OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME • £4 • ISSUE 5 v PLYMOUTH ARGYLE







Luton TOWN







SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2025 3PM

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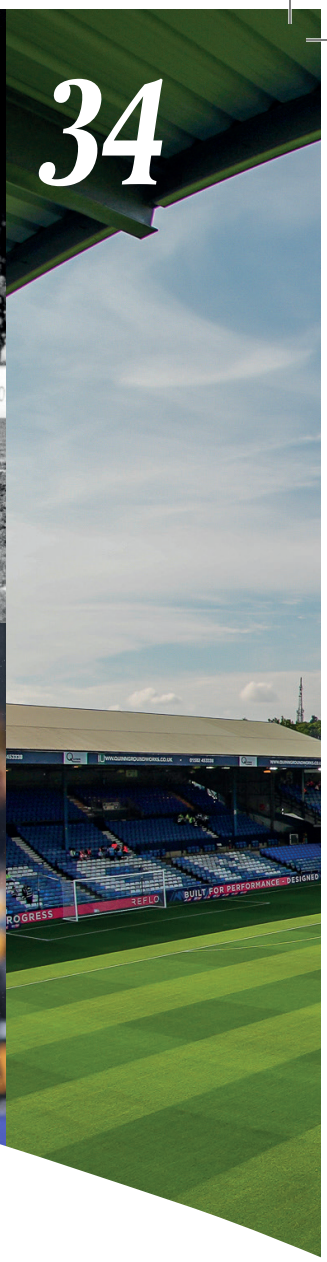
CAPITAL SKY LTD.

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Welcome

Hello again and welcome back to the Kenny as we entertain Plymouth Argyle.

It's a special afternoon as we celebrate this wonderful place we call home. We recently passed our 120th anniversary of playing football at Kenilworth Road and today is a day of looking back and remembering the good times watching our football here.

As you will have no doubt read elsewhere, it's apt that today we welcome Plymouth to Kenilworth Road as the Pilgrims were the first visitors when we kicked off football here back in 1905.

It was a goalless draw that day but hopefully there'll be more goals this afternoon – and if the past two games are anything to go by, the chances are high.

The boys were in impressive form and gained another important three points last time out at Burton before seeing off Barnet in our first Vertu Trophy fixture three days later.

But plenty has happened at Kenilworth Road since, with the international break giving us a Saturday off. The transfer window closed after plenty of activity in the market and you can read all about the new lads who have joined the squad elsewhere in this programme.

While we're celebrating Kenilworth Road this afternoon we're also looking ahead to our future at Power Court and on the subject of our new home, the Supporters' Trust got some one-on-one time with 2020 Developments' Michael

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DID YOU KNOW?

Today is our **2,679th** *game at Kenilworth Road*

We have won **1,435**

drawn **664**

and lost **579**

5,233 *goals have been scored by the Hatters*

and we've conceded **3,004**

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Moran for an excellent update on the latest at Power Court. If there's one thing you read today, make it this!

Back to today, and don't forget we're back here in a fortnight's time when Doncaster are in town. However, there's nothing quite like home and there's nothing quite like the Kenny, especially when it's bouncing, so bring the noise and get behind the lads as they go in search of another three points!

Up the Town!

the PROGRAMME

MADE IN LUTON

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With thanks to the media department at Plymouth Argyle

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

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"AGAINST BURTON AND BARNET WE DEFINITELY SHOWED MORE ATTACKING INTENT **AND WE WERE REWARDED WHICH WAS REALLY PLEASING.**

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THE BOSS

Matt BLOOMFIELD

Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for this important League One fixture with Plymouth Argyle.

A warm welcome to our visitors, including Tom and his staff and players. He is an excellent coach and has a talented group at his disposal, so they will prove stern opposition for us as we go in search of another victory.

Today is a special day as we celebrate 120 years of Kenilworth Road, a stadium that oozes character and passion. As I said when I first arrived, I used to hate playing here – it was an intimidating place with the crowd so close to the pitch with fans always in your ear, sharing their opinions.

Happily, I'm on the right side of things now and hoping you keep that level of passion up as we embark on a season we all hope ends in success.

So far we have been solid – keeping four clean sheets in six games is testament to that – but what we're after is more of that now. That means finding our attacking groove and playing with a verve going forward. In our past two games we have certainly shown that. We've scored seven and we could have scored more. It's been a good return but the aim now is to continue and then maintain those levels.

Against Burton and Barnet we definitely showed more attacking intent and we were rewarded which was really pleasing. There is – and always has been – that hunger to go and score goals, play on the front foot and entertain. Gradually we have improved in this area, and I hope you can see that.

It has certainly been a busy time since our last league fixture with the closure of the transfer window. As always it was a hectic last few days, which reached its climax on the Monday. Firstly, I'd like to thank those who have left the club since the summer for their service and wish them well for the rest of their careers.

I've been reliably informed that this has been one of the busiest windows in the club's history. We've welcomed 14 new faces to the squad over the summer and I'm really excited about how every one of them can help us achieve our goals this season and beyond.

On that note, I must thank the support I have received during the past few months to shape the squad to what it is today. The board, of course, for their backing, the recruitment team for identifying the players that suit the way we want to play, plus everyone behind the scenes for their hard work, from medical to media. Huge amounts of work go into each and every signing, so thank you.

Naturally, like the lads who have come in before them, those deadline day arrivals will take time to bed in, but the early signs have been promising, with Shayden Morris already contributing with a cameo on his debut against Barnet.

One of the reasons we are able to attract players of such calibre is their desire to play at Kenilworth Road. It is not lost on them how special this place is, so please get behind them all.

Today's game will be a great test of where we're at, so please get behind us. Enjoy the celebrations and make it the place I always used to hate as an opponent.

Enjoy the game.



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BOARDROOM

GARY SWEET



A very warm welcome back to you all to Kenilworth Road, after a short break, for this afternoon's League One fixture with Plymouth Argyle.

The Pilgrims arrive in Bedfordshire as the first visitors since the Old Girl we like to call home celebrated her 120th birthday. Those who are avid club historians via Hatters Heritage will know that Kenilworth Road's first-ever competitive match came when the Pilgrims ventured up from Devon in 1905.

So, we wish an extra special, warmest of welcomes to all of those travelling the long 560-mile round trip and hope you join in our anniversary celebrations, as you did 120 years ago, knowing that your considerable venture this week would have been only half as gruelling as it would have taken back on that day.

Reading the match report and going down a lovely long rabbit hole on the Hatters Heritage website is fascinating – especially sifting through the thousands of photographs of what our house looked like all those years ago. The score that day was less exciting, however – a goalless draw! Let's hope for some goals this afternoon.

If our last two matches are anything to go by, there should be. Since going down to Cardiff without scoring in our last league game here, the team have bounced back in style with a fine win at Burton two weeks ago and then a comfortable win against Barnet in the Vertu Trophy last week, scoring four in the process.

Three superb goals at Burton, after we unveiled our new third strip in the lead-up to the game, mean that three trees will be planted by our kit wear suppliers Reflo at Power Court. The target here is to plant and grow semi-mature trees on-site when we score 'in green', for them then to be replanted and help form the green landscaping when the stadium opens in 2028.

That brings me nicely on to Power Court itself and we're excited to be able to bring you further updates. Michael Moran sat down this week with the Supporters' Trust to give you all the full lowdown, but in a nutshell, we have some major milestones to tick off in the calendar in the coming weeks.

Firstly, the water in the River Lea begins to flow following its rerouting process this coming week, chased up in the following week by the old sub-station finally being decommissioned ready for dismantling. The switch-over of the sub-station has been a long time coming and we're relieved that UK Power Networks has completed the work, paid for entirely by us.

As all followers of our stadium development will know, we can only start the construction of the stadium once these two milestones have been resolved as obstacles. The pace of progress will now start to gather at the end of this year.

All this work is incredibly exciting, and it's fair to say the last couple of months have been unprecedentedly busy on and off the field – in fact, these two go hand-in-hand as we look to entice our next generation of players with, for the first time, a long-term incentive of playing in our first game at Power Court.

This latest transfer window has seen an unprecedented level of activity. Certainly, the most active transfer window in the 35

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windows we have conducted since we took custodianship in 2008 and possibly the most active on record.

Including contract releases and incoming and outgoing senior loans, we saw a total of 21 players depart Kenilworth Road this summer, and 14 newcomers arrive. Plus, some positively significant further transfer activity at development and professional phase groups within the academy which you will (hopefully) begin discovering at about the time we relocate. Sowing the seeds for the long-term is critical!

With over £23m exchanging hands in 20 transfer agreements administered in both directions, plus an additional £5m in obligated commitments, our recruitment team, football administration department and manager have certainly been highly engaged during the summer. And this follows one of our most active January windows where we saw eight join and seven depart.

> *"WE WANTED TO RETAIN THOSE WHO FELT THEY WANTED TO BE A PART OF A FRESH AND POSITIVE APPROACH.*

A squad overhaul was very much needed after two challenging seasons. We wanted to retain those who felt they wanted to be a part of a fresh and positive approach under Matt's stewardship, owning the responsibility of putting this club back into the Championship, whilst allowing those to leave who wanted to ply their trade elsewhere.



Ali Al-Hamadi was our final signing before the summer transfer window closed

Most importantly, we needed to recruit new talent that can bring a fresh energy to the squad and a renewed mentality. This intentionally included a blend of experience and vocal leadership coupled with a crop of younger, bolder, ambitious mental qualities alongside strong physical and technical attributes, with higher ceilings than our current position.

So far, mission accomplished! From January, we felt a three-to-four window transition may be needed, but we have significantly broken the back of the greater process this summer while bringing the average age down and growing the potential for our future squad value.

Whilst investing significant sums in fees, we made a reasonable profit within the window itself, and I can inform you that every penny of that will be reinvested into our future progress, with a sufficient provision to safeguard against potential future organic losses while at Kenilworth Road.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank many individuals for their incredible work ethic and determination during this summer. It is often unrecognised how much time, effort and stress go into players trading, but I'm very proud of the amazing and aligned process they went through over the last few months where many personal sacrifices have been made.

Special kudos needs to go to (in no particular order) Matt, Yousuf Sajjad, Jay Socik, James Mooney and Kelly Francis (with gratitude, too, to all supporting families!), to our team of scouts and analysts, our medical team and to our very creative media team for their engaging announcements.

I would also like to personally thank every departing player for their service to Luton Town during the course of their stays with us. I'd ask you all to join me in formally welcoming each one of our new arrivals, hoping that you all have an enjoyable and successful lengthy career with us – big congratulations for joining Luton Town go to Ali, Cohen, Ethon, George, Gideon, Hakeem, Jake, Jerry, Joe, Josh, Kal, Nahki, Nigel and Shayden!

So, back to today, we come into this afternoon's game full of confidence after two good results with a strong squad and a management team who are hell-bent on getting us back to the Championship.

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

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CS

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to a much-loved and much-missed man who was crazy about this club, who was sadly laid to rest on Tuesday.

Adam Dilley first attended Kenilworth Road in 1996, and I was touched when I read what he said following his diagnosis about his passion and loyalty for our club.

"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."

Adam's words remind us that football is more than just a game. It is belonging, resilience and love, carried forward by those who remain. His spirit lives on in the rickety floorboards of the main stand, in the friendships forged here among the pillars, and in the belief that together, we'll always come back stronger – as we have always done so as a club.

As we gather at Kenilworth Road and look ahead to the future at Power Court, we carry with us not only the history of this club, but also the voices and memories of those who have spent time with us – so, as we celebrate 120 years here at this wonderful, eccentric and truly unique place we call home, let's take a moment to remember those we have shared the Kenilworth Road experience with. Whether that's 120 years, 120 months or 120 days ago, just as we have always done as a club.

Like Adam, everyone on the board loves this club and we know you all do too, so sing up and here's to three points.

Come on Luton.

Gary.

"WE CARRY WITH US NOT ONLY THE HISTORY OF THIS CLUB, BUT ALSO THE VOICES AND MEMORIES OF THOSE WHO HAVE SPENT TIME WITH US.



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

We're delighted to be back at Kenilworth Road after back-to-back wins, refreshed and ready to go after last week's international break.

Any player will tell you the confidence you gain from winning games, especially when you're scoring goals, so to score seven goals and register two victories is fantastic for us all.

At Burton we were excellent throughout and never looked in danger once Big Lass opened the scoring. We were all absolutely delighted for him as he's been working ever so hard to get that first goal. Milli did what Milli does with a super hit and Zack rounded off a wonderful individual display with his first league goal.

We followed that with a home win in the Vertu Trophy against Barnet. The manager named a strong side and it showed on the night.

There were also first goals for the club for Jerry and Shayden that night and again, we were proud of them for getting off the mark. Your first goal for a new club, especially as a forward, is always so important and we're looking forward to many more from them.

Now we're looking to kick on as we welcome Plymouth to the Kenny. They're a good side who recorded a great victory last time out against a Stockport side who many are tipping to go well this season.

However, I feel at the moment that everything the manager wants from us is coming together. That's being on the front foot, aggressive and exciting to watch. We've certainly shown that in the past two games.

With the new additions in the squad following the closure of the transfer window, we're in a really strong place with a group packed with quality, and I'd like to welcome all the new lads and wish them the best of luck in their careers here with us.

Today is the perfect opportunity to show them what Kenilworth Road is all about, especially when it's rocking and hopefully, buoyed by our most recent results, that can be the case this afternoon.

We're also celebrating 120 years of football here at this great theatre of football which has witnessed incredible days and nights, goals and players over the years. We're now hoping that there's space for our group to create our own little piece of history come the end of the season, and have a place to be remembered alongside legends that went before us.

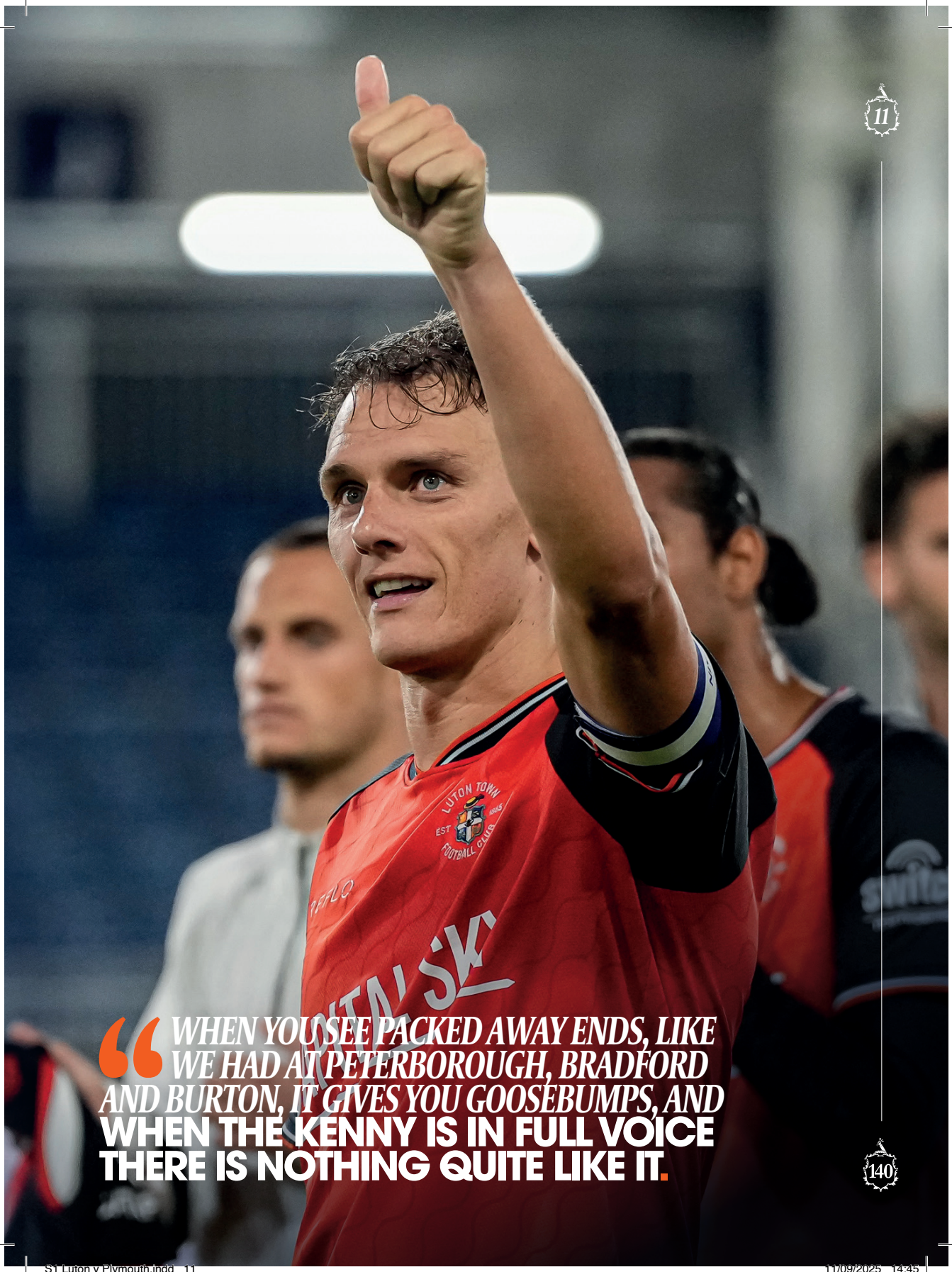
In order to achieve that we need your support behind us, and this season we've been blown away by the levels of backing we've received home and away. When you see packed away ends, like we had at Peterborough, Bradford and Burton, it gives you goosebumps, and when the Kenny is in full voice there is nothing quite like it.

We're still very early in the season and we're just getting going. There's a confidence and energy about us and I can tell you the level in training is frightening at times. It all bodes well.

So get behind us this afternoon in what promises to be a great game of football and bring the noise like you always do.



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"WHEN YOU SEE PACKED AWAY ENDS, LIKE WE HAD AT PETERBOROUGH, BRADFORD AND BURTON, IT GIVES YOU GOOSEBUMPS, AND **WHEN THE KENNY IS IN FULL VOICE THERE IS NOTHING QUITE LIKE IT.**

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0-1

CARDIFF CITY FC



Jerry Yates goes for goal

Despite creating a number of opportunities, the Hatters lost their unbeaten home record against the Bluebirds who struck the winner in the second half.



George Saville looks for a pass



Josh Keeley denies the visitors



0-3

Zack Nelson registers his first league goal



Gideon Kodua goes for goal at the Pirelli Stadium



Milli Alli celebrates in style



Celebrations after Lasse Nordås' first goal in Town colours

The Hatters bounced back from the defeat against Cardiff with a fine performance on their travels at Burton. First-half goals from Lasse Nordås and Milli Alli put us in control before Zack Nelson sealed victory with a third after the break

4-1



Jerry Yates scores his first goal for the club to double our lead



Celebrations after Lasse Nordås' opener



Liam Walsh is first to congratulate Cohen Bramall after his wonderful free-kick

Our campaign in the Vertu Trophy got under way with a comprehensive win over Barnet. The Hatters were 3-0 to the good at the break thanks to goals from Lasse Nordås, Jerry Yates and a superb free-kick from Cohen Bramall. A late fourth from debutant Shayden Morris from the spot sealed victory.

THE HATTERS HERALD

140TH SEASON LIMITED EDITION

LUTON TOWN V PLYMOUTH ARGYLE

WELCOME OUR UNDER-9S!

Everyone at Luton Town is delighted to officially welcome this year's Under-9s who will be paraded around the pitch this afternoon.

Please show your support for: Timmy Miczalowski, a smart finisher and hard-working forward.

Parker Wales, a calm, composed and all-action midfielder.

Freddy Skipsey, a strong shot-stopper and courageous goalkeeper.

TJ Nyambo, a creative, exciting and tricky attacker.

Tolu Oladunjoye, an all-rounder who can score, assist and regain the ball.

Zyian Hanson, an exciting, goalscoring attacker, a handful for opponents with his skill and speed.

Luca Papacosta, a clean technician, capable of striking at goal from distance.

Owen Blackburne, a hard-working and threatening forward.

Ralph Merritt, a smart defender with an eye for a forward and incisive pass.

Eden-Yaw Bani, an all-rounder and mazy dribbler who covers every blade of grass.

Yoan Konan Sow, a skilful dribbler that can create and break up attacks.

Congratulations on joining the Hatters, boys!

NEW DATE FOR BLACKPOOL

We can advise that our League One fixture away to Blackpool has been rescheduled for Tuesday 30th September, with a 7.45pm kick-off.

The game at Bloomfield Road was due to be played last weekend but was postponed due to international call-ups.

Full ticket information has been announced and can be found on the official website.

GREEN ARMY!

Since we were last at Kenilworth Road in League One we were proud to share details of our brand new, unique third shirt produced by our teamwear partner Reflo.

The shirt design, which made its debut at Burton, is inspired by the leaves of the trees that the streets around Kenilworth Road are named after, and the new kit is green – in every sense!

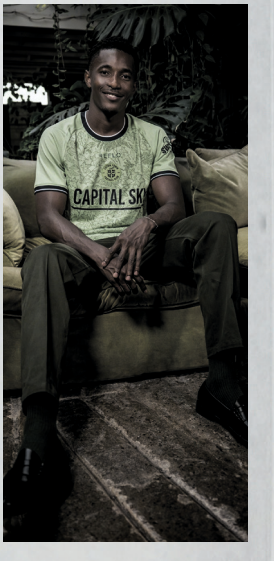
Our neighbouring Ivy, Beech, Ash and Oak Roads are all symbolised on a shirt that has been styled with a fresh, fashion-forward lens.

Sustainable, the new third kit is designed using Reflo's Reloop technology and is not only made from 100 per cent recycled materials but also engineered to be fully recyclable at the end of its life.

The design and tone have been developed in close collaboration with Luton Town Supporters' Trust, and this shirt – the first time our outfield players have worn green – is truly a one-off.

Furthermore, for every goal scored in the green during 2025/26, Reflo will plant a tree around our new stadium site, with our final days at Kenilworth Road contributing naturally to the environment we will all enjoy at Power Court for decades to come.

The kit is available to buy online and in store, and as we look to the future with an annual cycle for away and third kits, we are already preparing for 2026/27 and the reintroduction of a white kit that has always been part of the kit planning process.



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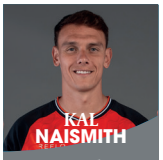
2025/26



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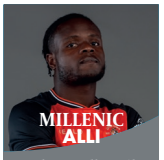
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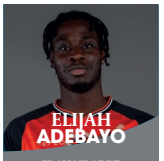
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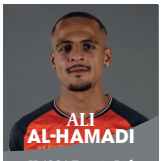
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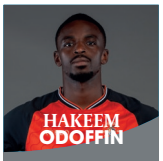
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H Mark Crowther
(Talking Hatters)
A AVAILABLE



AVAILABLE



AVAILABLE



AVAILABLE



H Julie & Yvonne
A Ben Bowler



H Kwesi Francis
Edubatey
A AVAILABLE



H Scandinavian
Hatters
A AVAILABLE



H Community Interest
Luton
A AVAILABLE



AVAILABLE



H David Lee from
Hong Kong
A AVAILABLE



H Doug the Hatter
A Bobbers
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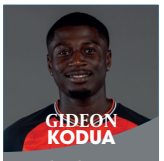
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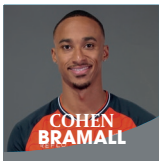
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SPONSORSHIP & HOSPITALITY

At our last home game against Cardiff, midfielder George Saville was named man-of-the-match and we also had the pleasure of welcoming two mascots to the game.

Our guests in the Eric Morecambe Lounge also got a surprise before and after the game with the Bluebirds.

Midfielder Jake Richards and captain Kal Naismith (right) popped in to meet and greet guests, signing autographs and posing for photos.

The duo also took part in a question-and-answer session where the pair gave an update on the season so far, as well as giving their thoughts on the season ahead.



TOWN V DONCASTER ROVERS - MATCH SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE!

If you or your business are interested in taking advantage of this offer for the 3pm kick-off on Saturday 27th September, please contact our commercial team on commercial@lutontown.co.uk

As match sponsor of a league fixture at Kenilworth Road, this is the package you will receive:

DIRECTORS' BALCONY SEATING

Ten guests will enjoy pre- and post-match action; a three course meal and being seated in the Directors' Balcony to watch the match!

You and your guests will choose the player of the match to conclude an unforgettable day.

ADVERTISING BENEFITS:

- Pre-match Dug Out photo
- Pre-match / half-time LED recognition as sponsor
- Sponsor name / logo on programme back cover
- PA recognition as match sponsor
- Logo on pre-match and post-match social media assets
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PLYMOUTH ARGYLE

The Pilgrims are in town as Tom Cleverley's side make the long trip from Devon to Bedfordshire.

Plymouth have had a rocky start to the season but an excellent 4-2 win over Stockport last week will give the Argyle fans some fresh confidence.

Following Miron Muslic's departure the club in the summer, Cleverley was appointed and an eventful summer transfer window for the Greens saw lots of ins and outs.

Key players such as Ryan Hardie and Mustapha Bundu departed for Wrexham and Hannover respectively, while the likes of Adam Randell, Makysm Talovierov, Rami Al-Hajj and Victor Palsson also left the club.

However, there were also lots of incomes at Home Park. Midfielder Caleb Watts joined from bitter rivals Exeter City, striker Lorent Tolaj signed from Port Vale and former Hatter Bim Pepple also signed for Argyle.

The season so far has been tough for Plymouth as defeats against Barnsley, Bolton, Lincoln, Leyton Orient and Cardiff has left them in 18th place in the early League One standings.

But the Argyle faithful will be hoping their side can continue a decent record at Kenilworth Road. Plymouth, who were our first ever visitors to Kenilworth Road back in 1905 for a goalless draw, have only lost two of their last nine visits here.

The Town were 5-1 winners here back in November 2018 while the Greens' last win here came in League Two in October 2015.

A warm welcome to Kenilworth Road to all those associated with Plymouth Argyle – we wish all a safe journey home.

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE AT-A-GLANCE

FOUNDED: 1886

MANAGER:
Tom Cleverley

NICKNAME:
The Pilgrims

STADIUM:
Home Park

MAJOR HONOURS:
5 third-tier titles

FIERCE RIVALS:
Exeter

LAST TIME AT THE KENNY:
Town 1-1 Plymouth, Championship, 19/2/2025

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PLYMOUTH ARGYLE

THE AWAY END

The Gaffer

TOM CLEVERLEY Former Manchester United and Watford midfielder who left the Hornets hotseat in the summer and was appointed Greens boss soon afterwards.

Goalkeeper

LUCA ASHBY-HAMMOND Fulham academy product who spent time on loan with Aldershot, Crawley, Notts County and Gillingham before signing for Argyle permanently this summer.

Defenders

BRENDAN SARPONG-WIREDU Former Fleetwood centre-back whose impressive performances with the Cod Army got him a move to Home Park. Has scored twice in the Carabao Cup so far for Argyle.

KORNEL SZUCS Hungarian centre-half who joined Plymouth last year. Featured 39 times for Argyle last season and yet to miss a game this campaign.

ALEXANDER MITCHELL Came through the academy at Millwall and had various loan spells away before joining Charlton permanently. He spent last season with the Addicks before joining Argyle on loan this summer.

JOE EDWARDS Experienced defender with a wealth of experience across the EFL. He has featured over 200 times for Argyle since he signed in July 2019.

MATTHEW SORINOLA Former Milton Keynes and Swansea man who made the move to Devon in 2023. Has since featured over 50 times for the Greens.

AYMEN BENAROUS Began his career at Bristol City before signing for Argyle this summer. Featured 12 times for the Robins last term.

Midfielders

MALACHI BOATENG A Crystal Palace academy graduate who has spent the last few years playing in Scotland for Queen's Park, Dundee and Hearts.

BALI MUMBA Signed for Argyle in 2022 on loan from Norwich, a deal later made Plymouth's permanent. Has since become a regular, making over 100 appearances.

CALEB WATTS Made the rare move last summer from the Red side of Devon to the Green side. The former Exeter man scored on his debut in Plymouth's opening day defeat against Barnsley.

BRADLEY IBRAHIM Played for Hertha Berlin and Crawley before making the move to Home Park. Scored his first goal in Argyle colours last week.

OWEN DALE Oxford loanee who will spend the season with Argyle. Enjoyed a wealth of experience in League One for the likes of Portsmouth, Wigan and Blackpool.

Forwards

LORENT TOLAJ Swiss striker who made his name at Port Vale where he scored 15 times and recorded nine assists last season as Vale were promoted from League Two.

OWEN OSENI Signed from St Mirren this summer and has three goals to his name already in all competitions. Scored in 3-2 defeat against Lincoln City.

BIM PEPPLE Former Town striker who made the move to Home Park in the summer. Born in Kettering but raised in Canada, he originally signed for the Hatters in 2022.

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HATTERS *versus* PILGRIMS

Historic meetings between the clubs down the years

SEPTEMBER 1969
TOWN ON TOUR

Two train-loads of Hatters supporters accept the club's offer to travel down to Devon for the princely sum of 25 shillings. The travelling fans are not disappointed as Matt Tees leads the Home Park defence a merry dance with his second goal, a 25-yard drive, slipping through the goalkeeper's hands. The Town would go on to win promotion come the end of the campaign.

NOVEMBER 1996
SIX-GOAL THRILLER ▼

At a wet and windswept Home Park, the Town move into a 2-1 lead thanks to a brace from Tony Thorpe but Mitchell Thomas is sent off when he handles the ball on the line. Mike Evans equalises from the spot to put Argyle into the lead shortly afterwards. However the Hatters refuse to lie down and Thorpe completes his hat-trick when converting Kim Grant's cross to give the 400 sodden Town fans something to shout out.

FEBRUARY 2002
TOP-OF-THE-TABLE TRIUMPH

The two sides are going toe-to-toe at the top of Division Three (now League Two) and a sell-out Kenilworth Road witness a memorable 2-0 victory for Joe Kinnear's men. Argyle hold out for 80 minutes before Kevin Nicholls breaks the deadlock from the spot before Steve Howard nets a late second. Both teams go on to win promotion, but it's the Pilgrims who go up as champions.





AUGUST 2016
THE PERFECT START ▲

Goals from Danny Hylton, Jack Marriott and Jonathan Smith get the Town's season under way with a superb victory at Home Park in League Two. It is the Hatters' third victory at the Devon venue in succession after wins in 2015 and in March 2016.

NOVEMBER 2018
FIVE-STAR SHOW

The Town are flying in League One under Nathan Jones and a hat-trick from James Collins, including one from the spot, helps sink Argyle. Elliot Lee and James Justin were also on target with Town 4-0 to the good at half-time.

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10 YEARS *a Hatter*

James Shea puts pen to paper on a new deal and eyes better times ahead

Goalkeeper James Shea penned a new contract with Luton Town to take him into a 10th season at Kenilworth Road.

Our 34-year-old stalwart between the sticks arrived in Bedfordshire in the summer of 2017 after being released by AFC Wimbledon, and there began a decade-long journey with the Hatters that has so far seen him complete a hat-trick of promotions.

Before his arrival, he had dipped into Non-League football following his release from Arsenal in 2013, building up his football education at Isthmian League clubs Needham Market and Harrow Borough, while continuing to train with the Gunners each day.

Originally signed as back-up to fellow new recruit Marek Stech, the man known to all at the club as 'Sheasy' bided his time and eventually won his place for the final eight games of the League Two promotion-winning season.

The following year, he again started on the bench but went on to play 46 times in all competitions, winning the League One's Golden Glove for 19 clean sheets in our title success.

In the Championship, Sheasy competed with club record signing Simon Sluga as Town pulled off the Great Escape during the Covid-interrupted 2019/20 season, before he became first choice again soon into the 2021/22 campaign.

Sadly, he suffered a season-ending ACL injury at Cardiff on Easter Monday as the Hatters first qualified for the play-offs, but he fought back to fitness to make an appearance on the final day of the following campaign before taking his place on the bench at Wembley as Coventry were beaten in the play-off final.

His Premier League debut came on the final day of the 2023/24 campaign, when he came on in place of Thomas Kaminski for 20 memorable minutes against Fulham to complete his own Non-League to top-flight story.

In total, the north Londoner has so far played 111 times for the Hatters, with his latest appearance coming at Coventry in the Carabao Cup, as he pushes summer signing Josh Keeley all the way and leads by example as the Club's longest serving player.

"I'm over the moon," he told LTFC+ after agreeing the new deal. "I'm really happy to get it all sorted, to carry on the journey and be here for another few years.

"I signed as a number two in League Two, so to come through to where we are now, it's been some journey. The ups and the downs. I've loved every single minute of it, and hopefully there's a few more ups coming."











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DEADLINE DAY DEALS

It was a busy end to the summer transfer window as the Hatters said hello to new signings and goodbye to some old friends



SHAYDEN MORRIS

POSITION: WINGER
AGE: 23
PREVIOUS CLUB: ABERDEEN

The winger began his career in the Southend academy before moving to Fleetwood and then Aberdeen.

Last term was a breakout campaign for the attacker as he played a leading role in the Dons' Scottish Cup triumph and was named their Player of the Year.

MORRIS SAYS:

"I want to excite the fans and get them off their seats, score goals and get assists and I feel, after speaking with the manager, that this is the place I can do that.

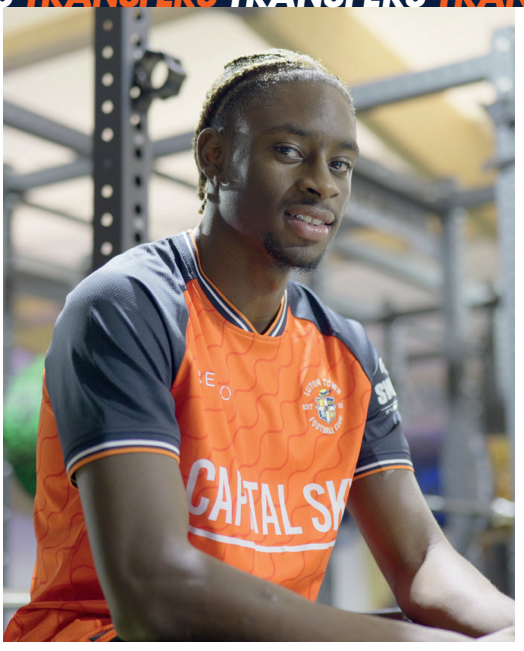
"This is an ambitious club, a massive club, with really passionate fans, and as soon as I knew this could be happening, I looked closely at the club and the squad, and it's really strong."

THE BOSS SAYS:

"We are really excited to sign Shayden. He's someone who has experienced League One football before as a young player at Fleetwood, and he's gone on to prove himself in the Scottish Premiership with Aberdeen.

"He offers really good individual ability with his pace and dribbling, and will add some real thrust to our attack with one v one elements in the final third of the pitch."

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ETHON ARCHER

POSITION: WINGER
AGE: 23
PREVIOUS CLUB: CHELTENHAM

The attacker joins us from Cheltenham where he will return on loan until January, completing a whirlwind few years as a professional footballer.

He played for a host of clubs as a youngster before getting his break in National League South with Torquay in 2023/24, then moved to Cheltenham last term where he made an immediate impact, scoring seven goals for the Robins in League Two.

ARCHER SAYS:

"This is a very big club. It's been in the Premier League not too long ago, in the Championship last season, and I know they have aspirations of getting back to that level, so this is something I definitely want to be a part of.

"The facilities are unreal. I can't wait to get going here in January and I just know it's going to aid my development, 100 per cent."

THE BOSS SAYS:

"We are really excited to invest in Ethon and are looking forward to his future career with us. He's had a rapid rise in the last couple of years after stepping up from non-League football, and he's hungry and determined to progress even further.

"Playing a key role in Cheltenham's first half of the season will be valuable for his development, and we'll be watching him closely over the next few months, then look forward to welcoming him fully in January."

JOE GBODÉ

POSITION: STRIKER
AGE: 20
PREVIOUS CLUB: GILLINGHAM

The striker graduated from the Priestfield academy and made his debut as a 16 year old in an FA Cup tie in November 2021 and scored his first goal for the Gills against Notts County in February this year before scoring twice in the final two games of the season.

He played against us during our pre-season friendly in July has been a regular for the Gills so far this season, and scored an injury-time equaliser in their 1-1 draw at Tranmere.

GBODÉ SAYS:

"The facilities are unbelievable and it's a well-run club with a good manager, and there are a lot of top strikers I can learn from.

"I'm quite quick, I like to dribble – and score, of course. My stats might not say that but I think I can thrive in this environment.

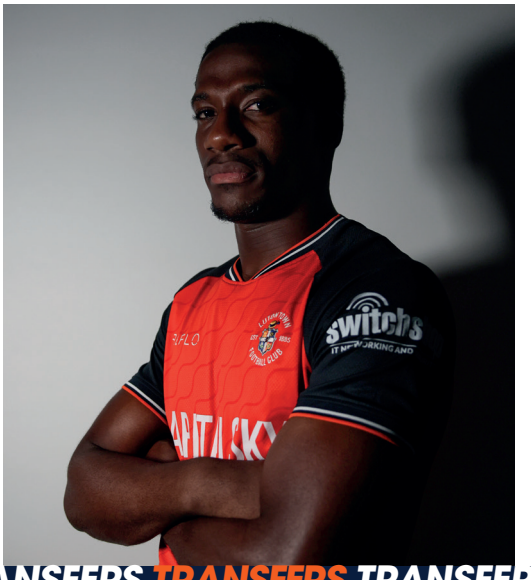
"Kenilworth Road is an unbelievable place; the stands are close to the pitch and that gives you that extra boost playing at home."

THE BOSS SAYS:

"Joe's a young man who we have kept tabs on since the end of last season and who we played against this pre-season.

"I know the managerial team at Gillingham very well and they have had nothing but good things to say about Joe's talent and how high his ceiling is.

"He's one for the future but we're looking forward to having him in and around the group."



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ALI AL-HAMADI

POSITION: STRIKER
AGE: 23
PREVIOUS CLUB: IPSWICH

The Iraqi international frontman has joined initially on a season-long loan with an obligation to purchase if certain criteria are met within the loan period.

He shot to prominence during a prolific spell at AFC Wimbledon, where he hit 27 goals in 48 games which earned a move to Ipswich, helping the Tractor Boys win promotion to Premier League.

AL-HAMADI SAYS:

"I think it's the perfect match. I think I need a club like Luton and they need a player like me.

"It's always important when the manager wants to sign you. During my time at Wycombe he helped me a lot as a young player and I think he can take my game to the next level.

"My career's been exciting and full of challenges, but I've always adapted and learn and that's why I love football.

THE BOSS SAYS:

"I'm really excited about this one. I've been a long-time admirer of his, and it's a real signing of intent, especially having seen the way he's developed over the past couple of years.

"His game really kicked on at Wimbledon and since moving to Ipswich, he's played with some really top players which has improved his all-round game.

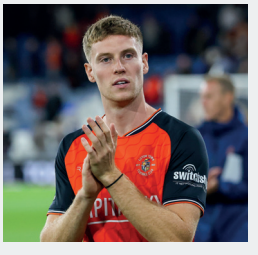
"He's currently working back to fitness from a slight calf injury, but we're really looking forward to him being a big part of our future."

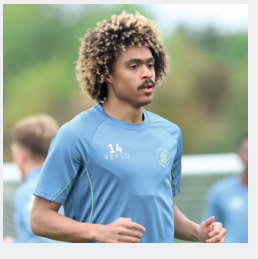
OUTGOINGS

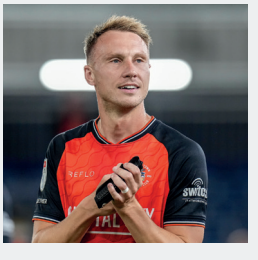
As the window closed on 1st September, we wished the very best to defender Mark McGuinness and midfielder Tahith Chong who both left the club on permanent transfers to Championship side Sheffield United.

Also leaving Kenilworth Road on loans for the season are Thomas Holmes, who has joined Rotherham United, and Cauley Woodrow who has signed for Wycombe Wanderers.

Two of our Under-21s also departed on loans at the end of the deadline with Tate Xavier-Jones signing for Airdrieonians and Sam Anderson re-signing for Dungannon Swifts.







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THE VIEW FROM THE PRESS BOX

The Luton News sports editor looks back on a busy end to the transfer window

After one of, if not the busiest deadline days I can remember, it was quite nice to draw breath over the last week and reflect on what has been, to put it bluntly, a rather mad transfer window on the whole for the Hatters.

Having done this job for a while now, there has been the odd deadline day where it has been fairly active. Rumours flying around, players linked, strikers signing way into the night – Collin Samuel anyone? – but none of them felt quite as hectic as the one just gone.

Such is the world of social media now, it was a case of being glued to the laptop from dawn until dusk, waiting for official announcements to break and sifting through all the other rumours that make deadline day a national event nowadays.

First up came the announcement of Shayden Morris joining from Aberdeen – although that one wasn't too much of a surprise considering Luton had been trailing him for some time, and he had been left out by the Dons to have talks with another club, meaning it didn't take a genius to work out who that could have been.

Then came Ethon Archer's move to Kenilworth Road and immediate return to Cheltenham until January, before the day became about exits for a while.

Striker Cauley Woodrow went to Wycombe, the Chairboys unfortunately already unwittingly publicising the fact in a hastily deleted social media post; nevertheless a good move for the forward who is already off the mark at Adams Park.

Then it was time for Thomas Holmes to move on as well, heading to Rotherham who it seems have Luton have developed a good relationship with over recent years, signing Chiedozie Ogbene and Hakeem Odoffin and also lending them Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu last term.

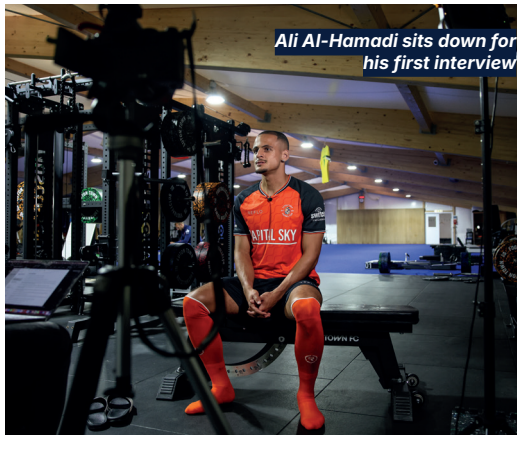
With rumours abounding around a number of Town's players, one that gained traction through the day was Mark McGuinness going to either Ipswich or Sheffield United, which was to prove true, as he eventually headed to Bramall Lane.

With three out and two in, the deadline then passed at 7pm, but in this day and age, that means little, with clubs still able to unveil new signings afterwards if the deal sheets were in beforehand.

It soon became apparent that Town had indeed submitted two of those as they named Joe Gbodé from Gillingham as new addition number three and then finished off the day with what many thought was their marquee addition of the entire window, Iraqi international Ali Al-Hamadi from Ipswich Town on a loan that could well turn into a permanent stay.

Before a ball had been kicked, Matt Bloomfield knew it would be a season of change and so it was, with 14 new players now coming in the building, and 11 going out – which doesn't include those released in the summer.

Of course, there might be some teething problems, but with players such as Izzy Jones and Odoffin to come back, while the likes of Gideon Kodua and Morris have already whetted the appetite of anyone who has watched them, it could well turn out to be one of the best windows Luton have had in recent times.



Ali Al-Hamadi sits down for his first interview

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY KENILWORTH ROAD!

Roger Wash looks back on the first time we called this place our home, some 120 years ago when we entertained today's visitors

Kenilworth Road was formally opened on Monday 4th September 1905 at 5pm sharp. This would allow for a 5.15pm kick off, therefore enabling the visitors, Plymouth Argyle, enough time to catch their train home.

The game quickly became known as the 'Green Game'. The Pilgrims played in green, the referee was a Mr. A. Green, the formal opening was conducted by Mr. J. Green of local brewery fame and the whole event had been orchestrated by secretary Charles Green. Plus, of course, the Kenilworth Road pitch was green!

The match was played out on a warm late summer evening and attracted a healthy crowd of over 6,000, bringing in a gate revenue of £120.

Mr. J. Green formally opened proceedings by kicking off the contest, but before doing so announced that he would be donating 25 guineas (£26) to the club.

The contest itself was end-to-end from start to finish with both sides hitting the woodwork. The Town had a point to prove having finished second bottom of the Southern League the previous season (fortunately they were re-elected with little fuss) and had recruited some heavyweight players to take the place of some lightweights who were 'not able to withstand the rigours of competitive football'. In other words, the long ball and muscle were to be order of the day!

Although the match was end-to-end, the referee had a huge task in preventing the contest from developing into a 'rough and tumble affair' and more than once had to separate brawling players. If the supporters were to learn anything from the display it was that the players were not going to roll over and die that season.



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Kenilworth Road Fact File

TOP 3 HIGHEST ATTENDANCES

30,069
Blackpool, FA Cup Quarter Final Replay, 4th March 1959

28,433
Arsenal, FA Cup Quarter Final 8th March 1952

27,911
Wolverhampton Wanderers, Division 1, 5th November 1955

MOST GAMES MANAGED

307
David Pleat

260
Dally Duncan

157
Nathan Jones

MOST APPEARANCES

280
Bob Morton

259
Ricky Hill

255
Brian Stein

MOST FREQUENT OPPONENT

63
Queens Park Rangers

57
Bristol Rovers

56
Watford

MOST GOALS

171
Gordon Turner

112
Andy Rennie

95
Brian Stein

BIGGEST WINS

14-1
Great Yarmouth, FA Cup fourth qualifying, 21st November 1914

12-0
Bristol Rovers, Division 3(S), 3rd April 19369-0: Clapton, FA Cup 1st Round, 30th November 1927

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LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS' TRUST



The Trust Interviews...

Michael Moran *Chief Operating Officer, 2020 Developments*

This week, we spoke to Michael Moran, Chief Operating Officer of 2020 Developments, who is the overall Project Manager responsible for delivery of Power Court. Mike told us of the journey towards our new home, and revealed some exciting news about milestones along the way... including two we'll see in the next week or so!

Thank you Mike for taking time out from what we know is an incredibly busy schedule, to bring us up to speed with what's happening, when, at Power Court. Could you start, please, by telling us what your exact role is?

As COO for 2020 Developments I'm focussed on project delivery. It's my responsibility that ultimately things will be built on time, to a budget – and within the laws of the land, together with the wider site infrastructure and residential properties. I'm not the designer, the club have shaped the character and the essence of the stadium. My role is effectively to pull it all together. I would like to think I'm pretty focused and precise, that's something I bring to my job. And it's needed for a project of this scale and ambition.

What's your background and what led you to working with the club?

I was born in Oxford, of Irish descent, and grew up in North Wales, where I played football to a decent standard as a youngster – but my parents were clear that they wanted me to go to university, and I gained a master's degree in property investment from Manchester University.

Focusing on the development side I found a bit of a niche advising pension funds on their property portfolios. I then became a director of a big surveying company in my 20s, however, when they were taken over by a huge global conglomerate, I decided I didn't want to work like that. So 20 years ago I started working for myself in the UK, then Germany and Scandinavia and then when the market started to settle down, back in the UK, advising banks and investors particularly in the retail and leisure sectors.

By complete coincidence I ended up as guest of a friend in the boardroom at Kenilworth Road – we were playing Kettering – and I got talking to Gary Sweet about the club's vision for a new stadium, for the town and for its communities and was genuinely inspired. And from working initially as a consultant I firstly became full-time, and then a director and shareholder in 2019.

Why Power Court?

Gary and the board set the challenge to evaluate all possible sites for a new stadium in Luton. I pulled together a team of consultants looking at the feasibility of around 30: pragmatic and deliverable site assessments rather than an academic box-ticking exercise. We had a great big scoring matrix. Is it in the right location? Is it accessible to all of Luton? Is it under the flight path? Is there road access? Another consideration was who owns the land, and we looked at various kinds of geotechnical aspects too – is it in a floodplain, for instance? And of course value and costs. From this we identified Power Court as our chosen site. Among its main advantages were its accessibility and centrality – and also what it could bring to the community. Luton has had such a kicking over the years, and the board felt that at Power Court we could bring the town with us as we looked to the future – something other potential sites couldn't do. As an investment strategist in love with sport and football, it was perfect for me – working alongside people whose hearts and passions were aligned to my ethics, putting together a really great plan for development, regeneration and a football stadium.

A key part of the strategy was Newlands Park at Junction 10 – where we had the opportunity to buy land – as a facilitating development to help make the Power Court scheme work. It was such an exciting plan, delivering a fabulous development at Newlands Park as well as our town centre stadium, and we launched the concept in 2016 with our successful roadshow presentation.

But life is never easy, is it! Virtually overnight we

S2 Luton v Plymouth.indd 36 11/09/2025 14:43

saw the retail and leisure property development market crumble, key partners we had lined up withdrew, and then we went into Covid. The board decided to hold on to junction 10 and we worked with Luton planners, politicians and the council – we'd built up a lot of trust and respect for our vision – to make the most of the new realities. The easy thing would have been to give up, but that wasn't going to happen.

We had delays caused by Capital & Regional and their objections too, but in retrospect with all that's happened to the economy, to material supplies and costs, we'd have been flying through the eye of a storm and that could have been a much bumpier ride. C&R were, of course, misguided, but we are where we are now, and our plans are becoming an even better reality.

You told us that we've now reached some key milestones: can you share what they are, please? That's what all of us want to hear!

As you'll know, we've been doing a lot of groundwork. Although not a great deal has been visible on site, it's all been happening.

Next week, we'll see water flowing through the redirected river around the edge of the site –we've built and installed over 300 metres of a huge concrete tunnel – so the centre of the site is opened up. And the week after – in two weeks' time – the old electricity substation will be demolished. The new one is already serving the town with power, but we had to run it alongside the old one during a testing period.

So once that has been demolished, that effectively completes phase one of the site preparations. Phase two is targeted to start just before Christmas when you'll see massive rigs in place, to put down the 20-metre piling we're building on – and we'll also be completing some work with moving old sewers and strengthening retaining walls. Piling before the end of the year has been one of the key objectives we've worked towards as part of our total, fully focussed commitment to being ready to play at the new ground for the start of 2028/29. Underground works will then take around six months or so.

Above ground external works will begin in 2026 once the substructure is completed. The skeleton of the stadium will be created quickly so it'll all be visible, but that's followed by all the mechanical and electrical works which are a huge part of the job – and then there's completion and testing in 2027/28 to be set for that 2028/29 start. In the meantime, fans will see the façade and the shape becoming reality.

All of this, of course, will be subject to any possible impact from global events outside of our control – but we'd like to think that after our experiences to date, we're ready to react to anything to keep things on track!

Some of the big changes have been going straight to a 25,000 capacity and Limak being brought in as construction partners. Can you tell us a bit more about that?

We kept challenging ourselves to make the stadium as good as it can be. Once we opened the door to actually reorienting it, so it wasn't perfectly sitting on right angles, we were able to create a much better public realm in front of the stadium. But it also got us to challenging the nature of the design concept and then through that the option of not going as originally designed with a 17,500 first stage but straight to 25,000. That gives us a better, more viable scheme from day one, with substantial economies of scale and no future disruption and avoiding unnecessary waste and significant abortive cost.

When we created the 'bigger, better, bolder' design, we put the project out to tender and ran a 'beauty parade' of UK constructors, with European and international options too. Limak came out favourite by a mile. They not only have significant relevant experience – what appealed the most was how they wanted to approach the project and work with us. The club has developed this design, to a uniquely 'Luton' model and we were not about to simply hand the project over to a contractor.

Recently, the 'affordable housing' element of the residential build was dropped in agreement with the council. What's that all about?

We've never varied from the position that we want to deliver affordable housing on the site as it will be good for the community and good for Luton. But looking at the realities of the last five years, capital values of residential have plateaued at best, >>



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Michael (right) pictured with his father and brother at the play-off final in 2023

>> while construction costs have skyrocketed. So a viability gap had become a key issue. We've been talking to Homes England for a number of years and it's important for them to separate the stadium from the residential on site. For obvious reasons, they cannot, as a public entity, put cash into a football stadium for Luton. To secure a brownfield infrastructure grant, Homes England effectively require us to push every button to improve the viability of the residential. So we had a planning committee in August and technically the affordable housing percentage has gone down zero. But in reality, the ultimate process will see affordable housing potentially coming back on to the site through another branch of Homes England.

All our appraisals and viability models separate out the residential away from the stadium. The stadium works on its own two feet and that's something we've had to prove to Homes England in order to deliver this once in a lifetime opportunity for the town. And to be honest seeing the Club and the Council work together so strategically in Luton inspired me to get involved as leader of my local council in my spare time in Warwickshire, where I live, 60 miles up the M1. It's very much a non-exec role for me there but it certainly helps give a greater understanding of the workings of local government and national policies.

What's going to happen to Kenilworth Road?

That'll be decided by the Council and the community, but we believe there is an intent to protect its legacy whilst integrating the redevelopment into Luton's broader regeneration plans. Public discussions and planning will increase as Power Court advances. Over 120 years of history won't disappear overnight.

It's been quite some journey, hasn't it?

Yes, but the good things in life aren't always easy. Most of the things that happen that are outside of your control, so the important aspect is how you respond to those obstacles. All you can really do is focus on what is in your own gift and what you can control. I think Luton has suffered as a town through taking too many shortcuts, without trying to focus on taking the town forward. 20 acres of new town centre public realm and the new stadium – without cutting corners – with all that comes with it will give people a new perspective on the town, and that's the prize we're all working towards.

Gary and the board have never, ever wavered from this. We speak every day and I think that's the single biggest driver on this. Their vision and commitment to the end goal has kept things focused all these years.

I look back to my first away match, a day at Alfreton, a 5-0 win with Luton outnumbering the locals 10-1, which is when the passion really struck home to me, and then on to Wembley 2023, which I went to with my family – easily the best day I've experienced as a football fan, knowing what it meant to everyone. Those are the times that make a football club, and this one is unique. This journey has been 10 years of my life, and I wouldn't change it for the world. It's seen so many ups, downs and challenges but it's been amazing. And the best is to come.

Thank you Michael – it's so fabulous to know that the 2020 vision for the club and the town is becoming reality before our eyes. Now let's do our bit and roar the team back up the league so we're in dream land on an off the pitch when we take our seats at Power Court!

WE'VE GOT THE POWER!

MILESTONES ON THE WAY

Phase One

1 week – rerouted river starts to flow
2 weeks – old substation demolished

Phase Two

December 2026 / January 2027
- Piling begins for substructure
- Underground work continues for 6 months

Phase Three

Spring / Summer 2026
- External construction begins
- Skeleton of stadium created
- Façade takes shape
- Mechanical and electrical work commences

Phase Four

2027/2028
- Mechanical and electrical work completed
- Ground fitted out
- Full testing and trials completed

Ground Opens

For start of season 2028/29

Residential construction rolls out from 2028/29 as well

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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

2015/16 AWAY

Firstly, can you believe that this away shirt is now 10 years old? Where has the time gone? It really does not feel like the 2015/2016 season was that long ago.

It's one that I really believe to be a very under-rated and sadly forgotten about shirt. It is a really smart design, using our traditional colours of orange and white really nicely to make quite a timeless shirt.

Made once again by Fila, we used the orange colour of the home shirt for the sleeves, neckline and stripe across the shoulders, whilst the body of the shirt is our traditional white. Fila logos adorned the sleeves once again, and were colour co-ordinated to match the shirt.

We also had a unique club crest for this season, with it being our 130th year of existence. A lovely navy blue with white text told us this, with "130 Years" going across the middle of the badge. Looked smart!

This shirt was also very versatile. It could be worn with multiple combinations of shorts and socks; orange, white and navy. For example, when we played Barnet away, we went with an all-white outfit. At York we went with the white and navy blue combo. Something we kit geeks don't miss!

On the pitch, our 130th season was our second in League Two following promotion from the National League. We reached the second round of both the FA and League cups, and finished a respectable 11th in a tight division.

We wore this shirt on the first game of the season, an away trip to Accrington Stanley. Jonathan Smith scoring our goal in a 1-1 draw. Two 3-1 away wins followed in this beauty, firstly against Cambridge United – where Luke Guttridge scored a beauty, and then Morecambe. Luke Wilkinson scored in both, and Smith got another goal, too. The pair liked scoring in this.

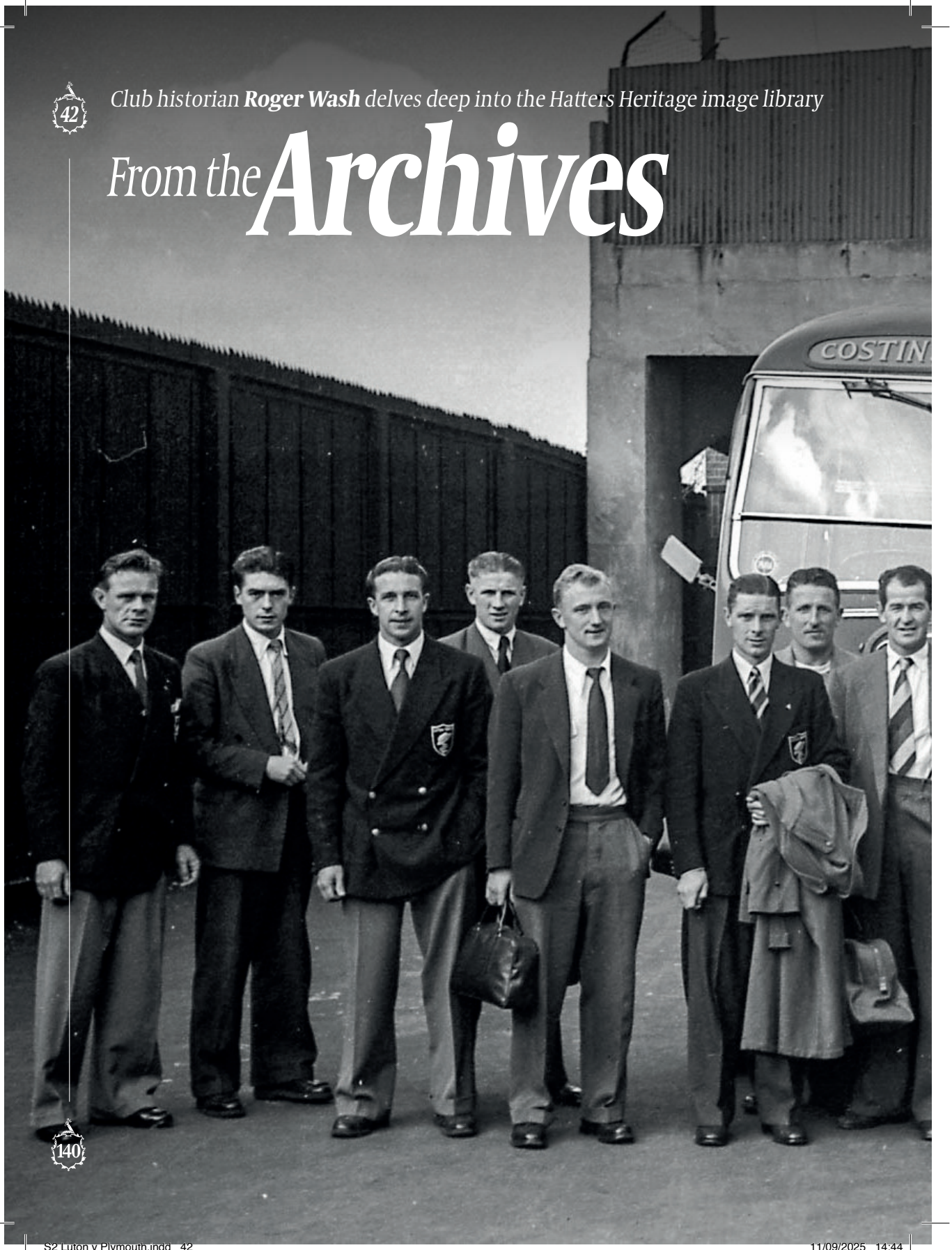
This shirt was used 12 times that season, which is a lot considering we also had a third shirt! Its record wasn't bad either: seven wins, three defeats and two draws. This shirt will always remind me of Cameron McGeehan and Jack Marriott rocking the long-sleeve version, and the Derry Pele, Paddy McCourt!



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

From the Archives

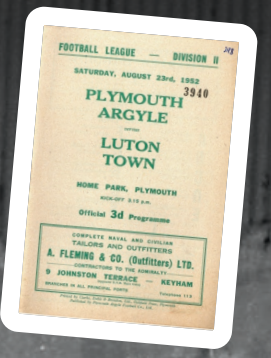


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The Luton players set off on the long trip to Plymouth on the opening day of the 1952/53 season.

Sadly the Town went down 2-1 in front of a Home Park crowd of 28,836 but did win the return game just before Christmas.

Left to right: Wally Shanks, Gordon Turner, Bob Morton, Bernard Moore, Seamus Dunne, Bert Mitchell, Bud Aherne, Jesse Pye, Charlie Watkins, Hugh McJarrow, Dave Sexton, Bernard Streten, Syd Owen.



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

ON THIS DAY

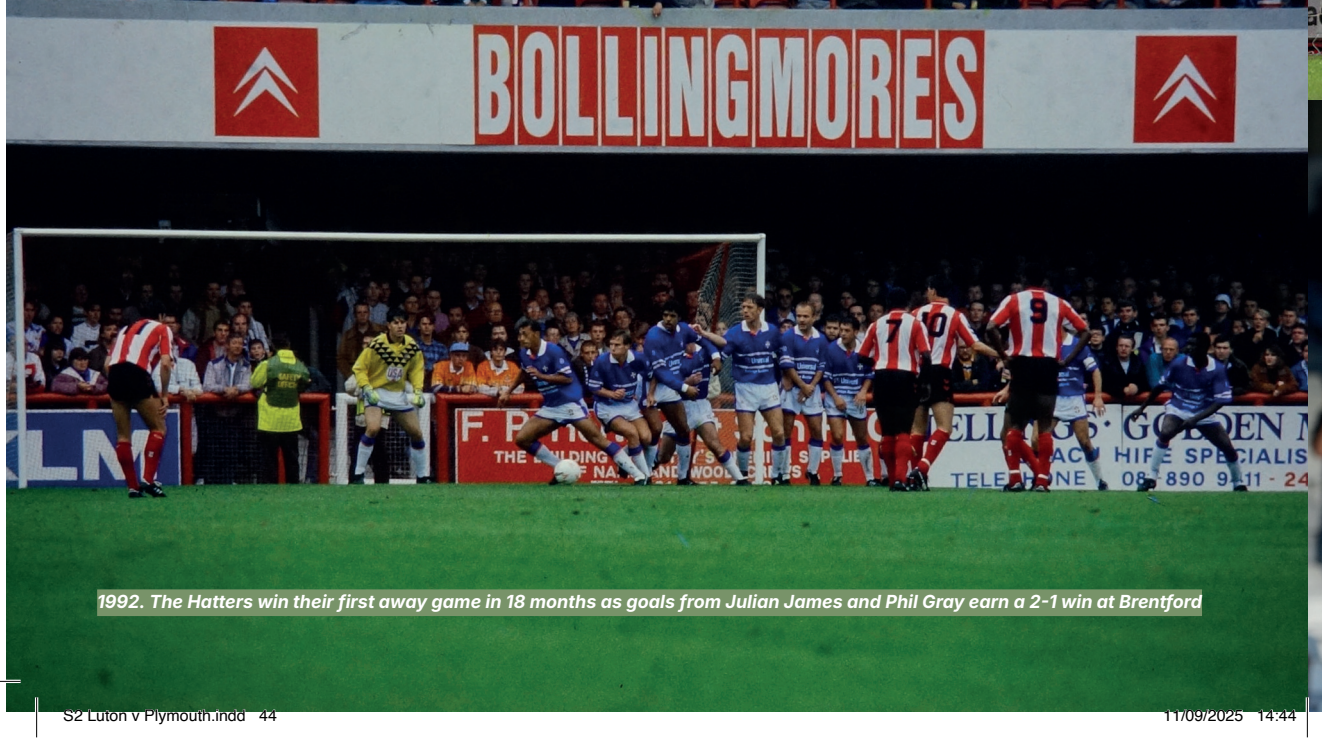
13th September



1905. Our first win on this day came in style as two goals from John Pickering gave us a 6-0 win over Grays United in the United League.



1961. Record goalscorer Gordon Turner is on target as the Town beat Northampton 2-1 in a League Cup tie at Kenilworth Road



1992. The Hatters win their first away game in 18 months as goals from Julian James and Phil Gray earn a 2-1 win at Brentford



1997. Dwight Marshall scores the Town's goal in a 1-1 draw at Bournemouth in the third tier



2008. The Hatters wipe out three more points of their minus-30 deficit with 3-1 home win over Aldershot thanks to goals from Michael Spillane, Asa Hall and Chris Martin

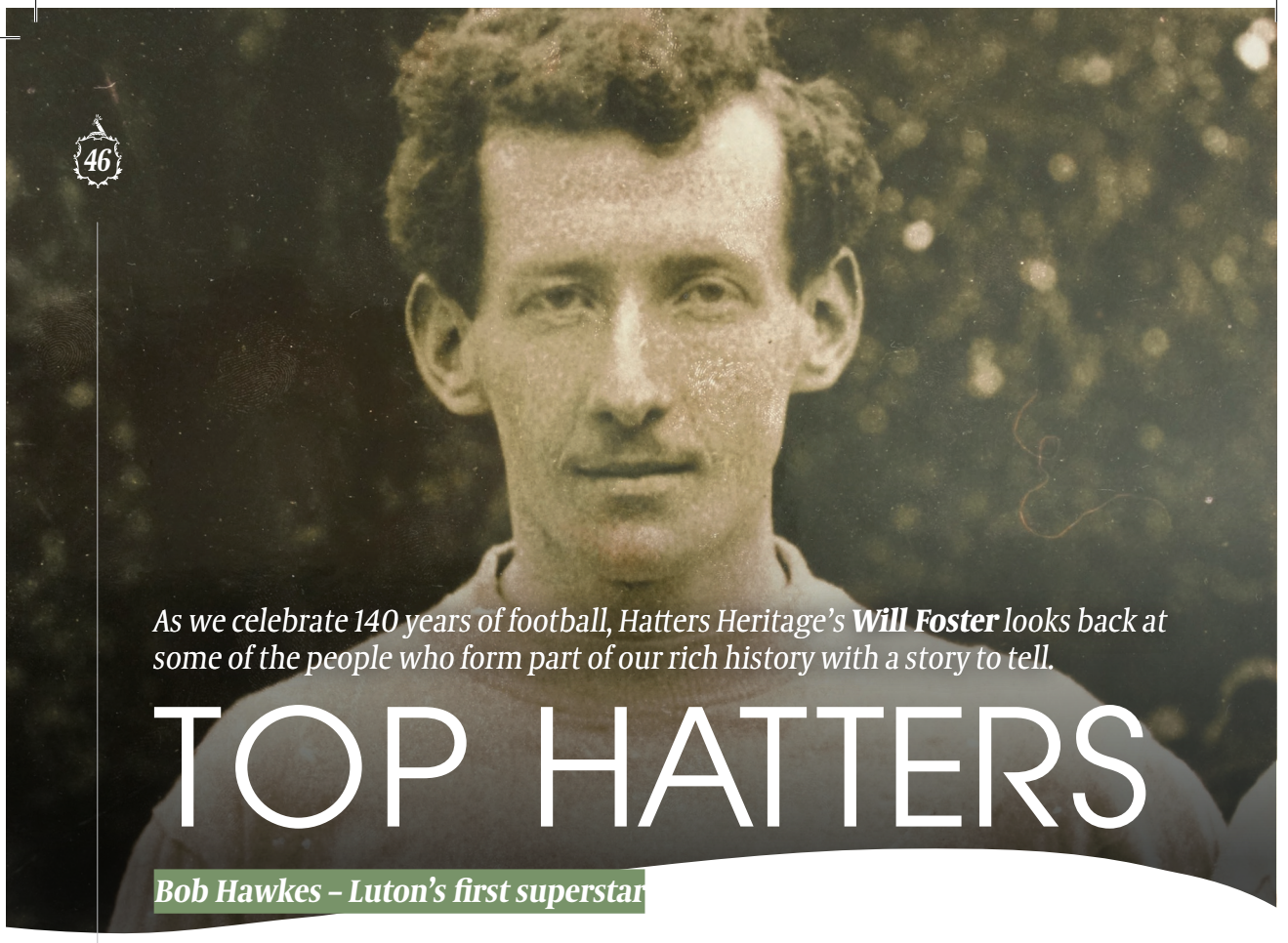


2011. Amari Morgan-Smith nets a double as the Town triumph 2-0 at AFC Telford in the National League



2014. A solitary goal from Mark Cullen gives the Hatters a 1-0 win over Cheltenham in League Two at Kenilworth Roaad

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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 Hawkes – Luton's first superstar

The performances of Ross Barkley in the number six shirt two seasons ago, coming as the club's time at Kenilworth Road winds down, were something few of us will ever forget.

They also book-ended another graceful midfielder who claimed the same position in the line-up. His name was Robert Murray Hawkes – and he was Luton's first superstar.

Robert, or Bob as he tended to be called, was born in the hamlet of Breachwood Green on 18th October 1880. He had moved to Luton by the age of 10 and left school at 13 to become an apprentice hat maker.

At the same time he was making a name for himself on the football pitch, turning out for several famous local sides before joining Luton's reserve team.

He made 12 first-team appearances in the 1901/02 season and did enough for the directors to invite him to join as a professional. However, he turned down the opportunity in favour of remaining as an amateur, instead offering to lend his assistance whenever possible. This arrangement would continue for a decade as Bob combined his playing career with his business interests. As a result, he rarely played in midweek matches for that reason.

His primary position was at left half, the best modern comparison to the position being the left side of a three-man midfield. The other members of the trio, Fred Hawkes (no relation) and Dunstable's Fred White, soon formed what was considered the 'best half-back line in the Southern League' and naturally this started to draw attention from Football League clubs. Bob was never interested and offered this rebuttal when Aston Villa invited him for a trial.

"Luton is good enough for me, if they would let me play for them. And to that resolution I intend to stick," he said.

A speedy and clever player known to wander around the pitch, he didn't look much like a footballer. Slender in build and with a shock of auburn hair, he was a gentle-looking and humble man, one who drew praise even from his regular opponents. On Bob, Northampton outside right Fred Walden said: "I was lucky to make my debut against Bob, a player with a great reputation for clean tackling and who liked to play his football on the ground. I played against him many times and I never knew him to try an unfair trick on me or anybody else."

Indeed such was Bob's dislike for heading the ball and using his feet instead it was eventually rumoured he had a gold

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Bob and Rose Hawkes

plate under his hair to protect an old skull fracture! Fake news, 1900s style.

Remarkably, an international call-up was to follow, with Bob making his debut against Ireland in September 1907 and becoming Town's (and incidentally, Hertfordshire's) first England international. He would win five full caps in all. His amateur status also allowed for selection in the 1908 Great Britain Olympic squad where he would win a gold medal, including scoring twice in the 12-2 quarter-final win against Sweden. This was part of 22 amateur England caps.

His standing at the club was clearly that of a star asset. When he married Rose in 1909 the club directors asked if they could buy the couple a gift, a gesture they'd never made before. Bob requested a piano and offered his thanks for the "beautiful present". When he finally turned professional at the end of the 1911/12 season he became the club's highest-paid player.

Bob made 31 appearances in the final year before the Great War but struggled to stay healthy, though his volunteer training gave him a new lease of life and he played regularly in wartime regional leagues. In October 1919 he was awarded a benefit against Watford which raised £160.

Aged 39, when organised football returned, Bob had decided to retire and concentrate on his hat-making business. Kenilworth Road would get to see him one final time however, as, on 26th April 1920, he was asked to fill in for the home match with Bristol Rovers, which ended 1-1. He would continue to live in Luton after hanging up his boots for good with bowls becoming his new passion, playing for the Wardown club.

In 1937 he was one of the honoured guests at the George Hotel as Luton celebrated a first Football League promotion. He was sat with Fred Hawkes and Fred White, the famed half back line reunited. When he passed away in 1945 the club, and the town, lost one of its most loyal servants.

> *"SLENDER IN BUILD AND WITH A SHOCK OF AUBURN HAIR, HE WAS A GENTLE-LOOKING AND HUMBLE MAN, ONE WHO DREW PRAISE EVEN FROM HIS REGULAR OPPONENTS.*

We're proud at Hatters' Heritage to be custodians of a number of artefacts from Bob's career including his first England cap, which can be seen on tours of Kenilworth Road, and a scroll presented at the 1908 Olympic Final.

He deserves to be remembered by all Luton supporters.


Bob wearing his first England cap

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LTFC academy

with Daniel Taylor
Head of Academy sports science





The Under-21s line up prior to the Premier League Cup tie at Exeter

Within the Academy the mission remains the same – develop players capable of not only playing for but excelling in our first team. The sport scientists within the Academy aim to work alongside the other departments to ensure our players are getting the correct physical work to allow them to reach that level.

The Academy sport science department has grown a lot during my six years at the club. When I joined, an intern and I were its only members. Now I head up a team of six. As well as leading the department, I work daily with the Under-21s. Jacob Wardle, our other full-time member of staff, leads on the Under-18s programme, while Harri Morgan and Matthew Barrett work on a part-time basis providing support across our schoolboy programme (U9-16s). Finally, we have two interns – Katerina Yianni and Odelyn Borges – who are with us for the season and help across all age groups. They have all been great additions, increasing both the quality and range of support we provide across the Academy.

We all work together in line with a long-term athletic development philosophy. This helps align our work so that players are receiving not only the work needed for their present but so it also links together so there is a smooth transition as they progress through their Academy journey. At the top end this is aided by the first team sport science staff who happily share insights to their programme and methodologies so we can better prepare our players for what will be required should they reach the top level.

Across the age groups we provide a mix of support. During training sessions, we push development by working with coaches to design sessions that not only develop the technical and tactical facets of the game but also elicit physical outcomes. This can be manipulating sessions to include quick changes of direction / high speed runs / tests of aerobic capacity.

Around training sessions we deliver 'Prepare to Perform' sessions to physically prepare players for training and gym sessions to increase strength and power. The physical demands of professional football are ever increasing and we are always pushing to make sure our players can cope with these.

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> *"THE PHYSICAL DEMANDS OF PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL ARE EVER INCREASING*

Another area where we continue to grow is in nutrition. Rhoys Wiggins provides support for the first team, but also spends a day each week with the Academy. He takes body fat and weight measurements for the U18/21s and provides education both through group presentations, workshops and individual support to help our players fuel correctly to give themselves the best chance of performing – especially at a time when the demands can be higher due to growth.

Sport science has grown a lot during my time with the Academy and I take great pride in the work the people in my department deliver and the support they provide our players. However, we continue to be never satisfied, always looking for new ways we can make our players fitter, faster and stronger.

Scholars take first step on refereeing ladder

Last month our Under-18s successfully completed their referee qualifications – an important milestone that marks the very first step on the refereeing ladder.

The course not only enhances the players' understanding of the Laws of the Game but also helps build stronger relationships with officials, while supporting their wider BTEC studies.

A huge thank you goes to Hugh Gilroy and Paul Howard, two top officials from the EFL, who delivered the course with expertise and passion.

We would also like to extend thanks to our Community Trust, who supported the programme by providing their players so the scholars could complete the practical elements of the qualification.

The Community Trust's Alex Wallace said: "This was a fantastic opportunity for our youth development players to work alongside the scholars, who they view as great role models.

"Our development boys really look up to the scholars and aspire to one day follow in their footsteps."

The qualification provides our scholars with valuable skills, confidence, and a deeper appreciation of the role of referees within football. It's another important step in their journey of development, both within the game and beyond.

Hatters head of education Kobie Dee added: "It's great to see the lads improving their knowledge, giving back to the community, and learning more about the laws of the game.

"Opportunities like this help them develop as players and as people, preparing them both on and off the pitch."

Congratulations, lads!



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 W 4-2
Sat 30 Forest Green L 0-3

SEPTEMBER
Sat 6 Exeter City W 4-0
Sat 13 Oxford Utd 10:30am
Sat 20 Newport County 1pm
Sat 27 Swindon 10:30am

OCTOBER
Sat 4 PDLC Colchester 11am
Sat 11 Portsmouth 11am

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

U21 FIXTURES

AUGUST
Tue 26 Exeter City L 0-1

OCTOBER
Tue 21 Brentford 7pm

NOVEMBER
Tue 18 West Brom 7pm

DECEMBER
Tue 2 Exeter City 7pm
Sun 14 Brentford 1pm
Mon 22 West Brom 7pm

Bold denotes home fixture

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Love Luton RunFest

5K, 10K & HALF MARATHON

Sunday 12th October 2025

Volunteer Marshal = Hero 2025

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Community Interest Luton are thrilled to be working in partnership with Love Luton to manage the legendary volunteer campaign. Each year hundreds of amazing people generously give their time to ensure a fun and safe race for all. There are lots of volunteering opportunities from marshalling through to assisting runners at the finish line.

To find out more email: **love_luton@outlook.com**

For further details on the annual event visit:

loveluton.org.uk/runfest

CIL community interest luton

Headline sponsor Luton Rising

youth PROFILE

Oliver Lynch

WHERE ARE YOU FROM? Milton Keynes

WHAT POSITIONS DO YOU PLAY? Striker

WHEN DID YOU JOIN THE ACADEMY? Under-14/15

WHO WAS YOUR FOOTBALL HERO GROWING UP? Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Marcus Rashford

GO-TO BOOTS RIGHT NOW? Nike Mercurials

FIRST TIME YOU KICKED A BALL? At three or four years old

BIGGEST LESSON FOOTBALL'S TAUGHT YOU? Hard work beats talent when talent fails to work hard

FUNNIEST TEAMMATE? Josh Phillips









HARDEST WORKER? Zach Ioannides

BIGGEST INSPIRATION OUTSIDE FOOTBALL? My mum and dad

TEAMMATE MOST LIKELY TO BE A MANAGER? Claude Kayibanda or Zach

MOMENT YOU'LL NEVER FORGET? When England lost in the European Championship final

BEST BIT ABOUT BEING AT LUTON? Playing for the club I had a season ticket at for years and years

ONE THING YOU'RE WORKING ON? My all-round game

PRE-MATCH ROUTINE OR SUPERSTITIONS? Eating my dad's pasta the night before a game

FAVOURITE MUSIC... British and American rap

FAVOURITE GAME... Fifa

GO-TO CHEAT MEAL... Chinese

IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER? I'd work in the car industry

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

THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE YOURSELF. Chill, fun, disciplined

ONE THING PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU? I play golf

BIGGEST FOOTBALL DREAM? To play for Manchester United

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LUTON TOWN FC COMMUNITY TRUST

Welcome from Daniel Douglas, Head of Community Trust

Additional Trust Partnerships for 2025/26



With the new season and academic year now underway, we are excited to share some of our new partners and projects for the year ahead.

Alongside some familiar names, we are also delighted to welcome a few new signings to the team.

Luton Town Community Trust x Premier League Charitable Fund

Premier League Inspires. The Community Trust is proud to be one of the few community club organisations selected to deliver the inspires programme. Inspires uses the power of football to engage young people aged 11-18 at risk of not reaching their potential, through a series of regular face-to-face group sessions, mentoring, workshops and social-action projects, providing pupils with the help they need now and supporting them to plan for their future.

For more information about this programme, please contact Ria Douglas, PL Inspires Coordinator at ria.douglas@lutontown.co.uk.

Premier League Primary Stars. The programme uses the appeal of football to primary school children across Luton and Bedfordshire to become more active and support raising attainment in Maths and English.

For more information about this programme, please contact Bert Klemmer, Programmes Manager at bert.klemmer@lutontown.co.uk

Premier League Kicks. This community-based programme creates opportunities for young people who are at risk of anti-social behaviour, youth violence and/or from high-need areas across the county to regularly engage in football, sport, mentoring and personal development opportunities.

For more information about this programme, please contact Phillip Hilliare Moore, Programme Manager at philip.hilaire-moore@lutontown.co.uk.

The Harpur Trust

This grant supports our secondary schools work with the most disadvantaged pupils at Bedford Academy and Daubeney Academy for the 2025/26 academic year.

Through delivery of football and sports-based, targeted interventions and workshops, we aim to tackle non-academic barriers to academic success, such as difficulties with attendance, behaviour and social and emotional wellbeing.

The Connolly Foundation

This grant grant supports our pathways to employability work

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within Luton secondary schools during 2025/26 academic year. This intervention is aimed at students who need support in raising their aspirations.

Luton Borough Council

This Healthy Weight and Physical Activity grant supports our work with pupils and staff at one our priority partner schools, Ferrars Junior School, during 2025/26 academic year to develop and maintain a positive view of exercise and healthy weight management.

For more information about these programmes, please contact Bert Klemmer at bert.klemmer@lutontown.co.uk.

Queen Elizabeth School

We're delighted to renew our partnership with Queen Elizabeth High School in Luton, delivering PE across Key Stages 3-5 and managing the sixth form football programme. With two full-time coaches, we'll provide high-quality sport, support pathways into grassroots football, and help students thrive both on and off the pitch.

Cedars Upper School

We're proud to partner with Cedars Upper School, delivering PE from Year 5 through to sixth form and managing the football programme. With another two full-time coaches in place, we'll provide high-quality lessons, additional pathways, and oversee all sixth form fixtures to inspire future Hatters.

For further information about these programmes, please contact Alex Wallace, Football Development Manager at alex.wallace@lutontown.co.uk.

We have plenty more happening across the Trust and look forward to announcing further news as the season progresses. If you'd like to explore partnership opportunities or arrange a meeting with us, please contact community@lutontown.co.uk – we'd be delighted to hear from you.



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Ladies earn vital win



Luton Town Ladies took one step closer to the WNL League Cup knockout stages last weekend defeating Milton Keynes Women 2-1 at Barton.

The Town had to wait nearly 10 minutes for their opening shot of the game, Lisa Milliken's deflected effort from just inside the box was comfortably held by Amber Taylor in the Milton Keynes net.

There was a brief pause in play with ten minutes remaining of the first-half as Hatters full-back Sasha Smith was forced off the pitch with an uncomfortable looking injury, and she was replaced by forward Ami Martins.

On the stroke of half-time, the Ladies took the lead via Lisa Milliken. Jànaye Beaufort's ball into the area was helped goalwards by the outstretched leg of Milton Keynes' captain Favour Omenazu, and Milliken reacted quickest at the backpost to poke the ball past the oncoming Taylor.

Just after the break, a long ball down the line by Nicole Farmer picked out Ami Martins, who drove into the area and unleashed an effort which glided inches over the crossbar.

The Ladies were well on top in the opening exchanges of the second-half. Tasha Fensome collected the ball in a central area and floated it out to the left-hand side, where Milliken was unmarked, but her cross into the area was delivered with too much power and was unable to pick out any orange shirts.

With little over 15 minutes to play, Fensome came agonisingly close to extending the Hatters' lead. Martins' exquisite ball over the top of the defence picked out Fensome, who had made a smart run down the left-hand side, she created space for herself just inside the area and with her left foot, came close from finding the bottom right corner.

With 80 minutes on the clock, Fensome did get her goal. A Fiona Buttigieg corner was swung deep into the mixer, a Milton Keynes defender was the first to meet the ball, but her header collided off Fensome's head and into the back of the net.

She knew little about it, but they all count and the Ladies had a 2-0 lead with ten to play!

Just after the goal, club captain Leyah Maddix replaced Shanice Lewis.

Milton Keynes started to ramp up the pressure in the remaining minutes of the game and they thought they had one back, but for an exceptional one-on-one save from Nicole Melling, who was called into action for the first time in the second-half.

With two minutes remaining at the end of the 90 Milton Keynes did get a goal back, as their captain Omenzazu powered an effort past Melling.

In stoppage time, Tanya Blacksley made her first appearance of the 25/26 season after returning from injury to replace Nicole Farmer in the centre of the Ladies' backline.

The Ladies were able to hang on after five minutes of additional time, to pick up another three points in the WNL League Cup.

The Town sit second on the group with six points, behind group leaders Oxford United on goal difference.

Words: Owen Williams

2025/26 FIXTURES

AUGUST
17 Dulwich Hamlet W 3-1
20 Tottenham (NLC) W 4-1
24 Cambridge Utd W 5-0
31 Actonians L 0-4
SEPTEMBER
7 Milton Keynes (NLC) W 2-1
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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A big shoutout to our mascots at the Cardiff game!



Lewis Rogers
Age: 12
Hobbies: Football, cricket and gaming
Favourite Player: James Shea

JUNIOR HATTERS

UP THE TOWN

MASCOTS



Ellie Williams

Age: 9
Hobbies: Football, craft and Tennis
Favourite Player: Milli Alli



Poppy Williams

Age: 7
Hobbies: Football, Craft, Dancing and Singing
Favourite Player: Milli Alli



Darcy Alger

Age: 12
Hobbies: Netball, Football, Cheerleading
Favourite Player: Elijah Adebayo



COYH!

Hugo Alger

Age: 10
Hobbies: Football, Swimming; Gymnastics
Favourite Player: Jordan Clark



Barnaby Alger

Age: 8
Hobbies: Football, Swimming; Gymnastics
Favourite Player: Milli Alli



Fearne Alger

Age: 7
Hobbies: Netball, Football, Cheerleading
Favourite Player: Josh Keeley


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TICKET *news*

HOME **TICKETS**

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

AWAY TICKET **NEWS**

v Lincoln City
Saturday 20th September, 12.30pm

Luton Town supporters have received an initial allocation of 1,433 seats for our fixture at Sincil Bank.

Please note, no digital tickets will be in operation for this fixture. Tickets will be sent via post or to be purchased and/or collected from the ticket office.

General Sale
Subject to availability tickets are on sale at one per person to any supporter with a previous purchasing history and any member without a previous booking history.

Prices
Adults £26
Seniors (Over 65+) £21
Young Adult Under 22 (18-22) £21
Under 18 (17 and under) £12

Ambulant supporters pay the age-relevant price with a PA free of charge.

Four accessible parking spaces are available on a first-come, first-served basis to blue badge holders at a cost of £8. These can be booked by calling Lincoln City on 01522 880011.

Away supporter parking is available on the south common car park, these are available via Lincoln's ticketing website.



HOME GAMES NOW ON general sale

v Doncaster Rovers

Saturday 27th September, 3pm
Category B

v Huddersfield Town

Saturday 11th October, 3pm
Category A

v Mansfield Town

Saturday 18th October, 3pm
Category B

v Rotherham United

Saturday 15th November, 3pm
Category B

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*UK data

LEAGUE LOOK

The Town might have had a weekend off due to international call-ups but there was still plenty of action in League One last weekend with eight games and lots of goals.

There were 30 goals across the matches with our visitors this afternoon top-scorers as Tom Cleverley's side earned their first win of the season thanks to a fine 4-2 win over Stockport at Home Park.

And there was no shortage of drama in several fixtures with former Town strikers on target too.

Joe Taylor scored for Huddersfield in their 3-2 victory over winless Peterborough. Posh took the lead but were blown away by the Terriers, Taylor scoring what would prove to be the winner in stoppage time. The visitors remain at the foot of the table.

James Collins scored a first-half double as his Lincoln side were held to a 2-2 draw against Wigan at Sincil Bank. Both sides had a man sent off in the second half but neither could find a winner.

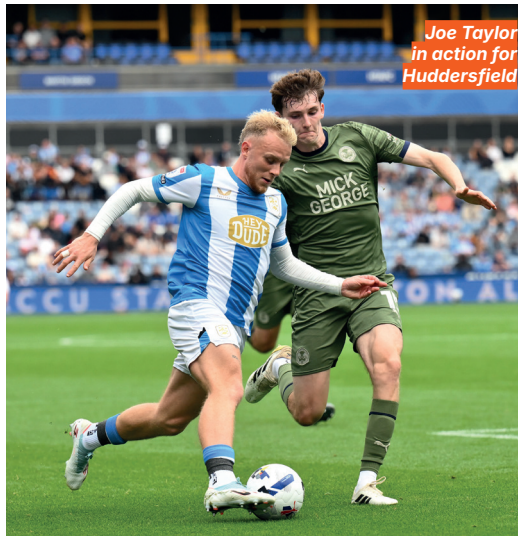
Cauley Woodrow got his loan move to Wycombe off to a winning and goalscoring start as the forward scored a second-half penalty in the Chairboys' 2-0 victory over Mansfield at Adams Park giving Mike Dodds' side their first win of the season.

Leyton Orient were the most dramatic winners as a goal five minutes into stoppage time from Charlie Wellens – son of manager Richie – earned the O's a 3-2 win at Port Vale. In a ding-dong affair, it was the Valiants who took the lead, only for Orient to hit back to register the only away win in the division last weekend.

Solid home wins were the order of the day for Bolton and Doncaster, the Trotters easing 3-0 past nine-man AFC Wimbledon while Rovers ended Bradford's unbeaten start to the campaign with a 3-1 win at the Eco-Power Stadium with the evergreen Billy Sharp on target. The victory lifted Donny up to second place in the table.

Denzel Hall's powerful volley proved to be enough for Rotherham who beat Exeter at the New York Stadium to lift the Millers away from the relegation zone in the fledgling league table.

There are some cracking fixtures in the division today, with the Yorkshire derby between Bradford and Huddersfield one particular stand-out.



Joe Taylor in action for Huddersfield

League leaders Cardiff aim to maintain their unbeaten start with a tricky trip to Stockport while Doncaster look to build on their good start to the season at Wigan.

Peterborough and Port Vale are looking for their first wins of the campaign with Posh hosting Wycombe and Vale heading to Exeter.

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)	0	182	47
Millenic Alli	6 (0)	1	0 (2)	0	6 (2)	1	24	5
Mads Andersen	3 (0)	1	0 (0)	0	3 (0)	1	22	2
Shandon Baptiste	2 (2)	0	0 (0)	0	2 (2)	0	21	1
Cohen Bramall	1 (3)	0	2 (0)	1	3 (3)	1	6	1
Jacob Brown	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	52	7
Christian Chigozie	0 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	2	0
Jordan Clark	6 (0)	1	0 (0)	0	6 (0)	1	185	19
Lamine Fanne	1 (2)	0	1 (1)	0	2 (3)	0	18	0
Tom Holmes	0 (1)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (1)	0	22	1
Joe Johnson	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	15	0
Isaiah Jones	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	18	2
Josh Keeley	6 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	6 (0)	0	6	0
Gideon Kodua	2 (2)	1	2 (0)	0	4 (2)	1	6	1
Nigel Lonwijk	5 (1)	0	0 (2)	0	5 (3)	0	8	0
Christ Makosso	4 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	5 (0)	0	18	0
Mark McGuinness	4 (2)	0	1 (0)	0	5 (2)	0	51	3
Teden Mengi	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	55	2
Shayden Morris	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	1	0 (1)	1	1	1
Kal Naismith	5 (1)	0	1 (0)	0	6 (1)	0	85	4
Marvelous Nakamba	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	57	0
Zack Nelson	1 (5)	1	2 (0)	0	3 (5)	1	33	2
Lasse Nordas	2 (2)	1	2 (0)	1	4 (2)	2	16	2
Hakeem Odoffin	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0	0
Josh Phillips	0 (0)	0	0 (2)	0	0 (2)	0	3	0
Jake Richards	0 (0)	0	1 (1)	0	1 (1)	0	2	0
George Saville	6 (0)	1	0 (0)	0	6 (0)	1	6	1
James Shea	0 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	112	0
Liam Walsh	3 (3)	0	2 (0)	0	5 (3)	0	36	0
Reuell Walters	2 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	18	0
Nahki Wells	3 (1)	0	0 (0)	0	3 (1)	0	4	0
Cauley Woodrow	0 (1)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (1)	0	82	6
Jerry Yates	4 (1)	0	1 (1)	1	5 (2)	1	7	1

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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**	W	1-0	6	10,751	562	Keeley	Kodua	Bramall	Lonwijk	McGuinness	Naismith	**SAVILLE 1**
SAT 23	**CARDIFF CITY** TV	**12:30**	L	0-1	11	11,456	1,345	Keeley	Lonwijk	Alli	Makosso	McGuinness	Naismith	Saville
SAT 30	BURTON ALBION	15:00	W	3-0	7	4,487	1,675	Keeley	Kodua	**ALLI 1**	Makosso	McGuinness	Lonwijk	Saville
SEPTEMBER														
TUE 2	**BARNET (VT)**	**19:30**	W	4-1	-	3,157	404	Shea	Kodua	**BRAMALL 1**	Chigozie	Makosso	Naismith	Richards
SAT 13	**PLYMOUTH ARGYLE**	**15:00**												
SAT 20	LINCOLN CITY TV	12:30												
SAT 27	**DONCASTER ROVERS**	**15:00**												
TUE 30	BLACKPOOL	19:45												
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												

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DUNCAN



We would like to wish Duncan Alger a massive happy 50th birthday for tomorrow. His four children are mascots for today's game with Plymouth and we hope he enjoys seeing his children wear the orange of the Hatters this afternoon at Kenilworth Road. Lots of love from Jo, Darcy, Hugo, Barnaby and Fearne.

REST IN PEACE

We were saddened to learn of the passing of two Hatters supporters and our condolences go out to their families and friends.



Keith Underwood captained Bedfordshire Youth to victory in the FA National competition in 1955 and played against Manchester United at Kenilworth Road when the national county champions played against the FA Youth Cup winners, narrowly losing 4-3 to United. Keith was signed by the Hatters on a professional contract but did not make any first-team appearances, but did appear many times for the 'A' team and the reserves until his departure in 1962. Keith passed peacefully in his sleep on 23rd August, the same day his great-grandson, Charlie, was a mascot against Cardiff.



Beloved Luton fan **Stephen Hathaway** passed away on 28th May. He regularly travelled to away games with his grandad, uncle and brother and had a season ticket at Kenilworth Road near where Eric Morecambe sat. Once he couldn't find a Luton shirt anywhere in Luton, so one day travelled as far as Stoke to find one to buy it. Stephen moved away from the area but still used to follow the Hatters on his computer and was part of the supporters group online.

Both will be sadly missed.

Once a Hatter, always a Hatter. RIP.

					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	Nordås	Nelson	Walsh
	Clark	Walsh	Alli	Yates	Nordås	Nelson	Holmes		
	Clark	Walsh	Wells	Nordås	Yates	Kodua	Nelson	Baptiste	Bramall
	Clark	NELSON 1	Yates	NORDÅS 1	Wells	Walsh	Naismith	Bramall	
	Walsh	Nelson	YATES 1	NORDÅS 1	MORRIS 1	Alli	Lonwijk	Fanne	Phillips

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. The Hatters played Plymouth in the very first game at Kenilworth Road in 1905 – but what was the final score?

2. Who am I? I started my career at Grays Athletic before moving to Plymouth in 1991. I joined Luton in 1994 scoring 38 times in 155 games before re-joining Argyle in 1998.

3. From which club did the Hatters sign Shayden Morris?

4. Which French club did Ben Chilwell sign for on loan?

5. Who is the manager of Lincoln City?

6. Which club are currently bottom of the EFL?

7. Which club won the most matches in League One last season without winning promotion?

8. Who is the current top scorer in the top four divisions?

9. Plymouth's former Hatters defender Brendan Galloway has won five caps for which country?

10. Name the five players to have scored after coming on as a substitute on their Luton debuts.

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

1 0-0. 2 Dwight Marshall. 3 Aberdeen. 4 Strasbourg. 5 Michael Skubala. 6 Accrington Stanley. 7 Stockport County. 8 Matthew Dennis (Notts County) 8. 9 Zimbabwe. 10 Shayden Morris, Elliot Lee, Jon Shaw, Andre Scarlett, Ricky Hill

TABLE 2025/26

Team	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Cardiff	6	5	1	0	10	16
Doncaster	7	5	1	1	4	16
Huddersfield	7	5	0	2	6	15
Stevenage	6	5	0	1	5	15
Bradford City	7	4	2	1	2	14
Barnsley	6	4	1	1	4	13
Luton	**6**	**4**	**0**	**2**	**5**	**12**
Lincoln	7	3	3	1	2	12
Stockport	7	3	2	2	1	11
Bolton	7	2	4	1	3	10
Mansfield	7	3	1	3	2	10
Leyton Orient	7	3	1	3	-3	10
Exeter	7	3	0	4	2	9
Wigan	7	2	3	2	1	9
Wimbledon	7	3	0	4	-1	9
Northampton	6	2	1	3	-2	7
Rotherham	6	2	1	3	-3	7
Plymouth	**7**	**2**	**0**	**5**	**-7**	**6**
Wycombe	7	1	2	4	-2	5
Reading	6	1	2	3	-4	5
Burton Albion	5	1	1	3	-4	4
Blackpool	6	1	1	4	-6	4
Port Vale	7	0	2	5	-5	2
Peterborough	7	0	1	6	-10	1

TODAY'S Fixtures

TODAY

12:30AM KO

Bradford City v Huddersfield
Northampton v Blackpool

3PM KO

Barnsley v Reading
Burton Albion v Lincoln
Exeter v Port Vale
Leyton Orient v Bolton
Mansfield v Stevenage
Peterborough v Wycombe
Stockport v Cardiff
Wigan v Doncaster
Wimbledon v Rotherham

TOWN Totals

	W	D	L	F	A
HOME	1565	692	633	5772	3250
AWAY	748	716	1414	3312	4958
NEUTRAL	6	4	13	29	43
TOTAL	2319	1412	2060	9113	8251
At KR	1435	664	579	5233	3004

5,791 games played

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

SEASONS TO REMEMBER *1984/85*



The Town entered their third season back in the top flight minus the goalscoring threat of Paul Walsh – sold to Liverpool – and the experience of Brian Horton and Raddy Antic, who had both been released on free transfers.

The money received for Walsh was needed to pay down the club's overdraft so manager David Pleat had to scour the bargain basement shelves and it soon began to show on the pitch.

As Christmas approached only Stoke were keeping the Town from the bottom of the league but then with Denis Mortimer resigning from the chair, his replacement David Evans re-organised the club's finances to make money available.

Pleat did not need telling twice and immediately brought in David Preece from Walsall, Steve Foster from Aston Villa, Mick Harford from Birmingham and Peter Nicholas from Crystal Palace.

With the spine of the team strengthened, the Town gradually improved – although they had a lot of catching up to do – but then the FA Cup intervened with the team fighting through to the semi-finals for the first time since 1959.

After knocking out Stoke, Huddersfield and Watford came the infamous night at Kenilworth Road against Millwall which reached the national headlines for all the wrong reasons. Despite all the thuggery on and off the pitch, the Town won through to meet Everton at Villa Park.

Forty years on, Luton supporters still fume about the injustices that played out that afternoon but the record books show that the Town lost and now had to 'concentrate on the league'.

The players did not let the Cup disappointment bother them on the pitch, however, and relegation fears were eased as the Town finished relatively comfortably.

FIRST DIVISION	PLD	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1 Everton (C)	42	28	6	8	45	90
2 Liverpool	42	22	11	9	33	77
3 Tottenham Hotspur	42	23	8	11	27	77
4 Manchester United	42	22	10	10	30	76
5 Southampton	42	19	11	12	9	68
6 Chelsea	42	18	12	12	15	66
7 Arsenal	42	19	9	14	12	66
8 Sheffield Wednesday	42	17	14	11	13	65
9 Nottingham Forest	42	19	7	16	8	64
10 Aston Villa	42	15	11	16	0	56
11 Watford	42	14	13	15	10	55
12 West Bromwich Albion	42	16	7	19	−4	55
13 Luton Town	**42**	**15**	**9**	**18**	**−4**	**54**
14 Newcastle United	42	13	13	16	−15	52
15 Leicester City	42	15	6	21	−8	51
16 West Ham United	42	13	12	17	−17	51
17 Ipswich Town	42	13	11	18	−11	50
18 Coventry City	42	15	5	22	−17	50
19 Queens Park Rangers	42	13	11	18	−19	50
20 Norwich City (R)	42	13	10	19	−18	49
21 Sunderland (R)	42	10	10	22	−22	40

Player focus

After languishing in Aston Villa's reserves, former England international **Steve Foster** came into the Luton side and immediately took control of the previously leaky Luton defence and led by example.



Season standout

By Luton's standards, a fee of £250,000 for **Mick Harford** represented a huge gamble but 15 goals in 22 starts meant that it was money well spent as the Town avoided relegation.



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the TEAMS

LUTON TOWN

MANAGER **MATT BLOOMFIELD**

1	JAMES **SHEA**
2	REUELL **WALTERS**
3	KAL **NAISMITH**
5	MADS **ANDERSEN**
7	MILLENIC **ALLI**
8	LIAM **WALSH**
9	JERRY **YATES**
11	ELIJAH **ADEBAYO**
12	ALI **AL-HAMADI**
13	MARVELOUS **NAKAMBA**
14	SHAYDEN **MORRIS**
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**
30	GIDEON **KODUA**
31	JOE **GBODÉ**
33	COHEN **BRAMALL**
37	ZACK **NELSON**
38	JOE **JOHNSON**
39	JOSH **PHILLIPS**
40	HENRY **BLACKLEDGE**
41	LUCAS **THOMAS**
42	CHRISTIAN **CHIGOZIE**
43	OLIVER **LYNCH**

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE

MANAGER **TOM CLEVERLEY**

1	CONOR **HAZARD**
2	MATHIAS **ROSS**
3	JACK **MACKENZIE**
4	BRENDAN **WIREDU**
5	JULIO **PLEGUEZUELO**
6	KORNEL **SZUCS**
7	JAMIE **PATERSON**
8	JOE **EDWARDS**
9	LORENT **TOLAJ**
10	XAVIER **AMAECHI**
11	BALI **MUMBA**
13	ZAK **BAKER**
14	AYMAN **BENAROUS**
15	ALEX **MITCHELL**
17	CALEB **WATTS**
18	OWEN **OSENI**
19	MALACHI **BOATENG**
20	LAW **McCABE**
21	LUCA **ASHBY-HAMMOND**
22	BRENDAN **GALLOWAY**
23	BRADLEY **IBRAHIM**
24	CALEB **ROBERTS**
27	BIM **PEPPLE**
29	MATTY **SORINOLA**
35	OWEN **DALE**
38	JOE **HATCH**
39	TEGAN **FINN**

The Officials

REFEREE **OLLIE YATES**
ASSISTANT REFEREE **DANIEL BONNEYWELL**
ASSISTANT REFEREE **GREG READ**
FOURTH OFFICIAL **PAUL JOHNSON**

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