OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME • £4 • ISSUE 6 v DONCASTER ROVERS







Luton TOWN







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SATURDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2025 3PM

S1 Luton v Doncaster.indd 1 24/09/2025 12:38









COVER CHARACTERS








Matty Pearson Centre-half who joined the Hatters from Barnsley in 2018 and helped us to the League One title in his first season at Kenilworth Road. Went on to score 10 goals in 136 games before moving to Huddersfield before joining Doncaster this summer.

Kerry Dixon Luton-born striker made his name at Reading before moving to Chelsea, scoring 193 goals in 420 games. After a brief spell at Southampton he joined the Hatters in 1992 and scored 20 goals in 88 games.

John Moore A Luton Town legend as a player, coach and manager. As a player, the Scot made 306 appearances and helped the Town to two promotions. He moved into coaching then became Hatters boss in 1986/87, guiding us to our highest ever position of seventh in the top-flight.

Ahmet Brkovic The 'Croatian Sensation' was brought to Kenilworth Road by Joe Kinnear in 2001 and the midfielder went on to help us win two promotions. He scored 38 times in 233 matches, including some memorable acrobatic strikes and an equaliser at Watford.

Jesse Pye Forward Jesse joined the Town as a 32-year-old in 1952 but was soon regarded as one of the finest to pull on a Hatters shirt. Top-scored in his first season, netting 36 goals in 65 games before moving to Derby in 1954.

Andy Rennie Our featured player on our Hatters Heritage pages in today's programme, striker Andy joined the Hatters in 1925 and netted an irrepressible 162 goals in 335 games, including 43 goals in 41 matches in 1928/29.

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the PROGRAMME

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

Welcome

Welcome back to Kenilworth Road for another important game in League One as we entertain Doncaster Rovers.

It's been a while since our paths last crossed with today's visitors but it's nice to be reacquainted with our friends from Yorkshire following their promotion last season.

Inside today's programme we have plenty to keep you entertained if you're in the ground early or reading on the train back home.

We have our usual favourites and also a special feature to mark EFL Youth Development Week that saw Christian Chigozie sit down and speak to youth team boss Joe Deeney.

There are also photos from the latest milestone at Power Court that saw the River Lea successfully diverted, as well plenty of fascinating historical features thanks to Roger Wash and his great team at Hatters Heritage.

It's our final home game for a couple of weeks today so get behind Matt and the boys in our quest for three points.

Come on Luton!

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YOU DESERVE A SIDE YOU CAN BELIEVE IN – A TEAM THAT FIGHTS FOR EVERY BALL AND PLAYS WITH PURPOSE AND UNITY.

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THE BOSS

Matt BLOOMFIELD

Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for this afternoon's game with Doncaster Rovers.

We come into today off the back of two hugely disappointing results that saw us defeated here against Plymouth and last weekend at Lincoln.

Against Plymouth, our individual mistakes were punished ruthlessly and that made life hard for us. It was very unlike us, given our defensive record before that game had been excellent. Despite those errors, I felt our football at times was good and we created a number of opportunities but, just like the Cardiff game, we could not turn those chances into goals.

Then, last weekend, at Lincoln, we delivered a level that simply isn't acceptable. We set clear standards for how we play and how we compete, and we didn't meet them. We have to own that and find a better response, because doing better is the only option.

I think it was the first performance this season where I've been so blunt in my assessment. Bradford away wasn't good enough and at Lincoln it was the same. In other games in which we've lost this season you could argue we deserved more, but last weekend there was no excuse. It simply wasn't good enough and we have to be better. Everybody knows that.

At the same time, we have to stay calm and keep working towards the team we know we can be. What we showed at Lincoln is not the identity we've been building. You deserve a side you can believe in – a team that fights for every ball and plays with purpose and unity. My job is to lead us back to that standard, and I know we're capable of it if we put the work in and stick together.

I don't think I could be any more determined to bring success to this club, but these setbacks only act as fuel to reach our goals. I have the desire to put things right: to get more points on the board and to see this team playing the way we all know they can. The quality is there.

We're in a tough moment right now, but the only way you get out of these is to stick together, keep working hard and come out the other side stronger.

I take great pride in my work and in what we do as a group, and, of course, it hurts. I'm human – and this job demands resilience. But you have to build that determination, dig deep and keep believing in what you're doing. I believe in the group and my staff. We now need to find ways to make that belief even stronger.

Our focus turns today as we welcome Doncaster to Kenilworth Road. It's an opportunity to show our character, put things right, bounce back and give you a performance your backing deserves. I have absolute confidence that we can respond in the right way and right the wrongs of our last two results.

There's no hiding place, especially here at Kenilworth Road, and we'll be doing all we can this afternoon to ensure a positive outcome come the final whistle.

Please get behind the lads and enjoy the game.



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BOARDROOM

JAMES MOONEY



Good afternoon and a very warm welcome to Kenilworth Road as we host today's visitors, Doncaster Rovers.

Building on last season's remarkable unbeaten run of 11 games that secured them the League Two title, Doncaster have enjoyed a good start to this campaign, sitting seventh in the table and reaching the third round of the EFL Cup.

We also extend a warm welcome to all those who have travelled from South Yorkshire and beyond, including Matty Pearson. Many of you will remember his vital role in our 2018/19 League One title-winning season – I'm told he was 'magic'! Overall Matty made over 130 appearances and scored 10 goals during his time here.

As this is my first set of programme notes, please let me introduce myself and my role. As Operations Director, my responsibilities span first team, academy and matchday operations. I've now been at the club for over two years and I'm fortunate to lead a supportive team, who, together with the executive staff, are always looking at new ways to improve both on and off the pitch.

That unforgettable play-off semi-final second leg against Sunderland in 2023 was my first taste of the Kenny. The passion, pride and togetherness on that night captured exactly what I'd been told Luton stood for. To experience it first hand was so powerful, and it confirmed that joining this club and moving my family here was absolutely the right decision.

By contrast, we all know last Saturday's performance at Lincoln City was in no way up to the standards we expect. As a club, we must hold our hands up and face that openly, apologise for the poor display and make sure we respond in the right way.

This week, staff and players have held open and honest conversations, focusing on the fundamentals that all successful Luton Town teams have been built on. PASSION, PRIDE and TOGETHERNESS – everything I witnessed during that first experience of Kenilworth Road of mine.

We have a staff and playing squad that can 100 per cent deliver on these fundamentals and I'm confident you'll see a reaction in the performances today and going forward. We need you with us too, please, as together we are stronger and more powerful.

Looking ahead, October brings fresh opportunities: key players returning to fitness, and a busy run of fixtures including two EFL Trophy fixtures. Our Trophy game against Barnet was a good opportunity for some of our younger players to gain valuable minutes and I thought Jake Richards and Christian Chigozie played well in what was a good team performance and result.

At our last home game, we marked 120 years of football at Kenilworth Road – fittingly, against the same opponents from that first fixture back in 1905. Unfortunately it ended with a disappointing result but on the plus side it was fantastic to see supporters arrive early to enjoy the activities on the Kenilworth apron. We'll continue to build on these initiatives, from introducing the new big screen to showcasing the brilliant work of the Luton Town Community Trust on matchdays.



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Our thanks also go to Madinah Mosque, Discover Islam and the Bury Park community for their wonderful "Stronger Together" welcome at the Plymouth game. This included greeting supporters of both clubs with a gift of tea, water and biscuits, which was truly appreciated by everyone. Community truly lies at the heart of this town and this club.

As part of the recent EFL Youth Development Week (12-19 September), our media team put together an insightful interview with Joe Deeney and Christian Chigozie. The relationship between a coach and player is so important to help with player development, and the interview really captured the respect they both have for each other. If you've not seen it yet, I thoroughly recommend watching it on our website. You can also read it elsewhere in today's programme. It was also equally inspiring to see our new Under-9 recruits paraded on the pitch at the Plymouth game. One day, we hope to see some of them representing Luton Town at Power Court!

Luton Ladies, meanwhile, had a strong away win against Milton Keynes last weekend – their second triumph over those opponents this season, having already beaten them in the FA Women's National League Cup group stages. The team travel to face Oxford United this weekend, aiming to build on their momentum, and conversations are ongoing between the club and the ladies' team management to arrange a date for hosting a fixture at Kenilworth Road.

Across the game this weekend, clubs at every level are coming together to support Play Safe 2025, a nationwide campaign championing

> *"OUR THANKS ALSO GO TO MADINAH MOSQUE, DISCOVER ISLAM, AND THE BURY PARK COMMUNITY FOR* **THEIR WONDERFUL "STRONGER TOGETHER" WELCOME.**



Community is at the heart of everything we do — Hakeem Odoffin and Ali Al-Hamadi met with supporters at our last home game

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safeguarding for children, young people and adults in the game. EFL Play Safe Weekend encourages clubs and leagues to play their part in making the game safe, fun and enjoyable for everyone, everywhere, every time. At today's match our Community Trust will be speaking directly with young Hatters fans to hear their views about how safe they feel in and around the stadium.

Finally from me today, let's try to put recent disappointments behind us and move forward together as we strive to get back to where we want to be with what is largely a new team.

As the players and the team bond, please give them all your backing: here's to recapturing the spirit, and success, of that night against Sunderland.

One thing I've certainly learned in my time with Luton is just how amazing that bond between the team and the terraces can be, and what a difference it can make.

COYH!

James

> *"EFL PLAY SAFE WEEKEND ENCOURAGES CLUBS AND LEAGUES TO PLAY THEIR PART IN* **MAKING THE GAME SAFE, FUN AND ENJOYABLE FOR EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE, EVERY TIME.**



Please get behind Matt and the lads this afternoon

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THIRD DIVISION/LEAGUE ONE
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Runners-up 1935/36, 1969/70

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

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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

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Chief Finance Officer: Tom Schofield
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Human Resources Director: Jenn Smith
Football Operations Manager: Kelly Francis
Safety Officer: Barney McGhee
Head of Press & Communications: Stuart Hammonds
Ticket Office Manager: Mike Hooker

VICE PRESIDENTS

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

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THE CAPTAIN

Kal NAISMITH



This is not an easy column to write. You don't need me to tell you that the past two games – the results and the performances – have been bitterly disappointing.

We came into this season knowing what was expected of us. So far we have not risen to anywhere near those levels. And there are no excuses. You, our loyal supporters, deserve better.

It's been a week of reflection and realisation. We know where we're at. The table alone shows we have performed way below our best given the talent in the squad.

There were some real honest conversations after the Lincoln game which have continued throughout the week in the lead up to this afternoon's game.

We've analysed the past two games and seen where we've gone wrong. There's a mutual feeling in the dressing room that we have fallen below our standards. We all know that for this group to be on the receiving end of those results is not good enough. As professionals, many of us experienced in the game, we know what it takes to succeed. At the moment we are struggling to meet our own expectations of performance to reach those levels.

What we do have in the dressing room is character and personality. A group of players who have been brought in to deliver success to an ambitious and forward-thinking football club. The way we have performed so far this season is nowhere near what anyone associated with our club envisaged when we started pre-season.

I won't sugarcoat anything. Positives are hard to find right now. Except from the fact we're in a position that needs to improve. We also have a squad that are just as angry and frustrated with our current situation as you are.

You have every right to vent your feelings towards us. We know you're hurting. As a footballer, you take the highs with the lows. We take the glory when we're winning and should be there to carry the can when results are not up to scratch, as they have been so far this season.

But cliché as it sounds, we've got to all stick together. We're desperate to get back on track, starting this afternoon. As a group we have spoken at length about what we need to do and how we're going to go about it – and we're desperate to ensure the past two games are quickly forgotten.

We're a squad of proud professionals. We don't want to lose. We don't want to be booed off. We all came here to be successful – and that's exactly what I believe we still can be this season.

I truly believe the personality and character in the squad can guide us through this spell. While I don't want to sound blasé, we're just eight games into the season. The season is long. We have the quality. We're all 100 per cent aware of the situation and where our levels of performance currently lie, but we're not panicking. And together – staff, players and supporters – we are stronger.

We're aiming to put things right this afternoon and give you something your support deserves. To come out of the traps early, get you behind us and get this great old stadium rocking by playing the kind of attacking, front-footed football we know we're capable of.

Enjoy the game.

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"WE'RE ALL 100 PER CENT AWARE OF THE SITUATION AND WHERE OUR LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE CURRENTLY LIE, **BUT WE'RE NOT PANICKING.**

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LUTON TOWN V DONCASTER ROVERS

RIVER LEA OPENED UP AT POWER COURT



The rerouted River Lea running around the site of our new stadium at Power Court is now officially open!

More than 300 metres of concrete tunnel have been installed to redirect the previously culverted river around the edge of the site, rather than through the middle of what will eventually be our new pitch.

Last Thursday, the original route, which serviced the huge cooling towers back in Power Court's life as a power station up to 1969, was blocked off and the sandbags lifted to release the flow of water into its new channel.

This brand-new section will eventually present a riverside leisure area for supporters and local residents to enjoy on matchdays and throughout the week, when the stadium opens in 2028.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CHARLES!



Charles Shawley, a lifelong Hatters fan, will reach the age of 90 on 30th September.

He attended his first home game with his father on the 30th August 1947 against Newcastle and his favourite ever player (sorry Mick!) was Gordon Turner, who scored 243 goals for the club.

Charles' favourite game was against Liverpool at Anfield in the 1954/55 season the game ended 4-4.

For nearly 60 years, Charles and his wife Beryl have lived just under two miles from Kenilworth Road.

REST IN PEACE

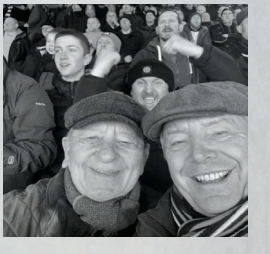
We are heartbroken to share the passing of Roy Fensome, a lifelong Luton Town supporter and true Hatter.

Some of Roy's happiest times were at Kenilworth Road with his friends and his son: season tickets in the old Bobbers Stand, a bag of chips before kick-off, sweets at half-time, the way home was always Five Live.

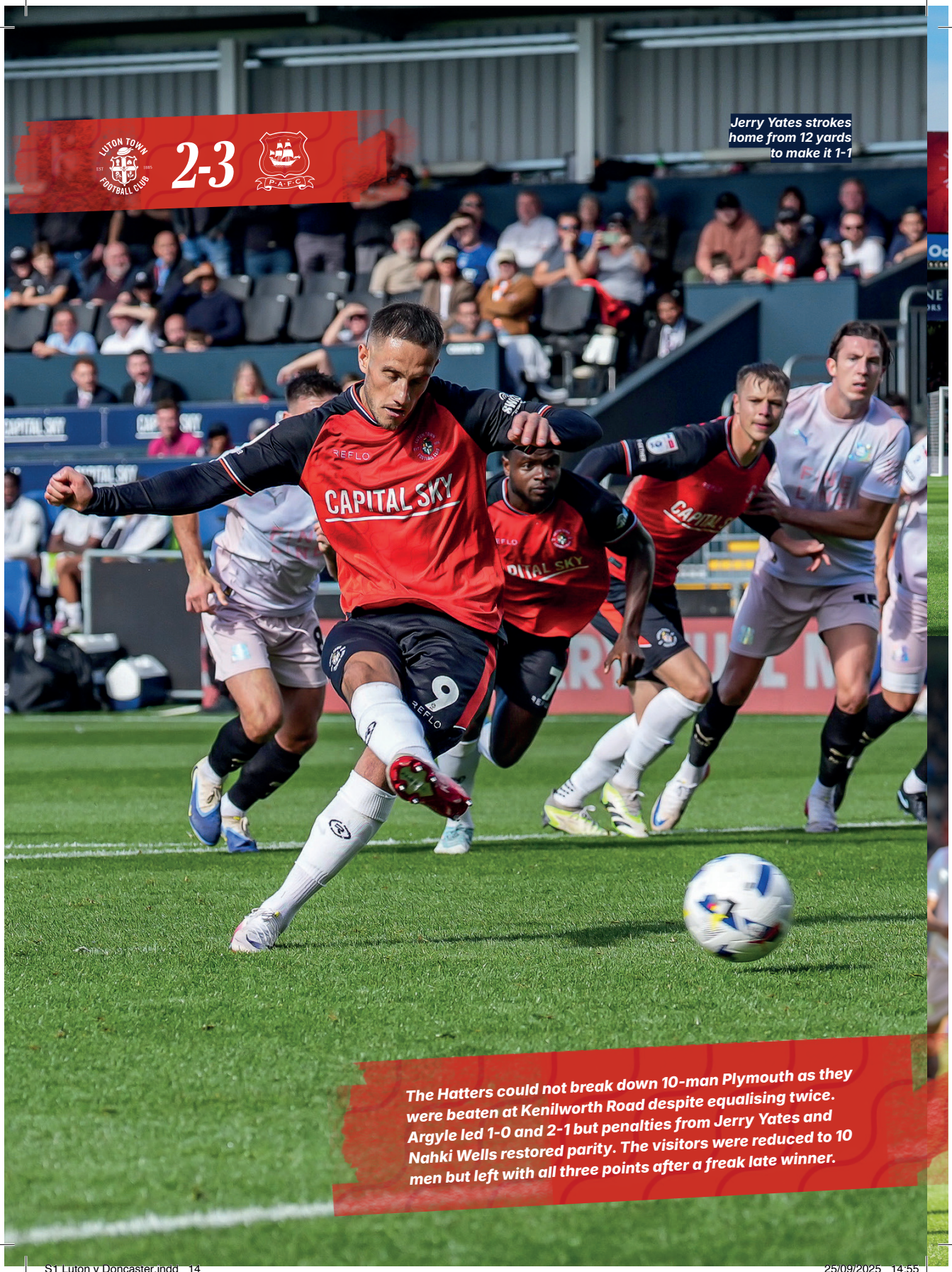
After his son moved to Spain, Roy remained a familiar face, always with his good mate, Jim Weir, in the Kenilworth Road end. Watching from abroad, his son and Christie would always scan the crowd to spot him, and sometimes did.

Come on you Hatters. God bless you, Dad. – *Simon*

Roy – 40-odd years, silly billies, old gits, great times. Seat's empty, but you're in my thoughts. Miss you, old git. – *Jim*



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Jerry Yates strokes home from 12 yards to make it 1-1

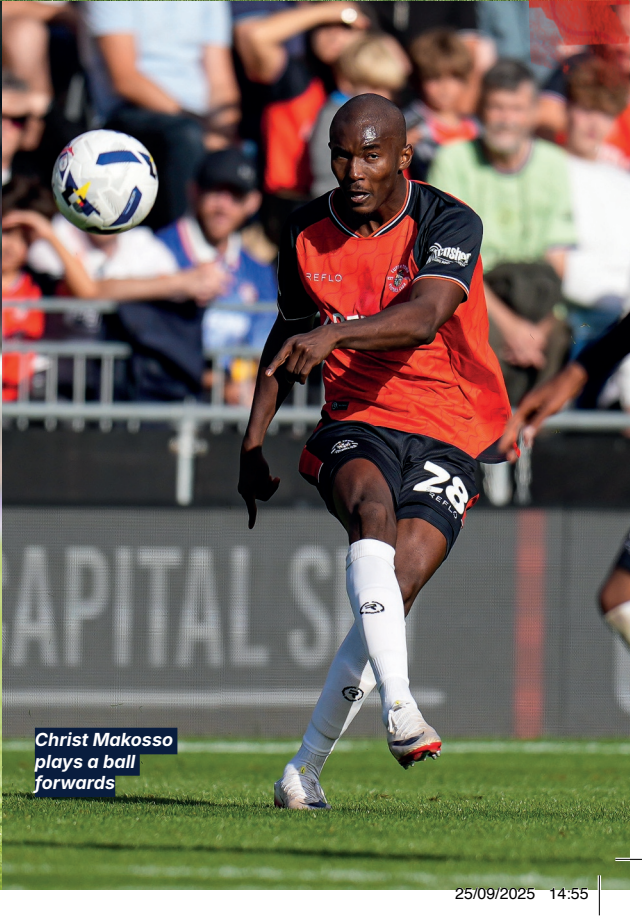
The Hatters could not break down 10-man Plymouth as they were beaten at Kenilworth Road despite equalising twice. Argyle led 1-0 and 2-1 but penalties from Jerry Yates and Nahki Wells restored parity. The visitors were reduced to 10 men but left with all three points after a freak late winner.



The moment Lasse Nordås won the penalty in the first half



Shayden Morris in action on his league debut



Christ Makosso plays a ball forwards



Zack Nelson looks for a pass at Sincil Bank

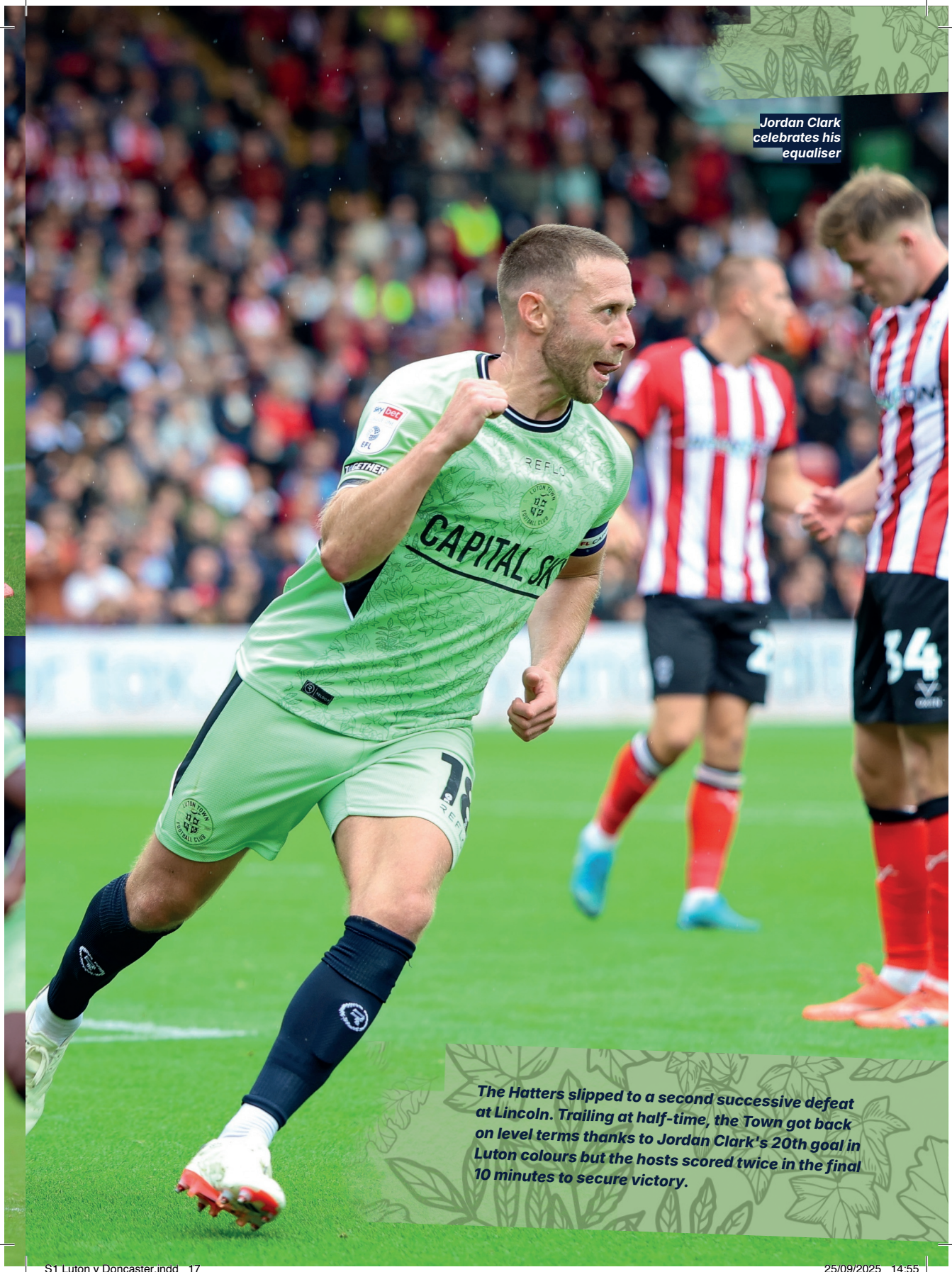
3-1



Kal Naismith plays the ball forward



Cohen Bramall on the move at Lincoln



Jordan Clark celebrates his equaliser

The Hatters slipped to a second successive defeat at Lincoln. Trailing at half-time, the Town got back on level terms thanks to Jordan Clark's 20th goal in Luton colours but the hosts scored twice in the final 10 minutes to secure victory.

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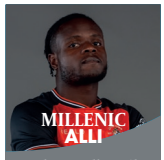
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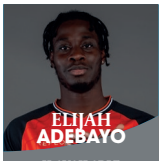
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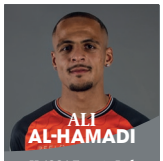
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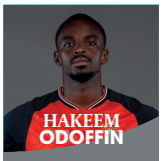
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H Mark Crowther
(Talking Hatters)
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JORDAN CLARK

H Julie & Yvonne
A Ben Bowler



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H David Lee from
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JOSH KEELEY

H Doug the Hatter
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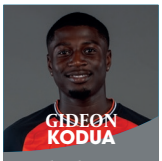
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CHRIST MAKOSSO

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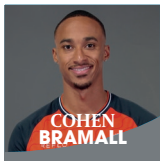
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CHRIS PHILLIPS

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At our last home game against Plymouth, midfielder George Saville was named man-of-the-match by sponsors GJCS Services and we also had the pleasure of welcoming four mascots to the game.

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

Academy trio Paul Benson, Alex Lawless and Joe Deeney popped in for a special Q&A with Joe Flemons to discuss their careers as players and the work they're doing in the Academy to mark EFL Youth Development Week.

Post-match saw defender Mads Andersen answer the questions from Joe and a selection of supporters in the wake of the defeat to the Pilgrims.

This is just one of the many benefits to matchday hospitality at Kenilworth Road, so if you're interested in becoming a match or matchball sponsor or wish to catch the Hatters in action in style, you're just one phonecall or email away!













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DONCASTER ROVERS

Last season's League Two champions are in town as Doncaster Rovers make the journey from Yorkshire to Bedfordshire.

Grant McCann's side have had a strong start to the season and currently occupy seventh place in the table.

Rovers had a perfect start to the season and won their opening three matches. Convincing wins over Exeter City and Mansfield Town were followed by an incredible 4-0 away win against Middlesbrough in the Carabao Cup.

Doncaster suffered their first defeat of the season away at Huddersfield Town where they lost 2-0. However, they recovered well from this and beat Port Vale, Rotherham and in-form Bradford City in response.

Since that Bradford victory, things have gone slightly downhill as they suffered a tough 3-0 away defeat against Wigan Athletic, a home loss against AFC Wimbledon last weekend and then a Carabao Cup exit at Tottenham on Wednesday night.

Rovers currently sit on 16 points having scored 10 and conceded 10 so far this campaign and will be hoping for a better result than when they were last in this part of the world.

Back in March 2019 the Town saw off Rovers 4-0 in League One – a result that extended our unbeaten home run against Doncaster to nine games. Rovers will be aiming to win at Kenilworth Road for the first time since a 2-1 victory back in December 1952.

A warm welcome to Bedfordshire to all those associated with Doncaster Rovers.

DONCASTER ROVERS AT-A-GLANCE

FOUNDED: 1879

MANAGER: Grant McCann

NICKNAME: Rovers

STADIUM: Eco-Power Stadium

MAJOR HONOURS: League One champions 2012/13, League Two champions 2003/04, 2024/25

RIVALS: Rotherham, Barnsley and Scunthorpe

LAST TIME AT THE KENNY: Town 4-0 Doncaster 23/3/2019

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DONCASTER ROVERS

THE AWAY END

The Boss

GRANT McCANN Scored for Scunthorpe in their 3-2 defeat against the Town in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final in 2009. Has since become a manager and in his second stint with Rovers, guiding them to the League Two title last term.

Goalkeeper

THIMOTHEE LO-TUTALA French goalkeeper on loan from Hull. In his second spell with Rovers following a loan spell in early 2024.

Defenders

JAMES MAXWELL Scottish full-back who is on his fourth season with Doncaster following his move from Ayr United in 2022.

JAY McGRATH Young defender who signed for Rovers on a free transfer in January 2024. Has played over 50 games since joining the club.

CONNOR O'RIORDAN Blackburn loanee who has previously played for the likes of Crewe Alexandra, Raith Rovers and Cambridge United.

JAMIE STERRY 29-year-old full-back who played a pivotal part in Doncaster's League Two title winning season last campaign, playing in 41 league games.

MATTY PEARSON A familiar face at Kenilworth Road. Played over 100 times for the Hatters scoring 10 goals. Joined Rovers from Huddersfield this summer.

Midfielders

GEORGE BROADBENT 24-year-old midfielder who gained experience at Curzon Ashton, Beerschot, Sheffield United, Rochdale and Boreham Wood before moving to Doncaster.

OWEN BAILEY Featured over 100 times for Rovers and is having an impressive campaign so far, scoring five goals from midfield in just nine league games.

CHARLIE CREW Young prospect on loan from Leeds. Spent the second half of last season on loan at Doncaster as well, helping them to the League Two title.

ROBBIE GOTTS Another former Leeds midfielder who has spent time with Lincoln, Salford and Barrow before signing for Rovers this summer.

BEN CLOSE Experienced midfielder across the EFL who began his career with Portsmouth. Joined Rovers in 2021 and has scored twice in the Carabao Cup so far this season.

Forwards

BILLY SHARP EFL legend who is now on his fourth spell with Doncaster Rovers. Now at 39 years of age, the striker scored 12 goals last season to fire Doncaster to the title.

LUKE MOLYNEUX Standout player for Rovers last season, he scored 18 and laid in 13 more in all competitions. Also scored in this season's 3-1 win over Bradford City.

JORDAN GIBSON Started his career with Rangers before moving on to Bradford, Stevenage, St Patrick's Athletic, Sligo Rovers, Carlisle and now Doncaster.

GLENN MIDDLETON Had three successful seasons with Dundee United before making the move to Yorkshire last summer. Has two assists to his name already this campaign.

DAMOLA AJAYI Tottenham loanee who played and scored during their victorious Europa League campaign last season in the convincing 3-0 win over Elfsborg.

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HATTERS *versus* ROVERS

Historic meetings between the clubs down the years

CHAMPIONS ELECT!
OCTOBER 1967

The Town thrill their biggest crowd of the season with a superb display in the first half to go top of the Division Four table. Complacency and over-elaboration set in during the second period and the game is almost thrown away as Rovers hit back but two goals from Ian Buxton and one each from Alan Slough, Bruce Rioch and Keith Allen are enough to earn a 5-3 win. The Town end the season as Division Four champions.

FOUR-NIL TO THE LUTON TOWN
FEBRUARY 1970

Due to a strange combination of results, the Town find themselves back on top of Division Three after their goalscoring touch was rediscovered in the second half. Malcolm Macdonald is back to his best and his second goal is from the penalty spot after on-loan goalkeeper Bob Wesson pulls down Matt Tees. Alan Slough and Tees are also on target as the Town ease to victory.

END-OF-SEASON STUNNER
MAY 2005 ▼

It's the final game of the season and the Hatters are gunning for 100 points after winning the League One title in style. However, the Town fall behind after just 30 seconds but go 2-1 up thanks to goals from Russ Perrett and Steve Howard. Rovers level again only for Kevin Nicholls to hit a tremendous 25-yard piledriver into the top-corner – but it's Rovers who earn a point.



Kevin Nicholls salutes the away end in 2005



Cameron McGeehan celebrates with Alan Sheehan in 2016

HOME COMFORTS
SEPTEMBER 2016 ▲

The Town returned to form with a bang on an action-packed afternoon in which Cameron McGeehan scored twice and Jack Marriott the other as Nathan Jones' side came from behind to beat Rovers 3-1 in League Two.

CHAMPIONS ELECT... AGAIN!
MARCH 2019

The Hatters made it 26 games unbeaten in League One on their way to the title after a thumping victory over Rovers at Kenilworth Road to guarantee a place in the play-offs. As shots rain down on the Doncaster goal, Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu, Danny Hylton, Kazenga LuaLua and Luke Berry score the goals to see off the visitors.

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HUMBLE *at heart*

To mark the EFL Youth Development Week, young defender ***Christian Chigozie*** *sat down with his boss* ***Joe Deeney*** *to discuss their journey through the Hatters' academy*











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Academy graduate Christian Chigozie credits humility as a key factor in his rise to the Town first team at just 17 years old.

The centre-back – who made his debut this season in the Carabao Cup tie at Coventry in August – believes it is a trait that has served him well as he balances first-team training with turning out for Joe Deeney's Under-18s.

Talking alongside Deeney as part of a special feature to mark EFL Youth Development Week, Chigozie said: "The biggest thing to take away from everything I've experienced so far is to just stay humble and keep a good attitude.

"Sometimes I see a player with not the best attitude in a session, and I see things like that can affect everyone. Having a good attitude and being humble is something the top, top players speak about.

"There's one thing being arrogant – you shouldn't be, although there's a certain arrogance I like, but those who are like that always remain humble."

The defender, who has been in our academy system since joining as an under-7, has already had a rollercoaster experience since being thrust into the limelight. As a 16 year old, he was pulled out of school to be named on the Hatters bench for the Premier League fixture at the Emirates Stadium against Arsenal in March 2024.

Since putting pen to paper on a professional contract in February this year, Chigozie has juggled duties for the first team with playing for the under-18s and under-21s.

However, the way he has conducted himself is not lost on his youth team boss.

"You've stayed humble ever so well," Deeney, himself a former defender who rose through the Town's academy back in the early 2000s, says to the centre-half.

"It's not easy to go from playing in front of big crowds and then on the Saturday to play in front of a few parents and a couple of Seagulls away at Exeter for the Under-18s.

"It's hard, but you have done everything properly – including the way you looked after the team. These are the things I see, and I think it's really important. My advice to you is keep doing what you're doing and learn from the experiences."

And he has plenty of those already.

Arsenal was one. From preparing for his GCSEs one morning to being named by then-Town boss Rob Edwards on the bench in the top-flight come the evening.

"I was very nervous," he says. "I was just consumed by the stadium, the pitch, everything, but after the warm-up, I was thinking 'I have to focus' but it inspired me."

But Chigozie's mind wanders back to one particular, significant moment last season that has lived with him ever since. >>



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He was sent off for an off-the-ball incident during the Under-18s' League Cup exit at Bromley in March last year.

"This was probably the worst moment for us as a group," admits Chigozie. "A lot had happened at training before the game and Joe wasn't happy!

"Then came the game; it was 0-0 at half-time and all I remember Joe saying was 'keep 11 men on the pitch, nobody get a red card'."

Deeney continues: "There was a kerfuffle on the far side of the pitch and I remember it because I thought when it happened, I was saying to myself 'please don't let it be Chigsy'.

"Then I see him walking off, and of course, it got worse because we lost on penalties. We had a chat on Monday because there were a lot of things wrong."

It proved to be a huge lesson for Chigozie. Three weeks later, as the Town chased the Youth Alliance title, the Under-18s staged a remarkable comeback, beating – you guessed it – Bromley, thanks to a last-minute winner from Zach Ioannides.

"Paul Benson gave me some advice – just keep my head. But against Bromley the second time, we were 3-2 down in the 90th minute and I was fuming. We scored a penalty to make it 3-3 and then had one last chance, and I go up for a corner. One of our lads has taken an air-swing and the ball's bobbled to Zach and he's put it in the bottom corner.



"IT'S NOT EASY TO GO FROM PLAYING IN FRONT OF BIG CROWDS AND THEN ON THE SATURDAY TO PLAY IN FRONT OF A FEW PARENTS AND A COUPLE OF SEAGULLS AWAY AT EXETER.

"For me it felt like revenge for the red card. A couple of their lads had been giving me a bit during the game, but let's just say I let them know who won this one.

"To come back like that showed, as a group, how much we wanted to win and the passion we had in the team."

It pleased Deeney, too. "It was a great moment," he says. "It was the start of a run of four or five games where we would be losing into the last minute but still find a way to win.

"And this game was the defining moment of the season for me."

It certainly was. The Town's youngsters would go on to overhaul long-time leaders Oxford to secure the Youth Alliance title and then complete the double by lifting the PDL Cup, beating Swansea 3-0 in May.

It crowned a superb season for the Under-18s group, further emphasising the importance of the two-way player-coach relationship at this level.

"It's really important to have relationships and a connection with your players," explains Deeney, who

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made two appearances for the Town first team under Joe Kinnear before returning twice to Kenilworth Road to coach in our academy.

"Lee Carsley gave a talk on a course and one of the things he said was you're not there to be the players' friend. However, I think there are times you have to be. At times you have to be like a dad. You have to be like a teammate. You have to wear so many hats. But ultimately, you cannot be friends because inevitably, you're the one who has to give players difficult news.

"The one thing I'll say, though, is every now and then there's a time as a coach you encounter a human that's different – and I put Christian in that bracket.





"EVERY NOW AND THEN THERE'S A TIME AS A COACH YOU ENCOUNTER A HUMAN THAT'S DIFFERENT – AND I PUT CHRISTIAN IN THAT BRACKET.

"Somebody you look at and would trust with your own family, your own children, in terms of the values they hold and I think that's the nicest compliment you can give.

"Because of his attitude to get things done, the fact he's reliable and, even though we think we think he's a very talented centre-half, we know we have got a really good person on our hands. It's no coincidence to see how well he's doing.

"I know he's only two appearances in but I want him to get 200 – and the only way he's going to do that is by doing everything he's done here already and to continue to improve."

The final word is left to Christian.

"It's not like a relationship you have with your teammates where you're joking around," he says.

"But I know if I have an issue I can talk to Joe. I know that he's there for me, because his only intention is to make a professional footballer and that's very good to know."

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THE VIEW FROM THE PRESS BOX

With BBC Three Counties Radio's ***Simon Oxley***

Already this season feels all consuming, and not always for the right reasons. These words don't normally take too long to write, but there have been several drafts this time. Much changes as we meander through life – I'm at the fruit tea and granola stage – but the constant of football lifting or crushing your spirits remains.

Like many of you, our summer holiday was taken after the season had started. Let's be honest, 1st August was crazy, but I left for Cornwall with the relative satisfaction of a 2-0 win at Peterborough. Once there, it was a case of keeping across the fluctuating fortunes against Bradford, Wigan and Cardiff, but I sought sanctuary at Gala Park, down the road from our holiday let, as Porthleven Town hosted Pendeen in a Wednesday night local derby. A 4-3 defeat for the home side – a late winner came after Porthleven had a goal ruled out by the Pendeen sub who was running the line – didn't help calm my nerves.

Indeed the August optimism at 3CR towers in Dunstable has been short-lived for the majority of our teams. Watford are finding out that unearthing Europe's brightest young talent might need some experience to go with that; Wycombe have already pushed the managerial ejector seat button; in Milton Keynes the expensive additions have yet to come good; and here of course... well, you don't need me to tell you.

But in Stevenage there's a skip in the step along Broadhall Way. Championship football and Oasis returning to Knebworth? That would be quite a 2026. It will be interesting to compare them to the other pacesetters when we make the short trip next week, which will complete a set of matches against (at the time of writing) the current top four.

So why aren't we up there with them? The optimism post-Burton has been followed by two disappointing defeats. But whilst we've all seen 10 men play as though they were 12, there can be little to excuse last week at Sincil Bank. The immediate post-match response was honest and heartfelt, and there should be enough in that dressing room to quickly improve on the 50 per cent win ratio so far.

The aftershocks of the Premier League earthquake remain, but I'm certainly not among those now wishing it had never happened. Hard though it is, as Teesside celebrates and knee slides continue in south-east London, the focus for now moves to Doncaster this afternoon.

I'm often reminded of my fellow villager Danny, who two years ago told me he was constantly reminding his young sons that "it's not always like this". That's true, but even the discovery of the M1/A46 route didn't make last week's journey home any easier.



Hatters fans at Lincoln

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CLARK


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12

LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS' TRUST



The Trust Interviews...

Kelly Francis *Football Operations Manager*

Following the club's hectic summer transfer window, we spoke to Kelly Francis, whose role as Football Operations Manager meant she had a very busy close season!

Hi, Kelly – it's great to talk to one of the key figures behind the scenes who helps to make it all happen at the club. Could you start by telling us something about yourself, and what your role involves please?

I'm Football Operations Manager, which means I take care of a whole range of administrative and practical duties, from all the paperwork that goes into player contracts and transfer deals to match day operations throughout the season.

I came to Luton in August 2023, when we'd moved up to the Premier League, as the club were looking for someone with experience in the way the top-flight operates – their systems and processes – which are different to the EFL.

I'd worked at Tottenham most recently so had relationships with the people at the Premier League, and an understanding of their requirements, and worked alongside Chris Clark, who then had been club secretary for some years. When he moved to Liverpool my role expanded and evolved into what it is now. I'd previously been club secretary at Wycombe for 10 years, so understand EFL operations too.

Do you come from a football background?

I've grown up loving football and became a qualified referee when I was 14. I've always been in and around the game, and have worked in it full-time for around 15 years. My undergraduate degree was actually in Economics and Accounting at the University of Essex, but, after uni and starting training as an accountant, I had a sort of epiphany. I decided I didn't want to work in accountancy for the next 40 or 50 years, but would quite like to go to work every day enjoying what I do – something different and in the sport I love. So I ended up going back to do a Master's in Sport Management at the Business of Football at Birkbeck, University of London, followed by an internship at The FA in the Financial Regulation department. This became a full-time job involving agents, transfers and so on, and after three years I moved on to Wycombe, and then on to Spurs. I'd actually taken a career break after the pandemic to travel and spend time with family, but then got a call from Luton and here I am!

My first transfer window at Luton was January 2024. In the Premier League the market opens up more for international players and we started signing players from overseas, which involved applying for visas and governing body endorsements, which I had experience of from my Tottenham days. And helping them through relocation, settling into a new country, a different culture and language – a different way of living really. That's quite a challenge for many.

Tell us about this summer's transfer window. 14 players in and 21 out, including loans – that's some turnover, isn't it!

The busiest window in Luton's history, I'm told! The window starts before it's technically open really as there's a lot of planning which goes into it. Player contracts tend to end on 30th June, but there are EFL deadlines as to when you need to offer players new contracts. That has to be decided by the third week in May, so pretty much straight after the season ends. That's when we would confirm to players whether their contracts are being extended, or not. Likewise at all other clubs. So that's when players know if they're going to be free agents. If they're out of contract and joining or leaving us, that can happen from 1st July. You tend to have a few players joining right at the beginning of any new windows – generally speaking, they are free agents, and out of contract.

How does the transfer process go?

It starts with the recruitment team. They and the manager identify which players they want. If they're in contract with another club, we contact that club and establish what fee might be involved. That's agreed between the two clubs. Then we get permission to talk to the player, and initiate that



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contact, usually through their agent. From then on, if it's all positive, we negotiate on personal terms, and once they're agreed we get them in for a medical. Meanwhile, I'm drafting the player contract and the transfer agreement, which goes back and forth with the clubs – and the player contract will go to his agent and his lawyer as well. If the player passes their medical, the transfer gets the green light and then it's a case of completing the signing.

What is the process like compared to your other clubs?

It's probably a bit more complicated here, as we add a lot of extra clauses to most deals to ensure that it's best it can be for the club in terms of sell-ons, extra payment triggers and so on.

It's fair to say some of the additional clauses get quite complicated, but Gary provides us with the framework of the deal and it's up to us – myself and our legal team – to translate that into precise contract form. We have to be able to pick the contracts up in three or four years and see exactly what's going on in terms of promotion, relegation and wages.

So, give us a bird's eye view of transfer deadline day....

The busy time wasn't just deadline day, it was the days leading up to it too – trying to foresee what might happen on the Monday and prepare for it. So it wasn't a case of everything all in one go. I spent all of the weekend drafting contracts and agreements. Not all of which happen of course – I was saying this summer that I'd love to know how much time I've spent over the years on drafting players contracts, transfer agreements, loan agreements with transfers and so on that never actually materialised! You try and do as much as you can in advance so it's not all last minute. But then sometimes things just fall through, both ins and outs. It's part and parcel of the job.



Joe Gbodé is interviewed after signing on deadline day

Many transfer announcements are after the 7pm deadline. What's the story there?

Well, if you look at the day, there's a lot going on with arranging contracts and transfer agreements, and that workload is shared between the two clubs dependent on what capacity they have. We have to get all the figures, clauses and dates correct, and also with loan players there's what permissions they have for playing, whether that includes cup games and so on. It's all going back and forth all day. And not all deals are lined up before the day: many might depend on who is coming and going at a club and what cover they have. There are a lot of 'moving parts' to coordinate! Joe Gbodé was a late one, for instance: we had to get him here and all the paperwork done on deadline day itself. While 7pm is the ultimate cut off time, realistically if you've not finalised negotiations by 5, there's little chance of completion as all the documents and information still need to be uploaded onto the online system for registration. At 6.45, that system goes into last minute mode – whereby you can upload basic details with what the EFL call a 'quick application', the Premier League a 'deal sheet' and if you get that in by 7 you have a 15-minute grace period to upload all the documents. But you have to prove that the deal was completed by 7.

So, there aren't 'last-minute deals' going on after 7, and clubs can't pull out or change their minds after that registration point either. What happens with all those late announcements is that the clubs are agreeing on how, when, where the transfer will be made public, and that might depend on what other transfers they've done and so on, and how their media team want to handle announcements, so they are co-ordinated with a joint release. No one likes it when one club 'goes early'. So that's why some deals go public late.

Another question frequently asked: why are transfer fees and lengths of contract so often undisclosed?

That's pretty much standard practice in the EFL. It's a commercial agreement so confidential. To me, it's like going to any business down the street based in Luton and saying can you tell us the value of a commercial contract? It's not going to happen. And actually, how could you define a transfer fee anyhow – what is it made up of? Is it guaranteed? What are the contingencies and so on? It's a matter of agreement between the clubs, and as you'll see, most if not all want to keep that out of the public domain. It's similar with lengths of contract. These are all commercially sensitive details which can affect the way you do business. >>

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The dressing room when Kenilworth Road hosted England Under-21s against Austria

You're also involved in match day arrangements. Could you tell us more about that?

We – me and my team – run arrangements for our own players and staff, and also co-ordinate with the opposition on match days. I'm responsible for the 'red zone', the tunnel and changing rooms area, for making sure that it's secure, and for guiding the visiting team, officials and directors to their allocated spaces.

Logistics for away games are our responsibility, too. This includes travel – all by coach this season, due to the locations, but in the past where convenient we've opted for trains – and hotels and so on. We start planning that as soon as the fixture list is announced: which hotels can accommodate all our needs, not just bedrooms but meetings and conference rooms. And we always look for a gym and a pool too, to enable recovery after travelling. We have a hotel partner who helps with that. We get accommodation and travel in place well in advance but sign the contracts nearer the day as things can change with match dates, times and so on. The club train at The Brache before travelling, we prefer that to trying to find external resources.

We did all the arrangements for the training camp in Slovenia, too: that was quite complex as it was within the transfer window, and we didn't know exactly who would be going. Airlines like to have names confirmed two weeks in advance, so it was a challenge to get them changed at the last minute!

Looking forward, how do you see your role developing? What are the challenges, and what about Power Court?

I'm very interested in what effect the new Football Regulator might have, as that could affect the way transfers and other aspects of the whole football pyramid in England work. At the moment that's a wait and see.

One thing we're doing right now at the club though is further integration of the main squad and academy operational systems. That's taking a lot of collaborative planning. We're also looking at how we can build on our relationships with the main footballing bodies to prepare for potential hosting of international teams at the Brache, and in the future at Power Court. We hosted an England Under-21 game at Kenilworth Road last season, and after their recent England fixture at Villa Park, Andorra used our training facilities at The Brache for a Sunday training session and were very complimentary about them. The quality of The Brache, the airport and the proximity of Wembley gives us great potential to develop this side of our operations – and to position Luton, and Power Court, as a key venue for the international scene.

We're also deeply involved in planning logistics for Power Court. What does match day look like? Arrangements for visiting teams and so on. We're planning right down to the smallest detail – and learning from errors made at other new grounds, which I and our Safety and Security manager have experienced. We are committed to making the Power Court experience as good as it can possibly be for all.

Finally, what's your message to the fans?

Given the amount of squad changes we made in the summer this is still a sort of transitional period. Everything we've done is to create results now and in the future – things are happening and changing, so please get behind the team and give them all the support you can as that can make a real positive difference.

Absolutely spot on Kelly, and thanks for all that fascinating background information and insight. Here's to roaring the Town on today and every game!

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

Wearing HISTORY

2007/08 HOME



"And in goes Edwards... it's in!! Whose is it? Edwards is claiming it, but he's not convinced!"

It's 6th January 2008. The magic of the FA Cup rolled into Luton with a blockbuster clash against Liverpool in the third round. It had been, and will continue to be, a difficult season for us, but this night gave us all some light relief from the off-field hardships.

The goal was eventually credited as an own goal from John Arne Riise, who just nicked in ahead of Edwards to give us a fantastic 1-1 draw that day. Live in front of the cameras too, the TV companies clearly enjoyed our 5-3 defeat in the Cup clash against the Reds a few years ago.

The shirt worn on that night was our 2007/08 home shirt, made by Puma. This is a really simple shirt in white and black, consisting of black side panels under the arms and accents around the collar.

Sponsored by Electrolux, the shirt is simple, yet nearly 20 years later, looks classy. As a supporter, it probably goes down a few ratings simply due to the memories of that season, but that is no slight on the design from Puma!

Life for this kit started off well. Home wins against Hartlepool (2-0), Gillingham (3-1) and a League Cup win against Sunderland (3-0) meant that this shirt had all the hallmarks of being a successful one.

But alas, it was not to be. The standout moment for this shirt absolutely has to be the aforementioned FA Cup tie with Liverpool. A Liverpool side that boasted Jamie Carragher, Sami Hyypia, Xabi Alonso (who came off and was replaced by Javier Mascherano) and Peter Crouch.

Crouch put Liverpool ahead in the 74th minute, only for Edwards to force Riise to put through his own goal a mere three minutes later to spark bedlam inside Kenilworth Road.

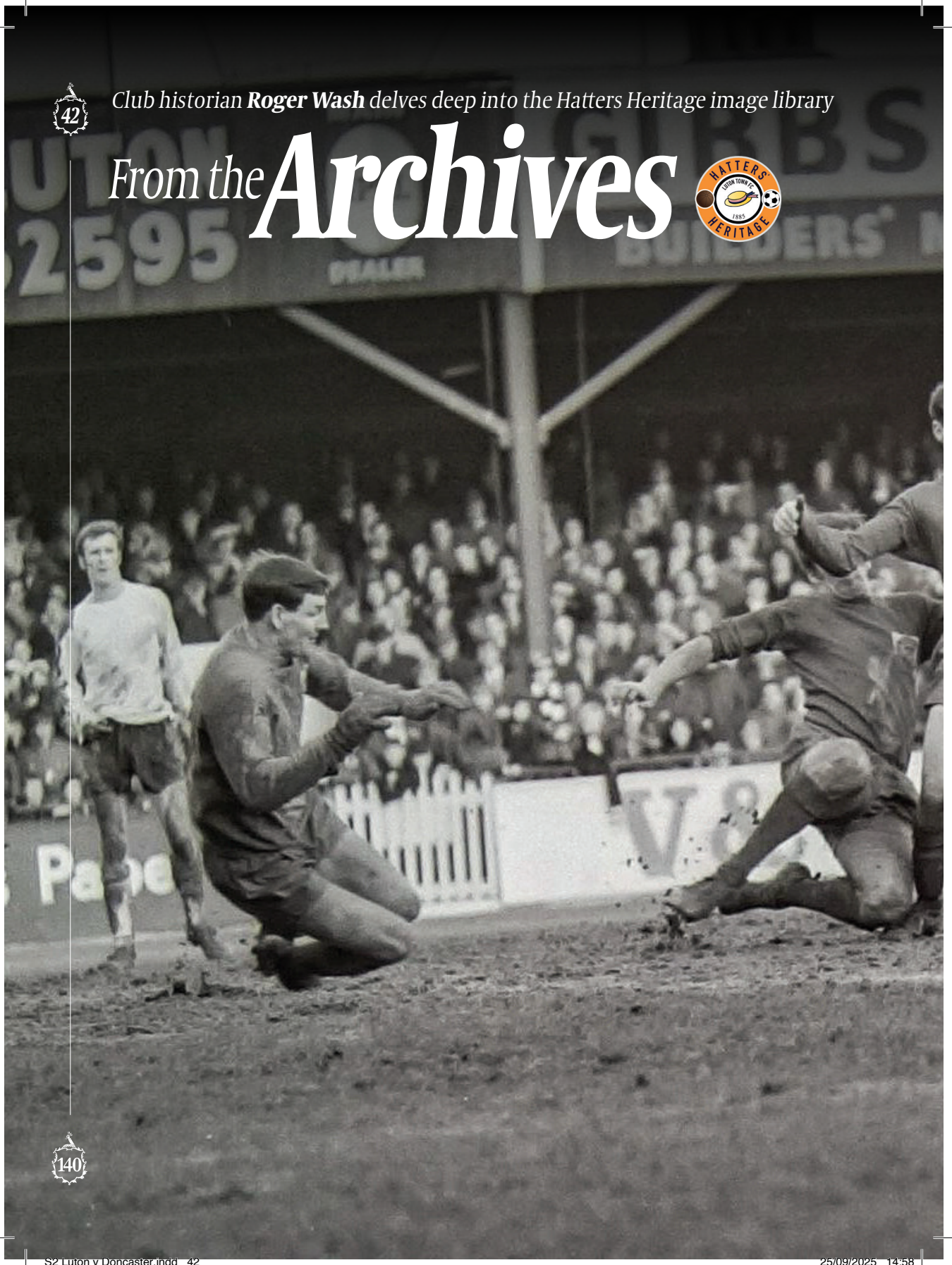
England manager Fabio Capello was in the stands, maybe watching Drew Talbot. One media outlet reported post-game that his performance "upstaged" that of Peter Crouch!



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

From the Archives



S2 Luton v Doncaster.indd 42 25/09/2025 14:58

Malcolm Macdonald only played for the Town for two seasons but what an impression he made while he was at Kenilworth Road.

Signed originally as a full-back in the summer of 1969, by the time of the 4-0 home win over Doncaster the following February he was well into double figures in goals scored.

Here he is pictured surrounded by Donny defenders but still managing to get a shot away.

In the photo right, 'Supermac' nets against Rovers.



S2 Luton v Doncaster.indd 43 25/09/2025 14:58

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

ON THIS DAY

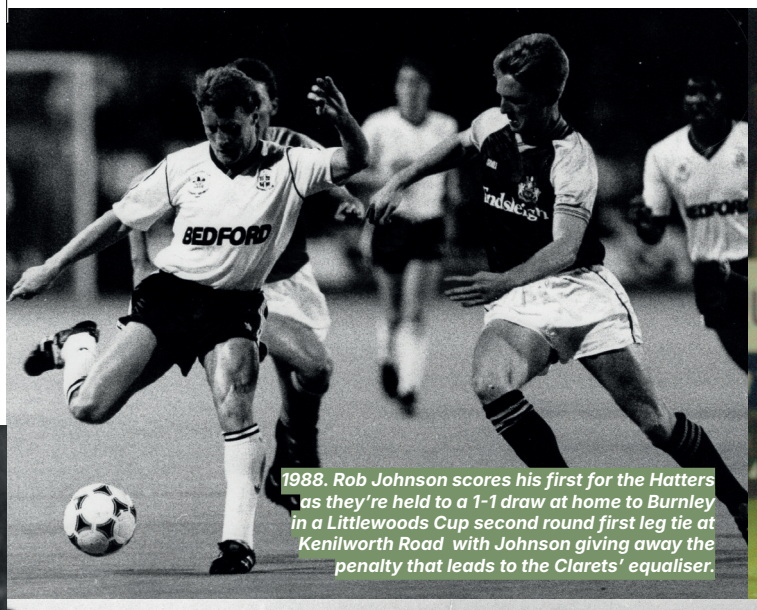
27th September



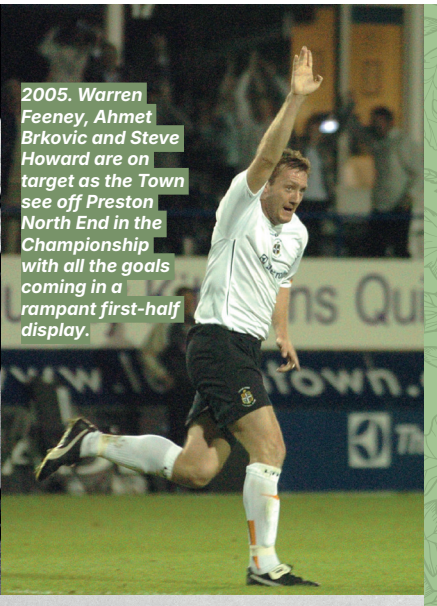
1986. Brian Stein (obscured by the post!) scores the only goal of the game nine minutes from time as the Town beat Manchester City in a top-flight clash at Kenilworth Road.



1969. Matt Tees is at the double as the Hatters record a 3-1 win at Plymouth Argyle. He's joined on the scoresheet by French as two train-loads of Town supporters celebrate an excellent victory.



1988. Rob Johnson scores his first for the Hatters as they're held to a 1-1 draw at home to Burnley in a Littlewoods Cup second round first leg tie at Kenilworth Road with Johnson giving away the penalty that leads to the Clarets' equaliser.



2005. Warren Feeney, Ahmet Brkovic and Steve Howard are on target as the Town see off Preston North End in the Championship with all the goals coming in a rampant first-half display.



1958. Over 23,000 cram inside Kenilworth Road to witness the Hatters beat Preston 4-1 in the top-flight. Jimmy Adam scores twice and George Cummins and Billy Bingham are also on target.



2014. Goals Luke Wilkinson and Jake Howells give the Hatters victory over Oxford at Kenilworth Road as the Town continue their bright start back in the Football League following promotion from the Conference.

S2 Luton v Doncaster.indd 45 25/09/2025 14:59



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

Andy Rennie

The Coventry Evening Telegraph on 12th October 1928 had no doubt who the main threat was in the following day's match.

"The menace contained in the Luton attack particularly applies to Andrew Rennie… if Coventry can prevent his scoring tomorrow they will be the first to do so in seven matches."

They did not.

The goal that Rennie scored in the 1-1 draw was no ordinary one either. Responding almost immediately to falling behind, Luton initiated a good attack that saw the ball find its way to the Town striker who, after avoiding an ugly attempt at a challenge, hammered in a beautiful drive that had Coventry goalkeeper Tommy Allen beaten all ends up.

Fortunately, a photographer was on hand to capture the moment and the resulting picture has become one of the most famous taken at Kenilworth Road. Indeed, it would even hang for many years in the Coventry City boardroom and the goal was talked about by both sets of fans for years to come.

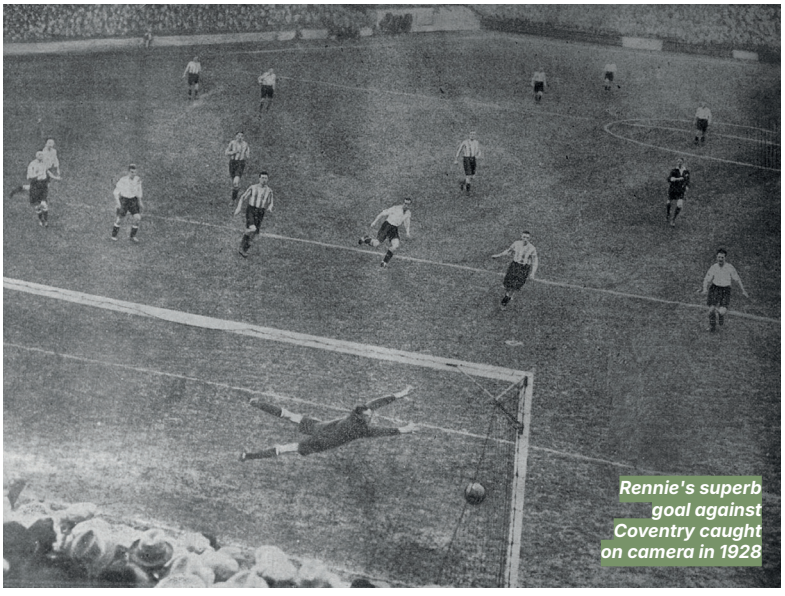
Rennie was born in Bailliston, Glasgow, in 1901 and played much of his early football in goal. It was at junior club Kilwinning Rangers that he moved to centre-half, and it was as such that he joined Luton in December 1925 after a trial.

His debut came against Swindon two months later, and he'd make 53 appearances over the next season and a half as a robust defender. Then, at the start of the 1927/28 campaign, an injury crisis saw him trialled as a forward, beginning with a 3-2 defeat at Millwall in October. Rennie scored with a fine first-time shot and it began the most remarkable spell of goalscoring the club had ever known.

Over the next season and three-quarters he would net 69 times in 81 games, including an incredible 48 in 46 games in 1928/29. His left-foot shot quickly

> *"OVER THE NEXT SEASON AND THREE-QUARTERS HE WOULD NET 69 TIMES IN 81 GAMES, INCLUDING AN INCREDIBLE 48 IN 46 GAMES IN 1928/29.*

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Rennie's superb goal against Coventry caught on camera in 1928

became feared by defences across the country and he gained a reputation as someone who could score from almost anywhere in the opposition's half.

A particular highlight came in September 1929 when the Town travelled to Watford for a Third Division (now League 1) match. The Hatters had never won at Vicarage Road, and were without a victory in Watford full stop since 1915. This was put right in emphatic fashion with a 4-0 thumping, Rennie hitting one of his 10 hat-tricks for the club. "Hertfordshire rang out with Bedfordshire cheers," notes the match report.

He would suffer a nasty knee injury in a collision with Torquay goalkeeper Harold Gough in October 1931 at Plainmoor. Having to travel home in great pain, trainer Horace Pakes was deputised to bring Andy his meals, while the offer of a pair of 'bobby-dazzler' pyjamas from an (unnamed!) teammate when they reached the hotel was politely turned down. Rennie was out for three months and was still struggling to walk two weeks after the injury.

Nicknamed Ratty due to his perceived surly attitude on the pitch, he served two separate month-long bans for indiscipline, including the 'pulling of the nose' of Orient's half-back Lawrence in March 1931. "He thought I was scared of him and dared me to do it...so I did," was Rennie's plain explanation.

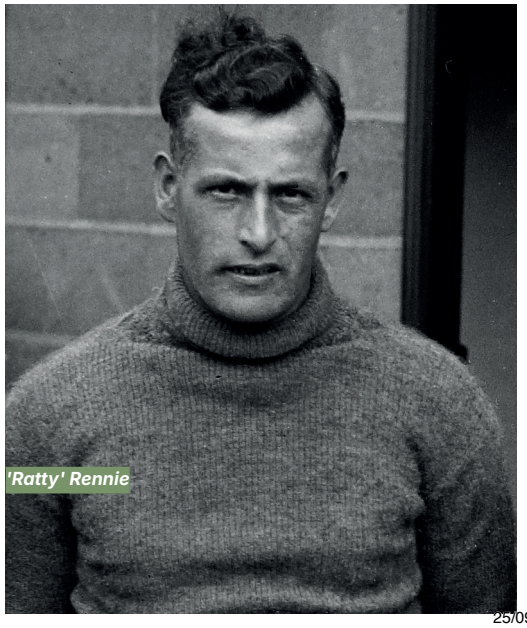
This was at odds to his personality outside of the game, where he was noted as jovial and caring. Journalist JJ Hunt, a close friend, recalled a story of the two of them in Merthyr. Upon seeing a woman searching the gutters, Rennie walked over and handed over an apparently reasonable sum of money, for which the woman offered profuse thanks. Andy refused to reveal the amount given, instead saying, "I can earn that today, but an old lady like that needs to pay her rent." Hunt suggested that the woman may not have a house. "Well, she should have," Rennie replied.

Though some noted he was never quite the same player after his knee injury, he still managed 81 goals in 185 games over six more seasons, during which he would become Town's record goalscorer with 162 in all (even now only Gordon Turner can better his tally). His time at the club would come to an end in December 1934 when a fall out with the directors saw him leave for Newport County, though he was soon back in Luton, working for brewer JW Green.

Sadly Andy's life after football would be short. In the summer of 1938 he checked into the Bute Hospital for a routine hernia procedure, and though the operation was a success, he subsequently developed acute pneumonia and died on 5th September at the age of just 36. He left behind a wife and two young daughters, Maureen and Isabell.

Those who knew him were devastated, including JJ Hunt. "If ever I felt disposed to shed a tear over the passing of an old friend and a great player, it is today," he said.

Andy was buried in Luton General Cemetery, his headstone noting him a loving husband and father. He is also a Luton Town legend.



'Ratty' Rennie

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LTFC academy

with Jayden Hay
Senior Academy Physiotherapist





Kyron Roberts-Edema receives treatment in the Premier League Cup tie at Exeter

My time at Luton Town has been instrumental in shaping my career as a physiotherapist, with steady progression through the Academy structure.

I began my journey at the club in 2022 as a casual physiotherapist, working primarily with the Under-9 to Under-16 age groups. After two years in this role, I transitioned into a full-time position, shifting my focus to the Under-18 and Under-21 squads. At the start of the current season, I was appointed the senior academy physiotherapist role.

In my day-to-day role, I am responsible for the assessment, treatment and rehabilitation of injured Under-18 and Under-21 players, while also continuing to oversee the medical management of players in the younger age groups (Under-9–Under-16).

Managing the medical needs of an entire academy can be challenging, but I am fortunate to work alongside a dedicated and supportive team of therapists who help ensure the players receive consistent, high-quality care.

Last season, I completed the Advanced Trauma and Medical Management in Football (ATMMiF) qualification. In addition to enhancing my own clinical skills, this certification ensures the Academy's eligibility to participate in competitions such as the Under-21 PDL Cup. Taking part in these competitions offers valuable development opportunities for both players and staff. Last season, we competed against clubs such as Nottingham Forest, Brighton and Burnley – fixtures that provided an excellent platform for player and staff progression.

Being part of the Under-18s' successful 2024/25 campaign was a particular highlight. Winning both the Under-18 league and the Under-17 PDL Cup was incredibly rewarding, not just for the players, but also for the staff involved. Seeing previously injured players return to play key roles in these victories was especially rewarding.

As a Luton supporter myself, it's a privilege to be at the training ground every day. From a professional standpoint, the proximity and approachability of the first team medical staff creates a fantastic learning environment. They are always willing to provide guidance

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on complex injuries and contribute to our ongoing professional development.

The Academy has also seen significant improvements in facilities during my time here. The enhanced gym provision has become a foundation of our rehabilitation programmes, allowing for greater variety and progression in player recovery. This not only aids physical development but also helps keep players engaged throughout their rehab journey.

Rehabilitation can be demanding – both physically and mentally – and managing player expectations is a key component of the role. Our primary objective is always to return players to full fitness as safely and efficiently as possible.

Already this season, we've managed a range of injuries across the Academy. Notably, Charlie Trustram has recently returned following an MCL sprain sustained during pre-season, while Vladimir Paternoster has completed his rehab after an ankle sprain. It's always rewarding to see players return to the pitch after overcoming injuries, and we remain committed to supporting the ongoing recovery of others currently injured.

It's a privilege to support the Academy and contribute to the first team in whatever way possible – both in a professional capacity and as a proud Luton fan.

COYH!

THREE IN A ROW FOR UNDER-18S

The Under-18s maintained their red-hot start to the season as a 3-0 victory over Newport made it six wins in seven games last weekend.

For the third game in a row Joe Deeney's side scored inside the opening three minutes when a Finley Evans cross found Lloyd Asamoah Junior and he took a touch before rifling home high into the roof of the net.

The lead was then doubled on 18 minutes when Nassim El Gourja played a slide-rule pass into the feet of Samuel Hincapie-Alfonso and the striker struck a composed finish into the bottom corner.

As the Town continued to dominate, it was 3-0 shortly after the half-hour mark when Asamoah Junior beat the Newport goalkeeper to a high pass from El Gourja before squaring for Dawid Gawel to turn home his 12th goal of the season.

It was a different game after the break as the conditions worsened in the rain, however, the Hatters still created opportunities.

Gawel dragged a shot wide before being denied a second goal from the spot when the Newport goalkeeper saved his penalty, but the Town held on comfortably to maintain their place at the top of the table.

Deeney said: "It was another strong performance and the only disappointment was that we didn't score a few more.

"However, it's a clean sheet and the lads showed real resilience throughout.

"It was another fast start and overall I'm very pleased. It was a young group who gave everything."

Next up for the Under-18s was a home game at The Brache against Swindon in the Youth Alliance this morning – check out our Luton Town Academy account on X for the line-up and result.

Town: Booth, Richards, Evans, Passley-James, Barnes, Kwame Anson, Asamoah Junior, El Gourja, Gawel, Lesser, Hincapie-Alfonso.

Subs: Flynn, Shepherd, Knote-Reed, Takawira, Burton-Green.

> *"IT WAS ANOTHER FAST START AND OVERALL I'M VERY PLEASED. IT WAS A YOUNG GROUP WHO GAVE EVERYTHING.*

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 W 4-1
Sat 20 Newport County W 3-0
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

Calling all Hatters runners!

Lace up and let's make some noise!

Ready to run? There's still time to join us for the 2025 5K, 10K, or Half Marathon! Sign up now and save 15% on your registration with code **LOVELUTON_SP**.

We can't wait to see you at the starting line!

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loveluton.org.uk/runfest

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youth PROFILE

Samuel Hincapie-Alfonso



WHERE ARE YOU FROM? Colombia

WHAT POSITIONS DO YOU PLAY? Any forward position

WHEN DID YOU JOIN THE ACADEMY? Under-16

WHO WAS YOUR FOOTBALL HERO GROWING UP? Radamel Falcao

GO-TO BOOTS RIGHT NOW? Nike Mercurials

FIRST TIME YOU KICKED A BALL? Four years old

BIGGEST LESSON FOOTBALL'S TAUGHT YOU? There will be setbacks, tough days and frustration, so I've learned to build mental strength to stay positive and focused, even when things aren't progressing as fast as hoped. To remain disciplined, not only physically but mentally, which becomes a huge part of the recovery and the journey







FUNNIEST TEAMMATE? Jordan Iwhiwhu

HARDEST WORKER? Me

BIGGEST INSPIRATION OUTSIDE FOOTBALL? To travel the world and to fly out my family from Colombia to new places. Also to become a business owner

TEAMMATE MOST LIKELY TO BE A MANAGER? Kyron Roberts-Edema

MOMENT YOU'LL NEVER FORGET? Scoring against Tottenham in my first game for Luton when I was an under-16

BEST BIT ABOUT BEING AT LUTON? It has a very passionate fanbase and the club's ethos has a hard-working mentality

ONE THING YOU'RE WORKING ON? To get sharper shooting with my left foot

PRE-MATCH ROUTINE OR SUPERSTITIONS? Music, extra-stretching and praying.

FAVOURITE MUSIC... Spanish music, Myke Towers, Blessed

FAVOURITE GAME... I don't play games

GO-TO CHEAT MEAL... Sushi

IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER? An athlete

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

THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE YOURSELF. Grateful, dedicated, humble

ONE THING PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU? I moved to the UK when I was eight from Colombia, not knowing a single word of English

BIGGEST FOOTBALL DREAM? To make my debut for Luton Town and to represent Colombia and win the Copa America

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LUTON TOWN FC

COMMUNITY TRUST

Play Safe 2025 - Small Talk Is Bigger Than You Think



This weekend across football, clubs at every level are coming together to support Play Safe 2025, the nationwide campaign that champions safeguarding for children, young people, and adults in the game.

The theme for this year is “Small Talk Is Bigger Than You Think”. It’s a simple but powerful reminder that everyday conversations asking a young person how they feel, checking in about their experiences, and really listening, can make a life-changing difference. By creating environments where children and young people feel heard and valued, we build the foundations of trust and safety that football and community life depend on.

Here at Luton Town Community Trust, we are proud to be taking an active part in the Play Safe campaign. Over the past week, we’ve used Play Safe resources at our community sessions, reinforcing the message that our staff are always here to listen and support. The Play Safe banner has also visited the first team and will be displayed at the Academy fixtures throughout the Play Safe weekend, ensuring that safeguarding is visible at every level of the Club.

At today’s match, our Safeguarding and Inclusion Manager, Nora Moran, will be speaking directly with young Hatters to hear their views about how safe they feel in and around the stadium. We invite fans and families to come and chat with Nora and the Community Trust team on the Kenilworth Apron before the game. It’s an open opportunity to ask questions, share thoughts, and learn more about the safeguarding work taking place behind the scenes.

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Safeguarding at the Heart of the Trust

Safeguarding is not just a one weekend campaign for us – it is the foundation of everything we do. Parents need confidence that their children are safe in our activities, adults must feel they belong in a secure environment, and everyone who engages with our programmes should know that safety is our top priority.

That's why every member of staff and every volunteer go through a rigorous safer recruitment process and holds an enhanced DBS check. This ensures the people leading our work are committed, capable and trusted to protect the interests of every participant.

Our staff also receive safeguarding training three times a year, which keeps knowledge fresh and equips us to spot the signs of abuse, neglect or exploitation. Just as importantly, it helps us respond sensitively and effectively, ensuring that participants can access the right support at the right time. Safeguarding isn't only about reacting to problems, it's about building resilience, offering safe relationships, and creating positive routines that support long-term wellbeing.

Through contextual safeguarding risk assessments, we also take a proactive stance. By identifying the risks in our local communities whether that's exploitation, radicalisation or other harms, we design programmes that disrupt abuse and strengthen protective factors. Activities built on education, belonging, and positive social connections play a vital role in keeping young people safe.



Who Leads Our Safeguarding Work?

To make safeguarding work, day in, day out, we have a clear leadership structure:

- Nora Moran, Safeguarding and Inclusion Manager, oversees daily safeguarding issues and raises awareness.
- Sarah Bloomer, Head of Safeguarding, leads on safeguarding strategy and culture across the Trust.
- Daniel Douglas, Head of Trust, ensures safeguarding is prioritised in every programme we deliver.
- Together, this team makes safeguarding visible, consistent, and embedded in the culture of Luton Town Community Trust.

> *"ACTIVITIES BUILT ON EDUCATION, BELONGING, AND POSITIVE SOCIAL CONNECTIONS PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN KEEPING YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE.*



Our Ongoing Commitment

Play Safe 2025 is a chance to shine a spotlight on safeguarding across football, but for us, the commitment lasts all year round. Whether in schools, on pitches, or at community venues, we are here to listen, protect, and empower children, young people and adults across Luton and Bedfordshire.

If you have any concerns or questions about safeguarding at Luton Town Community Trust, please email Nora at nora.moran@lutontown.co.uk. Together, we can ensure football remains a safe and positive force for everyone in our community.

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LADIES RETURN TO WINNING WAYS



Tasha Fensome celebrates making it 2-0

Luton Town Ladies returned to winning ways last Sunday as an own goal and a Tasha Fensome strike earned a 2-0 win at Milton Keynes Women.

Myles Maddix made one change to the side that was defeated at Carrow Road last Sunday, with Lisa Milliken dropping out and Tanya Blacksley coming in to make her first start of the season.

It was a slow start for the Hatters, who couldn't get hold of the ball. Milton Keynes won the game's first corner in the third minute, after an attempted delivery into the area from the left-hand side was blocked by Fiona Buttigieg.

The Town's first chance of the afternoon came through Fensome in the 11th minute. Her high press enabled her to intercept an attempted pass back to Bamford in the MK net, but her touch around the keeper was a heavy one and the hosts were able to reset via a goal-kick.

The hosts looked certain to have scored on the half-hour mark. A corner from the right-hand side was swung into the area and knocked goalwards past Nicole Melling in the Luton net, but Buttigieg was there to clear off the line.

Melling continued her fine form, making an incredible save to deny MK the opener. She was quick off her line to make an exceptional block.

Buttigieg had the Hatters' final chance of the first half, her free-kick was hit over the crossbar.

The Ladies started the second half strong. Emily Wilson set up Fensome in the area, but her effort was tame and comfortably held by Bamford.

With five minutes to play, the Ladies took the lead. A Shanice Lewis corner was swung towards the back post where an unfortunate miscue from an MK defender saw the ball bounce off her thigh and into her own net.

Fensome soon doubled the Ladies' lead. Substitute Nia Bowman played an incredible ball into Fensome, who then found herself one-on-one against Bamford and slotted the ball into the net to secure all three points for the Town.

Town: Melling, Blacksley (sub Sargeant 90), Swarres, Fensome, Mulvaney, Wilson, Buttigieg, Farmer (sub Bowman 83), Leighton (sub Maddix 86), Lewis, Beaufort.

Unused subs: Hudson, Gayle, Fryer.

Report Owen Williams
Photographs Duncan Jack

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 L 0-4
21 Milton Keynes W 2-0
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 Plymouth game!

JUNIOR HATTERS

GUESS THE HATTERS

1 __S__ ____D__

2 _O__ __E____

3 _O____ ____A__

COYH!

CREST CLUES

Can you guess the Luton players from some of the clubs they've played for?

PLAYER 1

PLAYER 2

MASCOTS



Sarah McMahon

Age: 11
Hobbies: Playing sports, especially football & GAA
Favourite Player: Josh Keeley



George Moore

Age: 7
Hobbies: Football, Skateboarding, Skiing and Pokemon
Favourite Player: Josh Keeley



Theo Pattinson

Age: 7
Hobbies: Playing football, Building Ninjago Lego and dancing to K-Pop Demon Hunters
Favourite players: Josh Keeley and James Shea

GUESS THE HATTERS: 1. Lasse Nordås, 2. Josh Keeley, 3. Cohen Bramall
CREST CLUES: 1. Jerry Yates, 2. Hakeem Odoffin


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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 Blackpool
Tuesday 30th September, 7.45pm

We have received an initial allocation of 1,500 seats for our rearranged fixture at Blackpool.

This allocation is made up of 894 in East Stand seats and 606 in South East railed seating (it is advised no Under 5s in railed seating).

Please note: The date on the tickets will show the original date for the fixture. These tickets are valid for the rearranged date.

This fixture is physical tickets only and tickets will be sent via post or left for collection at LTFC.

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

Prices
Adults £28
Seniors (Over 65+) £24
Young Adult Under 22 (18-21) £24
Under 18 (17 and under) £14
Juniors (Under 14) £9
Juniors (Under 5) £7

Ambulant supporters pay the age-relevant price with a PA free of charge if in receipt of High or Medium DLA or Enhanced PIP.



HOME GAMES NOW ON general sale

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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LEAGUE LOOK

BANTAMS BEAT BLUEBIRDS TO TOP THE TABLE

Bradford City continued their stunning start to the season as they ended Cardiff's unbeaten record in style with a 3-1 win to rise to the top of the table last weekend.

Graham Alexander's side, promoted from League Two last term, stunned the Bluebirds with former Hatters academy graduate Josh Neufville scoring the Bantams' third goal at the Cardiff City Stadium.

Stevenage maintained their excellent form to go second in the table after a late goal from Jordan Roberts earned a 2-1 win over Exeter.

Lincoln briefly went top of the table after their win at Sincil Bank, taking advantage of a number of other clubs above them dropping points.

Huddersfield were held to a goalless draw at home to Burton, Barnsley conceded a 98th-minute winner to lose 1-0 at Blackpool while our visitors today Doncaster let a lead slip to lose 2-1 at home to AFC Wimbledon.

Stockport ended a run of three games without a win by earning a narrow victory at Rotherham with Kyle Wootton on target to move County up to eighth in the table, while Bolton were the division's biggest winners of the weekend as they beaten Wigan 4-1 at the Toughsheet Community Stadium.

At the other end of the table, Peterborough made it back-to-back wins by earning a 1-0 victory thanks to Jimmy-Jay Morgan's first-half strike while, Wycombe, who appointed Mike Duff after sacking Michael Dodds, earned their second win of the season with a 2-0 victory over Northampton.

Port Vale also leapfrogged out of the relegation zone with a 2-1 win over Mansfield. The Stags played 76 minutes with 10 men following Ryan Sweeney's dismissal but seemed all set to earn a point until Ronan Curtis' penalty five minutes into stoppage time earned Vale victory.

Another side at the bottom end of the table to pick up three points were Reading who beat Leyton Orient 2-1 with former Town man Jake Marriott on target for the Royals.

In the pick of today's fixtures, leaders Bradford host Blackpool and Stevenage head to Leyton Orient.



Former Town man Josh Neufville was on target for Bradford last weekend

PLAYER STATS *2025/26*

	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTAL		LTFC CAREER	
	APP(S)	GLS	APP(S)	GLS	APP(S)	GLS	APP(S)	GLS
Elijah Adebayo	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	182	47
Millenic Alli	8 (0)	1	0 (2)	0	8 (2)	1	26	5
Mads Andersen	5 (0)	1	0 (0)	0	5 (0)	1	24	2
Shandon Baptiste	2 (2)	0	0 (0)	0	2 (2)	0	21	1
Cohen Bramall	1 (5)	0	2 (0)	1	3 (5)	1	8	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	8 (0)	2	0 (0)	0	8 (0)	2	187	20
Lamine Fanne	1 (2)	0	1 (1)	0	2 (3)	0	18	0
Joe Gbode	0 (2)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (2)	0	2	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	8 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	8 (0)	0	8	0
Gideon Kodua	3 (2)	1	2 (0)	0	5 (2)	1	7	1
Nigel Lonwijk	7 (1)	0	0 (2)	0	7 (3)	0	10	0
Christ Makosso	5 (1)	0	1 (0)	0	6 (1)	0	20	0
Mark McGuinness	4 (2)	0	1 (0)	0	5 (2)	0	51	3
Teden Mengi	1 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	56	2
Shayden Morris	0 (2)	0	0 (1)	1	0 (3)	1	3	1
Kal Naismith	6 (2)	0	1 (0)	0	7 (2)	0	87	4
Marvelous Nakamba	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	57	0
Zack Nelson	3 (5)	1	2 (0)	0	5 (5)	1	35	2
Lasse Nordas	3 (3)	1	2 (0)	1	5 (3)	2	18	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	8 (0)	1	0 (0)	0	8 (0)	1	8	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	4 (2)	1	0 (0)	0	4 (2)	1	6	1
Cauley Woodrow	0 (1)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (1)	0	82	6
Jerry Yates	6 (1)	1	1 (1)	1	7 (2)	2	9	2

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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**	L	2-3	9	11,801	1,342	Keeley	Kodua	Alli	Makosso	Andersen	Lonwijk	Saville
SAT 20	LINCOLN CITY TV	12:30	L	1-3	11	9,255	1,433	Keeley	Lonwijk	Alli	Mengi	Andersen	Naismith	Saville
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												

29 HATTERS BATTLE ON FOR STEPPING STONES!

The 29 Luton Town colleagues taking on a running, walking and cycling challenge to raise funds and awareness for club charity of the year, Stepping Stones, have entered their final week of activity – and need your help to reach their £5,000 target.

In recent years several members of club staff have taken part in Prostate United, raising funds for Prostate Cancer UK by running, walking or cycling every day for the month of October.

This year we have decided to follow the same model of running, walking or cycling every day, but starting in September and, in aid of Stepping Stones, the Luton-based charity dedicated to empowering women who have suffered domestic abuse or are vulnerable due to substance misuse by providing hope and the skills and resources to make positive life choices.

The following 29 people have completed runs of 3km or 5km, or cycles of 10km, and have so far raised over £2,000.

Aiden Knowles, Alex Lawless, Andrew Barringer, Cheryl Jacobsen, Cris da Silva, Dec O'Reilly, Emily Howes, George Dunn, Jack Ainsworth, Jay Socik, Jenn Smith, Jonny Pearson, Kelly Lawson, Kevin Foley, Kevin Pilkington, Kobie Dee, Luke Gregory, Mike Hooker, Monika Jude, Narada Bernard, Nasreen Afzal, Paul Ballantyne, Philip Hilaire-Moore, Sarah Denmark, Sian Murray, Stuart Hammonds, Tom Schofield and Zac Neal with the addition of our fantastic fundraising fan, Mark Crowther, too!

If you feel able to donate to help towards the target of £5,000, then please do so via the JustGiving page below:

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has donated so far and especially to all who have taken part – and good luck for the final week. COYH!

For more information on our club charity of the year, Stepping Stones, visit steppingstones luton.co.uk



				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
Clark	Nelson	YATES 1	Nordås	WELLS 1	Naismith	Morris	Bramall	Gbodé
CLARK 1	Nelson	Yates	Wells	Gbodé	Morris	Makosso	Bramall	Nordås

THE QUIZ

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

1. Who was the top goalscorer in League One last season?

2. Luton Town Ladies beat Milton Keynes Women last Sunday by what score?

3. Which team play their games at The Shay?

4. Which player has recorded the most assists in the Premier League this season?

5. Which goalkeeper has the most points so far in the Fantasy Premier League?

6. The Hatters beat Manchester City 1-0 on this day in 1986 – who scored the winner?

7. How many times have the Town won at Doncaster's Eco-Power Stadium?

8. Who is the manager of Huddersfield Town?

9. Last week's defeat at Lincoln was our first at Sincil Bank since 1966 when we lost by what score?

10. Who won the Golden Boot at the 2014 World Cup?

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

1 Charlie Kelman (21 goals). 2. 2-0. 3. AFC Halifax Town. 4. Jack Grealish (4). 5. Nick Pope (32 points). 6. Brian Stein. 7. Never. 8. Lee Grant. 9. 8-1. 10. James Rodríguez (6 goals).

TABLE 2025/26

Team	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Bradford City	9	6	2	1	6	20
Stevenage	8	6	1	1	6	19
Lincoln	9	5	3	1	5	18
Cardiff	8	5	2	1	8	17
Huddersfield	9	5	1	3	4	16
Barnsley	8	5	1	2	4	16
Doncaster	**9**	**5**	**1**	**3**	**0**	**16**
Stockport	9	4	3	2	2	15
Wimbledon	9	5	0	4	1	15
Bolton	9	3	5	1	6	14
Luton	**8**	**4**	**0**	**4**	**2**	**12**
Wigan	9	3	3	3	1	12
Mansfield	9	3	2	4	1	11
Leyton Orient	9	3	2	4	-4	11
Northampton	8	3	1	4	-3	10
Exeter	9	3	0	6	-1	9
Plymouth	9	3	0	6	-7	9
Wycombe	9	2	2	5	-1	8
Port Vale	9	2	2	5	-2	8
Reading	8	2	2	4	-4	8
Rotherham	8	2	1	5	-5	7
Blackpool	8	2	1	5	-6	7
Peterborough	9	2	1	6	-8	7
Burton Albion	7	1	2	4	-5	5

TODAY'S Fixtures

TODAY

12:30AM KO

AFC Wimbledon v Wycombe

Leyton Orient v Stevenage

3PM KO

Barnsley v Port Vale

Bradford v Blackpool

Burton v Plymouth

Exeter v Huddersfield

Mansfield v Rotherham

Northampton v Bolton

Peterborough v Lincoln

Stockport v Reading

Wigan v Cardiff

TOWN Totals

	W	D	L	F	A
HOME	1565	692	634	5774	3253
AWAY	748	716	1415	3313	4961
NEUTRAL	6	4	13	29	43
TOTAL	2319	1412	2062	9116	8257
At KR	1435	664	580	5235	3007

5,793 games played

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

SEASONS TO REMEMBER *1954/55*



After three top 10 finishes in Division Two (now the Championship), Luton manager Dally Duncan felt his homegrown side was now ready to make a concerted bid to win promotion to the top flight for the first time in the club's history.

Wearing their new 'continental' style round-neck collar, tight-fitting shirts (unique at the time), the Town got off to a stuttering start but a run of six straight wins soon sent them shooting up the table.

The loss of Gordon Turner's mentor Jesse Pye, who was transferred to Derby citing the health of his wife, was seen as a major problem initially but the switching of wing-half Bob Morton to centre-forward was a masterstroke which also left Turner with more freedom.

A 10-game unbeaten run culminating in a 5-1 win at Nottingham Forest and 4-0 at Hull over the Christmas period saw the Hatters claim top spot but it was never easy with the chasing pack not giving up the fight.

As the season neared its climax the Town needed to face several of their chief rivals who were seen off with some difficulty over Easter but then three successive away games yielded just a single point leaving the table wide open again.

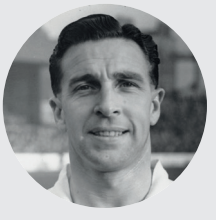
Three games were now left, with the Town needing to win them all and hope other promotion candidates slipped up. Two home games, against Port Vale and Bristol Rovers, were won as the Town went for experience over youth in the run-in, with a 3-0 victory at Doncaster on the final day finally sealing promotion.

It was close though, as Rotherham saw a late penalty saved by Port Vale's future Luton coach Ray King – a Millers victory would have seen them promoted instead of the Hatters.

FIRST DIVISION	PLD	W	D	L	GAv	PTS
1 Birmingham City (C, P)	42	22	10	10	1.957	54
2 Luton Town (P)	**42**	**23**	**8**	**11**	**1.66**	**54**
3 Rotherham United	42	25	4	13	1.469	54
4 Leeds United	42	23	7	12	1.321	53
5 Stoke City	42	21	10	11	1.5	52
6 Blackburn Rovers	42	22	6	14	1.443	50
7 Notts County	42	21	6	15	1.042	48
8 West Ham United	42	18	10	14	1.057	46
9 Bristol Rovers	42	19	7	16	1.071	45
10 Swansea Town	42	17	9	16	1.036	43
11 Liverpool	42	16	10	16	0.958	42
12 Middlesbrough	42	18	6	18	0.89	42
13 Bury	42	15	11	16	1.069	41
14 Fulham	42	14	11	17	0.962	39
15 Nottingham Forest	42	16	7	19	0.935	39
16 Lincoln City	42	13	10	19	0.861	36
17 Port Vale	42	12	11	19	0.676	35
18 Doncaster Rovers	42	14	7	21	0.611	35
19 Hull City	42	12	10	20	0.638	34
20 Plymouth Argyle	42	12	7	23	0.695	31
21 Ipswich Town (R)	42	11	6	25	0.62	28
22 Derby County (R)	42	7	9	26	0.646	23

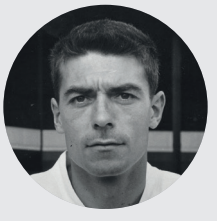
Player focus

Future record league appearance holder **Bob Morton** proved his versatility by starting and ending the season at wing-half before playing up front, netting 14 times.



Season standout

Gordon Turner was ever-present and, allowed to stand on his own two feet, bagged 32 goals on his way to becoming the Town's all-time record goalscorer.



S2 Luton v Doncaster.indd 66 25/09/2025 14:59

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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**
42 CHRISTIAN **CHIGOZIE**

DONCASTER ROVERS

MANAGER **GRANT McCANN**

1 IAN **LAWLOR**
2 JAMIE **STERRY**
3 JAMES **MAXWELL**
4 OWEN **BAILEY**
5 MATTHEW **PEARSON**
6 JAY **McGRATH**
7 LUKE **MOLYNEUX**
8 GEORGE **BROADBENT**
9 BRANDON **HANLAN**
10 JOE **SBARRA**
11 JORDAN **GIBSON**
12 CONNOR **O'RIORDAN**
14 BILLY **SHARP**
15 HARRY **CLIFTON**
16 TOM **NIXON**
17 GLENN **MIDDLETON**
18 CHARLIE **CREW**
19 DAMOLA **AJAYI**
22 ROBBIE **GOTTS**
23 JACK **SENIOR**
24 ZAIN **WESTBROOKE**
27 SEÁN **GREHAN**
30 TOYOSI **OLUSANYA**
33 BEN **CLOSE**
29 THIMOTHÉE **LO-TUTALA**
35 JACOB **BRYANT**

The Officials

REFEREE **TIM ROBINSON**
ASSISTANT REFEREE **ANDREW HICKMAN**
ASSISTANT REFEREE **PAUL KELLY**
FOURTH OFFICIAL **MATTHEW RUSSELL**

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