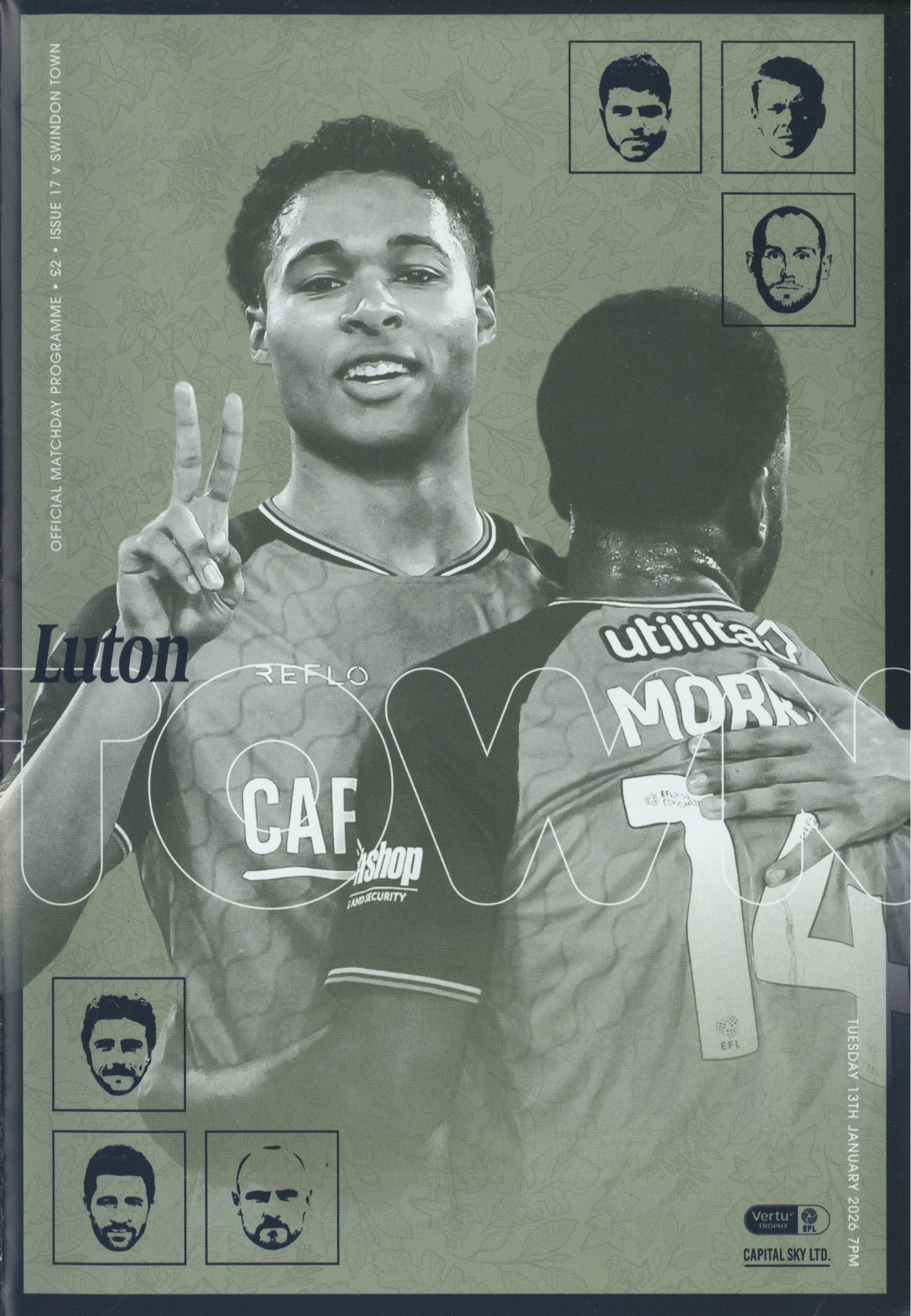

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TUESDAY 13TH JANUARY 2026 7PM

THE BOSS

Jack WILSHERE

Welcome back to Kenilworth Road once more as we go again in the Vertu Trophy against Swindon Town.

I'd like to welcome Ian Holloway and his staff and players. Ian is one of our game's great characters and has enjoyed a great career in management. It is, therefore, no surprise, to see his side riding high in League Two. They will arrive here full of confidence and will, like us, want to get their name in the hat for the next round.

As I have said in these notes for games in this competition, we want to go as far as possible, and it represents a wonderful opportunity to get to play at Wembley. I have been delighted with the application and performances of the players who have been given a chance – and that includes several players from our academy. They have taken it with both hands and long may that continue.

I'm writing these notes on Sunday after our superb comeback win over Stevenage. I'm glad that the players are starting to believe in themselves because we've got some really big characters in the dressing room who know they have the quality to beat teams.

I said to them after the game that not many teams will go behind to a team like Stevenage and win, especially given how they play and how difficult they make it. They should also be proud as they're the ones who brought the crowd alive. At 1-1, the lads started to play with a little bit more purpose, got on the front foot and I think they then got energy from your support and that's how we were able to go on and win the game.

Like in any match, when the crowd gets behind you, you can see what it can create and I'm proud of the players for that. It's great when you get it over the line as we've come close to doing before here – those draws against Port Vale and Bolton spring to mind.

I know what the players can do and I believe in them. I believe that they've got the quality and the technical ability to hurt teams, but they've also got a spirit where they can come back into games, just like we did on Saturday.

I've said that all along, and when you get it over the line against a team like Stevenage, when it will be difficult to do that against, it gives the players more belief and it gives them more confidence.

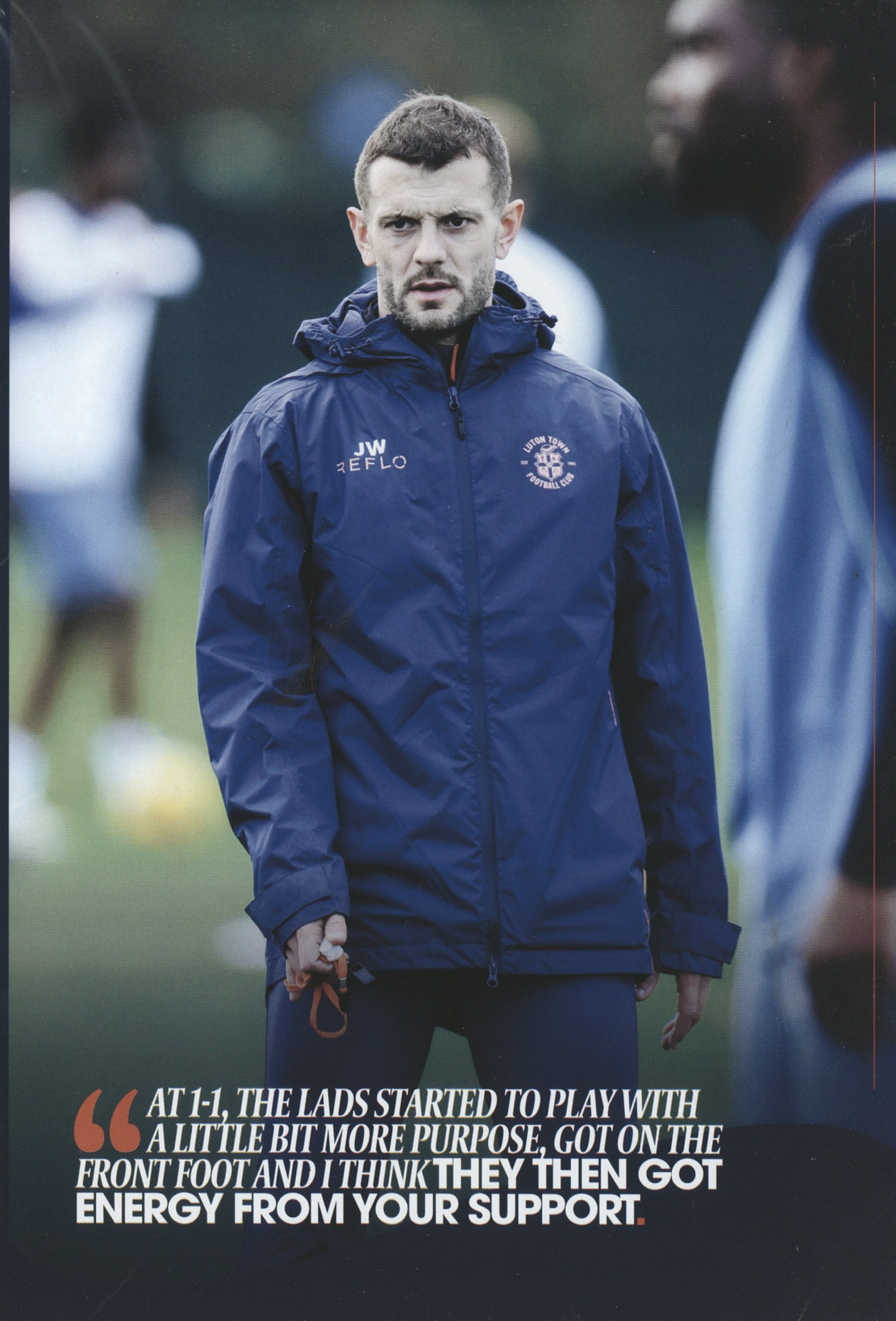
When I first came in we were discussing how we give the players more confidence.They should get confidence from the weekend and, as I've said, they should be proud of that performance.

All we now need is to find that consistency, especially away from home, but attention turns to tonight against Swindon.

Your support on Saturday helped the lads earn that win. It was a victory for everybody. Please get behind us once more tonight because it makes a difference – especially to our younger players.

Enjoy the game.





"AT 1-1, THE LADS STARTED TO PLAY WITH A LITTLE BIT MORE PURPOSE, GOT ON THE FRONT FOOT AND I THINK **THEY THEN GOT ENERGY FROM YOUR SUPPORT.**



WELCOME

SWINDON TOWN

The Boss

IAN HOLLOWAY Veteran English manager with a long EFL record at Blackpool, QPR, Plymouth and Grimsby. Appointed Robins boss in October 2024.

Goalkeeper

CONNOR RIPLEY Experienced English stopper who joined from Port Vale in 2025. Former England youth international and solid shot-stopper with years of EFL experience.

Defenders

FILOZOFE MABETE Young centre-back who began in the Wolvers academy at the age of 12 and signed for Swindon in summer 2025.

WILL WRIGHT Luton-born and former Hatters academy defender who made over 100 appearances for Dagenham before spells at Gillingham and Crawley.

JAMIE KNIGHT-LEBEL Canadian centre-back on loan from Bristol City. The youngster has three senior caps and spent last season on loan at Crewe.

TOM WILSON-BROWN Young defender signed on loan from Leicester. A Foxes academy graduate who also spent time at Kilmarnock last term.

RYAN TAFAZOLLI Veteran defender signed from Wycombe mid-season 2025. At Southampton as a youngster before spells with Mansfield, Peterborough and Hull.

Midfielders

OLLIE CLARKE The Robins captain, the veteran midfielder signed in 2024 after four years at Mansfield. Started his career at Bristol Rovers, playing over 250 times.

PAUL GLATZEL German midfielder or forward who signed after his release from Liverpool. Scored seven goals in 19 games in his first season.

GAVIN KILKENNY Republic of Ireland youth international midfielder who came through the ranks at Bournemouth. Joined the Robins in 2024.

JOE SNOWDON Young midfielder recruited from Leeds in 2025 and has already been a regular this season despite just being 21.

DARREN OLDAKER Midfielder who began his career at Gillingham before spells in non-league. Resurrected his career at Chesterfield and signed for the Robins in the summer.

ADAM MURPHY Midfielder on loan from Bristol City who has been capped at youth level for the Republic of Ireland.

Forwards

TOM NICHOLS Experienced striker signed from Mansfield in 2025. Began his career at Exeter before spells at Peterborough, Bristol Rovers, Crawley and Gillingham.

HARRY SMITH Physical centre-forward who netted 15 goals in 39 games in his first season last term having joined from Sutton.

OLLIE PALMER Experienced goalscoring striker signed from Wrexham in 2025 after helping the Dragons to three promotions in a row. Spent a short spell on loan here at Kenilworth Road.

BILLY BODIN Experienced Welsh forward signed in 2025. Began his career with the Robins before spells at Torquay, Bristol Rovers, Preston, Oxford and Burton.

AARON DRINAN Irish forward leading Swindon's scoring charts in League Two. Signed for the Robins from Leyton Orient in 2023.

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1988 and it's WEMBLEY AGAIN!

Club historian ***Roger Wash*** *looks back on the time the Hatters beat Swindon on their way to the Simod Cup final*

It was a busy and expensive time to be a Luton Town supporter. From mid-January 1988 through to mid-March the Hatters would play only four league games but would feature in 11 cup ties!

The Town had fought their way through to the Littlewoods Cup final, where they were due to be playing Arsenal at Wembley and were about to play an FA Cup quarter-final against Portsmouth. Amidst all this, the Hatters had suddenly found themselves about to contest a Simod Cup semi-final against Swindon.

The Simod Cup was open to all full members of the Football League (the top two divisions) and seemed to sneak up on us given that we had received a bye until the third round. Swindon, meanwhile, had embarked on the road to Wembley at the first round stage.

In the third round, a crowd of only 5,204 at Goodison Park had seen teenager David Oldfield score twice in a 2-1 victory over Everton which was remarkable given that youngsters Gary Cobb, Richard Harvey, Marvin Johnson and Ricky McEvoy were given rare outings in the Luton side.

Next up were Stoke at Kenilworth Road with Mick Harford and Brian Stein each scoring twice in a comfortable 4-1 win,

> ***"FROM MID-JANUARY 1988 THROUGH TO MID-MARCH THE HATTERS WOULD PLAY ONLY FOUR LEAGUE GAMES BUT WOULD FEATURE IN 11 CUP TIES!***



Club skipper Steve Foster dispenses advice before extra-time.

and suddenly we were through to the semi-final where our opponents would be Swindon from Division Two (now the Championship).

Swindon, who had won promotion at the end of the previous season, had seen off Blackburn at Ewood Park before beating top flight sides Derby, Chelsea and Norwich all at the County Ground. They were certainly on a roll.

Such was interest in the game from the Wiltshire end that 3,500 Robins fans travelled to Kenilworth Road to boost the gate to 10,027, which was better than most of our league gates that season.

The game itself was a cracker, played out in a typical cup-tie atmosphere with the Town enjoying the majority of the first half and Swindon taking the second. The Hatters went ahead on 28 minutes when Brian Stein headed in Tim Breacker's cross and all seemed set fair for another trip to Wembley.

Swindon had other ideas, though, and manager Lou Macari's half-time team talk seemed to work, with the Town on the end of a battering in the second period. The deserved equaliser came in the 67th minute when a Jimmy Quinn free-kick was too hot for Luton goalkeeper Les Sealey to handle and Keiran O'Regan was quickest to hammer home the loose ball.



Ian Allinson and Ashley Grimes rise to the occasion against Swindon.

The Hatters were then given a lifeline with 15 minutes to go when Ian Allinson was bundled over in the area by Dave Hockaday but Harford smashed the resulting penalty straight at Fraser Digby in the Swindon goal.

An extra 30 minutes was therefore called for – which the Town could have done without given their punishing schedule and an FA Cup quarter-final to fight in three days' time.

After Swindon's Paul Bodin hit the post with a 25-yard effort, the Hatters came back into the game and, with substitute Kingsley Black running at the Robins' defence, the tide began to turn.

It was from a run by Black that the winner was secured after 109 minutes when his cross was headed back across goal for Mark Stein to nip in and deflect the ball past Digby.

"We rode our luck a little bit," was Luton manager Ray Harford's comment afterwards.

The Town were now through to Wembley again where their opponents would be Reading, also from Division Two. The least said about that game the better...the Hatters would lose 4-1!

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**
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**
32	EMILIO **LAWRENCE**
33	COHEN **BRAMALL**
37	ZACK **NELSON**
38	JOE **JOHNSON**
39	JOSH **PHILLIPS**
42	CHRISTIAN **CHIGOZIE**

SWINDON TOWN

MANAGER **IAN HOLLOWAY**

1	CONNOR **RIPLEY**
3	FILOZOFE **MABETE**
4	RYAN **DELANEY**
5	WILL **WEIGHT**
6	JAMES **BALL**
7	TOM **NICOLS**
8	OLLIE **CLARK**
9	PAUL **GLATZEL**
10	HARRY **SMITH**
11	JAKE **TABOR**
12	LEWIS **WARD**
14	DANIEL **BUTTERWORTH**
15	HARRISON **MINTURN**
16	TOM **WILSON-BROWN**
17	RYAN **TAFAZOLI**
18	GAVIN **KILKENNY**
19	JOE **SNOWDON**
21	ADAM **MURPHY**
22	JAMIE **KNIGHT-LEBEL**
23	AARON **DRINAN**
26	FINLEY **MUNROE**
28	OLLIE **PALMER**
29	MICHAEL **OLAKIGBE**
31	BILLY **BODIN**
33	JOEL **McGREGOR**
34	BILLY **KIRKMAN**
37	DANI **GONZÁLEZ-BIRCHALL**
38	ANTONY **McCORMICK**
40	GEORGE **ALSTON**
44	DARREN **OLDAKER**

The Officials

REFEREE **PETER WRIGHT**
ASSISTANT REFEREE **STEPHEN FINCH**
ASSISTANT REFEREE **RYAN WHITAKER**
FOURTH OFFICIAL **DAVID HUTTON**

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