
OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME • £2 • ISSUE 4 v BARNET
Luton
TOWN
REFLO
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EST 1885
FOOTBALL CLUB
CAPITAL SKY
TUESDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2025 7.30PM
Vertu TROPHY
EFL
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Matt BLOOMFIELD

Good evening and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for this Vertu Trophy fixture with Barnet under the lights.

I would like to extend my greetings to everyone associated with our visitors, including Dean Brennan, who has done an excellent job in his time at the Hive. They enjoyed a brilliant season last year, winning the National League in style, scoring goals and playing with a real swagger.

After a couple of close results in their opening games, they are slowly finding their feet in League Two and will come into this evening's game aiming for another positive result.

Due to print deadlines, I'm writing this before our match at Burton on Saturday, where we were aiming to bounce back after the disappointment of losing at home to Cardiff last time out.

It was a frustrating afternoon for us. We were certainly not at our best but, looking back, we had several big chances to score in both halves. We can take heart from that but we know we have to be more ruthless in front of goal. That will come. This team is still new, still evolving and will improve.

We turn our attention away from league action this evening to focus on the Vertu Trophy. It is a competition that we will be taking seriously this season. Obviously, with League One points being our natural main focus, it will allow us to use the strength in depth in the squad, as well as include a number of our younger players.

Christian Chigozie has already proven that talent and hard work can pay off, especially after such a promising debut at Coventry already this season. Christian is just one example of the talent coming through in our academy, and I must pay tribute to the work of everyone at The Brache for their endless hard work and dedication, from coaches to players. Much of this goes unseen by those outside the training ground, and I am looking forward to seeing how the players in our academy groups develop over the coming months, especially those in the Under-21s.

It's no secret that the early rounds of this competition fail to capture the imagination of the public but the longer-term benefits certainly go beyond this view. Apart from giving players an opportunity of first team football, it also helps foster a winning mentality and who doesn't like a cup run?

This club famously lifted the trophy at a time when it was about to fall out of the Football League – but did any of those 40,000 fans at Wembley think anything less of the competition that day? I think not. It was a day of celebration.

In my previous job, we reached the final the season before last, going down to Peterborough at Wembley. We were all not absolutely gutted to leave the stadium that day feeling the worst? We were sick – we wanted to win – but the run in the competition breathed positivity right the way through the club.

The same can be said of Birmingham last season. They carried the momentum of their league campaign into the EFL Trophy and the thousands of their supporters who packed Wembley would still have been hugely disappointed not to see them lift the trophy.

It's early days – tonight is the first of three group games – but we'll be doing all we can to make significant progress so please get behind the lads I pick tonight.

Enjoy the game.



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WELCOME

BARNET

The Boss

DEAN BRENNAN
Took over in 2021 and guided the Bees to the Conference title last term. A former Hatters player who also won titles with Hemel Hempstead and Wealdstone.

Goalkeeper

CIERAN SLICKER
Scotland international stopper who signed on loan from Ipswich this summer. Born in Oldham, he came through the ranks at Manchester City.

Defenders

DANNY COLLINGE
Milton Keynes academy product who started his pro career in Germany with Stuttgart. After a spell at Colchester, he spent one season at Dover before joining Barnet.

RYAN GALVIN Left-back who signed this summer after two seasons at Halifax. Began his career at Wigan before a spell at Sheffield Wednesday.

OLLIE KENSDALE Centre-half who arrived at the Hive this summer from Eastbourne. Started his career at Colchester but made his name at Southend playing over 100 times.

ADAM SENIOR – Young defender who arrived this summer from Halifax. Began his career with Bolton before numerous loans in non-league.

NIK TAVARES Cape Town-born, Croatian youth international central defender Nik signed for the Bees in 2024. Came through the Crystal Palace academy before spells at Wealdstone and Dagenham.

Midfielders

DENNIS ADENIRAN
England youth international who signed this summer from St Mirren. Came through the Fulham academy before spells at Everton and Sheffield Wednesday.

RHYS BROWNE
Goalscoring winger or forward who joined Barnet from Woking last year. Played under Brennan and Wealdstone and is an Antigua and Barbuda international.

RYAN GLOVER Scored seven goals in the Bees' National League title campaign having joined last season from Aldershot. Went on to be named Player of the Season.

ANTHONY HARTIGAN
Ever-present midfielder last season who lifted the trophy as captain. Previously on the books at AFC Wimbledon and Mansfield.

IDRIS KANU Winger or wing-back who began his career in the West Ham academy. Joined Barnet from Peterborough in 2022 and has since gone on to play over 100 times.

EMMANUEL OSADEBE
Versatile Irishman who signed this summer from Forest Green. Started his career at Gillingham before spells at Macclesfield, Walsall and Bradford.

MARK SHELTON
Goalscoring midfielder who hit 12 goals in 33 games in his first season at the Hive as the Bees won the National League. Previously with Salford, Hartlepool and Oldham.

Attackers

OLIVER HAWKINS
Experienced striker who joined this summer from Gillingham. Began his career in non-league before moves to Portsmouth, Ipswich and Mansfield.

JOE HUGILL Young forward on loan from Manchester United. Has enjoyed spells out on loan at Altrincham, Burton, Wigan and Carlisle and has featured in the EFL Trophy for United.

LEE NDLOVU Zimbabwe-born frontman who scored goals for fun at non-league level before joining the Bees in January this year from Boreham Wood.

CALLUM STEAD Forward who picked up several end-of-season awards last term after scoring 18 times in the Bees' title triumph. Joined the Bees from Brackley and was once on the books at Kenilworth Road.

MEETINGS PAST

SINGING IN THE *Rain*

Club historian **Roger Wash** looks back on the time the Hatters told Barnet 'to calm it'



Paul Benson's shot is held by the keeper

Season 2013/14 saw the Town make their fifth attempt at getting out of non-league football.

They had started slowly, allowing Cambridge to open up a big lead at the top but, after a 2-0 defeat at Wrexham and much soul searching, the team suddenly clicked into gear and gradually clawed their way up the table.

On Boxing Day, a 2-1 win at Edgar Davids Barnet was followed by a 6-0 home thumping of Kidderminster and with it top spot for the first time during the campaign.

Next up was a New Year's Day return clash with Barnet at Kenilworth Road in front of the BT Sports cameras. Heavy rain had been falling all day but after a third pitch inspection 15 minutes before the start the referee gave the go-ahead. In normal circumstances, the game would have been called off but the presence of the TV cameras undoubtedly had some bearing on the referee's decision.

> ***"HEAVY RAIN HAD BEEN FALLING ALL DAY BUT AFTER A THIRD PITCH INSPECTION THE REFEREE GAVE THE GO-AHEAD.***

The game kicked off in farcical conditions and, as the rain continued to sheet down, it would only get worse. The ball refused to travel more than a few feet on the waterlogged pitch as proved by a back pass from Ronnie Henry which stuck allowing a Bees player to run through only to be thwarted by the alert Mark Tyler.

Soon after, the Hatters took the lead when Andre Gray drilled a low shot past Graham Stack in the Barnet goal. The lead was doubled on 31 minutes when Paul Benson latched onto a pass from Gray to fire the ball home.


Andre Gray contends with the wet pitch

sounded on a seventh straight victory.

Manager John Still summed up the afternoon by saying, "We had to kick it as hard as we could and run after it, which is what we did."

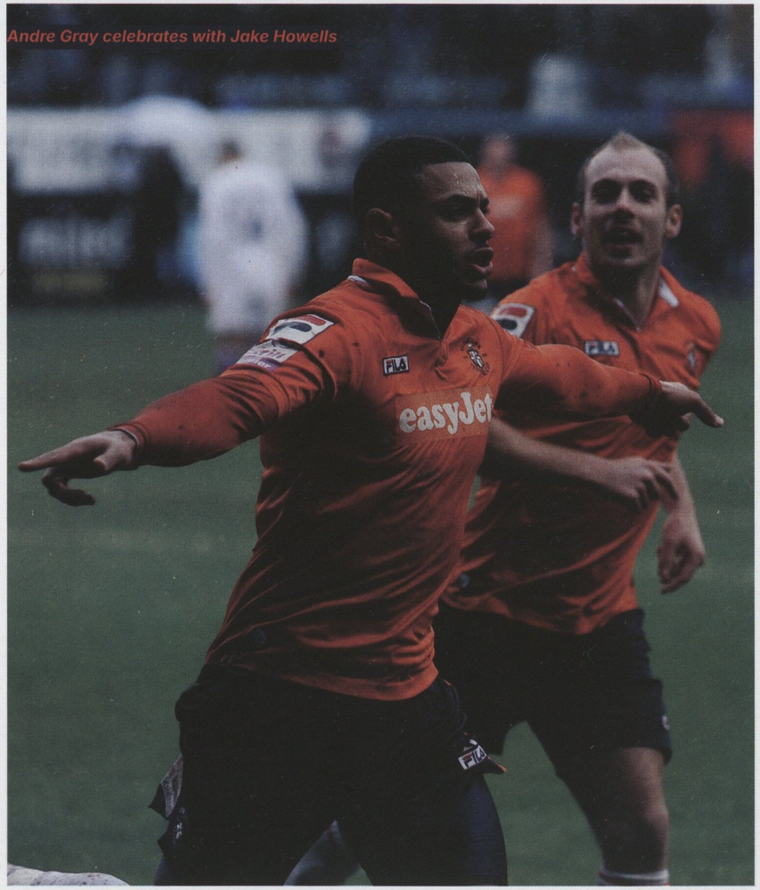
Town: Tyler, McNulty, Lawless, Howells, Griffiths, Davis, Guttridge, Robinson, Henry, Benson, Gray.

Barnet: Stack (sub Jupp), Yiadom, Johnson, Weston, Saville, Marsh-Brown, Byrne, Hyde, Villa (sub Cadogan), Stephens, Lopez (sub Crawford).

At the interval, with the rain still teeming down, an army of volunteers picked up forks to try to drain the areas of the pitch that held standing water. I don't think anyone in the ground felt the game would finish and, on the hour mark, the referee called the two captains together. However, after vigorous protests from skipper Henry, the game continued.

Barnet then did something that certainly saved the game – they scored! Keanu Marsh-Brown ran down the wing digging the ball out of puddles as he went before crossing to Jake Hyde to tap home from close in. It was now game on despite the conditions and both sides went hammer and tong to force another goal.

Near misses at both ends made supporters forget the diabolical state of the pitch and the final whistle



Andre Gray celebrates with Jake Howells

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**

BARNET

MANAGER **DEAN BRENNAN**

1	JOE	**WRIGHT**
3	RYAN	**GALVIN**
4	DANNY	**COLLINGE**
5	ADAM	**SENIOR**
6	EMMANUEL	**OSADEBE**
7	SCOTT	**HIGH**
8	RHYS	**BROWNE**
9	LEE	**NDLOVU**
10	CALLUM	**STEAD**
11	IDRIS	**KANU**
12	OLI	**HAWKINS**
13	OWEN	**EVANS**
15	RYAN	**GLOVER**
17	ZAK	**BRUNT**
18	ANTHONY	**HARTIGAN**
19	MARK	**SHELTON**
20	JOE	**HUGILL**
21	JOE	**RYE**
22	OLLIE	**KENSDALE**
23	KANE	**SMITH**
24	ROMONEY	**CRICHLOW**
25	NIK	**TAVARES**
26	MYLES	**KENLOCK**
28	NNAMDI	**OFOBORH**
29	CIERAN	**SLICKER**
30	JOE	**KIZZI**
33	BRIGHT	**SIAW**
34	JACK	**BLOWER**
35	DENNIS	**ADENIRAN**
36	ROHAT	**MATYAR**
38	PATRICK	**MATEJKO**

The Officials

REFEREE **STEPHEN PARKINSON**
ASSISTANT REFEREE **RYAN WHITAKER**
ASSISTANT REFEREE **JONATHON BLOCK**
FOURTH OFFICIAL **GRANT TAYLOR**