OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME • £4 • ISSUE 21 v BURTON ALBION







Luton TOWN







SATURDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2026 3PM

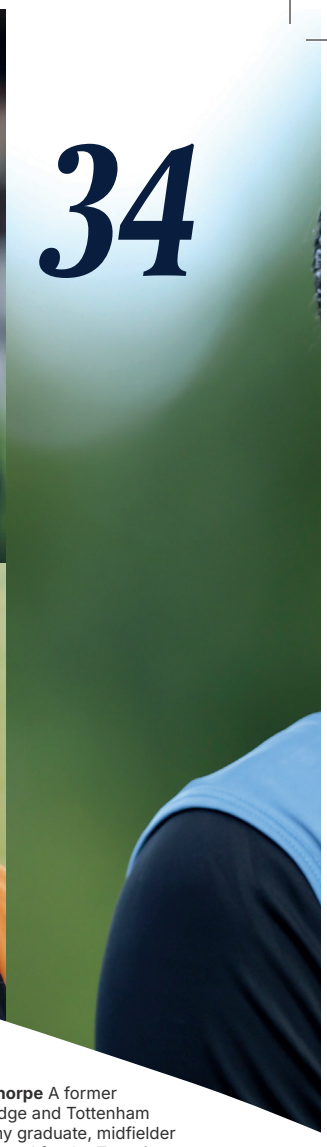
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S1 Luton v Burton.indd 1 17/02/2026 13:17









34

29

42

66

COVER CHARACTERS













Harry Isted Goalkeeper Harry came through academies at Southampton and Stoke before signing for the Town in 2017. After a host of loan spells in non-league and appearances for the Town in the EFL Trophy, he made his senior debut when coming on as a substitute in the FA Cup tie with Chelsea. Joined Burton last season but is now a regular at Forest Green.

Steve Buckley One of the best left-backs in the Town's history, Steve was signed from Burton in 1974 and it was not long before his cultured left foot and surging runs down the wing became a feature of the Hatters' play. A virtual ever-present in the side until an offer of £165,000 from Derby in January 1978 was too good to turn down, he went onto play eight seasons for the Rams and was twice their player of the year.

Maitland Pollock Scottish schoolboy international Matt began his career with Nottingham Forest but failed to make a first team appearance. He was spotted by Town scout Paddy Sowden at non-league Burton and signed in 1974. Midfielder Matt managed only three league starts in two years and moved on again, this time to Portsmouth.

Luke Rooney Winger Luke started with Gillingham as an apprentice in 2007 – and his time at Priestfield was his longest stay with a club as 16 more clubs would follow including the Town. Signed from Maidstone in 2014, he made his debut as an 82nd-minute substitute in a 3-0 win over Chester. A creative midfielder not afraid to take on opponents, a knee injury kept him out for a period and he struggled for fitness and was released in January 2015.

Elliot Thorpe A former Cambridge and Tottenham academy graduate, midfielder Elliot signed for the Town in 2021 and made his debut in February 2022 in the FA Cup at Cambridge. The following season saw Thorpe join Burton on loan but after eight appearances he was recalled. Elliot left Kenilworth Road in 2024 and now plays for Braintree.

Jon Shaw Centre-forward Jon scored 31 times in 118 games for Burton between 2004 and 2008. He arrived at Kenilworth Road in the summer of 2012 after hitting 45 goals in 80 league games for Gateshead and netted on his Town debut, against Gateshead. He hit a further nine goals in his first season and was part of the championship winning side the following season.

S1 Luton v Burton.indd 2 17/02/2026 13:17



CONTENTS

4 Jack Wilshere
6 From the Boardroom
10 Kal Naismith
14 Match Action
25 Welcome Burton Albion
41 Hatters History
48 From the Academy
64 Fixtures and Results

the PROGRAMME

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

Welcome

After two long trips away from Kenilworth Road at Cardiff and Wigan in the past week it's good to be back home.

A huge thank you to every single one of you who made the journeys to either fixture – your support is massively appreciated.

This afternoon we host a Burton side who we recorded a victory over back in August when we first played in our green Reflo third shirt.

There'll be no trees planted for every goal this afternoon but hopefully three points can help us move a step closer to the play-offs.

Get behind the lads this afternoon and remember we're back here on Tuesday night when we re-enter the Vertu Trophy with a quarter-final against Plymouth.

Enjoy the game and come on you Hatters!

S1 Luton v Burton.indd 3 19/02/2026 16:30

THE BOSS

Jack WILSHERE

Welcome back to Kenilworth Road for what is a big game against Burton Albion this afternoon.

There's no hiding from that the defeat at Wigan was a big opportunity missed. We spoke at half-time about starting the second half properly, about controlling the momentum, and we didn't do it. We allowed them to grow into the game, allowed the crowd to lift them, and once that happened it became difficult. They've got a new manager, there was energy around the place, and we simply didn't handle those moments well enough.

We tried something different. We went with two number nines because we wanted to generate more threat and create better opportunities and felt it was the best way to hurt them. However, we didn't execute the plan well enough. At times we made it more complicated than it needed to be. We have to execute the simple things better – the passes, the movement and the decisions in the final third.

In the second half especially, the game got away from us. We lost our composure when momentum shifted. That's where technical efficiency comes in – managing the ball, staying calm, making the right choices under pressure. We didn't find that level.

I was asked afterwards about the players' desire. I can assure you the players care. At the end of the game they wanted to acknowledge the support and the distance those of you who travelled. I completely understand the frustration. Supporters have every right to feel that. But if there's anger, it comes to me. I'm the manager and I make the decisions. The players are hurting. They were really low and really disappointed. We all know we have to be better. Me included.

So where do we go from here? We need to move forward. We've reset and refocused for today's game. Right now, playing back at Kenilworth Road is going to help and rightly so. Our home form has been the shining light. We've been fulfilling our ambitions here, showing the intensity and quality we know we have. The Bradford game was an excellent example. We played some great football and thoroughly deserved all three points.

That has to be the aim once more this afternoon. There are still a lot of games left and plenty of points to play for. But we have to face the reality of where we are. Away from home, we have to be better. We have to stand up to the questions – about the team and about me. It hasn't been good enough at times, and that responsibility sits with me.

The only way through tough moments is togetherness. No panic, no pointing fingers. Just collective responsibility.

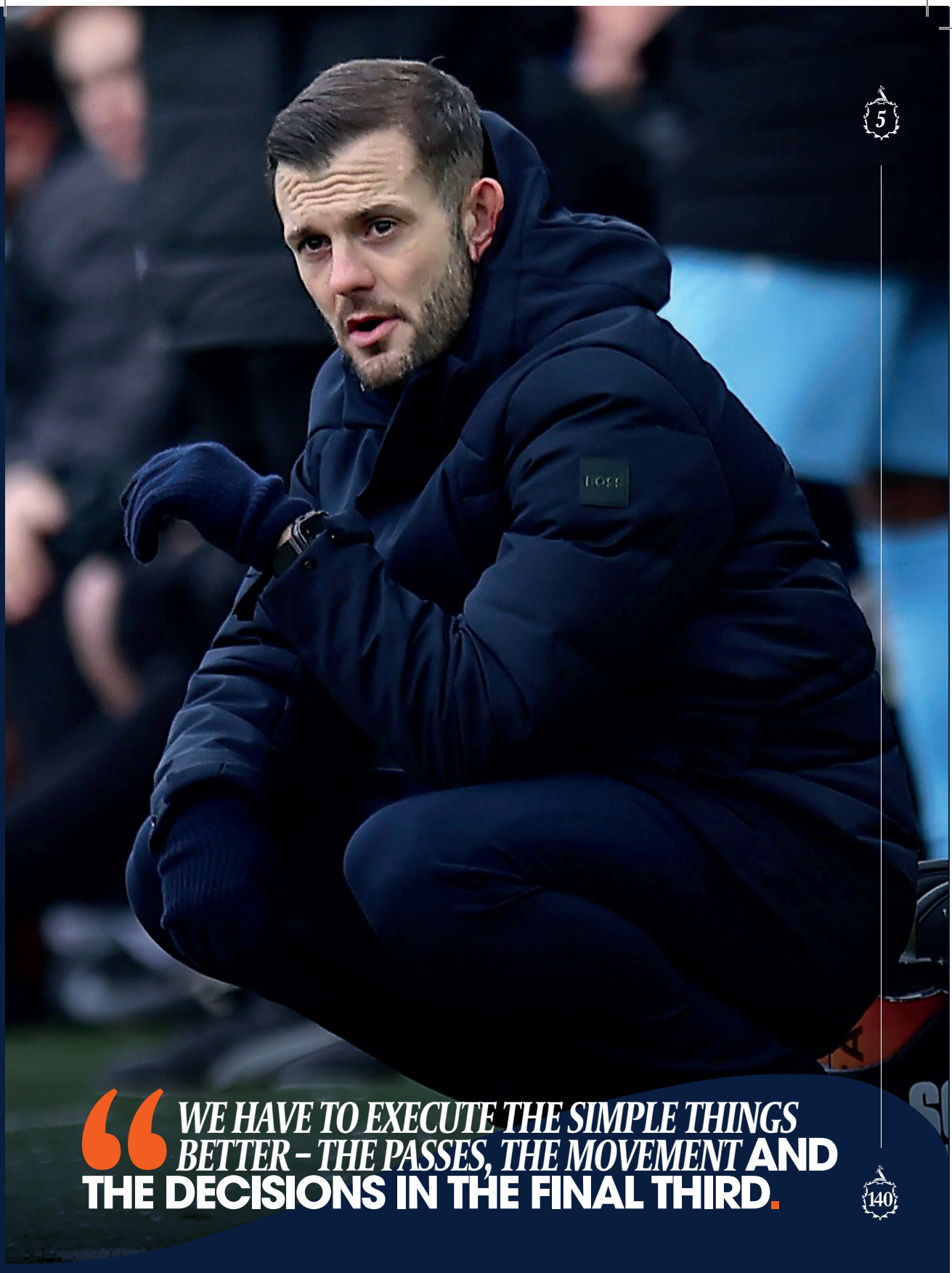
Burton won't come here and lay down. Every team is fighting at this stage of the season. Gary has got them fighting and they come here off the back of a hard-fought win in the week. They'll compete and make it hard for us and we have to match that. If we can, then our quality can show. What we can't do is wait for the perfect moment to find that quality – we have to impose it quickly.

A massive thank you to everyone who travelled to Cardiff and Wigan. We owe you a performance this afternoon.

Please get behind us as you always do and enjoy the game.



S1 Luton v Burton.indd 4 19/02/2026 16:30



"WE HAVE TO EXECUTE THE SIMPLE THINGS BETTER – THE PASSES, THE MOVEMENT **AND THE DECISIONS IN THE FINAL THIRD.**

S1 Luton v Burton.indd 5 19/02/2026 16:30

BOARDROOM

JAMES MOONEY



Good afternoon everyone and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for today's fixture against Burton Albion.

After Wednesday night's massive disappointment at Wigan, it's good to be back at home where we have enjoyed an incredibly fruitful run of results since Jack and Chris took control.

Following the back-to-back wins over Blackpool and Bradford we naturally had high hopes of improving our form on the road at Cardiff and Wigan – but we have left both games pointless and understandably frustrated. The disappointment is felt by us all and the manner of defeat isn't something any of us find acceptable. We also fully comprehend the frustration felt by supporters, especially those who travelled long-distances without reward, and it is entirely up to us now to pull together and repay that faith.

The only way we're going to come out of this period stronger is togetherness. With 14 games to go, there is still plenty to play for. Nobody is giving up, that's for sure. That's the mentality we need if we're still to be a success between now and May.

Rest assured we are working hard to unlock the conundrum of the away form with eyes on next Saturday's fixture at Port Vale to ignite a change in fortune for good.

We're in the midst of an incredibly busy and eventful period, both on and off the pitch, and I'd like to take this opportunity to share a few updates as we continue to navigate a demanding winter schedule when it comes to the playing surface itself. Having visited a lot of stadiums this season, and watching highlights of certain fixtures, it seems it's an issue across multiple divisions this season.

January and early February have presented significant challenges, as is often the case at this time of year. A combination of sustained rainfall and an intense run of fixtures have tested the surface here at Kenilworth Road to its limits on some occasions.

Following the Blackpool fixture at the end of January, further heavy rain in the build-up to the Bradford match meant we were monitoring conditions extremely closely, including a precautionary pitch inspection. While improvements made during the 2025 pitch renovations – particularly the sand injection works – have supported drainage and helped the surface recover more quickly than in previous years, the prolonged wet spell has inevitably taken its toll.

Dickie and his grounds team continue to work tirelessly behind the scenes to present the best possible surface for the team. It's a reminder that while these upgrades are helping us in the short term, they are very much part of our journey toward our long-term future at Power Court.

February remains another busy month competitively, and we appreciate your continued support as we push through this demanding period, and, of course, after today's

S1 Luton v Burton.indd 6 20/02/2026 08:01

game we have another fixture here on Tuesday night when we entertain Plymouth Argyle in the quarter-finals of the Vertu Trophy. A positive result against the Pilgrims would not only see us safely through, but it would also guarantee another home fixture the following week against Northampton Town.

As a result of this, we are still working with the EFL and Doncaster to agree on a new date for our outstanding League One fixture, and once this has been confirmed it will be communicated in due course.

Off the field, you will have read that we recently launched our new Fan Engagement Strategy, which will help steer and guide the club across the coming seasons and into our new stadium at Power Court. This is an important step in formalising how we listen, respond and collaborate with supporters.

That is evident this afternoon as today marks the EFL's Rainbow Ball campaign, which recognises the ongoing work of our own Rainbow Hatters, whose commitment to creating a safe, welcoming and visible space for LGBTQ+ supporters here at Kenilworth Road; an important part of our commitment to supporting anyone who walks through our turnstiles.

A huge thanks to David Stronell and the work of the Rainbow Hatters and the role they are playing. It's an important reminder that football should be a space where everyone feels welcome, valued and safe.

Within the Fan Engagement Strategy, we outlined the formation of a Fan Advisory Board, which will be established and will meet before the end of the season. An online form is available for supporters to register their interest, and I would encourage anyone who feels they can contribute positively to put themselves forward – the feedback we have already received has been hugely encouraging.

Our next meeting in this process is next Thursday and will focus on disability and accessibility across the club. Our first session centred on the overall matchday experience and provided valuable feedback. As we said at the time of the launch, we're committed to ensuring these sessions drive real improvements in fan-facing aspects of the club as Power Court draws ever closer.

There's plenty in the diary in the coming weeks, too. Together with the Luton Town Disabled Supporters' Association, we're proud that our upcoming home fixture against Reading on 7th March will be our Unite for Access matchday, delivered in partnership with Level Playing Field. >>

> *"THE ONLY WAY WE'RE GOING TO COME OUT OF THIS PERIOD STRONGER IS TOGETHERNESS. WITH 14 GAMES TO GO,* **THERE IS STILL PLENTY TO PLAY FOR.**



Togetherness is the only way

S1 Luton v Burton.indd 7 20/02/2026 08:02



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>> The fixture will highlight supporters who come into disabilities later in life and reinforce our commitment to inclusion across all areas of the club. The LTDSA are heavily involved, and you can read more about the work Allan Drummond and his team are undertaking elsewhere in today's programme.

We will also be hosting our annual Iftar event at The Eric Morecambe on 5th March. It has become an important and meaningful date in our calendar, and we look forward to welcoming members of the community to Kenilworth Road during Ramadan, where members of club staff will break the fast together once again.

Furthermore, on a personal note, Jenn Smith and I recently volunteered at the Curry Kitchen in Luton. This is an initiative that other club staff have been involved with and will continue to support in the future. It was a genuinely humbling experience and a reminder of the incredible work being done across our town to support those who need it most. Luton is a community defined by generosity and resilience, and it is always inspiring to see that spirit in action.

Finally, thank you, as always, for your outstanding support through a demanding stretch of fixtures. A special note to those of you who made the trips to Cardiff and Wigan – your backing did not go unnoticed.

The challenge for us now is consistency and bringing the same energy and unity we have shown at home into every game, regardless of the venue. If we stay together, we'll give ourselves every chance of building real momentum and achieving our goals.

Enjoy the game.

Come on Luton!

James

"LUTON IS A COMMUNITY DEFINED BY GENEROSITY AND RESILIENCE, AND IT IS ALWAYS INSPIRING TO SEE THAT SPIRIT IN ACTION.



Thank you for your unwavering support on the road in the past two away games

CLUB HONOURS

LEAGUE CUP
Winners 1988, Runners-up 1989

FA CUP
Runners-up 1959

FOOTBALL LEAGUE TROPHY
Winners 2008/09

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

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

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

CONFERENCE PREMIER
Champions 2013/14

CLUB DIRECTORY

DIRECTORS & SHAREHOLDERS

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

FOOTBALL MANAGEMENT

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

CLUB OPERATIONS

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

VICE PRESIDENTS

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

S1 Luton v Burton.indd 9 20/02/2026 08:02

THE CAPTAIN

Kal NAISMITH

Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road.

If there's one message I want to start with today, it's that we stay together. We're a team, we're a club and we're all Luton. The players, the staff, everyone behind the scenes and you in the stands, we all want better, we all want to win, and the only way we get there is by sticking together. This club has shown repeatedly the power of staying together.

We know the away results recently haven't been what we expect. Not by a long shot. We can't sugarcoat it. At Cardiff, a top side, I thought we matched them for spells in both halves and were right in the game until just before half-time until two quick goals changed the course of the game. These moments are costly no matter what level you're playing at.

At Wigan we tried to adjust things to give us a different dynamic and more presence in the box but were ultimately left disappointed with the result and performance. First and foremost, I want to apologise to the supporters who travelled. You give your time, your money and your energy to follow us in all conditions, and that commitment never goes unnoticed. We have to give you more on nights like that.

Before those games, though, we showed exactly what we're capable of here at home against Bradford. That was an excellent win against a side who are enjoying a good season. We played really well, but we also had to suffer towards the end and see it out. We were made to sweat, and that resilience is part of who we need to be. That performance, combined with your backing, showed what can happen when we're united.

As players we love playing at Kenilworth Road. This old place, with the crowd right on top of the pitch, creates an intensity that's difficult for any away team to handle. We need that again today. Burton are fighting for survival and that makes them dangerous opponents. It might be a game where we have to be patient and calm, keep attacking with purpose, keep getting numbers in the box and not force things.

There are 14 massive games left this season. Fourteen opportunities. It's by no means over and we'll certainly not be giving up. Staying together means supporting each other in the dressing room, on the pitch and around the training ground. It means coaches and staff working tirelessly behind the scenes. And it means you because your support is vital. When this ground is loud it lifts us and gives us a real edge. History has shown that.

So let's stay together, stay patient and attack these final games with everything we've got.

Get behind us and enjoy the game.



S1 Luton v Burton.indd 10 19/02/2026 16:30



"THE PLAYERS, THE STAFF, EVERYONE BEHIND THE SCENES AND YOU IN THE STANDS, WE ALL WANT BETTER, WE ALL WANT TO WIN, AND **THE ONLY WAY WE GET THERE IS BY STICKING TOGETHER.**

S1 Luton v Burton.indd 11 19/02/2026 16:30


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FOOTBALL FOR EVERYONE. HATE FOR NO ONE.

We will be proud to be playing with the EFL Puma Rainbow Ball during today's game – a symbol of solidarity with LGBTQ+ supporters and reflecting the ongoing commitment to ensuring football remains a welcoming, safe and inclusive space for every fan, in every stadium.

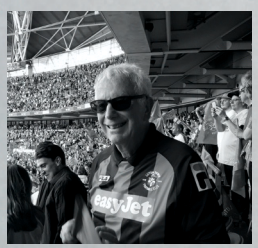
Our very own LGBTQ+ supporters' group is Rainbow Hatters, run by chair David Stronell.

"The Rainbow Hatters are still working hard to establish ourselves and be recognised as we create a safe and welcoming space online, and can share time before, during and after matches to talk all things football," says David.

"Our aim is to grow the group that starts conversations, builds allies and shows that inclusion is making football a space for everyone. The EFL's Rainbow Ball weekend cements that important message and as a supporter group still trying to find its feet, it's a reminder of why we exist and why our presence matters."

If you would like to join Rainbow Hatters, please email ltfcrainbowhatters@gmail.com.

REST IN PEACE HATTERS



We received the sad news of the passing of Town supporter **Tony Gray** on 2nd February, aged 81.

Tony, above, had been a supporter from the age of six when his dad took him to watch his first match.

He was a good footballer, playing for Letchworth and Biggleswade, but his claim to fame was he had trials at Luton Town three times but unfortunately did not make the grade.

He had two seats in row B of the David Preece stand and always claimed he had the best seats in the house.

We were also shocked to hear of the sudden passing of ardent Hatter **Stuart Palmer**.

A loyal Town fan who travelled home and away, we send our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

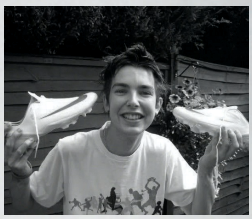
There will be a supporter-led minute's applause in the 55th minute in Stuart's honour.

Rest in Peace.

Once a Hatter, always a Hatter.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



A very happy 40th birthday today to **Stephen Michael Peter Barringer**!

Comfortably the best footballer in the family!

Love from mum, dad, Leo, Reu, Ruddock, Andrew and Sophia.



Happy 84th birthday to **Roy Bacon**, who will be celebrating on 25th February.

Roy, who has been watching the Hatters for over 74 years, will be watching today's game surrounded by his family in their seats in block B of the main stand where they've sat for over 30 years.

Have a good one, Roy!

S1 Luton v Burton.indd 13 19/02/2026 16:30

2-1



Celebrations after Shayden Morris made it 2-0

The Hatters made it five wins in six home league games to move a step closer to the play-offs with a deserved victory over promotion-chasing Bradford. Jake Richards' fine left-foot strike put the Town ahead by half-time and Shayden Morris doubled the lead shortly before the hour. The Hatters missed several chances to extend the lead and that led to some nervy moments in the dying stages when the visitors pulled a goal back in injury time. But the Town held on to make it 10 games unbeaten on home turf.



Jake Richards opens the scoring in style



Nigel Lonwijk clears his lines



Davy van den Berg gets stuck in on his debut



Jake Richards moves forward



Kasey Palmer drives forward from midfield

3-1



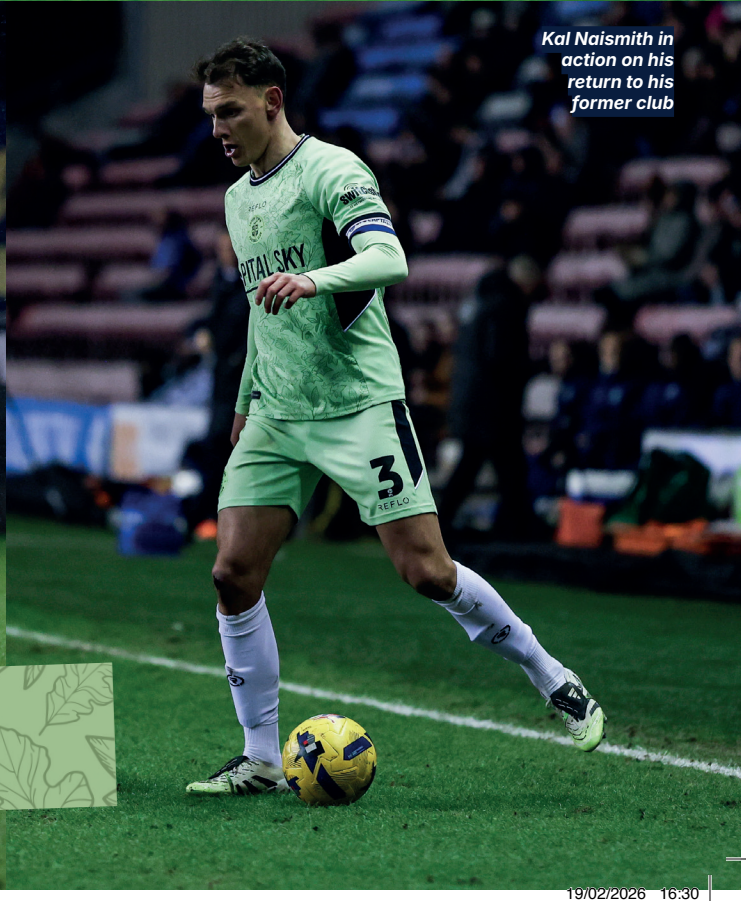
Jordan Clark celebrates his equaliser from the spot



Shayden Morris goes for goal at Wigan



Jordan Clark keeps his eyes on the ball



Kal Naismith in action on his return to his former club

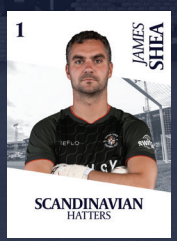
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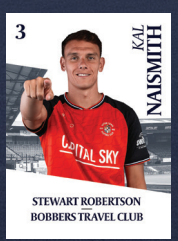
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GOALKEEPERS





DEFENDERS











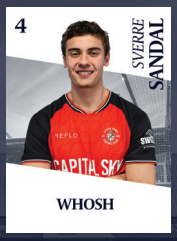




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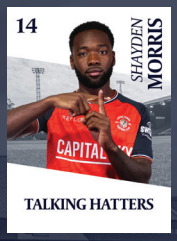
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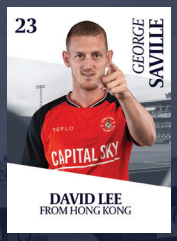


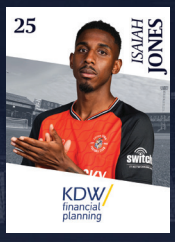




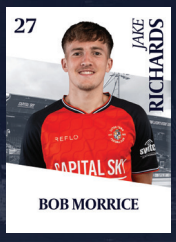










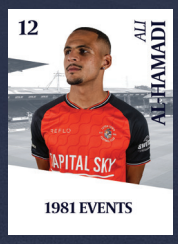




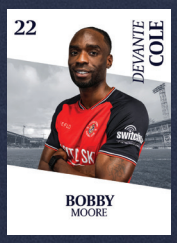


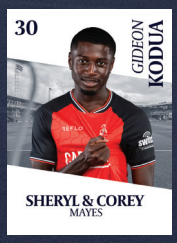
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At our last home game against Bradford two weeks ago Jordan Clark was named man-of-the-match and we also had the pleasure of welcoming seven mascots to the League One fixture against the Bantams.

Our guests in the Eric Morecambe Lounge also had the pleasure of hearing from Clicker and Izzy Jones 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 in great form here at Kenilworth Road, make sure you get in touch with our team to book your place at one of our big matches here, including next weekend's game against Reading

There is availability for our games between now and the end of the season, too, so please get in touch with us by calling 01582 411622 or emailing commercial@lutontown.co.uk.

Finally, a big hello to our guests from match sponsors GJCS Services. We hope you have a wonderful afternoon with us.

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BURTON ALBION

The Brewers are in town as they make the journey from the Midlands to Kenilworth Road.

Gary Bowyer's side currently sit 19th in the league and just two points above the relegation zone.

Earlier in the week, Burton put an end to a poor run of form with a statement victory over fellow strugglers Rotherham United. An early goal from Tyrese Shade did the job for the Brewers as they condemned the Millers to more misery.

Last Saturday, Burton faced off against Premier League side West Ham United at the Pirelli Stadium. The Brewers put in a very solid effort, taking the Irons to extra time but unfortunately being beaten 1-0 after a Crysencio Summerville strike.

Back in August when the two sides last faced each other, the Hatters won 3-0 against the Brewers. Goals from Lasse Nordås, Millenic Alli and Zack Nelson did the job in what was a top away display from the Hatters.

It was the Town's first ever win at the Pirelli Stadium after two defeats. Today is just the sixth meeting between the two clubs and Burton fans in the away end will remember one of their visits with fondness.

The Brewers arrived at Kenilworth Road in April 2015 top of League Two and left in top spot too after a Matty Palmer goal gave the visitors all three points in a 1-0 win.

A warm welcome to Kenilworth Road to all those associated with Burton Albion.

BURTON ALBION
AT-A-GLANCE

FOUNDED: 1950

NICKNAME: The Brewers

GROUND: Pirelli Stadium

MAJOR HONOURS: League One runners-up 2015/16, League Two champions 2014/15, Conference champions 2008/09

LAST TIME AT THE KENNY: Town 2-0 Burton 22/12/2018

S1 Luton v Burton.indd 25 19/02/2026 16:30



BURTON ALBION

The Boss

GARY BOWYER
Experienced manager who has previously spent time in charge of Dundee, Salford, Bradford, Blackpool and Blackburn. Joined the Brewers in December 2024.

Goalkeeper

BRADLEY COLLINS On loan from Coventry until the end of the season and has been a regular between the sticks since signing.

Defenders

ALEX HARTRIDGE
Began his career with Exeter and made over 150 appearances for the Grecians. Departed St James Park last summer for the Pirelli Stadium.

TERENCE VANCOOTEN
Guyana international who has spent most of his career at Stevenage, spending seven years in Hertfordshire before moving to Burton.

UDOKA GODWIN-MALIFE
Onto his second season with Albion after making the move from Swindon. Featured over 70 times now for the Brewers.

TOBY SIBBICK Another summer signing for Gary Bowyer, joining after a solid season in League One with Wigan.

JASPER MOON Came through the ranks at Barnsley and broke through into the first team in 2021. Spent some time on loan at Burton and now with the Brewers permanently.

Midfielders

GEORGE EVANS
Experienced midfielder with plenty of EFL experience for the likes of Reading, Derby, Millwall and Wrexham.

KGAOGELO CHAUKE
Made over 80 appearances for the Brewers after joining from Southampton. Featured in 26 League One games so far this season.

KYRAN LOFTHOUSE
Assisted the winner for Burton on Tuesday night and already has four goals and nine assists to his name so far this campaign.

JULIAN LARSSON
Swedish midfielder who came through the ranks at Nottingham Forest and spent some time on loan at Morecambe before signing for Burton in 2024.

ANDY CANNON Wrexham loanee who signed for the club last month, making his debut in a 2-2 draw with Cardiff.

Forwards

TYRESE SHADE Spent last season in non-league with Eastleigh and his impressive performances earned him a move to Burton. Scored the winner on Tuesday night against Rotherham.

JAKE BEESLEY Top scorer for the Brewers so far this season with 12 goals and also has four assists to his name in 30 league games.

FABIO TAVARES Spent four years at Coventry before moving to Burton in 2024. Has scored two goals in League One so far and six in all competitions.

S1 Luton v Burton.indd 26 19/02/2026 16:30

HATTERS *versus* BREWERS

Historic meetings between the clubs down the years

NOVEMBER 2014

FIRST MEETING MISERY

The Hatters fell to their first defeat in 11 League Two matches after losing narrowly at Burton Albion in their first ever visit to the Pirelli Stadium.

After dominating the first half, the Town fell behind two minutes into the second period when Albion defender Phil Edwards rose to plant a header into the top corner.

After going behind, the Hatters pushed the home side back but couldn't find a way through the Brewers' back-line and the Town's misery was compounded in injury time when Luke Wilkinson was shown a straight red card for a professional foul.

APRIL 2015

BURTON ON THE UP ▼

The Town dropped behind in the race for a place in the League Two play-offs as league leaders Burton Albion condemned the Hatters to a fourth straight home defeat.

Despite enjoying the majority of the play and ball, the Town fell to Matty Palmer's deflected goal 11 minutes from time to give the Brewers their second smash-and-grab win over the Hatters this term.

The result was harsh on the Town who more than matched Albion who went on to celebrate promotion to the third tier for the very first time in their history a few weeks later.



Nathan Oduwa battles against the Brewers



Jack Stacey celebrates

DECEMBER 2018

SIX IN A ROW ▲

The Hatters recorded their ninth win in 10 league matches in another win at fortress Kenilworth Road to stretch the gap on second spot to four points in League One.

This time Burton fell victim to the home side's ruthless form at Kenilworth Road, making it 16 unbeaten in the league since losing to Accrington the season before.

Jack Stacey's goal in the first half and James Collins' penalty towards the end meant the Hatters would sit in an automatic promotion spot on Christmas Day, something the team achieved the previous season in League Two.

APRIL 2019

SQUEAKY-BUM-TIME

The Hatters slipped to a defeat at the Pirelli Stadium to set-up a nervous wait for promotion.

All seemed good when James Collins fired the Town ahead in the first half with his 25th goal of the season.

But the Brewers hit back with a second-half double from joint top scorer Lucas Akins giving them all three points.

The result meant the Town needed a favour from Peterborough in the week as their victory over Portsmouth meant promotion to the Championship was confirmed without kicking a ball.

S1 Luton v Burton.indd 27 19/02/2026 16:30











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NEW BOYS FEELING *at home*

Our three newest Hatters all sat down with LTFC+ to discuss their first week in and around Kenilworth Road, with two of them experiencing English football for the very first time.

Devante Cole, Sverre Sandal and Davy van den Berg all joined Town at the end of the winter transfer window in a bid to help shape Jack Wilshere's squad in the push for a play-off spot.

Following his debut against Bradford, the forward Cole expressed his thanks for the warm welcome, saying: "It's been a really good first week, I've really enjoyed it. All the boys from minute one have welcomed me and helped me out with little bits around the training ground, things like not knowing everyone's name," the striker joked.

"I thought the fans were really good against Bradford, I think the way we started obviously helped, they supported us from the first whistle and we got the win, so it was a great experience to have my debut at Kenilworth Road, I really enjoyed it."

Also keen to talk about his time settling in England, Dutch midfielder van den Berg, on loan from Eredivisie side FC Utrecht, said: "I think everyone has given me that feeling of home, I have had a very warm welcome.

"The day before the game, I had dinner with some of the guys, which was a really nice way to be made to feel part of the group so quickly. The dinner was good as well!"

Our new Norwegian, signed from KFUM in the Eliteserien, might have to wait just that little bit longer to get his warm reception here, as the midfielder is currently going through his pre-season – with his former side's season ending in late November.

Sandal said: "I know it is not going to take too much time, so long as I don't rush and push myself to be ready too quickly which is not easy because I am an impatient guy. I am really looking forward to being out on the pitch.

"I am itching to play; I am so excited to get out onto the pitch, and I hope the fans are going to like what they see. I like to be on the ball, and I want to make my teammates look good as well, I want to set them up in good positions and give my all."

Van den Berg offered his perspective on making his debut for Town in the 2-1 victory over Bradford, discussing how starting from the bench showed him just what is required to succeed, the midfielder said: "The game was so intense. I started on the bench, so I got to see what was happening and to know what to expect when I eventually came on.

"The game was of a high intensity; in Holland it is calmer. I think I can learn a lot from English football.

"In the end we got the win over Bradford so I am very happy with the start made. It was very different but also very nice to experience a stadium that is a part of its neighbourhood, I think it is amazing."

WATCH THE INTERVIEWS HERE!

S1 Luton v Burton.indd 29 19/02/2026 16:30

The Future Is Clickable

Welcome to LTDSA 2.0: Our new digital home



For over a decade, the Luton Town Disabled Supporters Association (LTDSA) has been your voice at Kenilworth Road.

Today, we are taking a massive leap forward. We are thrilled to announce at today's game against Burton Albion that our brand-new website is fully live at ltdsa.co.uk.

Built by fans, for fans, this platform is designed to be the ultimate companion for every disabled Hatter.

WHAT'S WAITING FOR YOU ONLINE?

- **THE AWAY DAYS HUB:** Travel should never be a barrier to support. Our new hub is developing to be a complete registry of accessibility guides for every ground in the league. Check wheelchair positions, audio descriptions, sensory room availability, and find direct contact details for visiting Disability Access Officers (DAOs) so you can plan your trip with confidence.
- **MATCHDAY ESSENTIALS:** Get real-time updates with our dynamic dashboard, match countdown timers, and news feeds tailored specifically to the needs of our disabled community.
- **RESOURCE LIBRARY:** From official committee minutes and our constitution to links for local support organisations like Autism Beds, we are building a hub that will soon be your go-to place for everything you need; this is now just a click away.

SPOTLIGHT: OUR MATCHDAY SERVICES

Did you know we offer specialised support right here at the Kenny?

- **Audio Descriptive Commentary:** We have 30 headset receivers available for visually impaired supporters.
- **Sensory Support:** We work closely with the club and will be working with Autism Beds to provide sensory-friendly resources and a dedicated sensory hideaway room in the future.
- **Changing Places:** Although not currently available at Kenilworth Road, The Point Shopping Centre nearby has access to high-standard Changing Places facilities for those who require them.

S1 Luton v Burton.indd 30 19/02/2026 16:30

Building For The Future

UNITE FOR ACCESS 2026: SATURDAY 7th MARCH

From 28th February to 15th March, we join clubs nationwide to celebrate inclusion. Our official Unite for Access game is our home fixture against Reading on 7th March.

Look out for lots of news, member stories, and a special home supporter video on our social media sites.

We are also excited to announce that our own Steve Moore will be joining Simon Pitts on the matchday commentary to share the LTDSA story with listeners everywhere!

WANTED: THE NEXT GENERATION OF VOLUNTEERS

The LTDSA is run entirely by volunteers. To keep up with our growing community, we need fresh energy on our committee. We are currently making a special appeal for those with experience in:

- **IT & WEB MANAGEMENT:** Help us maintain and evolve our new digital platform.
- **SOCIAL MEDIA & CONTENT:** Help us tell the stories of our supporters and grow our community on X, Instagram, and Facebook.

Why join? Our new website includes internal tools designed specifically to help the committee work better together, featuring private messaging channels and shared resource managers. To register your interest, please email us at info@ltdsa.co.uk.

SHAPING POWER COURT: HAVE YOUR SAY!

We are at a pivotal moment in our history. With Power Court on the horizon, we have a "once in a century" opportunity to ensure our new home is a beacon of inclusion.

Head over to the 'Surveys' section on the new site. We want to hear about your matchday experiences, the good, the bad, and the barriers. Whether it is transport links to the new site or the height of the kiosks, your feedback directly influences our regular meetings with the club.

Help us ensure Power Court is truly a stadium for everyone.

SAVE THE DATE: 2026 AGM

Our Annual General Meeting is the best time to meet the team and help set our direction.

- **WHEN:** Wednesday, 29th April 2026 | Time: 6.30pm – 9.00pm
- **WHERE:** John Moore Lounge (and streamed online via the new website)
- **REGISTER:** Sign up now at ltdsa.co.uk/agm or email rsvp@ltdsa.co.uk
- **JOIN LTDSA FOR FREE TODAY AT:** ltdsa.co.uk

Membership is now open to disabled fans, their families, carers, and any supporters who have an interest in supporting disability at Luton Town. Join us and let's make sure every Hatter has a seat at the table.

#COYH #LTDSA #UniteForAccess

S1 Luton v Burton.indd 31 19/02/2026 16:30

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THE VIEW FROM THE PRESS BOX

***The Lutonian** journalist has seen it all over the last two decades and wonders what's next for the Hatters this season*

Twenty years ago last month I covered my first Luton Town match.

It was quite the introduction as manager Mike Newell and his QPR counterpart Ian Holloway traded claims about football's bung culture.

Since then, there have been administrations and saviours twice over, a Johnstone's Paint Trophy triumph, three straight relegations from the Championship to non-league, play-off final failures, four extraordinary, history-making promotions from the Conference to the Premier League and two more demotions to League One. Just about every emotion a club can generate. When people say football fandom is like a rollercoaster, it applies to the Hatters more than most.

What I have rarely seen is a pattern as stubborn as Town's current travels.

Wednesday's defeat at relegation-threatened Wigan felt both pivotal while also reinforcing a theme.

Six straight away defeats. Eight without a win on the road. One shot on target (until stoppage time) against the Latics, who had not won on their patch since early December.

For all the tweaks, including two strikers from the start, the same issues resurfaced in Lancashire: too few shots, too little sustained pressure and not enough clear chances.

Supporters are right to question that. At this stage, away form is not a subplot. It is decisive.

Before Wigan, I felt Luton needed nine points from that, plus today's test against Burton and Port Vale to give the play-off push real oxygen. While the effective five-point gap between Town and the top six is not impossible in arithmetic terms, it is hard to argue a side struggling so badly on its travels can find the consistency required.



The Town's good home form must continue today says James

I'm reminded of what assistant manager Chris Powell said on the Luton Town Supporters' Trust podcast in October, shortly after arriving at the club: "Fans might not want to hear this but sometimes it takes a little bit longer to turn things around. We hope not, but it might."

You may not still want to hear that in February, but it's looking prophetic.

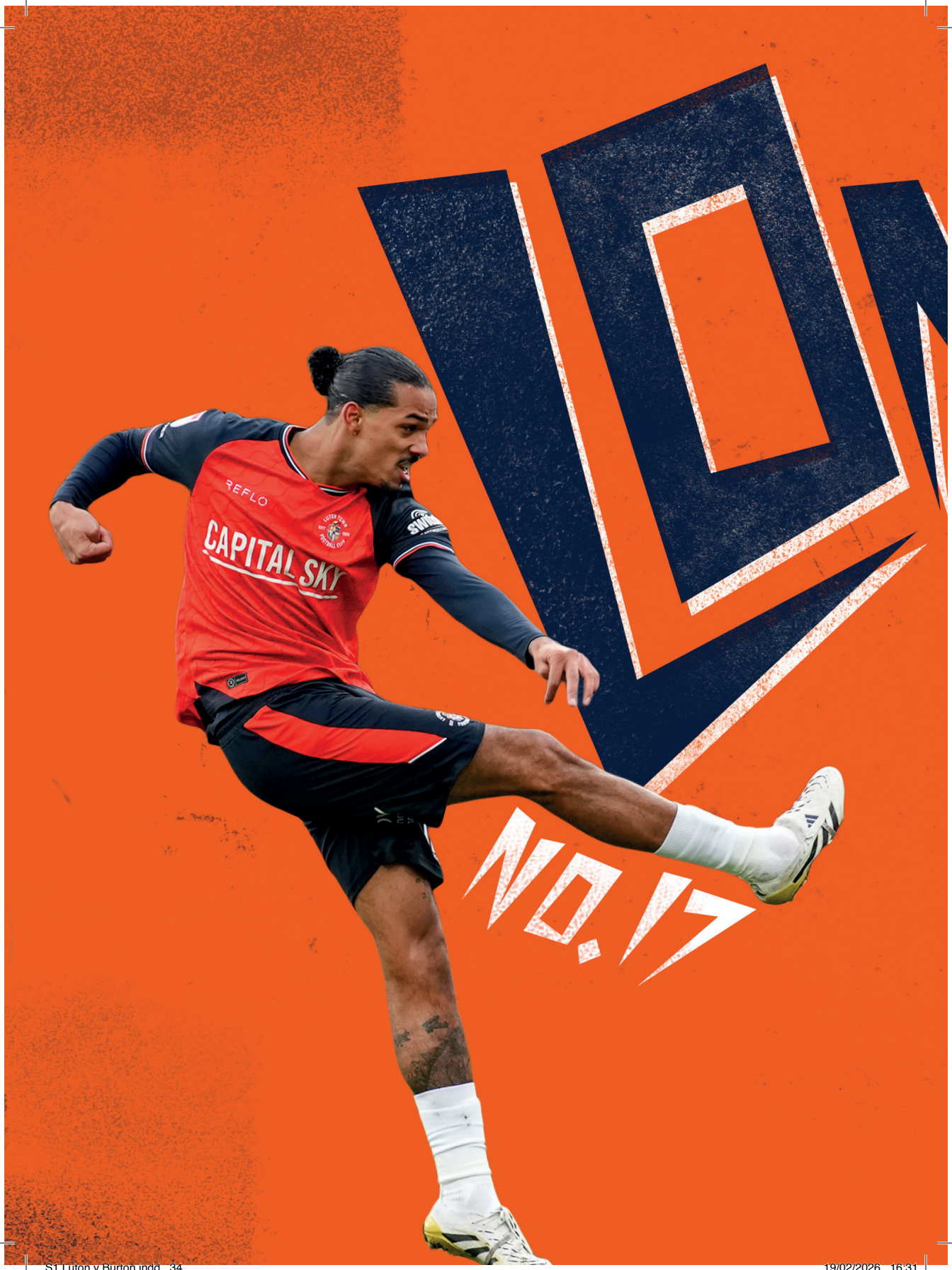
That does not mean there is nothing to play for. The 10-game unbeaten league run at Kenilworth Road must continue today against The Brewers.

Then there is the Vertu Trophy. Reinstated to the competition, Town are two home wins from Wembley and, in cold terms, it may now represent the clearest route to tangible success this season.

It's no-one's first choice, but after 20 years covering this club's rise and fall, one constant endures: fans need something to cling to.

Right now, home form and a shot at silverware is that anchor.

S1 Luton v Burton.indd 33 19/02/2026 16:31


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LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS' TRUST



The Trust Interviews...

Mike Hooker *Ticket Office Manager*

This time round we talked to Mike Hooker, ticket office manager. He and his team are off-the-pitch Luton Town legends, of course!

Mike, there's probably not a single Luton fan who wouldn't want to say thank you to you and the ticket office team for the way you go above and beyond so often to help us attend games at home and away.

From sorting season cards to answering emails – sometimes way out of office hours! – and helping fans who've lost or forgotten tickets, you're always there for us.

So, let's start by asking you about your own history with Luton Town and how you came to work for the club...

Firstly, thanks for the kind comments! I was born in St Albans, and my dad was an avid football fan. He took me along to Clarence Park, St Albans' ground, from when I was five or six. I was his excuse to get out and go to football!

I've got a confession to make here, though; I also grew up as a Manchester United fan as I absolutely loved George Best. We went to see United at London games regularly. But when I was about 12, dad said "come on, we'll go to local league football now" – and that meant Vicarage Road, then Kenilworth Road, because he said with us being in St Albans we were between the two grounds. We did that twice. Then he said we now had to make a choice: which team do you want to go to? Luckily, yellow was never my colour so I didn't go to the dark side, and we became regulars at Kenilworth Road.

I played football too and was a winger, so I loved watching John Aston – it was that era, the early 70s. Then, when I was 17, I got a job in Luton just up the road from the ground, worked with lots of season ticket holders, and in 1980 got my own first season ticket in the Oak Road end. That's when I really fell in love with Luton and became a fully-fledged fan, home and away, with about 10 of us travelling all around the country in a battered old green minibus.

Over the next decade we saw one of the best Luton teams in history with the likes of Big Mick, Ricky Hill, Brian Stein, Preecey – and David Moss, one of my favourites. We were obviously at the Littlewoods Cup final of course, but also those nail-biting relegation battles, surviving on the last day at Maine Road and again at the Baseball Ground, Derby, still one of my favourite games.

I then got married, had kids and got various weekend and evening jobs which meant I couldn't get to many games. Then in around 2000, the children were of an age where they could come to games, so they became my excuse to get out to football again. My lad Steve, who was only about 12, loved it from the start, standing in F Block, on his seat, and singing away! In 2004, my daughter Kelly left her job at a gym and when I was going to collect some tickets, I saw a sign saying ticket office assistant required. I told Kelly about it, and she got the job. Then, eight months later, after 20 years in customer service, I got made redundant and, for a total change, became a postman. That meant finishing at 1pm and I knew the ticket office was busy so offered to work afternoons on a voluntary basis. That became a part-time job and within about a year the ticket office manager left, so I was asked if I was interested in the role full-time. I jumped at it – it felt like I was going to get paid for doing my hobby! So, Kelly, as she often reminds me, is one year ahead of me in completed years.

How has your role changed over the years?

My first game running the ticket office was a 5-1 win against Leeds in October 2006. We went fifth in the Championship and I was thinking 'I could have joined at exactly the right time', dreaming of being in the Premier League. Two-and-a-half years later we were in the Conference! So, that didn't quite pan out. But those Conference days became quite fun to be honest. By the fifth year we were certainly ready for promotion but the first couple of years, going to an away ground and having five times the home crowd and things like that, were great. We printed tickets for home clubs often too, and I can remember a game where the away support was so low – 13 I think – that we moved them into Kenilworth Road Lower Block A so we could fill the Oak Road with our own supporters.

The club was smaller then in many ways – so although I was ticket officer manager, very soon I also became club shop manager and probably fan engagement too, as we were the supporter-facing front of the club. In my time I have also pulled many a pitch cover or cleared snow off the pitch. I've even stood in for Happy Harry at fetes and carnivals a few times! Everyone pulled together, staff and fans, because, I think, of what we'd been through with the 30-point deduction.

It's certainly been a roller coaster. A journey I wouldn't have wanted to miss out on as a fan, but

S2 Luton v Burton.indd 36 19/02/2026 16:26

even more working for the club. I think in my 20 years we've had four promotions, five relegations, the JPT final, three failed play-off finals, a final day survival and two Covid-affected seasons. So, 15 out of 20 seasons there's been something massive going on. We don't do uneventful at Luton!

What absolutely motivates us is being here for the fans. We want to give them the best level of service we can. We are fans ourselves, so I think we understand what they want and aim to provide it. I've been here 20 years, Kelly for 21 and Holly for 15, and we've stayed that amount of time because we're driven by supporting Luton, wanting to work for Luton and wanting to make Luton fans' lives easier. We added two new part-time members to our team for the Premier League season – Megan who is a Luton fan too and Issey, who we're working on!

Let's leap forward to that Premier League season now...

It was a challenge from start to finish! We had to relocate the Bobbers box holders and the requirements for Sky and the media meant having to move lots of other people too. The Oak Road changed to safe standing mid-season, which also involved a lot of liaising with supporters.

Then there was the demand for tickets. We'd got busy as we moved up the leagues but nothing to compare with this. You'd put the game on sale to members, and it would sell out in two minutes. Or two seconds! We had to stop personal callers coming to the office as, by the time they got to the counter, we were sold out. Ticketing has changed of course but not everyone can get online and we've always wanted to look after them as well. So it was a challenge.

Something else I didn't expect at the scale it happens was fake tickets and selling on third-party sites. Luckily, we'd introduced membership the season before to make sure regular supporters could get tickets – we needed another layer beyond season tickets as they were fully sold out with a long waiting list. About 800 people took out membership that year: good timing, as it meant they were able to get to all the Premier League games. Membership grew from 800 to 6,800 in the Premier League season. We did, however, have members buying tickets then selling them for hundreds on third-party websites, which we worked hard to stop. We bought the tickets ourselves, tracked them back to the members selling them, and cancelled their memberships. It's a problem for all top-level clubs. Some have big teams working on what we did with just a few of us. If we get back to the Premier League, we'll be aware of that from day one.

Do you get to see much of the games?

At home, I probably get in 10 or 15 minutes into the second half. For away games, sometimes I have to sort a few things out pre-match, but I get to see the full game and that's my day out.

Times have changed now but for the JPT final, where we sold over 40,000 physical tickets ourselves, we had to provide two people to work in the Wembley ticket office. But we wanted to be up the road at The Green Man with our fans – so I got my mum and dad to work at Wembley, and I had my phone on to answer dad when he had questions! It was different for the Championship play-off final though. Everything was done online with digital tickets which meant we were in the ticket office at Wembley until probably >>



Mike and the ticket office team celebrate promotion in 2017

S2 Luton v Burton.indd 37 19/02/2026 16:26



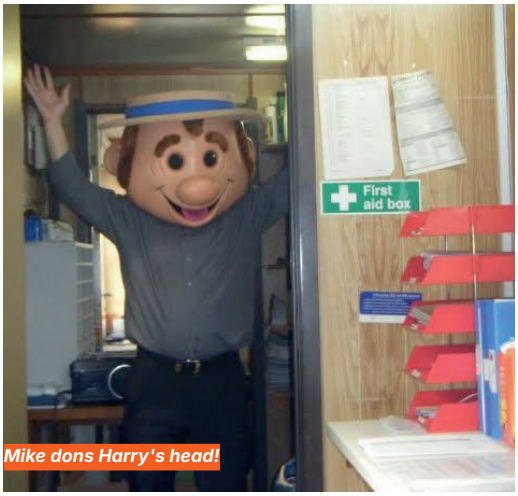
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Mike dons Harry's head!

>> five minutes before half-time. In their own way these were two games I will never forget and always wonder how we sold the tickets in timescales required.

How do ticket allocations and the sales structure work – and are there any thoughts about a loyalty scheme?

We try to be fair to everyone with our priorities. For away games, the order is away season ticket holders, then executive and diamonds – that's around 1,700 – then season card holders and then members – depending on years of membership if needed. Lastly, general sale, which we like to get to three weeks before a game if we can. For away tickets now, as well as home, there's a move towards digital tickets.

On loyalty schemes for away games, that is something we're looking at. I'd like to do it on tenure, so however long you've had a season ticket over the last 20 years you get X number of points. A diamond might get a few more points for each season; members will get points depending on how many consecutive years they've been held; and then we'd have a rolling last two years' worth of away tickets that you've bought. We feel this would perhaps be a fairer system of allocation. We are looking at the details, and we propose to work with the Trust and supporters' groups via fans forums on that soon. We want to get things right and we're always learning.

What about Power Court? Any plans in place for that yet?

I'm looking forward to seeing all our season ticket holders, members and fans sitting, or safe standing, where they want to be at Power Court. People will want to be with their friends they've been to games with for years – we'll, again, aim to work with the supporters' groups on processes and priorities to make this happen. We'll have room for the many thousands more who currently can't get into games, too. We should be able to meet all demand for home games when we move. However, anybody who contacts us about season tickets now is advised that if they wish to increase their priority for Power Court season cards, purchasing seasonal memberships and match tickets will assist them if they assign all purchases to their unique supporter reference number.

> ***"I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING ALL OUR SEASON TICKET HOLDERS, MEMBERS AND FANS SITTING, OR SAFE STANDING, WHERE THEY WANT TO BE AT POWER COURT***

I, like many, will probably struggle to leave Kenilworth Road on its last day, but Peter Kemp cannot keep this place together with glue much longer!

I would like to raise a couple of other points, however. Our apologies if there was some initial misunderstanding about selling home tickets in blocks of four games, but supporters do not have to buy all four, they can just buy one game at a time – obviously, subject to availability. We feel it helps those who can't get season cards but may wish to try to book the same seat each week early, while not disadvantaging others. It also assists us with planning for games. If some games are selling better than others, we can address this early.

Although we are still operating, on average, at over 90 per cent capacity, there are some games where we can look to reach out to younger fans and community groups to offer a group booking of tickets at a discounted rate. So far, this season, we have been able to invite around 30 or 40 groups to games. It's often their first match, and we want them to go home and say, 'I loved that, can we go again?' Those words have been the start of lifelong journeys for a lot of fans I guess, and we'll be able to accommodate many more on that journey at Power Court. If any supporter who may work in schools or local football thinks this may be of interest, please contact ticketoffice@lutontown.co.uk to register your interest.

Fantastic, Mike. Finally, any message to the fans from you?

Yes! I am proud to be a Luton supporter and working at the club for the last 20 years has shown me what a special set of fans we can be. There is nothing like Kenilworth Road in my eyes when the place is rocking. We have had a couple disappointing seasons and at times it has been a hard watch. People will all have their own views on why. Football is a game of opinions.

But if history tells us anything, it tells us when we are all pulling in the same direction with the same goals for Luton Town there is no stopping us. Someone once said "The stronger the team, the stronger the team".

Never a truer word spoken. COYH!

Thank you, Mike. And thanks again for being the best ticket office team in the business!

S2 Luton v Burton.indd 39 19/02/2026 16:26



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

Wearing HISTORY

1992-94 HOME

When you think of football kit manufacturers, you think of the likes of Nike, Adidas, Umbro, Puma and now Reflo.

Today's kit features a sportswear brand that is no longer in football: DMF Sportswear.

DMF Sportswear only produced football shirts for two seasons, 1992 to 1994, and for only three professional teams. Luton, Fulham, and Barnet were the only three clubs to be provided with DMF kits, making these shirts quite rare.

The home shirt itself was our standard white with a lovely blue collar that has a stripe of orange on the edges. That blue and orange combination is present throughout the shirt, with two horizontal bands on the body of the shirt: one above the iconic Universal part of the sponsor, and the other below it, splitting up the Universal Salvage Auctions text.

The sleeves saw the exact horizontal design with the blue and orange as the outline, featuring another two on each sleeve towards the elbow. Two orange lines go from the collar to armpit to finish off this unique design.

The DMF logo was then on the right of the chest, with a watered-down version of the badge on the left. The badge was our classic late 1980s early 1990s badge, but just the Luton coat of arms in the middle: no Luton Town at the top, or Football Club along the bottom. To me the badge looks a bit naked! How would a casual know this was a shirt for the mighty Hatters?

All the DMF shirts were made of a thin, shiny material that was prone to lots of material pulls or snags. This is one of the reasons that it is quite hard to find a shirt from this era in good condition – the material did not really stand the test of time!

In our two seasons with this home shirt, we finished 19th and 20th in the second tier in what was known as the 'new' Division One.

The Hatters embarked on a fantastic run in the FA Cup in this strip in 1993/94, making it to the semi-final after two memorable replay victories over top-flight Newcastle and West Ham. However, David Pleat's side fell to a 2-0 defeat to Chelsea at Wembley, dashing our hopes of a second FA Cup final appearance.

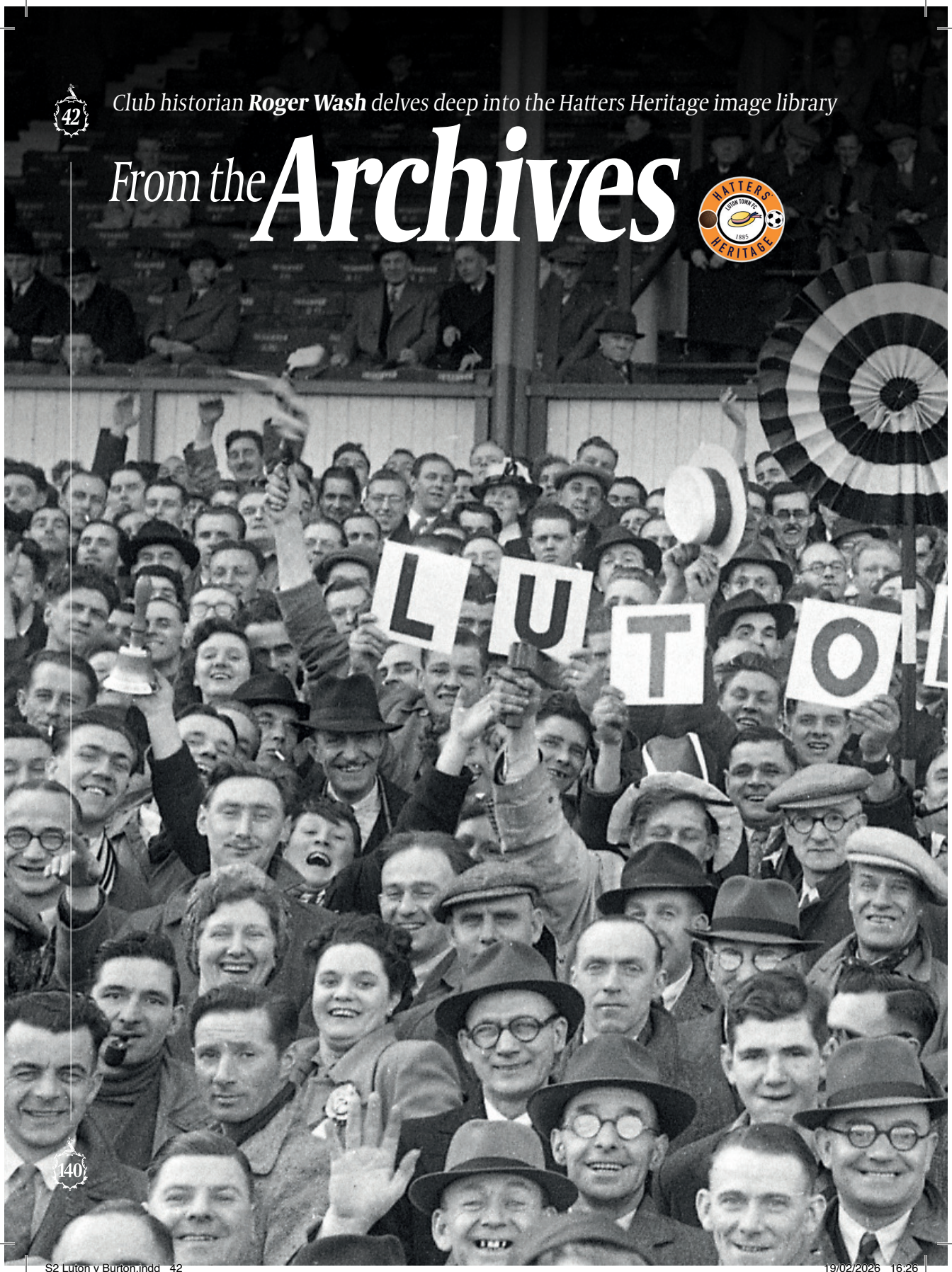
Iconic players who wore this shirt include Julian James, Scott Oakes, David Preece, Trevor Peake, Kerry Dixon, and a young John Hartson!



Scenes in the Town dressing room after beating West Ham in 1994

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

From the Archives



S2 Luton v Burton.indd 42 19/02/2026 16:26



In the days when the FA Cup really meant something, matches in the competition invariably attracted the biggest crowds of the season.

With it came displays of uninhibited enthusiasm which only appeared for cup-ties. Pictured are co-ordinated Luton supporters an FA Cup replay at Filbert Street in 1949. Good job they didn't support Stenhousemuir!

The original tie at Kenilworth Road finished 5-5 before the Foxes won the replay a week later 5-3.

S2 Luton v Burton.indd 43 19/02/2026 16:26

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

ON THIS DAY

21st February



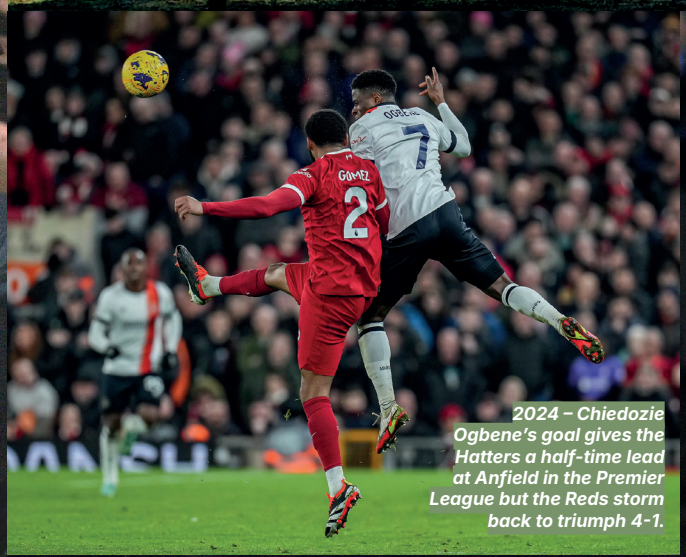
2004 – Enoch Showunmi scores his first-ever senior hat-trick as the Hatters beat Brentford 4-1 at Kenilworth Road.



1959 – The Hatters record their only victory in the top-flight on this day in history as goals from Tony Gregory, Bob Morton, Allan Brown and George Cummins earn a 4-3 win over Leicester before a crowd of 15,786 at Kenilworth Road.



2009 – The Hatters are doing their utmost to avoid relegation out of the Football League and goals from Tom Craddock, Sam Parkin and Asa Hall secure a 3-1 win over Shrewsbury in League Two.



2024 – Chiedozie Ogbene's goal gives the Hatters a half-time lead at Anfield in the Premier League but the Reds storm back to triumph 4-1.



1995 – Paul Telfer and Julian James are on target at Fratton Park but the Town go down 3-2 to Portsmouth in the old First Division.



2012 – A million miles away from Anfield, the Town lose 1-0 at Barrow in the Conference in front of 925 on a Tuesday night at Holker Street.

S2 Luton v Burton.indd 45 19/02/2026 16:26



Louis Bookman in 1920

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

Louis Bookman

When Raddy Antic made his debut at West Ham in August 1980 people could have been forgiven for assuming him to be Luton's first player born in mainland Europe.

It was certainly a trendsetting signing, with Antic hailing from what is now modern day Serbia and going on to write himself in Town folklore with that goal at Maine Road in May 1983.

But Antic wasn't the first. Just over 60 years before, a small, quick winger had made his debut in a 2-0 win against Brighton in the Southern League.

His name was Louis Bookman, though he'd once been known as Louis Buchalter. And his story is remarkable.

He was born in Lithuania, then part of the Russian Empire, in 1890, one of nine children in an orthodox Jewish household. When he was still a boy his father, Mathias, a Rabbi, made the decision to move the family to New York to escape the persecution Jews were facing in the region.

The long trip to America by boat was still an arduous one at the time. A brief stop in southern Ireland was intended to give the travellers a measure of respite, but on this occasion the boat was met with fierce gales when it docked. Amid the heavy winds, Mathias misheard the captain's cry of 'Cork' and took his family from the ship, thinking they had reached New York already.

They remained in Ireland and would move to Dublin soon after, at which time they changed their name to Bookman. The talent that Louis showed for all sports was not welcomed by either parent. The family followed a traditional Yiddish code which rejected competitive ethos and saw sport as something for non-Jews only.

Not that this slowed Louis, who won the Under-18 All Ireland tournament with Jewish side Adelaide in 1908. His skills would land him at Belfast Celtic, which is where he caught the eye of Bradford City's legendary manager Peter O'Rourke, who travelled to Ireland in 1911 searching for an understudy to his Irish International forward Frank Thompson.

Louis was joining one of the most successful clubs in the country. O'Rourke's team had won the FA Cup in the previous season and were well established in the First Division, boasting some of the best forwards in the league. Still, Bookman made his debut in February 1912 in an FA

S2 Luton v Burton.indd 46 19/02/2026 16:26

Cup win against Chelsea and then his league debut a week later in a home loss to Preston.

The significance of his debut is hard to overstate. He was the first Jewish player to play in the Football League and one of the first from overseas, though his Lithuanian birth was hidden by his Irish accent and upbringing. He was proud of that Irishness and would win a first cap for his adopted country in 1914.

A move to West Brom followed in 1914 but he lasted only a season before drifting back to Ireland and playing for Glentoran and Shelbourne during The Great War.

Then, in 1919, he caught the eye of Luton, who thought they could sign Bookman on a free even though he was still contracted to West Brom, given Southern League sides didn't have to pay fees to Football League clubs.

His debut for the Hatters was therefore delayed as the Baggies challenged this assumption and demanded a payment. There was worse to come in the days after he joined, when a couple of 13-year-old boys broke into the club and stole a number of items, including Bookman's boots. The Police didn't take long to find the culprits and marched one of the boys to his place of work, where he pulled the stolen boots out of their hiding place – two feet of coal!

Coal-stained boots or not, Louis quickly became a firm favourite



His 1921/22 Luton News Handbook picture

at Kenilworth Road. He was one of the fastest players in the league and known for his crossing ability. His talents were a huge help as the Town entered the Football League again, with the winger eventually making 110 appearances and scoring nine times during his spell in a Luton shirt.

One particularly proud moment for both the player and the club came in 1922 when Bookman and Allan Mathieson were called up for Ireland to play England, who themselves called up Ernie Simms. It was the first time a Third Division club had provided three players for an international match.

Ironically, the call up also hastened Bookman's departure from Kenilworth Road. With their players missing, the club tried out a new formation which left the Irish international in the reserves. Unhappy at this he would eventually fall out with secretary Charlie Green and move to Port Vale.

He gave up on football not long after, starting a watchmaker/jewellery business in Dublin.

It also gave him time to focus on his other love, cricket, and he would eventually play for Ireland at that too, becoming one of the rare few to represent their country in multiple sports.

His only daughter Joyce would tell later in life that her father was not a great businessman, despite his fierce intelligence. "When people used to come in and say 'how much do I owe you', he'd say, 'ah sure, it doesn't matter'. So he never made any money!"

Louis died in 1943 at the age of just 52. His obituary in the Belfast Telegraph gave a long list of his achievements but perhaps its final line is the most affecting. It reads simply, "his name was Louis Buchalter".

With the Luton side of 1920/21. Bookman is furthest right, middle row



S2 Luton v Burton.indd 47 19/02/2026 16:26

LTFC academy

With Phil Payne
Under-11-12 Foundation Phase Cell Lead Coach



I have recently been appointed the full time cell lead for the Under-11s and Under-12s after joining the academy in the 2024/25 season. I originally joined as the U12s' squad lead coach which I did alongside my work at the Community Trust where I worked since 2018.

I am enjoying working with the U11s and U12s who have a unique format in which they play nine v nine, a blend of small-sided, technically heavy, fast paced football played in bigger spaces with tactical and larger unit work preparing them for the full 11 v 11 game.

The U11s have had a strong start to 2026 and, after getting to know the nine v nine format during the early part of the season, things seem to be clicking into place. The boys are becoming more confident in the knowledge of their roles and expectations in a more tactical game.

During the academy games programme the U11s have played in 2026 we've split the squad into two groups to maximise game time and have managed positive results against all opposition, with at least one of the groups winning each weekend. We have also been able to give challenging learning opportunities to six U11 players already this year playing with and against U12s groups which has been really beneficial for their development.

The U11s have also hosted a number of local opposition sides both on Sunday mornings and during the week which has also been of good value to them. During the week the U11s entered a tournament featuring a mixture of local opposition and academy sides which game them a taste of competitive football. On the day the group played very well and showed a competitive edge topping their group. The U11s progressed through the knockout rounds to the semi-finals before losing to eventual winners Ipswich 1-0, which was unfortunately the only goal they conceded on the day.

The U12s have also had a strong start to 2026 and remain undefeated in their academy games programme since September with a couple of notable victories against category one academies. The group also feature in the national cup at the U12s age group and currently top their group. Last weekend the U12s showed an extremely impressive performance as they travelled to Watford in this competition and returned with all three points after a 6-2 victory. During the

S2 Luton v Burton.indd 48 19/02/2026 16:26

game we had six different goal scorers showing the real strength in depth within that group as well as being able to give more valuable experience and one of our U11s in a competitive game.

Both groups have had not only technical and tactical development but have worked with sports scientists and holistic development away from football through life skills workshops run by our player care officer and various guest speakers. We see this as extremely important as we aim to develop our boys not only to become better footballers but more rounded athletes with lifelong transferable skills. The aim is not only to impact them on the pitch but off the pitch also and set them up as better people for all walks of life.

Myself and all the coaches across these age groups have been pleased with the positive start to the year and look forward to continuing to work hard to ensure the groups remain strong.

GAWEL BRACE INSPIRES TOWN VICTORY

Super-sub Dawid Gawel's dramatic brace helped secure an impressive comeback for the Hatters to claim three points against Gillingham at The Brache last weekend.

A first half penalty from Harry Fox coupled with second half strikes from Gawel and a cute finish from Nassim El Gourja ensured victory for Town in a thrilling encounter.

The game started slowly for the Town with the opening goal coming from a break down the left which resulted in the subsequent cross not being dealt with at the back post, allowing the away side to take the lead just after the 10th minute.

It could have been worse for the Hatters when another gigantic leap from a Gillingham forward powered the ball towards the back of the net but goalkeeper Charlie Booth clawed the ball away from goal just in time.

Just after the half hour mark, Town found their leveller, with a Gills defender adjudged to have handballed in the area which left the referee to point to the spot. Fox stepped up confidently to smash the ball down the middle to restore parity.

Unfortunately for the Hatters, it would be the away side who'd take an advantage into the break, with another deep cross finding a towering header at the back post yet again to restore their lead.

With an injury to Tatenda Takawira, the introduction of leading marksman Gawel ultimately swung the game back in Town's favour, the forward levelling the game brilliantly after getting away from his marker before slotting a low reverse finish into the bottom corner.

It wouldn't be long before the forward notched again, this time working the ball into the box before bending a perfect finish into the top corner to put Town ahead for the first time.

El Gourja, also introduced off the bench, sealed the three points when he too found space out wide before producing a similar finish; cutting in on his right foot to curl the ball into the net to make it 4-2.

- The Town were defeated by Wimbledon on Wednesday in the PDL Cup area final. Despite a goal from Dawid Gawel, Joe Deeneys's side went down 3-1.

Report 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 L 0-4
Sat 24 Barnet P-P
Sat 31 Bromley D 2-2

FEBRUARY
Sat 7 Cambridge United L 1-2
Sat 14 Gillingham W 4-2
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) L 1-3

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

S2 Luton v Burton.indd 49 19/02/2026 16:26



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youth PROFILE

Luca Knote-Reed

YOUR NAME?
Luca Knote-Reed

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
Bedford

WHAT POSITIONS DO YOU PLAY? Central defensive midfield, central midfield or central attacking midfield

WHEN DID YOU JOIN THE ACADEMY? At Under-7s

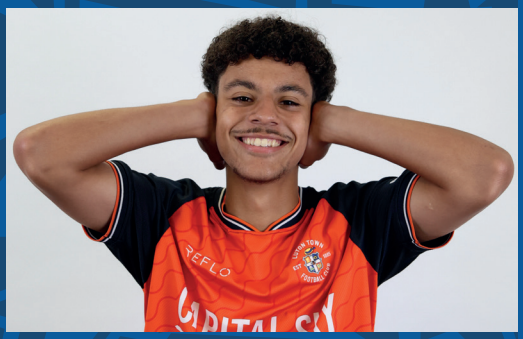
WHO WAS YOUR FOOTBALL HERO GROWING UP?
Cristiano Ronaldo

GO-TO BOOTS RIGHT NOW? Nike Phantom 6 (blue and white colourway)

FIRST TIME YOU KICKED A BALL?
When I was three in my living room







BIGGEST LESSON FOOTBALL'S TAUGHT YOU? Always be ready to adapt in difficult situations

FUNNIEST TEAMMATE?
Fin Evans

HARDEST WORKER?
Luke Takawira

BIGGEST INSPIRATION OUTSIDE FOOTBALL?
Kyrie Irving

TEAMMATE MOST LIKELY TO BE A MANAGER? Rufus Barnes

MOMENT YOU'LL NEVER FORGET?
Winning the tournament in Germany as an Under-8

BEST BIT ABOUT BEING AT LUTON? Being around my friends the people I've known all my life

ONE THING YOU'RE WORKING ON? The amount of time I get injured

PRE-MATCH ROUTINE OR SUPERSTITIONS?
Pray

FAVOURITE MUSIC...
Travis Scott

FAVOURITE GAME...
NBA 2K

GO-TO CHEAT MEAL...
Chicken and chips

IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER?
Something in music or fashion

PERSON YOU'D SWAP PLACES WITH FOR A DAY? Lamine Yamal

THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE YOURSELF.
Humorous, intelligent, annoying

ONE THING PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU? I enjoy listening to Spanish music a lot

BIGGEST FOOTBALL DREAM? Play for my national team

S2 Luton v Burton.indd 51 19/02/2026 16:26

LUTON TOWN FC

COMMUNITY TRUST

Half-Term Highlights: Multi-sports camps a big hit

This week's notes shine a spotlight on a fantastic half-term holiday, as our multi-sports camps proved to be a hugely popular with young people across Luton.

Across the week, our team took over one of our valued partner schools, Stopsley Primary Academy, transforming the site into a hub of activity, energy and fun. With over 80 young people attending throughout the week, there was no shortage of enthusiasm or competitive spirit on display.

The camps offered something for everyone, with a packed programme that included nine holes of mini golf, sports quizzes, dodgeball, and a wide mix of indoor and outdoor activities. Whether participants were trying something new for the first time or sharpening existing skills, the variety on offer ensured every young person could get involved, stay active and, most importantly, enjoy themselves.

We were also delighted to be joined by the Dellaglio Rugby Works Foundation, who share our passion for using the power of sport to engage, inspire and support young people within local communities. Their involvement added real value to the week and gave participants the chance to experience different sporting opportunities in a fun, supportive environment.





With the weather holding up nicely, it turned into a week filled with smiles, new friendships and plenty of healthy competition. Inclusion remains at the heart of everything we do, and thanks to our partnership with Energize Luton, young people were supported with hot meals and snacks throughout the week, helping to promote energy, wellbeing and healthy lifestyles.

The standout moment came with a surprise visit from George Saville and Hakeem Odoffin, who dropped in ahead of a busy training and fixture schedule. Young people enjoyed a Q&A session, took on the hole-in-one challenge and joined in with activities – a visit that will live long in the memory for many.

With another successful camp delivered, our attention now turns to the Easter school holidays. Keep an eye out for what's coming next. For more information about our holiday camps, please contact community@lutontown.co.uk or visit www.lutontowncommunity.co.uk to book once places go live.

S2 Luton v Burton.indd 52 19/02/2026 16:26



From Luton to Lens: A step forward in development

It has also been a busy period for our Under-14 to Under-16 development players, who this week, travelled to France for an intensive two-day training camp designed to challenge, inspire and accelerate their development both on and off the pitch.

The tour provided a valuable opportunity for players to experience a different culture, train in elite facilities and develop greater independence through shared responsibilities across the trip.

Throughout the camp, our young Hatters took part in high-quality training sessions alongside academy coaches from RC Lens, offering a fantastic insight into European academy standards and coaching methodology. The group also enjoyed a behind-the-scenes stadium tour at Lens, further enhancing what was a memorable and inspiring experience.

After a long day of travel, both squads were quickly into competitive action against a strong Olympique Marcquois side. Despite two narrow defeats in challenging, wet conditions, the performances demonstrated resilience, character and quality against well-organised opposition. Competing in top-class facilities against strong local teams proved invaluable to the players' development.

The final fixtures of the tour saw both squads respond in excellent fashion. Facing Sporting Club Douai in much improved conditions, the players delivered confident, attacking performances to secure two well-earned victories. With goals flowing and teamwork evident throughout, it was a fantastic way to conclude the tour.

Tours such as this play a key role within our youth development pathway. Alongside exposure to different styles of football, players are challenged socially and personally, taking responsibility for preparation, recovery, punctuality and professionalism throughout the experience.

Following the France tour, players now look ahead to the next stages of their development journey, including a residential experience at Stowe School and an overseas tournament in Belgium later in the season.



S2 Luton v Burton.indd 53 19/02/2026 16:26

SMOOTHER THAN A DOUBLE NUTMEG



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Ladies claim massive three points at Barton

Super-sub McLean nets twice to secure huge three points

The Town made a quick start under the lights. Amber Leighton's lofted ball over the top of the Chesham defence was collected in her stride by Elizabeth Mulvaney, who was unfortunate to slip when attempting her delivery into the area, allowing for the visitors to clear.

At the other end, Chesham were denied the opener. They broke through the Hatters' backline and found themselves one-on-one, but Nicole Melling made a superb save to her left-hand side to keep the scores level.

Shianne Swarres was dispossessed on the edge of the Luton area, but she made an instant recovery, her perfectly-timed sliding challenge rescued possession for the Town.

With 10 minutes remaining at the end of the first half, the Ladies took the lead. Jánaye Beaufort's sumptuous ball over the top of the Chesham defence played Tasha Fensome through on goal, who matched the quality of the pass, with a lob from outside the area and into the back of the net.

Fensome found herself in space once more, this time on the left wing, she delivered the ball into the feet of Emily Wilson, who was left head in hands after shooting straight at the Chesham keeper.

The last piece of action of the half was a Chesham corner, which was claimed by the safe hands of Melling, ensuring her side entered the break a goal up.

The Town's first opportunity of the second half came through Lisa Milliken, her long-range effort was on target, but comfortably held.

Fensome and Wilson linked up once more, with the latter being on the end of the forward's ball into the area, but this time she fired over the crossbar.

On the hour, Fensome and Beaufort were replaced by Dickens and McLean.And it was an instant impact from Amy McLean. Her close-range attempt was saved, but she was able to scramble the ball over the line on the rebound. A scrappy one, but a vital one, just five minutes after coming off the bench.

Fiona Buttigieg came close to her first of the season. Her free-kick appeared to be dipping underneath the crossbar, but for a crucial fingertip save from the busy Chesham keeper.

In the 87th minute, Amy McLean netted her second goal of the evening, and what a goal it was. Swarres' trivela pass picked out McLean just outside the area, she took her marker on, cut inside and curled home a sensational finish.



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 D 1-1

FEBRUARY
1 AFC Sudbury D 3-3
8 Actonians W 2-1
18 Chesham Utd W 3-0
22 AFC Sudbury

MARCH
8 Milton Keynes
22 London Bees
29 QPR

APRIL
12 Fulham
26 Chatham Town

S2 Luton v Burton.indd 55 19/02/2026 16:26

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A big shoutout to our mascots at the Bradford game!

JUNIOR HATTERS



Freddie Constable

Age: 9
Hobbies: Playing football
Favourite Player: Jordan Clark



Daniel Cook

Age: 12
Hobbies: Football
Favourite Player: Jordan Clark



Jasper Gade

Age: 11
Hobbies: Playing football for Luton Pre-Academy & playing cricket
Favourite Player: Elijah Adebayo



Oscar Parkin

Age: 12
Hobbies: Playing football for ICA & fishing
Favourite Player: Nahki Wells



Heidi Wilson

Age: 9
Hobbies: Football & gymnastics
Favourite Player: Elijah Adebayo

S2 Luton v Burton.indd 57 19/02/2026 16:27



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TICKET news

HOME TICKETS

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

AWAY TICKETS

v Port Vale

We have received an initial allocation of 1,178 reserved seats for our fixture at Vale Park.

Please note this fixture is digital tickets only and tickets will be sent via email.

Tickets are now on sale subject to availability. Tickets should be assigned to individual client reference numbers if you wish for purchase history to be tracked. Tickets can be purchased online, in person or via phone using your client reference numbers.

Prices
Adults £25
Senior Over 63 £19
Student with valid ID £17
Under 22 £17
Under 18 £12
Under 13 Free

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There are two accessibility car parking spaces available for supporters priced at £10 for the accessibility stand, this is available upon request by calling us directly on 01782 655821 alternatively by emailing tickets@port-vale.co.uk.

Matchday parking is also available which is to be pre-booked online using the link below, the recommended car park for away supporters would be Dimensions Leisure Centre car park as this is only a short walk from the away stand. To book parking visit www.portvaleparking.co.uk.

HOME GAMES NOW ON general sale

v Plymouth Argyle

Tuesday 24th February, 7pm, Vertu Trophy

Adults £5, Under-17s £1

v Reading

Saturday 7th March, 3pm Category A

v Exeter City

Tuesday 17th March, 7.45pm Category B

v Stockport County

Saturday 21st March, 12.30pm Category B

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LEAGUE LOOK

Midweek action round up

Earlier this week, all League One sides were in action with 22 playing on Tuesday night and Wigan facing off against the Hatters on Wednesday night. Let's run through the games and see how it all unfolded.

Cardiff continued their strong form and dismantled AFC Wimbledon 4-1 in South Wales, a win that puts them 12 points clear of Bolton in third. Second placed Lincoln also picked up a notable win, thumping Northampton 4-0 at Sincil Bank.

Plymouth kept up their good away run with a convincing 3-1 win over struggling Leyton Orient while Stevenage also piled more misery on Port Vale as they came from behind to win 2-1 in Hertfordshire.

Huddersfield were beaten by Doncaster in a huge 1-0 victory for the Rovers in a Yorkshire derby. Play-off chasers Wycombe also dropped points after a late Jayden Wareham equaliser meant they had to settle for a 1-1 draw against Exeter.

Blackpool earned an important 1-0 win against Mansfield Town who have now scored just one goal in their last four league games. Today's opposition Burton also picked up a massive 1-0 home win, beating Rotherham United.

Bradford grinded out a massive victory against Stockport, winning 1-0 at Valley Parade. Antoni Sarcevic got the winner in the second half against his former club.

Luca Connell and Reyes Cleary scored the goals as Barnsley came from behind to beat in-form Peterborough.

Bolton earned a last gasp point away at Reading in the final minute thanks to Mason Burstow's equaliser that cancelled out another goal for the Royals' Jack Marriott.

In some of the games to look out for this afternoon, leaders Cardiff head to Plymouth while two play-off chasers meet at Adams Park as Wycombe host Stevenage.

There's a Lancashire derby as Bolton take on Blackpool and an all-Yorkshire clash as Rotherham and Doncaster go head-to-head.



Luke Molyneux scores from the spot for Doncaster to beat Huddersfield 1-0

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	182	47
Ali Al-Hamadi	1 (5)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (6)	0	6	0
Millenic Alli	12 (4)	1	3 (3)	0	15 (7)	1	38	5
Mads Andersen	24 (3)	2	4 (0)	1	28 (3)	3	50	4
Ethon Archer	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	1	0
Shandon Baptiste	2 (2)	0	0 (0)	0	2 (2)	0	21	1
Cohen Bramall	17 (10)	2	5 (0)	1	22 (10)	3	32	3
Jacob Brown	3 (4)	0	0 (1)	0	3 (5)	0	60	7
Christian Chigozie	0 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	2	0
Jordan Clark	22 (4)	9	1 (0)	0	23 (4)	9	206	27
Devante Cole	3 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	3 (0)	0	3	0
Fin Evans	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	1	1 (0)	1	1	1
Lamine Fanne	15 (6)	1	4 (2)	1	19 (8)	2	40	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	22	1
Zach Ioannides	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	1	0
Joe Johnson	10 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	12 (0)	0	27	0
Isaiah Jones	5 (3)	1	1 (0)	0	6 (3)	1	27	3
Josh Keeley	31 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	32 (0)	0	32	0
Gideon Kodua	19 (8)	9	4 (3)	1	23 (11)	10	34	10
Emilio Lawrence	3 (1)	0	1 (0)	0	4 (1)	0	5	0
Nigel Lonwijk	24 (1)	1	3 (2)	0	27 (3)	1	30	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	28	0
Mark McGuinness	4 (2)	0	1 (0)	0	5 (2)	0	51	3
Teden Mengi	21 (0)	0	3 (0)	1	24 (0)	1	79	3
Shayden Morris	6 (15)	3	3 (2)	2	9 (17)	5	26	5
Kal Naismith	22 (3)	1	3 (1)	0	25 (4)	1	107	5
Marvelous Nakamba	0 (1)	0	2 (1)	0	2 (2)	0	61	0
Zack Nelson	6 (12)	1	7 (1)	1	13 (13)	2	51	3
Lasse Nordas	4 (7)	1	5 (1)	3	9 (8)	4	27	4
Hakeem Odoffin	2 (4)	0	1 (1)	0	3 (5)	0	8	0
Kasey Palmer	6 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	6 (0)	0	6	0
Josh Phillips	0 (0)	0	0 (2)	0	0 (2)	0	3	0
Jake Richards	9 (5)	3	3 (3)	0	12 (8)	3	20	3
Sverre Sandal	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0	0
George Saville	20 (6)	1	3 (0)	0	23 (6)	1	29	1
James Shea	1 (0)	0	7 (0)	0	8 (0)	0	118	0
Davy van den Berg	0 (3)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (3)	0	3	0
Liam Walsh	18 (3)	0	4 (1)	0	22 (4)	0	54	0
Reuell Walters	3 (1)	0	3 (0)	0	6 (1)	0	23	0
Nahki Wells	18 (9)	2	1 (0)	2	19 (9)	4	28	4
Cauley Woodrow	0 (1)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (1)	0	82	6
Jerry Yates	11 (11)	2	3 (4)	5	14 (15)	7	29	7

S2 Luton v Burton.indd 63 19/02/2026 16:27

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**	D	2-2	7	11,230	1,328	Keeley	Lonwijk	Johnson	Andersen	Naismith	Walsh	Bramall
SAT 24	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE TV	12:30	L	0-1	7	15,949	790	Keeley	Lonwijk	Johnson	Andersen	Naismith	Walsh	Palmer
TUE 27	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	19:45	L	0-1	9	15,367	397	Keeley	Lonwijk	Johnson	Andersen	Mengi	Walsh	Palmer
SAT 31	**BLACKPOOL**	**15:00**	W	1-0	7	10,697	728	Keeley	Lonwijk	Johnson	Andersen	Mengi	Palmer	**CLARK 1**
FEBRUARY														
SAT 7	**BRADFORD CITY** TV	**12:31**	W	2-1	7	11,000	1,343	Keeley	Lonwijk	Johnson	Andersen	Mengi	Palmer	Clark
SAT 14	CARDIFF CITY	15:00	L	1-3	8	19,524	830	Keeley	Lonwijk	Johnson	Andersen	Mengi	Palmer	**CLARK 1**
WED 18	WIGAN ATHLETIC	19:45	L	0-1	9	8,440	618	Keeley	Lonwijk	Naismith	Andersen	Mengi	Palmer	Clark
SAT 21	**BURTON ALBION**	**15:00**												
TUE 24	**PLYMOUTH ARGYLE (VT)**	**19:00**												
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** TV	**12:30**												
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												
TBA	DONCASTER ROVERS													

*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...

				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		
Clark	KODUA 1	Lawrence	WELLS 1	Morris	Richards	Yates		
Clark	Kodua	Lawrence	Wells	Morris	Bramall	Yates		
Richards	Kodua	Bramall	Clark	Morris	Wells	Al-Hamadi	Lawrence	Fanne
Morris	Kodua	Bramall	Wells	Richards	Jones	Al-Hamadi	Saville	Naismith
MORRIS 1	Kodua	RICHARDS 1	Cole	van den Berg	Jones	Wells	Saville	Al-Hamadi
Jones	Kodua	Richards	Cole	Al-Hamadi	Morris	Wells	van den Berg	
Jones	Richards	Al-Hamadi	Cole	Morris	Wells	Kodua	van den Berg	

1. The Hatters went down 4-1 at Liverpool on this day two years ago – who scored our goal?

2. In 2012, the Town lost 1-0 at Barrow in the Conference – what was the attendance? A) 1,244, B) 2,210, C) 925 D) 899

3. How many times have we played Burton Albion?

4. Before this season's 3-0 win at Burton, who scored our last goal at the Pirelli Stadium?

5. Who saved the crucial penalty in Leeds' shootout win over Birmingham?

6. In how many minutes did Arsenal score their four goals against Wigan?

7. Who scored a hat-trick for Rangers in their win over Hearts last weekend?

8. Who is the new manager of Nottingham Forest?

9. Which club are nicknamed the Red Litchties?

10. From which club did we sign Sverre Sandal from?

1 Chiedozie Ogbene 2 C 3 5 4 James Collins 5 Lucas Perri 6 16 7 Youssef Chermiti 8 Vitor Pereira 9 Arbroath 10 FKUM

TABLE 2025/26

Team	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Cardiff	32	21	6	5	31	69
Lincoln	32	19	8	5	26	65
Bolton	33	15	12	6	12	57
Bradford City	31	16	7	8	7	55
Stockport	31	15	8	8	6	53
Huddersfield	33	14	7	12	9	49
Stevenage	31	13	9	9	3	48
Reading	32	12	11	9	5	47
Luton	**32**	**13**	**6**	**13**	**2**	**45**
Wycombe	32	11	11	10	8	44
Peterborough	33	14	2	17	1	44
Plymouth	32	13	4	15	-3	43
Barnsley	29	11	8	10	-1	41
Exeter	31	11	7	13	3	40
Mansfield	30	10	9	11	4	39
Wimbledon	31	11	6	14	-9	39
Blackpool	32	10	6	16	-10	36
Doncaster	31	10	6	15	-16	36
Burton	**31**	**9**	**8**	**14**	**-11**	**35**
Wigan	31	8	10	13	-10	34
Northampton	32	9	7	16	-14	34
Leyton Orient	31	9	6	16	-11	33
Rotherham	30	8	7	15	-13	31
Port Vale	29	5	7	17	-19	22

TODAY'S Fixtures

12.30PM KO

Plymouth v Cardiff
Rotherham v Doncaster
Wycombe v Stevenage

3PM KO

AFC Wimbledon v Bradford
Bolton v Blackpool
Huddersfield v Barnsley
Mansfield v Lincoln
Northampton v Leyton Orient
Peterborough v Exeter
Port Vale v Reading
Stockport v Wigan

TOWN Totals

	W	D	L	F	A
HOME	1575	696	636	5806	3269
AWAY	750	719	1424	3326	4986
NEUTRAL	6	4	13	29	43
TOTAL	2331	1419	2073	9161	8298
At KR	1445	668	582	5267	3023

5,820 games played

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

SEASONS TO REMEMBER *1996/97*



Following relegation, the Town entered the 1996/97 campaign in the third tier for the first time since 1970.

Manager Lennie Lawrence set about pruning the squad to reduce the wage bill but perhaps he pruned it too far as the first three games were lost – including a 5-0 defeat at Bristol City.

A tweak to the system by Lawrence, which involved the defence sitting higher and being more direct up front, turned the tide and the Town started to climb the table.

Aided by the goals of Tony Thorpe and David Oldfield, the Hatters went on a 10-game unbeaten run and, following a win at Millwall just before Christmas, hit top spot for the first time.

The chasing pack, which included Stockport and Bury, were remarkably consistent and, as the season drew to a close, a place in the play-offs, for the first time, was the best the Town could manage.

The play-off semi-final opponents were Crewe who the Hatters had beaten 6-0 at Kenilworth Road earlier in the campaign. The Railwaymen were a much more settled and rounded side by now though and won the first leg 2-1 at Gresty Road despite the Town taking the lead through Oldfield.

The second leg was a major disappointment. The Town roared into a two-goal lead with a brace from Oldfield but Crewe fought back and had levelled by the hour mark.

Crewe held on with relative comfort and went through by a single goal on aggregate which over the two games they probably deserved – and were then promoted after beating Brentford in the final.

SECOND DIVISION		PLD	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Bury (C, P)	46	24	12	10	24	84
2	Stockport County (P)	46	23	13	10	18	82
3	**Luton Town**	**46**	**21**	**15**	**10**	**26**	**78**
4	Brentford	46	20	14	12	13	74
5	Bristol City	46	21	10	15	18	73
6	Crewe Alexandra (P)	46	22	7	17	9	73
7	Blackpool	46	18	15	13	13	69
8	Wrexham	46	17	18	11	5	69
9	Burnley	46	19	11	16	16	68
10	Chesterfield	46	18	14	14	3	68
11	Gillingham	46	19	10	17	1	67
12	Walsall	46	19	10	17	1	67
13	Watford	46	16	19	11	7	67
14	Millwall	46	16	13	17	−5	61
15	Preston North End	46	18	7	21	−6	61
16	Bournemouth	46	15	15	16	−2	60
17	Bristol Rovers	46	15	11	20	−3	56
18	Wycombe Wanderers	46	15	10	21	−6	55
19	Plymouth Argyle	46	12	18	16	−11	54
20	York City	46	13	13	20	−21	52
21	Peterborough United (R)	46	11	14	21	−18	47
22	Shrewsbury Town (R)	46	11	13	22	−25	46
23	Rotherham United (R)	46	7	14	25	−31	35
24	Notts County (R)	46	7	14	25	−26	35

Player focus

Giant American goalkeeper **Ian Feuer** was ever present in 1996/97 keeping 22 clean sheets along the way. His 6ft 7in cardboard cut-out was a big seller in the club shop!



Season standout

With quick feet and the ability to shoot with either foot, **Tony Thorpe** weighed in with 28 goals as the Town became the joint highest scorers in the division.



S2 Luton v Burton.indd 66 19/02/2026 16:27

Hats off to Luton Town

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the TEAMS

LUTON TOWN

MANAGER **JACK WILSHERE**

1	JAMES **SHEA**
3	KAL **NAISMITH**
4	SVERRE **SANDAL**
5	MADS **ANDERSEN**
6	DAVY **VAN DEN BERG**
8	LIAM **WALSH**
11	ELIJAH **ADEBAYO**
12	ALI **AL-HAMADI**
14	SHAYDEN **MORRIS**
15	TEDEN **MENGI**
16	HAKEEM **ODOFFIN**
17	NIGEL **LONWIJK**
18	JORDAN **CLARK**
21	NAHKI **WELLS**
22	DEVANTE **COLE**
23	GEORGE **SAVILLE**
24	JOSH **KEELEY**
25	ISAIAH **JONES**
26	SHANDON **BAPTISTE**
27	JAKE **RICHARDS**
30	GIDEON **KODUA**
32	EMILIO **LAWRENCE**
33	COHEN **BRAMALL**
38	JOE **JOHNSON**
54	KASEY **PALMER**

BURTON ALBION

MANAGER **GARY BOWYER**

2	UDOKA **GODWIN-MALIFÉ**
3	JACK **ARMER**
4	KGAOGELO **CHAUKE**
5	TERENCE **VANCOOTEN**
6	TOBY **SIBBICK**
7	JJ **McKIERNAN**
8	CHARLIE **WEBSTER**
9	JAKE **BEESLEY**
10	TYRESE **SHADE**
11	FÁBIO **TAVARES**
12	GEORGE **EVANS**
14	NICK **AKOTO**
15	KYRAN **LOFTHOUSE**
16	ALEX **HARTRIDGE**
18	JASPER **MOON**
19	DYLAN **WILLIAMS**
20	JASON **SRAHA**
21	JORDAN **AMISSAH**
22	JULIAN **LARSSON**
23	SEBASTIAN **REVAN**
24	BRAD **COLLINS**
25	CIARAN **GILLIGAN**
26	FINN **DELAP**
27	KAMIL **DUDEK**
28	MILLAR **MATTHEWS-LEWIS**
29	KAIN **ADOM**
30	JAMES **JONES**
39	JOSH **TARONI**
42	ANDY **CANNON**

The Officials

REFEREE **SEBASTIAN STOCKBRIDGE**
ASSISTANT REFEREE **JONATHON BLOCK**
ASSISTANT REFEREE **ANDY BENNETT**
FOURTH OFFICIAL **ROBERT EVANS**

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