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Luton TOWN













SATURDAY 17TH JANUARY 2026 3PM

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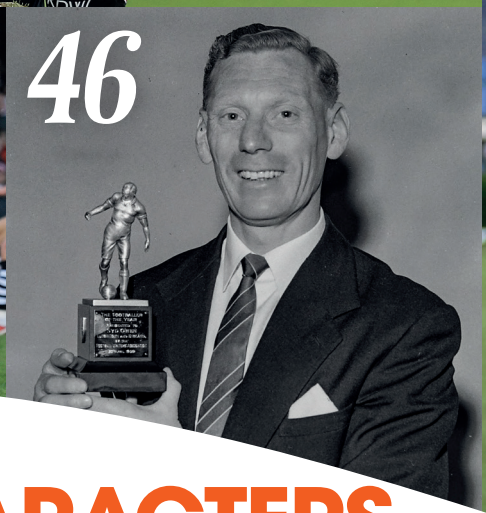
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29



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46

COVER CHARACTERS








Wayne Biggins Striker who went on to enjoy a long career, scoring over 100 goals, Sheffield-born Wayne began his career at Lincoln. He fell out of league football but bounced back with goalscoring spells at Burnley, Norwich, Manchester City and Stoke. Joined the Hatters on loan in 1995 and scored once in a 2-0 win over Tranmere.

Kingsley Black Local boy Kingsley signed for the Town after leaving college and made his debut aged 19. Seven months later he starred as the Hatters lifted the Littlewoods Cup after beating Arsenal. Following 156 appearances and 31 goals, a big money move to Nottingham Forest in 1991 followed. After five years at Grimsby he ended his career at Sincil Bank.

Trevor Peake In a long, glorious career, Trevor holds the record as the oldest player in the Hatters history when turning out against Wrexham at Kenilworth Road in 1997 at the age of 40 years 222 days. He joined Lincoln from Nuneaton and then moved to Coventry before joining the Town in 1991. Ended his Hatters career having played 202 times.

Alan Judge Goalkeeper Alan joined the Town from school before making his debut at Newcastle on the closing day of the 1979/80 season. Regarded as number two to Jake Findlay at Kenilworth Road, Alan earned headlines when saving Gerry Gow's penalty at fellow promotion contenders Rotherham during the Hatters championship winning campaign of 1981/82. Moved to Reading and played twice on loan for Lincoln.

Janos Kovacs Born in Budapest, centre-half Janos began his career in England with Chesterfield in 2005, later becoming a regular, before joining Lincoln. He had two spells with the Town at Kenilworth Road, winning 2011/12 Player of the Season and was named in Conference Team of the Season. After his release in 2013, he returned to Hungary and retired in 2018.

Ollie Palmer Part of the Swindon team that visited Kenilworth Road in midweek, centre-forward Ollie scored three times in an 18-game loan spell for the Hatters in 2017 – including the winner in a narrow victory over Blackpool. Went onto make a name for himself at Wrexham, helping them to three consecutive promotions.

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the PROGRAMME
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With thanks to the media department at Lincoln
The views in this programme are not necessarily those of Luton Town Football Club

Welcome

Welcome back Kenilworth Road for the third time in a week as we entertain high-flying Lincoln City in League One.

After the comeback win over Stevenage and the Vertu Trophy tie with Swindon in the week, it has been a busy time behind-the-scenes at Kenilworth Road.

The victory over our near-neighbours last weekend was earned not just by the lads on the pitch but also by your support in the stands – something not lost on Jack and the players.

With a tough fixture this afternoon against a side challenging for automatic promotion, it should make for a cracker, so please get behind the lads once more for 90 minutes.

Games here against the Imps in recent history have been memorable ones, including that 4-2 win on New Year's Day in 2018. Here's hoping today's game is as entertaining – although let's lay off the red cards, eh?!

Enjoy reading the programme you have within your hands and, of course, enjoy the next 90 minutes of football.

Come on Luton!

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THE BOSS

Jack WILSHERE

Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road once more as we aim to continue our good league form on home soil.

We come into the game off the back of three successive home victories in League One. They have come against decent opposition, too, in particular last weekend's 2-1 win over Stevenage in which I thought the lads were superb. To come from a goal down against tough opposition will really do wonders for the players' confidence and belief.

As I said afterwards, the lads have got the quality – they just need to realise it. A win like that really should hit home that they have that in their locker. I know they were doubly pleased because of the backing they had from you. The level of noise inside the ground really spurred them on.

After such a high it was frustrating to go down to a defeat to Swindon in the Vertu Trophy on Tuesday night. I thought we started the game well and had total control after taking the lead. We had chances to put the game to bed but, after dropping off the level momentarily, we were punished after two set pieces.

We spoke about set-pieces before the game, then spoke about it at half-time. It doesn't matter what level you're playing at – defending set-pieces are so important, especially in cup football. You saw that in Macclesfield's win over Crystal Palace. We also had a lot of opportunities to make it count from our own set-pieces and we know we have to do better in those moments.

Of course it's disappointing to exit the competition. We spoke about that with the players before, and I asked the lads if this club ever won this competition. Harry Fox was the first one to put his hand up and mentioned the Scunthorpe game, so it definitely had a meaning. So there's no denying we're disappointed with the result. We were three games away from Wembley and three ties away from taking 40,000 fans to Wembley again and experiencing a day there which is special for anyone.

Every player dreams of playing at Wembley, so there was a lot of respect for the competition. I think you saw throughout the competition, and the results we enjoyed, just how much energy we've tried to put into it, so we're disappointed to go out.

All the players and staff in the dressing room were deflated but we have to pick ourselves up and go again for a big game against Lincoln this afternoon.

They are having a great season and arrive in excellent form and full of confidence. Michael has got them playing an exciting brand of front-footed football and we know we're in for a tough one.

However, we can certainly put into practice the lessons we've learned from the two matches this week.

What will help will be the backing from you from the stands because last Saturday was quite something. Kenilworth Road was back to its gnarly, intimidating and noisy best – and long may it continue.

Please get behind us again and enjoy the game.



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"TO COME FROM A GOAL DOWN AGAINST TOUGH OPPOSITION WILL REALLY DO WONDERS **FOR THE PLAYERS' CONFIDENCE AND BELIEF.**

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BOARDROOM

David WILKINSON



Good afternoon, everyone and a very warm welcome to Kenilworth Road for this League One clash with Lincoln City.

The Imps are having a very successful season under the leadership of Michael Skubala and as I write are second in the table on 48 points. They arrive with two former favourites of ours, Sonny Bradley and James Collins, with them. Collo is sadly injured, but we look forward to entertaining Sonny today. As he always seems to do, he has made himself very popular with their fans.

When we played at Sincil Bank back in September we lost 3-1 after two late goals. So not only is this a chance to put things right, but also an opportunity to get closer to one of the front runners.

Our performances and results have been improving recently, and Jack has had the chance to evaluate his squad, look at our strengths and weaknesses and begin to introduce his style of play.

The window is open and we have already acquired young forward, Emilio Lawrence, on loan from Manchester City. Emilio has already made his mark, showing some nice touches against Stevenage and winning a penalty against Swindon. We all hope you enjoy your time with us, Emilio.

One of the many problems besetting today's game is the lack of competitive minutes for fringe players, along with the difficulty of judging the readiness of those players to step up when every result matters so much. If you add to that the need to get injured players match fit, the only options are loans or Under-21s. Most would probably agree that U21s aren't so much of an option as evidenced by the fact that Premier League U21 teams rarely succeed in senior competitions like the Vertu Trophy, where they struggle to make it through to the knockout stages.

Which leaves us with loans. They are a useful tool to get those too old for the under-18s a taste of men's football, and those not in the manager's thoughts for whatever reason a fresh shot at impressing him or the market. We are quite busy in this window, and we wish all players well whether going out or coming in.

We haven't lost a game at home in the league since Mansfield back in October. It has felt like we have found our feet and are beginning to enjoy our football again. Our recent win against difficult opponents in Stevenage was pleasing, not only in the way we played, but also because we were able to quickly recover from going a goal down.

Last Tuesday in the Vertu Trophy we were beaten, but I suspect we haven't heard the last of it. A lengthy delay of the game due to confusion over the use of a Swindon substitute clearly disrupted the second half in a major way. I can't comment on whatever might be disclosed to the investigation, but isn't it about time the



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powers that be brought in independent time keeping?

As a matter of fact, we played eight minutes of injury time when 15 minutes wouldn't have been a surprise. This is just an example of how subjective the amount of time added on is. If it's something the referee doesn't have to worry about, he can concentrate on controlling it and the frustration it causes.

We can all recognise the creeping trend to disrupt momentum and waste time towards the end of games. We could all find ways of stopping it. It's tough to prevent killing momentum, but easy to make sure every stoppage in play is properly timed. After all the stopwatch was invented in the late 1800s.

I mentioned earlier the debut for Emilio, but we also saw two of our academy boys, Harry Fox and Dawid Gawel, get minutes on Tuesday night. Harry, who is 18, joined the club as a nine-year-old and Dawid, who has only just turned 17, signed from Everton last summer. These are just a couple of some highly regarded youngsters in our academy, some of whom will be loaned out in this window.

I also received some very sad news this week. Chris Chew, a youth coach with the Luton Town Ladies team died this week. Chris was highly respected and will be sadly missed by his colleagues at Lancaster Avenue. Our sincere condolences to his family and friends. Rest in Peace, Chris.

Today is Utilita's takeover game to raise awareness and funds for the Luton Foodbank. Our long-standing partners have a stall on the apron and I encourage you to visit them if you can. >>

"IT HAS FELT LIKE WE HAVE FOUND OUR FEET AND ARE BEGINNING TO ENJOY OUR FOOTBALL AGAIN.



We have been delighted to see a number of our Academy players make their senior debuts in the Vertu Trophy this season

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CS

>> Finally, Chris Powell has been the latest victim of more cowardly racist abuse on social media. I'm not sure how the perpetrators can live with themselves or what they think it achieves. To paraphrase Buddha, it's like taking poison yourself and expecting someone else to suffer. We stand by Chris and have taken this up with the authorities, including Meta and the Police.

"I hope that people will finally come to realise that there is only one race – the human race – and that we are all members of it." – Margaret Attwood

"No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite." – Nelson Mandela

Enjoy the game.

COYH!

David

> ***"I HOPE THAT PEOPLE WILL FINALLY COME TO REALISE THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE RACE – THE HUMAN RACE – AND THAT WE ARE ALL MEMBERS OF IT.***



We stand with Chris Powell and all victims of discriminatory abuse

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

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Assistant Manager: Chris Powell
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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

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Human Resources Director: Jenn Smith
Football Operations Manager: Kelly Francis
Safety Officer: Barney McGhee
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Ben Banks, Emma Banks, Richard Banks, Gary Chamberlain, Ian Gazeley, Doug Knight, Ian Montone

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THE CAPTAIN

Kal NAISMITH

Welcome back to Kenilworth Road for the third time in the space of a week.

We've been on a special run at home in the league recently, with some outstanding performances and strong results in big games which has given everyone a real lift. Kenilworth Road is starting to feel like a proper home again, and that makes a massive difference to us as players.

The Stevenage game was one that really stood out. I was disappointed not to be involved on the pitch, but sitting in the crowd allowed me to feel something truly special. I could sense it. In the noise, and in the passion around the ground – especially in that last half hour. There was a real togetherness on and off the pitch. It genuinely felt like we were never going to lose that game once we got it back to 1-1.

Going a goal down, the character we showed to come back was huge. You could see that fight and determination and it was matched by how loud and passionate you were in the stands. Those final moments of the second half felt like everyone pulling in the same direction, driving us over the line together. To experience that from the crowd was incredibly special for us all.

There was a real buzz in the changing room afterwards, with so much said about how much the fans were with us throughout. Thank you for that – it genuinely helped us over the line in a massive game, and the lads really stepped up when it mattered.

That's something we need to keep up, whatever the situation. Whether it's 0-0 or if we're 1-0 down, or late in a tight game, if we stick together with that passion and drive, it's incredible what we can achieve. Results like that can define a season.

Now our focus turns to another huge game against Lincoln today. We know all about them after playing at their place – they're a good side with good players, and it'll be another tough test.

It will also be great to welcome Sonny Bradley back. Everyone knows what he's done for this club and the impact he had here, and I'm sure he'll get the warm reception he fully deserves. Sadly, James Collins sustained a nasty injury and won't be lining up against us today. However, if he's here, and you spot him, join me in wishing him all the best in his recovery.

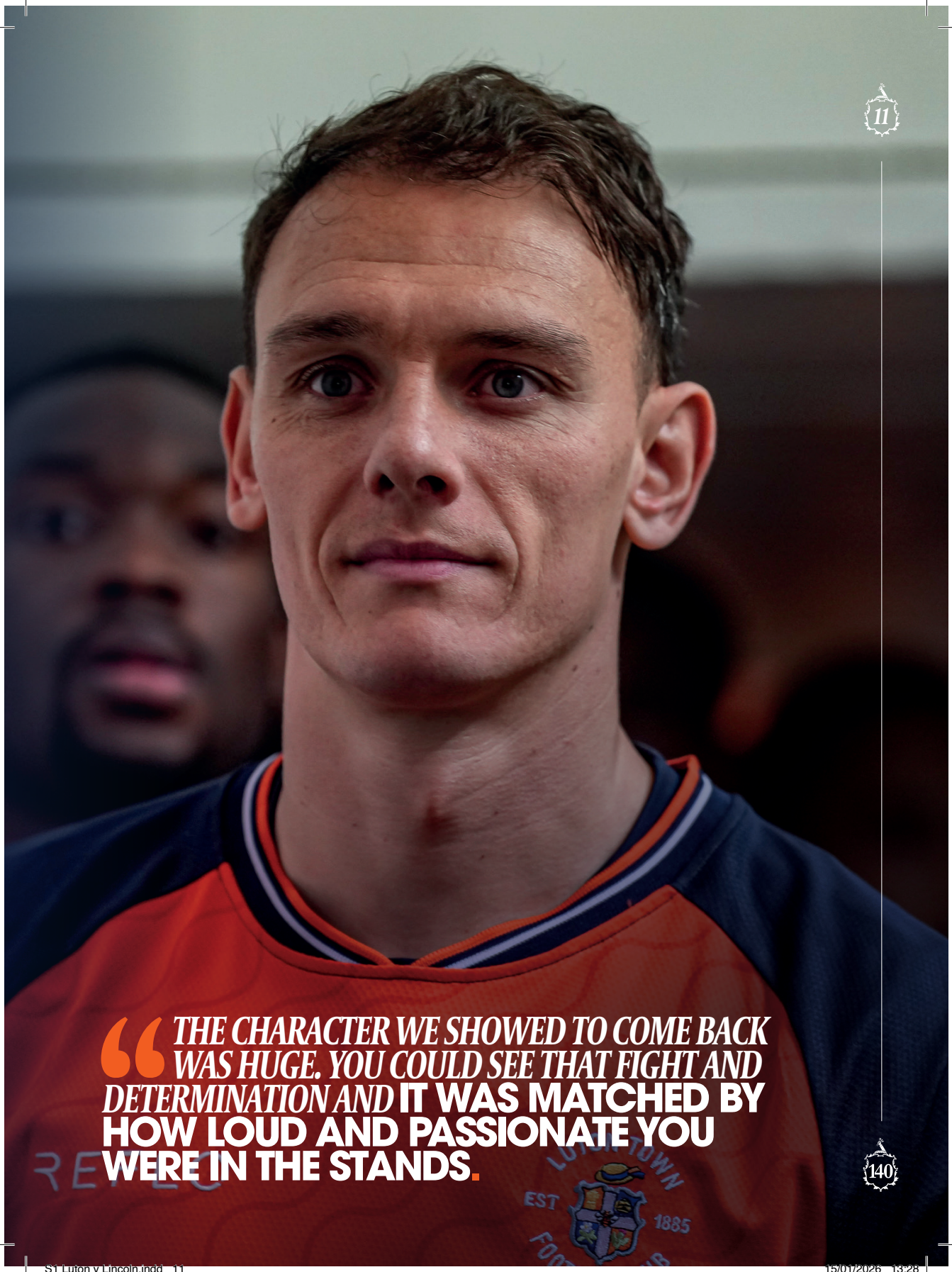
Once the whistle goes though, there's only one focus and one outcome we're looking for – a massive result. That's what we're all excited about, and hopefully one that pushes us right into the play-off places, because we're only looking in one direction.

I'd also like to give a big welcome to Emilio Lawrence. He's an exciting young player, and I know he'll help us a lot. He's learning all the time, and this is his first loan and taste of senior football. We're really grateful to have him with us and excited to see what he can do.

Enjoy the game, get right behind us, and let's stick together once more.



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"THE CHARACTER WE SHOWED TO COME BACK WAS HUGE. YOU COULD SEE THAT FIGHT AND DETERMINATION AND **IT WAS MATCHED BY HOW LOUD AND PASSIONATE YOU WERE IN THE STANDS.**

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LUTON TOWN V LINCOLN CITY

REST IN PEACE HATTERS



David Monk, affectionately known to his close family as Grumps, was a lifelong Luton fan.

Born in 1938, David began attending matches in his early teens and followed the club faithfully until his death on 16th November 2025.

His loyalty never wavered, standing by the Hatters through the highs of Division One and the lows of the Conference years. One of his happiest recent memories was the play-off final victory against Coventry.

The Hatters have lost a devoted supporter, but we know he'll be looking down, proudly backing Jack Wilshere and the rest of the lads this season.

Rest in Peace, David. Once a Hatter, always a Hatter.

Valerie Owen, who died on 29th December 2025 aged 93, first bought three front row season tickets at Kenilworth Road in the corner of the Main Stand above the Enclosure when the Hatters were promoted to the old Division 1 for the 1974/75 season.

When seats were first put into the Enclosure in the 1980s, she moved her season tickets to Block F, where she met and made lifelong friends who have been using the same seats for decades.

Sadly, Valerie was diagnosed with a serious illness in the Conference days, so she missed witnessing first-hand our leap up the divisions to make it to the Premier League. However, she always listened to the live commentaries on the radio, supporting from the comfort of her home. The three season tickets are now occupied by her two eldest sons, Tim and Jeremy, and her eldest grandchild, Stuart.

Valerie is perhaps best known from the time when she was invited onto the pitch to take part in a quiz. She surprised herself by winning, and a moped in the process. The person presenting the prize was none other than Eric Morecambe who, in typical fashion, covered her face with her very own scarf, just as the all-important photo was taken. The photo now resides proudly in the Eric Morecambe Lounge.

She was greatly loved by family and fans alike and will be much missed by all.

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY FREDDIE!



Many happy returns to mad Hatter **Freddie Wilson**! Freddie, from Flitwick, turned 11 yesterday and one of his happiest days as a Junior Hatter was watching the play-off final win over Coventry and being a mascot in the Premier League game with Newcastle.

GIDEON'S A DIAMOND

In-form attacker Gideon Kodua has won the Diamond Player of the Month award for December.

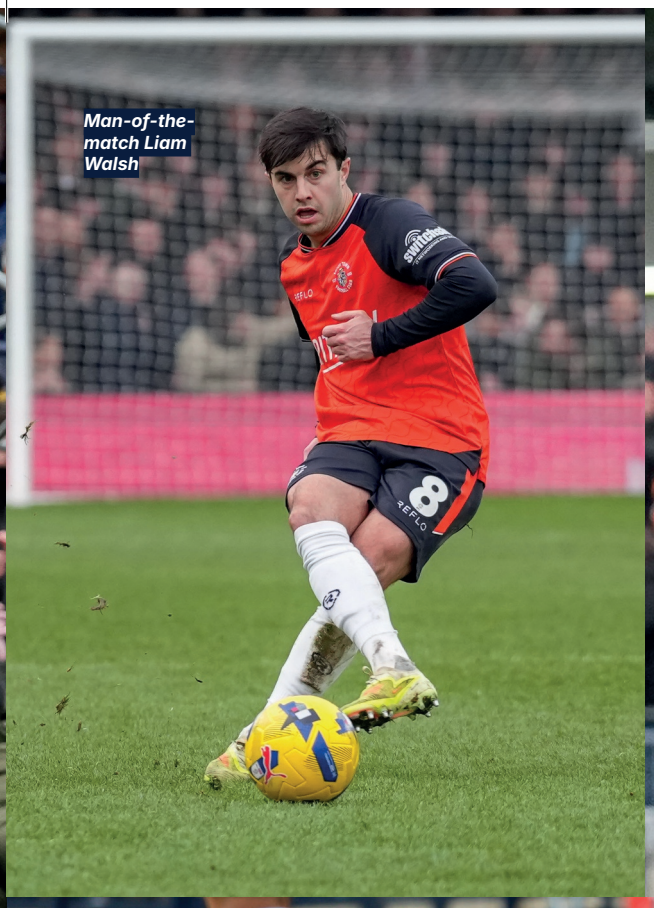
The winger polled almost three-quarters of the overall vote after scoring four times, including a Boxing Day brace against Wycombe and two in two games against Leyton Orient.

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Gideon Kodua celebrates his winner

The Town earned their first win of 2026 as they fought back to beat Stevenage and make it three wins in four games in League One. After a goalless first half, Jordan Clark, who also missed a penalty, and Gideon Kodua were both on target for the third home game in a row as the duo cancelled out Boro's opener from Lewis Freestone.



Man-of-the-match Liam Walsh



Jordan Clark has just made it 1-1



Joe Johnson looks for options

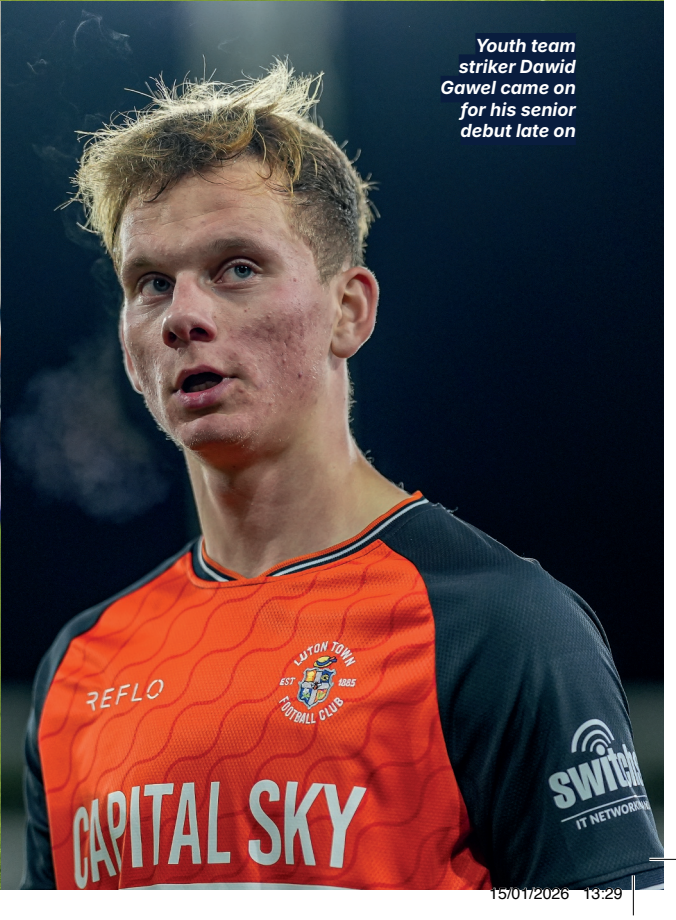

1-2
Debutant Harry Fox congratulates Jerry Yates
The Hatters' run in the Vertu Trophy came to an end after Swindon came from a goal down to earn victory at Kenilworth Road. Jerry Yates' early penalty had the Town in front only for Swindon to score twice through former Hatters academy player Will Wright and Filozofe Mabete to send the Robins through to the quarter-finals.



Ethon Archer gets stuck in on his Hatters debut



Zack Nelson shows close control



Youth team striker Dawid Gawel came on for his senior debut late on

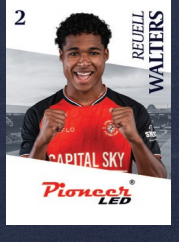
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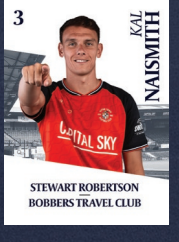
GOALKEEPERS





DEFENDERS



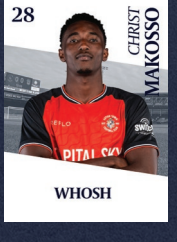


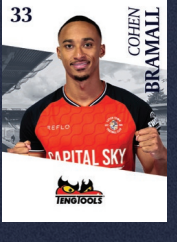


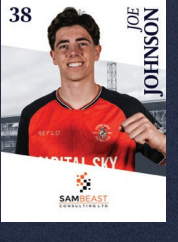










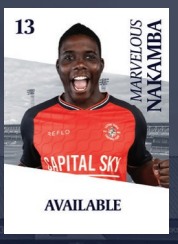


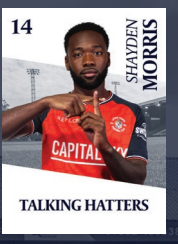
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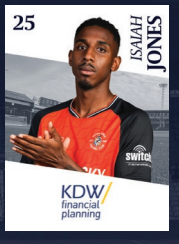




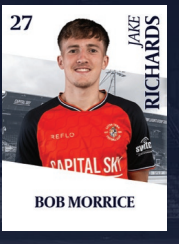














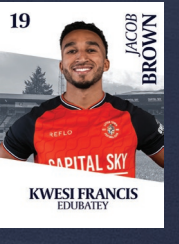


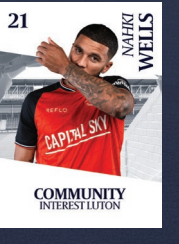
FORWARDS



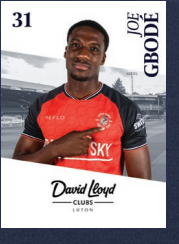






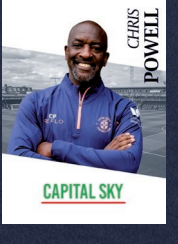






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LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

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SPONSORSHIP & HOSPITALITY

At our last home game against Stevenage last weekend Liam Walsh was named man-of-the-match and we also had the pleasure of welcoming three mascots to the League One fixture against Boro.

Our guests in the Eric Morecambe Lounge also had the pleasure of hearing from Town duo Gideon Kodua and Nahki Wels after the game, with the pair popping in to meet and greet guests, signing autographs, posing for photos and answering supporters' questions after the 2-1 win.

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

With the team on a roll at Kenilworth Road with one more home game this month against Blackpool, make sure you get in touch with our team to book your place at one of our big matches here.

There is availability for our games in February, too, so please get in touch with us by calling 01582 411622 or emailing commercial@lutontown.co.uk.

Finally, a big hello to those here from our partners Utilita, as part of their matchday takeover day. You can read more about their activation this afternoon elsewhere in today's programme.













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

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LINCOLN CITY

In-form Lincoln City are in town as they make the trip to Bedfordshire to face the Hatters.

Michael Skubala's side have had an excellent season so far and sit second in the league.

The Imps got off to an electric start to the season as they lost just once in their first 10 league matches. This run of form saw Lincoln skyrocket to the top end of the table and establish themselves as real contenders in this league.

In the reverse fixture, Skubala's side beat the Hatters 3-1 at Sincil Bank in a big home victory. A Ben House double and Justin Obikwu strike was enough for the three points.

More recently, Lincoln have gone on an eight-match unbeaten run in the league, their last defeat in November against Wycombe Wanderers.

They have recorded some huge results recently against fellow highflyers including wins against Cardiff, Stockport and Peterborough as well as two wins against Barnsley. All in all they have left the Imps in a great spot in the League One promotion race and sit just four points off top.

Imps fans in the Oak Road end this afternoon will be aiming to see their side record two wins in a row over the Town for the first time since 1900. Their win at Sincil Bank was Lincoln's first win in 15 attempts against the Hatters – a run stretching back to a 1-0 win here at Kenilworth Road in April 1999.

It remains a rare win here for the Sincil Bank side. The Hatters' have won 15 of the 20 games played on home soil, including the last five.

The last two – in 2013, in the Conference, and 2018 in League Two, have both seen the Hatters triumph from losing positions.

A warm welcome to Kenilworth Road to all those associated with Lincoln City.

LINCOLN CITY AT-A-GLANCE

FOUNDED: 1884

NICKNAME: The Imps

GROUND: Sincil Bank

MAJOR HONOURS: Third Division (North) champions 1931/32, 1947/48, 1951/52. Fourth Division/League Two champions 1975/76, 2018/19. Conference champions 1987/88, 2016/27. EFL Trophy winners 2018

RIVALS: Grimsby and Scunthorpe

LAST TIME AT THE KENNY: Town 4-2 Lincoln 1/1/18

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LINCOLN CITY

THE AWAY END

The Boss

MICHAEL SKUBALA
Appointed as Lincoln manager in November 2023 after previously being involved in the coaching staff at Leeds United.

Goalkeeper

GEORGE WICKENS
Came through the Fulham academy and spent time with the likes of Wealdstone and Ross County before making the move to Lincolnshire in 2024.

Defenders

RYLEY TOWLER
Spent last season with Portsmouth in the Championship but moved to Lincoln in the summer and has since become a pivotal part of the defence.

THOMAS HAMER
Experienced defender who has over 300 appearances in the EFL. Scored in the Imps' recent 2-0 victory against Barnsley.

SONNY BRADLEY A very popular man here at Kenilworth Road. Earned two promotions with the Hatters and captained the club on numerous occasions.

TENDAYI DARIKWA
Another experienced EFL defender who has spent time with Chesterfield, Burnley, Nottingham Forest and Wigan. Got two goals and an assist in their 5-2 win over Peterborough.

ADAM REACH 32-year-old wide player who can play at wing-back or on the wing. Has scored in his last three matches in a row with the Imps.

Midfielders

CONOR McGRANDLES
Scottish box-to-box midfielder who began his career at Falkirk. Rapidly approaching 200 appearances for the Imps.

IVAN VARFOLOMEEV
Young midfielder who was signed from Slovan Liberec in the summer. Has featured 19 times so far this season.

JACK MOYLAN 24-year-old midfielder who arrived at Sincil Bank in January 2024 from Shelbourne. Has scored 11 goals in 68 games since.

ERIK RING Plays in a more advanced midfield role and has featured 16 times so far this campaign, grabbing two goals and two assists.

Forwards

FREDDIE DRAPER Young striker who is just shy of 100 appearances for the club already. Scored in Lincoln's recent win over Peterborough.

REECO HACKETT Joined the Imps in June 2023 and has established himself as a fans' favourite since. Bagged seven goals so far this season.

ROBERT STREET Spent last season on loan at Doncaster and bagged 12 goals, helping guide Rovers back to League One. Has since returned to Lincoln and scored five so far.

JUSTIN OBIKWU Young striker on loan from Coventry who spent last season on loan at Grimsby. Scored in Lincoln's 3-1 victory against the Hatters earlier this season.

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HATTERS *versus* IMPS

Historic meetings between the clubs down the years

FEBRUARY 1968
CHAMPIONS ELECT

In another devastating display from the Hatters on their march towards the Fourth Division title, the game is all over by the interval. Ian Buxton is unlucky not to get on the scoresheet as he leads Ray Harford a merry dance. The second half is practically a non-event as players try to conserve energy for their next game in two days. Ray Whittaker scores a brace and is joined on the scoresheet by Keith Allen and Bruce Rioch.

FEBRUARY 2002
SUPER MATT STRIKES

The final score-line flatters the Imps, who have just one shot on target all evening. However, the Hatters, and in particular Matthew Taylor, spurn several good chances and the only goal is a fluke when Lincoln keeper Alan Marriott stands like a statue as a 30-yard-cross-shot from Taylor rolls gently past him and into the corner.

DECEMBER 2008
CULT HERO ON TARGET

The Town edged a thrilling 3-2 home win over Lincoln with Ian Roper's powerful header proving decisive. The centre-back struck what would turn out to be the winner to cap an entertaining contest in which Norwich loanee Chris Martin scored twice for the Hatters. The victory kept the Town bottom of League Two but moved them closer to wiping out their 30-point deduction.



The Town beat Lincoln on their way to the Fourth Division title



Mark Cullen celebrates his winner in 2013

SEPTEMBER 2013
WHAT A COMEBACK!

The Hatters showed character and quality to twice come from behind to seal a dramatic 3-2 victory over the Imps in the Conference. John Still's side were 2-1 behind with 13 minutes to go before their grandstand finish. Firstly, a howler from Lincoln goalkeeper Paul Farman enabled Luke Guttridge's low free-kick to squirm through the keeper's legs for the equaliser on 77 minutes. Then, three minutes later, Mark Cullen scored his second when lashing home from six yards to spark Kenilworth Road into celebration.

JANUARY 2018
NEW YEAR'S DAY TREAT

The Hatters kicked off 2018 by again twice coming from behind to beat Lincoln 4-2 – despite playing with 10 men for 86 minutes. Alan Sheehan was sent off in the fourth minute, and the Town immediately went a goal down. But the Town's 10 went on to boss possession and drew level through James Collins. They went behind again in a first half that also saw Lincoln reduced to 10 men, but James Justin netted a superb second equaliser just before half-time. However, goals from Danny Hylton and Harry Cornick after the break sealed victory.

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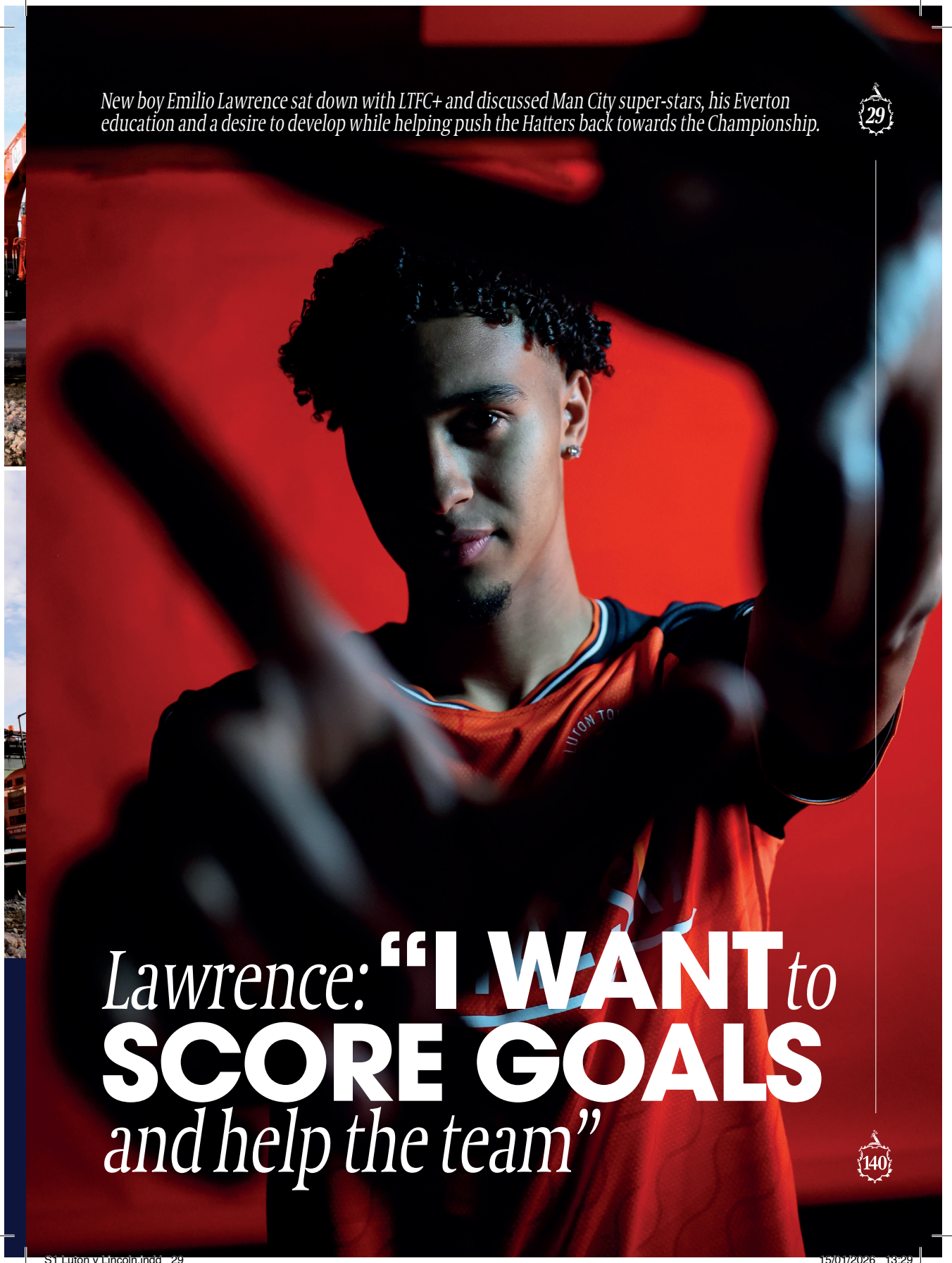




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New boy Emilio Lawrence sat down with LTFC+ and discussed Man City super-stars, his Everton education and a desire to develop while helping push the Hatters back towards the Championship.



Lawrence: "I WANT *to* SCORE GOALS *and help the team"*

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Emilio Lawrence, our new number 32, on loan all the way from the blue half of Manchester and thrown straight into the deep end of senior football against Stevenage, wasn't even interested in football as a kid.

"My dad first inspired me to get into football, he was a bit disappointed at the start because I didn't like football at first but eventually I went to a local team and started to get into it a bit more, he first started taking me when I was about four years old and I wasn't too keen but I got there in the end," Emilio joked.

"Him, my mum and my grandparents have been there for me from the beginning. They are always there for me, they watch all my games, they do so much for me, they've helped me get to where I am today and I'm so grateful."

Starting his academy journey in Merseyside, Emilio joined Everton through their academy, growing through the age-groups while playing predominantly as a striker, idolising a certain number 10 thanks to his Citizen supporting dad.

"Everton was my home for about 10 years; I joined the club at an early age and then went on to join Manchester City going into the Under-18 season.

"When I first stepped into the club I just had to try and stay calm, it was really enjoyable, I had to act unbothered a bit because at the end of the day you are there to work and play football and not act in awe of the superstars around you.

***"JACK'S TOLD ME HE WANTS ME TO PUSH MYSELF AND* EXPRESS MYSELF ON THE PITCH.**

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"I always played as a striker in my youth career, I grew up idolizing Sergio Aguero, he was my hero and who I watched the most growing up."

The winger knew that finding the right club would be key to his development, though this won't be the players first venture playing against senior sides, having played in City's three Vertu Trophy games this season, registering two assists.

"When it comes to playing against men in the Vertu Trophy, you really do learn a lot about how much faster and more physical it is compared to academy football," he says. "It's very different but it's also why I am so excited to be here and to get used to it.

"I have learned so much while playing for City in their academy, but I feel like now is the right time to come away and get some senior football. I'm really excited to get going and playing in front of the fans and to meet my teammates.

Speaking about what Jack Wilshere said to persuade him to join us, Emilio said: "From what I've spoken with Jack, he's a great guy, he's very straightforward and he told me he wants me to push myself and express myself on the pitch, I'm grateful he's giving that backing to develop and it gives me confidence.

"I am just so excited to get out there in front of the fans because I have never played in front of a crowd before. You might only get a hundred odd people turn up for an academy game at City so to play in front of a packed stadium, I really can't wait."



Having tasted competitive senior football, the Scotland Under-21 international decided that Kenilworth Road would be the ideal place to grow, deciding the time was right to get away from academy football and into the senior game on a more frequent basis, ready to show the Hatters faithful just what he is all about.

"Luton fans can expect me to be as direct as possible, create a lot of 1v1 attacking scenarios that can lead to a lot of crosses and a lot of shots, I want to score goals and really help the team."

From Merseyside to Manchester, from Joie Stadium to Kenilworth Road, we're all excited to see Emilio thrive down the wing for Luton Town for the remainder of the season.

Words: *Liam Wilmot*



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THE VIEW FROM THE PRESS BOX

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

Well even after all these years, Tuesday night was something new. "Teamsheet-gate"... a confusing and, at the time of writing, unresolved issue about the Swindon substitute not on the teamsheet.

It made for a weird last 20 minutes or so, with both teams seemingly left wondering whether what they were doing would have any impact on who was in the next round. So we may yet be heading to Wembley in April, but I'd rather be there in May.

To quote a well-used football saying... "we're concentrating on the league" at BBC 3CR, especially after a winless FA Cup third round weekend. It's the first time for a while that none of our sides has made it through, and even Boreham Wood came unstuck. FA Cup hopes here could have ended at home to Forest Green but were extinguished in the penalty shootout at Fleetwood.

Our 3CR teams apart, I enjoyed much of the FA Cup third round, especially Macclesfield's victory just a month after one of their players died in a car crash on the way home from their National League North fixture at Bedford Town. There were some predictable team selections elsewhere, and some crazy kick-off times to suit the television coverage. Whilst clubs welcome the money, there were only two live games on terrestrial TV, although highlights are soon available on the BBC Sport website.

Meanwhile we are in the midst of the transfer window, although most business will likely be done in the closing days. At the time of writing, a major overhaul seems unlikely, but I would caution against relying too much on injured strikers returning to lead a promotion charge.

I have been encouraged by the wins here against Wycombe, Orient and Stevenage, although the defeat at Exeter was especially disappointing, and in many ways it's a shame that there wasn't the opportunity to bounce back immediately on the road at Doncaster. But after today's game, long and testing trips resume at Plymouth and Huddersfield. Points must be accrued on our travels to build on the positive home results.

At times against Stevenage it felt like the 'old girl' was finding her voice again – Jack Wilshere commented on it in our interview afterwards – and although it was aided by an increasing frustration with the officials, your input was certainly noticeable from our position on the gantry.

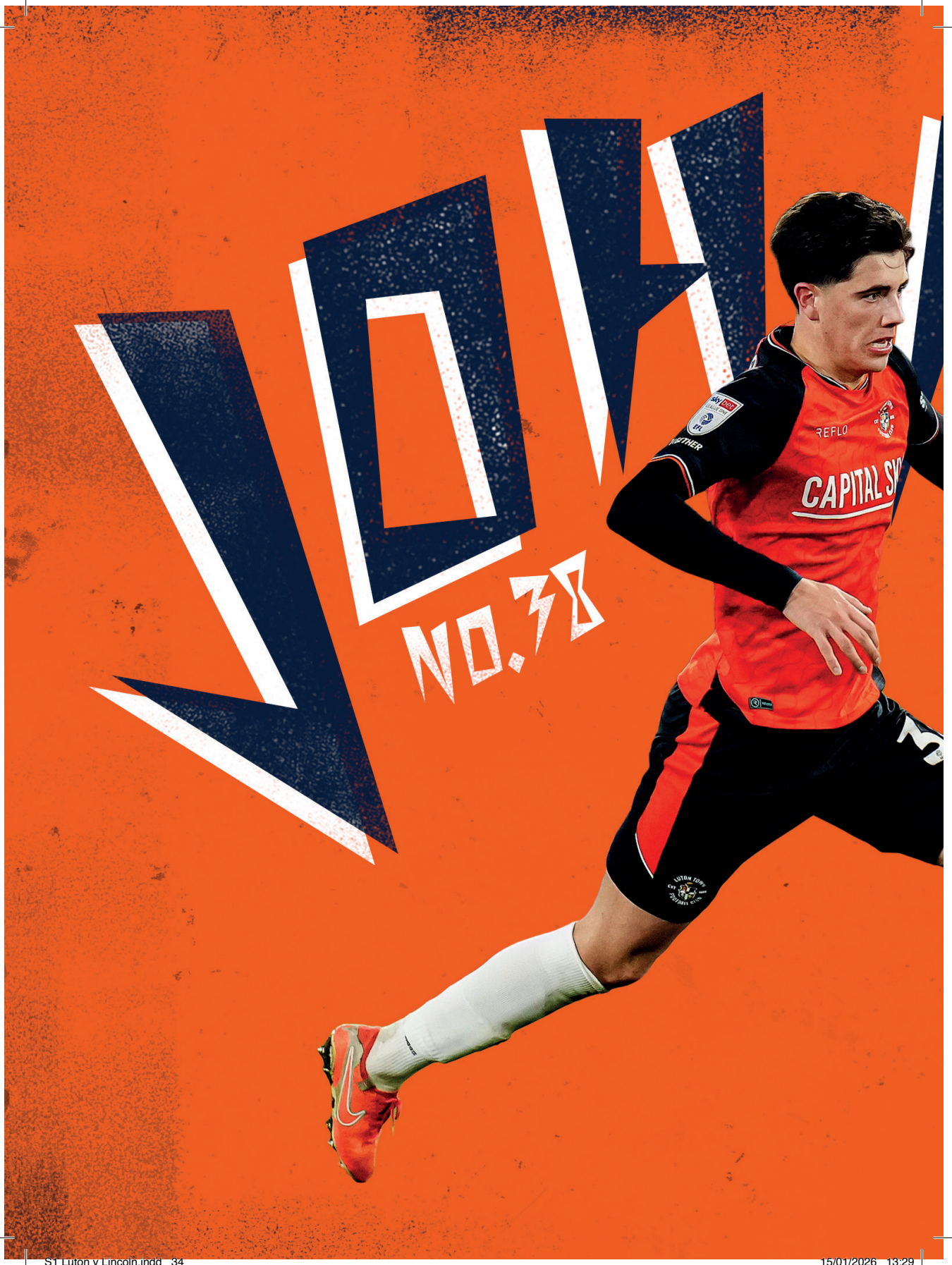
Like many of you, I have been a bit "glass half empty" as opposed to "half full", but a win today will get me back on the optimism bus. I trust that events at Lincoln will act as motivation for those on the pitch.

Finally, a warm welcome to former skipper Sonny Bradley who returns again this afternoon. As I wrote when he left, captaincy is about much more than lifting trophies. It's about facing the music when you've lost 7-0; and overcoming injury setbacks and personal loss to inspire those around you. And a 25-yard volley on the opening day of a new season also helps!



Swindon boss Ian Holloway tries to explain himself on Tuesday night

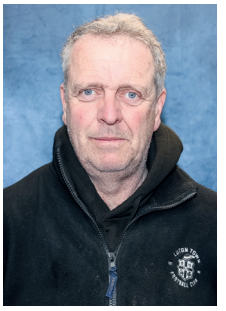
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NO.38





LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS' TRUST



The Trust Interviews...

Richard Bird *Head Groundsman*

This time round, we're delighted to have interviewed one of the real unsung heroes of Luton Town – Richard Bird, Head Groundsman for over 32 years.

Known as 'Dickie' to many, a nickname given him by Mick Harford, he has seen it all in his time – and as a fan, too, before working for the club. He took time out to talk to us as he prepared for last Saturday's match against Stevenage. A game which not only went ahead against a background of severe weather forecasts, and widespread cancellations, but was also played on a near perfect surface. But it wasn't always like that...!

Richard, let's start with you telling us a little bit about yourself, your history with Luton Town and how you came to be Head Groundsman.

I've always been a Luton fan – my dad took me to my first game in 1972, against Hull City. We lost 2-1 but after that it was in my blood, and mum and dad got me a half season ticket in the Bobbers for Christmas when I was 14. I did seven full seasons, every game home and away, from 1980 to 1987. Then I missed a game to play in a snooker competition. We got knocked out in the first round and missed us beating Liverpool 4-1 with Mike Newell getting a hat-trick!

I started as a groundsman at a golf club and learnt a lot tending the greens. Then one day I was at a match as a guest in the Eric Morecambe and got talking to John Buttle about the pitch. He jokingly asked me if I wanted a job and I said "you couldn't afford my wages"! Then I noticed in the Luton News that the head groundsman had left. I was fed up of where I was working at the golf club and thought 'what the heck, I'm a Luton fan, let's phone him' and so I went in and had an interview with the club secretary. I didn't hear anything for several weeks so thought I'd blown it. However, out of the blue, he phoned me back and I had an interview with the board and David Kohler, the chairman. A week later they offered me the job, so I jumped at the chance.

When was that – when did you start as Head Groundsman?

It was 22nd March 1993. That's my wife's birthday, so I couldn't forget that – and here's the thing: about eight out of the next 10 years we had a match on the date so I couldn't take her out for her birthday! It didn't go down too well at the time but it's quite comical really.

Anyhow, that first day I walked in there – there was a game, I think it was a youth game, and it was pouring with rain.

> ***"BEFORE GARY SWEET AND 2020 CAME IN, THE REGIMES WE WORKED UNDER WERE ALWAYS RELUCTANT TO SPEND MONEY ON THE PITCH BECAUSE THEY COULDN'T SEE ANY RETURN ON IT.***

There were puddles all over the pitch and I thought 'what on earth have I done'! There were four games left to get through that season and the pitch was atrocious. There was no grass on it except a little bit in the corners and down the Bobbers side. I got it green again for the next season, but it was never right. The pitch had been re-laid after the plastic pitch was removed and the drainage was always faulty. But the club didn't want to spend the money on it because in those days we were going to move to the chairman's Kohlerdome.

Before Gary Sweet and 2020 came in, the regimes we worked under were always reluctant to spend money on the pitch because they couldn't see any return on it. We don't bring money in like commercial or the ticket office, in fact we spend it. At the end of the season, they had to get as many pitch hires in as they could and that paid for renovation during the summer.

But things have come on since my early days. We've played games in the past where now we wouldn't even have



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come down the tunnel because the pitch would be unplayable compared to what we're used to. That famous Barnet game on New Year's Day back in the Conference days springs to mind. The pitch was like a cow field after the game. It should never have been played but it was on TV, and it was a pivotal game for our season. We won, went four points clear at the top and never looked back. The pitch didn't recover though, throughout the rest of the season it was like something from the 1960s, covered in sand.

If you think about between then and now what would be the pivotal things that really changed?

It's more of a science now. One of the things that no one back then would even have thought about was taking every blade of grass off the pitch and starting from fresh in the close season.

That started when a machine called the Koro Field Top Maker was introduced – I remember reading about it being used first, at Port Vale, and the groundsman was nervous, but they reseeded the pitch and it worked a treat. So we did the same the following year. I was nervous too, but it works so well. The idea is, you take out the top layer, including all the rotting-down grass from clippings that have flown out of the box. You're getting rid of all the organic matter so you have a clean fresh surface. But the thing is, the top is only as good >>



"THAT FAMOUS BARNET GAME ON NEW YEAR'S DAY BACK IN THE CONFERENCE DAYS SPRINGS TO MIND. THE PITCH WAS LIKE A COW FIELD AFTER THE GAME.



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>> as what is underneath – and 10 inches down, we have rubble from the old artificial pitch times. There's not been a full reconstruction since 1991, and we only started making real improvements in 2010 under 2020, when we put some drains in. I remember saying to Gary, "look, grass is a living plant and if you put it under water it can't breathe", so they went ahead and did the drainage, which just transformed the pitch.

When we got to the Championship I asked if we could take it to the next level with 'stitching' in the goalmouths and in the penalty boxes, and Gary came back to me and asked for a price to do the whole pitch. Which we did. Basically, that's like a polypropylene thread that goes down 180mm every 50mm sq. and it's sewn into the pitch by machine. Once the grass starts growing, the roots wrap themselves around the threads. You can't pull it out, it keeps a flat surface and plays a lot truer, in the winter especially. We spent a six-figure sum to do that and it's unbelievable. You don't get divots – you might get a scar, but not big clods of earth flying out. That's the technology behind most pitches now. We also aerate it when necessary, with machines called ProCore Aerators, and Verti-Drains when we need to go a bit deeper. The roots get stronger, which means the grass on top does too and we can control the moisture.

How do you keep up with technology?

We do a lot of reading! My number two here, Jamie Marshall, is phenomenal. He loves his job so much. He's been with me seven or eight years, he's 24 now. He started working in the kitchens cooking for players after games and talked to our stadium manager Peter Kemp about how he'd love to be out there working on the pitch, so we took him on, put him through his Level 2 training. Then he was poached off us by Wembley! He went there but it wasn't busy enough for him because he wanted to be working all the time, so he asked if he could come back. He now runs the pitches for a lot of the day-to-day training sessions at The Brache, leading the team of lads – we're five in total – and to make everything ready for the next day. When he goes home, he's researching all the time. He's really full on – and that's refreshing, because as a sector we struggle to recruit good young people into this game. Young lads would rather be doing something with IT in a nice warm office! I was talking to Jack Wilshere the other day and he was saying how much bigger the grounds teams are at Arsenal and West Ham, but we do well and we like a challenge.

What does your working week look like?

When you come into this job you have to realise it can be seven days a week. We try to work 8-4 but, if there's stuff still to do in readiness for the next day, one or two of us will stay on. We don't have set hours as such and the club is happy to leave us to get on with it.

We get everything ready at The Brache as well as the ground of course. We have four pitches up there, including one for the Academy, and an all-weather pitch. We don't have undersoil heating at Kenilworth Road, which is why you'll have seen pictures of that heating dome over the pitch to ensure the game was on last Saturday. That's brought in for Sky TV under an EFL agreement. We work around training patterns at The Brache – if the players are in on a Sunday, so are we – making good any damage, cleaning up the pitches with rotary mowers and so on. For a Saturday match day at this time of the year, we'll cut the pitch on Thursday, then again on the Friday and mark it out so it looks its best with neat white lines.

What was it like preparing for the Premier League with the Bobbers being built in the close season?

Challenging! We knew if we won at Wembley, we'd be building a new stand but in case we lost we had to be ready too, so we'd already renovated the pitch. We won, and the very next day people were in stripping out the old executive boxes then flattening it so that pitch was lost and we didn't get it back until the beginning of July – and we had four weeks to be ready for the Carabao Cup first round.

I don't think anyone has ever done it so quickly before and the whole stadium was still a building site with workmen in and out all the time. We'd purchased a new turf pitch to be



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laid down in case there was a problem, but the club wanted it seeding so that's what we did. That turf went up to The Brache, and we seeded the Kenilworth Road pitch one Tuesday and played on it four Tuesdays later against Gillingham. It scarred up a bit but the improvement three days later against West Ham was impressive.

It certainly wasn't straightforward though. There was some damage to the pitch with stuff being dumped on it which killed the brand-new grass within two weeks, so we had to get the stitching machine in again just to make it look green, even though it wasn't really ready for playing on. Rob Edwards and everyone looked down from the gantry and you could see it was patchy, but just because it was the first game didn't mean the pitch would not keep on maturing and getting better.

I joined a Premier League Head Groundsman's meeting on Zoom and when I was telling them about the new stand and pitch, some of these top groundmen in the country couldn't believe what I was saying. 28 days to grow the pitch! It's been done at 35 I think before and we've obviously got more knowledge of chemicals and stuff to apply during the grow in, but for 28 days you need everything to fall into place, including the weather – and that was kind to us. The only comments to come from the West Ham game were from the referee who thought the grass looked longer in places. It was in fact that some of the grass was at different levels of maturity. After that we had no adverse comments at all, it was great.

We had a dispensation about not having undersoil heating, so we had the pitch protection company that we used last Saturday on call. It was a bit stressful but when you've got the best players in the world on your bit of grass, well it's a bit special, to say the least.

Looking to the future now, what are your thoughts about Power Court?

It's what the club has been crying out for, for years. I love Kenilworth Road but it's like it's held together with sticky back plastic in some ways now. We're going from there to a state-of-the-art stadium. It will be amazing. But you'll see grown men crying the day we leave Kenilworth Road. I've got so many memories there from boyhood to manhood.

What sort of pitch do you envisage there?

The agronomist we use for pitch renovations, Dr James Welch from Whitehorse Contractors, is deeply involved in plans for it, the construction and dimensions and what it's going to be like underneath. When they're ready to put the pitch in, that's where we'll get involved. I'll be so proud to be part of that, if I'm still here at the club.

We're sure you will be Dickie, you are part of the fabric! Finally, do you have a message for your fellow Luton fans?





"SOME OF THESE TOP GROUNDMEN IN THE COUNTRY COULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT I WAS SAYING. 28 DAYS TO GROW THE PITCH!

Our fans are out of this world. They've supported us through thick and thin, administrations and dropping into the Conference, then up through the league to the Premier and are sticking with us now. There can't be any better fans than Luton fans. And I'm proud to be one myself.

Thank you Dickie for providing us with our Luton Town 'field of dreams' for so many years!

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SIGN-UP TODAY

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

Wearing HISTORY

2023/24 – HOME

I think it's time. Enough days, months and years have passed, so we can now feature the Premier League season home shirt and look back on what was a fantastic experience for us fans!

For the second time, we took inspiration for this shirt from the 1973-77 design, with the stripe down the right-hand side of the shirt.

Previously in 2011-2013, we also had a similar design during our Conference days which also paid homage to an iconic design. This time though, we were in the richest league in the world.

Made by Umbro, our home orange shirt was supported by a small navy V-neck collar, navy cuffs on the sleeves and that iconic white stripe. If you look closely at the stripe, you will notice it is not a solid line but made from dots that get more frequent and closer together as the line moves to the left of the shirt.

Whilst you're there and looking closely, you will also see a faint, embossed diamond pattern running through the main body of the shirt. A nice, subtle touch!

Utilita were the primary shirt sponsor again, with Freenow on the sleeves.

With no back sponsor this time – as per Premier League rules.

This shirt saw our first Premier League appearance away at Brighton which also included our first Premier League goal thanks to Carlton Morris' penalty.

It saw our first point, at home to Wolves, again Carlton was on the scoresheet from the spot. It was also worn for that unbelievable game against Liverpool, in which we were seconds away from a famous win thanks to Tahith Chong's goal that took the roof off Kenilworth Road.

We beat Crystal Palace at home in this shirt. Teden Mengi and fellow memorabilia collector Jacob Brown scored that afternoon.

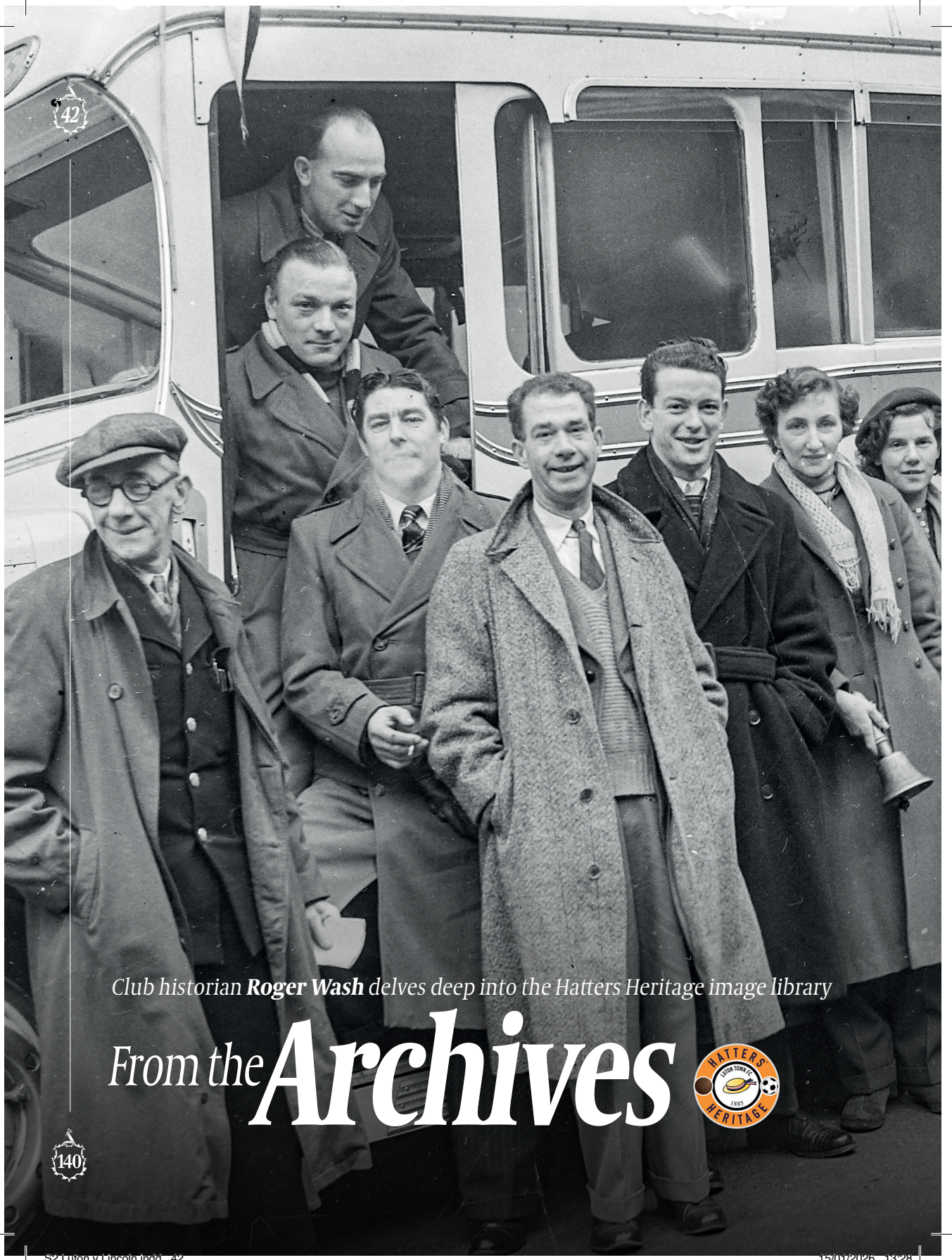
We also came close to beating Arsenal, gave Man City a run for their money and beat Newcastle in this too. The memory bank list goes on for this shirt.

Finally, we saw the incredibly talented Ross Barkley adorn this shirt. Someone who learnt what it meant to play for our wonderful club. A magnificent player who credits Luton Town with helping him fall back in love with football. What a compliment!

This will definitely be considered a classic, iconic shirt in years to come.



S2 Luton v Lincoln.indd 41 15/01/2026 13:28



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

From the Archives

S2 Luton v Lincoln.indd 42 15/01/2026 13:28



A Bobbers Club coach trip to an away game in 1954. No excursion was possible in those days without a couple of bells and a good supply of cigarettes!

Inset: From the same season, supporters arrive full of smiles at Blackpool for an FA Cup tie.

S2 Luton v Lincoln.indd 43 15/01/2026 13:28

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

ON THIS DAY

17th January



2001 – Lee Mansell rifles home a debut goal inside a minute as the Town lead QPR in an FA Cup replay at Loftus Road. The Hatters concede a sickening injury-time equaliser and Rangers win the tie in extra-time.



1976 – Goals from John Faulkner, Andy King and Ron Futcher earn the Hatters a 3-1 win at Kenilworth Road against Portsmouth.

XXX



2009 – Not one to remember, but the Hatters are thumped 5-1 at Darlington to stay rooted to the foot of League Two. Chris Martin scores our goal.



2024 – Goals from Tahith Chong and Chiedozie Ogbene earn the Hatters a 2-1 win at Bolton in an FA Cup third round replay.



1953 – In front of over 21,000 at Kenilworth Road, goals from Les Jones and Bernard Moore secure a 2-0 win over Fulham.



2015 – A solitary strike from Andy Drury gives the Hatters a narrow victory at Plymouth in League Two.

S2 Luton v Lincoln.indd 45 15/01/2026 13:28



Two great centre-halves – Syd with Wolves' Billy Wright, 1955

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

Syd Owen – Captain supreme

"He deceives you by his footballing modesty. Everything he does he does in the easiest and surest way. He does not make a meal of it. But, brother, does he do it well."

Those words, written by Lee Norris in a June 1954 copy of Soccer Star, perhaps sum up Syd Owen better than any others.

He was born in the Aston area of Birmingham in September 1922. However, it was with the blue side of England's second city that he signed after being demobbed at the end of World War Two, though his time at St Andrews would be short. He was transfer listed by Harry Storer after only five appearances with the Blues boss thinking Owen too slight for the half-back line.

It was a player who'd made the same move 10 years earlier, Fred Roberts, who is said to have recommended Owen to Luton. If true, a finer piece of advice can never have been given. Signed for a paltry £1,700, Syd would go on to make 423 appearances in all, play for England and captain the Hatters to an FA Cup final. Oh, and he won the Footballer of the Year award to boot!

But the move was not an easy one for Syd at first. "I did not want to particularly leave Birmingham, for it meant going to a strange town with my wife and few-months old baby," he would say upon his retirement.

A slight switch of position would help. Signed as a left-half he was moved to the vital 'pivot' position of centre-half by Dally Duncan. It proved to be a masterstroke. Whereas 50 or so years before Bob Hawkes, Fred Hawkes and Fred White had been known as the best half-back line in the Southern League, now teams had Wally Shanks, Owen and Bob Morton to contend with.

Slowly Duncan began to build the team that would lead 'unfashionable'

> *"HE WAS AWARDED THE 'FOOTBALL OF THE YEAR' AWARD, POSSIBLY THE MOST REMARKABLE INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT OF ANY LUTON PLAYER, ESPECIALLY AS IT CAME AT 36 YEARS OLD.*

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Luton to the top-flight for the first time. Owen's consistency and leadership became a cornerstone and soon led to international recognition. In the summer of 1951 he was chosen as part of the FA representative tour to Australia, during which the FA XI ran out 17-0 winners against their hosts. He would also play for the Football League XI against a Danish combination side in May 1953 and make multiple appearances for England 'B'.

He saw himself as a student of the game, attending FA coaching courses from as early as 1952 and being an early proponent of the importance of player fitness; he was a non-smoker and did not drink alcohol. He also had little time for those who didn't train at maximum effort, saying "there is no room in big time soccer for those who don't work hard".

He was awarded an England call up at the age of 32 and a first cap, against Yugoslavia in May 1954. His other two appearances came in remarkable games. He was on the pitch as England were dismantled 7-1 by Ferenc Puskas and Hungary's 'Mighty Magyars' in Budapest, a game often viewed as the beginning of the end of British footballing dominance, and his final cap came in a 4-4 draw against Belgium in the group stages of the 1954 World Cup. He would likely have won more international honours, if not for playing in the same role as England great, Billy Wright.

The pinnacle of his time as a player would come at its swansong. Such were his performances as he helped Town reach the 1959 FA Cup final, he was awarded the 'Football of the Year' award, possibly the most remarkable individual achievement of any Luton player, especially as it came at 36 years old. His name will forever remain in that list of winners, nestled between the likes of Danny Blanchflower, Stanley Matthews and Tom Finney.



Syd with the Footballer of the Year trophy

Unfortunately, the FA Cup final itself and the events surrounding it would prove a bitter time. Much has been made about the poor preparation for the game, something with which Syd would agree with later in life, but Owen was also hurt by the time it took the directors to offer him the manager's position, and that the offer was leaked to the press. In the end the final, lost 2-1 to Nottingham Forest, would become his last as a player and, although he knew of his appointment, did not officially take over until two days later. The game was not a great one. Indeed, it was said the Queen, upon being asked who played best, replied, "the band".

His time as manager would last for only one season with Syd unable to stop the aging squad sliding towards relegation. A far more successful career in coaching would follow, most notably at Leeds and Manchester United.

An intensely private man, his passing in August 1998 wasn't known until months later and came as a terrible shock to those who had played and worked with him, as well as those who watched him help the Hatters compete with the giants of English football.

He would always fondly remember his time at Kenilworth Road. "It was a joy to go to the ground every day, a pleasure to see your mates, a dressing room with a marvellous atmosphere, a small-town club with a great deal of love and affection around the place."



Syd at home before the FA Cup final with a mountain of 'Good luck' telegrams and letters

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LTFC academy

With Chelsea Cowley
Player Care Officer





Our Under-18 pictured on Thameslink duty earlier this season

In September I was delighted to take on the role of Player Care Officer within the Academy, working with players from Under-9s right through to the Under-21s.

I stepped into the position following Wayne Polson's move into the role of Academy Safeguarding Manager. The foundations he has established has allowed the player care provision within the academy to continue to grow and evolve.

My role is centred around providing a holistic approach to player development. Whilst footballing ability is, of course, crucial, as a club we recognise that each young player's journey is about far more than just what happens on the pitch. My job is to support players throughout their individual pathways, ensuring they are given the tools, guidance and support needed to develop not only as footballers, but as confident, resilient and well-rounded individuals.

A key part of this work involves mental health support, EDI training, 1v1 mentoring and the delivery of a comprehensive life skills programme. Every player's journey is different, and it's important that the support provided is tailored to the individual to help minimise challenges that may impact performance on the pitch. By taking a bespoke approach, we aim to equip each player with skills and knowledge that will benefit them both during their time at the club and into their personal life outside of the club.

Over the past four months, we have delivered a range of workshops, welcomed guest speakers and held educational sessions designed to support personal development. These have included CPR training, developing communications skills, raising awareness around online and local risks, nutrition, mentoring, a Thameslink visit, community engagement and much more. Our

> "AS A CLUB WE RECOGNISE THAT EACH YOUNG PLAYER'S JOURNEY IS ABOUT FAR MORE THAN JUST WHAT HAPPENS ON THE PITCH.

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sessions are designed to be practical, engaging and relevant to the challenges young people face today.

One of the strengths Luton Town has is the close working environment that exists across the club. Staff at all levels work together to create an elite environment that centres around the individual. There are so many different departments that need to collaborate efficiently to ensure expectations are clear and that we are all aligned in what we want to deliver to the players.

Ultimately, player care is about supporting the journey. Creating a safe, supportive and challenging environment and our aim is to unlock our players' full potential – not just footballers but as respectful individuals.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at Luton Town for the incredibly warm welcome I have received since joining the club. From staff across all departments, to the players, parents and guardians and supporters, the support has been amazing and has made the transition into my role a positive experience. I am grateful for the opportunity I have been given, and I look forward to continuing to build strong relationships across the board.

Together, we will continue to create an environment where everyone feels safe, supported and heard.

DEENEY'S DELIGHT WITH 3-1 WIN

Under-18's lead coach Joe Deeney hailed his side's mentality following their 3-1 victory over Sutton United at The Brache last weekend.

Late strikes from Excel Ed-Okungbowa and Dawid Gawel secured the win for the Hatters after Sutton temporarily levelled following Fin Evans superb second-half opener.

When discussing his players after the final whistle, Deeney said: "I thought the first half was nothing really, I said at half-time I thought it was a technically very average game. Neither team really tested the goalkeeper, and we were too slow with our ball speed.

"We switched shape at half-time and went to a back four, I felt we didn't need the extra centre-half, we ended up moving the ball with more speed and more urgency and created final third entries."

With the score at 1-1 just after the hour mark, the late introduction of Alvin Isufi and Dawid Gawel helped turn the game back in the Hatters favour, with the striker setting up one for fellow striker Ed-Okungbowa and scoring the other to turn the game around.

And Deeney was full of praise for the two forwards. "At 1-1 sometimes momentum shifts in football, it was a telling moment, we've spoken all week about the psychological and social aspects that we have to be better in; they have to communicate better with themselves, and they have to do better in showing courage to go and do the right things at the right time.

"You watch Dave [Gawel] and he's a real handful, he's got so much personality and he's on the right path. I also think Excel was very good, he was a focal point against two big centre-halves, I was so pleased for him to score a goal because he's had a tough few months but he's settling in and he's developing, he's built out of granite because he's an absolute machine."

With another three points on the board, attention now turns to the visit of the league leaders and more cup action on the horizon for the young Hatters.

"The challenge now shifts, we've got a busy month ahead with two quarter-finals, a semi-final and AFC Wimbledon, who are top of the league. It's going to be tough but we're really looking forward to it."

Written by Liam Wilmot

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 L 0-2

JANUARY
Sat 3 Stevenage D 3-3
Sat 10 Sutton United W 3-1
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 L 3-4

JANUARY
Tue 27 Leighton Town (BSC)

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

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youth PROFILE

Luke Takawira

YOUR NAME? Luke Takawira

WHERE ARE YOU FROM? England and Zimbabwe

WHAT POSITIONS DO YOU PLAY? Left or right wing

WHEN DID YOU JOIN THE ACADEMY? I was eight

WHO WAS YOUR FOOTBALL HERO GROWING UP? Bukayo Saka

GO-TO BOOTS RIGHT NOW? Tiempos

FIRST TIME YOU KICKED A BALL? 3

BIGGEST LESSON FOOTBALL'S TAUGHT YOU? Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard

FUNNIEST TEAMMATE? Excel

HARDEST WORKER? Enoch

BIGGEST INSPIRATION OUTSIDE FOOTBALL? Mum and dad









TEAMMATE MOST LIKELY TO BE A MANAGER? Lucas Thomas

MOMENT YOU'LL NEVER FORGET? Peterborough away and in the PDL Cup under-16 when I scored a screamer

BEST BIT ABOUT BEING AT LUTON? Developing as a human and as a footballer

ONE THING YOU'RE WORKING ON? Crossing on my weaker foot

PRE-MATCH ROUTINE OR SUPERSTITIONS? Pray to God with my mum before every game

FAVOURITE MUSIC... Nemzz

FAVOURITE GAME... FC25

GO-TO CHEAT MEAL... Indian

IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER? Football coach

PERSON YOU'D SWAP PLACES WITH FOR A DAY? Saka

THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE YOURSELF. Tenacious, hard-working, humble

ONE THING PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU? I used to play the violin

BIGGEST FOOTBALL DREAM? To play in the Premier League

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LUTON TOWN FC

COMMUNITY TRUST

Player development at the half-way mark

As the first team reaches the half-way point of the season, so too do our Community Trust Player Development Centres, marking an important milestone in the journeys of hundreds of young footballers across Bedfordshire and beyond.

This point in the season provides an ideal opportunity to reflect on the progress being made, celebrate success stories and look ahead to the exciting opportunities still to come.

Our Luton Town Youth Development Programme is a football development pathway delivered by the Community Trust, working in direct affiliation with the club. At its heart, the programme exists to identify and support talented young players from our local communities, helping them grow both as footballers and as people. The ultimate aim is to prepare and guide those with the potential to progress into the Luton Town Academy, while ensuring every player benefits from a high-quality, supportive development experience.

We achieve this through a competitive player development pyramid, offering structured training, regular fixtures, festivals, tours and residential experiences. These elements combine to provide young players with exposure to a wide range of footballing challenges, helping them to develop technical ability, tactical understanding, physical conditioning and, just as importantly, confidence, discipline and resilience.

So far this season, more than 500 young players from our centres across Bedfordshire have trained and competed regularly against a wide variety of clubs from across the country. Each week, players represent Luton Town with pride, gaining valuable experience in competitive environments designed to stretch and challenge them.



One of the highlights of the season is always our programme of tours and residentials, and this year promises to be no different. Preparations are already under way for our annual international tours to Belgium and France, alongside a special residential at the stunning Stowe School in Buckinghamshire.

These experiences give players a taste of what it means to be part of an elite football environment, with full training schedules, matches, team activities and personal development sessions packed into an unforgettable week.

Our Player Development Centres have provided pathways for many players over the years, and we continue to take great pride in the preparation and support we offer.

Already this season, close to 20 young people have made the step from our centres into the Academy. That's a fantastic achievement that reflects the hard work of our players,

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families, coaches and support staff. We are confident that more will follow as the season progresses.

For many young players, their journey begins with our Talent Identification Programme (TIPs).

These sessions provide an opportunity for emerging talent to showcase their ability in a supportive, professional environment, with successful players invited into our development pathway. The Community Trust currently runs TIPs at a range of venues across the county, and places are available to book online at www.lutontowncommunity.co.uk.

As we reach the midpoint of the season, we remain fully committed to nurturing the next generation of Hatters on and off the pitch and we look forward to seeing what the rest of the campaign brings.

> **"ALREADY THIS SEASON, CLOSE TO 20 YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE MADE THE STEP FROM OUR CENTRES INTO THE ACADEMY.**

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Luton Town LADIES

In Memoriam – Chris Chew

We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of our Under-16 Junior Premier League Manager, Chris Chew.

Chris joined our club in January 2018 as Under-14 manager and, over the years, coached and supported the development of around 100 girls.

His passion for the game and his commitment to advancing the pathway for girls into senior football left a lasting impact on our club and its players.

Alongside his team roles, Chris also served as our Coach Development Officer. In this position, he dedicated his time to



helping our volunteers grow, learn, and continually improve as coaches, always striving to get the very best out of those around him.

Chris was a highly respected coach and, more importantly, a genuinely kind and selfless person who would always give his time to help others.

A book of condolence will be available at our clubhouse on Lancaster Avenue should you wish to pay your respects. Alternatively, please feel free to share your memories with us via email at youth@lutontownladiesfc.co.uk.

Chris will be greatly missed by all at the club. Our thoughts are with his family, friends, and everyone whose lives he touched.

Rest in Peace, Chris

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 P-P
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

Ladies on the road to begin 2026 campaign

It has been a delayed start to 2026 for the Town who will play their first game of the new year in the Bedfordshire Women's Senior Cup away at Biggleswade United this Sunday, after their first two scheduled home matches against Cambridge United and then AFC Sudbury were postponed due to the recent poor weather conditions.

Several first team players have been able to get some minutes in the tank over the last couple weeks, including a return from injury for Malta international, Fiona Buttigieg, who has been out of action since October after suffering an injury in the Hatters' 3-2 defeat to London City Lionesses Academy.

Biggleswade play their football in the sixth tier of the women's pyramid, sitting third from bottom in the Eastern Region Women's Football League Division One North, having won two of their 14 league fixtures this term.

Lower league opposition proved to be no threat for the Town last campaign, who scored 40 goals in six games against teams ranked below them, including two 11-0 victories, first against Chigwell in the Women's FA Cup and then against Wootton Blue Cross Lionesses in the Women's Senior Cup quarter-final.

Sunday's game will take place at Biggleswade United's Verdant Stadium. Kick-off for the quarter-final is at 2pm and the Ladies need your support as they look to begin their 2026 on a positive note. Tickets for the fixture will be available at the turnstiles on the day.

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A big shoutout to our mascot at the Stevenage game!

JUNIOR HATTERS



Caleb Bronte

Age: 10
Hobbies: Football, Darts, Golf, Rugby and Reading
Favourite Player: Josh Keeley



Jack Scott

Age: 9
Hobbies: Playing football
Favourite Player: Cohen Bramall



Albie Sterry

Age: 11
Hobbies: Football - plays for LTFC Elites. Also loves spending time with friends and go karting
Favourite Player: Liam Walsh

WORDSEARCH

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

Can you find the names of the League One players on eight goals this season?

LEONARD
CONNOLLY
WING
MARRIOTT
REID
WAREHAM
KODUA

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TICKET news

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£29 Adult	£26 Adult
£25 Senior (over 66)	£22 Senior (over 66)
£21 Golden Senior (over 75)	£18 Golden Senior (over 75)
£25 Young Adult (under 22)	£22 Young Adult (under 22)
£21 Under 19	£18 Under 19
£13 Under 17	£10 Under 17
£10 Under 14	£8 Under 14

v Blackpool

Saturday 31st January, 3pm
Category B

v Bradford City

Saturday 7th February, 3pm
Category B

AWAY TICKETS

Plymouth Argyle v Luton Town
Saturday 24th January,
KO 12.30pm

Subject to availability, tickets are now on general sale at 1 ticket per person to any supporter with a previous purchasing history and any member without a previous booking history.

Prices

Adults £28
Seniors (Over 65+) £24
Young Adult Under 23 (18-22) £19
Under 18 (14-17) £12
Under 14 (8-13) £9
Under 8 (7 & Under) -£4 (Under 14 & Under 8 tickets need to be with an adult, over 65 or under 23)

Ambulant disabled supporters pay their relevant price class with a PA free of charge providing they are in receipt of Higher Rate DLA or Enhanced PIP.

Wheelchair Adult £19, Wheelchair Senior £16, Wheelchair Under 23 £13, Wheelchair Under 8 £8.

Huddersfield Town v Luton Town
Tuesday 27th January,
KO 7.45pm

Please note digital tickets will be in operation for this game and will be sent via email.

Subject to availability, tickets for this fixture are now on general sale to 1 ticket per person. Tickets can be purchased online, in person or via phone using your client reference numbers.

Prices

Adults £25
Over 65 £20
Under 21 £16
Under 18 £10
Under 14 £5 (Under 14s must be purchased with a full paying adult or senior.)

Ambulant disabled supporters pay the relevant price class and can be issued with a free personal assistant ticket, if requested by the supporter.

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18+ GambleAware

*UK data

LEAGUE LOOK

The last few gameweeks in the third tier have been quite disrupted due to games postponed due to the cold weather and the FA Cup. So let's cast our minds back to the fourth of January where 16 out 24 sides were in action.

Today's opponents Lincoln thrashed Peterborough 5-2 in a dominant display from the Imps. Tendayi Darikwa bagged a brace with Reeco Hackett, Freddie Draper and Adam Reach also getting goals.

Bradford earnt a valuable three points on the road away to Blackpool as they won 2-1 at Bloomfield Road. Bolton were also held to a 0-0 draw at home against Northampton.

Cardiff defeated Wigan 1-0 in what was a routine victory for the Bluebirds and Wycombe beat AFC Wimbledon comfortably, winning 2-0 at Adams Park.

Reading picked up a huge victory as they beat Stockport County 1-0 thanks to a late Lewis Wing goal. Plymouth eased past Burton Albion as they won 3-0 at Home Park.

Exeter snatched a point away at Huddersfield thanks to a late Jayden Wareham equaliser. Goals from Marcus Harness and Bojan Radulovic put the Terriers 2-1 up but that late Wareham strike was enough for the points.

In some of the games to watch this weekend, leaders Cardiff head to third-placed Bradford. There's a Lancashire derby as Wigan host Bolton while in-form Reading head to Leyton Orient.



Matthias Ross scored for Plymouth against Burton Albion



Lincoln's Tendayi Darikwa scores the Imps third goal against Peterborough

PLAYER STATS *2025/26*

	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	0	0
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	22	1
Mads Andersen	17 (3)	2	4 (0)	1	21 (3)	3	24	3
Ethon Archer	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	1	0
Shandon Baptiste	2 (2)	0	0 (0)	0	2 (2)	0	4	0
Cohen Bramall	14 (9)	2	5 (0)	1	19 (9)	3	28	3
Jacob Brown	3 (4)	0	0 (1)	0	3 (5)	0	8	0
Christian Chigozie	0 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	2	0
Jordan Clark	15 (4)	7	1 (0)	0	16 (4)	7	20	7
Fin Evans	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	1	1 (0)	1	1	1
Lamine Fanne	15 (5)	1	4 (2)	1	19 (7)	2	26	2
Harry Fox	0 (0)	0	1 (2)	0	1 (2)	0	3	0
Dawid Gawel	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	1	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	2	0
Zach Ioannides	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	1	0
Joe Johnson	4 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	6 (0)	0	6	0
Isaiah Jones	3 (1)	1	1 (0)	0	4 (1)	1	5	1
Josh Keeley	24 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	25 (0)	0	25	0
Gideon Kodua	13 (7)	8	4 (3)	1	17 (10)	9	27	9
Emilio Lawrence	1 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	2	0
Nigel Lonwijk	17 (1)	1	3 (2)	0	20 (3)	1	23	1
Jack Lorentzen-Jones	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	1	0
Christ Makosso	10 (1)	0	3 (1)	0	13 (2)	0	15	0
Mark McGuinness	4 (2)	0	1 (0)	0	5 (2)	0	7	0
Teden Mengi	16 (0)	0	3 (0)	1	19 (0)	1	19	1
Shayden Morris	4 (10)	2	3 (2)	2	7 (12)	4	19	4
Kal Naismith	19 (2)	1	3 (1)	0	22 (3)	1	25	1
Marvelous Nakamba	0 (1)	0	2 (1)	0	2 (2)	0	4	0
Zack Nelson	6 (12)	1	7 (1)	1	13 (13)	2	26	2
Lasse Nordas	4 (7)	1	5 (1)	3	9 (8)	4	17	4
Hakeem Odoffin	2 (4)	0	1 (1)	0	3 (5)	0	8	0
Josh Phillips	0 (0)	0	0 (2)	0	0 (2)	0	2	0
Jake Richards	5 (3)	2	3 (3)	0	8 (6)	2	14	2
George Saville	20 (4)	1	3 (0)	0	23 (4)	1	27	1
James Shea	1 (0)	0	7 (0)	0	8 (0)	0	8	0
Liam Walsh	15 (3)	0	4 (1)	0	19 (4)	0	23	0
Reuell Walters	3 (1)	0	3 (0)	0	6 (1)	0	7	0
Nahki Wells	15 (5)	1	1 (0)	2	16 (5)	3	21	3
Cauley Woodrow	0 (1)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (1)	0	2	0
Jerry Yates	11 (9)	2	3 (4)	4	14 (13)	6	27	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**	W	4-0	8	11,596	1,092	Keeley	Lonwijk	Johnson	Andersen	Mengi	Walsh	Fanne
MON 29	**LEYTON ORIENT**	**19:45**	W	3-0	8	11,736	1,327	Keeley	Lonwijk	Johnson	Andersen	Mengi	Walsh	Fanne
JANUARY														
THU 1	EXETER CITY	15:00	L	0-1	8	7,912	966	Shea	Walters	Johnson	Lonwijk	Mengi	Walsh	Saville
SAT 10	**STEVENAGE** TV	**12:30**	W	2-1	7	11,434	1,299	Keeley	Lonwijk	Johnson	Andersen	Makosso	Walsh	Fanne
TUE 13	**SWINDON TOWN (VT)**	**19:00**	L	1-2		3,243	585	Shea	Walters	Fox	Lonwijk	Makosso	Saville	Fanne
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												
TBC	DONCASTER ROVERS	P-P												

*lost 4-2 on penalties

THE QUIZ

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

1. Who scored the Macclesfield goals in their FA Cup giant killing of Crystal Palace?

2. Against which club did youth team striker Dawid Gawel score against to win him the LFE Goal of the Month award for November?

3. Bayern Munich moved 11 points clear at the top of the German Bundesliga by scoring how many goals in a win over Wolfsburg?

4. Which striker scored two goals for the Hatters in a 3-2 win over Lincoln in the Conference in 2013?

5. In 1966 the Town and Lincoln occupied the last two places in the Football League. Lincoln won the game – what was the score?

6. The Hatters won an FA Cup replay at Wigan on this day in 2023 – who scored our goals?

7. Which Scottish club play their games in the city of Perth?

8. Manchester City beat Exeter 10-1 in the FA Cup last weekend – what was the score at half-time?

9. Who are the next opposition for the England men's national team?

10. Which nation did Emilio Lawrence score four goals against for Scotland's Under-21s?

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

1 Paul Dawson and Isaac Buckley-Ricketts 2 Watford 3 8-1 4 Mark Cullen 5 8-1 6 Elijah Adebayo and Cauley Woodrow 7 St Johnstone 8 4-0 9 Uruguay 10 Gibraltar

				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
KODUA 2	CLARK 1	Bramall	Wells	Yates	Saville	Odoffin	MORRIS 1	Nelson
KODUA 1	CLARK 1	MORRIS 1	Wells	Saville	Bramall	Nelson	Yates	Walters
Morris	Clark	Bramall	Yates	Wells	Brown	Fanne	Nelson	
KODUA 1	CLARK 1	Lawrence	Wells	Morris	Bramall	Yates	Saville	
Morris	Nelson	Lawrence	YATES 1	Nakamba	Archer	Gawel		

UTILITA GIVING TAKE OVER KENILWORTH ROAD

Utilita Giving will once again take over Kenilworth Road for today's game with Lincoln.

Today will be dedicated to raising awareness of fuel and food poverty, supporting individuals and families across England, Scotland and Wales who are struggling with the rising cost of living.

The Utilita Giving takeover will feature a wide range of fundraising and engagement activity throughout the day, including the popular half-time Football Bowls challenge, a post-match online shirt auction, bucket collections and several activation points located around Kenilworth Road.

Utilita Giving will also once again partner with Luton Foodbank to host a matchday food collection point, with all donations going directly to support people in the local community experiencing food poverty. The collection point will be based at the Kenilworth Roadside of the stadium prior to kick-off, and supporters who are able to donate are warmly encouraged to do so.

UTILITA GIVING

TABLE 2025/26

Team	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Cardiff	25	16	4	5	18	52
Lincoln	**25**	**14**	**6**	**5**	**14**	**48**
Bradford City	24	13	7	4	9	46
Stockport	25	12	6	7	4	42
Huddersfield	26	11	6	9	10	39
Bolton	25	10	9	6	7	39
Luton	**25**	**11**	**5**	**9**	**5**	**38**
Stevenage	23	10	7	6	7	37
Reading	24	9	8	7	4	35
Peterborough	25	11	2	12	-1	35
Wycombe	25	8	9	8	4	33
Mansfield	23	9	5	9	3	32
Wimbledon	24	9	4	11	-6	31
Exeter	24	9	3	12	2	30
Wigan	24	7	9	8	-1	30
Plymouth	25	9	3	13	-7	30
Barnsley	21	8	5	8	0	29
Leyton Orient	25	8	5	12	-6	29
Blackpool	25	8	5	12	-6	29
Northampton	24	8	5	11	-6	29
Burton	24	7	6	11	-11	27
Rotherham	24	6	6	12	-13	24
Doncaster	24	6	5	13	-17	23
Port Vale	23	4	6	13	-13	18

TODAY'S Fixtures

12.30PM KO

Bradford v Cardiff
Wigan v Bolton

3PM KO

Barnsley v Blackpool
Burton v Huddersfield
Exeter v Stevenage
Leyton Orient v Reading
Mansfield v Port Vale
Northampton v Wycombe
Peterborough v Plymouth
Stockport v Rotherham
Wimbledon v Doncaster

TOWN Totals

	W	D	L	F	A
HOME	1573	695	636	5801	3266
AWAY	750	719	1420	3325	4980
NEUTRAL	6	4	13	29	43
TOTAL	2329	1418	2069	9155	8289
At KR	1443	667	582	5262	3020

5,816 games played

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

SEASONS TO REMEMBER *1936/37*



Despite having gone six months without a manager the Town managed to secure runners-up spot in Division Three (South) in 1935/36.

Sadly, only the champions were promoted in those days but, with a new manager in tow, Ned Liddell, and new goalscoring star Joe Payne leading the line, everyone hoped to go one better the following campaign.

Dropped home points had been a concern in the previous season but this time round the Town were imperious at Kenilworth Road, only surrendering three points along the way and banging in 69 goals into the bargain.

What prevented the Hatters from walking away with the title in easier fashion was a patchy away record with 10 games lost including some totally unexpected ones. On the flip side of the coin, an unpredicted two points came in a clash in front of nearly 33,000 at the Den against fellow promotion chasers Millwall. A fist fight between Town skipper Jack Nelson and the Lions' Dave Mangnall went unseen by the referee but was spotted by FA Councillor Stanley Rous sitting in the stand. The upshot was that both players received long suspensions in this, the earliest use of VAR!

As the season drew to a close the Town could not shake off main rivals Notts County and, after the Town lost at Gillingham, the Magpies were two points ahead with three games to play.

The Town won the first two of these while Notts won only one, leaving the final day fixture list clear: if the Hatters won they would be champions thanks to a superior goal average to Notts who were now level on points.

As it transpired, the Town cruised to victory over Torquay to clinch the title and with it Second Division (now the Championship) football.

	THIRD DIVISION SOUTH	PLD	W	D	L	GAv	PTS
1	**Luton Town (C, P)**	**42**	**27**	**4**	**11**	**1.943**	**58**
2	Notts County	42	23	10	9	1.423	56
3	Brighton & Hove Albion	42	24	5	13	1.721	53
4	Watford	42	19	11	12	1.417	49
5	Reading	42	19	11	12	1.267	49
6	Bournemouth & Boscombe Ath	42	20	9	13	1.102	49
7	Northampton Town	42	20	6	16	1.25	46
8	Millwall	42	18	10	14	1.185	46
9	Queens Park Rangers	42	18	9	15	1.404	45
10	Southend United	42	17	11	14	1.164	45
11	Gillingham	42	18	8	16	0.788	44
12	Clapton Orient	42	14	15	13	1	43
13	Swindon Town	42	14	11	17	1.027	39
14	Crystal Palace	42	13	12	17	1.016	38
15	Bristol Rovers	42	16	4	22	0.888	36
16	Bristol City	42	15	6	21	0.829	36
17	Walsall	42	13	10	19	0.741	36
18	Cardiff City	42	14	7	21	0.621	35
19	Newport County	42	12	10	20	0.684	34
20	Torquay United	42	11	10	21	0.713	32
21	Exeter City	42	10	12	20	0.67	32
22	Aldershot	42	7	9	26	0.562	23

Player focus

Ever present throughout the promotion season of 42 games, **Tom Smith** made the left-back position his own. The Burnley-born defender later became a schoolteacher locally.



Season standout

With an incredible 55 goals from 39 games **Joe Payne** certainly made a name for himself. In seven games he scored three or more goals in creating a Luton record never likely to be beaten.



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Thurlow Nunn

LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB EST 1885

JANUARY SALE

MUST END 31ST JANUARY

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*50% off available on used cars only. Ask for details. 20 vehicles (just over 1%) of our cars have a saving of 50%. The remaining 99% of vehicles will have saving up to the value of 50%. Please ask for further details as to what savings are applied on each model. All savings end 31/01/2026.

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**
33	COHEN **BRAMALL**
37	ZACK **NELSON**
38	JOE **JOHNSON**

LINCOLN CITY

HEAD COACH **MICHAEL SKUBALA**

1	GEORGE **WICKENS**
2	TENDAYI **DARIKWA**
3	ADAM **REACH**
4	LEWIS **MONTSMA**
5	ADAM **JACKSON**
6	RYLEY **TOWLER**
7	REECO **HACKETT**
8	TOM **BAYLISS**
9	JAMES **COLLINS**
10	JACK **MOYLAN**
11	OSCAR **THORN**
12	ERIK **RING**
13	ZACH **JEACOCK**
14	CONOR **McGRANDLES**
15	SONNY **BRADLEY**
16	DOM **JEFFERIES**
17	ROB **STREET**
18	BEN **HOUSE**
20	JUSTIN **OBIKWU**
21	JAMIE **PARDINGTON**
22	TOM **HAMER**
24	IVAN **VARFOLOMEEV**
34	FREDDIE **DRAPER**
37	GBOLAHAN **OKEWOYE**

The Officials

REFEREE **SCOTT OLDHAM**
ASSISTANT REFEREE **CONALL BARTLETT**
ASSISTANT REFEREE **HARLEY HETHERINGTON**
FOURTH OFFICIAL **AJI AJIBOLA**