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Luton TOWN







SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 2026 3PM

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For disabled sports fans

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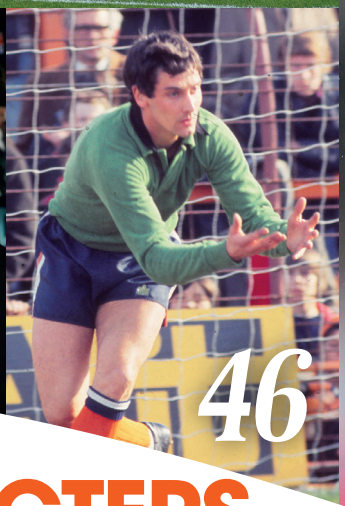
CAPITAL SKY LTD.

S1 Luton v Reading.indd 1 03/03/2026 14:43









COVER CHARACTERS













Tony Thorpe Striker Tony joined the Town after his release from Leicester and netted a stunning goal on his full debut at Newcastle. He hit 28 league goals in 1996/97 before moving to Bristol City in 1998. He returned to Kenilworth Road in 2002 after two loan spells but left again to join QPR in 2003. Scored once in a six-game loan at Reading in 1997.

Dean Morgan Winger or striker Dean began his career at Colchester before moving to Reading in 2003. Following the Hatters' promotion to the Championship he arrived at Kenilworth Road in 2005 and scored a memorable last-minute winner against Southampton. After 11 goals in 88 league games he left Kenilworth Road in 2009.

Gabe Osho Centre-back Gabe came through the Royals' academy but played just seven times – including once against the Town – before arriving at Kenilworth Road in 2020. After loans at Yeovil and Rochdale he became a regular in the Hatters defence, helping us win promotion to the Premier League. After a spell in France he's now at Cardiff.

Jack Stacey Another Reading youth product, right-back Jack played six times for the Royals but excelled during a loan spell at Exeter. He joined the Town in 2017 and won back-to-back promotions, scoring five times in 86 league games. He moved to Bournemouth in 2019, playing in the Premier League, before signing for Norwich.

Lee Nogan Striker Lee came to Luton on trial as a youngster with his younger brother Kurt but was rejected. After spells at Oxford and Watford he moved to Reading, scoring 26 times in 91 league games for the Royals. After spells with Grimsby and Darlington he joined a struggling Town side briefly in 2000 before going on to play four years with York.

Martin Williams Luton-born winger Martin began his career in the Leicester academy but joined the Town on professional terms in 1991. Over the next four years, he made 40 league appearances, mostly from the bench but after a loan spell at Colchester, he moved to Reading. After a slow start he was converted into a striker and was top scorer for the Royals in 1998/99 even though he was out injured from the February.

S1 Luton v Reading.indd 2 03/03/2026 14:43



CONTENTS

4 Jack Wilshere
6 From the Boardroom
10 From the dressing room
14 Match Action
25 Welcome Reading
41 Hatters History
48 From the Academy
64 Fixtures and Results

the PROGRAMME

MADE IN LUTON
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With thanks to the media department at Reading
The views in this programme are not necessarily those of Luton Town Football Club

Welcome

Wembley, Wembley! We are indeed the famous Luton Town and we're going to Wembley.

Wednesday's win over Northampton, thanks to goals from Nahki Wells and Liam Walsh, sets up an all-Hatters final under the arch in five weeks' time.

There's reaction from Jack Wilshere, a special comment from the players' leadership group and all the important ticket information for Wembley in the wake of the victory of the Cobblers inside this programme.

But it's back to the bread and butter of the league this afternoon, as we aim to use the momentum of Wednesday's win to fire us up the table in League One.

Today we take on a Reading side who have had an impressive run of results and sit above us in the table – with a little help from a striker called Jack Marriott. We welcome Jack and the Royals to Kenilworth Road.

Wednesday showed the power of the crowd as we came from behind so please continue your magnificent support this afternoon.

Come on Luton!

S1 Luton v Reading.indd 3 05/03/2026 16:30

THE BOSS

Jack WILSHERE

Firstly, I'd like to welcome Leam Richardson and his players, staff and supporters of Reading to Kenilworth Road this afternoon. They are a good side who have been performing well this season and we're looking forward to what should be a tough game.

We go into today buoyed by a wonderful evening on Wednesday which saw us reach the Vertu Trophy final at Wembley. A massive thank you to everyone who backed us on the night – the support from the first minute was exceptional and the scenes at the end were fantastic and will stay with me for a long time.

I take my hat off to the players. I am so proud of them. They've given us everything since we've come in and they continue to do that every single day. I've never questioned their character or their desire to turn things around when things haven't gone our way. Football is like that at times – you go through tough moments and you have to face adversity – but I've always felt this group is together and that they care deeply about what we're trying to achieve.

Of course there have been some difficult times along the way, which is why it's important we allow ourselves to enjoy this one. Reaching Wembley is a big occasion and it's something the players should be proud of. They'll be able to take their families, enjoy the experience and of course we'll go there wanting to win when the time comes.

While it's a moment to appreciate, we also know the reality is that the work continues. We enjoy it, but not for too long, because there are important games ahead. But we have to capture the feeling from nights like that and take it into our league form.

From my own experience as a player, big cup runs and occasions like Wembley can act as a real catalyst for a group. They can lift the whole environment around a club. Players feel that extra motivation, everyone wants to be out on the pitch earning their place, and it gives the staff and you, the supporters, a lift as well.

It's also important to say that while we're proud of reaching the final, we know we're not where we ultimately want to be yet. The challenge now is to keep improving, become more consistent and start climbing the table towards the positions we believe we should be competing in.

That work continues today against a Reading side who currently sit above us in the table. On and off the pitch we need to harness the feeling of Wednesday and take that into our league performances.

The result and performance at Port Vale last weekend was not up to standard and we were bitterly disappointed that we could not build on taking the lead. We owe a league performance to you – and to ourselves – this afternoon.

The atmosphere on Wednesday reminded me just how amazing this place is when it's bouncing so please raise the noise levels once more today. Even in those demanding moments we need you. Your positivity will help.

Enjoy the game.





S1 Luton v Reading.indd 4 05/03/2026 16:30



"OCCASIONS LIKE WEMBLEY CAN ACT AS A REAL CATALYST FOR A GROUP. **THEY CAN LIFT THE WHOLE ENVIRONMENT AROUND A CLUB.**

S1 Luton v Reading.indd 5 05/03/2026 16:30

BOARDROOM

David WILKINSON



What a night it was here on Wednesday.

To come from behind in a semi-final and book our place at Wembley showed tremendous character from Jack and the players. Falling behind early in a game like that is never ideal, but the response from the team made it a special evening.

Finals at Wembley are not something any club should ever take for granted. Opportunities like that do not come around every season, so everyone involved deserves enormous credit for getting us there.

Jack, his staff and the players stuck at the task when the game was not going our way and found a route through in the second half. The atmosphere played its part as well. Nights like Wednesday are a reminder of what this place can be like when everyone pulls together.

I know the players loved the support you gave them and they have delivered a message to everyone in these pages asking for that backing to be repeated between now and the end of the season, which everyone connected to Luton Town wants to end in success.

We now have a final to look forward to next month against the 'other' Hatters, Stockport County, under the arch. It promises to be a great occasion and, judging by the reaction on Wednesday night, we will, no doubt, see us travel in big numbers once again.

Ticket information was released this week and tickets go on sale next week. Details can be found elsewhere in today's programme and on our website and social media.

One thing I would highlight is the effort being made to ensure the day is accessible for families. All juniors aged 16 and under will be able to attend for £10. Wembley should be an experience shared across generations and we hope that pricing structure allows as many young Hatters as possible to be part of the day.

Whenever we speak about Wembley in this competition, it's hard not to cast our minds back to 2009. That was our first visit to the national stadium as custodians and it remains a truly memorable day in our recent history.

The victory over Scunthorpe came in what was, as everyone will remember, an incredibly difficult season on and off the pitch. Yet 42,000 of you made the journey to support the team, and together we shared a moment that reminded everyone what this football club means to its supporters.

There have been two further visits since – and it would have been a third had we not been sent to the Etihad in 2011 – but that day remains particularly special because of what it represented at the time. We hope next month will produce another memorable occasion, and another victory to celebrate together and give our younger supporters the opportunity to experience Wembley for the first time.

Before that, though, our full attention must remain on the league campaign. There are still plenty of points to play for and we

S1 Luton v Reading.indd 6 05/03/2026 16:30

go into today's game six points off the play-off places with a game in hand. With 12 games remaining, that means there is everything still to play for.

Momentum can be a powerful thing in football and we hope that the confidence gained from reaching Wembley can provide a lift as we head into this important stretch of the season.

Today's opponents, Reading, will provide a very stern test. They arrive here having lost only twice in their last 15 games and currently sit four points above us in the table.

It is also an opportunity to welcome back a familiar face in Jack Marriott. Jack had a spell here earlier in his career and it is good to see him enjoying a productive run of form in front of goal, although he has missed recent matches through injury. We wish him well for the remainder of the season.

As always, your support can make a huge difference. Kenilworth Road has a reputation for being a difficult place for visiting teams and we would love to see that atmosphere again today and for the remaining home games between now and the end of the season.

We also send our best wishes to Teden Mengi following the hamstring injury he suffered against Plymouth. Teden has undergone surgery and, unfortunately, will likely miss the remainder of the season. He has been an important part of the squad and we wish him a smooth recovery.

On a more positive note, it was great to see Elijah Adebayo back in action last week as he featured for the Under-21s against Cambridge, marking his return with a goal. We're all hopeful he will be able to play a part in the run-in if his recovery continues to progress well.

Away from the pitch, on Thursday we hosted our annual Unity Iftar here at Kenilworth Road, welcoming members from the neighbouring Madinah Mosque and the wider local community to break their fast during Ramadan.

The evening brought people together to share a meal, conversation and reflection at an important time of year. Events like this reflect the diversity of the town we represent and the role the football club can play in bringing communities together. It was yet another thoroughly enjoyable and meaningful occasion for everyone involved.

Today is also our Unite for Access matchday, as clubs across the country come together to celebrate inclusion within football. >>

***"FINALS AT WEMBLEY ARE NOT SOMETHING ANY CLUB SHOULD EVER TAKE FOR GRANTED. OPPORTUNITIES LIKE THAT DO NOT COME AROUND EVERY SEASON,* SO EVERYONE INVOLVED DESERVES ENORMOUS CREDIT FOR GETTING US THERE.**



The players gather around Jack after Wednesday's win took us to Wembley

S1 Luton v Reading.indd 7 05/03/2026 16:30



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AT CAPITAL SKY WE RUN OUR COMPANY LIKE A FAMILY, WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE COMMUNITY SUPPORTING AND PROMOTING LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND APPRENTICESHIPS. OUR CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION PROJECTS ARE CARRIED OUT ALL OVER THE UK, BUT WE ARE PROUD TO CALL LUTON OUR HOME.

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CS

>> The campaign, led by Level Playing Field, continues to grow each year and serves as an important reminder that football should be a game for everyone. Every supporter should feel welcome and able to enjoy the matchday experience in a way that works for them.

As part of today's coverage on LTFC+ and our in-ground audio descriptive commentary, our very own Simon Pitts will be joined by LTDSA committee member Steve Moore, who will share some of his own experiences of attending matches.

You will also see on the club website and social media channels, video interviews with two LTDSA members, Colin Hall and Tracy Camp – along with her wonderful assistance dog Milo – on their experiences of watching football at Kenilworth Road after becoming disabled later in life, which is the theme of this season's campaign.

If you would like to learn more about the work of the Luton Town Disabled Supporters' Association or get involved, further information is available through their website and elsewhere in today's programme.

Finally, before Wednesday night's win, our Under-18s also reached a final of their own with a hard-fought victory over Swansea in the PDL Cup semi-final. Many congratulations to Joe Deeney and his staff and players, and best of luck to the lads in the Under-17 semi-final on Tuesday against who else, but the northern Hatters we'll be getting used to seeing over the coming weeks.

For now, though, the focus returns to this afternoon. There is plenty still to play for in the weeks ahead and, as ever, the players will need your support.

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." – Helen Keller.

COYH

David



It was great to see Elijah Adebayo back on the pitch last week

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 Reading.indd 9 05/03/2026 16:30

From the Dressing Room

We know this is a different way of doing the programme notes, but as a leadership group we wanted to speak as a collective and share our feelings with you all ahead of today's huge game in our bid to secure a play-off spot.

Let us start by saying thank you, not only for your support throughout what we all recognise has been a difficult season at times, but for the atmosphere you created and backing you showed us on Wednesday night.

It's not every season that you get to go to Wembley, but we now have that day to look forward to next month in the Vertu Trophy final and we got there together with you all.

We fell behind early on, but you stuck with us. Whether on the pitch or sitting on the bench, we all felt that patience and support. Yes, the first half was frustrating, but we found a way through and came from behind to reach a national final.

That is no small achievement, and the players who were here, and the staff around the club who went to Wembley three years ago, know only too well the feel-good factor that created for everyone connected with Luton Town.

We need to take that on now and use it as a galvanising factor to get results in the league. This club has seen in the past how that connection from the stands to the team out on the pitch can produce results that defy the odds.

We are determined as a squad to not just get to Wembley once, but twice, because we all believe that the play-offs are a possibility. People are writing us off, but that's when Luton Town are at their best, isn't it?



S1 Luton v Reading.indd 10 05/03/2026 16:30

We all take full responsibility for performances that haven't been up to standard this season. Every single one of us has at times made mistakes, but we can assure you it is not through a lack of effort or desire.

We all came to Luton Town because we wanted to be part of the kind of success that everyone has enjoyed in recent years. We all want to be part of the club's history for positive reasons. Not one of us wants to leave Luton Town in League One.

We all understand the frustration you feel. You work all week to come to football on a Saturday, spending your hard-earned money to get some enjoyment. We know that hasn't always been the case this season.

We guarantee that every single member of this squad wants to be here, and with the window closed, you know that we are the group that are here for what we all hope will be the last 11 weeks of the season. We aren't going anywhere and no-one else is coming in, so we are asking for one thing.

Please, like on Wednesday night, give us 90 minutes. Make Kenilworth Road horrible for opposition teams, which is what it's famous for. But please sing your songs, and let some of the young players, especially, know they are loved.

We know that our performances will also dictate that, and you need us to give you something to get behind. We are working every day on the training ground with Jack, Chris and the coaches to improve as individuals, but most importantly as a team.

At the end of the game, if we haven't performed, we will all take criticism. We all know what's fair. Personal abuse that crosses a line isn't, but we are all big enough to hold our hands up when we haven't been good enough as footballers.

Over the next three months we have an opportunity to achieve a double, and we are all desperate to do that. The only way we can do that is with you, and everyone that has Luton Town at heart, sticking together.

Wednesday night was special. Some of us have been part of it before. For others it was the first time of feeling Kenilworth Road rock. We all want to experience it again, and of course on the road, where we know we simply have to improve if we are to do anything.

On Thursday, some of us met with Loyal Luton members at the training ground and we listened to their views, as they did to ours. We always welcome chats with fans, just as a group of us did with the Supporters' Trust event at the stadium just before Christmas.

Those conversations told us that we all want the same thing. We're all Luton. And we can do this together.

COYH!

Kal, Nahki, Savs, Ali, Clicker and Sheasy.



S1 Luton v Reading.indd 11 05/03/2026 16:30


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WE'RE GOING TO WEMBLEY!

We are pleased to confirm ticket information to supporters for the Vertu Trophy Final at Wembley Stadium on Sunday 12th April, 3pm kick-off.

The Town will be allocated an initial 25,340, to a maximum of 36,799 general admission tickets for the East side of Wembley. Tickets will be sold from the North Stand round to the South Stand.

All supporters are reminded that they will require an LTFC Club Account to be able to purchase tickets.

PRICES

Cat 1 - £60 Adults, £45 Young Adult, £30 Over 65

Cat 2 - £48 Adults, £36 Young Adult, £24 Over 65

Cat 3 - £42 Adults, £31.50 Young Adult, £21 Over 65

Cat 4 - £36 Adults, £27 Young Adult, £18 Over 65

Cat 5 - £28 Adults, £21 Young Adult, £14 Over 65

Cat 6 - £20 Adults, £15 Young Adult, £10 Over 65

£10 tickets are available for all Juniors aged 16 years and under.

The price categories will be sold on a first come first served basis and are subject to availability.

HOW TO BUY

Tickets will not be available in person at the Luton Town ticket office; they will only be available online at www.eticketing.co.uk/lutontown. You will need to log into your LTFC+ Account, the same as you would for purchasing normal matchday tickets, all tickets will be digital tickets.

BEST WAY TO BOOK

Due to anticipated demand the Club and Ticketmaster advise no tickets will be sold directly from the Ticket Office.

Each Supporter can purchase 4 tickets per account. If networked to other supporters you will be able to purchase up to 9 in one transaction.

WHEN TO BUY

Period 1: Diamond and Executive Season Ticket Holders
Tickets on sale from 10am Tuesday 10th March

Period 2: All Season Ticket Holders
Tickets on sale from 10am Friday 13th March

Period 3: 4-year Club Members
Tickets on sale from 10am Tuesday 17th March

Period 4: 3-year Club Members
Tickets on sale from 11am Tuesday 17th March

Period 5: 2-year Club Members
Tickets on sale from 1pm Tuesday 17th March

Period 6: 1 year Club Members
Tickets on sale from 2pm Tuesday 17th March

Period 7: General Sale
Tickets on sale from 10am Wednesday 18th March

DISABLED TICKETS

There are a number of Wheelchair and Ambulant Disabled tickets with accompanying Personal Assistant tickets available.

These are sold under the same periods of sale noted above to request a booking please email disabilityliaison@lutontown.co.uk (proof of DLA or PIP will be required if not already held by the club for this season), please only email within your relevant sales period, anyone emailing before will not receive a response.

Full details including travel arrangements, car parking, hospitality and ground regulations can be found on our official website.

S1 Luton v Reading.indd 13 05/03/2026 16:30



Chris Powell and Nahki Wells celebrate

LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

2-1

Liam Walsh's first goal in Town colours booked the Hatters a place in the Vertu Trophy final at Wembley. The Hatters had to come from behind to see off Northampton at a packed Kenilworth Road as Jack Wilshere's side trailed at the break. However, they stormed back to deservedly set-up a meeting with Stockport thanks to second-half goals from Nahki Wells and Walsh. Wells was on hand to tap home 10 minutes after the restart following Jordan Clark's pass to level before Walsh's winner eight minutes from time sealed victory and with it a date against the 'other' Hatters in five weeks' time.



Wells taps home Jordan Clark's pass



Yes Clicker!



Mads Andersen was imperious in the air all evening



Sssssh!



Emilio Lawrence was a threat all game



Liam Walsh is congratulated by George Saville



Liam Walsh's strike flies into the net



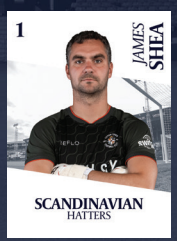
Wembley! Wembley!



Celebrations in the dressing room post-match

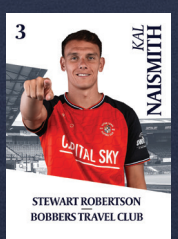
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GOALKEEPERS



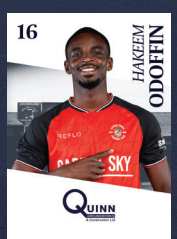


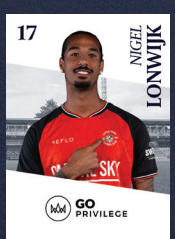
DEFENDERS











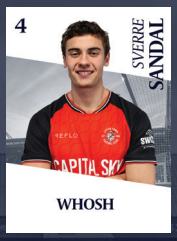




LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

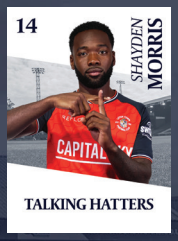
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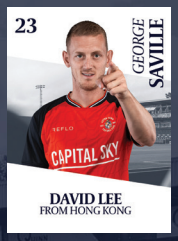


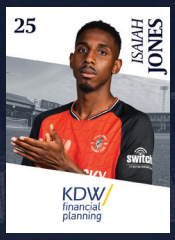




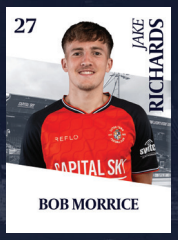




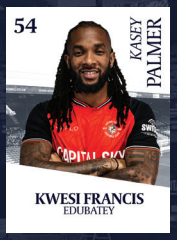






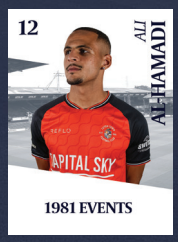




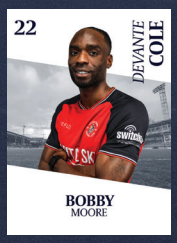


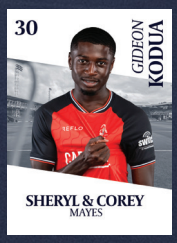
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SPONSORSHIP & HOSPITALITY

At our last home league game against Burton two weeks ago Jake Richards was named man-of-the-match, and we also had the pleasure of welcoming five mascots to the League One fixture against the Brewers.

Our guests in the Eric Morecambe Lounge also had the pleasure of hearing from Jake after the game, with the pair popping in to meet and greet guests, signing autographs, posing for photos and answering supporters' questions after the 1-1 draw.

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 the upcoming home games against Exeter and Stockport.

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 Interfoam and matchball sponsor Andy Watts. We hope you have a great afternoon with us.

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READING

The Royals are in town as they make the trip from Bedfordshire to Berkshire for this huge third tier match.

Reading have been on a great run of form recently and find themselves within touching distance of the play-offs.

A rough start to the season saw a managerial change for Reading as Noel Hunt departed the club and was replaced by Leam Richardson back in November.

In the reverse fixture, Reading beat the Town 3-2 in a thrilling match at the Madejski Stadium. The home side took a 2-0 lead, but a second half comeback followed from the Hatters, with Nigel Longwijk levelling the game with a screamer. However, Reading responded quickly with a goal to steal the points back.

Since then, the Royals have been on a roll and find themselves with just two losses all year, both away from home against Leyton Orient and AFC Wimbledon.

This will be our visitors' first visit to these parts since a goalless draw in the Championship in 2022.

The Royals have enjoyed the upper hand in recent meetings, winning eight of the 16 games since August 2001. Among those was a behind-closed-doors 5-0 win here in July 2020.

The Hatters' last win came at the end of the 2021/22 season that saw Nathan Jones' side earn a place in the Championship play-offs thanks to Harry Cornick's winner.

A warm welcome to Kenilworth Road to all those associated with Reading.

READING AT-A-GLANCE

FOUNDED: 1871

NICKNAME: The Royals

GROUND: Madejski Stadium

MAJOR HONOURS: Championship champions 2005/06, 2011/12, third tier champions 1925/26, 1985/86, 1993/94, fourth tier champions 1978/79, Simod Cup winners 1988

LAST TIME AT THE KENNY: Town 0-0 Reading 1/11/22

S1 Luton v Reading.indd 25 05/03/2026 16:31



The Boss

LEAM RICHARDSON
Appointed Reading boss in October 2025 and has won 10 from 21 games in charge, including a victory against the Town in December.

Goalkeeper

JOEL PEREIRA
Portuguese goalkeeper who has been key for the Royals all season. He has kept six clean sheets in 31 league games so far.

Defenders

BENN WARD Came through the ranks at Burnley before breaking into senior football with Accrington. Signed for Reading in January and has played five times since.

DERRICK WILLIAMS
Experienced EFL defender who spent years at Blackburn and Bristol City. Spent the last few years in the MLS with LA Galaxy, DC United and Atlanta United.

PAUDIE O'CONNOR
Irish centre-back who signed from Lincoln last summer. Scored a late winner in a recent 2-1 win against Wigan.

RYAN NYAMBE Currently on loan from Derby and has played nine games since signing for Reading in January.

ANDY YIADOM
Experienced defender with over 200 Reading appearances to his name. Has already racked up 24 appearances so far this campaign.

Midfielders

LEWIS WING Highly rated midfielder with nine goals and nine assists to his name so far this season in the league. Scored a penalty against the Town before Christmas.

LIAM FRASER Canadian midfielder who first came to League One last season with Crawley. Signed for Reading in the summer and scored his first goal in a win against Leyton Orient.

CHARLIE SAVAGE A regular in the starting XI for the Royals having played every league game so far for Reading this campaign, chipping in with six goal contributions.

RANDELL WILLIAMS
Experienced EFL player mainly in the third tier for the likes of Wycombe, Hull, Bolton, Leyton Orient and now Reading.

MATT RITCHIE
Former Bournemouth and Newcastle man with plenty of regular Premier League football throughout his career. Scored a late winner last time out against Bradford.

Forwards

KELVIN EHIBHATIOMHAN Young striker who came through the ranks at Reading and broke into the first team in 2023. Scored the winner against the Hatters.

KAMARI DOYLE
20-year-old winger who began his career with Southampton. Has since spent time with Exeter and Crawley on loan and now finds himself on loan at the Royals.

PADDY LANE Former Northern Irish international who signed for Reading from Portsmouth in the summer. Scored in the Royals' last match against Bradford.

JACK MARRIOTT Prolific striker who joined the Royals this season from Wrexham. A former Hatter, he joined us from Ipswich before moving to Peterborough, twice, Derby and Fleetwood.

S1 Luton v Reading.indd 26 05/03/2026 16:31

HATTERS *versus* ROYALS

Historic meetings between the clubs down the years

MARCH 1970

SUPERMAC HITS THREE ▼

After making a meal over mopping up Rotherham on Good Friday, the Town bounced back to top form and finished off the promotion challenge of Reading with a comprehensive 5-0 victory. Viv Busby scores his first goal for the Hatters, Mike Harrison also nets but the star of the show is striker Malcolm Macdonald who nets a hat-trick.

MARCH 1988

ROYAL APPOINTMENT

The Town had already reached the League Cup final by the time they took on Reading at Wembley in the Simod Cup. Reading fans massively outnumbered the Town support at Wembley as approximately 40,000 travelled from Berkshire to make-up the 61,000-strong crowd. It started well for the Town as Mick Harford gave us an early lead but the rampant Royals hit back to lift the trophy thanks to goals from Michael Gilkes, Stuart Beavon, Mick Tait and Neil Smilie.

AUGUST 1999

YOUNG BOYS, BURN!

Ten academy graduates play their part as the Hatters earn their first win at the Madejski Stadium. Still smarting from the defeat the previous season at Reading, the Town outplay the home side with the late winner from Liam George fully deserved. The introduction of Michael McIndoe for the tiring Andrew Fotiadis, who had scored the opener, is seen as a masterstroke by Lennie Lawrence as he sets up the winner.



Malcolm Macdonald scores against the Royals in 1970



Dean Morgan nets against Reading here in 2006

FEBRUARY 2006

CHAMPIONS BEATEN ▲

The Town turned in a superb display under the Kenny lights to end table-topping Reading's amazing unbeaten run of 33 games. Kevin Doyle exploited Leon Barnett's slip in the opening 20 seconds to put the visitors in front but Rowan Vine finished neatly after an exchange with Steve Howard to level. Vine side-footed home a Kevin Foley pull-back to make it 2-1 before Dean Morgan netted a beauty to make it three. Doyle nodded home in the last minute for the Royals who would end the campaign worthy winners of the title.

MAY 2022

HE'S BEHIND YOU!

The Hatters secured their place in the Championship play-offs with a nervy final-day win over the Royals thanks to Harry Cornick's opportunism. Having spurned a number of chances to take the lead, the Town led shortly before the break when Cornick reacted quickest to pinch the ball from Royals goalkeeper Orjan Nyland who had rolled the ball out. The Town hung on comfortably to set-up a play-off meeting with Huddersfield.

S1 Luton v Reading.indd 27 05/03/2026 16:31











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LIONS IN THE CAMP



In the latest edition of LTFC Originals we caught up with Gideon Kodua and his older brother, boxing champion Joel, to discuss family, football and his permanent signing for the Hatters...

S1 Luton v Reading.indd 29 05/03/2026 16:31

Following his permanent signing from West Ham earlier this month, Gideon Kodua recalled the proud moment he told his parents the news of his transfer and the special reaction from his father.

"You know when I first told my mum and dad, I remember my dad calling me and he just burst out into song," the Town forward grinned, unable to hold down any laughter.

"He sang his happy song and afterwards he just said: 'Son, I am proud of you, keep going, everyone is so happy for you'."

The 21-year-old is speaking on a visit to his older brother Joel's Box Up gym in Ilford, East London, where the 29-year-old trains daily as he looks to maintain a professional boxing record of 11 wins from 11 fights.

Asked to describe his sibling in the latest edition of our LTFC+ Originals series, the young wide player replied efficiently, simply stating: "Hard worker. Champion."

Ringside by his brother, Gideon looked on with that familial sense of admiration and pride. Without needing to say it, but doing so anyway, the younger Kodua brother immediately pointed out the sporty nature of his family.

Joel, with three belts currently to his name, and Gideon, who is currently Town's joint top goal scorer in League One this season, epitomise both the work ethic of their family and the jovial brotherly bond that the five Kodua boys share.

"Say the name of the belts," Joel jumps in, kickstarting the competitive edge that drives both brothers forward.

"Southern Area, Silver Commonwealth and English – it runs in the family, man!" he proclaims, proudly.

"I've done boxing training before, and I know he wouldn't hack a football training session," Gideon retorts, ensuring that the fierce battle to determine who can out-sport the other continues for a while longer.

As the two bicker, leaning against the ropes of the ring, the good-natured ribbing progressed to who could outlast the other in their respective professions.

"The difference is, I have someone throwing punches at my face!"

"And I have 11 players on the other team trying to kill me, when the ball is put in behind everyone is darting at me!"

Immediately, Joel is sent backwards in a fit of laughter. For better or for worse, the two are separated as the boxer gets back to training and Gideon gets back on track with the interview.

"There's five of us, so we were always going to grow up competitive, it is normal," Gideon explained of life with Emmanuel, 35, Lloyd, 33, Joel and 26-year-old Stephen.

"At the end of the day, it's just love, you know? We all want each other to do well, we all feel inspired by each other.





S1 Luton v Reading.indd 30 05/03/2026 16:31



"Even after he'd won his last fight, he was in the gym the very next day. The belts don't just come from nowhere; they come from hard work. It's the same as me. You know you have to be the best because there's always going to be someone coming for your place."

Just as the interview is getting back on track, Joel intervened, and while his younger brother is quick to burst out with a howl of laughter at the interruption, it becomes evident that big brother is contributing a very serious answer to the question of where their work ethic comes from.

"I think it all comes from mum and dad," Joel responded from behind the enormous punching bag, with it being an exhausting and exhilarating experience watching him work.

"That's true actually," Gideon confirmed, and with the conversation now turning to their parents, the previously silly and energetic brothers become attentive and respectful, for obvious reasons.

"Mum and dad are hardworking, very hardworking. Five of us grew up in Custom House, a very rough area. "We are all doing well in life, it is a blessing, when we do get in the ring or the pitch, it is all about giving one hundred percent every time."

Despite an ensuing argument about whether the two had fought one another, Gideon was keen to also highlight the support felt by his other brothers.

"Yeah, they are all very supportive. My eldest brother Emmanuel, he calls me every single day, no matter what my mood is or how I'm doing, he is always there and takes time out of his day to check up on me.

"It really shows how much love there is in this family and even though I am the youngest, they certainly don't treat me like it. They have all made mistakes and that's how they know how to guide me, because they have had that life experience."

When put on the spot to describe his brother's best strength, it didn't take Joel long to narrow it down. While it had been mentioned and attributed to the wider family, Joel wanted to specifically link the youngest Kodua sibling to having an exceptional attitude.

"His biggest strength is his work ethic; from a young age I have seen him work hard and graft," says Joel.

"Especially when things were not going his way he would always keep his head down and continue working, he has a great ability to shut out that noise that might keep him down."

With the chance still there for promotion and silverware before the end of the season, Gideon will be calling on the support of his ever-competitive siblings to help keep him fighting fit, and his wider football family of Town fans will be behind him all the way.

"I knew that I needed to join somewhere that felt like a family. I feel like every time I go to The Brache, I know I am going to laugh and have a good time, but I am also going to improve," Gideon expressed, smiling warmly.

"The fans are so important, man – when they get going, we get going. They are the 12th man and we need them."

Words by: Liam Wilmot

Watch the feature here

S1 Luton v Reading.indd 31 05/03/2026 16:31

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THE VIEW FROM THE PRESS BOX

*The BBC Three Counties Radio's **Simon Oxley** looks back on Wednesday's win and ahead to Wembley*

Only here. You couldn't make it up. After months of inquests into tactics, signings and general performance we are now dusting off the old boaters ready for another trip down Wembley Way. Knocked out and now in the final.

Now that's not to say those inquests won't and indeed shouldn't continue. There's lots to discuss and digest after two successive relegations, and a League One season which has at times, especially away from home, been beyond disappointing. But to see the smiles back on faces both on and off the pitch on Wednesday night was a lift for everyone.

What a time for Liam Walsh to score his first Luton goal. And here's a lesson for players who might not be feeling the love. There is a way back, as demonstrated by Wednesday's match winner who has turned things around after his red cards. I was also struck by the celebrations of players at either end of their careers. Nakhi Wells looked very emotional at the thought of a trip to Wembley at the age of 35, whilst Emilio Lawrence, just 20, was hugging anyone he could find – and he's a Manchester City player... Wembley is their second home.

I said at the start "another trip down Wembley Way"... but you can never have too many. It might only be three years since the last one, but it might be 33 until the next. After seeing defeats in 1989 and 1994, I missed 2009, endured 2012, and then of course cried my way through 2023.

Having missed Chris Martin in 2009, I went back last summer to see another one (he was good, but he was better at Stockwood). My first visit was back in 1977 for rugby league's Challenge Cup Final as Leeds saw off Widnes. The memory of coming up the steps into that vast arena will live with me forever.

I think it's fair to say BBC3CR (and before that Radio Bedfordshire) is no stranger to Wembley either, and we were at the first final at the "new" stadium when Stevenage won the FA Trophy.

Since then there have been play-off final wins and losses, the same in this Trophy competition, and an FA Cup semi-final and final. There's always a Wembley story, and while the feature writers will already be composing their 'Wilshere at Wembley' articles, might it be the day for a certain centre-forward to rediscover his magic?

But for now we resume League One, with the hope that the cup success can reboot the league season. There are six more matches this month, starting today with a Reading side who are certainly challenging for a play-off place.



The Hatters celebrate winning the EFL Trophy in 2009

S1 Luton v Reading.indd 33 05/03/2026 16:31


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LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS' TRUST



The Trust Interviews...

Peter Kemp *Site & Facilities Manager*

For this issue, we talked to a true unsung hero of Luton Town...Peter Kemp, who has kept our beloved home at Kenilworth Road open and running for over 22 years, through thick and thin and some truly amazing (and challenging!) times. We've got just a few pages here but Peter told us he could write a book about all the ups, downs, incidents and characters he's seen – and we think he should!

Peter, tell us about yourself please, and how you became involved at the club

I was born in Luton, but when I was young we moved to Canada for a few years where I took an interest in ice hockey, supporting Toronto Maple Leafs. My dad, my family, were always Luton fans though and when we came back my uncle took me to my first game at Kenilworth Road. It was in the Bobbers, against Sheffield United and my only recollection is that I was leaning up against a post not really watching the game and got smacked in the face with the ball! I went home with a bloodied nose and my mum said "you're not going again, someone has punched you!" But I did of course. I couldn't afford tickets so became a programme seller to get into games around 1977 when I was 14 and to earn enough to get to away games. As I got older I became a programme distributor which I carried on with even when I was working – through my apprenticeship as a welder, progressing to contract manager and then general manager with the same company in steel fabrication and maintenance. I was with them for 25 years.

During the John Gurney days at Luton when the club was in trouble thanks to his bizarre antics, I came in and did some bits and pieces as a volunteer to help out, and when my company closed down, Bill Tomlins, who was with new owners Jayten heard I was available, he offered me a job. I turned that down a couple of times but took it in the end and I'm still here now. I've been here 22 years in what is really only my second ever job!

I said before that my family are Luton fans – my daughter Holly works for the club too, in the ticket office team – and really the club runs in our blood. My wife's father, who only passed away last year, had watched us since 1936 and saw Joe Payne's 10 goals, and her grandfather was a Football League referee who in the war years oversaw games like White Shirts v Reds for Luton, he was a fan too. He also reffed the 1949 Amateur Cup Final in front of 95,000, the first time it was held at Wembley. So we go back a bit!

What does your role at the Town cover, and how has it changed over the years?

I'm Site & Facilities Manager and that covers the stadium, The Brache and the club shops. When I was first brought in, under Jayten, the club were outsourcing maintenance, bringing companies in for things like replacing floodlight bulbs, repairing seats and so on. They wanted to save money by bringing it all in-house and in my first year that achieved savings of around £300,000!
My brief then was to keep the place going for three-to-five more years maximum but here we still are at Kenilworth Road, 22 years later! They didn't want to invest in the stadium as they had controversial new ground plans outside the town, but to be quite honest, you could spend endless millions here and it would still be just patching it up.

When Jayten started to hit trouble with the authorities, David Pinkney came in. Bill Tomlins was a Luton fan in some ways, but the others weren't. Pinkney wanted to clear all of the club history out and just be modern and corporate. He certainly wasn't 'Luton Town' shall we say. He stripped the honours boards out of what is now the John Moore Lounge (I hid them away to save them) and he and bagged and binned club treasures like Robert Hawkes' England 1907/08 caps from the boardroom, which he also stripped out. They were chucked in a skip and only rescued as one of my operatives found them, put one on his head and asked should these be here in the bin! I whisked them away into safekeeping with Roger Wash, the club historian.

Pinkney then put the club into administration despite 2020's best efforts to prevent it and we got the minus 30. We'd moved training from Luton Rugby Club and St Albans to Ely Way to save on rent – we had to clear the site and put some cabins in. Pinkney told us to fence off the whole park so nobody else could use it but it was a public park so that had to come down!

What changed when 2020 came in?

It was still a case of patching things up to get the ground fit for use, and of course the club was left broke by the previous owners and being out of the Football League. We lost a load of staff when in administration, maintenance was down to me and one part time operative plus Ali on the car park. Everyone was putting 100% in and working more hours than

S2 Luton v Reading.indd 36 05/03/2026 16:54



'Kempy' braces himself mid-game against Aldershot in 2008 to fix loose guttering!

> ***"THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING TO FIX AND WE'VE HAD SOME MASSIVE EMERGENCIES AND PEOPLE HAVE MUCKED IN RIGHT AROUND THE CLOCK.***

the club were able to pay for. All we could do was try to get the stadium fit for letting people in really. All very hands-on, I've always been that, so arms deep in drains trying to clear them, up on the David Preece Stand roof screwing down sheets that had become loose, all sorts really. I've done lots of additional jobs over the years too, like emergency kit man when we were left in the lurch. There's an incredible work ethic at the club, we all work as a team, and that comes from the top down, with Gary Sweet putting in so much work, long hours and often seven-day weeks.

We made the most of things and eventually turned the corner, getting back into the Football League. When Nathan Jones came in he hated Ely Way and the board wanted better too. The Brache came up at just the right time and the board invested in it. There was a lot to do there to prepare it, with an initial budget of £50,000, but the club ended up spending five times that to get it ready and have continued to commit to investment, so we've gone from a park pitch with dog walkers to training on an elite surface. And the team and club have moved forward in parallel too of course. We've added the club shop in Park Street and then The Point too, they are also my responsibilities.

I'd like to give massive praise and thanks to the local companies who have given us incredible support, often free of charge or at cost. They've helped us get through, so many times. Mick and the team at CME Heating, doing emergency repairs in the middle of the night, FPM Facility Services and Abacus who supply all our sundries for the toilets and so on. Mike Maloney and Capital Sky, who've supported us generously – and still do – at the ground and at The Brache. If it wasn't for those companies we'd have really struggled, and they continue to help us. We will always call on local businesses who love the town the club. So a huge thank you to them and others who have supported us so much.

There's always something to fix, though, and we've had some massive emergencies and people have mucked in right around the clock. During 'The Beast from the East' in 2018, everything froze, we had leaks everywhere, lounges flooded. 140 to 150 different bits of pipe burst and had to be cut out. It was horrendous. And then there was the fire in the laundry room in the Main Stand the night before the Coventry game, that had to be contained, and damage sorted and the fire alarms and certificate passed for it to go ahead. We worked non-stop on that, again with local suppliers and people from the club to get it done. I'm always getting call outs. Some are quite amusing really, like alarms going off, going in and finding a fox sitting bold as brass on a sofa in the John Moore Lounge, or another call out where a bloke had broken in and was sitting in the boardroom completely drunk and unable to move with empty vodka bottles all around him!

What about promotion to the Premier League, how did that affect your work?

Well, I'm with my family at Wembley and we're all cheering like mad but at the same time I'm thinking "****!" as I knew all we had to do to get ready for the Premier League! Then, back at the hotel celebrating, Gary came up to my wife with a big smile and said "you're not going to see your husband much" and that was a fact. We were working flat out, seven days a week, not getting home until midnight some nights. It was constant right up to kick-off for that West Ham game, the first home Premier League fixture, and even then and after there were last-minute things to do like sorting barriers in front of the new Bobbers. Capital Sky and all the contractors – all local people – were fantastically dedicated and the local community and council very supportive. We had to get everything right for our safety certificate to go ahead of course, as we have to every year for the whole ground, working with an independent structural engineer and the council. But we've got a small but full team now, at the ground and The Brache. Everyone works really hard and we work closely with the grounds crew too, Dickie and his team.

You must have seen some sights and met some characters over the years?

You can say that again! There are so many stories to tell, some I couldn't possibly mention, but for instance Kevin Nicholls launching Brian Stein's Christmas gift underpants into space with a firework set off in the middle of

S2 Luton v Reading.indd 37 05/03/2026 16:54



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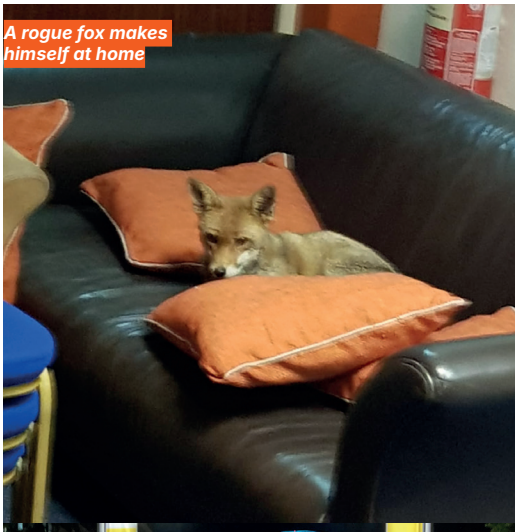
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the pitch – Nico and Sol Davis were always up to something! Ruckuses in the tunnel including Richard Brodie of York after his incident with the ball boy... Steve Robinson asking me to put some IKEA furniture together for him so he could tell his wife he'd done it, being stopped by the police walking through Wardown Park with a ladder at 2am after Steve McNulty had locked himself out of his second floor flat. And speaking of ladders, getting some stick about my physique and parentage from Aldershot fans after Keith Keane's kick had knocked the roof gutter down at the Oak Road end and I'm up there fixing it on the spot! It's a job like no other, never for one minute have I found it boring. And the people have been terrific, from apprentices like Curtis Davies, Kevin Foley and Leon Barnett in their early days helping with ground maintenance, and other apprentices earning a few extra quid painting steps and so on – or having to do extra chores for 20 hours a week for various misdemeanours.

Looking forward to Power Court, what does the future look like for you?

It's going to be very different. At the moment, every day brings new challenges, as it's an old ground working to capacity on every front, from electrics to water and the structure of the ground itself. And there's always something to fix, every day we come in. It's non-stop keeping it going and it will be until the day we move. Whereas Power Court will call for more protective maintenance, keeping all those fantastic new facilities functioning perfectly. There's sure to be a period of snagging and touching up and so on, but I won't be going in wondering if a tank has burst and the dressing rooms are flooded or things like that, which has been my way of life!



A rogue fox makes himself at home



The Kemp family after the 2023 final



Kempy and Clicker! Two Luton Town legends

I'm going to miss Kenilworth Road though, of course. I've had the privilege of looking after the old girl for 22 years or so. And have so many memories, but she needs retiring – she's earned it.

Finally, what about this season – any message for the fans?

Yes, the last couple of seasons have been tough, no doubt about it and especially after all those years of constant success and progression up the leagues and into the Premier. But football is a cycle and everyone is working flat out to get it right. For instance, I might get called to The Brache after a poor result because people are there and there's Jack and the team sitting watching the game over to see what they need to do to put it right. You can see from their faces how much it hurts when they come down the tunnel which is where I stand. The amount of effort that's going in, throughout the club, we will get it right again, so please all you fantastic fans let's stick together and give the lads all the support we can. It can make a massive difference – I can see that on their faces from my place in the tunnel, too – as we did on Wednesday, with the crowd and team on a high together and a cup final on the way!

Thank you Peter. We're all buzzing too, so let's keep it going today!

S2 Luton v Reading.indd 39 05/03/2026 16:54



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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

1990/91 HOME

Today we feature another all-time classic and a shirt that has aged like the finest of wines.

It is a shirt that has the same design as the previous seasons but features a change in sponsor that makes both the 1989/90 and 1990/91 shirts absolute beauties in their own rights.

Made by Umbro, this 1990/91 home shirt follows the same white and patterns as the previous season: that lovely white collar with orange trim and poppers to keep the collar down, those sleeves with the navy, white and orange trim, that iconic late 80s/early 90s Luton Town badge and the iconic Vauxhall sponsor. Just wonderful!

If you had the long sleeve version, however, the cuff is just an orange trim! No navy and white combination, and the long sleeve versions were only provided to players.

Looking closely, you will also notice a pattern of chevrons embossed within the shirt, just to add to the design. You can also tell the player issued/match worn shirts by the badge. On replica versions that fans could buy, the badge is a raised felt material and is slightly less rounded, whereas the players shirts have an embodied, more rounded, and squished badge.

Player's shirts also feature the iconic, small Football League sleeve patch and, of course, the dark navy number on the back that went 1-11 for the first team, with players sharing shirts depending on who was playing that day.

On the pitch, we finished the 1990/91 season finishing 18th in the old Division One, having to win on the final day of the season to stay up.

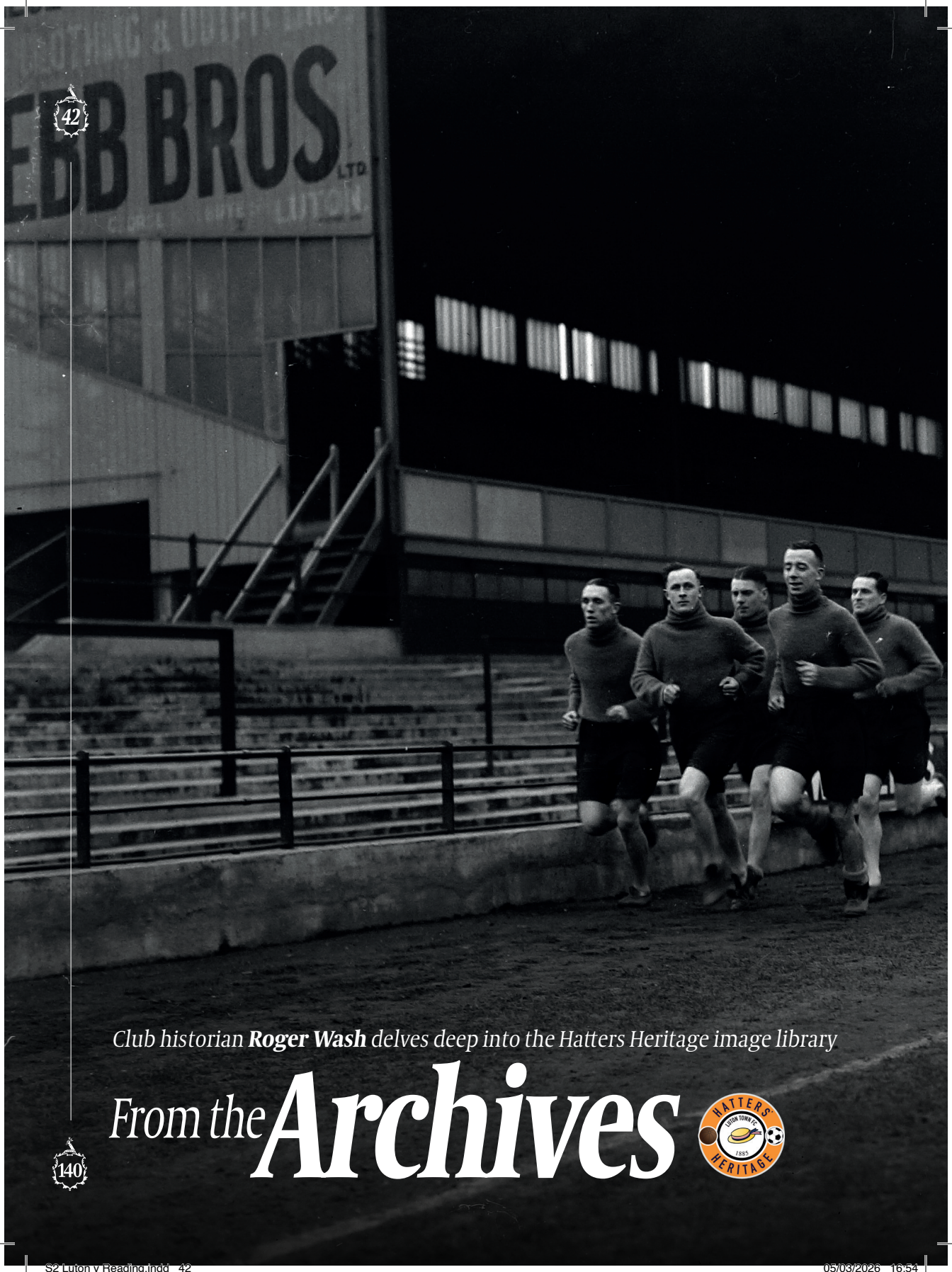
Speaking of that final day game, which is the most iconic game in this shirt, we played Derby County at home. It was a Rams side that contained Mick Harford...

Lars Elstrup put us 1-0 up, before an unfortunate (!) own goal from Mick saw us go 2-0 up, and secure our survival yet again, as Sunderland lost at Manchester City.

It was a cracking header from Mick, against England's very own Peter Shilton in goal, so I think we can come to our own conclusion that it was no accident...! Just to make Mick even more of a Luton Town legend than he already was!



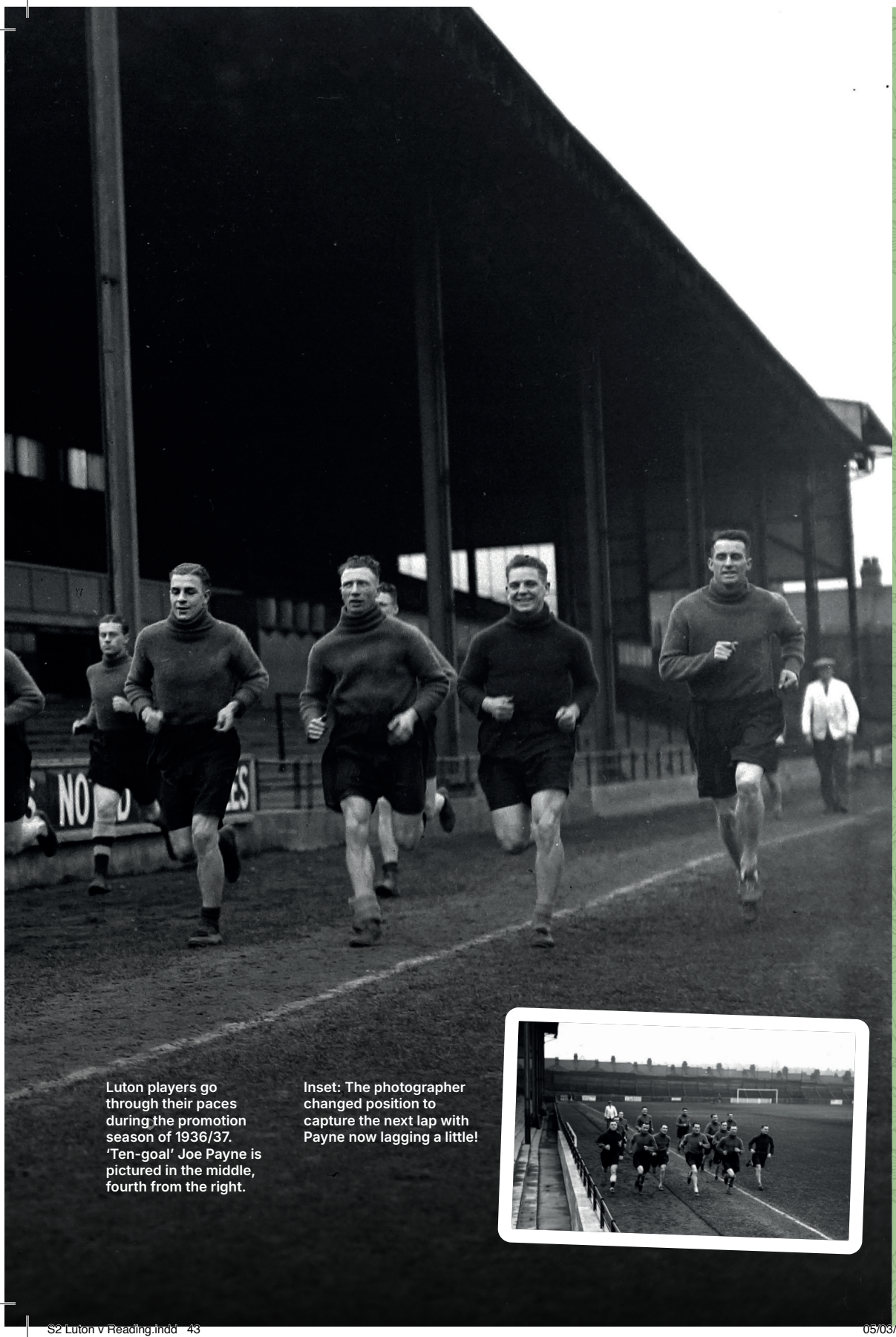
John Dreyer celebrates after Mick Harford (extreme right) scores an own goal for the Town against Derby in 1991



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

From the Archives

S2 Luton v Reading.indd 42 05/03/2026 16:54



Luton players go through their paces during the promotion season of 1936/37. 'Ten-goal' Joe Payne is pictured in the middle, fourth from the right.

Inset: The photographer changed position to capture the next lap with Payne now lagging a little!

S2 Luton v Reading.indd 43 05/03/2026 16:54

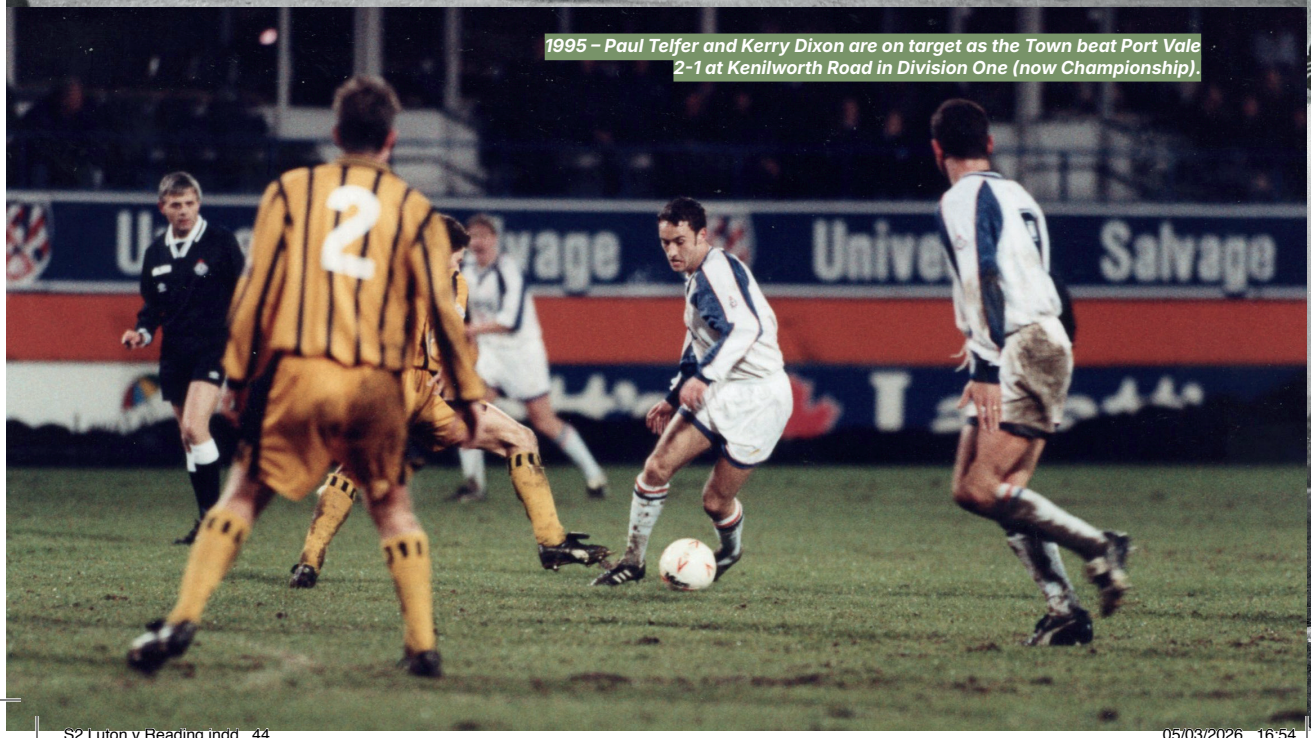
We look back on some of the most iconic matches played on this day in our history

ON THIS DAY

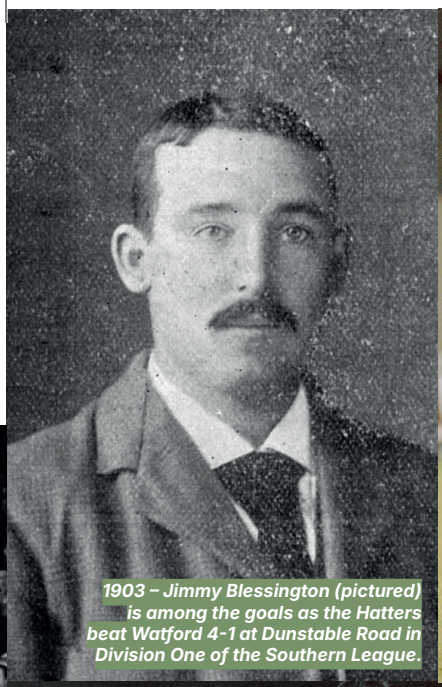
7th March



1973 – Italian side Bari are beaten 4-0 in the Anglo Italian Cup at Kenilworth Road. Don Shanks, with two, John Moore and Bobby Thomson are on target.



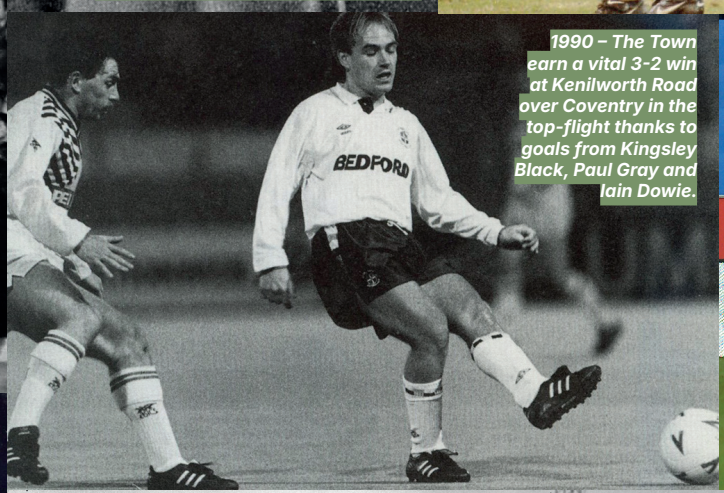
1995 – Paul Telfer and Kerry Dixon are on target as the Town beat Port Vale 2-1 at Kenilworth Road in Division One (now Championship).



1903 – Jimmy Blessington (pictured) is among the goals as the Hatters beat Watford 4-1 at Dunstable Road in Division One of the Southern League.



2000 – Goals from Alan White and Phil Gray give 286 travelling Hatters something to shout about after a 2-0 midweek win at Burnley.



1990 – The Town earn a vital 3-2 win at Kenilworth Road over Coventry in the top-flight thanks to goals from Kingsley Black, Paul Gray and Iain Dowie.



2020 – A superb last-minute save from Simon Sluga earns the Town a point in a goalless draw at Wigan. It would be Graeme Jones' last game in charge and was the final match for several months as Covid hit.



1959 – Gordon Turner hits two goals as the Town earn a point in a thrilling 3-3 draw with Chelsea at Stamford Bridge in the top-flight.

S2 Luton v Reading.indd 45 05/03/2026 16:54



Aleksic shakes hands with Manchester City's Joe Corrigan in 1977

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

'Elastic' – Milija Aleksic

The early to mid 1960s were a pretty miserable time to be a Luton supporter – but it was even worse for the fans of Port Vale as the decade drew to a close.

In the 1967/68 season they were expelled from the Football League altogether for allegedly making illegal payments to players. On appeal, and in large part thanks to the lobbying of then manager Stanley Matthews, the decision was reduced to making the famous old club apply for re-election. They were successful, but there was little joy around Vale Park as Gordon Lee took charge for the following season.

Nor had the mood improved much by the time an FA Cup tie against Shrewsbury came around in November. The Valiants were sitting 18th in Division Four, now League Two, and a goalkeeping injury crisis had forced them to turn to a 17-year-old apprentice goalkeeper. He was the son of a Yugoslavian garage owner, and the name Milija Aleksic would likely have sounded exotic in an era when players of foreign heritage were scarce.

His confidence was apparent. "I have never had it so easy," he told reporters after the game, in which his only real task in the 1-1 draw was to take the ball out of the back of the net following Alf Wood's early header. Aleksic was in-situ for the replay too, and was similarly untroubled as Port Vale ran out comfortable 3-1 winners.

However, despite acquitting himself well it didn't signal the start of a long and successful career at Vale Park. In fact, with Gordon Lee signing Keith Ball on loan in time for the next league game, those two FA Cup appearances would prove to be Milija's only games for the club, and he was released altogether at the end of the season upon the conclusion of his apprenticeship.

"The money was laughable," he would reveal in a later interview, "I'd have made more doing a paper round. So I gave up and qualified as a mechanic."

Drifting into the amateur game he would eventually end up at Stafford Rangers, who were managed by former Villa and Lincoln forward Roy Chapman. There, he was part of one of the strongest non-league clubs in the country, winning both the FA Trophy and the Northern Premier League Championship in 1971/72. His performances would create interest among many league clubs and a move to Plymouth was agreed in early 1973.

S2 Luton v Reading.indd 46 05/03/2026 16:54

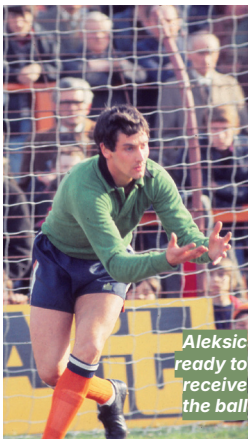
He would find it tough at Home Park where he was competing for a place with former Arsenal goalkeeper Jim Furnell. Though he was part of a side that won promotion from Division Three, he is perhaps best remembered at Argyle as the goalkeeper who conceded a goal to Brazilian legend Pele when Santos visited for a friendly in March 1973.

Ultimately frozen out at Plymouth due to a wage dispute, Aleksic was brought on loan to Luton in December 1976 by Harry Haslam when first choice stopper Keith Barber was injured with broken ribs. Intended to be a stop gap until Barber returned, Aleksic, or 'Elastic' as the fans had inevitably nicknamed the new man, impressed Haslam enough to spend £20,000 to sign him permanently a month later, after which he would become first choice for the next couple of years.

He had joined a club languishing in the middle of Division Two (now Championship) at best, but a 4-0 win against Chelsea just before the New Year seemingly lit a fuse in the side, and with Aleksic in goal, the Town would win 12 of their next 15 games in all competitions, including a remarkable seven-game winning streak in February and early March in which they conceded only twice. It left the Hatters third with only six weeks of the season remaining and dreaming of a return to the top flight.

Aleksic, speaking at the time, was very bullish. "If the side keep on like this, we could go up. If we do, we could be one of the best sides in the country in two or three years," he said.

It wasn't to be. A drop off in form saw them win only two of their last nine league games, resulting in a credible but ultimately disappointing sixth place finish.



Aleksic ready to receive the ball

Aleksic kept his place for the following campaign under both Haslam and new temporary boss David Pleat, and was between the sticks for the first game of the 1978/79 season too, in which Pleat's seven debutants hammered Oldham 6-1 with a blistering second half display, signalling a new era at Kenilworth Road.

But Aleksic's time at the club was almost over. He had impressed Tottenham manager Keith Burkinshaw enough to put forward a significant bid of £100,000 for his services, an amount far too big for the Hatters to turn down.

Sadly his time at White Hart Lane would be beset by injuries, including a broken jaw inflicted by Manchester United's Joe Jordan, though he did play in the famous 1981 'Ricky Villa' FA Cup final replay as Spurs beat Manchester City 3-2.

Incredibly, just 12 months after that, and with a brief loan spell back at Kenilworth Road sandwiched in-between, he found himself right back down in non-league, joining up with another ex-Hatter, Barry Fry, at Barnet.

In later life he would emigrate to South Africa and work at The Golfer's Club in Johannesburg. Sadly he passed away suddenly in 2012 at the age of just 61. In all he made 92 appearances for the Hatters in a somewhat short, but certainly memorable, spell at Kenilworth Road.



Flying across the goal against Cambridge in 1978

S2 Luton v Reading.indd 47 05/03/2026 16:54



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LTFC academy

With Ollie Modeste Cell Lead Coach U13-U14

My Luton Town journey began as a skills and awareness coach for the Under-9 to Under-14 age groups, supporting their regular training programme.

This role helped me build strong relationships with the players and focus on developing key areas of their game. I also led full training sessions and supported matchday programmes, giving me experience coaching larger groups in competitive environments.

I was later appointed lead coach for the Under-15s and assistant coach for the Under-16s, roles I held for three years.

The Under-15 year is crucial, as it precedes their decision season, so I focus on developing strong habits, teamwork, and competitiveness. During this period, two Under-15 groups reached the Floodlit Cup quarter-finals, and our Under-16s won the EFL Youth Alliance League.

This season, I am part of the Professional Player to Coach Scheme, supported by the Premier League, EFL and PFA. I

I began by leading the Under-11 and Under-12 cells, where we saw Under-11 players step up successfully and the Under-12s reach a futsal final. I then transitioned to leading the Under-13 and Under-14 cells.

Both groups have performed well, with the Under-13s reaching the National Cup semi-finals and the Under-14s completing a 34-game unbeaten run.

My full-time role has also supported my own development, giving me opportunities to observe coaches across multiple phases and work with the Under-18 and Under-21 groups when required.

Town hit four to reach PDL Final

A Jerome Passley-James brace helped our young Hatters overcome Swansea in an entertaining semi-final at The Brache to set up a PDL Cup final tie with AFC Wimbledon.

The Town took the lead midway through the first half when Dawid Gawel won the ball back from the Swansea backline, raced through on goal and applied a cool finish for his 40th of the season.

The lead was doubled shortly before half-time when Ty Lesser delivered a beautiful cross which Passley-James headed home to make it 2-0.

Swansea came out in the second half with a point to prove and halved the deficit from the spot. Moments later the Town's two-goal lead was wiped out when defender Kaven Bloniarczyk equalised from a corner.

That second goal prompted the Hatters to act with an almost immediate response courtesy of Passley-James, who netted his second by pouncing on a spilled cross from the Swans goalkeeper to make it 3-2 just before the hour mark.

This time Town did well to hang on, managing to score a fourth goal at the beginning of added-on time when Archie Shepherd did brilliantly to get around his full-back before standing the ball up perfectly to the back post, allowing Kyron Roberts-Edema to rise high and power his header into the back of the net.

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 W 4-1

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 Reading.indd 49 05/03/2026 16:54



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youth PROFILE

Fin Evans

YOUR NAME? Fin Evans

WHERE ARE YOU FROM? Hemel Hempstead

WHAT POSITIONS DO YOU PLAY? Centre-back or left-back

WHEN DID YOU JOIN THE ACADEMY? At under-10s.

WHO WAS YOUR FOOTBALL HERO GROWING UP? John Terry

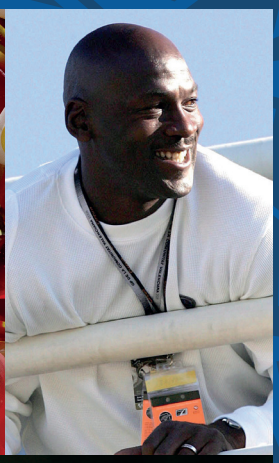
GO-TO BOOTS RIGHT NOW? Sketchers

FIRST TIME YOU KICKED A BALL? Three years old

BIGGEST LESSON FOOTBALL'S TAUGHT YOU? Mistakes are part of learning









TEAMMATE MOST LIKELY TO BE A MANAGER? Lucas Thomas or Sam Alfonso

FUNNIEST TEAMMATE? Archie Shepherd

HARDEST-WORKING TEAMMATE? Luke Takawira

BIGGEST INSPIRATION OUTSIDE OF FOOTBALL? Michael Jordan

MOMENT YOU'LL NEVER FORGET? Scoring on my debut!

BEST BIT ABOUT BEING AT LUTON? How close you come to the first team on a regular basis

ONE THING YOU'RE WORKING ON? Communication on the pitch

FAVOURITE MUSIC/ ARTIST? Gunna

FAVOURITE GAME? UFC 5

PRE-MATCH ROUTINE OR SUPERSTITIONS? I eat a packet of Haribo

GO-TO CHEAT MEAL... Taco Bell

IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER? Play golf

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

THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE YOURSELF. Hard-working, joker, enthusiastic

ONE THING PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT ME. I've been a golf caddy for Andy Cole and Michael Carrick

BIGGEST FOOTBALL DREAM? To play in the Premier League

S2 Luton v Reading.indd 51 05/03/2026 16:54

LUTON TOWN FC

COMMUNITY TRUST

Community Job Fair



Last week, Luton Town Football Club and Luton Town FC Community Trust proudly hosted a Community Job Fair at Kenilworth Road, delivered in partnership with Luton Borough Council and the Department for Work and Pensions.

The event brought together over 20 local businesses, training providers and support services from a wide range of sectors.

More than 700 members of the local community attended, connecting directly with employers and discovering real opportunities in employment, education and training.

As a free event, the Community Job Fair offered job seekers the chance to explore career pathways, network with potential employers and gain valuable insights into the current job market.

Attendees also benefited from employability-focused workshops and industry talks delivered by organisations including Luton Town Football Club, Wilmott Dixon, the NHS, London Luton Airport and Luton Borough Council.

The day highlighted the power of partnership working across the town, reinforcing a shared commitment to supporting local people into sustainable employment and creating brighter futures within our community.

S2 Luton v Reading.indd 52 05/03/2026 16:54

Ben B Groves, Recruitment Advisor Manager for Bedfordshire at Department for Work and Pensions, said: "Luton Jobcentre Plus was proud to partner with Luton Council and Luton Town on this exciting event, connecting our customers directly with local employers, large and small, who are actively recruiting and ready to meet candidates face to face."

Councillor Javeria Hussain, Portfolio Holder for Education, Employability and Skills at Luton Council, said: "Our job fairs play a crucial role in connecting residents with real employment opportunities while supporting local businesses to meet their recruitment needs."

Bert Klemmer, Programmes Manager (Education, Employability & Learning) at Luton Town FC Community Trust, said: "We were proud to host a community job fair at Kenilworth Road, bringing together the club, local partners and the community to showcase real opportunities in employment, training and education in Luton.

"The event reflected our commitment to breaking down barriers and creating clear pathways into sustainable work in support of the Luton 2040 vision."

At Luton Town, we are proud to play our part beyond the pitch – supporting pathways into work, strengthening local partnerships, and making a positive impact across our town.



> ***"WE WERE PROUD TO HOST A COMMUNITY JOB FAIR AT KENILWORTH ROAD, BRINGING TOGETHER THE CLUB, LOCAL PARTNERS AND THE COMMUNITY TO SHOWCASE REAL OPPORTUNITIES.***





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Ladies narrowly defeated by Fulham

Despite a resilient performance the Hatters' eight-game unbeaten run came to an end at the hands of the new league leaders Fulham Women last Sunday.

As expected, Fulham started on the front foot. A curling shot from distance was the game's first effort, although it failed to test Nicole Melling who claimed the ball comfortably.

After a dominant spell on the ball from the visitors, the Town snatched the ball and set off on a counter, until it was abruptly ended by Izzy Milne, who clipped Emily Wilson from behind on the halfway line, resulting in a free-kick and a moment of rest for the Ladies. The subsequent free-kick was delivered by Lisa Milliken, but to no avail, with Fulham able to clear.

The Town grew into the game as the half went on. A smart flick from Elizabeth Mulvaney attempted to set Wilson through on goal, but goalkeeper Frankie Gibbs was quick off her line to scoop the ball up.

Natalia Makowska found herself in space out on the right-hand side and floated the ball towards the lurking Tasha Fensome at the back-post, but again, Fulham were able to deal with the threat.

The Ladies' best chance of the half came on the half-hour mark. Makowska was wiped out as the Town surged forward, but the referee played the advantage which allowed Andie Dickens to gather the ball and play it down the line to Fensome. She looked up and saw Shanice Lewis and Wilson charging into the area, but the ball managed to evade both players, allowing Fulham to reclaim possession.

With 25 minutes to play, the Town's resilience was broken. Substitute Leila Lister made the most of an unfortunate deflection off Chloe Tambula and fired the ball past Melling to send her side top of the league.

A nasty collision in the Fulham penalty area between Mulvaney and two Fulham players left all three on the ground and needing treatment. Mulvaney was not able to continue and she was stretchered off the pitch, with Amber Leighton replacing her.

There was no other sight on goal from either team, who cancelled each other out well. Fulham go top of the league while the Town remain in sixth place and clear of the bottom two.

Next up for the Ladies is a home game with Milton Keynes tomorrow at Barton Rovers (kick-off 2pm).

Town: Melling, Blacksley, Swarres, Tambula, Fensome, Mulvaney (Leighton 78), Wilson, Milliken, Dickens (Maddix 90), Lewis (Bowman 83), Makowska (McLean 83)

Unused subs: Hudson, Chellenbron.

Report: Owen Williams
Photos: Duncan Jack



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 W 4-3

MARCH
1 Fulham L 0-1
8 Milton Keynes
22 London Bees
29 QPR

APRIL
12 Fulham
26 Chatham Town

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JUNIOR HATTERS



Freddie Miller

Age: 11
Hobbies: Football, cricket, rugby, golf, acting and singing
Favourite Player: Jordan Clark



Jax Hazell

Age: 11
Hobbies: Football - plays for Berkhamsted Raiders
Favourite Player: Elijah Adebayo



Jacob Wilcox

Age: 10
Hobbies: Sports - particularly tennis & football
Favourite Player: Elijah Adebayo



Hugo Halls

Age: 11
Hobbies: Football, rugby & gaming
Favourite Player: Jordan Clark



Max Patten

Age: 12
Hobbies: Playing football and going to Luton Town games
Favourite Player: Jordan Clark



Harrison Carr

Age: 13
Hobbies: Football, Darts, Rugby & Padel
Favourite Player: Jordan Clark



Joel Potter

Age: 9
Hobbies: Loves to play football
Favourite Player: Jordan Clark



Sydney Quince

Age: 11
Hobbies: Playing football, rugby and cricket
Favourite Player: Jordan Clark



AWAY MASCOT Bobby White

Age: 9
Hobbies: Football

S2 Luton v Reading.indd 57 05/03/2026 16:54



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

v Exeter City

Tuesday 17th March, 7.45pm
Category B

v Stockport County

Saturday 21st March, 12.30pm
Category B

AWAY TICKETS

Doncaster Rovers v Luton Town
Tuesday 10th March, KO 7.45pm

Existing tickets purchased for either of the first two planned dates for the fixture, Sunday 4th January or Tuesday 24th February, will remain valid for the new date.

If any supporter purchased a ticket but is now unable to attend, then a full refund is available by contacting the Ticket Office by phone, email or in person. Refunds will be available until 3pm on Monday 9th March.

Prices
Adults £23, over-65s and young adults under-25 £19, under-18s £12, under-14s £7

Wycombe Wanderers v Luton Town
Saturday 14th March, KO 3pm

We have received a full allocation of 1,848 tickets for our fixture at Adams Park.

Tickets for this game will be digital only and will be sent via email.

General Sale
Subject to availability, tickets are on general sale. 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, tickets will remain on sale until 11am Friday 13th March subject to availability.

Prices
Adults £28 Senior Over 65 £25 Mid Adult (22-25) £23 Young Adult Under 22 (18-21) £21 Under 18 (15-17) £17 Under 15 (14 and under) £7

Disabled supporters will be charged their age-appropriate price with a PA free of charge if required.

Blue Badge Parking
Due to limited parking at the stadium, Wycombe have a limited number of disabled parking spaces allocated in our lower tier car park.

These are £10 per space. These can be booked via Wycombe's ticket office by calling 01494 441118 (Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm).

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FEWER THAN 1 IN 10 SURVIVE AN OUT-OF-HOSPITAL CARDIAC ARREST*

That's why Sky Bet is teaming up with the British Heart Foundation to urge 270,000 people to learn CPR by the end of the 2024-2025 football season - the equivalent of 3 Wembley Stadiums.

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SEARCH RevivR



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TAKE TIME TO THINK

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*UK data

UNITE FOR ACCESS DAY

A word from the ***Luton Town Disabled Supporters' Association***



Look out for the content on the club channels featuring Tracy Camp and Milo!

Today is our Unite for Access matchday, as we join clubs across the country in celebrating inclusion – just as Port Vale did when we visited the Potteries last week.

The campaign continues to grow each year, and it's an important reminder that football is at its best when everyone can take part, feel welcome, and enjoy the game in a way that works for them.

This year's theme focuses on how disability can shape and transform the matchday experience. Level Playing Field have produced a powerful film in which supporters share their personal stories, reflecting both the challenges they face and the joy they still find in following their clubs. The film – available in accessible formats – can be found on their website: www.levelplayingfield.org.uk.

As part of today's activity, LTFC+ and our in-ground Audio Descriptive Commentary will feature Simon Pitts, joined by his former Diverse FM colleague and LTDSA committee member, Steve Moore. Today's broadcast gives Steve the opportunity to share his own lived experience as part of the wider conversation.

Steve brings a particularly meaningful perspective to this year's theme. His cerebral palsy has changed his mobility needs over time, which means his entire matchday routine has had to evolve.

In his youth, during his Diverse FM days, and even until fairly recently, he needed no additional support at games. Now, he has to consider every aspect of the matchday experience – not just for himself, but also for those around him. That includes knowing support is available if he experiences mobility difficulties, choosing the most suitable entrance and seating area, and accepting that he now has to sit far more than he used to.

Where he once stood in the Main Stand Upper, Block D or E, he's now more often found in the Bobbers Stand, Blocks C or E, complete with his away-kit blue walking stick. And instead of turning up with his mates five pints deep, he's more likely to be accompanied by his wife or mother in a carer capacity. The routine may have changed, but the passion certainly hasn't.

Despite these adjustments, Steve's enjoyment of matchday remains as strong as ever – certainly stronger than his tolerance for a bad result. His commitment to supporting both the town and the club is unwavering, whether through his work as a local councillor for Sundon Park or as a dedicated LTDSA committee member.

If you're interested in joining the LTDSA, becoming a member, joining the committee to help out like Steve does, or simply finding out more, visit our website: https://www.ltdsa.co.uk/ or scan the QR code below.

You can also RSVP to the AGM at the end of April, with more details to follow later in March.

S2 Luton v Reading.indd 63 05/03/2026 16:54

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**	D	1-1	10	11,000	1,343	Keeley	Jones	Johnson	Andersen	Naismith	Saville	Clark
TUE 24	**PLYMOUTH ARGYLE (VT)**	**19:00**	W	2-1		4,203	785	Shea	**JONES 1**	Naismith	Andersen	Mengi	Saville	**CLARK 1**
SAT 28	PORT VALE	15:00	D	1-1	10	7,335	1,168	Keeley	Jones	Johnson	Lonwijk	Naismith	Saville	Walsh
MARCH														
WED 4	**NORTHAMPTON TOWN (VT)** TV	**19:30**	W	2-1		10,280	1,311	Shea	Kodua	Lawrence	Andersen	Naismith	Odoffin	**WALSH 1**
SAT 7	**READING**	**15:00**												
TUE 10	DONCASTER ROVERS	19:45												
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												
SUN 12	**STOCKPORT COUNTY (VT)**	**15:00**												
WED 15	**NORTHAMPTON TOWN**	**19:45**												
SAT 18	MANSFIELD TOWN	15:00												
SAT 25	**BARNSLEY**	**15:00**												
MAY														
SAT 2	BOLTON WANDERERS	15:00												

**lost 4-2 on penalties*

THE QUIZ

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

1. In which competition did the Town lose 4-1 to Reading at Wembley in 1988?

2. The Hatters ended Reading's 33-game unbeaten run in 2006 with a 3-1 win here – who scored two of our goals?

3. What was the name of Reading's old ground?

4. Which former Chelsea player was sacked after winning 8-0 and reaching a cup final?

				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	
Palmer	Kodua	Morris	WELLS 1	van den Berg	Cole	Richards	Lonwijk	
van den Berg	Kodua	Richards	Wells	Lonwijk	Johnson	Morris	Palmer	Lawrence
Clark	Lawrence	Richards	WELLS 1	Al-Hamadi	Palmer	van den Berg	Morris	Odoffin
van den Berg	Richards	Clark	WELLS 1	Morris	Palmer	Cole	Lonwijk	

5. Who is the new manager of Exeter City?

6. Elijah Adebayo scored his first Luton goal against which club?

7. Which club are nicknamed the Saddlers?

8. On this day in 2020 which team did we face in the final game before the Covid break?

9. Which team are top of the Women's Super League?

10. How many goals for club and country has Harry Kane scored this season?

1 Simod Cup 2 Rowan Vine 3 Elm Park 4 Filipe Luis 5 Matt Taylor (no, not that one) 6 Millwall 7 Walsall 8 Wigan Athletic 9 Manchester City Women 10 47

TABLE 2025/26

Team	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Cardiff	34	22	6	6	32	72
Lincoln	34	21	8	5	32	71
Bolton	35	16	13	6	16	61
Bradford City	34	17	7	10	5	58
Stockport	34	16	8	10	4	56
Wycombe	35	14	11	10	14	53
Huddersfield	35	15	7	13	9	52
Reading	**34**	**13**	**12**	**9**	**6**	**51**
Stevenage	33	14	9	10	2	51
Luton	**34**	**13**	**8**	**13**	**2**	**47**
Peterborough	35	14	4	17	1	46
Plymouth	34	14	4	16	-1	46
Barnsley	32	12	8	12	-1	44
Wimbledon	33	12	7	14	-7	43
Exeter	34	11	9	14	-1	42
Mansfield	33	10	11	12	2	41
Burton A	35	10	10	15	-11	40
Doncaster	33	11	6	16	-19	39
Wigan	33	9	10	14	-11	37
Blackpool	34	10	7	17	-14	37
Leyton Orient	33	10	6	17	-12	36
Rotherham	34	9	8	17	-14	35
Northampton	35	9	8	18	-16	35
Port Vale	32	6	9	17	-18	27

TODAY'S Fixtures

12.30PM KO

Cardiff v Lincoln

Huddersfield v Rotherham

3PM KO

Barnsley v Exeter

Blackpool v Wigan

Bolton v Wycombe

Bradford City v Leyton Orient

Burton v Stevenage

Peterborough v Port Vale

Plymouth v Doncaster

SUNDAY 12.00PM KO

Wimbledon v Northampton

TOWN Totals

	W	D	L	F	A
HOME	1577	697	636	5811	3272
AWAY	750	720	1424	3327	4987
NEUTRAL	6	4	13	29	43
TOTAL	2333	1421	2073	9166	8302
At KR	1447	669	582	5271	3026

5,827 games played

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

SEASONS TO REMEMBER *1968/69*



Following promotion as champions of Division Four (now League Two) the summer of 1968 was a good time to be a Luton fan.

Backed by the wealth of directors Tony Hunt and Reggie Burr, with money no object, the huge sum of £90,000 was spent on improvements to the ground facilities and the purchase of proven players Mike Harrison, Brian Lewis and Laurie Sheffield.

The season started off well with an unbeaten eight-game run which saw the Town as early leaders but, as summer turned to autumn, the wheels came off with a string of away defeats.

In December 1968 Manager Allan Brown was asked to apply for the vacant Leicester job – he failed but was then unceremoniously dumped by the progressive Luton board for 'disloyalty'.

In his place came Alec Stock who had been shown the door in controversial fashion by QPR and had a point to prove. He soon got to work by changing tactics for away games and from the end of January an unbeaten run of 13 games saw the Town haul in the leading pair Swindon and Watford.

Sadly, a dismal Easter with two draws and a defeat from the three games saw the Town slip back only to end the season on a winning run which included a feisty affair against Watford at Kenilworth Road which saw three players dismissed and the champions elect beaten in front of a crowd of 25,253.

The Town finally finished in third spot in the days before play-offs with a points tally that in any normal season would have earned promotion. With only three points dropped at home all season everyone was left to rue the pre-Christmas away record.

SECOND DIVISION		PLD	W	D	L	GAV	PTS
1	Watford (C, P)	46	27	10	9	2.176	64
2	Swindon Town (P)	46	27	10	9	2.029	64
3	**Luton Town**	**46**	**25**	**11**	**10**	**1.947**	**61**
4	Bournemouth & BA	46	21	9	16	1.333	51
5	Plymouth Argyle	46	17	15	14	1.082	49
6	Torquay United	46	18	12	16	1.174	48
7	Tranmere Rovers	46	19	10	17	1.029	48
8	Southport	46	17	13	16	1.109	47
9	Stockport County	46	16	14	16	0.985	46
10	Barnsley	46	16	14	16	0.921	46
11	Rotherham United	46	16	13	17	1.12	45
12	Brighton & Hove Albion	46	16	13	17	1.108	45
13	Walsall	46	14	16	16	1.02	44
14	Reading	46	15	13	18	1.015	43
15	Mansfield Town	46	16	11	19	0.935	43
16	Bristol Rovers	46	16	11	19	0.887	43
17	Shrewsbury Town	46	16	11	19	0.761	43
18	Orient	46	14	14	18	0.879	42
19	Barrow	46	17	8	21	0.747	42
20	Gillingham	46	13	15	18	0.857	41
21	Northampton Town (R)	46	14	12	20	0.885	40
22	Hartlepool (R)	46	10	19	17	0.571	39
23	Crewe Alexandra (R)	46	13	9	24	0.684	35
24	Oldham Athletic (R)	46	13	9	24	0.602	35

Player focus

Ever present during the season with a series of calm displays, local boy **Alan Slough** was a reliable presence in the Luton midfield as well as weighing in with five valuable goals.



Season standout

A summer signing from Coventry, **Brian Lewis** top scored with 22 goals. He is best remembered though for his ability to induce opposition players into retaliation leading to their dismissal!



S2 Luton v Reading.indd 66 05/03/2026 16:54

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**

READING

MANAGER **LEAM RICHARDSON**

1	JOEL **PEREIRA**
2	KELVIN **ABREFA**
3	JERIEL **DORSETT**
4	BEN **ELLIOTT**
5	HAYDON **ROBERTS**
6	LIAM **FRASER**
7	JACK **MARRIOTT**
8	CHARLIE **SAVAGE**
9	KELVIN **EHIBHATIOMHAN**
10	LEWIS **WING**
11	DANIEL **KYEREWAA**
12	FINLEY **BURNS**
14	TIVONGE **RUSHESHA**
15	PAUDIE **O'CONNOR**
16	BENN **WARD**
17	ANDY **YIADOM**
18	ANDY **RINOMHOTA**
19	KADAN **YOUNG**
20	MARK **O'MAHONY**
21	RANDELL **WILLIAMS**
22	MICHAEL **STRICKLAND**
24	RYAN **NYAMBE**
25	JACK **STEVENS**
27	WILL **KEANE**
28	MAMADI **CAMARÁ**
29	KAMARI **DOYLE**
30	MATT **RITCHIE**
31	TOM **NORCOTT**
32	PADDY **LANE**
33	DERRICK **WILLIAMS**
39	ASHQAR **AHMED**
48	MATT **ROWLEY**

The Officials

REFEREE **OLIVER MACKEY**
ASSISTANT REFEREE **CONALL BARTLETT**
ASSISTANT REFEREE **ROSS MURPHY**
FOURTH OFFICIAL **HARRY WAGER**

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