OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME • £4 • ISSUE 2 v WIGAN ATHLETIC







Luton TOWN







TUESDAY 19TH AUGUST 2025 7.45PM

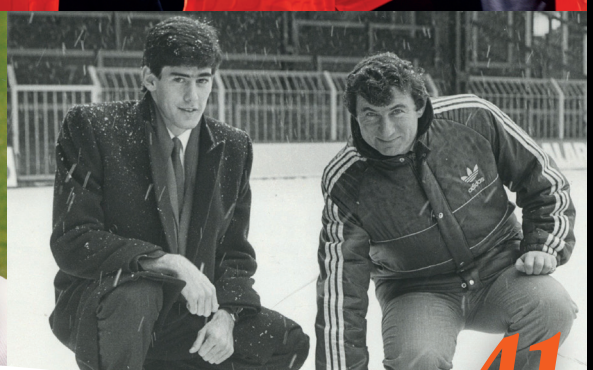
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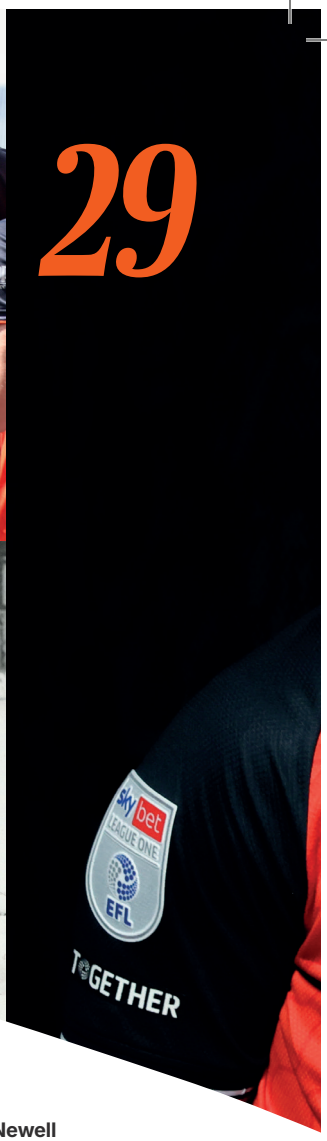
CAPITAL SKY LTD.

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29

14

66

41

COVER CHARACTERS













Emmerson Boyce
Hatters academy graduate who went on to make over 200 appearances before joining Crystal Palace in 2004. Moved to Wigan and spent nine seasons with the Latics, lifting the FA Cup in 2013.

Leon Barnett
Another product of the Town's youth set-up who made 70 appearances before joining West Brom in 2007. After a spell at Norwich, he then joined Wigan in 2013, appearing 98 times.

Kevin Nicholls
'Nico' joined the Hatters from Wigan in the summer of 2001 and went on to help us win two promotions in his first spell. Joined Leeds and Preston before returning to Kenilworth Road in 2008 where he lifted the Johnstone's Paint Trophy at Wembley.

Danny Wilson
Another Wembley winner, Wigan-born Wilson began his career with the Latics. He joined the Hatters from Brighton in 1987 and went on to make 142 appearances, helping us win the Littlewoods Cup in 1988.

Mike Newell
Striker Mike joined us from Wigan in 1986, scoring 18 goals in the top-flight. After a long playing career, he returned to Kenilworth Road as manager in 2003 and guided us to the League One title in 2004/05.

Darren Patterson
Defender who made his name with Wigan, playing over 100 times before a move to Crystal Palace. Signed for the Hatters in 1995 and made 69 appearances in Town colours.

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the PROGRAMME

MADE IN LUTON
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With thanks to the media department at Wigan Athletic
The views in this programme are not necessarily those of Luton Town Football Club

Welcome

After the long-awaited start to the season on home soil against Wimbledon, we've had to be patient for our next fixture here at Kenilworth Road.

The boys left it late in the 1-0 win over the Dons and that deserved victory has been followed up with three games on the road, at Peterborough, Coventry and Bradford over the past couple of weeks.

Since we were last here, we unveiled a couple of new faces in the dressing room, and not only can you read more about who they are inside tonight's programme – but you can find out how the transfer process works as our Supporters' Trust interviews our recruitment manager Yousuf Sajjad.

Remember if you would like anything included in this programme this season, please do get in touch. Drop us an email at media@lutontown.co.uk.

Get behind the lads tonight and we look forward to seeing you again here on Saturday against Cardiff.

UTT!

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DEFEATS AND OFF-DAYS HAPPEN AND **WHAT IS IMPORTANT AFTER ANY SET-BACK IS THE RESPONSE.**

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Matt BLOOMFIELD

Good evening and welcome back to Kenilworth Road to you all for tonight's game with Wigan Athletic.

I wish to extend that welcome to Ryan Lowe and those associated with our visitors who have made the midweek trip. Wigan have started the season well and come into today off the back of a win at the weekend so we'll be in for a tough assignment this evening.

It seems a while since I sat down to write programme notes and plenty has happened since our opening night here against AFC Wimbledon.

Two wins and two clean sheets got our season off to a solid beginning; the late win here against the Dons reward for our patience and determination and our victory against Peterborough deserved after an excellent second half display. What encouraged me the most in both of those games was our willingness to work harder and strive for better standards. We had a heart-to-heart in the dressing room at half-time against Peterborough and it showed in the second 45 minutes.

At Coventry in the Carabao Cup, we changed things up, gave minutes to those who needed them and ran a good Championship side close. Despite the defeat there were positives, none more so than the performance of Christian Chigozie on his debut in defence. Christian is a really talented and humble lad who grabbed his opportunity with both hands. It will not be the last time we see him in a Luton shirt, that's for sure.

However, positives were few and far between at Bradford on Saturday on what was a really disappointing day for us. We won't sugarcoat it: we weren't good enough, and what frustrated us the most was the fact it looked like Bradford wanted it more. That lack of intensity from our game was lacking and only when we upped that in the final minutes did we look more of a threat. That cannot happen again.

Defeats and off-days happen and what is important after any set-back is the response – and we'll certainly be looking for that this evening. What is clear, though, is we are an evolving team. We are still in the early stages of our development as a team with many new faces bedding into the team and getting up to full fitness.

Two of those new boys are Jerry Yates and Cohen Bramall, who I would like to welcome to the club. We announced their signing ahead of the Wimbledon match and both have been involved in the past couple of games where they have both already shown what they are capable of.

Finally, a big thank you to those of you who have travelled to any of our last three away games. Your loyalty and passion are not lost on me. We were all thrilled with the noise and numbers who went to Peterborough and I hope that is the first of many occasions we can celebrate like that. There wasn't enough to shout about at Bradford but I hope we are able to use that disappointment to bounce back stronger while realising that there are simply no easy games at this level.

We will need your support through the good times and bad between now and the end of the season so please sing up and get behind us once again this evening.

Enjoy the game.



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BOARDROOM

GARY SWEET



Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road. Late summer evening games here always have that special kind of feeling, don't they? Make the most of the t-shirt weather – the dark, cold evenings of winter will soon roll around!

Tonight, we welcome Wigan Athletic who make the long trip down from Lancashire. On the subject of the weather, I vividly remember driving home in the snow on the motorway after our last meeting with the Latics, an FA Cup replay victory in January 2023.

Our meetings in recent years have always been full of incident, and I always look back fondly on the late 2-1 win over Wigan here in December 2019 thanks to late goals from Callum McManaman and George Moncur. Callum returns with Wigan this evening and we wish him and the Latics all the best of the remainder of the season.

We go into tonight's game buoyed by a reasonably solid start to the season after a summer of substantial change, on and off the pitch.

Change has not been for the sake of it, but the refresh in the playing squad has reshaped us and will sharpen us for the battles that lie ahead in League One. Across the business we have worked hard to make sure we have made our adjustments with purpose, whether that is on the pitch or behind the scenes.

It is still early days and whilst our performance on Saturday was below where we want it to be and below where it will be in games ahead, we have seen some signs of the plan coming together with some early indications of positivity in the right direction.

These were certainly evident in pre-season. The work ethic and atmosphere about the place have sown those early seeds, with Matt and his team making the most of their first trip to Slovenia to outline and implement their vision for the coming season and beyond.

Pre-season's momentum was carried into the start of the season which began positively with two victories, here against AFC Wimbledon on the opening night of the campaign and then at Peterborough.

At Coventry, despite the defeat, while disappointed to exit a competition that means so much to us, there was plenty to be upbeat about. The most enjoyable part of the evening was witnessing the full debut of Christian Chigozie, who at 17, never looked out of place up against a seasoned Championship strikeforce. Congratulations, Chigsy, you are a credit to yourself and your family.

Christian was not the only young player to be given a chance at the CBS Arena and it was heartening to see such a young side play with a freedom and confidence. Not only does it bode well for the future – after all, we never just planned for 'today' – but it also highlighted the strength in depth available to Matt which is going to be vital throughout the next 10 months.

At Bradford at the weekend, we hit a bump in the road, where we were brought back down to earth following a disappointing result and performance. As Matt and many of the players said afterwards, we were simply not at it – and we hope this will act as a reminder to everyone that this division will not show any mercy. However, knowing the characters and make-up of the squad, they will



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be desperate to bounce back quickly tonight.

Picking up early points before a brand-new team has had time to find its feet bodes well for our character. On the way home from Yorkshire on Saturday evening I was reminded that the last time we were in League One we picked up a measly point after three games – the very season Mick romped us home to the title at the end. It serves as a reminder that patience will be required to allow Matt and co to knit this team together and allow players time to settle and build partnerships across the pitch.

This summer has seen us work hard in our recruitment to build a squad that contains, first and foremost, the kind of character to stand up to the rigours of the division, but as we've said, also build for the future too. Our work in the transfer market has reflected this but, instead of going into detail here, I urge you to read the Supporters' Trust's comprehensive interview with Yousuf Sajjid, our recruitment manager, which goes in-depth into how the transfer process works, including how targets are identified before they sign on the dotted line.

I won't tread on Yousuf's toes, but I will say every signing we make is made with purpose. We want quality, yes, but also character. People who fit the Luton way – hard-working, ambitious, and ready to put the team before themselves – but also players who get you off your seat and make you proud to be a Luton fan.

We also want our new recruits to grow into their skin at Luton, which is where I ask you to give them the support and backing to do so.

Off the pitch, we've been busy building and maintaining our partnerships, and this is my first opportunity to welcome on board Capital Sky as our principal sponsors.

As you may know, our relationship has been ongoing over the last couple of years, with Capital Sky taking on the major construction project at Kenilworth Road to build and install the Bobbers Stand ahead of the Premier League season, and who are currently on the site of Power Court, working on projects at our new stadium. We're delighted to have Martin Maloney and his team on board and to have their name adorning the front of our shirts this season. Sponsorship isn't just about logos on shirts, though, it's about relationships that help us grow on and off the pitch, and we're all looking forward to what we can achieve together.

We have also made a number of appointments behind-the-scenes to elevate areas of the business which have already borne fruit. >>

***"IT IS STILL EARLY DAYS AND WHILST OUR PERFORMANCE ON SATURDAY WAS BELOW WHERE WE WANT IT TO BE AND BELOW WHERE IT WILL BE IN GAMES AHEAD,* WE HAVE SEEN SOME SIGNS OF THE PLAN COMING TOGETHER WITH SOME EARLY INDICATIONS OF POSITIVITY IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.**



Our new away kit made its debut at Bradford on Saturday



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None more so than our replica shirts, where we're happy to have held our promise of this year delivering both home and away kits in the club shop in time for the team wearing them in league action. The feedback on the designs have been positive and, while we're proud to be leading the way in sustainability, we're still keen on producing quality kits that look and feel the part. It was certainly great to see so many away shirts on display on Saturday.

For those who like a surprise, a third kit is just around the corner. We aim to unveil it alongside the Supporters' Trust, who have played a significant part in the designs of all shirts, in the coming fortnight.

In the midst of so much transformation, the one constant that remains, regardless, is you! The away ends at Peterborough and Bradford once more showed that your passion and loyalty knows no bounds and we appreciate every single one of you who has taken time and spent money travelling to watch the team since we were last here at Kenilworth Road.

Tonight is no exception. The lads will need our support from the first minute until the last, and we'll be hoping for another three points. The Wimbledon game was another great reminder of how important backing the team until the end is. I think you would all agree that it won't be the last time we experience a game like that this season, so continue to keep the decibel level high even when the going gets tough. Kenilworth Road is a special place for us – but one we need to make tougher and intimidating for the opposition. If we can all harness that and make it a fortress, then we're half-way there.

Before I sign-off, I'm delighted to confirm that Power Court progresses and remains on track. Many of you who travel on the train line may have spotted that the new substation is now a mere flick away from being switched over and it won't be long before the water-flow of the River Lea is redirected along its new channel. Once these momentous events are done and dusted we can then finally start planning to pile for our new stadium which, whatever happens on or off the pitch, is absolutely the most important project for our football club currently.

So, with a summer of rebuilding the team and the project of building our future, we're seeing signs of definite progress.

Finally, please join us in the seventh minute to celebrate the life of Adam Dilley. One of our own, Adam was Luton through and through and will be missed by us all, none more so by his young family, parents and his friends. Rest in peace, Adam.

COYH!

Gary

> *"KENILWORTH ROAD IS A SPECIAL PLACE FOR US* – **BUT ONE WE NEED TO MAKE TOUGHER AND INTIMIDATING FOR THE OPPOSITION.**

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

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THE CAPTAIN

Kal NAISMITH

This evening back on home soil here at the Kenny gives us the opportunity to quickly put right the wrongs from Saturday's defeat at Bradford.

It was an afternoon where we never got going or looked the best version of ourselves. Bradford made it hard for us and, while we kept going to the end, we left it too late to get anything from the game.

Sometimes defeat feels like the end of the world. However, losing is part of life but when you lose, you learn. Saturday will be one of those moments and we will learn a lot – none more so than what it takes to battle and grind out results in this division.

In the days since, we have recovered and worked on doing the right things tonight against Wigan. We want to return to winning ways and what better place than to do it here at Kenilworth Road under the lights.

Tonight we have a point to prove. All great teams bounce back so we'll be looking to come out, be on the front foot and be aggressive from the off. We want this place to be rocking.

The results and performance at the weekend were unlike those in our opening two games this season where we showed promising signs of both our quality and determination.

Against AFC Wimbledon we waited patiently for the breakthrough and got the goal in the dying moments. I thought defensively we were comfortable and controlled the game for long spells. They sat back and defended stoutly – but we remained patient. I don't think that will be the last time we see a team keeping things tight when they visit Kenilworth Road. We know we are going to have to break teams down but with the quality we have in the side we should be confident of doing so.

Your support on the night was also brilliant. I think you realised the challenge we faced as we tried to break down Wimbledon. The patience that we as a team and you in the stands showed was crucial.

At Peterborough it was fantastic to see so many of you celebrating in the sunshine. To have 3,000 of your own fans at an away fixture at any level is unbelievable, so a huge, huge thank you to you all. As for the game, we needed to take our time to get going but were rewarded in the second half with two goals thanks to Mads' brilliant header and a tap-in from Clicker after Nahki had forced a mistake.

As I've already mentioned, we did not build on that at Bradford but the two first games this season have shown we have a solid base and have quality all over the pitch. After a decent start we know the improvements we need to make.

Tonight is the first of two home matches this week at Kenilworth Road and we're all looking forward to playing back in front of you after three away games in a row. It feels like we've been away for too long.

Please continue your incredible backing of the team tonight and get behind the lads.



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"WE KNOW WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO BREAK TEAMS DOWN BUT WITH THE QUALITY WE HAVE IN THE SIDE **WE SHOULD BE CONFIDENT OF DOING SO.**

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THE HATTERS HERALD

140TH SEASON LIMITED EDITION

LUTON TOWN V WIGAN ATHLETIC

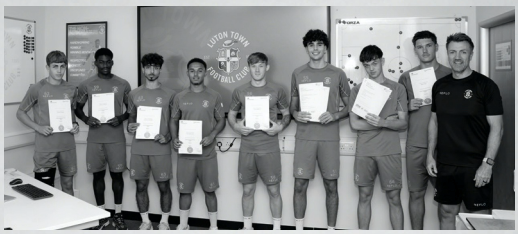
HATTERS SCHOLARS SMASH ACADEMIC TARGETS!

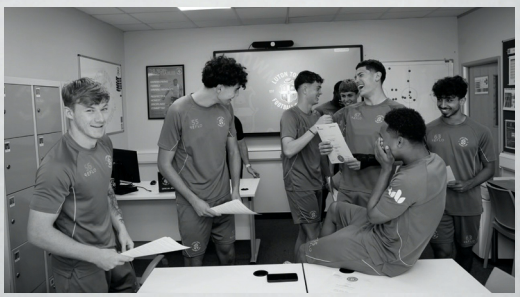
Thursday marked a proud moment for our scholars as they, along with students across the country, received their BTEC and A Level results.

Congratulations to Sam Anderson, Dylan Stitt, Tate Xavier-Jones, Charlie Trustram, Jamie Odegah and Vladimir Paternoster earned a Distinction in their 'Level 3 Sporting Excellence in Performance' qualification, a testament to their dedication both on and off the pitch.

Kobie Dee, Head of Education, said: "We are incredibly proud of the hard work and commitment shown by our scholars throughout their studies. Balancing elite-level football with academic achievement is no easy task, but the lads have risen to the challenge and excelled.

"We look forward to supporting those heading to university and wish the very best to those starting their journeys in the USA. Their achievements are a credit to themselves, their families, and the club."





LEVEL PLAYING FIELD ANNUAL FAN SURVEY 2025

The 2025 Level Playing Field Annual Fan Survey has been launched to collect insight on disabled sports fans' matchday experiences.

Last year's survey received a record number of responses, with results including the most common barriers to attending and services which would improve disabled supporters' experiences.

This year, there is a more focused look at accessible parking, while other data will be compared to previous surveys to track ongoing trends. Disabled fans who have taken part in previous surveys are therefore encouraged to do the same this year, to help the charity monitor any areas of evolution or stagnation.

The survey is open to all disabled fans across England, Wales and Scotland and can be completed via the QR code. It closes on the 25th August.

Data collected also heavily informs Level Playing Field's own activity, with the results proving instrumental in identifying which areas require closer, or more urgent attention.

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1-0

The Hatters got their League One season off to a winning start thanks to a late own goal against AFC Wimbledon.

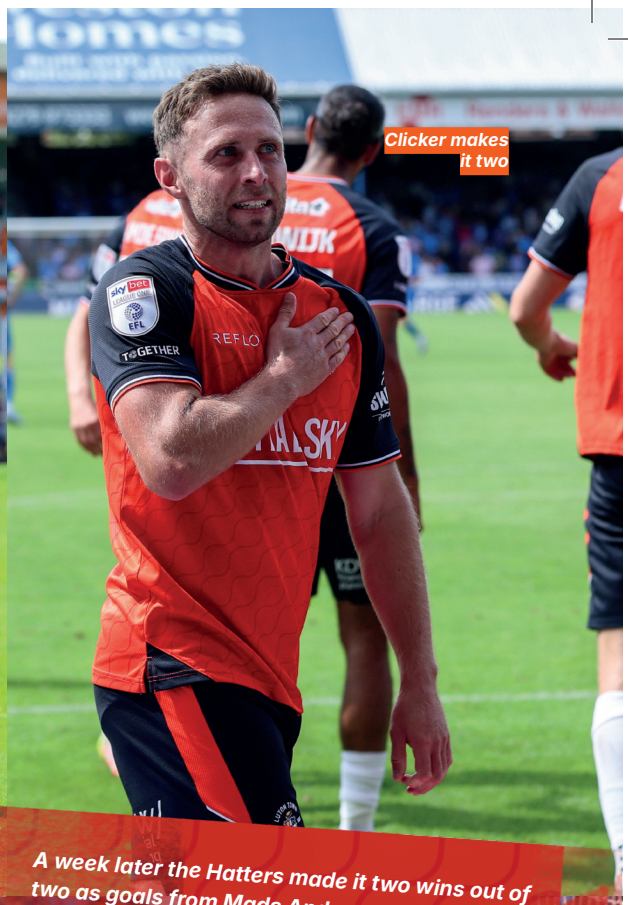
Cauley Woodrow celebrates

Reuell Walters and George Saville in battle

Happiness happening!



Nahki Wells in focus



Clicker makes it two

A week later the Hatters made it two wins out of two as goals from Mads Andersen and Jordan Clark gave us a 2-0 win at Peterborough.



Mads Andersen celebrates the opener

0-2

1-0

Lasse Nordås goes for goal

A week ago we exited the Carabao Cup after a much-changed team lost 1-0 at Coventry City.



James Shea after a close call



This way! Josh Phillips demands the ball



Lamine Fanne keeps his eyes on the ball



Mads Andersen gets back to defend

The Town then tasted defeat in League One for the first time this season going down 2-1 to Bradford at Valley Parade.



Gideon Kodua celebrates pulling one back

2-1

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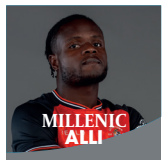
MADS ANDERSEN

AVAILABLE



MARK McGUINNESS

H Sheryl & Corey Mayes
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MILLENIC ALLI

H The Angell Family
A WHOSH



LIAM WALSH

H DLA Driving School
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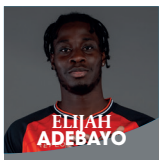
JERRY YATES

H Bobby Moore
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CAULEY WOODROW

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ELIJAH ADEBAYO

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MARVELOUS NAKAMBA

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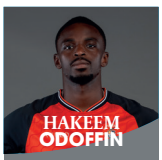
TAHITH CHONG

AVAILABLE



TEDEN MENGI

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HAKEEM ODOFFIN

AVAILABLE



NIGEL LONWIJK

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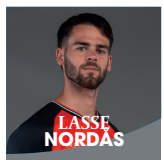
JORDAN CLARK

H Julie & Yvonne
A Ben Bowler



JACOB BROWN

H Kwesi Francis Edubatey
A AVAILABLE



LASSE NORDÅS

H Scandinavian Hatters
A AVAILABLE



NAHKI WELLS

H Community Interest Luton
A AVAILABLE



LAMINE FANNE

AVAILABLE



GEORGE SAVILLE

H David Lee from Hong Kong
A AVAILABLE



JOSH KEELEY

H Doug the Hatter
A Bobbers Travel Club



ISAIAH JONES

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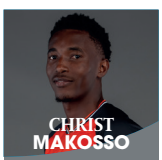
SHANDON BAPTISTE

H TP Extrusions Ltd



JAKE RICHARDS

AVAILABLE



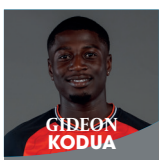
CHRIST MAKOSSO

H WHOSH
A AVAILABLE



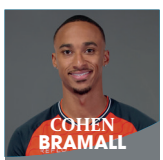
TOM HOLMES

AVAILABLE



GIDEON KODUA

AVAILABLE



COHEN BRAMALL

AVAILABLE



ZACK NELSON

H LTFC Fool
A AVAILABLE



JOE JOHNSON

H SAM Beast Consulting Ltd
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MATT BLOOMFIELD

Mel Westwood Accountancy



MICK HARFORD

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CHRIS PHILLIPS

Bobbers Travel Club

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SPONSORSHIP & HOSPITALITY

At our first home game of the season against AFC Wimbledon, defender Mads Andersen was named man-of-the-match by our match sponsors Capital Sky.

Our principal partner selected our Danish centre-half after an assured performance at the heart of the defence.

Capital Sky and all of our corporate guests on the night all got the VIP treatment against the Dons, with supporters also taking advantage of last-minute hospitality in our dugout and studio packages.

All of our guests in the Eric Morecambe Lounge had the pleasure of meeting James after the game, where the goalkeeper answered questions on his life and times at both clubs.











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WIGAN ATHLETIC

The Latics make the long trip to Bedfordshire for tonight's fixture here at Kenilworth Road as Ryan Lowe's side face the Hatters in their second away fixture of the season.

The former Bury, Plymouth Argyle and Preston North End boss is entering his first full season in charge of Wigan after his appointment back in March.

Last campaign, the Latics had a tight defence as they only conceded 42 league goals all season as they finished 15th in the League One table.

Over the summer, Wigan made a fair few signings to strengthen their squad. Former Portsmouth and Bournemouth striker Christian Saydee was the first to sign for the Latics. Paul Mullin joined the club on loan, as did the likes of Callum Wright, Ryan Trevitt and Isaac Mabaya. Dara Costelloe, Fraser Murray and Morgan Fox also all signed for the club on permanent deals.

Wigan began their season with a convincing 3-0 win over Northampton Town which was followed with an away defeat against Leyton Orient. They also progressed in the Carabao Cup after a winner from Mullin secured a 1-0 victory over Notts County.

The Latics have won here three times in the past, their most recent coming in September 2022 when Thelo Aasgaard scored the winner in 2-1 victory. The Hatters last tasted victory on home soil against Wigan in December 2019 when late goals from Callum McManaman and George Moncur earned us three crucial points.

A warm welcome to everyone associated with Wigan Athletic to Kenilworth Road tonight and we wish them a safe journey home.

WIGAN ATHLETIC AT-A-GLANCE

FOUNDED: 1932

MANAGER:
Ryan Lowe

NICKNAME:
The Latics

STADIUM:
Brick Community Stadium

MAJOR HONOURS:
FA Cup winners 2013

FIERCE RIVALS:
Bolton

LAST TIME AT THE KENNY:
Luton 1-1 Wigan.
FA Cup 7/1/2023

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WIGAN ATHLETIC

THE AWAY END

The Gaffer

RYAN LOWE Former Bury, Plymouth and Preston manager who was appointed Latics boss earlier this year, replacing Shaun Maloney.

Goalkeeper

SAM TICKLE A Wigan academy product who broke into the first team in 2023 and has hardly missed a game since. Has now made over 100 appearances for the club.

Defenders

JASON KERR Scottish centre-back who began his career with East Fife before moving to St Johnstone and later Wigan. Since signing in 2021 he has featured 100 times for the Latics.

STEVEN SESSEGNON 25-year-old defender who has previously played for the likes of Fulham, Bristol City, Plymouth and Charlton. Was sent-off in Wigan's recent defeat against Leyton Orient.

JON MELLISH Joined the club last year after leaving Carlisle at the end of his sixth season at Brunton Park. Played 21 times for Wigan last season.

ISAAC MABAYA Young Liverpool loanee who has made the move to Wigan until the end of the season. Made his debut for the Latics in their opening day victory over Northampton.

Midfielders

TYRESE FRANCOIS Australian midfielder who came through the ranks at Fulham before ending at up at Wigan after a spell in Denmark with Vejle Boldklub.

JENSEN WEIR Now in his second spell with the club as he came through the academy before moving to Brighton. Made the move back to Wigan on a permanent basis in August last year.

TOBIAS BRENAN 19-year-old midfielder who made his senior debut on the opening day after spending time with the youth team following his move from Oxford United.

CALLUM WRIGHT On loan at the club from Plymouth where he featured 35 times in the Championship last season, scoring once.

RYAN TREVITT Brentford loanee who has made the switch to the Brick Community Stadium for the season. Previously had two loan spells at Exeter before joining the Latics.

Forwards

CHRISTIAN SAYDEE Signed for Wigan this summer on a permanent basis following his departure from Portsmouth.

DARA COSTELLOE Irish striker who played for Northampton on loan for the second half of last season, scoring six goals.

JOSEPH HUNGBO A right or left-sided winger who created two goals on the opening day of the season.

FRASER MURRAY Scottish winger who spent a year with Kilmarnock before moving to Wigan in the summer. Scored twice for the Latics on the opening day.

MALEACE ASAMOAH 22-year-old striker who has previously played for Fleetwood and Waterford in Ireland before signing for Wigan.

PAUL MULLIN Wrexham loanee who scored his first Wigan goal in the Carabao Cup win over Notts County. Scored 110 goals for Wrexham and 36 for Cambridge prior to joining the Latics.

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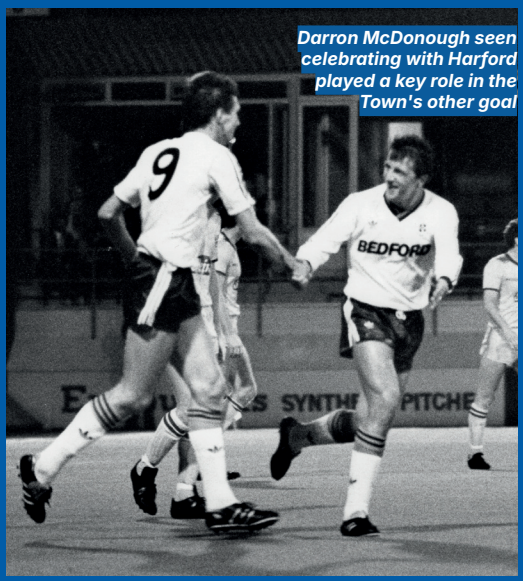
HATTERS *versus* LATICS

Historic meetings between the clubs down the years

OCTOBER 1987

THE FIRST STEPS TO GLORY >>

Little did they know at the time but, six months after beating Wigan 4-2 at Kenilworth Road in the second leg of a Littlewoods Cup second round tie in front of 4,000 fans, the Town would be at Wembley, in the final, beating Arsenal in one of our greatest ever moments. On this occasion, Mick Harford scores a hat-trick to seal a 5-2 aggregate success.



Darron McDonough seen celebrating with Harford played a key role in the Town's other goal

AUGUST 1998

SPRING CHICKENS

A young Hatters team are playing with verve and energy – especially away from Kenilworth Road, and their steady start to the season is epitomised by an excellent 3-1 win at Springfield Park. Experienced duo Steve Davis and Phil Gray are joined on the scoresheet by academy graduate Sean Evers.

DECEMBER 2019

A CRUCIAL COMEBACK! >>

We'd lost 7-0 at Brentford the previous week and looked set for another defeat after the Latics led through Kieffer Moore. But Callum McManaman levelled with three minutes left before Chey Dunkley was then sent off for the visitors. The roof of the Kenny was then blown off thanks to George Moncur's last-minute winner to secure an important three points.



Callum McManaman showing the joy of everyone at Kenilworth Road with that late turnaround

MARCH 2020

GAME PAUSED

Later that season the Town, continuing their fight against the drop from the Championship, had goalkeeper Simon Sluga to thank for a late stop to earn a point in a goalless draw. It would prove to be the final game before Covid closed the world down. It would also prove to be Graeme Jones' final game in charge.

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I FEEL AMAZING!

Academy graduate Christian Chigozie reflects on an evening to remember after the 17 year old made his debut at Coventry

Christian Chigozie thanked manager Matt Bloomfield, his team-mates and all of his academy coaches after making his senior debut in Tuesday's 1-0 Carabao Cup first round defeat at Coventry.

The 17-year-old, who was on the bench in the Premier League while still studying for his GCSEs, played the full game on the right side of the Town's back three and put in a terrific performance against City's seasoned Championship-level strikers.

Bloomfield revealed afterwards that he didn't inform the former Chiltern Academy student, who doesn't turn 18 until November, that he would be playing until the team meeting at 5.30pm.

The manager explained: "There were lots of performances to be pleased with, none more so than Christian. I'm very proud of him of the way he stepped in tonight, once we found out the news about Christ, and we are really proud to give him his opportunity. I thought he grabbed it with both hands."

Asked how he felt after making his debut, centre-back Christian said: "I feel amazing. I didn't know until late, but thank you to the gaffer for giving me the opportunity. Unfortunately, we lost 1-0, but I'm still happy to make my debut for the club.

"I feel very happy that I played the full 90. The confidence came from all the other players boosting my confidence before the game, the gaffer telling me he trusted me a lot, the players helping me throughout the game. That helped build my confidence and then I got in the zone and played well."

Known as 'Chigsy' throughout the academy, where his brother David also plays as an Under-16, Christian paid tribute to his coaches who have helped him through the ranks, having joined the club at Under-7s.

"I've got a lot of thanks to say to the academy, there is loads of coaching staff – the likes of Joe Deeney, Ronnie Henry, Alex Lawless, Wayne Turner, Paul Benson, Jack Cartwright – there are loads of members of staff who have helped me throughout my journey and I'm very thankful to all of them, because I wouldn't be here without them."

He also cited Zack Nelson and Joe Johnson as role models for him to emulate.

"I really look up to Zack and the likes of JJ," said Christian. "Unfortunately, he's out injured, but I look up to both of them because they've come through the ranks, and Zack also gave me a few words before the game just to help me out, because he's been in this position before."

Finally, this level-headed young man has his next target firmly in mind.

"Probably my League One debut, we'll see... hopefully," he smiled.

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Welcome to LUTON TOWN!

Two new faces were unveiled the day of our last home match in the shape of Jerry Yates and Cohen Bramall! Here's all you need to know about our new duo.

JERRY YATES

The 28-year-old striker brings a wealth of goalscoring experience which has seen him hit 97 career goals to date – many of which have come in the Championship over the past four seasons.

Yates signs for the Hatters from Swansea and has won promotion from League One twice in his career during spells at Rotherham and Blackpool.

YATES SAYS:

"I'm delighted to be here and can't wait to get going – it's a shame I can't be involved straight away but I'm looking forward to next week.

"As a player you want to play at the highest level possible but I felt coming to Luton gave me the best possible chance of doing that. It's a massive club that was in the Premier League two seasons ago and now's the time to get the club back up the divisions.

"I came here, looked at the facilities, at Kenilworth Road, and after we'd finished I told my agent 'get me there now'.

"I'm excited because the club is ambitious and I can't wait to get started and to start scoring goals."

HIS STORY SO FAR...

Born in Doncaster, Jerry began his career in the academy at Rotherham and while playing for the under-18s scored a goal from the half-way line.

Before his senior debut for the Millers, he learned his trade out on loan in non-league at nearby Harrogate Railway and then Harrogate Town.

However, injuries meant Jerry was thrust into the Rotherham first team 18, and in 2016/17 he made 23 appearances and scored three goals. Come the end of the campaign >>

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“I CAN’T WAIT TO GET STARTED AND TO START SCORING GOALS
- JERRY YATES

he was named their Young Player of the Season for a second time.

Following their relegation to League One, the striker continued to feature, helping the Millers make an immediate return to the second tier as play-off winners.

In 2018/19 he spent a spell out on loan at Carlisle in League Two, scoring six times in 23 league fixtures before helping Swindon win promotion from the fourth tier the following campaign with 12 goals in 31 league games.

It was all change in July 2020 for Jerry when he left Rotherham in favour of a permanent transfer to Blackpool where he would go on and enjoy three seasons at Bloomfield Road.

His debut campaign in Tangerine saw the forward named players’ player of the year as his 23 goals in all competitions helped to promotion via the League One play-offs.

In the two seasons that followed in the Championship, he scored 23 times in 80 appearances – form that led to many admirers following Blackpool’s relegated in 2023.

Yates signed a three-year deal at Swansea that summer and scored nine goals in all competitions in his debut season in South Wales.

But he was loaned out to Derby last term, helping the Rams stay in the Championship with 10 goals – including an acrobatic overhead kick that saw him win the Goal of the Month award for November.

Jerry kept his options open come the end of the season and had no hesitation in putting pen to paper to become the Hatters’ new number 9.



COHEN BRAMALL

Cohen, who can operate at left-back or at wing-back arrives at Kenilworth Road as a free agent following his release from Portsmouth in the summer.

The 29-year-old began his career in non-league football in the north west, moving to Arsenal in 2017 before spells at Colchester, Lincoln, Rotherham and, most recently, Pompey.

COHEN SAYS:

"As soon as I heard of the interest I wanted to come to Luton, so I'm glad to get it sorted in the end and I'm really looking forward to getting my season started.

"I've missed out on pre-season with the squad, but I think I'll adapt really quick. I'm a fit lad and my game is built around being athletic and just being an engine, so I'm not too worried about my fitness.

"Now it's a question of meeting the boys - meeting the family here - getting my head down and kicking on."

HIS STORY SO FAR...

Having been raised in Crewe, Cohen started playing for Kidsgrove Athletic in 2010 before taking in move to host of clubs for the next six years.

Having played part-time with Nantwich, Market Drayton, Newcastle Town and Hednesford, he was spotted by Arsenal and joined the Gunners in January 2017.

Cohen was a regular in the under-23 squad at Emirates Stadium before getting his first taste of senior football while on loan at Birmingham in 2017/18.

His time in North London came to an end in the summer of 2019 where he went onto sign for League Two Colchester. After a season-and-a-half and 57 appearances he alerted the attention of sides higher up the pyramid and in February 2021 Cohen moved to Lincoln.

Again he took to League One, and in 2022/23 he joined Rotherham where he made 81 appearances in all competitions across two seasons with the Milles in the Championship.

Following their relegation to League One Cohen made the move to Portsmouth on a short-term deal in January this year, playing nine times in helping Pompey retain their Championship status.

> **"AS SOON AS I HEARD OF THE INTEREST I WANTED TO COME TO LUTON**
> **- COHEN BRAMALL**

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THE VIEW FROM THE PRESS BOX

*Luton News sports editor **Mike Simmonds** gives his view of the opening games of the season*

It's been a few months since I last wrote these notes and it's all change at Kenilworth Road yet again.

Relegation from the Championship means a different division once more, although only the second season I will have spent covering League One football following Luton's immediate promotion from it on their way to the riches of the Premier League a few years ago.

While staying on the field, it's a vastly different squad that has been tasked with making sure it's just the one year at this level too, with 10 new signings and eight leaving the club, which isn't including players like Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu, Amari'i Bell and Tim Krul, who were all released in the summer.

Although the transfer window still being open is great for fans – who get to search social media for all the latest rumours over who is joining their club, and who might be going, some genuine, some clearly fabricated – ask pretty much any manager and they would advocate it being shut just before the first game of the season.

Hatters chief Matt Bloomfield is certainly in that camp, as especially with Town back in the third tier, it has seen a number of their first teamers cherry picked by clubs who are in the Championship. Carlton Morris, Reece Burke, Alfie Doughty and Thomas Kaminski to name just four.

That has a knock-on effect when it comes to recruitment for the Hatters as well, as unsure if and when a player is leaving, it has delayed their ability to bring in the new faces they want, that and injury to Izzy Jones leading to the current issues in the wing-back position, which Bloomfield is seeking a speedy resolution.

He still has a few more weeks of it as well, the window closing on 1st September, with Town's business not necessarily done yet, the Luton manager hopeful of bringing at least one more player in, with potential for others to still move on.

On the pitch, it hasn't been a start to get pulses racing yet, although there was plenty to enjoy about Luton's defensive work, which earned successive clean sheets in their opening two matches.

Unfortunately that wasn't as evident at Valley Parade at the weekend, with the Hatters' back-line disappointingly breached twice, but it could act as the wake-up call to anyone who thought this term would be a breeze.

Speaking to Kal Naismith afterwards, the skipper was looking forward to going up against his former side with renewed vigour, relishing the opportunity of bouncing back from a poor performance and first defeat.

Let's hope that happens.



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AYATE





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LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS' TRUST

The Trust Interviews...

Yousuf Sajjad *Player Recruitment Manager*

Welcome to the first Trust Interview of the season – a series where we talk to key figures 'in the background' at the club about their roles and all things Luton Town.

This week we chatted with Yousuf Sajjad, who joined the club in September 2024 as player recruitment manager and in June 2025 took up leadership of the recruitment team that's building our reshaped squad for this season – and for the future.

Thanks for talking to us, Yousuf. First of all, tell us a little about yourself please – your career so far and what brought you to Luton Town.

I was born and raised in West London in a family with Pakistani roots. I grew up with a passion for the game but quickly realised it wouldn't be a playing career I would be able to pursue, so at 18 I turned my attention to other aspects, like coaching and scouting, and went on to do a degree in sports science. I then did some part time work for Opta, the sports analytics company, live coding games – feeding performance data into a database. Following on from this, I volunteered as a scout in the Brentford academy.

Being South Asian, it isn't the norm to be pursuing a career in sport/football. My family are super supportive now but, at the time, there were a few raised eyebrows – particularly because I was spending money out of my own pocket to go and watch grassroots football whilst working part-time in retail. I did this for just over a year before getting the opportunity to join Chelsea where I spent five years full-time, working across the academy and first team. I then spent three years at Arsenal as Head of Emerging Talent, which is where I was able to sign Reuell Walters.

I connected and met with Gary Sweet in 2022 and got a really good feel for the club and the culture which left a mark on me. An opportunity then arose to become Technical Director at a Dutch club, Den Bosch. At 30 years old it was an opportunity I felt like I couldn't turn



down. It became an insane experience which I can't really put into words! Absent owners, zero resources, literally starting from the bottom – but I wouldn't have learnt as much as I did anywhere else. It was the club where Ruud van Nistelrooy started his career and I was fortunate enough to build a good relationship with him and gain his help and support throughout my time. I did 18 months where I felt like I had achieved my aim of leaving them in a better state than when I first went in. I then came back and spoke to a few clubs but connected with Gary again and it felt 100 per cent right to join Luton. I'd felt that way even before going to the Netherlands to be honest. I joined the club in September 2024.

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What is your role at the club?

I was given the opportunity to lead the recruitment department alongside Jay Socik from June 2025 – which is when the department was reshaped. The main part of the role is to manage the recruitment processes and align our objectives as a department to the club's goals during a specific period, with one eye always on the longer term.

Jay, Head of Recruitment Analysis, takes the lead on the data side with Diego Bohorquez (first team data analyst). Marc Tracy, who came back to the club in June 2025 from Lincoln, is our Chief Scout, dealing with the logistical side of managing our scouting team – which includes Luton legend David Moss – and providing his expert opinion on players we're shortlisting, along with Alexander Wilkinson, our full-time first team scout. And then there's Mick Harford, of course. No one recognises a Luton player better than him, and it's great to have him as a sounding board on players we are watching.

How does the recruitment process work?

We took an in-depth look at our processes post January window, starting with our DNA. What, historically, made us successful? What is a Luton player? We've used this to re-build our internal criteria, adapting in some respects to where we are today. We also introduced a game model to be more specific around the positions and profiles we have in the building and what we want to recruit. In preparation for the summer window, we used both elements to firstly assess our squad and then highlight the needs – whether it be from a characteristic standpoint or specific to a position or profile. We created a definition for each profile and Jay and Diego created data benchmarks to be specific within our filtering process. Once we knew what market we were in (post-relegation) – it was then a case of using our data intelligence and the scouting reports, and knowledge of player situations, to flag up and produce long and short lists with reference towards our needs and the playing style we are building towards.

That's the thinking behind our processes, but of course in reality, transfer windows are live and dynamic. There's the element of following our process but also searching for opportunities to capitalise on and being flexible towards what the market throws up. Christ Makosso was a process driven signing, whereas Isaiah Jones, Nahki Wells, George Saville, Jerry Yates for example were market opportunities that were a perfect fit for what we were looking for. >>

> ***"AND THEN THERE'S MICK HARFORD, OF COURSE. NO ONE RECOGNISES A LUTON PLAYER BETTER THAN HIM, AND IT'S GREAT TO HAVE HIM AS A SOUNDING BOARD.***



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“SOME TARGETS WON’T DROP DOWN TO LEAGUE ONE, OTHERS WANT TO STEP UP TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP AND NO LOWER – WE’VE SEEN THAT RECENTLY. THAT’S JUST THE REALITY OF WHERE WE ARE.

We took a different approach with Jake Richards, where we had done some work on him and then had an opportunity to bring him on trial – he came in and impressed, and we signed him.

How does this process then work with the manager, coaches and board?

It’s a collective decision-making process. Once we short list the players that we want to target, we as a recruitment team collate the relevant information on each player including live viewings from myself and Jay. We then touch base with the agent to see if a move is feasible and create a dossier to present to the manager and coaching staff. It’s a collaborative approach, which Gary and the board are extremely supportive with. What really helps is having regular communication with Matt during this period. We speak daily which helps us continuously align our thoughts. A big part of my role is then leading on the negotiations with agents and clubs with help from Operations Director James Mooney and Gary. On the recruitment aspect, I know that once a player we want gets in front of Matt, they’re going to sign. Jerry Yates was a great example of that. Even though he wanted to originally stay at Championship level, he signed for us because he knows we’ll soon enough be back there with Matt at the helm.

What additional challenges has relegation created for recruitment?

It’s certainly changed some things. Some targets won’t drop down to League One, others want to step up to the Championship and no lower – we’ve seen that recently. That’s just the reality of where we are. It has however, worked the other way as well, where we attract a George Saville, Nahki Wells because of our ambition to get back to the Championship and them wanting to fight for it.

We’re also limited with what we can recruit from Europe this season, as the number of work permits we are able to apply for in league one compared to the championship are reduced. We have hit the



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maximum number which fulfil the relevant criteria, with players that are already in our squad. This has reduced the pool of players accessible to us for the moment.

When it comes to our budget and wages, we are fully being backed by Gary and the board, but we will not compromise our commitment to sustainability by paying over market value for players or throwing inflated wages and contracts their way. We're seeing some of that happening elsewhere this summer, but we will always operate within our means, and we do that well. I am absolutely sure that we are building a squad that can – and will – fulfil our objectives, and it will only get better.

In what ways does our recruitment look to the future?

We are clearly trying to build a squad for us to progress this season, but also, for lasting success. Given what the fans and club have been through over the last 18 months or so, Matt and us all want to build is a team that allows people to be excited again. That's what it's all about. So we have a blend of experience and leadership and some incredibly exciting young talent coming through. We are all thrilled when academy players step up – like Christian Chigozie already this season, Josh Philips, Zak Nelson and Joe Johnson, with more to come too. We liaise constantly with Paul Benson and the academy staff about who is at what stage, and a flow of homegrown talent certainly makes our jobs easier! But



"JOSH, FOR INSTANCE, IS AN AMAZING SIGNING FOR US PERMANENTLY FROM SPURS

we're also investing heavily in exciting young talent: Jake Richards, Gideon Kodua, Reuell Walters, Lamine Fanne, Christ Makosso and Josh Keeley. I think that demonstrates our ambition – Josh, for instance, is an amazing signing for us permanently from Spurs. As is Nigel Lonwijk, who we have taken on loan but with conditions to make that a permanent move. Power Court is also a great thing to pitch to players we're aiming to sign as well: they can see the vision of the club and want to be part of it. Envisioning the team that steps out for our first game at Power Court is incredibly exciting.

What's your message for us fans?

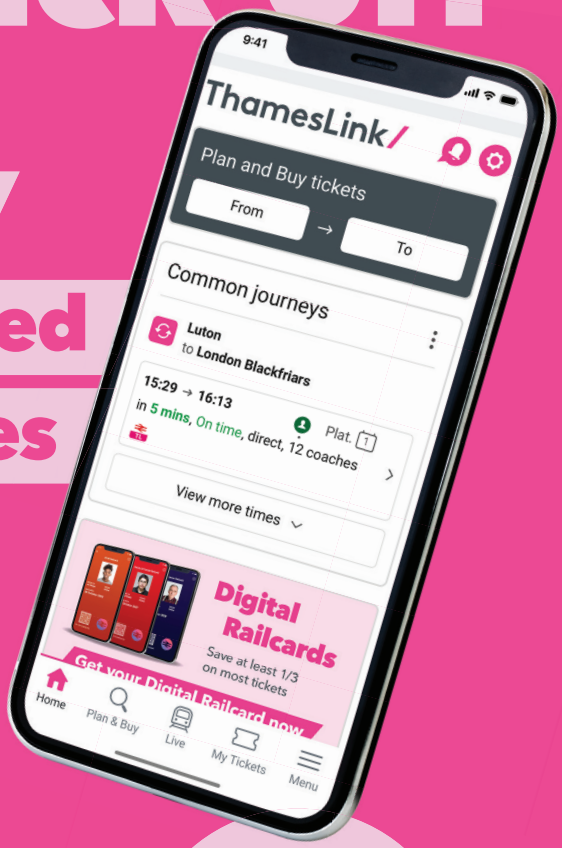
There isn't a person in the building that isn't working to their maximum capacity to try and get us back to where we belong. We have made a lot of changes to the squad and the club in general over the last months. When it comes to our squad planning, it isn't a quick fix, we will use more than one window, particularly with how much we are attempting to change and evolve. Having said that, I really believe this can be a season where we all enjoy our football again. The home and away support, even in these first few games, has been incredible and, from what I have experienced whilst being at the club, they really can be the 12th man and contribute towards our positive moments. It makes a huge difference to the staff and players so we hope this can continue, whilst we push towards our goals for this season and beyond.

Thanks to Yousuf for these fascinating insights – let's do our bit and sing our hearts out for the lads today and for every game!

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

Wearing HISTORY

2019/20 goalkeeper

"Ah, I remember this! Very pink, Sluga hated it when we played in this one," was the response I received from our very own James Shea when I asked him to sign a version of this shirt recently.

Made during our Puma era, this shirt features a shallow V-neck collar, a lovely pink and blue pattern on the sleeves, with the Puma and sponsors logo in white on the front.

A fun fact about this shirt is that there were two versions used during the season. One with the Indigo Residential sponsor, the other with Star Platforms. The Star Platforms version was never sold commercially, though, only issued to the players.

It is a classic example of a modern era goalkeepers' shirt, with long sleeves but no padding, like shirts used to have back in the 1990s and 2000s. Perhaps modern keepers simply do not like padding on their shirts anymore, or they have improved the pitches so the landing from dives isn't as aggressive and painful as it was back in the day.

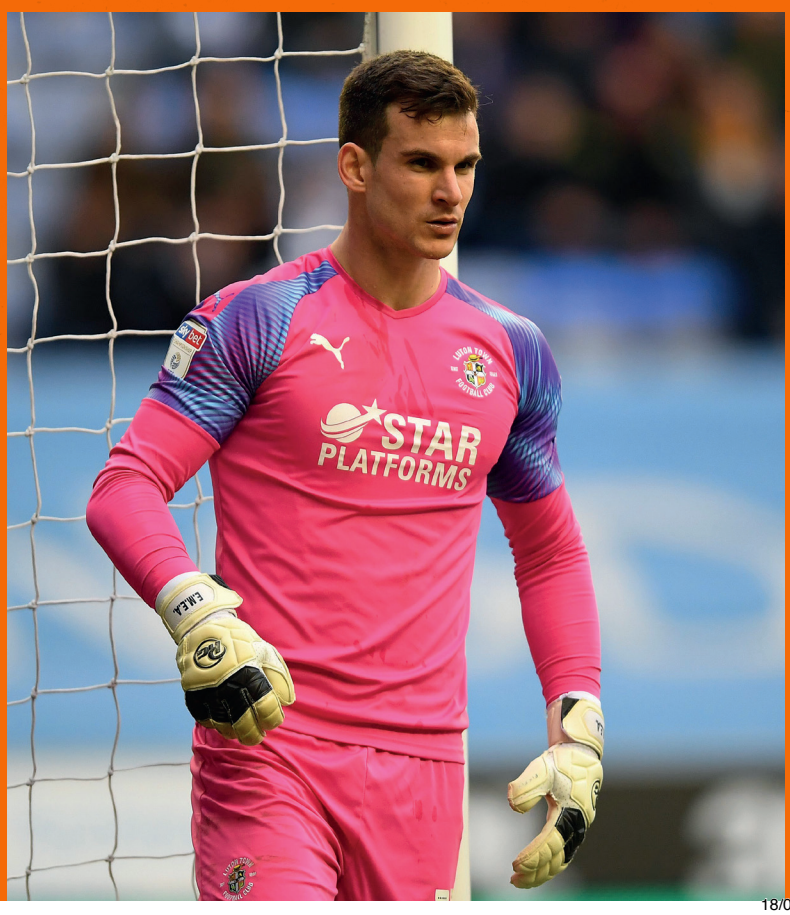
This shirt certainly reminds me of Simon Sluga – with the number 12 on the back of his shirt and the Championship sleeve patches, which really stood out against the pink backdrop of this shirt.

Croatian international Sluga first wore this shirt in our away win against Blackburn Rovers in September that season and goals from James Collins and Matty Pearson secured the win that day.

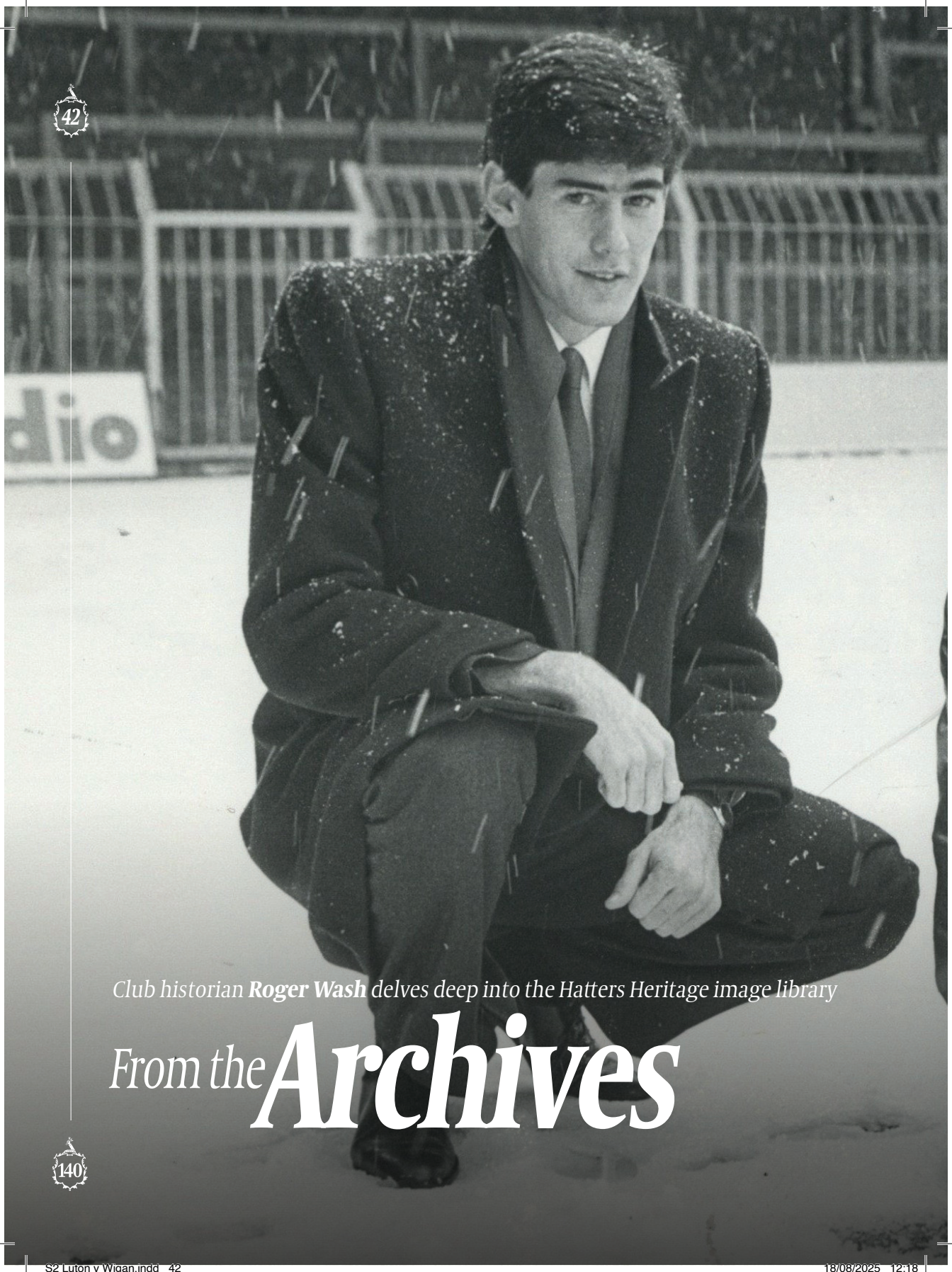
Shea also got a run out in this shirt during our away defeat to Birmingham City in October, a match in which a young lad called Jude Bellingham played for the opposition. I wonder whatever happened to him?

This shirt didn't get as many outings, but its final appearance was a game of significance. 7th March 2020, a 0-0 draw away at Wigan. The match itself wasn't eventful, but that was the last game before the league paused, and the world changed – and Sluga made several key late saves to earn a point.

What followed was the Great Escape – and the rest is history!



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

From the Archives

S2 Luton v Wigan.indd 42 18/08/2025 12:18

A young Mike Newell is pictured on a snowy Kenilworth Road pitch with Town manager

David Pleat after signing from Wigan for £90,000 in January 1986.

By the time he hung up his boots Mike had notched up over 500 league and cup appearances for 12 clubs attracting transfer fees of £3.5 million along the way.

Pictured inset is Mike completing his hat-trick in our 4-1 thumping of Liverpool at Kenilworth Road in October 1986.



S2 Luton v Wigan.indd 43 18/08/2025 12:18

We look back on some of the most iconic matches played on this day in our history

ON THIS DAY

19th August









1953
We share eight goals in a 4-4 draw with Oldham at Kenilworth Road in Division Two (now Championship) with Johnny Downie scoring a hat-trick for the Hatters. Town led 2-0 inside 15 minutes, then trailed 4-2 before fighting back to earn a point.

1978
More goals are on the menu when Oldham visit Kenilworth Road again, but this time there's no sharing as we run out 6-1 winners. Remarkably the Hatters trail 1-0 at half-time but plunder six goals after the break. Bob Hatton and David Moss both grab a brace while Brian Stein and Lil Fuccillo are also on target.

1980
The Town take the local bragging rights against Watford thanks to a Steve White header. The frontman gets on the end of a David Moss cross to seal the points. The Hornets dominate the second half and think they score a leveller but the goal is chalked off.

1995
Tony Thorpe's clinical finishing is the difference on this day 30 years ago as the striker earns us a 1-0 win at Southend. The result is more impressive given Ceri Hughes is dismissed in the opening minutes – it was our first win at Roots Hall since 1964.

2000
Twenty-five years ago today we met today's visitors Wigan, going down 2-1 on our first visit at the Latics' new home. Julian Watts scores our goal, cancelling out an early Wigan goal before the hosts win it late on.

2017
The last time we were in action on this day came eight years ago when the Town saw off Colchester 3-0 at Kenilworth Road in League Two. Olly Lee, James Collins and Dan Potts were all on target.





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Bob (seated) surrounded by the back-room staff

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

TOP HATTERS

Bob Readhead *- From ballboy to club secretary*

Not many people are fortunate enough to find a job they'd also class as a hobby. Bob Readhead, a Luton Town supporter who served many roles within the club in his life, was one of the lucky ones.

He was born in October 1917 into a family of straw hat manufacturers and grew up on Lyndhurst Road, not far from the football ground and club that would form such a significant part of his life. He first served as a ballboy and then joined in the early 1930s on a part-time basis after serving as secretary of the Luton Sundale Club, which had produced many strong local players.

By 1938 he was serving as assistant to 'A' team manager, and future Town boss, George Martin, a role he would return to after serving in World War Two, this time with Hubert Day, before taking over the reins himself after Day's promotion to chief scout.

His move into the administrative side of the club came in 1959 when he was appointed as assistant secretary to Phil Coley. An unenviable early responsibility was to help with the allocation of FA Cup final tickets, a task which led fans to still reproach Bob over 30 years later for his failure to provide them with a ticket!

Upon Coley's emigration to New Zealand in 1963, Readhead was first made acting secretary before being appointed fully in 1964. These were generally not happy times for the club as the descent through the leagues continued, though Bob managed to sidestep the various boardroom turmoils over the years.

It was he who, noting Eric Morecambe looking for a seat in the Main Stand, invited the comedian to sit in the directors' box, a shrewd move that would eventually see Morecambe become a director and vice-president of the club.

A major part of the secretary role involved the finalising of transfers. In the pre-internet and fax era, and with posting the documents leaving too much to chance, this would often mean a frantic Thursday dash to Lytham St. Annes to hand deliver the paperwork so the player would be ready for that Saturday's game.

Sometimes a transfer would require even more urgency. Such as in March 1972, when a deal for John Faulkner was set into action shortly before the deadline, the club having sold Chris Nicholl to Aston Villa and in need of a replacement.

In foggy conditions, he accompanied Harry Haslam from Luton to Leeds. "Harry won't mind

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me saying it, but he's got a very heavy pair of shoes when it comes to touching the accelerator pedal," he would recall in later life. "We left Harry's house at 10.45pm that night and walked into the Queen's Hotel in Leeds exactly two hours and 10 minutes later. It was foggy, really patchy, but I'll say this for Harry, he's a really good driver."

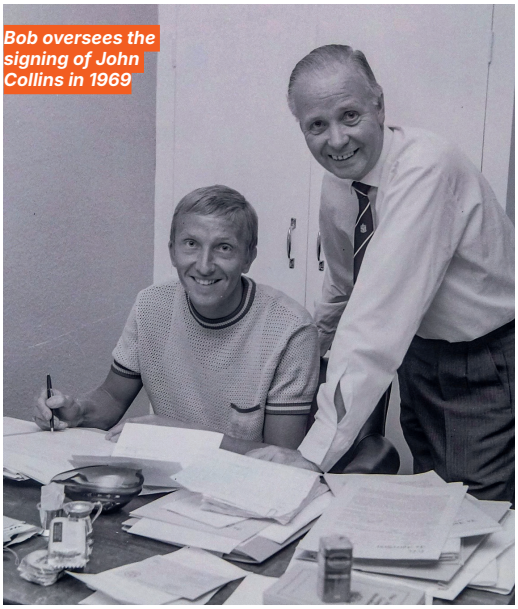
Often the journey would take him even further afield, as was the case when a trip to Australia was required to sign striker Adrian Alston in 1974 – a distance likely to have been the furthest travelled to complete a single transfer at the time.

By then the Town were preparing to return to the top-flight, meaning Bob had been in the secretary's office all the way down the leagues and back again, another first for the time. Sadly, the end of that season brought both relegation and the news that, at just 57, the club had decided it was time for Readhead to retire, a decision he vehemently disagreed with, briefly threatening legal action. He was replaced by Doug Lygo, the club's chief accountant.

Bob remained stoic. "I don't feel bitter. I'm a philosophical man," he said. "They've given me two free seats for matches, and I will continue to support Luton Town."

He was also well aware of his reputation as someone who had made both friends and enemies in the game, telling Brian Swain in 1975, "you must do some things people don't like. You always try to do your best, but you can't please everyone".

The early retirement gave him a chance to improve his golf – he played off a handicap of 20 – and he became a voluntary secretary and treasurer of the Bobbers Club, ready to do anything from clearing the bar to keeping the books, remarkable for a man who could have so easily held a grudge.



Bob oversees the signing of John Collins in 1969

He was in attendance for the 1988 Littlewoods Cup final, and prouder still to attend in his 1959 FA Cup Final blazer. "We were kitted out at Charles Mares, and I think the blazers cost three guineas," he recalled at the time. "I put it away in the wardrobe as a treasured possession and decided I would only wear it when Luton went to Wembley for cup finals. And it still fits!"

Bob passed away in 1992 survived by Marie, his wife of 51 years.



> *"YOU MUST DO SOME THINGS PEOPLE DON'T LIKE. YOU ALWAYS TRY TO DO YOUR BEST, BUT YOU CAN'T PLEASE EVERYONE.*

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LTFC academy

Under-21s boss ALEX LAWLESS reflects on pre-season and looks ahead to the new campaign

As per each year we begin the season with a mixed group of ages ranging from third year pros (under-21s) to first year pros (under-19s), but this year we have had many under-18s often making the step up.



Alex Lawless looks on as Christian Chigozie aims for a pass at The Brache

Our pre-season opposition was mixed between high category academies and senior men's teams to present the players with varied challenges and there were some encouraging performances from a young team.

A standout experience for the players came during a short trip to Slovenia with the first team whereby the players had the opportunity to showcase their abilities and personalities to Matt Bloomfield, and there were some stand out performances and goal involvements.

To gain more consistent and valuable senior football experience, four players so far have ventured out on loan. These include Taylan Harris (Tranmere), Oliver Lynch (Tamworth), Claude Kayibanda (Bedford Town) and Liam Coyne (Biggleswade Town). We wish the lads well and we look forward to monitoring and hopefully seeing their progress.

Looking at the season ahead we will once again partake in a private league and, after its success last year, we have gained another member in Cambridge United, taking this up to seven teams. The other clubs involved are Oxford United, Northampton, Bromley, Notts County and Chelmsford City. After winning this last season our obvious aim is to retain the title over these 12 games.

One competition we will be targeting to win this season is the Beds Senior Cup after a disappointing early exit to Barton Rovers last term. It's very important that we progress far in this cup as the more games we play, the more exposure to senior opposition our players are exposed to.

Something which is very pleasing to report is that we have once again been accepted into the Premier League Cup. We are aiming to better last season whereby we reached the second round after an impressive group stage. Our group opponents this season are Brentford, WBA and Exeter which is an exciting and fantastic challenge for the under-21s. Further details and dates will be announced in due course.

All these fixtures, competitions and loans are a great platform for our young Hatters to develop and we are very proud of all our youth players who make it to our first team.

Most recently we saw this with Christian Chigozie's debut, who despite being an under-18 player on paper, often represents the under-21s with solid on and off the field performances which has in turn caught the eye of the manager.

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Three in a row for Under-18s

Joe Deeney's Under-18s have continued from where they left off last season by winning their first three games of the new campaign.

They kicked off the season with a 5-1 win over Plymouth Argyle in the Youth Alliance before beating Leyton Orient 6-4 three days later. On Saturday they then saw off Oxford in their first game of the PDL Cup.

The scoring against Plymouth started in the 13th minute when Alvin Isufi teed up Nassim El Gourja to drill a fine finish into the bottom corner from 20 yards.

It was 2-0 just before half-time when El Gourja got to the byline to fizz in a low cross that saw Sam Hincapie-Alfonso tap home from close range.

After the break, a pass in behind the Plymouth defence from El Gourja found Dawid Gawel, and he raced through on goal to bury a great finish beyond the Argyle keeper.

Plymouth got one goal back from the penalty spot but Gawel scored twice late on to complete his hat-trick.

Against Orient the Town were 2-0 up inside eight minutes thanks to goals from Ty Lesser and Kyron Roberts-Edema.

However, by half-time, the lead had been wiped out as Orient scored twice to level things up going into the interval.

And after the break Lesser put the Town 3-2 up but Orient then fought back to lead 4-3.

Yet the Hatters responded when Darren Frimpong-Kwakye was fouled in the box, Orient were reduced to 10 men and Harry Fox converted from 12 yards.

Victory was then complete in a crazy game as two goals from Gawel secured a 6-4 win.

At the weekend the Town saw off Oxford 3-0 in the first game in the PDL Cup since lifting the title last season.

Goals from Darren Frimpong-Kwakye, Sam Hincapie-Alfonso and Gawel made it three wins on the spin for Deeney's side.

The youngsters are next in action at The Brache on Saturday when they face Cheltenham Town in the Youth Alliance.



Striker Oliver Lynch has joined National League side Tamworth on loan

2025/26 U18 FIXTURES

AUGUST

Sat 8 Plymouth Argyle W 5-1
Tue 12 Leyton Orient W 6-4
Sat 16 PDLC Oxford Utd W 3-0
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

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S2 Luton v Wigan.indd 50 18/08/2025 12:18

youth PROFILE

Christian Chigozie

YOUR NAME? Christian Chigozie

WHERE ARE YOU FROM? Luton

WHAT POSITIONS DO YOU PLAY? Centre-back

WHEN DID YOU JOIN THE ACADEMY? Under-7s

WHO WAS YOUR FOOTBALL HERO GROWING UP? Didn't have one

GO-TO BOOTS RIGHT NOW? Tiempos

FIRST TIME YOU KICKED A BALL? When I was three

BIGGEST LESSON FOOTBALL'S TAUGHT YOU? Always remain humble

FUNNIEST TEAMMATE? Kyron Roberts-Edema

HARDEST WORKER? Benny Benagr









BIGGEST INSPIRATION OUTSIDE FOOTBALL? Jesus

TEAMMATE MOST LIKELY TO BE A MANAGER? Harry Fox

MOMENT YOU'LL NEVER FORGET? Being on the bench in the Premier League

BEST BIT ABOUT BEING AT LUTON? It's local to me

ONE THING YOU'RE WORKING ON? Organisation

PRE-MATCH ROUTINE OR SUPERSTITIONS? Stretch and pray

FAVOURITE MUSIC... Gunna

FAVOURITE GAME... Uno

GO-TO CHEAT MEAL... Nando's

IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER? Estate agent

PERSON YOU'D SWAP PLACES WITH FOR A DAY? Virgil van Dijk

THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE YOURSELF. Strong, passionate, ambitious

ONE THING PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU? I was born in Spain

BIGGEST FOOTBALL DREAM? To win the Ballon D'or

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LUTON TOWN FC

COMMUNITY TRUST

A round-up of all the latest news from our Community Trust



YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY FAIR

We recently joined forces with the Department for Work & Pensions, Luton Borough Council, Mary Seacole Housing Association and Tokko Youth Space to coordinate Youth Employability Fairs in the heart of Luton.

Hosted at Tokko Youth Space, the event aimed to inspire and connect young people aged 16 to 24 with meaningful opportunities in employment, training and skills development.

Our team, representing both the club and the Community Trust, was proud to connect with young people in Luton, showcasing the wide range of career paths available behind the scenes at Luton Town Football Club.

From community engagement and coaching to catering, hospitality, operations and administration, we highlighted the many routes young people can take into the world of Luton Town.

Bert Klemmer, Programmes Manager (Education, Employability & Learning), said: "It was a fantastic day of collaboration, aspiration, and opportunity. Events like the Youth Employability Fair are important – not just for showcasing available pathways into work, but for building young people's confidence, helping them see what's possible, and connecting them with people and organisations.

"We are committed to continuing our support for people across Luton as they take their steps into employment and beyond."

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BOOK YOUR TIPS COURSE NOW!

We're delighted to announce that bookings are now open for our Talent Identification Programme (TIPS) the entry level to Luton Town FC Community Trust's Youth Development system for boys and girls from Year 1 to Year 7.

TIPS is a half-termly, focused training block designed to develop individual players of all abilities. Each week, participants will take part in high-quality, structured sessions covering key topics such as passing and receiving, dribbling, finishing, ball mastery and more – ensuring a complete football education in a fun, inclusive environment.

At the end of each half-term, participants will be invited to join our Youth Development training alongside our signed players for an assessment week. Following this, every player will receive a written report from our professional coaches, providing personalised feedback and next steps.

To make things even more exciting – every participant will be entered into a ballot at the end of each block, with the chance to win match tickets to a Luton Town game!

Our Football Development Manager, Alex Wallace, said: "The TIPS programme is a brilliant opportunity for young players to develop their skills and build confidence. It's also a fantastic pathway for those aiming to progress into our elite squads."

For more information or to secure your child's place, visit our website: www.lutontowncommunity.co.uk and click on "Book a Course!"

> *"AT THE END OF EACH HALF-TERM, PARTICIPANTS WILL BE INVITED TO JOIN OUR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT TRAINING ALONGSIDE OUR SIGNED PLAYERS.*

KEEP THE KIDS ENTERTAINED!

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!"



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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

Luton Town LADIES

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE NEW SEASON!

Having won the Eastern Region Women's Football League Premier Division title last season, the Hatters now find themselves in the Women's National League Division One South East – the fourth tier of the women's game.

Changes to the WNL Cup

The promotion means the Town have had their participation in the brand new format of the FA WNL Cup confirmed.

The FA announced the introduction of Professional Game Academy sides, with the Town being drawn in a group with Tottenham Hotspur PGA, who they'll host at Barton tomorrow night!

Joining the Hatters and Spurs in Group M is tier-three Oxford United and Milton Keynes.

The group winners and the 10 best runners-up will advance to the knockout stages of the competition, whereas the other 12 runners-up, and 20 best third-placed teams out of the 22 groups, will be placed into the WNL Plate knockout stages.

Upcoming opponents

A new division for the ladies presents 11 new teams for them to face in their return to the fourth-tier.

The other two newcomers to the league are Fulham and Milton Keynes. The Cottagers gained promotion from tier-five with a points tally of 62 from 22 games. Milton Keynes were relegated from the third-tier with one point in their 22 games, finishing with a -114 goal difference.

The Hatters' trip to Fulham won't be their only away day in London throughout the campaign, with Queens Park Rangers, Dulwich Hamlet, London Bees and Actonians also playing their football in the capital.

Last season's runners-up Norwich City are also a new test for the Town. The match between the two on Sunday 14th September is scheduled to be played at Carrow Road.

AFC Sudbury, Cambridge United, Chatham Town and Chesham United make up the rest of the division.

The squad

Goalkeepers: Sarah Hudson, Nicole Melling.

Defenders: Fiona Buttigieg, Nicole Farmer, Tanya Blacksley, Shanice Lewis, Lisa Milliken, Ellie Sargeant, Erin Price, Sasha Smith.

Midfielders: Amber Leighton, Liz Mulvaney, Shianne Swarres, Janaye Beaufort, Kiyana Fryer, Taylor O'Leary

Forwards: Leyah Maddix (C), Tasha Fensome, Amy McLean, Emily Wilson, Courtnay Ward-Chambers, Summer Gayle.

Home comforts

All of the home games are currently scheduled to be played at Barton Rovers' Sharpenhoe Road ground for the fourth consecutive season.

The Hatters have completed two seasons without suffering defeat in the league at Barton, and they need your support as this upcoming season they will come against some of the toughest tests yet.

Adult tickets are priced at £5 and children at £1. Fans are able to purchase a home season ticket by contacting the general manager, Nikki Baker, via email at **nikkibaker87@hotmail.com**.

We hope to see as many of you as possible at Barton tomorrow for our WNL Cup opener against Tottenham Hotspur PGA.

COYH!

2025/26 FIXTURES

AUGUST
17 Dulwich Hamlet W 3-1
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

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Kellogg's FOOTBALL CAMPS

Kicks off April 2026



Available nationwide



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A big shoutout to our mascots at the AFC Wimbledon game!

UP THE TOWN

JUNIOR HATTERS

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

WORD SEARCH

FIND SOME OF THE NEW BOYS

KEELEY, LONWIJK, WELLS, SAVILLE, KODUA, NAISMITH, ODOFFIN

HATTERS! HATTERS! HATTERS!

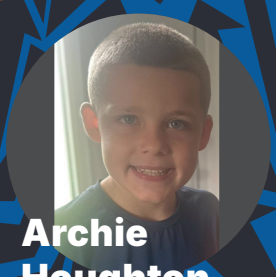
MASCOTS



Harry Fish
Age: 10
Hobbies: Playing football, visiting the SESC to play pool, watching Luton home and away.
Favourite Player: Jordan Clark

Isabelle Green
Age: 7
Hobbies: Dancing, Running and Art
Favourite Player: Christ Makosso





Archie Houghton
Age: 8
Hobbies: Playing football and FC25
Favourite Player: Christian Saydee

COYH!

FANTASY | EFL

WIN ONE OF 72 SEASON TICKETS



SIGN-UP TODAY

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

FOOTBALL FOR **A FIVER!**

The Hatters are offering first team football for just £5 when Barnet visit Kenilworth Road next month!

Matt Bloomfield's new-look squad will be playing in the EFL Trophy – now known as the Vertu Trophy – for the first time since 2018/19 when the Bees come to town on Tuesday September 2nd September.

Kick-off for our Southern Group H opener is 7.30pm.

Admission is £5 for adults, with all kids (aged 16 and under) in for a quid!

Tickets go straight to general sale so purchase yours in person and online now and get behind the team as we take on the newly-promoted League Two side managed by former Town youngster Dean Brennan.

Prices:

Adults - £5

Under-17s - £1

**Children aged 13 and under must be accompanied by an adult.*

***Tickets will initially be available in Main Enclosure Blocks A-G and Main Stand Blocks A-B for home supporters, with further areas opening subject to demand.*

HOME GAMES NOW ON general sale

v Cardiff City

Saturday 23rd August, 12.30pm
Category A

v Plymouth Argyle

Saturday 13th September, 3pm
Category A

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LEAGUE LOOK

STEVENAGE SURGE TO THE SUMMIT

The Town dropped to ninth in the embryonic League One table after Saturday's defeat at Bradford with our near neighbours Stevenage now topping the third tier standings.

Boro ran out 2-0 winners over Northampton on Saturday, making them the only side in the division to win all three of their opening matches.

Five sides sit below the Broadhall Way side locked on seven points, including our visitors here this coming weekend, Cardiff.

The Bluebirds saw off Rotherham 3-0 in South Wales to lift them into the second place. Barnsley sit third after their 1-1 draw against Bolton Wanderers.

Stockport lie fourth but were denied a third straight win as Leyton Orient came from two goals down to earn a point in a 2-2 draw at Brisbane Road.

Two sides promoted from League Two lie fifth and sixth, with Doncaster earning a point from a 1-1 draw with Wycombe while Bradford jumped into the play-off spots after their win over us.

At the other end of the table three sides remain pointless. Reading prop up the table in these early stages after going down 2-1 at home to AFC Wimbledon.

Tonight's visitors Wigan condemned Peterborough to a third straight defeat with the Latics running out comfortable winners at the Brick Community Stadium.

Plymouth, down from the Championship, have also lost all of their games to date, going down 3-2 at Lincoln with former Hatter James Collins on target twice for the Imps.

Northampton, Wycombe and Port Vale remain the other three clubs who have yet to taste victory so far.

In the pick of the games this midweek, Stockport take on Bradford and Huddersfield host Doncaster. Stevenage will be aiming to make it four wins in a row when they travel to Port Vale.



PLAYER STATS *2025/26*

	LEAGUE APP(S)	LEAGUE GLS	CUP APP(S)	CUP GLS	TOTAL APP(S)	TOTAL GLS	LTFC CAREER APP(S)	LTFC CAREER GLS
Elijah Adebayo	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0	0	182	47
Millenic Alli	3 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	3	0	20	4
Mads Andersen	3 (0)	1	0 (0)	0	3	1	22	2
Shandon Baptiste	2 (1)	0	0 (0)	0	2	0	20	1
Cohen Bramall	0 (1)	0	1 (0)	0	1	0	2	0
Jacob Brown	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0	0	52	7
Christian Chigozie	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	1	0	1	0
Tahith Chong	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0	0	69	7
Jordan Clark	3 (0)	1	0 (0)	0	3	1	182	19
Lamine Fanne	1 (2)	0	1 (0)	0	2	0	17	0
Tom Holmes	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	1	0	21	1
Joe Johnson	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0	0	15	0
Isaiah Jones	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0	0	18	2
Josh Keeley	3 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	3	0	3	0
Gideon Kodua	0 (1)	1	1 (0)	0	1	1	2	1
Nigel Lonwijk	2 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	2	0	4	0
Christ Makosso	2 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	2	0	15	0
Mark McGuinness	1 (2)	0	1 (0)	0	2	0	48	3
Teden Mengi	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0	0	55	2
Kal Naismith	3 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	3	0	81	4
Marvelous Nakamba	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0	0	57	0
Zack Nelson	0 (3)	0	1 (0)	0	1	0	29	1
Lasse Nordas	0 (1)	0	1 (0)	0	1	0	12	0
Hakeem Odoffin	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0	0	0	0
Josh Phillips	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	0	0	2	0
Jake Richards	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	0	0	1	0
George Saville	3 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	3	0	3	0
James Shea	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	1	0	111	0
Liam Walsh	1 (2)	0	1 (0)	0	2	0	32	0
Reuell Walters	2 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	2	0	18	0
Nahki Wells	2 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	2	0	2	0
Cauley Woodrow	0 (1)	0	1 (0)	0	1	0	82	6
Jerry Yates	2 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	2	0	3	0

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FIXTURES & RESULTS 2025/26

		KO	RES	POS	ATT	AWAY							
AUGUST													
FRI 1	**AFC WIMBLEDON** TV	**20:00**	W 1-0	12	11,735	1,321	Keeley	Walters	Lonwijk	Makosso	Andersen	Naismith	Saville
SAT 8	PETERBOROUGH UNITED	12:30	W 2-0	4	10,827	2,995	Keeley	Walters	Alli	Makosso	**ANDERSEN 1**	Naismith	Saville
TUE 12	COVENTRY CITY (CC1)	19:45	L 0-1	-	10,536	515	Shea	Kodua	Bramall	Chigozie	McGuinness	Holmes	Walsh
SAT 16	BRADFORD CITY	15:00	L 1-2	9	20,233	1,338	Keeley	Alli	Lonwijk	McGuinness	Andersen	Naismith	Saville
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											

THE QUIZ

Can you answer these 10 Town teasers? Quiz your family members and see if they can get all 10! The prize? Nothing – just pride and honour. Let's get into it…

1. Who scored the Hatters' first goal of the season?

2. What position were we in the table after the first round of matches?

3. How many Town supporters went to Peterborough?

4. Which team have conceded the most in League One (9) so far?

5. Who scored a hat-trick against Wigan for the Hatters in a League Cup tie here in 1987?

6. The Town beat Wigan 2-1 in a dramatic home win in 2019 – which two players scored our late goals?

7. Which academy graduate went on to lift the FA Cup for Wigan as captain in 2013?

8. Christian Chigozie made his senior debut at Coventry but against which club did he first feature in the Luton matchday squad?

9. Which club in the National League has the largest capacity stadium?

10. How many different clubs have competed in the Premier League since its inception in 1992?

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

1. Ryan Johnson. 2. 12th. 3. 2,995. 4. Blackpool. 5. Mick Hartford. 6. Callum McManaman and George Moncur. 7. Emmerson Boyce. 8. Manchester City. 9. Carlisle. 10. 51.

	SUB 1	SUB 2	SUB 3	SUB 4	SUB 5
Clark	Walsh	Alli	Wells	Nelson	Fanne	Baptiste	Woodrow	McGuinness
CLARK 1	Baptiste	Yates	Wells	Lonwijk	Walsh	Fanne	McGuinness	Nelson
Nelson	Fanne	Woodrow	Nordås	Lonwijk	Alli	Richards	Yates	Phillips
Clark	Baptiste	Fanne	Yates	**KODUA 1**	Bramall	Nordas	Nelson	Walsh

REST IN PEACE



Adam Dilley first attended Kenilworth Road in 1996 and from that moment, Luton Town wasn't just his team – it was part of who he was. He soon became a Junior Hatter and lifelong attendance of Luton games followed.

In 2021, Adam was diagnosed with brain cancer – just weeks before becoming a first-time dad. He fought his illness with bravery, determination and dignity, continuing to attend games throughout, sitting amongst friends and family behind the goal in the Kenny.

His last game was the final home game of last season, where he proudly watched his three-year-old son, Alfie, lead the team out as mascot and presented Jordan Clark with the Loyal Luton Supporters' Club player of the year trophy.

Adam passed away on 10th August. Though he will no longer be with us in person, his spirit, humour, and love for Luton Town will always be felt in the stands.

In his own words: "When you're told you've got terminal cancer, football and my family got me through it. Luton got me through it. The memories, the highs. Wembley. The friends you make. I love this club. We'll be back."



Ray Janes' love for the Hatters began in 1957 when, as a young boy, he attended his first match at Kenilworth Road with his father and grandfather. From that day forward, the club became part of his heart and home.

Over the decades, Ray's devotion never wavered – he proudly passed the passion on to his son and grandsons, all season ticket holders and dedicated supporters.

Ray faced his cancer diagnosis last year with courage and determination, fighting bravely for 14 months before passing last month.

His presence in the stands, his warmth, and his unwavering belief in the team will be deeply missed at Kenilworth Road.

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of Adam and Ray at this sad time.

Once a Hatter, always a Hatter x

TABLE 2025/26

Team	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Stevenage	3	3	0	0	4	9
Cardiff	3	2	1	0	4	7
Barnsley	3	2	1	0	3	7
Stockport	3	2	1	0	3	7
Doncaster	3	2	1	0	2	7
Bradford	3	2	1	0	2	7
Huddersfield	3	2	0	1	4	6
Wigan	**3**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**2**	**6**
Luton	**3**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**2**	**6**
AFC Wimbledon	3	2	0	1	2	6
Lincoln	3	2	0	1	1	6
Burton Albion	3	1	1	1	0	4
Bolton	3	1	1	1	0	4
Leyton Orient	3	1	1	1	-1	4
Exeter	3	1	0	2	1	3
Mansfield	3	1	0	2	-1	3
Blackpool	3	1	0	2	-3	3
Rotherham	3	1	0	2	-3	3
Port Vale	3	0	2	1	-1	2
Wycombe	3	0	1	2	-2	1
Northampton	3	0	1	2	-4	1
Plymouth	3	0	0	3	-5	0
Peterborough	3	0	0	3	-5	0
Reading	3	0	0	3	-5	0

TONIGHT'S Fixtures

AFC Wimbledon v Cardiff
Huddersfield v Doncaster
Mansfield v Blackpool
Northampton v Lincoln
Peterborough v Barnsley
Plymouth v Leyton Orient
Port Vale v Stevenage
Stockport v Bradford
Wycombe v Exeter

TOMORROW

Bolton v Reading

TOWN Totals

	W	D	L	F	A
HOME	1563	692	632	5767	3248
AWAY	747	716	1414	3309	4958
NEUTRAL	6	4	13	29	43
TOTAL	2316	1412	2059	9105	8249
At KR	1433	664	578	5228	3002

5,787 games played

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

SEASONS TO REMEMBER *2001/02*



The Hatters found themselves back in the basement division for the first time since 1968.

Manager Joe Kinnear, arriving too late the previous season to prevent the drop, oversaw a summer of frantic activity leading to five players making their debuts in the opening day win at Carlisle and two more the following week.

It took a while for the new intake to gel with the campaign only really taking off towards the end of September with the introduction of Jean-Louis Valois to the Kenilworth Road faithful for a home game against Torquay. With ball control, skill and vision far above the level Valois gave the team the impetus to climb the table.

Gradually, the Town clawed back points at the expense of runaway leaders Plymouth who were remarkably consistent, and a much-anticipated clash between the top two at Kenilworth Road in early February saw the home side win a titanic struggle 2-0.

Rather than galvanise the side, the win had the opposite effect with the next two games both lost but a harsh lecture from Kinnear encouraged the side into a 14-match unbeaten run leading to promotion being confirmed after a 3-1 win at Swansea on Easter Saturday.

There were still four games remaining in which to try to overtake Plymouth but with the Town drawing their penultimate game against Macclesfield, the title was handed to the Devonians who had a winning run of their own.

In any normal campaign the Town would have romped away with the title but there was the consolation of breaking many club records including most wins and most points in what turned out to be season to remember after several years in the doldrums.

SECOND DIVISION	PLD	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1 Plymouth Argyle (C, P)	46	31	9	6	43	102
2 Luton Town (P)	**46**	**30**	**7**	**9**	**48**	**97**
3 Mansfield Town (P)	46	24	7	15	12	79
4 Cheltenham Town (P)	46	21	15	10	17	78
5 Rochdale	46	21	15	10	13	78
6 Rushden & Diamonds	46	20	13	13	16	73
7 Hartlepool United	46	20	11	15	26	71
8 Scunthorpe United	46	19	14	13	18	71
9 Shrewsbury Town	46	20	10	16	11	70
10 Kidderminster Harriers	46	19	9	18	9	66
11 Hull City	46	16	13	17	6	61
12 Southend United	46	15	13	18	−3	58
13 Macclesfield Town	46	15	13	18	−11	58
14 York City	46	16	9	21	−13	57
15 Darlington	46	15	11	20	−11	56
16 Exeter City	46	14	13	19	−25	55
17 Carlisle United	46	12	16	18	−7	52
18 Leyton Orient	46	13	13	20	−16	52
19 Torquay United	46	12	15	19	−17	51
20 Swansea City	46	13	12	21	−24	51
21 Oxford United	46	11	14	21	−9	47
22 Lincoln City	46	10	16	20	−18	46
23 Bristol Rovers	46	11	12	23	−20	45
24 Halifax Town (R)	46	8	12	26	−45	36

Player focus

Steve Howard, in his first full season with the club, top-scored with 24 goals and proved to be a bargain at only £50,000 from Northampton.



Season standout

Although looking bewildered when the ball was hoofed over his head, when allowed to play **Jean-Louis Valois** was a class above.



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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**
9	JERRY **YATES**
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	THOMAS **HOLMES**
30	GIDEON **KODUA**
33	COHEN **BRAMALL**
37	ZACK **NELSON**
38	JOE **JOHNSON**
39	JOSH **PHILLIPS**
41	LUCAS **THOMAS**
42	CHRISTIAN **CHIGOZIE**

WIGAN ATHLETIC

MANAGER **RYAN LOWE**

1	SAM **TICKLE**
2	ISAAC **MABAYA**
4	WILL **AIMSON**
5	STEVEN **SESSEGNON**
6	JENSEN **WEIR**
7	FRASER **MURRAY**
8	CALLUM **WRIGHT**
9	CHRISTIAN **SAYDEE**
10	PAUL **MULLIN**
11	DARA **COSTELLO**
12	TOM **WATSON**
14	RYAN **TREVITT**
15	JASON **KERR**
16	BABA **ADEEKO**
17	MATT **SMITH**
18	JONNY **SMITH**
19	LUKE **ROBINSON**
20	CALLUM **McMANAMAN**
22	JON **MELLISH**
23	JAMES **CARRAGHER**
24	HARRY **McHUGH**
26	JOE **ADAMS**
27	TOBIAS **BRENAN**
28	LEO **GRAHAM**
34	CHRIS **SIZE**
35	TYRESE **FRANCOIS**
37	MALEACE **ASAMOAH**
38	RONAN **DARCY**
39	DION **RANKINE**
40	MATTHEW **CORRAN**
41	K'MARNI **MILLER**
44	JOSEPH **HUNGBO**
47	JOSH **ROBINSON**

The Officials

REFEREE **CARL BROOK**
ASSISTANT REFEREE **ALEX MATHIESON**
ASSISTANT REFEREE **KEVIN HOWICK**
FOURTH OFFICIAL **ABIGAIL BYRNE**