
OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME • £2 • ISSUE 22 v PLYMOUTH ARGYLE
Luton
TOWN
CAPITAL SKY
LUTON TOWN
EST 1885
FOOTBALL CLUB
TUESDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2026 7PM
Vertu TROPHY
EFL
CAPITAL SKY LTD.

THE BOSS

Jack WILSHERE

Welcome back to Kenilworth Road. After Saturday's draw with Burton, it's important we reflect but do it with belief and perspective.

I understand the frustrations. This club has high standards and big ambition but what I will say clearly from the outset here is that this group of players are giving everything. The work they put in every single day is outstanding. The responsibility they take on, the way they train, the way they prepare – it's there for everyone inside the building to see.

At the moment, what you're seeing is a group that's searching for that extra bit of confidence. In games, when moments don't quite go our way, belief can dip slightly. And in this league, those small margins matter. But the positive is that the foundations are strong. We're trying to build an identity, a clear way of playing that can take us forward, and in spells against Burton you could see that.

We didn't start as sharply as we would have liked and we were a bit slow finding our rhythm. But there was intent. We wanted to play forward, to be on the front foot. We grew into the game, we scored, and for large parts we controlled what they were trying to do – especially dealing with their direct play and second balls.

But where we have to improve is with the ball. We have to be braver, more confident, and go and get the second goal rather than protecting what we have. That's a mindset shift as much as anything. When confidence is high, you push on instinctively. When it's fragile, you hesitate. Our job is to build that belief back to a place where we're aggressive and positive in those moments.

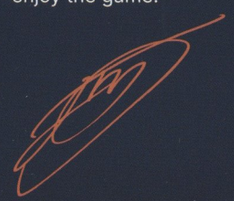
The most important thing right now is that we stick together. I know the players are. I know the staff are. There's no division, no lack of effort, no lack of care. It's our responsibility to give you something to cheer about, and we take that seriously. I've said it so many times, but your support does make a difference.

League One is a tough division. There are no easy matches. Every team fights for every duel, every second ball and every point. We understand that challenge. There's no sense of entitlement here – only hard work and ambition – and we'll go into the game on Saturday at Port Vale ready.

Tonight, we return to the Vertu Trophy and welcome Tom Cleverley and his Plymouth side. They come into the game on a high after beating Cardiff so we'll be expecting a tough test.

However, we know we're now two home wins away from Wembley and that's something to be excited about. It's a chance to build momentum and to give everyone connected to this club something special to aim for.

Believe me there is a group of players here that is determined to improve and give you what you deserve, so please get behind us and enjoy the game.





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OUR JOB IS TO BUILD THAT BELIEF BACK TO A PLACE WHERE WE'RE AGGRESSIVE AND POSITIVE IN THOSE MOMENTS.



PLYMOUTH ARGYLE

THE AWAY END

The Gaffer

TOM CLEVERLEY Former Manchester United and Watford midfielder who left the Hornets hotseat last summer and was appointed Greens boss soon afterwards.

Goalkeeper

LUCA ASHBY-HAMMOND Fulham academy product who spent time on loan with Aldershot, Crawley, Notts County and Gillingham before signing for Argyle.

Defenders

BRENDAN SARPONG-WIREDU Former Fleetwood centre-back whose impressive performances with the Cod Army got him a move to Home Park.

ALEXANDER MITCHELL Came through the academy at Millwall before joining Charlton permanently. He spent last season with the Addicks before joining Argyle on loan.

JOE EDWARDS Experienced defender with a wealth of experience across the EFL. He has featured over 200 times for Argyle since he signed in July 2019.

MATTHEW SORINOLA Former Milton Keynes and Swansea man who made the move to Devon in 2023.

MATHIAS ROSS Dane who joined Argyle in August from Galatasaray. Began with AaB in his homeland and has been capped at youth level for his country.

JACK MACKENZIE Scottish left-back who arrived at Home Park in May from Aberdeen but has had to wait until January for his debut following injury.

WES HARDING Jamaica international defender who joined on loan from Millwall in January. Began his career at Birmingham before a spell at Rotherham.

Midfielders

MALACHI BOATENG A Crystal Palace academy graduate who has spent the last few years playing in Scotland for Queen's Park, Dundee and Hearts.

CALEB WATTS Made the rare move last summer from the Red to the Green side of Devon. The former Exeter man scored on his debut in the opening day defeat against Barnsley.

OWEN DALE Oxford loanee who will spend the season with Argyle. Enjoyed a wealth of experience in League One for the likes of Portsmouth, Wigan and Blackpool.

HERBIE KANE Midfielder who joined the Greens on loan from Huddersfield in January. A Liverpool academy graduate, he spent four successful years at Barnsley.

RONAN CURTIS Left-winger who signed for Argyle in January from Port Vale. Spent five seasons with Portsmouth, scoring 57 goals in 226 games.

Forwards

LORENT TOLAJ Swiss striker who made his name at Port Vale where he scored 15 times and recorded nine assists last season as Vale were promoted from League Two.

BIM PEPPLE Former Town striker who made the move to Home Park in the summer. Born in Kettering but raised in Canada, he originally signed for the Hatters in 2022.

XAVIER AMACEHI England youth international who arrived at Home Park in June. After coming through the Arsenal academy, he had spells in Germany with Hamburg and Magdeburg.

JAMIE PATERSON Summer arrival who spent the back end of last season with Coventry. Began his career with Walsall before spells at Nottingham Forest, Bristol City and Swansea.

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Away joy at HOME PARK

*Club historian **Roger Wash** looks back on a memorable cup victory against the Pilgrims*

Considering the long association with Plymouth going back to our Southern League days (Argyle were our visitors for the opening game at Kenilworth Road in 1905), we have not often clashed in cup competitions.

We have met a couple of times in the League Cup, with honours even, plus only once in the FA Cup which we will look back at tonight.

The teams were paired together in the third round in January 1948 at a time when the competition meant more than it does today. As such, a crowd of 34,689 gathered which proved to be the highest of the season at Home Park.

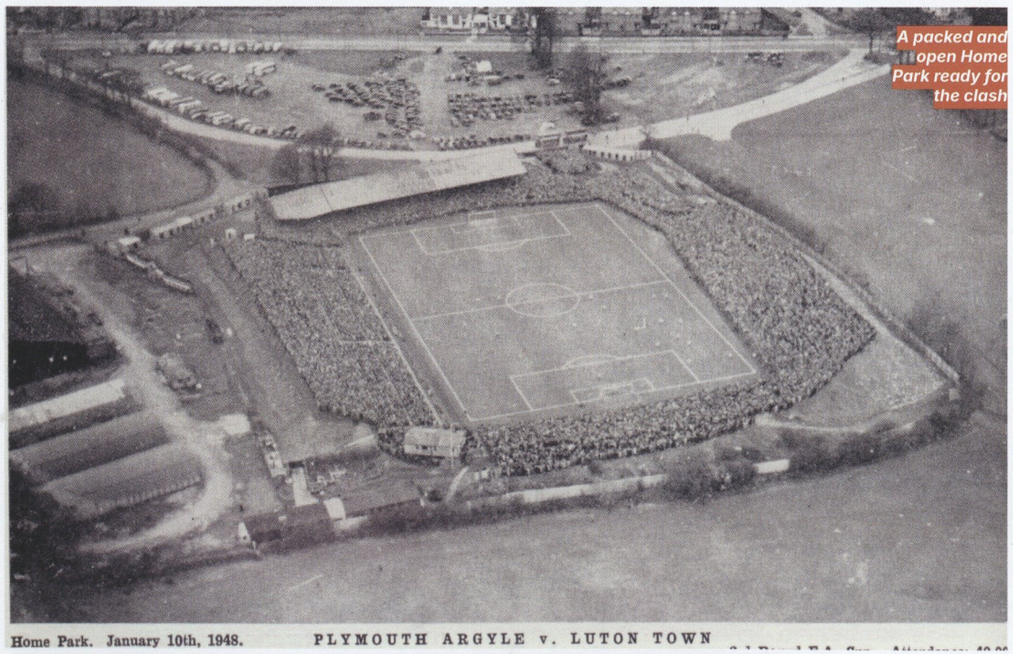
As the game kicked off rain began to fall on a war damaged ground which offered little cover to the spectators but this did little to dampen the enthusiasm of the small band of Luton supporters, most of whom had travelled through the night by coach, and they made themselves heard as Frank Soo led the team out.

Soo had been made captain in the absence of local boy Horace Gager who, unbeknown to Luton supporters, had already agreed to a transfer to Nottingham Forest. Bernard Streten in the Luton goal was making his last appearance as an amateur as he was due to sign professional terms the following week after his demobilisation from the RAF.

The Hatters got off to an excellent start and took the lead after only two minutes when Bobby Brennan fastened on to a through pass from Soo and cracked the ball into the net from 18 yards.

Argyle pushed forward after this and caused some danger down the wings but crosses were gobbled up by Streten and Les Hall who had taken over Gager's place at centre-half.

As the game wore on, the Town continued to play good football on the greasy surface and always worried the Argyle defence whenever they broke. It was therefore completely against the run of play when George Dews levelled for the home side.



A packed and open Home Park ready for the clash


Ace goalscorer Hugh Billington


The clever Bobby Brennan

> ***"STRAIGHT AFTER THE INTERVAL BRENNAN WEAVED HIS WAY THROUGH THE ARGYLE DEFENCE BEFORE FINISHING IN STYLE.***

For a time the Luton defence looked rocky but with the team down to 10 men when Joe O'Brien needed to go off for treatment to a cut head, ace goalscorer Hugh Billington restored the Town's advantage converting a well-placed free-kick from Soo.

Straight after the interval Brennan weaved his way through the Argyle defence before finishing in style. Plymouth then reduced the deficit with a disputed goal from David Thomas – whether the ball was over the line before it was hacked clear by Billy Hughes we will never know but the referee awarded a goal.

No matter as Billington restored the advantage two minutes later with a clever finish to extinguish the Argyle threat with the contest being seen out comfortably.

The post-match comments from 'Chiltern' in the Luton News confirmed that the victory was a "brilliant" one and that the team "played grand, go ahead football".

The Town were drawn against Coventry at Kenilworth Road in the next round and duly won through 3-2 but the cup run ended at QPR in round five in a 3-1 defeat.

Plymouth: Shortt, Stewart, Jones, Boyd, Oakes, Davies, Tadman, Squires, Thomas, Dews, Strauss.

Town: Streten, Lake, Hughes, Soo, Hall, Gardiner, Shanks, Brennan, Billington, Ottewell, O'Brien.

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**

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE

MANAGER **TOM CLEVERLEY**

1	CONOR **HAZARD**
2	MATHIAS **ROSS**
3	JACK **MACKENZIE**
4	BRENDAN **WIREDU**
5	JULIO **PLEGUEZUELO**
7	JAMIE **PATERSON**
8	JOE **EDWARDS**
9	LORENT **TOLAJ**
10	XAVIER **AMAECHI**
13	ZAK **BAKER**
14	AYMAN **BENAROUS**
15	ALEX **MITCHELL**
17	CALEB **WATTS**
18	OWEN **OSENI**
19	MALACHI **BOATENG**
20	HERBIE **KANE**
21	LUCA **ASHBY-HAMMOND**
22	BRENDAN **GALLOWAY**
23	BRADLEY **IBRAHIM**
27	BIM **PEPPLE**
28	RONAN **CURTIS**
29	MATTY **SORINOLA**
32	JOE **RALLS**
35	OWEN **DALE**
38	JOE **HATCH**
39	TEGAN **FINN**
41	SEB **CAMPBELL**
45	WES **HARDING**

The Officials

REFEREE **BENJAMIN SPEEDIE**
ASSISTANT REFEREE **MARC WILSON**
ASSISTANT REFEREE **SAM WESSON**
FOURTH OFFICIAL **ABIGAIL BYRNE**

Tonight's Mascots



JAMES DOOLEY
Age: 9
Hobbies: Enjoys playing all sports but particularly football and watching Luton Town
Favourite Player: Gideon Kodua



THEO GERARD
Age: 9
Hobbies: Loves playing football for Rugby Borough Lions U10. Does Martial Arts and is currently an Orange Belt
Favourite Player: Gideon Kodua