



OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME • £2 • ISSUE 13 v EXETER CITY

Luton TOWN

REFLO

LUTON TOWN EST 18 FOOTBALL CLUB

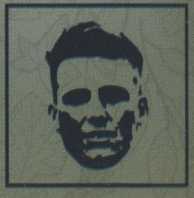
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TUESDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2025 7PM

Vertu TROPHY EFL

CAPITAL SKY LTD.

THE BOSS

Jack WILSHERE

Good evening and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for this Vertu Trophy tie against Exeter City.

We come into tonight's game off the back of a solid point against Bolton on Saturday, a point in which I think we more than deserved.

Although I thought we took a while to get going against an in-form side, we responded well to going behind. They created plenty of problems for us but we took our time in working out how to solve them.

However, in the second half I thought we were much the better team even before their red card. The message at half-time was about believing. We had created many good moments in the first half and couldn't quite apply the finishing touch, but I think we all saw the way in which we attacked after the break with an intensity and energy.

Even before their sending off we were building into the game and creating chances and we were delighted that Gideon popped up with another important goal. With Shayden and Milli also involved in the goal it was pleasing to see three substitutes contribute to the equaliser.

Bolton were one of the best teams we've faced since we have come into the building. They had threats all over the pitch, so for us – a team still evolving – we take a point. After the win over Huddersfield in midweek, to take four points from two tough games off the back of that 5-0 defeat is encouraging.

It has not been easy, and the games are coming thick and fast so credit to the players for going again so soon after Tuesday and fighting back against a very good team. The way in which the lads have responded since Barnsley has also been heartening and that is the kind of character we're going to need between now and the end of the season.

Tonight's game will enable us to get minutes into some of the players who have been unlucky not to be starting. With an important game and long trip on Saturday in the FA Cup at Fleetwood, we will still be picking a team this evening we think can win the tie and get us through to the next round.

I know this competition still holds special significance for this club and still remember the team lifting the trophy back in 2009 at Wembley. We want to go as far as we can in this competition while juggling our main aim of success in the league.

Our last match against Brighton Under-21s proved to be a memorable one with Fin Evans making history by becoming our club's youngest ever goalscorer. This is another reason why this competition can be so important and I am looking forward to seeing who will shine this evening.

Thank you for your terrific support on Saturday. Even when the team were behind you never gave up and that backing was truly rewarded.

Please continue to get behind us this evening.

Enjoy the game.





"WE WANT TO GO AS FAR AS WE CAN IN THIS COMPETITION **WHILE JUGGLING OUR MAIN AIM OF SUCCESS IN THE LEAGUE.**



WELCOME

EXETER CITY FC

EXETER CITY

The Boss

GARY CALDWELL
Former Celtic and Wigan defender who moved into management with Wigan, Chesterfield and Partick Thistle. Appointed Exeter manager in 2022, guiding the club through League One campaigns.

Goalkeeper

JACK BYCROFT
Southampton academy goalkeeper with loans at Weymouth, Dorchester, Taunton, Aldershot and Oxford. Joined Swindon in 2024 before signing permanently for City in 2025.

Defenders

JACK FITZWATER West Brom academy product with loans at Chesterfield, Forest Green and Walsall. Made over 80 top-flight appearances for Livingston before joining the Grecians in 2023.

JACK MCMILLAN Scottish defender or wing-back with senior experience at Motherwell, Livingston and Partick Thistle. Signed for City in 2024.

PIERCE SWEENEY Irish defender signed from Reading in 2016 through the 1931 Fund. Long-serving club captain and consistent presence across multiple League Two and League One campaigns.

ED TURNS Brighton academy centre-back who gained senior experience on loan at Leyton Orient and Crewe. Arrived at James Park in 2025.

LUCA WOODHOUSE
Started in non-league with Tonbridge Angels before joining Wycombe in 2022. After several National League loans, he moved to Exeter permanently in summer 2025.

JOHNLY YFEKO Came through Tottenham and Leicester youth systems before joining Rangers. Arrived at St James Park on loan in 2024 and signed permanently in 2025 following an impressive spell.

Midfielders

DANNY ANDREW
Experienced left-sided midfielder with long EFL service at clubs including Fleetwood, Doncaster, Grimsby and Cheltenham. Added depth and reliability after signing for the Grecians this summer.

ETHAN BRIERLEY
Rochdale academy graduate who moved to Brentford in 2023. Joined Exeter in 2025 on loan, bringing EFL experience and strong development-team pedigree.

ED FRANCIS Former Manchester City youth midfielder with spells at Wolves, Harrogate and Gateshead. Joined the Grecians permanently in 2024 to provide depth and composure in central areas.

ILMARI NISKANEN Finnish international who played for KuPS before spells in Germany and Scotland with Dundee United. Joined Exeter in 2023 to bring experience in wide and wing-back roles.

Forwards

JACK AITCHISON
Former Celtic youngster with experience at Barnsley, Forest Green and Motherwell. The Scotland youth international joined the Grecians in 2023.

REECE COLE Came through Brentford's system with spells at Partick Thistle, Dunfermline and Exeter. Contributes as an attack-minded midfielder operating in advanced roles.

JOSH MAGENNIS
Northern Ireland international with extensive EFL and SPL experience at Aberdeen, Charlton, Hull, Wigan amongst others. Joined City in 2024, scoring 12 goals in all competitions.

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WHEN THE HATTERS EDGED PAST EXETER

Club historian **Roger Wash** remembers the time the Wembley finalists scraped through against the Grecians



Having received the FA Cup final in 1959 for the first time in the club's history it was a major disappointment to lose 2-1 to Nottingham Forest under the twin-towers.

The FA Cup meant more then than it does now and Luton supporters, shrugging off poor League form in 1959/60, mobilised in force to travel to Exeter to see if the team could go one stage further in that season's competition.

Exeter of Division Four (now League Two) had beaten Barnstaple and Brentford at home in the earlier rounds and a capacity crowd of 20,193, including 1,000 from Luton, gathered to see what was billed as a 'David v Goliath' contest.

Exeter left winger Gordon Dale was injured in a clash with Billy Bingham in the sixth minute which, in the days before substitutes, left him a limping passenger for the remainder of the game. Despite this, the Grecians were all over the Town in the first half and, with right-winger Nelson Stiffle running rings around full-back Alan Daniel, only poor finishing and sound goalkeeping from Ron Baynham prevented a goal avalanche.

As it was, Exeter still took a deserved lead on 36 minutes when the under pressure Daniel deflected a Stiffle centre into his own net.

> "A CAPACITY CROWD OF 20,193, INCLUDING 1,000 FROM LUTON, GATHERED TO SEE WHAT WAS BILLED AS A 'DAVID V GOLIATH' CONTEST.

The second period was hardly better with 10 ten men making a mockery of their top flight opponents until, on 67 minutes, the Town gained an undeserved equaliser.

Ace marksman Gordon Turner only needed the sniff of a chance and this came when Bob Morton fired in a shot which was pushed out by Grecians goalkeeper John Lobbett to Turner who slotted home.

Ten minutes from the end Turner was in the right place again when Lobbett could not hold on to a fierce Tony Gregory shot which was gratefully accepted.

The Town held out until the end but realised they had truly got out of jail. The 'Sunday Dispatch' writer summed it all up when saying, "Luton, whose last cup-tie was before 100,000 in the final at Wembley, could and should have been beaten – by 10 men."

The Town won at Huddersfield in the next round before being thrashed at home by eventual cup-winners Wolves.

Town: Baynham, Dunne, Daniel, Groves, Kelly, Pacey, Bingham, Turner, Brown, Morton, Gregory.

Exeter: Lobbett, Foley, McDonald, Mitchell, Oliver, Thompson, Stiffle, Rees, Wilkinson, Micklewright, Dale.



Winger Bingam, closely marked by a tough Exeter defence, is beaten to the ball by Lobbett as he tries to crash his way through

> "ACE MARKSMAN GORDON TURNER ONLY NEEDED THE SNIFF OF A CHANCE AND THIS CAME WHEN BOB MORTON FIRED IN A SHOT WHICH WAS PUSHED OUT BY GRECIANS GOALKEEPER JOHN LOBBETT TO TURNER WHO SLOTTED HOME.





No-Chance Lobbett

A centre from Gregory swings across the goalmouth, with Allan Brown sprinting in, fast, for a shot; but John Lobbett—taking no chances—throws himself on the ball and smothers it. RIGHT: A corner from Bingham goes begging as the Exeter goalkeeper dives, misses, and watches the ball skidding to safety. No-one was there.

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	JOSHUA **PHILLIPS**
42	CHRISTIAN **CHIGOZIE**

EXETER CITY

MANAGER **GARY CALDWELL**

1	JOE **WHITWORTH**
2	JACK **McMILLAN**
3	RYAN **RYDEL**
4	ED **TURNS**
5	JACK **FITZWATER**
6	ETHAN **BRIERLEY**
7	CARLOS **MENDES GOMES**
8	ED **FRANCS**
9	JAYDEN **WAREHAM**
10	JACK **AITCHISON**
11	ANDREW **OLUWABORI**
12	REECE **COLE**
14	ILMARI **NISKANEN**
15	JOHNLY **YFEKO**
16	SIL **SWINKELS**
17	AKEEL **HIGGINS**
19	SONNY **COX**
20	LUCA **WOODHOUSE**
21	DANIEL **ANDREW**
26	PIERCE **SWEENEY**
27	JOSH **MAGENNIS**
23	JACK **BYCROFT**
29	KEVIN **MCDONALD**
31	JAKE **DOYLE-HAYES**
33	TOM **DEAN**
34	LIAM **OAKES**
37	KIERAN **WILSON**
40	ED **JAMES**
41	PEDRO **BORGES**
42	GEORGE **BIRCH**
45	CHARLIE **CUMMINS**

The Officials

REFEREE **KIRSTY DOWLE**
ASSISTANT REFEREE **JONATHON BLOCK**
ASSISTANT REFEREE **JONATHON WILKS**
FOURTH OFFICIAL **MARCUS CARMICHAEL**