OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME • £4 • ISSUE 15 v LEYTON ORIENT

# Luton TOWN













MONDAY 29TH DECEMBER 2025 7.45PM

sky bet LEAGUE ONE EFL

CAPITAL SKY LTD.

S1 Luton v Leyton O.indd 1 17/12/2025 10:50












# COVER CHARACTERS








**Ben Alnwick** Goalkeeper Ben joined the Hatters on-loan from Tottenham as a youngster in 2007, making his debut in a 2-0 defeat at Huddersfield. Played a further three times in Town colours before being recalled and was later loaned to Orient in 2011 before returning again for a brief spell in 2014. Ended his career with Bolton.

**Adam Boyd** Hartlepool-born striker Adam scored 60 times in 173 appearances for Pools before a £500,000 fee brought him to Kenilworth Road in 2006. His career with the Hatters never took off and after one league goal he moved to Leyton Orient a year later. Scored 29 times in 88 games for the O's before rejoining Hartlepool in 2009.

**Harry Cornick** Forward Harry started his career with Bournemouth and spent a short spell on loan with Orient in 2016/17, scoring once in 13 games. His career then took an upward trajectory after joining the Hatters in 2017, spending six seasons at Kenilworth Road, winning promotion twice and scoring 38 times before a move to Bristol City.

**Luke Guttridge** Luke's early career took in spells at Cambridge and Southend before a brief spell at Orient. Moves to Colchester, Northampton and Aldershot followed before he joined the Town in 2013, helping us to promotion from the Conference in 2013/14. Scored 19 times in 74 games before ending his career at Dagenham.

**Adam Newton** West Ham academy graduate Adam spent a short loan spell at Leyton Orient in 2002, scoring once in 10 games before moving to Peterborough. The right-winger helped Brentford to promotion in 2009 before signing for the Hatters in 2009, where he played 66 times across two seasons prior to joining Woking.

**Scott Oakes** Midfielder Scott joined the Town in 1991 and went on to score 34 times in 200 appearances and he will be best remembered for his exploits in the FA Cup run of 1993/94. Scored against Newcastle and a hat-trick in the quarter-final against West Ham. After moving to Sheffield Wednesday he spent a short spell with Orient in 2001.



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## the PROGRAMME

**MADE IN LUTON**
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**Editor** Andrew Barringer
**Design** Darren Gillick
**Photography** George Dunn
**Additional photos** Dave Horn, Duncan Jack, Shutterstock
**Statistics** Simon Pitts
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With thanks to the media department at Leyton Orient
The views in this programme are not necessarily those of Luton Town Football Club


# Welcome

**Good evening and welcome back to Kenilworth Road once more as we entertain Leyton Orient for another big League One fixture.**

For those who were not at our game against Wycombe, we'd like to extend our festive wishes to all our supporters as we end 2025 on home turf tonight.

It goes without saying we have experienced a tough 2025 but we're looking forward to a strong and successful 2026 which starts at Exeter on Thursday.

However, we want to end the year on a high tonight against an Orient side we faced only a few weeks ago where they proved difficult opponents.

So with the curtain coming down on the year, it leaves us all to wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year with happiness here at Kenilworth Road top of that list!

Up the Town!



S1 Luton v Leyton O.indd 3 19/12/2025 14:15



*"WHEN WE'RE ALL IN HARMONY, WE ARE A FORCE AND THAT CAN* **MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR ANY OPPOSITION.**



S1 Luton v Leyton O.indd 4 19/12/2025 14:15

THE BOSS

# Jack WILSHERE

**After the Boxing Day fixture with Wycombe, it's great to be back on home soil once more this evening.**

A warm welcome to Richie Wellens and his Leyton Orient side. They are a team we know well having met already this month at Brisbane Road.

Due to the print deadlines, I can't comment on what happened on Boxing Day, but I can reflect on our defeat at Reading in our last match before Christmas.

It was a frustrating night, especially when you play like we did, dominate the game but end up on the losing side. I thought the players executed our game plan almost perfectly only to concede cheap goals. We have to start understanding those moments really matter.

To be two goals down and get back on level terms showed that character again. But, and I've been there as a player, when you come back into a game and there is a natural sigh of relief. However, we have to manage it and recognise at that moment that we're the only team that's going to win the game. So, to miss a header, a ball is played behind us and to concede again was hugely frustrating. It's clear we need to stop conceding these kinds of goals.

Of course it's disappointing. We have to be a team where this doesn't happen. We've got defenders that can defend high up the pitch, that can step in and help us sustain attacks.

Their third goal was from the second or third phase from a set-piece and we get punished for it. It really hurt, but honestly, I thought the players executed a lot of the things we talked about before the game.

In the first half Reading didn't know how to press us. We spoke at half-time about having more threat and I felt like we did at the start of the second period and indeed the whole of the second half. But we conceded twice and the context of the game changed. There were a lot of good things, but ultimately we were disappointed to leave with nothing to show for it.

We have to keep going, there are signs of encouragement there. This evening, in front of our home support, we have an opportunity to improve and find that consistency we're all craving.

Your backing of the team has been nothing short of incredible and a massive thank you to the 1,000 of you that backed us at Reading. Please get behind us once more tonight. It means the world to me and the team. When we're all in harmony, we are a force and that can make it difficult for any opposition.

As the year comes to a close and a New Year begins, I'd like to wish you and your families a Happy New Year.

It's been an up and down end to the year, but there is still a lot to be positive about, so let's end it on a high.

Enjoy the game.





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BOARDROOM

# Jenn SMITH



**A warm welcome to Kenilworth Road and to our final fixture of 2025. I hope you have all had an enjoyable festive period.**

I would like to extend the welcome to Leyton Orient, their players, staff and supporters. It feels like only yesterday that we made the trip to East London, where the points were shared less than three weeks ago.

As the year draws to a close, it is a natural time to reflect. It feels appropriate to therefore pause and acknowledge the months behind us and, importantly, those people who have contributed so much to the club during this period. It has been a year of both challenge and profound achievement – not just on the pitch, but across every department of our organisation.

From an organisational perspective, 2025 stands as one of our most significant years. The Club recorded record turnover and financial performance, providing long-term sustainability and security for Luton Town. This achievement reflects the tireless work of staff across commercial, operations, media, retail and many other areas of the Club.

As HR Director, I am immensely proud of our people. Across Kenilworth Road, HQ, The Brache and our community programmes, staff demonstrated extraordinary commitment during a period of intense scrutiny, rapid growth and change. 2025 also saw us invest heavily in staff development and wellbeing, while continuing to raise our professional standards, ensuring that Luton Town remains a place where people feel valued, supported and empowered.

With more than 130,000 views of the Club's jobs page during the year, we have increasingly established ourselves as a major employer within the town, offering opportunities across football, operations, retail, hospitality and community delivery. Continued investment in staff development reflects our long-term commitment to professionalism, inclusion and sustainable growth.

As we move towards Power Court, and the growth and change required to deliver a stadium of its capacity and operation, becoming a known and attractive employer is crucial.

Throughout 2025, we continued to drive forward the Club's community engagement, academy development and fan-centric initiatives, reflecting a long-term vision rooted in stability, sustainability and strong connections with our supporters.

Early 2026 will see the launch of our new Fan Engagement Strategy, alongside the introduction of a Fan Advisory Board. Made up of supporters, this group will help strengthen communication and collaboration between the club and its fanbase. This work is designed to ensure supporter voices are heard more clearly, more consistently and more meaningfully as the Club continues to evolve. More details will follow in the coming months.

While on-field results during 2025 brought undeniable challenges, the Club's financial solidity, community credibility and commitment to innovation demonstrate that our foundations remain strong and ready to face 2026 head on.

At the start of 2025, we strengthened our relationship with the Luton Town Community Trust, bringing greater organisational alignment, visibility and collaboration by





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> *"THE LUTON TOWN COMMUNITY TRUST HAS REMAINED CENTRAL TO THE CLUB'S OFF-FIELD IMPACT, DELIVERING A WIDE RANGE OF PROGRAMMES* **FOCUSED ON HEALTH, WELLBEING, EDUCATION, INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATION.**

welcoming the Trust into our Club offices. This step has further enhanced the vital work they deliver and strengthened cooperation across the wider Luton Town family.

The Luton Town Community Trust has remained central to the Club's off-field impact, delivering a wide range of programmes focused on health, wellbeing, education, inclusion and participation. These include grassroots and disability football, school engagement projects and initiatives aimed at reducing health inequalities and improving life chances for young people. In December, the Trust engaged with more than 200 girls from local schools through targeted football and participation programmes, helping to build confidence, aspiration and a positive connection to the game. Collectively, these programmes have supported thousands of people across Luton and the surrounding area over the past year.

Our academy has also continued to be a major source of pride, developing young players both as footballers and as people. Strong performances across age groups, alongside a clear pathway to the first team, have reinforced its reputation for nurturing local and regional talent, education and character development.

A key element of our Club's identity is our community engagement, and 2025 has seen >>




*Jack Wilshere has already been involved in many of our community projects – including this one during the EFL Week of Action at Chiltern Academy in November*



S1 Luton v Leyton O.indd 7 19/12/2025 14:15




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this remain central to our strategy. Stepping Stones was proudly supported as our Charity of the Year, helping women and families facing some of life's toughest challenges.

December also saw the launch of the Luton Town Centre Strategic Plan, positioning the club as a key partner in the wider regeneration and transformation of the town. With football at its heart, the plan highlights our ambition to be a driver of economic growth, opportunity and civic pride, helping to shape a positive future for generations to come. For supporters, this represents a long-term commitment to the town we call home, ensuring Luton Town remains a source of pride both on and off the pitch.

As we close out the year, I would like to thank you for your continued support throughout 2025. Your loyalty and passion remain at the heart of everything we do. On behalf of everyone at Luton Town, I wish you and your loved ones a happy, healthy and prosperous 2026.

Let's finish the year together by getting right behind the team tonight and, hopefully, celebrating three points at Kenilworth Road.

Come on you Hatters!

Jenn

***"YOUR LOYALTY AND PASSION REMAIN AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING WE DO. ON BEHALF OF EVERYONE AT LUTON TOWN,* I WISH YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES A HAPPY, HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS 2026.**




*Our charity of the year, Stepping Stones, are just one organisation to benefit from the close links with us this year*

## 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, Bob Curson, Kailesh Karavadra, Rob Stringer CBE, Glyn Taylor
Shareholders: 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 Physiotherapy: Chris Philips
Head of Physical Performance: Michael Amoah
Club Ambassador & Senior Scout: Mick Harford
Head of Recruitment Analysis: Jay Socik
Player Recruitment Manager: Yousuf Sajjad
Chief Scout: Marc Tracy

### CLUB OPERATIONS

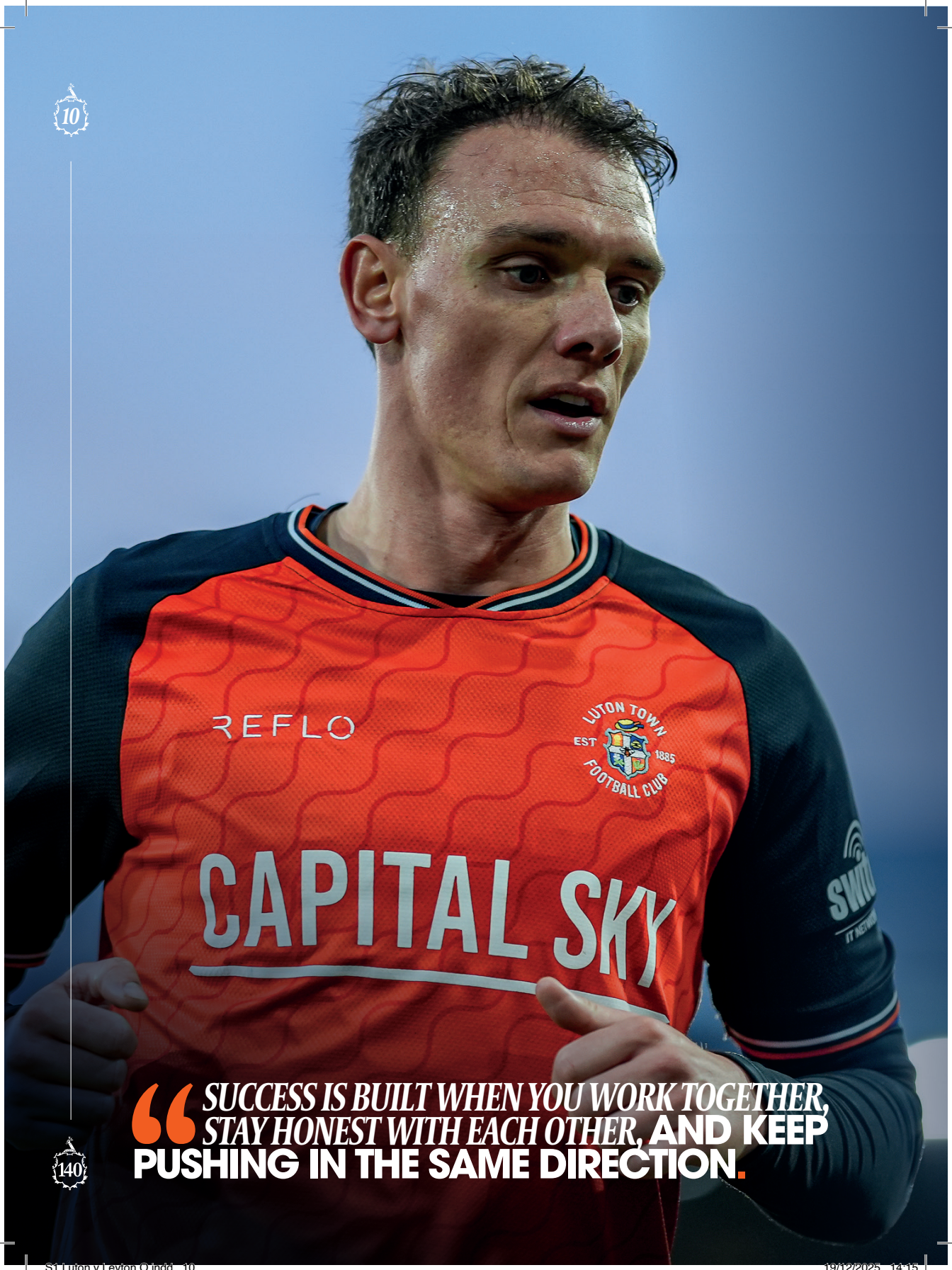
Chief Revenue Officer: Ben Kensell
Chief Finance Officer: Tom Schofield
Operations Director: James Mooney
Human Resources Director: Jenn Smith
Football Operations Manager: Kelly Francis
Safety Officer: Barney McGhee
Head of Press & Communications: Stuart Hammonds
Ticket Office Manager: Mike Hooker

### VICE PRESIDENTS

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



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*"SUCCESS IS BUILT WHEN YOU WORK TOGETHER, STAY HONEST WITH EACH OTHER,* **AND KEEP PUSHING IN THE SAME DIRECTION.**



S1 Luton v Leyton O.indd 10 19/12/2025 14:15

THE CAPTAIN

# Kal NAISMITH

**Welcome back to Kenilworth Road once more for our final game of 2025 as we welcome Leyton Orient.**

There's no hiding that this year has been a challenge at times. We've had to learn and respond to difficult moments, but what's given me real belief throughout is the way everyone at this club has stuck together. Success is built when you work together, stay honest with each other, and keep pushing in the same direction.

This festive period of the season is always intense. Games come thick and fast, momentum can shift quickly, and what you do now can set the tone for what's to come. Being back here once again gives us a real opportunity to bring positivity and energy into our performance and look for a positive result to finish the year.

We know Leyton Orient will be tough opponents. We met them earlier in the month and left it late to earn a point at their place. It wasn't our best performance, but we showed character to stay in the game and come away with something. That resilience is important, but we also know we need to raise our levels tonight.

I'm writing these notes before the Wycombe game but directly after the match at Reading. Going 2-0 down away from home and then showing the fight to come back into it said a lot about our togetherness. Clicker and Nigel's goals gave us real momentum and belief, and at that point it felt like we could go on and get something. But to leave empty-handed was hard to take but the response showed the spirit in this group.

Those moments sum up our season so far. We know the standards we expect, and we're honest with ourselves when we fall short. At the same time, the attitude and commitment in the squad give me confidence that we're moving in the right direction despite our difficulties.

Being back at Kenilworth Road once more is important. Your positivity and your noise really can make the real difference. When this place is rocking it's an intimidating place for the opposition.

This is our final game of 2025, and we want to finish the year the right way – with a strong performance to take forward into the New Year.

Thank you for your support and please get behind us once more this evening.

Enjoy the game and your New Year celebrations.





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LUTON TOWN V LEYTON ORIENT

# FOOTBALL FOR A FIVER IS BACK!



**Football for a Fiver will return for the Hatters' Vertu Trophy Round of 16 tie against Swindon Town at Kenilworth Road on Tuesday 13th January.**

As has been the case for the three home games in the competition so far, admission for the fixture with the League Two promotion chasers is being priced to encourage as many families as possible to attend, with kids in for a quid for the earlier-than-usual kick-off time of 7pm.

Admission is £5 for adults and £1 for supporters aged 16 and under.

# HATTERS VISIT KEECH HOSPICE

**Before Christmas members of the Hatters squad made a visit to Keech Hospice in Luton. As the photographs show, the players helped spread some festive cheer by meeting patients and handing out gifts.**



# REST IN PEACE, KEITH



**Lifelong Hatters fan Keith Gardner sadly passed away on Saturday 13th December.**

Keith was born in 1952 and lived in Luton all his life.

Keith regularly watched the Town and he fondly remembered the Littlewoods Cup triumph in 1988. He worked at Vauxhall Motors for many years but still managed to get to a match after a shift at work.

A dad to Karen and Robert and an uncle to Chris, in his younger years he played football for Sacred Heart and was a pretty decent centre-half.

Rest in Peace, Keith. Once a Hatter, always a Hatter x



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*Gideon Kodua shows close control as the Town attack*

*The Hatters went down to a defeat at Reading despite coming back from 2-0 down at one stage at the Madejski Stadium. Trailing to goals from Lewis Wing, from the penalty spot, and former Town striker Jack Marriott, Jack Wilshere's side rallied and were on level terms with 15 minutes still to play. Firstly, Jordan Clark, on his first start since the win at Northampton in October, poked home to reduce the deficit shortly before the hour following Shayden Morris' cross. And the comeback was complete when Nigel Lonwijk struck his first goal in Town colours with a thunderous hit from 25 yards. However, Reading had other ideas and substitute Kelvin Ehibhatiomhan restored the Royals' lead with 12 minutes to play when finishing smartly past Josh Keeley to end the Hatters four-match unbeaten run in League One.*




*Reading try and defend a Town corner*




*Liam Walsh whips in a second-half corner*




*Jordan Clark has just made it 2-1*




*Shayden Morris goes close*

READING FOOTBALL CLUB EST. 1871

**3-2**

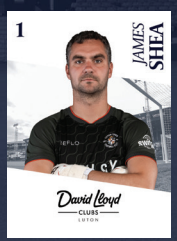
LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB EST. 1885




*Celebrations after Nigel Lonwijk's corner*

# LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB
# PLAYER SPONSORS
## 2025/2026

## GOALKEEPERS

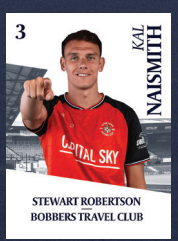


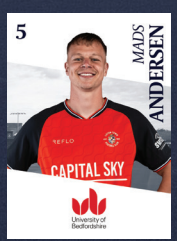




## DEFENDERS






















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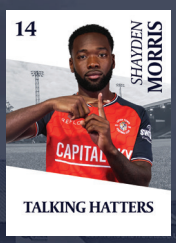
## MIDFIELDERS









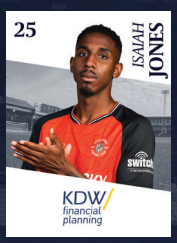






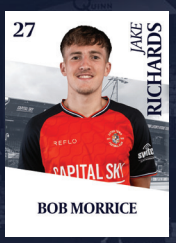














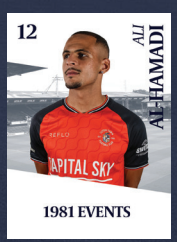


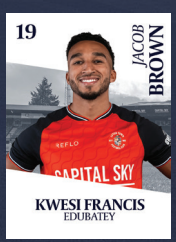
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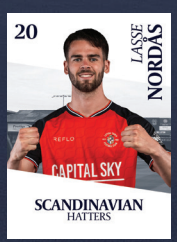






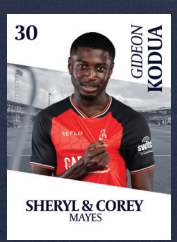


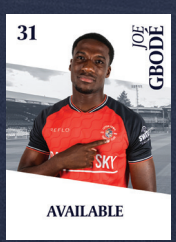









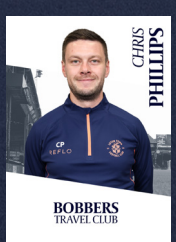

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S1 Luton v Leyton O.indd 22 19/12/2025 14:15

# SPONSORSHIP & HOSPITALITY

**Welcome to Kenilworth Road for the final time this year as we entertain Leyton Orient and festive wishes go out to all our sponsors and partners as we usher in 2026.**

Shortly before Christmas we had the opportunity to personally thank those who have supported us at our partners' Christmas celebration which was held in the Eric Morecambe.

It was a fantastic evening and one in which manager Jack Wilshere and his assistant Chris Powell fielded questions from supporters keen on knowing more about their plans for the rest of the season and beyond.

We now turn our attention to 2026 with sponsorship and hospitality opportunities available for our first few home fixtures of the New Year, starting against Stevenage on 10th January.

A popular package so far has been hospitality in the Eric Morecambe Lounge where, pre- and post-match, members of the first team squad are interviewed on stage.

If you are interested in matchday hospitality or any other sponsorship opportunity between now and the end of the season, please get in touch with us by calling 01582 411622 or emailing commercial@lutontown.co.uk.

Finally a warm welcome to our matchball sponsors Blitz Cleaning and Maintenance Ltd. We hope you have a great evening with us.














## VIEW OUR CORPORATE BROCHURE FOR 25/26!

Scan this QR code and flick through our brand new brochure and check out the sponsorship and hospitality packages available this season!



S1 Luton v Leyton O.indd 23 19/12/2025 14:16

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SCAN

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# LEYTON ORIENT

**The Hatters welcome East London side Leyton Orient to Kenilworth Road in another big fixture here in Bedfordshire.**

Manager Richie Wellens and his side have had an inconsistent season so far after such a successful campaign last season where Orient reached the play-off final. The O's were beaten 1-0 by Charlton at Wembley and since the defeat under the arch there were a number of changes at the club over the summer.

However, Orient have adapted well to losing some key players, including top scorer Charlie Kelman, and have had a decent season so far and despite a tough start, Orient started to get going in October.

A comprehensive 4-0 dismantling of Doncaster started a decent run for Wellens's side. Wins against Lincoln, Exeter and Burton were to follow.

Orient now find themselves around the middle of the league, dipping in and out of form. The Hatters have already faced Leyton Orient this season when a last-minute Gideon Kodua equaliser managed to salvage a point on the road for the Hatters.

Visiting fans in the Oak Road end of a certain vintage will remember their side's struggles at Kenilworth Road in the past. In fact, between 1969 and 2002, the O's failed to win on any of their 16 visits. That run ended in 2008 with a 1-0 win in League One.

A warm welcome to Kenilworth Road to all those associated with Leyton Orient.

## LEYTON ORIENT AT-A-GLANCE

***FOUNDED:*** 1881

***MANAGER:*** Richie Wellens

***STADIUM:*** Brisbane Road

***MAJOR HONOURS:*** Third Division Champions 1955/56, 1969/70. League Two Champions 2022/23. National League Champions 2018/19.

***RIVALS:*** Southend

***LAST TIME AT THE KENNY:*** Town 2-2 Orient 14/4/2017



S1 Luton v Leyton O.indd 25 19/12/2025 14:16



# LEYTON ORIENT

## THE AWAY END

## The Boss

**RICHIE WELLENS**
Appointed Orient manager back in March 2022 and hasn't looked back since. Helped guide Orient to League One and just 90 minutes away from the Championship.

## Goalkeeper

**KILLIAN CAHILL** Irish goalkeeper who came through the ranks at Shamrock Rovers before moving to Brighton. Left the Seagulls on a free and made the move to East London this summer.

## Defenders

**DANIEL HAPPE**
Experienced defender who has only ever played for Leyton Orient, amassing over 250 appearances since 2017.

**OMAR BECKLES**
34-year-old defender with experience with the Grenada national team. Began his career in non-league and is now fast approaching 200 games for Orient.

**JACK SIMPSON** Played in the top three levels of English football with AFC Bournemouth, Cardiff and now Leyton Orient. Scored in the 1-1 draw with Bolton Wanderers in September.

**OMOTAYO ADARAMOLA**
Crystal Palace loanee now on his fifth loan away from the Eagles after spells with Coventry City, RWDM Brussels, Stockport and Bradford.

**TOM JAMES** Signed for the O's in 2021 after departing Hibernian. Has now played over one-hundred and seventy games for the club.

## Midfielders

**TYREEQ BAKINSON**
Came through the academy here at Kenilworth Road before leaving the club in 2017 for Bristol City. Has since gained a wealth of experience in the second and third tier.

**JACK MOORHOUSE**
Young midfielder on loan from Manchester United for the season. Played 20 times for the Red Devils U21 side last campaign.

**OLIVER O'NEILL** 22-year old Irish left-sided midfielder who came through the ranks at Fulham before breaking into senior football with Derry City.

**CHARLIE WELLENS** Son of manager Richie and left Reading last season to sign for Orient. Has had a decent year so far and scored in the 4-0 win over Burton.

**SEAN CLARE** Experienced midfielder who has played for the likes of Bury, Accrington, Gillingham, Sheffield Wednesday, Oxford United, Burton, Charlton and Wigan.

## Forwards

**DOMINIC BALLARD**
Young striker who has had an excellent start to the season and is one of the league's top scorers. Scored in a recent 3-2 defeat against Barnsley.

**SONNY PERKINS** 21-year-old attacker who featured 42 times for Orient in all competitions last season, scoring six times and assisting six more.

**ALFIE LLOYD** On loan at the club from fellow London side QPR. Played 27 times for the Hoops in the Championship last season.

**THEO ARCHIBALD**
Scottish winger who has spent most of this campaign so far out with injury. Scored the goal for Orient in the 1-1 draw with the Hatters earlier this month.



S1 Luton v Leyton O.indd 26 19/12/2025 14:16

# HATTERS *versus* THE O'S

*Historic meetings between the clubs down the years*

**MARCH 1974**
## *HUSBAND'S HAT-TRICK* ▼

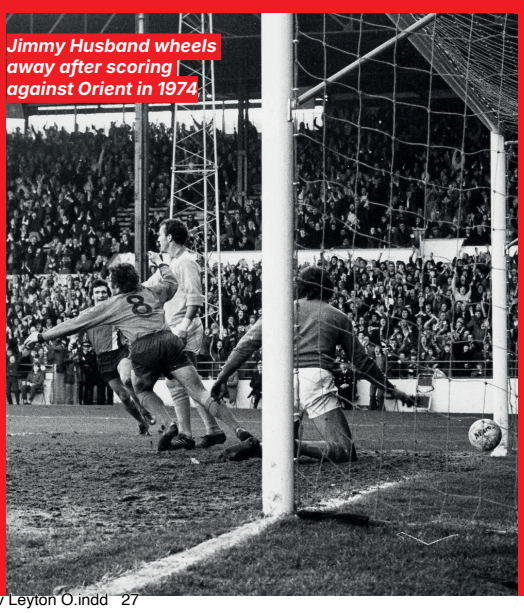
Since signing for the Hatters, it's reported that striker Jimmy Husband has been struggling to get down to his optimum weight, but he makes 'light' of the Orient defence by cracking a brilliant hat-trick in this promotion 'four-pointer'. Alan West and Barry Butlin are instrumental in providing the support to bring down the O's.

**JANUARY 1981**
## *MOSSY AT THE DOUBLE*

The Town move into the fourth round of the FA Cup for the first time in three years with a three-goal burst in nine minutes at the start of the second half. Davis Moss converts a penalty after Nigel Gray fouls Ricky Hill before Godfrey Ingram curls in a second. Moss then chips keeper Mervyn Day from outside the area to add a third.

**MARCH 1982**
## *THE ONLY WAY IS UP*

Dogged Orient, who are trying to avoid the drop, fight hard for a point but are undone when Mervyn Day brings down Brian Stein in the area and the disputed penalty kick is slotted home by David Moss. Ricky Hill completes the scoring when talking a return pass from Steve White.



*Jimmy Husband wheels away after scoring against Orient in 1974*



*Danny Hylton celebrates at Brisbane Road in 2016*

**SEPTEMBER 2001**
## *VALOIS AT IT AGAIN*

A powerful performance from the Town shatters Orient's home record. It starts with a header from Matthew Taylor and ends with a header from Steve Howard. In between, and days after his debut wonder goal against Torquay, Jean-Louis Valois curls in another special goal to further endear him to the Hatters faithful.

**OCTOBER 2016**
## *THE MASKED MAGICIAN* ▲

Danny Hylton and Cameron McGeehan continued their fine form in front of goal as both netted one each to extend Nathan Jones' side's unbeaten run to six with a victory over the O's. McGeehan grabbed the opener as he poked home from close range after half an hour, before Hylton curled home with 15 minutes left to play and the Town held on despite a late goal from future Hatter Ollie Palmer.



S1 Luton v Leyton O.indd 27 19/12/2025 14:16




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# “HE’S MAGIC, *you know!*”

*Hatters striker **Elijah Adebayo** is on his way back. The long and winding road to fitness continues and now he’s back on the grass at The Brache, as Liam Wilmot finds out.*



S1 Luton v Leyton O.indd 29 19/12/2025 14:16

**It's been a long time coming for our star number eleven, but finally Elijah Adebayo has been able to sit down with us and provide an update on his road to recovery following the ACL injury that he picked up in the 1-1 draw against Leeds at Kenilworth Road last April.**

"I've done everything I possibly could have to get to the point where I am now, I'm kicking on slowly and getting to where I'm supposed to be, it obviously comes with a little bit of caution but yeah, it's been great," the 27-year-old told LTFC+.

"I'm starting to ramp things up a little bit, getting to the exciting part of the rehab, all of it has been a lesson for me in a lot of ways, I have learned a lot about myself in this journey.

"I'm getting to be outside with the boys, though I'm not necessarily in training yet but I'm getting to be in and around it, going out at similar sort of times as them, it's probably not the best time to be outside, since it's really cold!"

Elijah, who has 43 league goals for the Hatters, was keen to address the nature of his injury against Leeds and offer his perspective in the immediate aftermath of the injury that has kept him side-lined for the past eight months.



S1 Luton v Leyton O.indd 30 19/12/2025 14:16



## *"I'M STARTING TO RAMP THINGS UP A LITTLE BIT,* GETTING TO THE EXCITING PART OF THE REHAB.





"It almost felt like it wasn't happening to me. When it happened, I said to Chris Phillips 'can you give me five minutes?'

"I guess the adrenaline, or maybe even just getting over the initial pain, I thought I could just run it off, but looking back that probably wouldn't have been a wise decision.

"The ball was bouncing and I've gone to do what I usually do which is to flick the ball over the oncoming players leg or head and I've just misjudged the flick, gone to correct it, but as I've tried to do that my leg has just given way – I still managed to get a free-kick. I don't know how though."

Innocuous was the word at the time – and that was the most worrying for Adebayo with the injury sustained with no contact with any other player.

"If it had been a contact injury it might not have been too bad, I think the fact that no one had touched me was what made it a little bit worrying," he says. >>



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"I got off the pitch and sat down, but as the game went on, I could just see my knee getting bigger and bigger. I still hoped it wouldn't be too bad because, at the time, I didn't feel like I needed to be stretchered off."

The 6ft 4in striker, who signed for the Town back in February 2021, says that his time away from the starting line-up might be over sooner than some of us may have initially thought.

Though he still stressed that even with good news, it would be important to be patient, elaborating on the fact he'd received good news from the surgeon and the medical team at Kenilworth Road.

"There's still a long way to go," he says. "I feel like I have had good news throughout the process, whether it be from Chris or the surgeon, that I am taking the right steps.

"I remember him saying to me: 'Look, whatever you're doing, keep doing it' because he's been really pleased with how I have applied myself.

"I've tried to come in every day, I've tried to smile, I want to be better, and I know I will be, but it is being outside, touching the ball again and starting to do more intensive stuff which is making me smile again."

When we asked Elijah if it would even be possible to try and put a timeframe on his return, the former Walsall man couldn't give an exact date – but did offer a glimmer of hope that the Hatters fans wouldn't have to wait too much longer to see their magic man back on the Kenilworth Road pitch.

"I won't give too much away; it won't be too long! There are still some hurdles for me to get over and a few boxes to tick, but it won't be as long as you think.

"The short sleeves and gloves will be back out! At least until it starts to get a little bit warmer anyway, that combo will be back, for sure!"

We can't wait to see you scoring for the Town again soon, Eli!



S1 Luton v Leyton O.indd 33 19/12/2025 14:16




S1 Luton v Leyton O.indd 34 19/12/2025 14:16




S1 Luton v Leyton O.indd 35 19/12/2025 14:16

# LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS' TRUST



## The Trust Interviews...

# Martin Maloney *Capital Sky*

**In this interview, we talk to the man whose company name has been emblazoned across our club's shirts and around the ground as sponsors for the last couple of seasons...Martin Maloney, of Capital Sky.**

***Hello, Martin, can you tell us a bit about yourself to start with please?***

I moved to England from Ireland at the age of 14 to build my life and career, settling in London at first before moving to Luton, where my family have all been brought up. My daughter lives here, my grandkids are born and raised here and my home is here. As is my business, which is Capital Sky: we've been delighted to be sponsors at Luton Town for the last couple of seasons. I've been in the construction industry for almost 40 years, and the company has been going for quite some years now. We've got a lot of experience behind us, we've done some amazing projects throughout the years around the country – and now we're involved in what is absolutely my favourite ever...Luton Town's brilliant new stadium at Power Court.

***How did you get involved at Luton Town?***

We'd been doing some work for the club at Kenilworth Road and over at the Power Court site and when it looked like we might get promoted to the Premier League we – the company, Gary and Mike Moran – were looking at the major projects that would be needed to be done to improve the ground for the next season. But would promotion happen? Would it not?

***The club knew they'd need to do a lot in a short time, didn't they – including a whole new Bobbers Stand?***

Yes, so when it looked like promotion might actually happen, Gary said, 'look I'm going to give you a call and I want you to have your machines ready the next day because we have no time to spare'.

So, the whistle blew at Wembley, we won, we're so happy – it was overwhelming for us, the fans, the family, the whole community. And lo and behold Gary appears carrying a few glasses of champagne and said 'get yourself there tomorrow morning, we need to get this moving!'

And get it moving we certainly did. With 12 weeks of non-stop, seven days a week work. The demolition of the boxes and old Bobbers stand, the asbestos removal, the new stand build, the gantry, the lighting, the power, the extra entrances and facilities – and, this really is something to be proud of, it was all done by people from the Luton area. We managed the whole process with Gary and his team and every day we had meetings and briefings with the guys on site. We were working to such a tight schedule that had to think on our feet and make some massive decisions along the way. We had four big tables in the Eric Morecambe Lounge and we moved the work forward hour by hour, there weren't days or weeks to spare thinking about it and sometimes we came across things that meant changing plans on the spot.

We had very good supply chains in place which meant we weren't delayed and we worked long, long hours. We were putting concrete in on Sunday nights for instance. But the neighbours were incredibly understanding

> *"I THINK IT AMAZED SOME PEOPLE WHAT WE MANAGED TO GET DONE IN THAT SUMMER BREAK.* **IT MADE THE NEWS AT HOME AND ABROAD.**



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and helpful especially considering how close the works were to their homes.

The local community was so supportive. Luton Borough Council gave us every support for the project, too. They knew how important it was and shared the passion to get it done, for Luton and for what it was bringing to the area. They also knew the time constraints, so they smoothed the way with licences and so on, and with that support and an incredible amount of hard work, and vision, we achieved miracles in that short time. When we handed everything over we all went for a drink to celebrate and we were so very proud of what we'd achieved. It was miraculous, really – and it wasn't just the Bobbers by the way, there was work all around the ground like digging out and installing new toilets in the Oak Road end, the floodlights and plenty more. There was so much done in so little time.

I think it amazed some people what we managed to get done in that summer break. It made the news at home and abroad – we had a principal designer with us for all the Health and Safety compliance checks; you have to have an independent person for that. He was American and his wife was in New York. Someone took a picture and the story appeared on page two of the New York Times. It said, "Fairy tale club gets its gold". That was the result of 200 Luton people working flat out to get our 'small town club' ready for the Premier League. That says so much about our town and our people.

We achieved this because we worked as one team with Gary, the board, the staff and all the people behind the scenes. You don't realise how many people work hard in the background at Luton Town until you start working with them, and then you start to see the amount of people the football club brings together, the employees – and the supporters and the community. We're all Luton.

Since then, we've continued working on various projects at Kenilworth Road and that included installing 2,750 safe standing spaces in the Oak Road end. This illustrates the way the club does things differently. They went to the market to see what designs for safe standing seats and railing were available, and didn't care about what was on offer. None of it was quite right for what we wanted. Gary came up with some sketches, and we took the design to our steel manufacturer and had them built to our own specification. Designed and installed by ourselves, collectively. That illustrates how well we work together.

***Now on to Power Court…we want to hear all about what you're doing there…***

We'd already created some car parks on the site and done some enabling and investigation work for the club. As you know it's a large and difficult site with all sorts of complications, so it was going to need a lot of work and that went out to tender.

We knew the site and the challenges and opportunities it presented and our tender was, though I say it myself, pretty good and it won the contract. Gary and the club were very passionate that the work would be carried out by local people. This 'Luton first' thinking is a big part of the club's strategy and thinking.

***What have been the main challenges as you prepare the site? It seems to have taken a long time, but then we're all just as excited and impatient as kids at Christmas!***

We looked at ways of how we could work smarter to save money, minimise disruption and be more efficient. There were some real challenges to the site, which is why the land had laid unused for so many years.

This includes having to move a river, decontaminate the whole site after 180 years of industrial use, with old railway lines coming through it, remove Japanese knotweed >>





S2 Luton v Leyton O.indd 37 19/12/2025 14:28

and move a major power station, including cables underground with no complete plans to refer to. Some of those cables were 180, 120, 50 years old and over the whole 20 acre site there were hundreds of them. The electricity generated by the old works at the site was what had attracted and powered big industries throughout the town back in the day. All those cables had to be traced and be treated as if live.

You know when you start on a site that old, you're going to come across all sorts of complications that aren't on any plans or maps. But the existing UK Power Network's power generation had to be maintained – it serves a large part of Luton – with no disruption, as we built and tested a new one before decommissioning and demolishing the old one.

Then there's water. We not only needed to divert the River Lea, but there's also an aquifer that flows under the site to a pumping station that provides clean drinking water for the whole town. So we've had to test the whole site constantly for water quality, working with the Environment Agency (EA), the council and Affinity Water. We also had to provide a new access pipe for the EA, which we're installing now. These are all costly and time-consuming hurdles but we've made it work. There were sewers to replace, too: much of this goes on underground so isn't immediately visible.

Overall, we've taken something like 27,000 samples as we've tested the ground constantly whilst working on decontamination. We had a full-time geologist working with us as we dug down to 12 metres for the rerouted river and we've worked with environmental and an archeological expert too. We've tested, screened and cleaned 20 acres across the site, coming across features and old building foundations that we didn't have any prior information about. That's the nature of any old industrial site, not just Power Court. But here we had a busway to one side and a 900-year-old church to the other, so we had to constantly monitor ground movement and stabilise whilst working.

***How much new material have you had to ship in for the groundworks?***

Minimal really. One of our major considerations from the start was trying to maximise reuse of materials on the site. Part of our tender was a materials management plan which meant we didn't need to move thousands and thousands of cubic feet of materials, with thousands of lorry movements on and off site.

We crushed decontaminated materials and reused them to help create the stable platform for the stadium build. This is good environmental practice, not only saving 10,000 lorry movements but also for working without disrupting the church, transport links, town centre and the day-to-day life of Luton. We've put a big emphasis on logistics during groundwork and the build, to make sure we're not blocking roads, and we're doing that successfully I'd say.

We've worked together with 2020 to work smartly and cost efficiently, optimising the budget with clever design and no compromise on quality – using the tailor's principle of 'measure twice to cut once' to optimise value for every pound spent.

***Now we've reached the piling stage, what comes next?***

So now, after 18 months of non-stop groundwork, we move on to the next stage. A very large, very visible, piling rig moved on to site just before the Christmas break for us to initiate preliminary test piling, which means we'll be piling at full capacity when we're all back in the



*"POWER COURT WON'T JUST CREATE A NEW FOCAL POINT FOR LUTON, WITH ITS FABULOUS DESIGN,* **IT'S CREATING JOBS FOR LUTON PEOPLE TOO.**




New Year. A significant milestone to start 2026!

There's still groundwork going on – we have a main sewer which serves 10,000 homes to move, more complex maybe than expected as we were again given inaccurate information, always a problem with underground work on an old site.

Piling is the start of the construction process, which will take around 26 months, and it will all – where possible – be done by local companies, under the supervision of main construction partners Limak, who have been brought in for their world class expertise and experience in projects of this size, including major football stadia. As the build takes shape, you'll see concrete superstructures going up, then cladding, in stages as we start on the north side and the build follows the piling round each side of the stadium works. Then it's on to fitting out and testing ready for the big day – aren't we all looking forward to that!

***What do you think Power Court will bring to the town?***

Power Court won't just create a new focal point for Luton, with its fabulous design, it's creating jobs for Luton people too. We've had around 100 people on site for these last 18 months, that'll rise to 300 in 2026 and then over 500 as construction proceeds. Then there's all those back in the offices, that'll add another 500 maybe, and all the other Luton companies working on the project. We're not bringing in people from all around the UK and beyond, we're employing people from the Luton area. And it's not just for the short term. We've taken on seven apprentices and trainees this year, and we'll be taking on more. They're learning skills that will launch them on a career – like the 18-year-old who came to us to see what the sector is like and whose ambition is now to be a project manager. The new stadium will create more employment through all the services and new initiatives around it too.

Power Court will bring so much to the town, leading the way in the renewal of the centre as Luton looks to a brighter future, with the airport expansion and new employers attracted to a growing economy. That's one of the beauties of the location of the new stadium: it's not built in a field out of town, it's right in the heart, with two train stations, the busway, easy access by public transport and by car for park and ride.

The council announced a new £1.7 billion investment in the town just weeks ago and that fits perfectly with 2020's vision for the club and the town. I hope people realise that 2020 is doing this for the town. They took on a site no-one else could see the potential for and they're giving Luton people and fans from all over something to be proud of. They've been so committed and courageous with that. Their vision is incredible: they've jumped over more hurdles to achieve this than any Grand National winner!

Power Court will help create a new image for the town and that's something I'm so very proud to be part of. My grandson was born while we were working on the new Bobbers stand, and I can't wait to take him to watch games at Power Court, as we enjoy a bright new future for the town.

Lutonians will be proudly walking into Power Court not for just the next 10 years, but the next 100.

**Thank you, Martin, for a fascinating little glimpse into all that vast amount of work. We're all looking forward to joining you and your family at Power Court, that's for sure...but right now let's give the lads our best Kenilworth Road support to help them build results today and through the rest of the season!**



S2 Luton v Leyton O.indd 39 19/12/2025 14:28



Royal Museums Greenwich

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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

## 1984-1987 HOME

**Is this the greatest home shirt of all time? Some will argue the 1988/89 home shirt, others the 1974 classic or even the 1982-84 offerings, but for me, this tops the lot.**

Today we feature the 1984 to 1987 iconic home shirt. Made by Adidas, this white home shirt features the classic Luton Town late 70s/80s badge, the very same one we had on our third shirt last season, the brilliant Adidas logo, the three stripes down the arms and a deep V-neck which includes the traditional Luton orange.

There is so much class, nostalgia and elegance about this shirt – and these days retro and nostalgia are very much in fashion. As if this beauty couldn't get any better, Bedford sponsored the shirts. This shirt spoils us!

If you are lucky enough to have an original replica of this shirt, you will also notice the slightly shiny stripes that run across the shirt. They are not obvious, but they are very much there.

The material was super thin, and these shirts often got damaged whether through pulls, rips or just falling apart. That is why they are so rare and a unicorn for shirt collectors.

This shirt also matched a fabulous era for Luton Town. We were in the top tier of English football, finishing 13th, ninth and seventh in this shirt. We reached the FA Cup semi-finals and quarter-finals and had some of the most iconic players this club has seen.

Mick Harford, Steve Foster, Tim Breaker, David Preece, Mal Donaghy, Ricky Hill, Brian Stein, I mean the list goes on and on.

Wearing this shirt across the three seasons gives us plenty of notable wins. In the 1984/85 season, we beat Arsenal, Manchester United, Everton and Aston Villa. The following season saw victories against Sheffield Wednesday, Newcastle United, Manchester City and Tottenham Hotspur.

We also beat Watford multiple times over the three seasons in this shirt too, so if that doesn't sway your vote for the greatest home shirt of all time, I don't know what will!

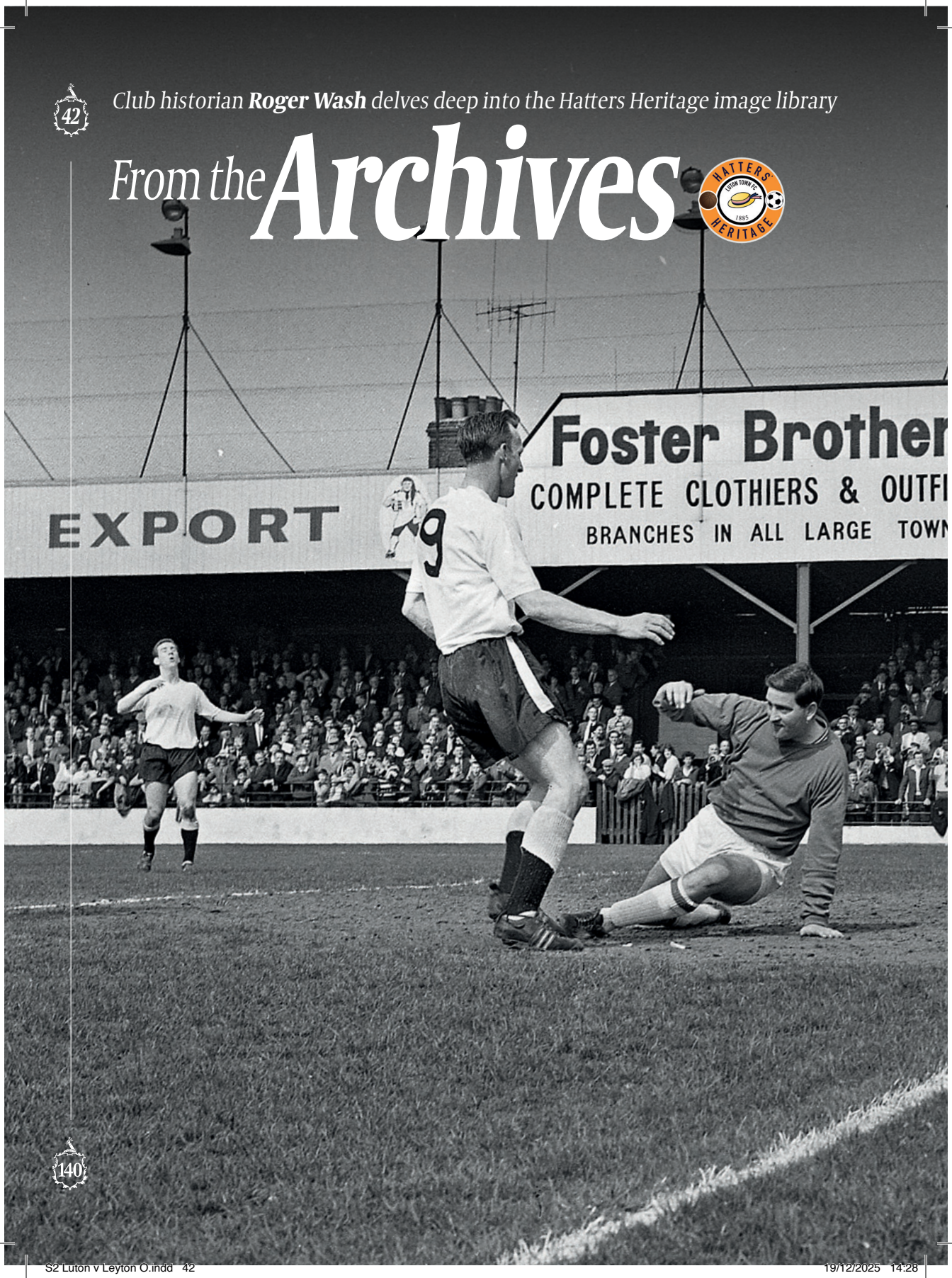





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*Club historian* ***Roger Wash*** *delves deep into the Hatters Heritage image library*

# *From the* Archives






S2 Luton v Leyton O.indd 42 19/12/2025 14:28

Following a fractured skull suffered by Town goalkeeper Ron Baynham early in the 1960/61 season, the former England international found it difficult to win back his place in the side once he had recovered.

Fancying himself as a centre-forward, Ron pestered manager Sam Bartram for a game up front.

Bartram gave in and Ron played striker against Leyton Orient at Kenilworth Road over Easter 1962. It was not a success as the O's won 3-1 on their way to promotion.

Ron is pictured on striker duties and (inset) back where he was best.





S2 Luton v Leyton O.indd 43 19/12/2025 14:28

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

# ON THIS DAY

## 29th December



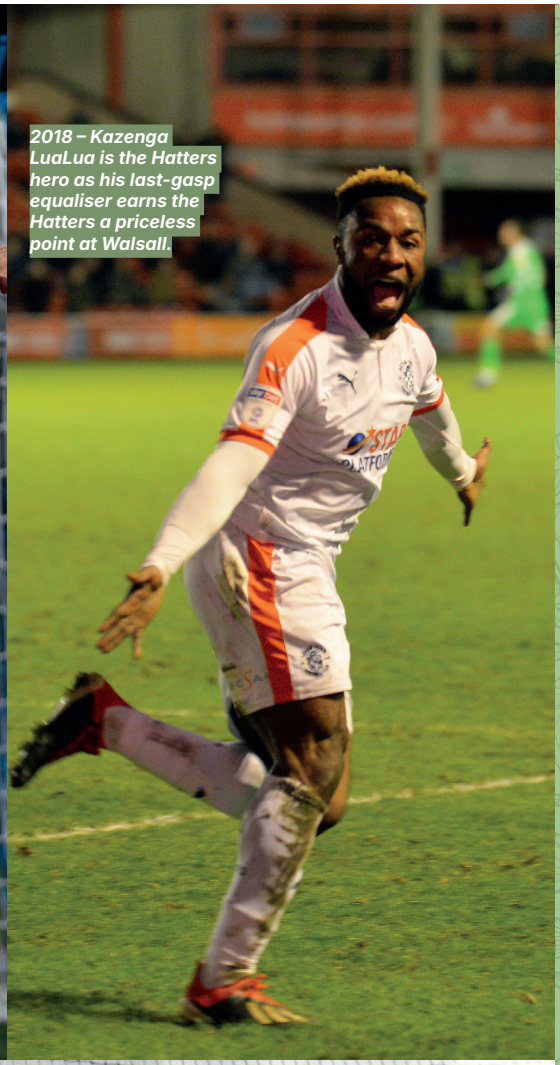
*1979 – Two goals from David Moss – including one from the penalty spot – put us 2-0 up at Orient only for the hosts to fight-back and earn a point.*



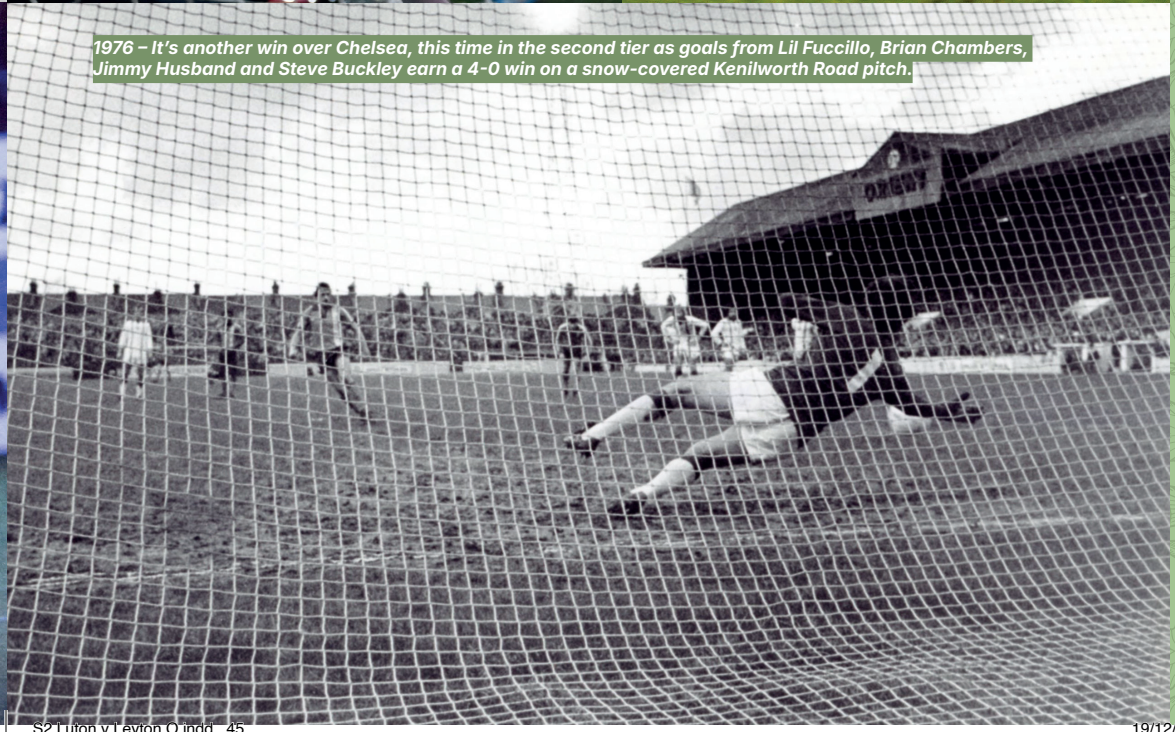

*1990 – A Jason Cundy own goal gets the ball rolling as the Town beat Chelsea at Kenilworth Road in the top-flight and Kingsley Black seals all three points.*




2022 – Two goals from Carlton Morris and a stunning strike from Alfie Doughty earn the Hatters a brilliant 3-0 win at Loftus Road.



2018 – Kazenga LuaLua is the Hatters hero as his last-gap equaliser earns the Hatters a priceless point at Walsall.



1976 – It's another win over Chelsea, this time in the second tier as goals from Lil Fuccillo, Brian Chambers, Jimmy Husband and Steve Buckley earn a 4-0 win on a snow-covered Kenilworth Road pitch.



S2 Luton v Leyton O.indd 45 19/12/2025 14:28



Scoring the Hatters' last top-flight goal for over 30 years at Meadow Lane in 1992

*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

## *Loyal clubman – Julian James, Part 2*

**Julian James' first start for the Hatters came in a League Cup game at Leeds in November 1988.**

With the Town 2-0 up he took out Ian Baird and saw red. "I'd like to say I took one for the team but I think I was treading water a little bit," James tells us.

"I'd never been sent off in my life. That's why I was a bit upset when I left the pitch because I felt like I'd let everyone down."

He became a regular fixture in the 1989/90 season and was in the team for that famous day at Derby as the Hatters avoided relegation from the top-flight thanks to a 3-2 victory.

"We went there and it was likely we wouldn't be staying up because Sheffield Wednesday were in a better position. All we could do was win and see what happened. It was the biggest away following I'd ever seen, a boiling hot day, and brilliant for Jimmy Ryan."

The trick was repeated the following season, this time with a win at home to the Rams.

By now James had established himself as a first-team regular and won two England Under-21 caps, including in a 7-3 win against France, so it came as somewhat of a surprise when, on David Pleat's return that summer, he found himself out of favour.

"I'd done all right the year before and the first thing he said to me was, 'I'm going to farm you out to Preston, give you a bit more experience'.

"Bearing in mind he was the one who'd brought me in originally it was a bit strange. But I think he saw Matt Jackson as his first choice but then Matt gets sold, and I come back.

"Pleaty wanted a taller centre-back so I never got much of a chance there. I was a right or left-back. I didn't have a great left foot but I'd have a swing at it. Richard Harvey was a good left-back and he was good going forward, though he'd probably admit I was a better defender."

> *"ONE HAPPY MEMORY I DO HAVE WAS OF GOING OUT TO TRAIN BEFORE THE GAME (AT WEMBLEY) AND FINDING THE COACH WAYNE TURNER OUT THERE WARMING UP AS IF HE WAS PLAYING!*



S2 Luton v Leyton O.indd 46 19/12/2025 14:28

He was in the team again for a third straight last-day relegation decider, though this time it would end in failure in a miserable 2-1 defeat at Notts County, with James scoring what would prove to be the Hatters' last top-flight goal for over 30 years.

Happier memories can be found in the run to the FA Cup semi-final in 1993/94, however, with special occasions in replay wins over Premier League sides Newcastle and West Ham.

"I enjoyed playing at night. I generally feel I played better. Obviously people remember John Hartson and Scott Oakes who were great, but it was a real team effort. We really fancied ourselves for the Newcastle game: good atmosphere, TV there. The 0-0 at West Ham was a tough game, I remember."

A 3-2 win over West Ham set-up semi-final at Wembley against Chelsea. The Town did not turn up the the London side eased to a 2-0 victory.



*Headshot taken in the summer of 1991*

"The lead up was too long. Suddenly that agent Eric Hall was about, promising to make us some money, which was a load of rubbish. It was my first time playing at Wembley.

"Maybe John Hartson should have been in the team. David played me at left-back and I don't think I did myself justice but looking back no-one else really did. We never got on the ball and never got going. But if it wasn't at Wembley I think we'd have beaten them.

"One happy memory I do have was of going out to train before the game and finding the coach Wayne Turner out there warming up as if he was playing! He said he'd never played at Wembley, and was pinging 40-yard passes around!"

Following Pleat's departure in 1995, new manager Terry Westley left Julian out in the cold when he became boss.

"He changed it all too quickly. He wanted to play three at the back. I'm in his office weekly asking why I'm not playing but he'd made his mind up."

Lennie Lawrence's arrival brought about a return to the first team for James but the season was to end in relegation, an injury to Dwight Marshall proving to be the last nail in the coffin.

A more enjoyable season was to follow as Town narrowly missed out on promotion straight back with a team that included James, Graham Alexander, Steve Davis and 30-goal striker Tony Thorpe.

"We were up near the top all season but it just tailed off a bit after Christmas. The weather cost us I think. Lots of postponements and then too many draws at home. But I think we were the best team in the league."

By the end of this Hatters career, James had made 335 appearances, which places him joint 15th in the all-time list, level with the great Andy Rennie. Not bad for a lad who was told at school that he'd never be a footballer!

And he's proud of him time at Luton.

"When I was a professional my focus was totally on Luton Town. That was my life. It was a good chapter in my life and I'll never forget it. And to be picked for England at any level was a great honour and it made it even more special to do it with Luton.

"I'd like to thank the Luton fans for turning out for my testimonial against West Ham. I've never had a chance to do so. Hopefully they remember me a reliable, commited, club man."




*Clearing downfield against Leeds United, September 1990*



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# LTFC academy

## With Wayne Turner
## Head of Academy Development



*A number of our Under-21 squad have been involved in the first team this season*




**This is the time of year when you see if young footballers have truly arrived. If they are playing first team football through the festive period, being away from their families and performing at their highest level and playing for three precious points!**

Up until then it's all been about development football and progressing their career. Between the ages of nine to 19 for the most part you have been in a protective environment plotting your progression. For me, every part of that journey is leading to the following conclusion. Playing for 12 points in 10 days as our first team will be doing this Christmas.

That to me is a true footballer playing in the 'real world'! As I said to our under-16s in their induction back in the summer, this is where it really starts to get serious.

Up until then they have been the best player in the playground. Where their quality is made up of 90 per cent ability and 10 per cent mental strength. Now as you get older and closer to a professional contract, that completely flips, in my opinion, to 90 per cent mental strength and 10 per cent ability.

At 17 or 18 years old you have the tools, but it's what your brain tells you to do with those tools that will be the defining factor as your body matures into the physical specimen it will become at 21.

Will you maximise the gift you have been given? You can be – but only by listening, practicing and having the desire to do everything you possibly can to push yourself to be the absolute best.

Since Paul Benson and I linked up two-and-a-half years ago, we have focused throughout the academy on realism and realistic targets. Obviously at the younger ages especially before they play 11 v 11, it's all about expressing their talents and having fun.



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As they progress into the older age groups, obviously it gets more demanding as each review and appraisal details what's required going forward.

With our realism comes game-related coaching sessions, which in turn reflect match day situations, while the players still practice their individual needs. Which is essential for them to improve.

For this the players need support and guidance, and this is where we have done really well this season.

In the academy this calendar year we have acquired the strongest group of staff that we have ever had. This spans all of the departments, from under-8s to 21s and includes education, medical, sport science, player welfare, recruitment, operations, analysis, and of course all the coaches. We are truly blessed. This includes all the part-time staff, too.

With Benno's leadership we are all on the same page and reading the same book! Even when we lost staff this year, we replaced them with arguably better candidates.

The academy is a great place to come to work, with everyone aligned towards the same result. As a staff it's our job to produce decent, humble human beings, who perform to their highest levels, giving themselves a chance of arriving at the first team's front door!

As you know, we have made progress in that department with certain players appearing in the first team. Obviously, our main goal is to get them in on a regular basis.

You might think as the first team have dropped into League One it would be easier for the players to succeed. Of course, this is not the case as there is always immense pressure of performing in front of you, our loyal supporters, and having to win! That's where that 90 per cent mental strength comes in!

To sum up, our foundation phase is really striving, and I'm really excited about our under-13s, 14s and 15s as they continue their development.

Our 16s have been chosen for next season and their preparation starts now before they step into that 'real world'. Enjoy Christmas while you can lads!

Finally, just a reminder none of this would be possible without the continued support of Gary and the board plus, as ever, the loyalty always shown by SOLYD.

See you all in the New Year and have a safe and happy one!



*The Under-21s are next in action in the Beds Senior Cup next week*

## 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 W 7-0**

OCTOBER
Sat 11 Portsmouth D 1-1
Sat 29 Barnet (FAYC) D 1-1*

NOVEMBER
**Sat 8 Bristol Rovers W 6-1**
Sat 15 Wycombe L 1-2
Sat 22 PDLC Watford W 4-1

DECEMBER
**Sat 6 Milton Keynes W 4-0**
**Sat 13 Cambridge Utd L 3-6**
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 L 1-6**
Wed 29 Dunstable (BSC) W 5-0

NOVEMBER
**Tue 18 West Brom L 1-5**

DECEMBER
**Wed 3 Exeter City W 2-1**
Sun 14 Brentford L 1-2
Mon 22 West Brom 7pm

JANUARY
Tue 6 Leighton Town (BSC) 7.45pm

*Bold denotes home fixture*
**lost 6-5 on penalties*
***match at Enfield Town FC*



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# youth PROFILE

## Darren Frimpong-Kwakye



**YOUR NAME?**
Darren Frimpong-Kwakye

**WHERE ARE YOU FROM?**
Ghana

**WHAT POSITIONS DO YOU PLAY?** Right wing, left-wing or striker

**WHEN DID YOU JOIN THE ACADEMY?**
I joined the Under-18s this season

**WHO WAS YOUR FOOTBALL HERO GROWING UP?** Messi

**GO-TO BOOTS RIGHT NOW?** Nike Mercurials

**FIRST TIME YOU KICKED A BALL?**
Aged three

**BIGGEST LESSON FOOTBALL'S TAUGHT YOU?**
Hard work beats talent

**FUNNIEST TEAMMATE?**
Nassim El-Gourja

**HARDEST WORKER?**
Nassim El-Gourja







**BIGGEST INSPIRATION OUTSIDE FOOTBALL?**
My dad

**MOMENT YOU'LL NEVER FORGET?**
Beating Chelsea 4-0

**BEST BIT ABOUT BEING AT LUTON?** The feeling of being part of a family

**ONE THING YOU'RE WORKING ON?**
Communication

**PRE-MATCH ROUTINE OR SUPERSTITIONS?**
Praying

**FAVOURITE MUSIC...**
Drake

**FAVOURITE GAME...**
EAFC

**GO-TO CHEAT MEAL...**
Nando's

**IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER?**
Engineering

**PERSON YOU'D SWAP PLACES WITH FOR A DAY?** LeBron James

**THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE YOURSELF.**
Hard-working, honest, strong-minded

**ONE THING PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT ME...** I say things how they are

**BIGGEST FOOTBALL DREAM?** To win the Champions League



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LUTON TOWN FC

# COMMUNITY TRUST

## Community Trust Christmas Cup

**On Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd December, we hosted our annual Community Youth Development Christmas Cup tournament – a flagship event in our calendar delivered in partnership with our club academy.**

Firmly established as a seasonal highlight, the Christmas Cup provides a fun yet competitive way to bring the calendar year to a close, while celebrating player development across our pathway.

Across the two days, we welcomed more than 400 boys competing across multiple age groups, all with the shared ambition of being crowned Christmas Cup champions.

Each age group competed in a challenging match environment, with winners rewarded with the opportunity to become Christmas Cup champions. The event offers our young players a valuable platform to showcase their technical ability, game understanding, competitiveness and attitude, all under the pressure of tournament football.

Beyond the competition itself, the Christmas Cup plays a significant role in reinforcing and showcasing our local player development pathway. By bringing together players from our Player Development Centre, Elite Development Centre and Academy programmes, the tournament allows all to test themselves alongside peers at different stages of their footballing journey. This structure not only challenges players but also provides our coaching staff with the opportunity to observe progression, development and potential within a high-intensity setting.

The tournament also highlights the strength of our ongoing partnership with the club academy. This season in particular, our close working relationship has continued to flourish,






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*"WE ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO THE ACADEMY FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT, AND IT IS A REAL PRIVILEGE TO WORK SO CLOSELY TOGETHER.*

with over 15 players already progressing into academy trial opportunities since the start of the 2025/26 season. This progression reflects both the quality of the players involved in our programmes and the commitment shown by players, coaches and staff throughout the pathway.

The entry point into our Youth Development Academy pathway is through our Talent Identification Programme (TIPs). TIPs provide six-week training blocks, each with specific weekly focuses designed to enhance players' technical, tactical, physical and social development.

At the conclusion of each block, every participant receives an individual report from our coaches, offering constructive feedback and areas for development. Participants are also entered into prize draws to win Luton Town match tickets, further strengthening their connection to the club.

Community Trust Football Development Manager, Alex Wallace, said: "The Christmas Cup tournament is a nice way to bring everybody together at the end of the calendar year.

"Allowing players from all levels to compete for silverware and bragging rights creates an environment that is both fun and highly competitive. We are extremely grateful to the academy for their continued support, and it is a real privilege to work so closely together, providing pathway opportunities for both players and staff."

Booking for block 3 of our TIPs programme, starting in January 2026, is now live via our website.

We currently operate five centres across the region in Luton, Dunstable and Bedford with girls only and goalkeeper programmes, ensuring opportunities are accessible to young players across our communities.

Further details and bookings can be found at www.lutontowncommunity.co.uk.



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# Ladies' year in review

*After a massively successful year that delivered promotion to the fourth-tier of women's football, we look back on the defining moments of a historic 2025 for our Ladies.*

**The Town began the year positioned second in the ERWFL Premier Division, nine points behind league leaders Royston Town.**

A 1-0 victory away at Watford Ladies Development kick-started an eight-game winning streak, which included a 3-1 victory over Royston to send the Hatters into the League Cup Final, an emphatic 11-0 victory in the Bedfordshire County Cup quarter-final over Wootton Blue Cross Lionesses and four consecutive league victories.

The Hatters' winning streak ended at the hands of Real Bedford in the County Cup final with the Pirates coming out 5-0 victors.

However, this setback would not derail the Town's impeccable league form as they won five more successive league games, scoring 19 goals in the process. This flawless run left the Ladies sitting in first place in the league, with Royston dropping points in consecutive games.

A 1-0 defeat to Stevenage at the end of April ended the 16-game winning run in the league but a 3-0 victory over Bowers & Pitsea the following weekend left the Hatters needing just three points to secure promotion.

That was obtained a few days later against St Albans City. Fiona Buttigieg's late long-range effort secured the Town's promotion back to the Women's National League Division One South East.

Despite securing the league title, the winning feeling would soon return just two weeks later. The Hatters secured the double when they exacted revenge on Stevenage, beating Boro 3-0 in the League Cup final.

It was a summer of change for the Ladies. Club legend Jess McKay departed the club, alongside captain Elly Wade. Long-serving forward Leyah Maddix was then appointed as skipper. Eleven new signings headed into the season opener against Dulwich Hamlet as the Town entered their 2025/26 campaign in a strong position.

This term began with a 3-1 victory over Dulwich Hamlet in the league and was followed by a 4-1 victory over Tottenham Hotspur PGA in the WNL Cup.

Heavy defeats to Cambridge United and Actonians rocked the Hatters, but they were able to bounce back, picking up another three points in the WNL Cup against Milton Keynes.

In the weeks to follow, the Ladies toppled Milton Keynes twice more, firstly 2-0 in the league and then 5-1 in the FA Cup.

October saw the Town gain their biggest league victory of the season to date, defeating Chesham United 4-1, while November defied the Hatters' battling nature, as they picked up a point from 2-0 down at Loftus Road against QPR. Their 2025 concluded with a 1-1 draw against Dulwich Hamlet.

The Hatters end 2025 in eighth place back in the WNL Division One South East, picking up 26 wins across all competitions and scoring 95 goals.

Catch the Ladies back in action at Barton in 2026, when they kick-off the New Year against Cambridge United on Sunday 4th January.

## 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 W 4-1

NOVEMBER
**2 London Bees L 0-1**
16 QPR D 2-2
23 Oxford United (FAC) L 1-3
30 Chatham Town L 0-1

DECEMBER
**7 Fulham P-P**
14 Dulwich Hamlet D 1-1

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**



*Celebrations after the League Cup triumph back in May*



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# JUNIOR HATTERS




**Craig Junior Dre Cameron**

**Age: 12**
**Hobbies: Football & Gaming**
**Favourite Player: Shayden Morris**

**Wishing all Junior Hatters a Happy New Year!**

## WORDSEARCH

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| V | S | C | O | C | X | N | F | U | T | C | Z |
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| L | E | R | R | N | G | P | U | P | D | V | R |
| E | I | D | H | D | A | G | U | U | A | G | I |
| P | A | I | I | C | H | P | M | L | H | W | U |
| A | K | F | W | S | S | M | L | N | R | A | L |
| R | E | F | H | O | M | E | P | A | R | K | A |
| K | E | E | Z | F | Y | R | H | S | W | U | T |
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**Can you find the names of the League One stadiums?**

**CARDIFF**
**TOUGHSHEET**
**VALLEY**
**JOHNSMITHS**
**SELECTCAR**
**OAKWELL**
**VALEPARK**
**HOMEPARK**
**BLOOMFIELD**



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# TICKET news

## HOME TICKETS

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

## AWAY TICKETS

**v Exeter City**
**Thursday 1st January, 3pm**

**We have received a full allocation of 993 standing and 168 seating tickets for this fixture.**

Please note seats are for families and elderly supporters and will only be available via phone.

Only physical tickets will be sold for this game and will either be available for collection at the ticket office or sent in the post.

**General Sale**

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

**Prices:**

**Seating**
Adults - £27
Seniors (Over 65+) - £24
Young Adult Under 24 (18-23) - £24
Under 18 - £13

**Standing**
Adults - £20
Seniors (Over 65+) - £17
Young Adult Under 24 (18-23) - £17
Under 18 - £8

Children aged 4 and under who do not require a seat will not require a ticket to enter the match.

Disabled supporters are charged the appropriate age-related with an assistant free of charge.

## HOME GAMES NOW ON general sale

### v Stevenage

**Saturday 10th January, 12.30pm**
**Category A**

### v Lincoln City

**Saturday 17th January, 3pm**
**Category B**

### v Blackpool

**Saturday 31st January, 3pm**
**Category B**

### v Bradford City

**Saturday 7th February, 3pm**
**Category B**



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# LEAGUE LOOK

## THE YEAR THAT WAS: 2025

***JANUARY***
The Town kicked off the New Year with defeat at home to Norwich and after the defeat at QPR, manager Rob Edwards left the club and was replaced by Matt Bloomfield, whose first game in charge was a goalless draw against Preston.

***FEBRUARY***
A run of 11 straight away defeats was ended with a 1-1 draw at Sheffield Wednesday but, in a month to forget, the Town went down 2-0 to Watford at Vicarage Road, leaving them bottom of the Championship.

***MARCH***
The month began with a first win for Matt Bloomfield in a 1-0 victory over Portsmouth. It was a win that kick-started the Town's revival. A 2-1 win at Cardiff was the Hatters first on the road since mid-September and that was followed by a fine 1-0 victory at Hull.

***APRIL***
All of a sudden, having looked dead and buried, the Town got survival in their own hands after a brilliant month which saw the Town lose just once in six games. After a crucial win at Derby the Town won back-to-back home games against Bristol City and Coventry.



***MAY***
Having done the hard work, the Hatters could not finish the job on the final day of the season at West Brom. Despite scoring three times, they conceded five and were relegated to League One.

***AUGUST***
After an unbeaten pre-season the Town opened up to life in the third tier with a 1-0 win over AFC Wimbledon. The first month of the campaign saw the Hatters win four and lose two of their first six league fixtures, including a 3-0 victory at Burton.

***SEPTEMBER***
Back-to-back defeats against Plymouth and Lincoln scuppered the good work but a 1-0 win over Doncaster saw the Town bounce back to winning ways. The Hatters trailed 2-0 at Blackpool but rallied to score twice late on and earn a point.

***OCTOBER***
A 2-0 defeat at Stevenage saw Matt Bloomfield's time in charge come to an end. Jack Wilshere's first game at the helm saw a 2-0 defeat to Mansfield but a Lamine Fanne winner the following week earned the new boss his first win in charge at Northampton.

***NOVEMBER***
The month began in style as the Town beat league leaders Stockport 3-0. A goalless draw against Rotherham was followed by a 5-0 thumping at Barnsley but three days later the Town responded by beating Huddersfield.



***DECEMBER***
Prior to the game at Reading, the Town had drawn three games in a row in League One, coming from behind in each game to keep them on the cusp of the play-off places going into festive fixtures.

## PLAYER STATS *2025/26*

*up to and including Reading (a)*

| | LEAGUE | | CUP | | TOTAL | | LTFC CAREER | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | APP(S) | GLS | APP(S) | GLS | APP(S) | GLS | APPS | GLS |
| Elijah Adebayo | 0 (0) | 0 | 0 (0) | 0 | 0 (0) | 0 | 182 | 47 |
| Ali Al-Hamadi | 0 (1) | 0 | 0 (1) | 0 | 0 (2) | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Millenic Alli | 12 (4) | 1 | 3 (3) | 0 | 15 (7) | 1 | 38 | 5 |
| Mads Andersen | 14 (3) | 2 | 4 (0) | 1 | 18 (3) | 3 | 40 | 4 |
| Shandon Baptiste | 2 (2) | 0 | 0 (0) | 0 | 2 (2) | 0 | 21 | 1 |
| Cohen Bramall | 12 (7) | 2 | 5 (0) | 1 | 17 (7) | 3 | 24 | 3 |
| Jacob Brown | 3 (3) | 0 | 0 (1) | 0 | 3 (4) | 0 | 59 | 7 |
| Christian Chigozie | 0 (0) | 0 | 2 (0) | 0 | 2 (0) | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Jordan Clark | 11 (4) | 4 | 1 (0) | 0 | 12 (4) | 4 | 195 | 22 |
| Fin Evans | 0 (0) | 0 | 1 (0) | 1 | 1 (0) | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Lamine Fanne | 12 (4) | 1 | 3 (2) | 1 | 15 (6) | 2 | 34 | 2 |
| Harry Fox | 0 (0) | 0 | 0 (2) | 0 | 0 (2) | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Joe Gbode | 0 (5) | 0 | 1 (2) | 0 | 1 (7) | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| Tom Holmes | 0 (1) | 0 | 1 (0) | 0 | 1 (1) | 0 | 22 | 1 |
| Zach Ioannides | 0 (0) | 0 | 0 (1) | 0 | 0 (1) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Joe Johnson | 0 (0) | 0 | 2 (0) | 0 | 2 (0) | 0 | 17 | 0 |
| Isaiah Jones | 3 (1) | 1 | 1 (0) | 0 | 4 (1) | 1 | 23 | 3 |
| Josh Keeley | 21 (0) | 0 | 1 (0) | 0 | 22 (0) | 0 | 22 | 0 |
| Gideon Kodua | 10 (7) | 4 | 4 (3) | 1 | 14 (10) | 5 | 24 | 5 |
| Nigel Lonwijk | 13 (1) | 1 | 2 (2) | 0 | 15 (3) | 1 | 18 | 1 |
| Jack Lorentzen-Jones | 0 (0) | 0 | 0 (1) | 0 | 0 (1) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Christ Makosso | 9 (1) | 0 | 2 (1) | 0 | 11 (2) | 0 | 26 | 0 |
| Mark McGuinness | 4 (2) | 0 | 1 (0) | 0 | 5 (2) | 0 | 51 | 3 |
| Teden Mengi | 13 (0) | 0 | 3 (0) | 1 | 16 (0) | 1 | 71 | 3 |
| Shayden Morris | 2 (8) | 0 | 2 (2) | 2 | 4 (10) | 2 | 14 | 2 |
| Kal Naismith | 19 (2) | 1 | 3 (1) | 0 | 22 (3) | 1 | 103 | 5 |
| Marvelous Nakamba | 0 (1) | 0 | 2 (0) | 0 | 2 (1) | 0 | 60 | 0 |
| Zack Nelson | 6 (9) | 1 | 6 (1) | 1 | 12 (10) | 2 | 47 | 3 |
| Lasse Nordas | 4 (7) | 1 | 5 (1) | 3 | 9 (8) | 4 | 27 | 4 |
| Hakeem Odoffin | 2 (3) | 0 | 1 (1) | 0 | 3 (4) | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| Josh Phillips | 0 (0) | 0 | 0 (2) | 0 | 0 (2) | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Jake Richards | 5 (3) | 2 | 3 (3) | 0 | 8 (6) | 2 | 14 | 2 |
| George Saville | 19 (1) | 1 | 2 (0) | 0 | 21 (1) | 1 | 22 | 1 |
| James Shea | 0 (0) | 0 | 6 (0) | 0 | 6 (0) | 0 | 116 | 0 |
| Liam Walsh | 11 (3) | 0 | 4 (1) | 0 | 15 (4) | 0 | 47 | 0 |
| Reuell Walters | 2 (0) | 0 | 2 (0) | 0 | 4 (0) | 0 | 20 | 0 |
| Nahki Wells | 12 (4) | 1 | 1 (0) | 2 | 13 (4) | 3 | 17 | 3 |
| Cauley Woodrow | 0 (1) | 0 | 1 (0) | 0 | 1 (1) | 0 | 82 | 6 |
| Jerry Yates | 10 (6) | 2 | 2 (4) | 4 | 12 (10) | 6 | 22 | 6 |



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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)** | **19:30** | W | 4-3 | - | 4,511 | 462 | Keeley | Lonwijk | Bramall | Mengi | Naismith | **FANNE 1** | Saville |
| **NOVEMBER** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SAT 8 | STOCKPORT COUNTY | 15:00 | W | 3-0 | 9 | 10,090 | 1,151 | Keeley | **JONES 1** | **BRAMALL 1** | Mengi | Andersen | Naismith | Saville |
| **SAT 15** | **ROTHERHAM UNITED** | **15:00** | D | 0-0 | 8 | 11,091 | 711 | Keeley | Jones | Bramall | Mengi | Andersen | Naismith | Walsh |
| SAT 22 | BARNSLEY | 15:00 | L | 0-5 | 12 | 10,882 | 1,478 | Keeley | Jones | Bramall | Mengi | Andersen | Naismith | Saville |
| **TUE 25** | **HUDDERSFIELD TOWN** | **19:45** | W | 2-1 | 7 | 9,971 | 589 | Keeley | Odoffin | Bramall | Mengi | Lonwijk | Naismith | Saville |
| **SAT 29** | **BOLTON WANDERERS** | **15:00** | D | 1-1 | 7 | 11,204 | 1,329 | Keeley | Odoffin | Bramall | Mengi | Lonwijk | Naismith | Saville |
| **DECEMBER** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **TUE 2** | **EXETER CITY (VT)** | **19:00** | W | 4-0 | | 2,233 | 136 | Shea | Walters | Johnson | Andersen | Makosso | Nakamba | **NELSON 1** |
| SAT 6 | FLEETWOOD TOWN (FAC2) | 15:00 | D | 2-2* | | 1,180 | 663 | Shea | Walters | Johnson | Andersen | **MENGI 1** | Saville | Nelson |
| TUE 9 | LEYTON ORIENT | 19:45 | D | 1-1 | 7 | 8,176 | 1,246 | Keeley | Lonwijk | Bramall | Naismith | Mengi | Saville | Walsh |
| **SAT 13** | **PORT VALE** | **15:00** | D | 2-2 | 7 | 10,867 | 1,041 | Keeley | Lonwijk | **BRAMALL 1** | Naismith | Mengi | **ANDERSEN 1** | Saville |
| THU 18 | READING | 20:00 | L | 2-3 | 7 | 9,252 | 1,101 | Keeley | **LONWIJK 1** | Bramall | Naismith | Mengi | Andersen | **CLARK 1** |
| **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** TV | **12:30** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **TUE 13** | **SWINDON TOWN (VT)** | **19:00** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **SAT 17** | **LINCOLN CITY** | **15:00** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SAT 24 | PLYMOUTH ARGYLE TV | 12:30 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TUE 27 | HUDDERSFIELD TOWN | 19:45 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **SAT 31** | **BLACKPOOL** | **15:00** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **FEBRUARY** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **SAT 7** | **BRADFORD CITY** TV | **12:30** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

**lost 4-2 on penalties*

| | | | | 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 |
| Walsh | Richards | Jones | WELLS 2 | Al-Hamadi | Nelson | Yates | KODUA 1 | Odoffin |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Walsh | RICHARDS 1 | Fanne | Wells | Kodua | Odoffin | Yates | Al-Hamadi | |
| Fanne | Richards | Yates | Wells | Kodua | Nelson | Brown | Alli | |
| Walsh | Nelson | Kodua | Wells | Yates | Alli | Richards | Odoffin | Fanne |
| Walsh | RICHARDS 1 | Fanne | YATES 1 | Brown | Andersen | Morris | | |
| Walsh | Brown | Fanne | Yates | KODUA 1 | Morris | Alli | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| MORRIS 1 | Alli | Kodua | NORDÅS 2 | Gbodé | Ioannides | Fox | L-Jones | |
| Richards | Fanne | Alli | Nordås | Walsh | Kodua | YATES 1 | Brown | Morris Naismith |
| Fanne | Brown | KODUA 1 | Yates | Andersen | Morris | Clark | Nordås | Nelson |
| Walsh | Alli | Kodua | Brown | Morris | Clark | Wells | Fanne | Nordås |
| Walsh | Fanne | Kodua | Wells | Morris | Yates | Brown | Nelson | Saville |

# 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 TalkSport presenter scored an own goal for the Town on this day at Kenilworth Road in 1990?

2. We drew 2-2 with Orient on this day in 1979 – who scored both the Hatters' goals that day?

3. Which team used to play their home games at Roker Park?

4. We earned a 2-2 draw at Walsall on this day in 2018 – who scored our last-gasp equaliser?

5. Which former Premier League manager took over at Saudi Pro League side Al-Qadsiah last week?

6. Which team are nicknamed the Blue Brazil?

7. Which player's surname appears first alphabetically in all the players who have ever played for Luton Town?

8. Who scored more goals for the Hatters? Mick Harford or Joe Payne?

9. Against which club did Kal Naismith score his first Luton goal?

10. When the Hatters drew 2-2 at Birmingham on this day in 2006, who was in goal for the Town?

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

*1 Jason Cundy 2 David Moss 3 Sunderland 4 Kazenga LuaLua 5 Brendan Rodgers 6 Cowden-beath 7 Thelo Aasgaard 8 Mick Harford 9 Sheffield Wednesday 10 Dean Kiely*

# TABLE 2025/26

| Team | P | W | D | L | GD | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cardiff | 19 | 13 | 2 | 4 | 16 | 41 |
| Bradford City | 19 | 10 | 7 | 2 | 10 | 37 |
| Lincoln | 20 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 35 |
| Bolton | 19 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 10 | 34 |
| Stevenage | 18 | 10 | 4 | 4 | 9 | 34 |
| Stockport | 19 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 32 |
| **Luton** | **21** | **8** | **5** | **8** | **-2** | **29** |
| Barnsley | 17 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 28 |
| Huddersfield | 20 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 28 |
| Wimbledon | 19 | 8 | 3 | 8 | -3 | 27 |
| Wigan | 19 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 26 |
| **Wycombe** | **20** | **6** | **7** | **7** | **5** | **25** |
| Leyton Orient | 20 | 7 | 4 | 9 | -1 | 25 |
| Reading | 20 | 6 | 7 | 7 | -2 | 25 |
| Northampton | 19 | 7 | 3 | 9 | -2 | 24 |
| Rotherham | 20 | 6 | 6 | 8 | -4 | 24 |
| Mansfield | 19 | 6 | 5 | 8 | -1 | 23 |
| Burton | 19 | 6 | 5 | 8 | -8 | 23 |
| Peterborough | 19 | 7 | 1 | 11 | -4 | 22 |
| Doncaster | 20 | 6 | 4 | 10 | -10 | 22 |
| Plymouth | 20 | 7 | 1 | 12 | -11 | 22 |
| Exeter | 19 | 6 | 2 | 11 | -2 | 20 |
| Blackpool | 20 | 5 | 5 | 10 | -8 | 20 |
| Port Vale | 19 | 3 | 6 | 10 | -10 | 15 |

# TODAY'S Fixtures

**3PM KO**

Wimbledon v Stevenage
Barnsley v Mansfield
Blackpool v Doncaster
Bolton v Rotherham
Bradford v Wigan
Burton v Northampton
Cardiff v Exeter
Huddersfield v Port Vale
Peterborough v Leyton Orient
Plymouth v Reading
Stockport v Lincoln

# TOWN Totals

| | W | D | L | F | A |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **HOME** | 1570 | 695 | 635 | 5791 | 3263 |
| **AWAY** | 750 | 719 | 1419 | 3325 | 4979 |
| **NEUTRAL** | 6 | 4 | 13 | 29 | 43 |
| **TOTAL** | 2326 | 1418 | 2067 | 9145 | 8285 |
| **At KR** | 1440 | 667 | 581 | 5252 | 3017 |

# 5,811 games played

*Statistics up to and including Reading (a)*

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

# SEASONS TO REMEMBER *1987/88*



**A seventh-place finish in the top-flight in 1986/87 was followed by a poor start to the next campaign.**

With manager John Moore resigning over the summer his replacement Ray Harford preferred a certain formation which did not suit the players. Player power won the day though, and normal service was soon resumed as the Town recorded another top 10 finish, their third in row.

Overtaking the bread and butter of the League by a margin the Town enjoyed remarkable runs in all three cup competitions with 18 ties to overcome over the course of the season.

In the Simod Cup the Town went all the way to Wembley where they were hammered by Reading while in the FA Cup the semi-final stage was reached with eventual winners Wimbledon going through narrowly 2-1.

It is the Littlewoods Cup run that the season is remembered most fondly though. Wigan were seen off over two legs in the second round before the Town were drawn at home to Coventry in round three.

With the away fans ban still in partial operation the game was eventually switched to Leicester where, on a quagmire pitch, the Town won through 3-1.

Next up was Ipswich away where an injury-hit side managed to hold on to an early 1-0 lead. With segregation plans now in place, Bradford City proved difficult opponents in the quarter-final at Kenilworth Road with the Town recording a narrow 2-1 victory.

With Oxford, who the Hatters had beaten 5-2 and 7-4 in the League that season, the opponents in the semi-final the two games were tighter but the 3-1 aggregate win sent the Town to Wembley once more.

Little needs to be said about the 3-2 win over Arsenal in front of 95,732 at Wembley as it was the perfect day!

| FIRST DIVISION | | PLD | W | D | L | GD | PTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Liverpool (C) | 40 | 26 | 12 | 2 | 63 | 90 |
| 2 | Manchester United | 40 | 23 | 12 | 5 | 33 | 81 |
| 3 | Nottingham Forest | 40 | 20 | 13 | 7 | 28 | 73 |
| 4 | Everton | 40 | 19 | 13 | 8 | 26 | 70 |
| 5 | Queens Park Rangers | 40 | 19 | 10 | 11 | 10 | 67 |
| 6 | Arsenal | 40 | 18 | 12 | 10 | 19 | 66 |
| 7 | Wimbledon | 40 | 14 | 15 | 11 | 11 | 57 |
| 8 | Newcastle United | 40 | 14 | 14 | 12 | 2 | 56 |
| 9 | Luton Town | 40 | 14 | 11 | 15 | −1 | 53 |
| 10 | Coventry City | 40 | 13 | 14 | 13 | −7 | 53 |
| 11 | Sheffield Wednesday | 40 | 15 | 8 | 17 | −14 | 53 |
| 12 | Southampton | 40 | 12 | 14 | 14 | −4 | 50 |
| 13 | Tottenham Hotspur | 40 | 12 | 11 | 17 | −10 | 47 |
| 14 | Norwich City | 40 | 12 | 9 | 19 | −12 | 45 |
| 15 | Derby County | 40 | 10 | 13 | 17 | −10 | 43 |
| 16 | West Ham United | 40 | 9 | 15 | 16 | −12 | 42 |
| 17 | Charlton Athletic | 40 | 9 | 15 | 16 | −14 | 42 |
| 18 | Chelsea (R) | 40 | 9 | 15 | 16 | −18 | 42 |
| 19 | Portsmouth (R) | 40 | 7 | 14 | 19 | −30 | 35 |
| 20 | Watford (R) | 40 | 7 | 11 | 22 | −24 | 32 |
| 21 | Oxford United (R) | 40 | 6 | 13 | 21 | −36 | 31 |

## Player focus

**Tim Breacker** was the only player to turn out in all 58 games that season. As an overlapping right-back, his powers of fitness were off the scale.



## Season standout

The skipper of the only Luton team to pick up a major trophy in the club's rich history, **Steve Foster** led by example at centre-half over a long gruelling campaign.





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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** |

## LEYTON ORIENT

MANAGER **RICHIE WELLENS**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | TOMMY **SIMKINS** |
| 2 | TOM **JAMES** |
| 3 | TAYO **ADARAMOLA** |
| 4 | JACK **SIMPSON** |
| 5 | DAN **HAPPE** |
| 7 | OLLIE **O'NEILL** |
| 8 | IDRIS **EL MIZOUNI** |
| 9 | ALFIE **LLOYD** |
| 10 | AARON **CONNOLLY** |
| 11 | DEMETRI **MITCHELL** |
| 14 | MICHAEL **CRAIG** |
| 15 | TYREEQ **BAKINSON** |
| 17 | JOSH **KOROMA** |
| 18 | RARMANI **EDMONDS-GREEN** |
| 19 | OMAR **BECKLES** |
| 20 | SONNY **PERKINS** |
| 21 | JACK **MOORHOUSE** |
| 22 | AZEEM **ABDULAI** |
| 23 | LEMAR **GORDON** |
| 25 | CHARLIE **WELLENS** |
| 26 | NOAH **PHILLIPS** |
| 27 | DIALLANG **JAIYESIMI** |
| 28 | SEAN **CLARE** |
| 29 | ZECH **OBIERO** |
| 30 | JOE **WHITE** |
| 31 | MAKAI **WELCH** |
| 32 | DOM **BALLARD** |
| 33 | KILLIAN **CAHILL** |
| 34 | PHIL **CHINEDU** |
| 36 | DAN **CARTER** |
| 44 | THEO **ARCHIBALD** |

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