OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME • £3 • ISSUE 9 v FOREST GREEN ROVERS

Luton TOWN













Emirates FA CUP

CAPITAL SKY LTD.

FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2025 7.30PM

FAC Luton v Forest Green.indd 1 30/10/2025 11:39


“THE SCENES AFTER THE FINAL WHISTLE WERE FANTASTIC AND I WAS JUST SO HAPPY FOR THE PLAYERS TO HAVE THAT MOMENT WITH YOU.

Jack WILSHERE

Welcome back to Kenilworth Road for the second time this week as we host Forest Green Rovers under the lights in the FA Cup.

I'd like to extend my welcome to Robbie Savage and his team to Bedfordshire for tonight's tie. Forest Green will epitomise everything Robbie was about as a player, they play good football and arrive here having enjoyed a decent start to this season. Nobody will be taking them lightly this evening.

I'm writing this after our excellent win at Northampton last Saturday. I was over the moon to get that first win, but first and foremost, I was really, really happy for the players. They deserved that after all of the work they did, and the preparation they've put in since I arrived has been outstanding.

The game against Mansfield was of course disappointing. We felt we had some control in the game but we missed out on a few key moments and got punished for it. At Northampton,



however, the job was still to dominate but to minimise those difficult moments. We did that and I think we fully deserved the result.

But credit to the squad because to a man they've been superb and have been since I've been here. I've spoken constantly about unity – and what you saw on the pitch at Northampton was exactly that. When Kal missed that header at the end, Hakeem was right there to clear. If ever there was any proof of the togetherness it was the way they were celebrating together like it was a goal.

We also had to fight and deal with their directness, which was a real challenge. It always is against teams that play that way because anything can happen if you don't win that first duel – and even if you do, you've got to be ready to land on the seconds because they can flip it in behind again.

The scenes after the final whistle were fantastic and I was just so happy for the players to have that moment with you at the end. Of course, I'm happy for myself too, but since I've come in, and I'll say it again – the players have been excellent. After the result and performance like it was against Mansfield, it can be difficult to convince the players that we actually did some good things but they have responded brilliantly, and I think you saw that at Sixfields.

But there's more to come, and that's the standard we have now set. It's the bar that we have to maintain. It goes without saying that we need to be switched on and focused this evening in order to get a positive result against Forest Green to get us in the hat for the next round.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who backed us at Northampton. It was my first taste of your support away from Kenilworth Road and, even though it was a short journey, I was blown away by the numbers and the noise.

Please bring more of the same levels of energy and get behind us tonight.

Enjoy the game.

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BOARDROOM

Tom SCHOFIELD



Welcome back to Kenilworth Road for Jack's second home game and the first round of the FA Cup.

The draw has thrown up an interesting fixture against Forest Green Rovers, in what our friends at Reflo are calling the 'Reflo Derby'. Sustainability is a key principle of both clubs, hence the choice of kit supplier, who have committed to planting a minimum of 1,000 trees tonight – as well as an additional 1,000 trees for every goal scored. We will all be hoping for a high-scoring game this evening for the television audience to enjoy – as long as we come out on top!

I was at Northampton at the weekend to watch our first win under the new management and it was brilliant to see some real confidence returning to the team's play. With a little over a quarter of the season gone, to be five points off the play-offs, after an inconsistent start, feels like a foundation on which we can now build.

It was just as pleasing to witness another win against Brighton Under-21s in the Vertu Trophy on Tuesday night, but the icing on the cake was obviously Fin Evans' man-of-the-match performance, as he became our youngest ever goalscorer, beating Ricky Hill's almost 50-year-old record. I stayed to applaud the team off the pitch and got to enjoy the sight of Fin celebrating with his friends and family. He looks a real prospect for the future and is a testament to what our excellent Academy are achieving in developing the next generation of players. A special mention also to another Academy graduate, Harry Fox, for his mature performance as a second-half substitute.

There is a real feeling of positivity back at the club, which doesn't just mean down at the training ground. All the staff at our sites across town care deeply about the club and want to see the team fulfil its potential. Jack, Chris and their team are settling into the job quickly and the squad suddenly looks as deep as it ever has thanks to the return of a number of senior players from injury. It was fantastic to see Hakeem Odoffin and Izzy Jones make huge contributions in their first appearances of the season at Northampton and we were delighted for Jerry Yates in scoring twice on Tuesday night as confidence increases right the way through the team. Everyone at the club believes we should

> *"THE ICING ON THE CAKE WAS OBVIOUSLY FIN EVANS' MAN-OF-THE-MATCH PERFORMANCE, AS HE BECAME OUR YOUNGEST EVER GOALSCORER, BEATING RICKY HILL'S ALMOST 50-YEAR-OLD RECORD* **... AND A SPECIAL MENTION ALSO TO ANOTHER ACADEMY GRADUATE, HARRY FOX, FOR HIS MATURE PERFORMANCE AS A SECOND-HALF SUBSTITUTE.**



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be competing at the top of League One and a good run of form will see us doing just that.

With the transfer window complete and the new first team staff in place, my finance team's focus has shifted back to long-term planning. We never lose sight of what is happening on the pitch – it is integral to our everyday lives, but we are all working to build a club that can stand on its own two feet, whilst competing at the highest levels of the game. To achieve this we must build Power Court so that, as we start on a new upward trajectory, we have a world-class facility to call our own and enable us to sustain ourselves nearer the summit of the football pyramid.

Our strategic business plan includes the cost of building and financing Power Court, but also of running a successful, sustainable football club alongside it. This long-term planning is essential as we approach a number of key milestones this side of Christmas, which should allow us to begin construction, but also stand us in good stead for the arrival of the Independent Football Regulator (IFR).

I attended the first all-club conference of the IFR earlier this month. It was the first time so many club representatives, from the Premier League down to the National League, had come together under one roof and it was a good opportunity to hear the IFR set out their objectives for themselves and for the game. The regulator will have some real teeth, but it intends to work proactively with clubs to ensure the solidity and sustainability >>



Congratulations to Fin Evans on his goalscoring debut on Tuesday night

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> of the football pyramid.

It was pleasing to hear the values Luton Town and our Board stand for echoed by the leadership of the new body. We expect both the fan engagement around the construction of a new stadium and the club's experiences of building through the leagues without unlimited owner funding to be held up as examples of how things can be done, not only in the best interests of this club and its fanbase, but for the good of the game itself.

The pyramid relies on competition and aspiration, so we have no problem competing with organically bigger clubs, but the continued concentration of wealth at the very top of the game and the short-term thinking adopted by some clubs to try to get their slice risks its heritage and its future.

Finally, please join me in getting behind Jack and the team tonight. Your support, especially here at Kenilworth Road, is so often the difference, so sing up and let's get our name in the hat for the next round.

Come on Luton!

Tom

> *"WE MUST BUILD POWER COURT SO THAT, AS WE START ON A NEW UPWARD TRAJECTORY, WE HAVE A WORLD-CLASS FACILITY TO* **CALL OUR OWN AND ENABLE US TO SUSTAIN OURSELVES NEARER THE SUMMIT OF THE FOOTBALL PYRAMID.**



Power Court: Our future

CLUB HONOURS

LEAGUE CUP
Winners 1988, Runners-up 1989

FA CUP
Runners-up 1959

FOOTBALL LEAGUE TROPHY
Winners 2008/09

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

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

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

CONFERENCE PREMIER
Champions 2013/14

CLUB DIRECTORY

DIRECTORS & SHAREHOLDERS

Chairman: David Wilkinson
Chief Executive Officer: Gary Sweet
Directors: Paul Ballantyne, Glyn Taylor, Bob Curson, Rob Stringer CBE
Shareholders: Kailesh Karavadra, Stephen Browne, Luton Town Supporters' Trust

FOOTBALL MANAGEMENT

Manager: Jack Wilshere
Assistant Manager: Chris Powell
First Team Coaches: Kevin Foley, David Bridges & Tim Corcoran
Team Operations Manager: Kevin Dearden
Head of Goalkeeping: Kevin Pilkington
Head of Medical: Danny Murphy
Club Ambassador & Senior Scout: Mick Harford
Head of Recruitment Analysis: Jay Socik
Player Recruitment Manager: Yousuf Sajjad
Chief Scout: Marc Tracy

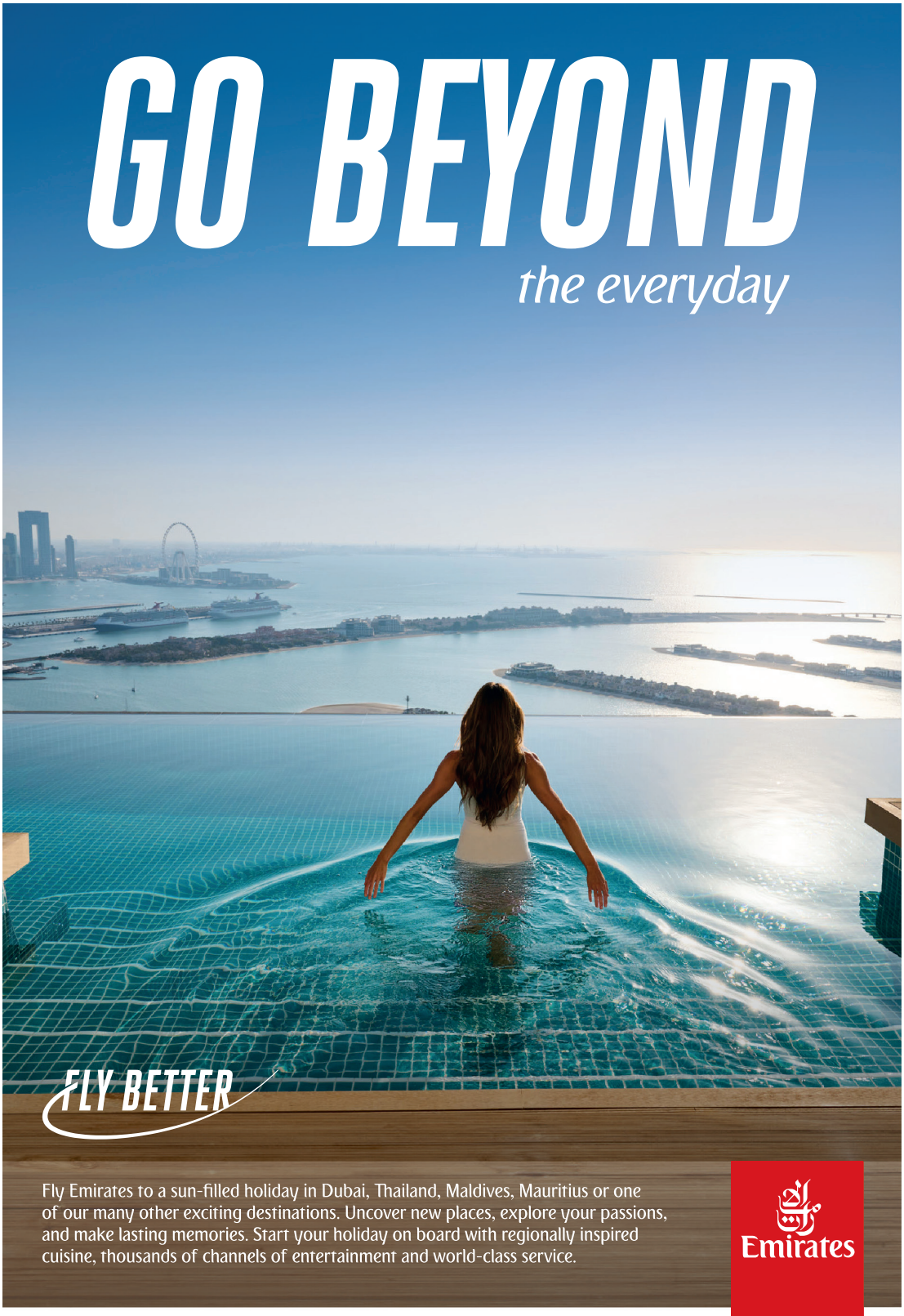
CLUB OPERATIONS

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

VICE PRESIDENTS

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

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GO BEYOND
the everyday
FLY BETTER
Fly Emirates to a sun-filled holiday in Dubai, Thailand, Maldives, Mauritius or one of our many other exciting destinations. Uncover new places, explore your passions, and make lasting memories. Start your holiday on board with regionally inspired cuisine, thousands of channels of entertainment and world-class service.
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Kal NAISMITH

Good evening and welcome to Kenilworth Road for this FA Cup tie with Forest Green Rovers.

We need to make Kenilworth Road a fortress and this week two games have given us the opportunity to build on the momentum from the good result and performance at Northampton.

The Mansfield game was the gaffer's first in charge and, while it was not the result we all hoped for, the buzz and the excitement inside the ground were palpable. As soon as we walked out for the warm-up we could feel something in the air and that atmosphere fed through to us in the first half as we grew into the game.

I felt we were playing really well, we created chances and, unfortunately, moments after Nahki's penalty miss, they hit us with a sucker punch. The goal knocked the stuffing out of us and took the wind out of our sails a bit and



that transmitted itself around the ground.

Despite the disappointing result and taking away the bare result, we felt there were promising signs, some good football and plenty to be encouraged by.

Therefore, it was fantastic at Northampton to earn that win thanks to a battling team performance. The lads coming back from injury showed their quality, making a big difference in the game when coming off the bench.

But it was no more than we deserved from a display that showed everything the manager wants to instil in the squad in terms of unity and togetherness. That was shown none more so than at the end as we celebrated with the 1,500 of you who urged us on to victory.

Your noise drove us on, especially in the second half, and the scenes when we scored and at the end were brilliant. After some disappointing away days this season it was good to be celebrating come the final whistle – and fingers crossed it can soon become a regular occurrence.

Tonight we face Forest Green – a team hoping to cause an FA Cup upset live on TV. We want to progress as far as we can in this competition and want to reward your support with a place in the second round.

However, we will need your support. Like in any game there are moments where we won't have it all our own way, so please stick with us and get behind us if that is the case in times tonight.

Positivity and togetherness are vital ingredients and I think we all know what we're capable of with a little bit of momentum.

Sing up tonight and enjoy the game.



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THE HATTERS HERALD

140TH SEASON LIMITED EDITION

LUTON TOWN V FOREST GREEN ROVERS

GET YOUR BESPOKE HATTERS PRINTS!

With Christmas just two months away, look no further for your Hatters gift ideas than our new bespoke printed product range.

We have joined forces with Premier Sports Prints to offer Town supporters a unique range of high-quality, officially licensed products, offering custom designs to take pride of place in your home or office.

From iconic trophy-lifting moments from our past to a range of hand-drawn images of Kenilworth Road, the new products provide a wider selection of merchandise not directly available in our club shops.

The full range of items can be purchased in a range of sizes and frames and yes, it also gives you the chance to create your own designs featuring your pets in Luton shirts!

Check out and purchase our extensive range on the Premier Sports Prints website.

Happy shopping!

DIAMOND AWARD FOR CLICKER



The winner of the Diamond Player of the Month for September is midfielder Jordan Clark.

Clicker polled over half of the overall votes thanks to some fine performances throughout the month which saw him net twice in the away games at Lincoln and Blackpool.

Jordan was presented with the trophy after our game with Mansfield by Diamond Season Card holders Kieran and Shauna Morris.

We would like to thank all Diamond Season Card holders who took the time to vote this month.

NEW DATE FOR HUDDERSFIELD

Our home League One fixture against Huddersfield Town has been rearranged for Tuesday 25th November (kick-off 7.45pm).

The game, originally scheduled for Saturday 11th October, was postponed due to international call ups.

The Ticket Office can advise that the Huddersfield fixture will be back on sale from 10am Thursday 23rd October. These tickets can be booked online or from the Ticket Office via phone or in person. Any new tickets will show the new date of the fixture.

However, existing tickets already purchased for this fixture will also remain valid for the rearranged date. If any supporter does not have their original ticket or confirmation email, please contact the Ticket Office.

Any supporter who had purchased tickets but is now unable to attend can contact the Ticket Office for a full refund, provided notification is received at least 24 hours prior to the new date.

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Hakeem Odoffin in action on his Town debut



Izzy Jones on the front foot

0-1



The stronger the team, the stronger the team



Lamine Fanne celebrates his winning goal at Sixfields

Lamine Fanne's second-half winner was the difference as the Hatters secured their first win under new manager Jack Wilshere at Northampton. But the Town had a goal-line clearance from debutant Hakeem Odoffin to thank in injury time to secure victory.



Cohen Bramall looks for a teammate

Fin Evans became the youngest player to score for the Hatters as a 3-1 win secured our place in the knockout phase of the Vertu Trophy. The Town led 2-0 thanks to a double from Jerry Yates before Evans slammed home on his debut to seal victory and write his name in the history books.



Fin Evans makes history to put us 3-1 up



Marvelous Nakamba finds himself surrounded



Jerry Yates is congratulated after his opener


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REFLO TO PLANT A MINIMUM 1,000 TREES TONIGHT!

Sustainable sportswear brand celebrates landmark Emirates FA Cup clash between its two partner clubs by planting a minimum of 1,000 trees, plus an additional 1,000 trees for every goal scored

REFLO

Reflo, the forward-thinking sustainable performancewear brand has announced an environmental initiative to mark this tonight's Emirates FA Cup first round fixture between the Hatters and Forest Green Rovers – two clubs proudly wearing Reflo kits this season.

Dubbed 'The Reflo Derby' by Reflo, the match brings together two clubs leading the charge for sustainability in football. Reflo will plant a minimum of 1,000 trees, plus a further 1,000 trees for every goal scored during regular time, creating a living legacy that celebrates the power of football to inspire real environmental change.

The match, broadcast live on TNT Sports marks a historic moment for Reflo, whose kits are made from recycled materials created using their pioneering Reloop design process which uses mono-fibre to facilitate recycling and other end of use options.

The tie carries added symbolism, with Forest Green Rovers celebrating 10 years as a fully vegan club and the only team in the world to wear a Vegan Society-certified football kit, produced by Reflo.

Meanwhile, Luton Town's commitment to sustainability continues to grow, from their tree-planting initiative tied to this season's third kit to the environmentally conscious plans for their new Power Court stadium.

Rory MacFadyen, Co-Founder of Reflo, said: "This match is more than football – it's a celebration of progress. To see both our partner clubs, Luton and Forest Green Rovers, go head-to-head on live television, both wearing Reflo, is incredibly special.

"We're proud to mark it by planting 1,000 trees for every goal scored, creating a lasting impact that goes beyond the pitch. Football has a unique power to inspire change, and this is proof that sustainability and sport can thrive together."

The game represents another major milestone in Reflo's mission to redefine sustainable sportswear and prove that performance, innovation and environmental responsibility can go hand in hand.

For more information, visit reflo.com or follow @Reflo on Instagram.

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FOREST GREEN ROVERS

Gloucestershire based club Forest Green Rovers are back at Kenilworth Road for the first time since April 2018.

Robbie Savage's side have had a good start to the season and occupy fifth place in the National League table.

In the summer, Savage left Macclesfield to join Forest Green as manager. His side got off to an absolutely flying start and were unbeaten in their first three games of the season.

This run saw some excellent victories against the likes of Yeovil Town, Sutton United, Morecambe, Hartlepool United and many others. However, Rovers tasted defeat for the first time this season in early October as they were beaten 1-0 at home against current league leaders Rochdale.

Since that Rochdale defeat, things have been up and down for our visitors. An excellent 4-1 win against Worthing in the last round of the FA Cup, which set up tonight's tie, was followed by a disappointing 4-2 defeat against Carlisle United.

Those Rovers fans in the Oak Road end tonight will be hoping their side can win for the first time on Bedfordshire soil. The Town have held the upper hand in previous meetings, winning four and drawing two of the six games at Kenilworth Road.

Among those wins were a 6-1 triumph in 2010 and a 4-1 victory in 2014 which was the Town's final home fixture prior to promotion back to the Football League.

A warm welcome to Kenilworth Road to all those associated with Forest Green Rovers.

FOREST GREEN ROVERS
AT-A-GLANCE

FOUNDED: ***1889***

MANAGER: ROBBIE SAVAGE

NICKNAME: ROVERS

STADIUM: THE NEW LAWN

HONOURS: LEAGUE 2 CHAMPIONS 2021/22, NATIONAL LEAGUE PLAY-OFF WINNERS 2017

RIVALS: CHELTENHAM

LAST TIME AT THE KENNY: TOWN 3-1 ROVERS 28/4/18

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FOREST GREEN ROVERS

THE AWAY END

The Boss

ROBBIE SAVAGE Former Leicester, Blackburn and Derby midfielder and Welsh international. Left his managerial job at Macclesfield last summer to join Rovers.

Goalkeeper

LUKE McNICHOLAS Irish goalkeeper who began his career at Sligo Rovers. Went on to play for Rochdale and Wrexham before signing for Forest Green.

Defenders

JILI BUYABU Sheffield United loanee who has previously spent time with Rochdale and Motherwell. Scored in their recent victory over Boreham Wood.

JORDAN MOORE-TAYLOR Featured over 150 times for Rovers since he joined back in 2020. Also racked up over 180 appearances for Exeter beforehand.

RYAN INNISS Former Hatter who had a brief loan spell at Kenilworth Road in 2014, scoring with his first touch on his debut against Cambridge United.

TRE PEMBERTON Came through the Stoke City academy and is now starting at right-back for Rovers and followed Savage from Macclesfield to the New Lawn.

ABRAHAM KANU On loan at the club from League One side Reading. He has featured 12 times so far this season for Rovers.

Midfielders

HARVEY BUNKER Made over 100 appearances for Forest Green throughout his career. Scored in his last two appearances for Rovers.

ISAAC MOORE Coventry City loanee who has played 13 times so far this campaign. Was on the bench for the Sky Blues in their 1-0 defeat here against the Town last season.

HARRY WHITWELL West Brom loanee who scored in Forest Green's excellent 4-0 win over Sutton. Played for West Brom against Luton back in May, featuring for 12 minutes off the bench.

TOM KNOWLES Experienced winger with EFL experience. Played his best football with Yeovil Town and Walsall, but left the Saddlers to join Rovers in 2024.

JAYDEN CLARKE Began his career with Dulwich Hamlet in non-league before signing for Gillingham. After several seasons with the Gills he made the move to Gloucestershire.

Forwards

TEMI BABALOLA Played his entire career so far in non-league for the likes of Worthing, Cheshunt, Hampton & Richmond and Concord Rangers.

CHRISTIAN DOIDGE Experienced striker who has mainly played in the EFL and SPFL. Made almost 200 appearances for Forest Green across two spells.

YAHYA BAMBA Played his entire career so far in non-league. Signed for Forest Green from Eastbourne Borough this summer.

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HATTERS *versus* ROVERS

Historic meetings between the clubs down the years

AUGUST 2009
FIRST MEETING

Before a crowd of 1,805 the Hatters earn a narrow victory in their first ever visit to the New Lawn. The Town have to be patient before striker Tom Craddock slotted home shortly before the hour. Craddock missed a penalty later on but the Hatters have a brilliant stop from Mark Tyler to thank to ensure victory.

OCTOBER 2010
SIX-GOAL FEAST

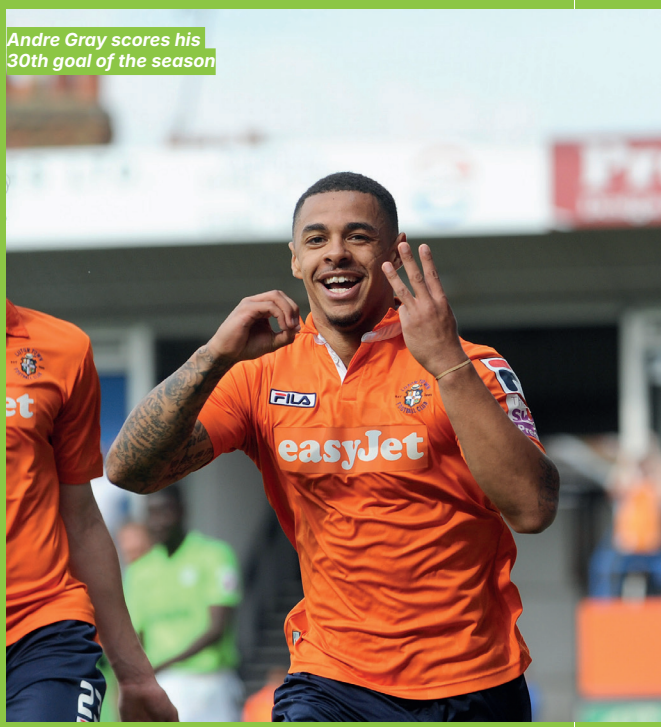
The Town ran riot on a Tuesday night under the lights against a shellshocked Rovers coming out 6-1 winners. The Hatters were 3-1 up at the break thanks to goals from Andy Drury, Amari Morgan-Smith and Danny Crow. It took Crow four minutes into the second half to make it 4-1 before goals from Matthew Barnes-Homer and Dan Walker completed the rout.

MARCH 2012
AWAY DAY BLUES

It what is the only time Forest Green have beaten the Hatters, they do it in style on a Tuesday night in Nailsworth. The hosts took the lead when Yan Klukowski swept past Mark Tyler and it was 2-0 when Matty Taylor curled home to double the lead. The Town huffed and puffed in search of a way back into the game but Gary Brabin's side were beaten again when Taylor made it 3-0.



Scott Cuthbert lifts the League Two runners-up trophy as the hatters celebrate promotion in 2018



Andre Gray scores his 30th goal of the season

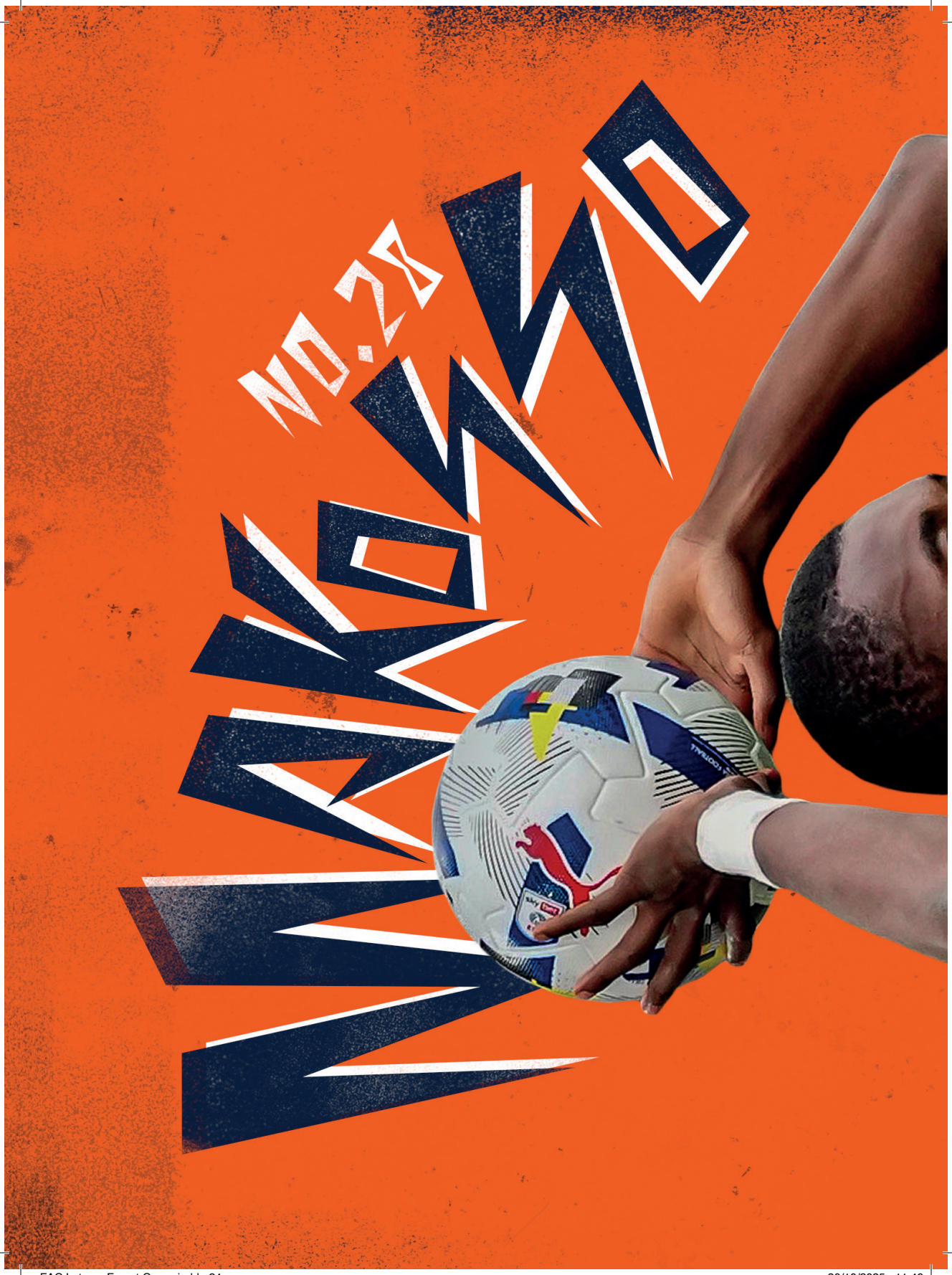
APRIL 2014
CHAMPIONSHIP PARTY ▲

It was a day of celebration as the Town lifted the Conference championship trophy after a 4-1 win over Rovers. After falling behind the Hatters stormed back, Andre Gray levelled from the spot before Cameron McGeehan swept the Town in front. Gray scored his second for his 30th of the season and Mark Cullen struck late on to complete the scoring.

APRIL 2018
◀ *ANOTHER TROPHY LIFT*

Another season, another trophy lift after a win over Rovers. This time the Town celebrate finishing runners-up in League Two. Danny Hylton put the Hatters in front after 20 minutes but the visitors equalised eight minutes into the second period through Christian Doidge. With time ticking down the Town secured a 3-1 victory thanks to goals from Olly Lee and Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu in the final five minutes.

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NO.28
WORLD



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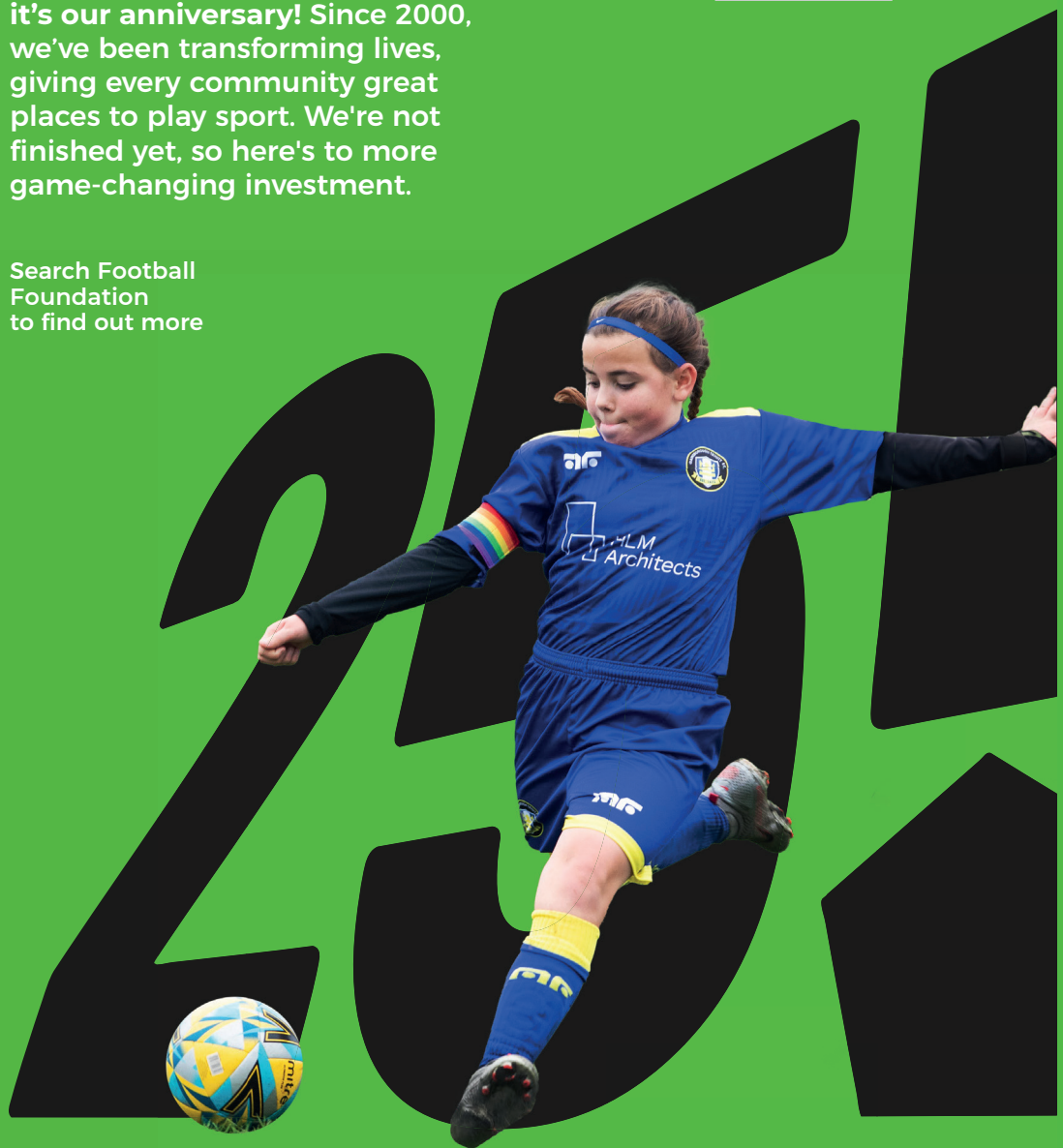
The FA

FOR ALL

TOGETHER FOR FOOTBALL

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

From the Archives



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Luton players about to go for a spot of beach training before an FA Cup quarter-final tie at Blackpool in 1959.

Gordon Turner (second right) seems happy but would still not be included in a side which would remain unchanged throughout the Cup run.

Inset: Despite Blackpool's last-minute equaliser these Luton supporters remain confident. Their confidence was justified as the Hatters won through in the replay.



FAC Luton v Forest Green.indd 29 30/10/2025 11:40

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

ON THIS DAY

31st October



2017. Two goals from Andrew Shinnie earn the Hatters a 2-1 win at AFC Wimbledon in the Checkatrade Trophy win.



2007. The Town went down 1-0 after extra-time to Premier League Everton in the fourth round of the League Cup at Kenilworth Road. The Hatters had their chances but Tim Cahill's strike on 101 minutes earned the Toffees a place in round five.



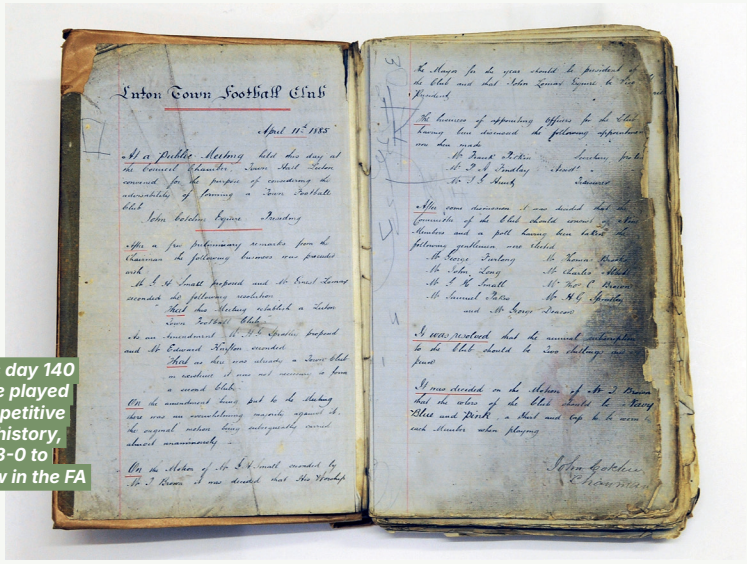
1992. The Town race into a two-goal lead against Southend at Kenilworth Road thanks to goals from Julian James and Phil Gray. But the Shrimpers fight back to take a point leaving the Hatters as the only team in the Football League without a home.



1981. The Town earn a narrow 1-0 win over Crystal Palace as Steve White is tripped by Steve Lovell in the area and David Moss converts from the spot. Mike Saxby goes off with a knee injury after turning awkwardly, the resulting damage effectively ending his playing career.



1936. The Hatters edge past Bournemouth at Kenilworth Road thanks to a solitary strike from Joe Payne.



1885. On this day 140 years ago we played our first competitive game in our history, going down 3-0 to Great Marlow in the FA Cup.



A proud moment as Stephenson faces his old club Aston Villa in Town's first game back in Division Two at Kenilworth Road

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

'Rocket' George Stephenson

Perhaps no game better sums up the brilliant promotion winning side of the 1936/37 season than the visit of Cardiff City on 2nd January.

The visitors, who were sitting in mid-table and certainly no pushovers, found themselves hammered 8-1 by a Luton side displaying some of the best forward play Kenilworth Road had ever seen.

Two players helped themselves to a hat-trick. Joe Payne, perhaps inevitably, was one. The other was another of the great goalscoring wingers that Luton have been fortunate enough to have over the years.

His name was George Stephenson.

Stephenson was born in County Durham in 1910 into a family of coal miners. Indeed, he worked as coal miner himself while playing amateur football in the area for Stillington St John's and Durham City. Then, after a failed trial at Huddersfield in 1929, where Clem Stephenson was manager, he ended up signing for Aston Villa two years later, where Clem's brother, also George, had been a popular figure in the previous decade.

Having a famous namesake at Villa Park perhaps did George no favours. Given both were northern lads who played in the forward line, comparisons were inevitable, and it took a few months to break into the first team. When he finally did, he was thrown in at the deep end – an FA Cup third round tie against West Bromwich Albion in front of almost 50,000 at the Hawthorns. Such was the importance of the game that British Pathe produced a video reel.

"It was an ordeal for a newcomer to make his bow on such an occasion... the atmosphere was enough to create wholly disturbing currents, especially as he was on the left wing and in one sense isolated but on

> *"A stocky, robust player, the crowds loved his surging play on the wings.*

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George Stephenson kitted out

the other too near to a roaring crowd," noted the local press.

He'd make only three more appearances for Villa all of which came in the weeks following the West Brom game. Then, unable to dislodge Villa great Eric Houghton from the side, he found himself relegated to the reserves for the next two-and-a-half seasons before interest materialised from ambitious Luton in the summer of 1934.

It was first reported that the transfer was agreed at Trent Bridge while England faced Australia in an Ashes Test Match. In reality, the negotiations took place in a hotel a couple of miles away from the ground, but either way, Luton had secured themselves a new left outside-left and one who would quickly become a favourite at Kenilworth Road.

A stocky, robust player, the crowds loved his surging play on the wings. Indeed, given he also shared a name with the man known at the 'Father of the Railways', it was perhaps no surprise that he ran up the pitch like a steam train. Supporters roared as he'd run clear of a defence or beat his man, and like all wingers, the chance to ply his trade closer to the fans likely created an even stronger connection.

Though noted as mercurial he was also remarkably consistent. In his first two seasons he played 45 and then 44 times, scoring 14 goals in each. He was a great provider too, laying on goals for a forward line that dripped with talent and skill – be it Joe Payne, Fred Roberts, Jack Ball or others.

His high point at Kenilworth Road came in the 1936/37 season where, including his hat-trick against Cardiff, he notched 20 goals in 43 games as Luton finally secured a long-awaited promotion to the second tier. The step up in level caused him little problem and he was a regular right up to the outbreak of World War Two, playing in all three games of the 1939/40 season which was abandoned with the Hatters sitting atop of Division 2 (now the Championship).

He didn't return to football after the war. His time at Kenilworth Road had totalled 215 appearances and an impressive 69 goals, becoming Luton's seventh top scorer at the time of his retirement behind only Syd Reid, Joe Payne, Jimmy Yardley, Herbert Moody, Ernie Simms and Andy Rennie.

He returned to his native North East later in life and became steward of the Conservative Club in the Portrack area of Stockton-on-Tees. He retained a strong interest in Luton and remained good friends with Payne, Roberts and Tom Mackey in particular. Sadly he died suddenly in 1964 at the age of just 54, his funeral being attended by a large crowd of 200.

His final visit to Kenilworth Road had come the previous year when the Town took on Middlesbrough. In a remarkable game, perhaps now best known for Harry Walden being taken off on a pallet after the stretcher was accidentally locked in a cupboard, Luton raced into a 3-0 lead before being pegged back and needing a late winner from Gordon Turner. It was the kind of exciting game that George himself would no doubt have enjoyed playing in.

Soccer Stars Card



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THE BEST FEELING IN THE WORLD

Joy for defender Fin Evans on his historic and 'surreal' debut goal

Fin Evans could not believe he was starting against Brighton – let alone scoring as he wrote his name into the history books by becoming our youngest ever goalscorer in Tuesday's 3-1 win in the Vertu Trophy against Brighton.

At 16 years and 271 days, the youth-team centre-half broke a record set by Hatters legend Ricky Hill almost 50 years ago when he scored against Bristol Rovers on his debut at the age of 17 years and 45 days on 19th April 1976.

"I couldn't believe the chance fell to me and when I scored, it was just the best feeling in the world," said Evans, who has been in the Town Academy since he was 10.

"I see what people say now, that's what dreams are made of, I just couldn't believe my eyes, it was mental.

"I found out on the day before and I was like, 'it'll be good to get a couple of minutes'. Then I score, and I was like, 'this is just making my game so much better'. Everyone just had their faith in me, congratulated me, all the boys in the changing room afterwards as well, it was a joke, I couldn't explain it.

"Honestly, it's been a surreal experience. I can only thank the gaffer for having the faith in me and obviously the players for helping me throughout the whole thing.

"I don't think I could have done that without them to be honest, so I can't really take as much credit as I would like to, but it goes out to them. They were superb for me so thank you so much."

And on becoming a record-breaker, the defender added: "My friend actually had a look at that and said, 'it's 17, so if you score you'll be the youngest.' I was like, 'I don't believe that. I'll be happy if I get a couple of minutes on the pitch,' and then I scored and I was just hands on my head, I couldn't believe it.

"It was a surreal feeling, I don't think I'll sleep tonight to be honest. I'm not aware of Ricky Hill, but he must have been some player to hold that record, so hopefully I can continue on his legacy and do better if not the same as him."

TOP 10 YOUNGEST HATTERS SCORERS

Fin Evans 16 years 271 days v Brighton 28/10/2025

Ricky Hill 17 years 45 days v Bristol Rovers 19/4/1976

Keith Keane 17 years 148 days v Bristol City 17/4/2004

Roly Legate 17 years 210 days v Sheffield Wednesday 13/10/1956

Fred Allen 17 years 210 days v Old Etonians 29/10/1892

Stuart Douglas 17 years 216 v Oldham Athletic 11/11/1995

Matt Taylor 17 years 287 days v Wrexham 11/9/1999

Frankie Bunn 17 years 304 days v Wrexham v 6/9/1980

Tresor Kandol 17 years 359 days v Bristol Rovers 25/8/1999

Ron Futcher 18 years 92 days v Ipswich Town 26/12/1974

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LUTON TOWN FC

COMMUNITY TRUST

October half-term camp



This half-term saw the return of the Community Trust's multi-sport camp at Stopsley Community Primary School.

Activities included were football, mini-golf, dodgeball and basketball for children aged 5-12 years old. As well as paid for places, the Community Trust provided free spaces for children and families who are eligible for free school meals or are experiencing financial hardship.

Children who demonstrated the values of the club during the activities were awarded with a Hatter of the Day certificate and free book to support our ongoing pledge to improve literacy levels across the Town.

Premier League Kicks

The Trust's Premier League Kicks programme continues to operate throughout the half-term at our sites in Luton, Central Beds and Bedford Borough.

Premier League Kicks uses the power of football and sport to inspire young people to reach their potential. On average, the Trust sees over 250+ children and young people aged 8-18 years old per week attend free and inclusive football sessions.

The programme creates opportunities for young people who are at risk of anti-social behaviour, youth violence and/or from high-need areas to regularly engage in football, sport, mentoring and personal development opportunities.

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Player Development Centre & Elite Games

With more time available this week due to school holidays, our Player Development Centres were in full swing.

Based in Luton, Dunstable, Arlesey and Kempston Community Trust coaches delivered training sessions designed to improve participants as players and increase opportunities to progress towards our elite development pathways.

Within this set up, our elite player development centre had a full day of training at our Kempston base as well.

On Thursday, our Elite Under-11s play a fixture against Northampton Town Academy Under-11s and on Friday, teams from our Kempston Player Development Centre will face Norwich City's Player Development Centres with teams ranging from Under-8s to Under-16s.



Supporting Luton Into Employment

Last week, we were proud to support two fantastic events organised by Luton Borough Council, aimed at helping local people explore career, training, and wellbeing opportunities.

We attended the Employment, Education, Training, and Health & Wellbeing Event at Luton Point.

The event brought together local employers and training providers to help Luton residents discover potential career and learning pathways. It was great to share information about the wide range of employment opportunities and programmes available through the Club and the Trust.

We also supported the Next Step Event at Chiltern Academy, where young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in school years nine and above met local training and employment providers to explore post-school options.

It was inspiring to see so many young people planning their next steps and engaging with the opportunities available to them.

If you're interested in finding out more about how we can support, please contact community@lutontown.co.uk.



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Ladies advance to FA Cup Second Round

The Ladies defeated Mansfield Town Ladies 3-0 at Barton to advance to the Second Round of the Women's FA Cup, in a game that saw Andie Dickens make her long awaited return to action after 595 days and a debut goal from Natalia Makowska.



Myles Maddix made five changes to the side that was defeated at Barton last Sunday. Sarah Hudson replaced Nicole Melling between the sticks, Fiona Buttigieg missed out through injury and she was replaced by Lisa Milliken in defence.

Chloe Tambula, cup-tied last weekend, also made her return to the Hatters' backline. Taylor O'Leary made her first start since return from injury, in place of Shianne Swarres. One change in the attack saw Nia Bowman come into the starting XI ahead of Emily Wilson.

Just three minutes in Jánaye Beaufort's long-range attempt struck the crossbar and appeared to have crossed the line by some margin, but the linesman waved it away, insisting Price kept it out in time.

Moments later Beaufort unleashed another long-range effort goalwards, but this time Price was able to hold comfortably.

After upping the pressure, the Stags' resistance was broken by a quick-fire Town double with 12 minutes remaining of the first-half. A Shanice Lewis corner caused chaos in the area, the ball finally broke to Taylor O'Leary who poked the ball into the back of the net for her first Hatters goal.

Less than a minute later, Leyah Maddix doubled the Town's lead. The captain's original effort struck the post, but the ball fell kindly back to her to net into an open goal - her third in three games.

Elizabeth Mulvaney, still in search of her first Town goal, headed a Lewis corner onto the roof of the net.

Makwoska was introduced at the break for her Hatters debut, replacing Nia Bowman. Makwoska started her debut lively, her floated delivery into the area from the right-hand side was headed onto the crossbar by Tasha Fensome.

Elizabeth Mulvaney was replaced by Dickens, who made her return to first team action for the first time in 595 days after making a full recovery from an ACL tear.

Andie was keen to get stuck in, winning the ball back in midfield with a strong challenge and then, this time on the right wing, she saw her shot saved by Price, who kept the Stags in the game with some exceptional saves throughout the afternoon.

In the fifth minute of additional time, Makowska marked her debut with a goal. Substitute Summer Gayle picked the ball up in a deep position and threaded it through to Makowska who slotted past Price to give the Ladies a 3-0 lead.

Town: Hudson, Tambula, Fensome (sub Gayle 83), Mulvaney (sub Dickens 68), Maddix (sub Wilson 88), Milliken, O'Leary, Bowman (sub Makowska 46), Leighton (sub Swarres 83), Lewis, Beaufort.

Subs not used: Melling, Sargeant.

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) L 0-4
OCTOBER
5 Milton Keynes (FAC) W 5-1
26 Mansfield Town (FAC) W 3-0
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 Mansfield game!

JUNIOR HATTERS



SPOT THE 5 DIFFERENCES IN THE PHOTOS

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

WORD SEARCH

CAN YOU FIND SOME OF THE HATTERS GOALSCORERS THIS SEASON?

CLARK, ANDERSON, KODUA, NORDAS, YATES, ALLI, BRAMALL

HATTERS! HATTERS! HATTERS!

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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

HOME GAMES NOW ON general sale

v Rotherham United

Saturday 15th November, 3pm
Category B

v Huddersfield Town

Tuesday 25th November, 7.45pm, 3pm
For full information see page 11.



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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**	W	1-0	10	10,597	1,072	Keeley	Makosso	**NAISMITH 1**	Mengi	Andersen	Fanne	Saville
TUE 30	BLACKPOOL	19:45	D	2-2	7	8,530	520	Keeley	Makosso	Bramall	Naismith	Andersen	Fanne	Saville
OCTOBER														
SAT 4	STEVENAGE	15:00	L	0-2	11	7,228	1,363	Keeley	Makosso	Naismith	Mengi	Andersen	Fanne	Saville
TUE 7	CAMBRIDGE UNITED (VT)	19:00	L	1-3	-	1,767	591	Shea	Lonwijk	Bramall	Mengi	**ANDERSEN 1**	Naismith	Nelson
SAT 18	**MANSFIELD TOWN**	**15:00**	L	0-2	14	11,784	1,308	Keeley	Makosso	Naismith	Mengi	Andersen	Fanne	Saville
SAT 25	NORTHAMPTON TOWN	15:00	W	1-0	10	8,029	1,551	Keeley	Lonwijk	Bramall	Mengi	Naismith	**FANNE 1**	Saville
TUE 28	**BRIGHTON & HA U21 (VT)**	**19:00**	W	3-1	-	2,212	69	Shea	Odoffin	Bramall	**EVANS 1**	Andersen	Nakamba	Walsh
FRI 31	**FOREST GREEN (FAC1)** TV	**19:30**												
NOVEMBER														
SAT 8	STOCKPORT COUNTY	15:00												
SAT 15	**ROTHERHAM UNITED**	**15:00**												
SAT 22	BARNSLEY	15:00												
TUE 25	**HUDDERSFIELD TOWN**	**19:45**												
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												

Lisa's latest *charity hike!*

Our Fan Engagement Officer Lisa McEvoy is at it again!

Having raised money for our previous charity of the year, Noah, Lisa will be in the air as this game kicks off tonight on her way to her next challenge.

This time its to help raise funds for our charity of the year this season, Stepping Stones.

Lisa tells us: "Many may remember back in November 2023 when in a random moment of madness, I decided to sign up for a trek in Madagascar to raise money for Noah, our then club charity of the year. I still can't quite believe I did it! It was an incredible experience.

"Fast forward to now and the itchy feet had well and truly kicked in, so I signed myself up to trek in Cambodia. This time to raise money for our current club charity, Stepping Stones. I have had the pleasure of working with the wonderful team there since we announced them last January and I couldn't be prouder to support them.

"Most have lived experience of the issues and struggles faced by those women who turn to the charity for support, yet they remain so grounded and so strong. It is an absolute pleasure to take on this trek to show support and also raise much-needed funds so they can continue their selfless work.

"The trek itself starts in Siem Reap and, over six days, we will trek 93km through rice paddies, farmland and jungle trails, ascending Kulen Mountain and finally ending at the famous 12th century temple complex of Angkor Wat."

To donate to Lisa's challenge scan the QR code. Good luck Lisa, we're all behind you!

				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
Morris	Nelson	Alli	Wells	Kodua	Gbodé	Nakamba	Bramall	Richards
Morris	Nelson	Alli	Wells	CLARK 1	Gbodé	KODUA 1	Richards	Nordås
Kodua	Richards	Bramall	Nordås	Gbodé	Alli	Clark	Morris	Wells
Clark	Morris	Alli	Nordås	Richards	Fanne	Yates	Kodua	Gbodé
Clark	Kodua	Alli	Wells	Yates	Nelson	Bramall	Nordås	
Clark	Kodua	Richards	Wells	Yates	Jones	Odoffin	Andersen	
Nelson	Kodua	Gbodé	YATES 2	Fox	Alli	Makosso	Nordå	Richards

the PROGRAMME

MADE IN LUTON

Print Bartham Press **Editor** Andrew Barringer **Design** Darren Gillick and Ed Smith **Photography** George Dunn, Dave Horn **Additional photos** Shutterstock and Duncan Jack **Statistics** Simon Pitts **Contributors** Roger Wash, Dec O'Reilly, Zac Neal, Bradley Dixon, Owen Williams, and Will Foster.

With thanks to the media department at Forest Green Rovers

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

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. Which three players scored our goals in our 4-1 win over Forest Green in 2014 – our last home fixture in the Conference?

2. We played our first game in history on this day in 1885 – against which club and what was the score?

3. Which goalkeeper has the most points in the Premier League Fantasy game?

4. Which club used to play their home games at Filbert Street?

5. In which season did the Football League change the names of the three divisions to Championship, League One and League Two?

6. Which club have the highest average attendance in League One?

7. Robbie Savage started his career at which club?

8. Against which club did Jack Wilshere play the most matches against in his playing career?

9. Which club won the National League South in 2019/20?

10. Which club were recently crowned champions of Sweden for the first time?

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

1. Andre Gray, Cameron McGeehan and Mark Cullen 2. Great Marlow, lost 3-0 3.Robin Roefs 4. Leicester 5. 2004/05 6. Bolton 7. Crewe 8. Manchester City 9. Wealdstone 10. Mjallby

TABLE 2025/26

Team	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Stockport County	14	8	4	2	8	28
Bradford City	14	7	6	1	7	27
Cardiff City	13	8	2	3	10	26
Stevenage	12	8	2	2	8	26
Lincoln City	14	7	4	3	7	25
Wimbledon	14	8	1	5	4	25
Bolton	14	6	5	3	4	23
Mansfield	14	6	4	4	6	22
Huddersfield	13	6	1	6	0	19
Luton	**13**	**6**	**1**	**6**	**0**	**19**
Barnsley	12	5	3	4	1	18
Doncaster Rovers	14	5	3	6	-6	18
Wigan Athletic	14	4	5	5	-1	17
Leyton Orient	14	5	2	7	-2	17
Rotherham	13	5	2	6	-3	17
Northampton	14	5	2	7	-3	17
Wycombe	14	4	4	6	2	16
Exeter City	14	5	1	8	0	16
Reading	14	3	6	5	-4	15
Burton Albion	13	4	3	6	-5	15
Port Vale	14	3	4	7	-4	13
Plymouth	14	4	1	9	-8	13
Blackpool	14	3	3	8	-9	12
Peterborough	13	3	1	9	-12	10

TOWN Totals

	W	D	L	F	A
HOME	1567	692	635	5778	3256
AWAY	749	717	1417	3317	4968
NEUTRAL	6	4	13	29	43
TOTAL	2322	1413	2065	9124	8267
At KR	1437	664	581	5239	3010

5,800 games played

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

SEASONS TO REMEMBER *1993/94*



After narrowly avoiding back-to-back relegations at the end of the 1992/93 season, Luton manager David Pleat was allowed a relatively uneventful summer with only Scott Houghton from Tottenham coming in.

On the outgoing side, forward Phil Gray and goalkeeper Alec Chamberlain both departed to Sunderland and their departures were soon felt as early-season form was poor and it was not long before the team was holding up the rest of the table.

Astute loan signings of Everton's Alan Harper and Paul Dickov from Arsenal, as well as returning old boy Mitchell Thomas, steadied the ship and when Southampton wrote off the £575,000 they had paid for Kerry Dixon to make the striker's loan permanent, form gradually began to turn.

The season would be marked, though, by an extraordinary run in the FA Cup which, if Southend had taken one of the many chances carved out in the third round tie at Kenilworth Road, would have been short-lived.

Paul Telfer blasted in the only goal of the game to set up a tie at Premier League Newcastle where Tony Thorpe, on his full debut, shot home from 25 yards to open the scoring. The home side gained a fortunate equaliser for a replay, where Luton's young guns Telfer, Scott Oakes and John Hartson sealed a famous victory.

Cardiff were seen off at Ninian Park in round five in a toxic atmosphere leading to a quarter-final clash at West Ham. An excellent rearguard display earned a replay where, on another famous night under the lights, Oakes bagged a hat-trick in an end-to-end thriller which finished 3-2.

Sadly, in the semi-final at Wembley, the Hatters put in a limp performance against Chelsea, who won 2-0 at a stroll, so all that was left was to pick up sufficient points to avoid relegation.

First Divison		Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1	Crystal Palace (C)	46	27	9	10	73	46	27	90
2	Nottingham Forest (P)	46	23	14	9	74	49	25	83
3	Millwall	46	19	17	10	58	49	9	74
4	Leicester City (P)	46	19	16	11	72	59	13	73
5	Tranmere Rovers	46	21	9	16	69	53	16	72
6	Derby County	46	20	11	15	73	68	5	71
7	Notts County	46	20	8	18	65	69	−4	68
8	Wolverhampton Wanderers	46	17	17	12	60	47	13	68
9	Middlesbrough	46	18	13	15	66	54	12	67
10	Stoke City	46	18	13	15	57	59	−2	67
11	Charlton Athletic	46	19	8	19	61	58	3	65
12	Sunderland	46	19	8	19	54	57	−3	65
13	Bristol City	46	16	16	14	47	50	−3	64
14	Bolton Wanderers	46	15	14	17	63	64	−1	59
15	Southend United	46	17	8	21	63	67	−4	59
16	Grimsby Town	46	13	20	13	52	47	5	59
17	Portsmouth	46	15	13	18	52	58	−6	58
18	Barnsley	46	16	7	23	55	67	−12	55
19	Watford	46	15	9	22	66	80	−14	54
20	**Luton Town**	**46**	**14**	**11**	**21**	**56**	**60**	**−4**	**53**
21	West Bromwich Albion	46	13	12	21	60	69	−9	51
22	Birmingham City (R)	46	13	12	21	52	69	−17	51
23	Oxford United (R)	46	13	10	23	54	75	−21	49
24	Peterborough United (R)	46	8	13	25	48	76	−28	37

Player focus

A product of the Town's extensive scouting network in South Wales, **Ceri Hughes** was, for once, virtually injury-free this season and stamped his authority in midfield with his aggressive play.



Season standout

By now the 21-year-old attacking midfielder **Scott Oakes** was a regular in the Town's side and came to national prominence mainly due to his goals during the club's FA Cup run.



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the TEAMS

LUTON TOWN

MANAGER **JACK WILSHERE**

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**

FOREST GREEN ROVERS

MANAGER **ROBBIE SAVAGE**

1 LUKE **McNICHOLAS**
2 SEAN **LONG**
3 NEIL **KENGNI**
4 CIAN **HARRIES**
5 RYAN **INNISS**
6 LAURENT **MENDY**
7 KYLE **McALLISTER**
8 NICK **HAUGHTON**
9 CHRISTIAN **DOIDGE**
10 LIAM **SERCOMBE**
11 TOM **KNOWLES**
12 FIACHRA **PAGEL**
14 JAYDEN **CLARK**
15 JORDAN **MOORE-TAYLOR**
16 HARVEY **BUNKER**
18 ISAAC **MOORE**
19 ADAM **MAY**
20 YAHYA **BAMBA**
21 TRE **PEMBERTON**
22 MAX **ROBSON**
23 HARRY **CARDWELL**
24 JILI **BUYABU**
25 HARRY **WHITWELL**
26 JAMES **BALAGIZI**
29 KAIRO **MITCHELL**
32 ABRAHAM **KANU**
33 KEON **SANNIOLA**
37 JOSE **MARQUEZ**
38 AKAI **BONNICK**
45 JESSE **ALDRIDGE**

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