Pitts.

1. 20. 2. Oldham. 3. They beat Arsenal 5-1. 4. Grasshopper. 5. EFL League One Apprentice of the Season. 7. Germany. 8. Barnet. 9. Forest Green Rovers. 10. 19-2.

Hatters Heritage's ***Roger Wash*** *looks back on some of our finest ever campaigns*

SEASONS TO REMEMBER *1981/82*



After just failing at the last to win promotion to the top-flight over the previous two seasons, manager David Pleat was confident it would be 'third time lucky'.

The sale of Paul Price to Tottenham did not bode well nor did the exchange with Brighton of Irish international midfielder Tony Grealish for 32-year-old veteran Brian Horton.

As it turned out, Horton proved to be the final piece in the jigsaw, binding the midfield together and leading by example. Apart from a couple of early home defeats, the team strode on and by Christmas and, following a 3-1 win at Norwich, they were 11 points clear of fourth place.

Bad weather in January meant a few games were called off, and a string of away draws meant that the chasing pack caught up. However, three home wins in the space of a fortnight around Easter cemented a healthy lead once more.

Promotion was eventually confirmed with a 4-1 home win over Shrewsbury, when three goals were scored in the final 12 minutes, and 11 days later the Town clinched the title with another win, this time over QPR.

In a remarkable season, where David Pleat stuck to his guns of playing open expansive football, only four games were lost. Four players were ever-present with five more missing only a handful. The front three of David Moss, Brian Stein and Steve White hit 54 goals between them while the defence enjoyed 16 clean sheets.

The only disappointment was the loss, in October, of centre-half Mike Saxby to a knee injury which effectively ended his career.

SECOND DIVISION	PLD	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1 Luton Town (C, P)	42	25	13	4	40	88
2 Watford (P)	42	23	11	8	34	80
3 Norwich City (P)	42	22	5	15	14	71
4 Sheffield Wednesday	42	20	10	12	4	70
5 Queens Park Rangers	42	21	6	15	22	69
6 Barnsley	42	19	10	13	18	67
7 Rotherham United	42	20	7	15	12	67
8 Leicester City	42	18	12	12	8	66
9 Newcastle United	42	18	8	16	2	62
10 Blackburn Rovers	42	16	11	15	4	59
11 Oldham Athletic	42	15	14	13	−1	59
12 Chelsea	42	15	12	15	0	57
13 Charlton Athletic	42	13	12	17	−15	51
14 Cambridge United	42	13	9	20	−5	48
15 Crystal Palace	42	13	9	20	−11	48
16 Derby County	42	12	12	18	−15	48
17 Grimsby Town	42	11	13	18	−12	46
18 Shrewsbury Town	42	11	13	18	−20	46
19 Bolton Wanderers	42	13	7	22	−22	46
20 Cardiff City (R)	42	12	8	22	−16	44
21 Wrexham (R)	42	11	11	20	−16	44
22 Orient (R)	42	10	9	23	−25	39

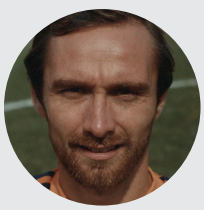
Player focus

Clive Goodyear stepped into central defence to take the place of the injured Mike Saxby and fitted in straight away as the Town strode to the title.



Season standout

Brian Horton proved to be an inspirational skipper, using his vast experience to organise the side as well as always being in the referee's ear.



S2 Luton v Wimbledon.indd 66 31/07/2025 09:47

Welcome to the home of the EFL

Watch your EFL team over

20

times this season. Plus every game from the Carabao Cup and the Vertu Trophy.

sky sports



the TEAMS

LUTON TOWN

MANAGER **MATT BLOOMFIELD**

1	JAMES **SHEA**
2	REUELL **WALTERS**
3	KAL **NAISMITH**
5	MADS **ANDERSEN**
6	MARK **McGUINNESS**
7	MILLENIC **ALLI**
8	LIAM **WALSH**
10	CAULEY **WOODROW**
11	ELIJAH **ADEBAYO**
13	MARVELOUS **NAKAMBA**
14	TAHITH **CHONG**
15	TEDEN **MENGI**
16	HAKEEM **ODOFFIN**
17	NIGEL **LONWIJK**
18	JORDAN **CLARK**
19	JACOB **BROWN**
20	LASSE **NORDÅS**
21	NAHKI **WELLS**
22	LAMINE **FANNE**
23	GEORGE **SAVILLE**
24	JOSH **KEELEY**
25	ISAIAH **JONES**
26	SHANDON **BAPTISTE**
27	JAKE **RICHARDS**
28	CHRIST **MAKOSSO**
29	TOM **HOLMES**
30	GIDEON **KODUA**
37	ZACK **NELSON**
38	JOE **JOHNSON**
41	LUCAS **THOMAS**

AFC WIMBLEDON

MANAGER **JOHNNIE JACKSON**

1	NATHAN **BISHOP**
3	STEVE **SEDDON**
4	JAKE **REEVES**
5	SAM **HUTCHINSON**
6	RYAN **JOHNSON**
8	CALLUM **MAYCOCK**
9	OMAR **BUGIEL**
10	JOSH **KELLY**
11	MARCUS **BROWNE**
12	ALISTAIR **SMITH**
14	MATTY **STEVENS**
18	DELANO **McCOY-SPLATT**
19	OSMAN **FOYO**
20	JOE **McDONNELL**
21	MYLES **HIPPOLYTE**
22	RILEY **HORAN**
24	HARRY **SIDWELL**
25	ETHAN **SUTCLIFFE**
26	RILEY **HARBOTTLE**
27	ED **LEACH**
29	ARON **SASU**
30	JUNIOR **NKENG**
31	JOE **LEWIS**
32	KAI **JENNINGS**
33	ISAAC **OGUNDERE**

The Officials

REFEREE **THOMAS PARSONS**
ASSISTANT REFEREE **MICHAEL WEBB**
ASSISTANT REFEREE **JONATHON BLOCK**
FOURTH OFFICIAL **RICHARD ELEY**

Match Sponsor

CAPITAL SKY LTD.