





OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME • £4 • ISSUE 26 v STOCKPORT COUNTY

Luton TOWN







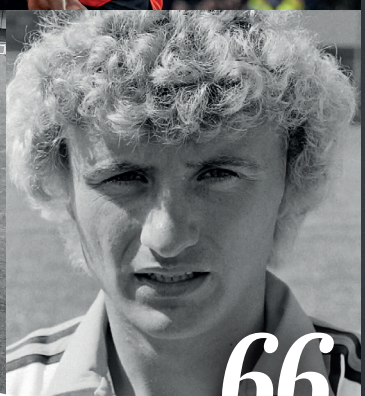
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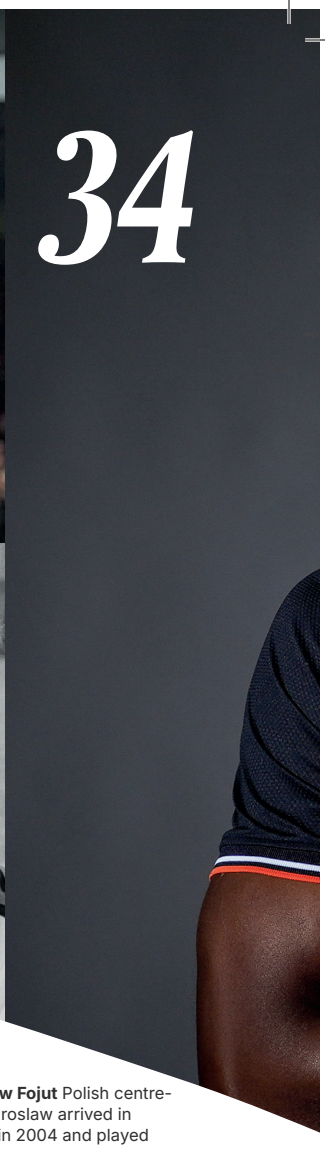
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S1 Luton v Stockport.indd 1 18/03/2026 11:23









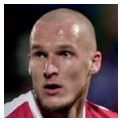
COVER CHARACTERS













Matt Woods Matt started with Everton but moved to Blackburn and then spent a spell in Australia. He returned to England in 1965 to join the Hatters and was a tremendous influence in a side that just failed to win promotion from in 1965/66. He stayed only one season before leaving for Stockport, who he did help to promotion, before he went on to manage. Matt passed away in 2014.

Paul Hughes Midfielder Paul worked his way up through the Chelsea academy, taking in loan spells at Stockport and Norwich, before joining the Town in August 2001. Scored on his debut in a 2-0 win at Carlisle and helped us to promotion that season but he struggled with injuries. He wound down his playing career before taking up management with successful spells in non-league.

Petri Helin A month after appearing for Finland against England in a World Cup qualifier, defender or midfielder Petri signed for the Hatters in 2000. He scored on his debut at Bury but failed to impress and soon signed for Stockport. He then moved to Turkish side Denizlispor on loan, after which he retired from the game and returned to his former club FC Jokerit where he took up the position of managing director.

Dean Crowe Mobile and speedy forward Dean signed from Stoke on a free transfer in 2001. Signed as a replacement for the injured Carl Griffiths, Dean was virtually ever present as the Hatters won promotion from Division Three and finished second top scorer with 15 goals. He moved to Oldham and then Stockport before ending his career in non-league.

Jaroslaw Fojut Polish centre-back Jaroslaw arrived in the UK in 2004 and played one Premier League game for Bolton before joining us on loan in August 2007. He settled quickly and made 23 appearances in all competitions, notching three goals but due to financial constraints had to leave before joining Stockport on loan. After a spell at Dundee United he returned to Poland in 2015.

Conrad Logan Irish goalkeeper Conrad helped Stockport to promotion while on loan from Leicester in 2007/08. He joined the Town the following season in our minus-30 campaign in League Two, playing 30 games in all competitions as we attempted to stay in the Football League. He eventually left Leicester, joining Hibernian before spells at Rochdale and Mansfield.

S1 Luton v Stockport.indd 2 18/03/2026 11:23



CONTENTS

4 Jack Wilshere
6 From the Boardroom
10 Kal Naismith
14 Match Action
25 Welcome Stockport County
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 Stockport County
The views in this programme are not necessarily those of Luton Town Football Club

Welcome

Welcome back to Kenilworth Road for the second time this week as we host our fellow Hatters, Stockport County.

Of course, important League One points are up for grabs this afternoon in front of a live television audience in what promises to be an entertaining game, but the game also serves as a dress rehearsal for the upcoming Vertu Trophy final at Wembley in a few weeks' time.

Tickets for the final have been selling well and information on how to get yours can be found elsewhere in today's programme.

Remember your support and noise can make the difference in games like these, so get behind the lads and enjoy the game!

Come on Luton!

S1 Luton v Stockport.indd 3 19/03/2026 15:52

THE BOSS

Jack WILSHERE

Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for a second big home game this week as we entertain Stockport County.

A warm welcome to Dave Challinor and his staff and players. Once again they are enjoying an excellent season at this level and they are sure to give us a tough match, just like they did at their place earlier in the season.

This game serves as a little dress rehearsal for the Vertu Trophy final at Wembley in a few weeks' time but of course there's no doubt where the importance lies. Today is the next game and, with league points up for grabs, we know what we have to do this afternoon.

We come into it today off the back of another good result and performance in midweek against Exeter which ensured we backed up the win at Wycombe last weekend.

I felt we started the game okay and were good value for our lead at half-time. I did feel we had more in us after the break but after the lads had given so much at Wycombe, it was understandable that we had to really dig in during the closing stages.

However, it was a case of getting the job done. It doesn't matter in what league or at what level, at this time of the season the most important thing is winning and that's what we did.

Exeter made it tough for us as they are also fighting for something and this afternoon will be no different. The league table shows just how tight things are at the top and the bottom, and therefore every single point matters.

Tuesday reaffirmed the importance of competing and that every action on the pitch counts. We showed a lot of quality at times against Exeter but we know we can show this more consistently. That's what we're asking of the players.

We scored three goals, defended well and maybe could have scored a few more but the result certainly will give the lads further confidence as we enter the business end of the season.

Having scored from two corners at Wycombe it was great to see our goals once again coming from set pieces on Tuesday and credit must go to Kevin Pilkington and the lads for this success. The record before we came was already good so for it to improve further, having made a few tweaks here and there, is really encouraging.

A big thank you for your support on the night. The atmosphere inside this famous old ground can really be the difference in games like Tuesday night and it will be the case once more this afternoon.

We have said it so often, but when the crowd and the players are on the same page, beautiful things can happen. The smiles and celebrations after the Exeter game show we are heading in the right direction and long may that continue.

Please continue your fantastic support this afternoon – even at the times when things may not be going our way. It really does help.

Bring the noise and enjoy the game.





S1 Luton v Stockport.indd 4 19/03/2026 15:52



"IT DOESN'T MATTER IN WHAT LEAGUE OR AT WHAT LEVEL, AT THIS TIME OF THE SEASON **THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS WINNING AND THAT'S WHAT WE DID.**

S1 Luton v Stockport.indd 5 19/03/2026 15:52

BOARDROOM

GARY SWEET



Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road.

A warm welcome as well to our visitors today, Stockport County – the 'other Hatters'. It's a fixture that has taken on a bit of added interest this season, not least because we'll be seeing each other again in a few weeks' time under the arch at Wembley for what will undoubtedly be a special occasion for both clubs.

However, there's no distraction from the job in hand this afternoon. This is League One football; there are points at stake and at this stage of the season they are as important as they come.

It's been a positive week for us on the pitch. Football sentiment has a habit of shifting quickly, and after a run where results didn't quite match the effort and application, we've had two wins that have given everyone a lift. Perhaps more importantly, they've reinforced the direction of travel and some added belief in what is being built.

The game at Wycombe last weekend was always going to be a difficult one. They've made a habit of turning Adams Park into a tough place to go, they're well organised, and they understand their strengths. We had to be disciplined, we had to be patient, and we had to stick to the plan.

Exeter on Tuesday night, in a different way, presented another tricky test. They're a side that play good football, one of those teams that can beat anyone and sometimes defy where they sit in the table because of the way they approach the game. They ask questions of you; they move the ball well and they're well coached. It made for an entertaining contest and, on the night, one where we showed resilience and quality in the moments that mattered.

Across the two games, there were a number of positives for us. The most pleasing, without doubt, was seeing Eli back out there. It's been a long road for him but having him back involved has been a real boost – not just for the team, but for everyone. It was also great to see Sverre get his introduction at the very end, too. They're small steps individually, but big for a player we have high hopes for, and collectively, they increase the positivity and hope in what we're nurturing.

Today presents another challenge. Stockport are, as the table testifies, a very good side, well organised, and they've shown throughout the season that they are capable of competing at the top end of the division. They'll come here with some confidence and belief, which we will need to match knowing that a win suddenly places us tucked in behind the pack with everything still to play for. That's the position we want to be in – giving ourselves a real chance as the season reaches its climax.

I'm particularly pleased for Jack and Chris. They've gone about their work in a diligent, honest and consistent way, and that's not always easy when results aren't immediately reflecting the effort being put in. They've stayed calm, stayed focused, and we're now starting to see the benefits of that approach. There's an identity beginning to take shape – something that supporters can recognise, something that reflects the values of the club. It's not the finished article by any means, but it's a foundation, and there's more to come. That's the important thing.

And a big congratulations, and the very best of luck, to the five – potentially more – of our players who head off on international duty after today's game. It's a tremendous reflection of the quality in this squad and something we should all be proud of.

Away from the pitch, the support in recent weeks has been excellent. Wycombe stands out in particular – we felt for you shielding your eyes against the sun for long periods – but the backing was there from start to finish. That consistency of support, home and away, makes a difference. As we've often said, it gives the players energy, it

S1 Luton v Stockport.indd 6 19/03/2026 15:52

reinforces the connection between the pitch and the stands, and it's something we never take for granted.

We've also seen some positive engagement with our supporters' groups, and we're committed to building on that. The Luton Town Supporters' Trust continues to play a hugely important role in the life of the club. Their events and their ongoing support are all valued, and we want that relationship to keep evolving. That includes continuing to invite scrutiny where it's appropriate – whether that's around finances, kit design decisions or engaging with them on Power Court – and also looking at ways to develop a more meaningful commercial relationship with them as a shareholder in the Club.

After their pre-Christmas player event in the Eric with Kal, Clicker, Nahki, Teden and Josh, they have another one on Monday evening with three of our current Academy coaches. Paul Benson, Alex Lawless and Ronnie Henry – and one of our own in Jake Howells, who recently brought his six-year-old son Ronnie to a game for the first time – will reminisce about that first all-important promotion back to the Football League as 2013/14 Conference champions under John Still.

We also recently held a really constructive meeting with Loyal



Thank you for fantastic loyal support in recent weeks

Luton Supporters' Club, bringing some committee representatives together with the team's leadership group and Jack and Chris. It was exactly what these meetings should be – open, honest, frank, and focused on moving things forward together. That dialogue is important and it will continue.

Last night, we entertained our friends from Scandinavia – today's match and match-ball sponsors – in a meeting where we shared ideas and thoughts on how we can embrace our overseas supporters better, particularly at Power Court.

In a similar vein, we've been working closely with Hatters Heritage on how we ensure the club's history is properly represented and protected as we move forward. That includes discussions around heritage assets, museum provision and naming, making sure that what makes Luton Town unique is not only preserved, but celebrated in the right way. More news on how we get more people involved in this in due course.

Looking ahead, our Fan Engagement Board will be established and operational from next season. That will bring together a broader cross-section of supporter voices in a structured way, ensuring that engagement is not just reactive but ongoing and meaningful. There's more detail to come on that, but it's an important step in strengthening the relationship between us and you, our supporters.

Attention is already turning to Wembley, and ticket sales have been exceptional. Already over 28,000 sold, at the time of writing, is a fantastic effort and a real reflection of the commitment and passion for this game, especially with so many families expected to be at the game to potentially experience the national stadium for the first time. Thank you to everyone who has secured their seat. It promises to be another special occasion for us, and one we can all look forward to.

Turning briefly to the wider game, we will be submitting our annual accounts this month, as we always do. As ever, we continue to plan responsibly and with a clear focus on sustainability. While we prepare for different scenarios, our current planning reflects the realities of League One, even as we ensure we are ready for whatever may come next. Once submitted, the Trust will be invited to examine them and ask questions of our CFO Tom Schofield and others, as they do every year.

What is becoming increasingly clear across the division, however, is the ever more concerning financial landscape. The figures being reported by clubs are, in many cases, eye-watering. Significant losses are being recorded, and player wage inflation over the last two >>

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>> seasons has risen sharply – in some cases dramatically. As things are, it's simply not a sustainable model, and there is a growing recognition across the game that something needs to change.

There are ongoing, productive discussions around regulation and self-regulation amongst 'League One owners', and while there are differing views across the leagues and stakeholders, the objectives are clear.

Further ahead, the Independent Football Regulator will begin to have a significant influence on the game over the next two to three years, starting with its licensed ownership modelling and a fresh look at owners' and directors' tests. We warmly welcome its arrival as the game clearly needs better governance.

Our position, as it always has been, remains consistent. We will do everything we can to operate within a financially sustainable model. It's not always the easiest path, and it doesn't always deliver short-term advantages, but it is the right one for the long-term health of the Club. It also aligns with our plans on the football side where we need to re-introduce some old-fashioned basic Luton principles into the squad to enable us to retain our rising ambitions. Frankly, this is why our new stadium is so critical to our future.

Finally, a word on Power Court. This is a particularly important period in the development of the project, with several key commercial components coming together at the same time. That includes appointing our construction management contractor and our primary site contractor, structuring funding agreements and progressing a range of commercial and procurement activities – all of which needs to synchronise harmoniously. It's an intricate process, involving multiple stakeholders, and it requires careful integrated management to ensure everything aligns, but it's all in a very good place.

The work is being approached professionally and diligently, with great care, by the whole project team, with every aspect subject to detailed scrutiny by independent auditors and technical consultants on behalf of lenders and authorities. No project of this scale gets this far without full and proper scrutiny by independent bodies, all of which we've calmly embraced and delivered satisfactorily.

We're pleased with the progress being made. Over 80 per cent of the piling is now complete, the substructure for the West Stand is well underway and the general construction process is sound and on budget. As in any construction project of this scale, there will always be external factors beyond our control that we must keep a watchful eye on, but so-far-so-good and we'll soon see the structure rise from the ground.

With the changing landscape, Power Court is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us and the town itself. It's our best and only opportunity to elevate both to the outside world and one we simply must take if we truly want to be ambitious for both.

The future is bright – and it might feel even brighter come full-time this afternoon.

Come on you Hatters!

Gary

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 Stockport.indd 9 19/03/2026 15:52

THE CAPTAIN

Kal NAISMITH



Tuesday night was another step in the right direction as we followed up Saturday's win at Wycombe with a hard-fought win over Exeter here at Kenilworth Road.

The first half was full of incident that saw us go in at the break 3-1 up. It was an open game with both sides having chances, but it was pleasing for us to score three goals – all of which came from set-pieces.

We have such a threat when it comes to these situations, not just from the delivery but from the quality we have attacking them in the box. Kasey was there again to nod us in front from Walshy's corner and that's three in three for him. He is causing opposition all kinds of problems at the minute and long may that continue.

Our response to the Exeter equaliser was swift and Clicker kept his nerve from the spot. He was, again, exceptional on the night and he almost set me up with an outrageous volley in the second half! He now has 11 for the campaign and it goes without saying we're hopeful of a few more between now and the end of the season.

Scoring a third just before half-time was massive for us and it was a special moment for Haks. That was his first goal for us and, after what's been a tough season for him with injuries, he absolutely deserved that. His performances have been incredible and we are now seeing the very best of him. Congratulations, mate.

We had to grind the win out in the final stages but I felt we did that comfortably in the end and we were probably a bit unlucky not to add a fourth goal in the second half which would have made things a little easier.

However, the most important thing was the three points and it gives us further incentive to get another positive result this afternoon.

We face a Stockport side who are having a great season and currently occupy a place in the top six – a place where we want to be.

As you have seen recently, lots of teams in and around the top are taking points off each other in what is a very competitive division. We have an opportunity to make ground on Stockport today but know it is not going to be easy. We'll meet them again in a few weeks' time at Wembley so there will be the added incentive of getting a positive result this afternoon.

On the subject of Wembley, we have now sold over 25,000 tickets which is fantastic. A massive thank you to everyone who has booked their spot for the final. It just further highlights the potential of this club and the passion people have for it.

Your support has been tremendous all season and we are now entering the time of year where it is going to be even more vital for your backing to be heard. Just like it was on Tuesday and at Wycombe last weekend.

Please get behind the lads once more this afternoon.

S1 Luton v Stockport.indd 10 19/03/2026 15:52



"SCORING A THIRD JUST BEFORE HALF-TIME WAS MASSIVE FOR US AND **IT WAS A SPECIAL MOMENT FOR HAKS.**

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140TH SEASON LIMITED EDITION

LUTON TOWN V STOCKPORT COUNTY

KIDS FOR A QUID FOR POSH CLASH!

Hatters supporters under the age of 14 will be able to attend our home game on Good Friday against Peterborough United for just £1!



In what will be our final game at Kenilworth Road before the Vertu Trophy final at Wembley, we will be arranging a host of Easter-themed celebrations for the visit of Posh on 3rd April.

Junior fans can take part in an Easter egg hunt on the Kenilworth Road forecourt with Happy Harry and Hatty on hand to help and hand out free chocolate.

There will be a number of retail offers available as well – including our new line of Wembley merchandise to purchase before the final on the 12th.

With offers on food and drink on the day too, it promises to be the perfect feelgood Friday ahead of an important home League One fixture.

Tickets for this game and the remaining home games at Kenilworth Road, against Northampton and Barnsley, went on sale to diamond season card holders on 19th March before going on sale to members from Monday 23rd March. For further information please turn to page 59.

HATTERS TO HATTERS WALK

We wish a warm and restful welcome to five Stockport County supporters who are arriving at Kenilworth Road having walked all the way from Edgeley Park to be here all in the name of charity.

Katie Myott, Jamie Reding, Joel Torkington, Mark Woolley and Hannah Downey set off on Tuesday to tackle the 145-mile journey in aid of three charities close to their hearts.

The quintet will be raising money for the Stockport County Community Trust, The Wellspring and Parkinson's UK, and if you'd like to help them out, please do so if you can.

Head to **www.justgiving.com/team/ hatters2hatters charitywalk** for more information on their story.



S1 Luton v Stockport.indd 13 19/03/2026 15:52

3-2

Jordan Clark celebrates his 11th goal of the season



The Town moved to within four points of the play-offs as they made it back-to-back wins with victory over Exeter at Kenilworth Road. In an entertaining game against the out-of-form visitors, the Hatters were in command at half-time thanks to another goal from Kasey Palmer, a penalty from Jordan Clark and Hakeem Odoffin's first for the club. Exeter pulled one back to make it 3-2 early in the second half but despite dominating for long periods the Town could not find a killer fourth goal. It set-up a tense finale, which included seven added minutes, but the Hatters held on to breathe new life into their play-off ambitions in a crowded race for the top six.



Kasey Palmer opens the scoring with another header



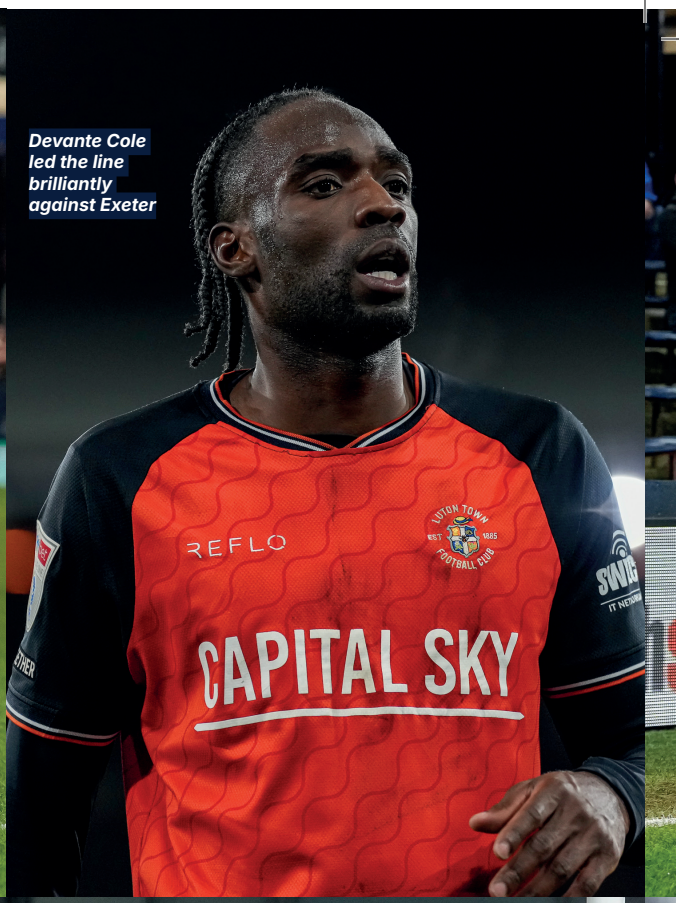
Nigel Lonwijk holds off his man



Emilio Lawrence shows close control



Gideon Kodua races down the right



Devante Cole led the line brilliantly against Exeter



Kal Naismith is inches away from meeting Jordan Clark's cross



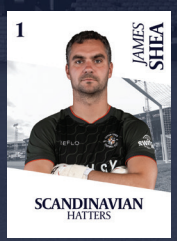
Elijah Adebayo in action as a second-half substitute



Celebrations after Hakeem Odoffin made it 3-1 just before half-time

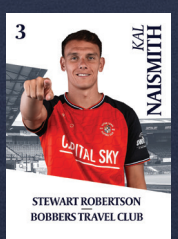
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GOALKEEPERS



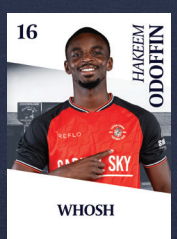


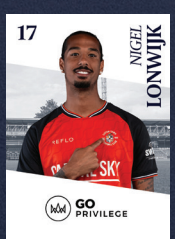
DEFENDERS











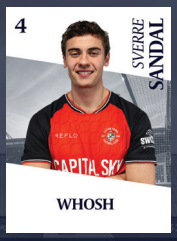




LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

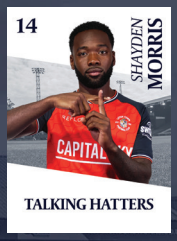
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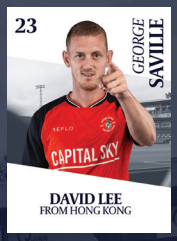


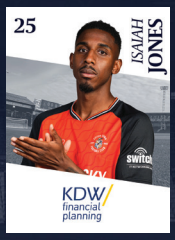








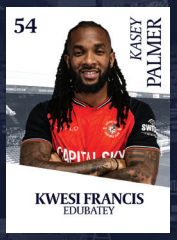






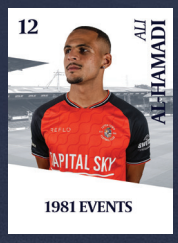


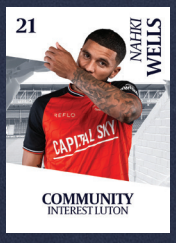


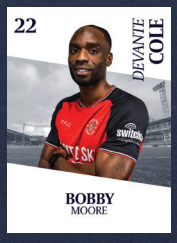


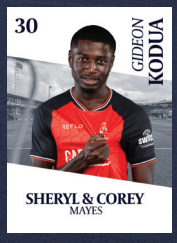
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At Tuesday's game with Exeter we had the pleasure of welcoming match ball sponsor Montrose Consulting and two mascots for the match against the Grecians.

Our guests in the Eric Morecambe Lounge also had the pleasure of hearing from manager Jack Wilshere before the game and Joe Johnson after the game, with our academy graduate popping in to meet and greet guests, signing autographs, posing for photos and answering supporters' questions following the final whistle.

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.

Availability remains for our final three home league games this season. Please get in touch with us by calling 01582 411622 or emailing commercial@lutontown.co.uk.

Following the team booking their place at Wembley, there are a number of hospitality options for the Vertu Trophy final in three weeks' time against Stockport. If you are interested in finding out more about these, please do get in touch.

Finally, a big hello to our guests from match and matchball sponsors who are a group from the Luton Town Supporters' Club of Scandinavia. We hope you have a great afternoon with us.

SCANDINAVIAN HATTERS









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STOCKPORT COUNTY

The Hatters take on the Hatters at Kenilworth Road as Stockport County make the long trip down to Bedfordshire this afternoon for their first visit here since our days in the Conference.

Dave Challinor's side have had a strong season so far and currently occupy fifth place in the league table.

Stockport have blown hot and cold at different points throughout the season. A strong start saw County soar towards the top end of the table.

However, a damaging 3-0 home defeat against the Town, thanks to goals from Jake Richards, Cohen Bramall and Izzy Jones, seemed to be the start of a poor run as Stockport won once in their next six games.

County bounced back with a strong run of form at the start of 2026, recording important wins against Huddersfield, Rotherham, Blackpool and Plymouth.

And of course, Stockport have also had a great campaign in the Vertu Trophy and will meet the Hatters under the Wembley arch next month for the final, looking to lift the trophy for the first time in their history.

Those County supporters in the Oak Road end this afternoon will, however, know they need to alter recent history if they're to beat the Town today.

The Hatters have a remarkable recent record over the 'other' Hatters. The Town are unbeaten in their last 16 matches against Stockport in all competitions, winning 10 and drawing six, a run stretching back to County's last win in 1968.

Only once have Stockport won on Bedfordshire soil in 11 attempts – a 3-0 victory coming back in September 1966.

We wish a warm welcome to Kenilworth Road to all those associated with Stockport County this afternoon.

STOCKPORT COUNTY AT-A-GLANCE

FOUNDED: 1883

NICKNAME: The Hatters, County

GROUND: Edgeley Park

MAJOR HONOURS: Third tier champions 1921/22, 1936/47, fourth tier champions 1966/67, 2023/24, National League champions 2021/22, National League North champions 2018/19

LAST TIME AT THE KENNY: Town 1-0 Stockport Conference 19/3/2013

S1 Luton v Stockport.indd 25 19/03/2026 15:52



STOCKPORT COUNTY

THE AWAY END

The Boss

DAVE CHALLINOR
Has managed County for over 250 matches since his appointment in November 2021, winning an impressive 139 games. Helped to guide Stockport from non-League to the top end of League One.

Goalkeeper

COREY ADDAI Been a regular between the sticks for County since the end of February. Has featured over 50 times since joining from Crawley in summer 2024.

Defenders

ETHAN PYE A mainstay in the back line for the Hatters since 2023 when County were in League Two and has hardly missed a minute this season.

BRAD HILLS Came through the ranks at Norwich but never properly broke into the first team. Joined Stockport briefly on loan last season before joining permanently in the summer.

JOSH DACRES-COGLEY A January addition to Challinor's side after making the switch from Bolton to Edgeley Park.

JOSEPH OLOWU Spent time in the ranks at Arsenal but gained his senior experience at Doncaster, making over 100 appearances before joining Stockport in 2025.

Midfielders

OLIVER NORWOOD A veteran midfielder across the EFL and Premier League previously playing for Sheffield United, Fulham, Brighton, Reading, Huddersfield and Coventry.

ODIN BAILEY Began his career with Birmingham and moved around a bit before settling at Edgeley Park, where he has played for the last three seasons.

BEN OSBORN Another experienced EFL midfielder who spent many years at Sheffield United alongside Norwood but has joined County on loan for the season.

JACK DIAMOND A product of the Sunderland academy but he made his name elsewhere with Harrogate and Lincoln before joining the Hatters in 2024.

TAYO EDUN EFL journeyman with vast experience for Lincoln, Blackburn, Charlton and Peterborough. Has featured 16 times in all competitions so far this campaign.

Forwards

KYLE WOOTTON
County's top goal scorer and main man up top. Has bagged 18 goals so far this season and chipped in with three assists.

TANTO OLAOFE Had three successful seasons with Stockport before joining Charlton last summer. Returned to Edgeley Park in January on loan until the end of the season.

JOSH STOKES Young forward and Bristol City loanee getting his first bit of League One experience this year. Got a goal and assist in County's win over Northampton earlier this week.

ADAMA SIDIBEH Joined the Hatters in January from Scottish outfit St Johnstone. Has scored four goals in his first ten appearances for the club.

S1 Luton v Stockport.indd 26 19/03/2026 15:52

HATTERS *versus* HATTERS

Historic meetings between the clubs down the years

JANUARY 1938

10-GOAL THRILLER

One game that immediately stands out between the two clubs is a remarkable 6-4 win for the Hatters at Kenilworth Road on New Year's Day in 1938. Seven goals came in the first half an hour as the Town went 2-0 up thanks to goals from Jack Vinall and Fred Roberts before Stockport hit back to take the lead at 3-2. Bert Dawes equalised for the Town only for County to restore the lead again going into half-time. However, after the break George Stephenson got the Hatters back level at 4-4 and that was the catalyst for them to go on and win thanks to further goals from Vinall and Dawes.

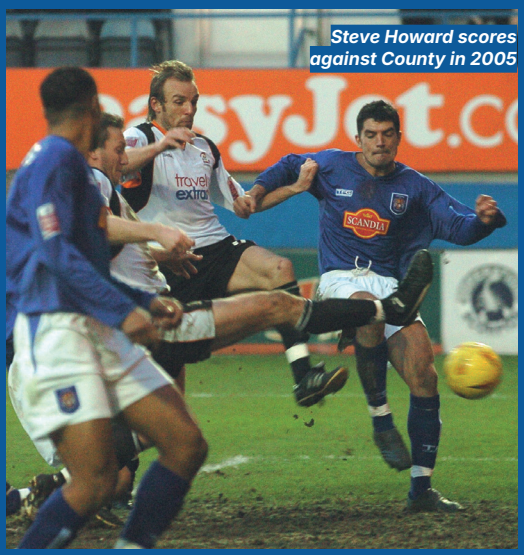
OCTOBER 2002

EDGING IT AT EDGELEY

A mistake from goalkeeper Cedric Berthelin gives Stockport an interval lead, but a stung Town are dominant in the second period and the final score flatters the home side. Striker Andrew Fotiadis sets up Matthew Spring's first, scores himself, then watches as a defensive mix-up from the home side allows Spring to pounce for the winner. It was the first time the Hatters had won at Edgeley Park since 1932. We have since won four of our last five visits.



Stephen McNulty wheels away after scoring here on Stockport's last visit



Steve Howard scores against County in 2005

JANUARY 2005

BACK ON TOP! ▲

Having lost top spot in League One, the Hatters return to the summit with a comprehensive 3-0 win over County. Following a Steve Robinson corner, both Curtis Davies and Kevin Nicholls see efforts hacked off the line before Chris Coyne nets to open the scoring before half-time. The points are secured when Steve Howard turns in an Ahmet Brkovic cross, and Nicholls fires home from the spot after a handling offence by Jim Goodwin. This would prove to be our last meeting with Stockport in the Football League at Kenilworth Road until today.

MARCH 2013

FIRST WIN FOR JOHN ◀

The Hatters secured a vital home win thanks to captain Steve McNulty's first-half header against a struggling Stockport. A combative first half saw both sides cancel each other out before McNulty broke the deadlock a minute before half-time with a commanding header from Dave Martin's perfectly-weighted corner. A close knit second period saw both sides go close but McNulty's header proved to be the match winner to secure John Still's first home win as Town boss.

S1 Luton v Stockport.indd 27 19/03/2026 15:52



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Kasey's loving LIFE AT LUTON

Midfielder all smiles as the goals keep coming

Kasey Palmer is a happy man – and he's hoping he can keep scoring and help the Hatters reach the play-offs.

The 29-year-old midfielder scored the opening goal in the 3-2 win over Exeter – his third in as many games after finding the target against Doncaster and Wycombe.

But regardless of the goals, the on-loan Hull man is relishing his time at Kenilworth Road.

"I'm driving into training happy, I'm enjoying being here and it's showing on the pitch," Palmer told LTFC+ after Tuesday's triumph.

"I think the fans can see that I'm enjoying it and hopefully that can continue. Let's see where it takes us."

Having scored a header from a corner against Wycombe last weekend he repeated the feat to open the scoring on Tuesday night for his first goal in front of the Kenilworth Road faithful.

"It's a really good feeling," he said.

"I don't know where these headers are coming from to be honest but I'll take it!

"Since I've been here we've worked hard on set-pieces in training and it seems to be coming off in games.

"It's great that we've become a threat from set-pieces just as much as we are from open play."

The win over Exeter sets up today's important meeting with the 'other' Hatters, with the Town knowing they can move to within two points of County in the table with victory this afternoon.

"We got the win and that's all that mattered," added Palmer. "We needed the three points to move closer to the play-offs and we did that.

"There's an early kick-off on Saturday so the games keep coming and it'll be a test on the legs again, but as players we're looking forward to it – we'd rather play than train.

"Hopefully we can keep the momentum going and earn a positive result."

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Luton Town Disabled Supporters Association AGM 2026

Disabled supporters are an integral part of Luton Town – they may experience matchdays differently, but the role they play and the passion they bring are the same as any other fan.

Luton Town Disabled Supporters Association (LTDSA) works to make sure those voices are heard, and the upcoming Annual General Meeting is a chance for disabled supporters and allies to help shape what comes next at Luton Town.

LTDSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- **Date:** Wednesday 29th April 2026
- **Time:** 6.30pm – 9.00pm
- **Venue:** John Moore Lounge, Kenilworth Road Stadium
- **RSVP by 22nd April:** Email rsvp@ltdsa.co.uk to book your place - spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis (let us know about any access requirements)
- **Online option:** Livestream available – let us know if you would prefer to join online

Across the evening, we will look back at the past year, share our achievements, talk about improvements we would like to make, and set out our priorities for the year ahead - all with input from the people who matter most: you.

Following our AGM formalities, a big part of the night will be Ask The Club– a Q&A with key club staff, hosted by LTDSA committee member Steve Moore. You are encouraged to let us know in advance if you have any questions you would like answered on the night, and we will do our best to include as many as possible.

There will also be time during the break for informal conversations – whether that's meeting other disabled supporters or getting to know current committee members.

If you would like to learn more about the LTDSA, how to become a member, or find out how to get involved, you can now visit our new website at www.ltdsaco.uk, where you can find further information and contact details.

We'd love to see you at the AGM and to have you involved as we work together to make Luton Town one of the most welcoming and inclusive clubs in the country.

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THE VIEW FROM THE PRESS BOX

***BBC Three Counties Radio's** sports editor looks ahead to today and remainder of the season*

So it's Luton Town versus Stockport, a dress rehearsal for next month's EFL Trophy final at Wembley.

After a long hard League One season it'll be nice for both clubs and sets of fans to go and enjoy a big day out in the capital. The competition wouldn't have been the priority this season but when a Wembley final comes round, you don't turn down the opportunity.

Both clubs have had promotion on their mind all season and have been in the top 10 for most of it. Stockport have the more likely chance of getting to Wembley for the play-offs but for Luton that seems unlikely unless they can maintain this recent bit of good form. A win today feels like a necessity.

It's been another inconsistent season for Luton and it feels like relegation from the Premier League led to the biggest bender of all time. It's been a hangover of all hangovers and I'm still not sure Luton are quite out of it. The pain and headaches will surely ease soon for the Hatters to move on.

Mistakes have been made – plenty of them, we know that. Football is a complex and tricky business. Running a club is extraordinarily difficult with challenges and layer upon layer of complex issues. It's so difficult to get it right consistently; decision-making and strategy is key. That has to be the main focus. In Luton's case it's not for want of trying and now they just need to get out the other side.

Which gets us back to that Wembley final against Stockport, a game which might just give Luton that lift and end a transition period which fans would like to forget in a hurry.

It's time for Luton as a club to get back on the front foot. A Wembley final might just do that.

A second Wembley final? Let's not go there just yet.



The Sky Sports cameras will screen today's game and the Vertu Trophy final against County

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DUCKEN



19/03/2026 15:52



S1 Luton v Stockport.indd 35 19/03/2026 13:52

LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS' TRUST

The Trust Interviews...



Wayne Turner *Head of Academy Development*

Apprentice, player, coach, assistant manager, academy manager and now Head of Academy Development – and a Lutonian through and through – Wayne Turner is a legend in Luton Town circles, and we were delighted that he took time out from his busy schedule (he's a family man and grandpops too!) to talk to the Trust.

Hi Wayne, let's start by you telling us a bit about yourself...

I was born in Luton, brought up in the Lewsey area and played a lot of football from when I was young. We didn't have a lot of money so my first boots were cut-downs that made me look like Coco the Clown and my nan bought me my first kit – Luton colours – but she got them the wrong way round, black top, white shorts, black socks – so my mates in the park laughed and called me a ref! I didn't get to watch games as I was always playing but when I did my early heroes were Jimmy Johnson at Celtic with his jinks and shimmies – I was a winger then – and George Best, as I liked Manchester United, and watched the 1968 European Cup winning team on TV. The first game I saw at Kenilworth Road was Luton versus Fulham in 1976 with Best, Bobby Moore and Rodney Marsh playing.

I was playing for Luton Schoolboys under Dave Morton and three of us from Challney School signed up as apprentices at Luton. There's not many Luton born and bred who have gone on to play regularly for the first team – me, Mitchell Thomas, Kingsley Black in my time, Kerry Dixon – another Challney boy, who came the long way round! – and recently James Justin who has gone on to be having a fantastic career. I went to school with his dad, Mick, another Lewsey lad and a brilliant person – sadly no longer with us.

All my early years, from as young as eight, I was involved in the building trade with my dad and my older brother Gary. I did that every summer when I was a Luton apprentice and for a further three years as a full-time pro. Learning that stood me in good stead for the whole of my working life.

What made that brilliant David Pleat team you were part of tick? What was training like back then?

Training was a bit different then than now, where we have fantastic facilities for the first team and the academy at The Brache. We were based at Kenilworth Road, used to meet there to get changed and then it was onto the bus to go training wherever we could beg, steal or borrow some grass to play on – the Vauxhall ground, the public parks at Ely Way and Pope's Meadow, wherever we could find. It was a magical mystery tour every day with everyone scrambling for seats on the bus, that was always a laugh! When the weather turned bad, we would try to get into the sports centre at Stopsley. The coach at the time, David Coates, had a brilliant, simple but strict, two-touch philosophy. The 80's team could pass the ball so well because of the way we passed in training. You'd be in the five-a-side gym and rotating in groups, you couldn't score from a rebound off the wall and you couldn't pass the ball off the wall, so you had to make angles and pass it. We did the same in the gym under the Oak Road end where we had the swing ball for heading and head tennis and more two-touch training.

Another thing that made that team so good was the system we played, playing wonderful triangle football. As a full-back I had a winger outside me, David Moss, who was outstanding. I call that system 4- 3 ½ - 2 ½. I loved it, and it's always been one of my favourites as a coach. We did that and we became one of the best Luton teams ever.

How did your career progress at Luton?

I was seen as a handy utility player and was mostly used as a left-back, which was not really my position. I wasn't lightning quick, though I could run all day – so I had to be smart to try to block out the angles. I ended up being perceived by some fans as a weak point in the team and used to get some real stick from sections of the crowd.

In my role now, I do a presentation at the start of the season to the under-16s coming into the club. I tell them that up to that date, they're probably the best players in the playground and 90 per cent of the reason they're coming into the building is their ability, with 10 per cent mental strength and dedication and desire. The minute they're in the building it flips to 90 per cent mental strength, desire and application and 10 per cent ability because if you don't have the mentality to release your ability you've got no chance. That's what I encourage with our young players – and the current group are very receptive.

There are many players who take an easy way out though, and don't make their potential, but when I was on the receiving end of that negativity in the early years I turned to my

S2 Luton v Stockport.indd 36 19/03/2026 15:45

determination and self-belief. You're going to be judged when you're playing in a team with top players, at the top level, and I had to be massively mentally strong. But I don't regret any of it as it gave me a great understanding for the rest of my life. It's helped me in everything I've ever done, in football and in my development business too.

However, I wasn't really progressing fully for those first couple of years, going in and out of the team, so David Pleat sent me out on loan to Lincoln, under his great friend Colin Murphy. I was there for four months, and we went from third from bottom to third from top. I had a great run of first-team football, then came back to Luton and played seven of the last nine games of our brilliant 1981/82 promotion season. We ended up as clear champions but I didn't get a medal as I hadn't played enough games at the time – that's changed these days. I was hoping that Lincoln would go up as I had played enough for them and, while our promotion party was going on at the Town Hall, I was sitting in my car listening to their final game against Fulham, which they needed to win. They drew, finished third and I got no medal there either!

I came back to Luton and I was still trying to win the crowd over. But then, luckily, Nobby Horton left and I got to play regularly in midfield, which is where I wanted to play all along, and the fans got to see a better version of Wayne Turner.

That was the 1984/85 season wasn't it?

Yes. In our first season back in the top division in 1982/83, we had established ourselves as one of the most exciting teams in the country. We played some incredible fearless football – 3-3 at Liverpool, 4-4 at Stoke, lots of goals and, of course, that last day drama at Maine Road, and we'd built on that over the next couple of seasons.

So, in 1984/85 we had the FA Cup run with three games in a week against Watford. I scored the winner in the third one and suddenly I was the hero, which I have to say I found quite difficult with the adulation after the criticism. Then there was the notorious Millwall game – dodging seats being thrown during the warm-up, trying to take a corner while surrounded by their fans on the pitch, but we won and were into that semi-final against Everton at Villa Park. They hadn't lost in over 20 games up to that semi-final, they were on an incredible winning streak and we took them to the wire. It was heartbreaking, so many turning points from bad refereeing decisions like the free-kick that should never have been leading to their extra-time winner. But there was a moment before the game I'll never forget. I went out to look at the pitch an hour before kick-off. I looked around and the end is full of Luton fans, 7,000 I think it holds. I put my hand up to wave and the whole place erupted. It still makes me tingle today. I turned around and there's nobody else there on the pitch. It was only me and I got that amazing reception, which was mind-blowing when you think of what I've been through before. That was an incredible feeling.

Our cup run came to an end and soon my time as a Luton player did too. David had signed Peter Nicholas, he was Wales captain and even though I'd had my best season, it wasn't quite good enough. I'd wanted a new two-year deal, but David said no, not for me.

So I got a move to Coventry, a two-year deal on the money I'd wanted at Luton plus a signing-on fee, all sorted in a 10-minute conversation with Coventry, after eight years at Luton. It was surreal. I never wanted to move. I'd turned my career around at Luton and was looking forward to the next season, and it was all gone. I remember driving home after signing and shedding a tear or two. I didn't want to leave Luton but Coventry was actually a great move. I stayed in the top division, became their captain, but then I unfortunately got two serious injuries and, after 13 months, I was moving on again. A new manager had come in and everything changed. The sad thing was starting that season as captain on the team photo and then at the end they won the FA Cup and



Wayne hits his famous winner against Watford back Kenilworth Road in 1985

S2 Luton v Stockport.indd 37 19/03/2026 15:45



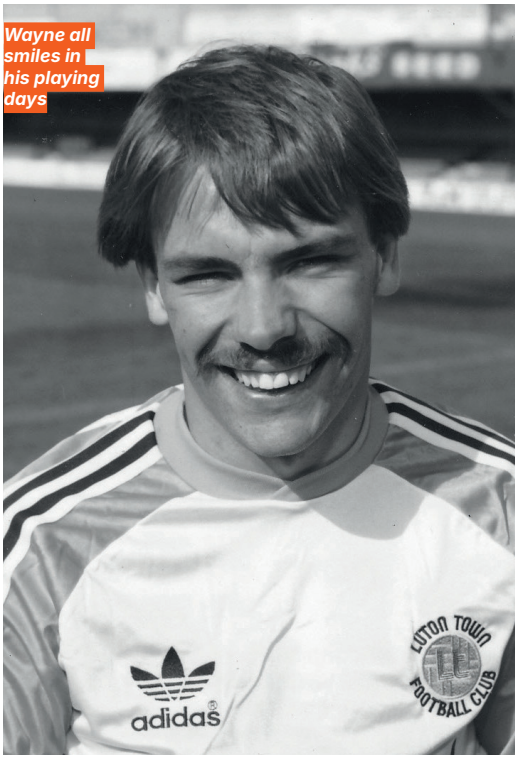
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Wayne all smiles in his playing days

I was the only one from that picture not still there. So that's another medal I didn't get!

What got you into coaching?

I spent four more years playing – at Brentford, then Barnet – before hanging my boots up and then I was invited back to Luton by David Pleat as a coach, initially with the reserves, then the first team. I'd got my A licence coaching badge, the highest you could get, in the early 90s – I was one of the first to get that, alongside Steve McLaren. I moved on to assistant manager at Wycombe, then Peterborough with Barry Fry – we won one of the last play-off finals at the old Wembley, the weekend before it was demolished. I'm proud of that!

I ended up back at Luton for seven happy years, as a volunteer for three of them from 2009, then part-time between 2012 and 2015 – protecting the 103 young players we had under our wings from being snapped up by other clubs, as when we were in the National League we couldn't sign them up on contracts. I was also doing development work with my building company very successfully.

I've always wanted to be involved with football but could never be blackmailed into a job for the money as I had my outside interests. That gave me a sense of independence and strength.

I'd like to say here something fans should maybe think of when they're getting onto players' backs – it can really affect their confidence, and the teams'. Young players might hold back from making those momentary decisions that make all the difference because they're nervous of making a mistake when every failed pass or tackle, or positioning, gets a negative reaction. So just bear that in mind when venting your frustrations.

I know that because I went through it but luckily I was mentally very strong enough to come out the other side. And if I was strong, Jack Wilshere must be 100 times that because you don't play for Arsenal and England, and survive all those serious injuries, without being incredibly resilient between the ears. Jack and his staff are working so hard and doing a great job on the training ground turning things around, but it will take time to get things exactly the way he wants it. His support for the Academy is incredible too, using our young players in training and giving them experience with the first team squad. It's a delight to witness that in my role as Head of Academy Development, where I work part-time supporting Paul Benson, Academy Manager, and mentoring the coaches – Alex, Joe, Ronnie, Jack and Ben, who are doing an outstanding job.

It was always going to be incredibly tough dropping down into the Championship after living the dream in the Premier League – everyone in football knows that, and we've had lots of setbacks and two changes of manager trying to sort out the hangover. But if we're strong and stick together to fully support Jack and his team, we'll get back to where we belong. I'm sure of that.

And finally, what are your thoughts about Power Court?

I love Kenilworth Road, of course, but Power Court is such a massive thing for this club. I've had 27 years with Luton Town off and on, and been in the building game all that time too. I'll happily put my hard hat on once again as it's getting towards opening day to look after all the stadium snagging!

Me and the family will be proudly taking our seats to watch the Town at our new home and we'll be at Wembley, too, in a few weeks' time – along with a huge following of Luton fans. Let's all make the most of that day and hopefully add another bit of silverware. Speaking of which, I haven't told you yet about the time when the late Graham Taylor approached me about joining 'the club without a trophy cabinet' as a coach... now, that was a strange one, maybe for another day...

Fantastic! Thank you, Wayne.

"I'VE HAD 27 YEARS WITH LUTON TOWN OFF AND ON, AND BEEN IN THE BUILDING GAME ALL THAT TIME TOO. I'LL HAPPILY PUT MY HARD HAT ON ONCE AGAIN!

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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

2010/11 AWAY

Pavel Besta, Adam Murray, Zdenek Kroca, Matthew Barnes-Homer, Robbie Willmott.

Names that some of our fans may be too young to remember, whereas others certainly do remember the non-league era!

Made by Carbrini, the 2010/11 away shirt is a very dark blue complete with white sleeve and side panelling and the very recognisable orange easyJet sponsor. It's a smart shirt and one that has aged well! Credit to Cabrini as the third and 2010 anniversary shirt were also nice.

This was Cabrini's third season with us, and this away shirt was the only change from the previous season's kits and was only used for the 2010/11 season.

The debut for this shirt did not exactly go to plan, with a 3-1 away loss away at Tamworth, Tom Craddock getting the first competitive goal in this shirt. A few months later, however, Matthew Barnes-Homer secured the first win in this shirt with a 1-0 away win at Barrow.

The goals started flowing, with follow up wins against Eastbourne Borough (4-2, Danny Crow double, Barnes-Homer and George Pilkington on the scoresheet) and a 1-0 victory at Hayes & Yeading with Claude Gnapka with the winner.

The most memorable match for me in this shirt, however, was the 3-3 away draw with Kidderminster Harriers, who at the time, were a continuously strong Conference side.

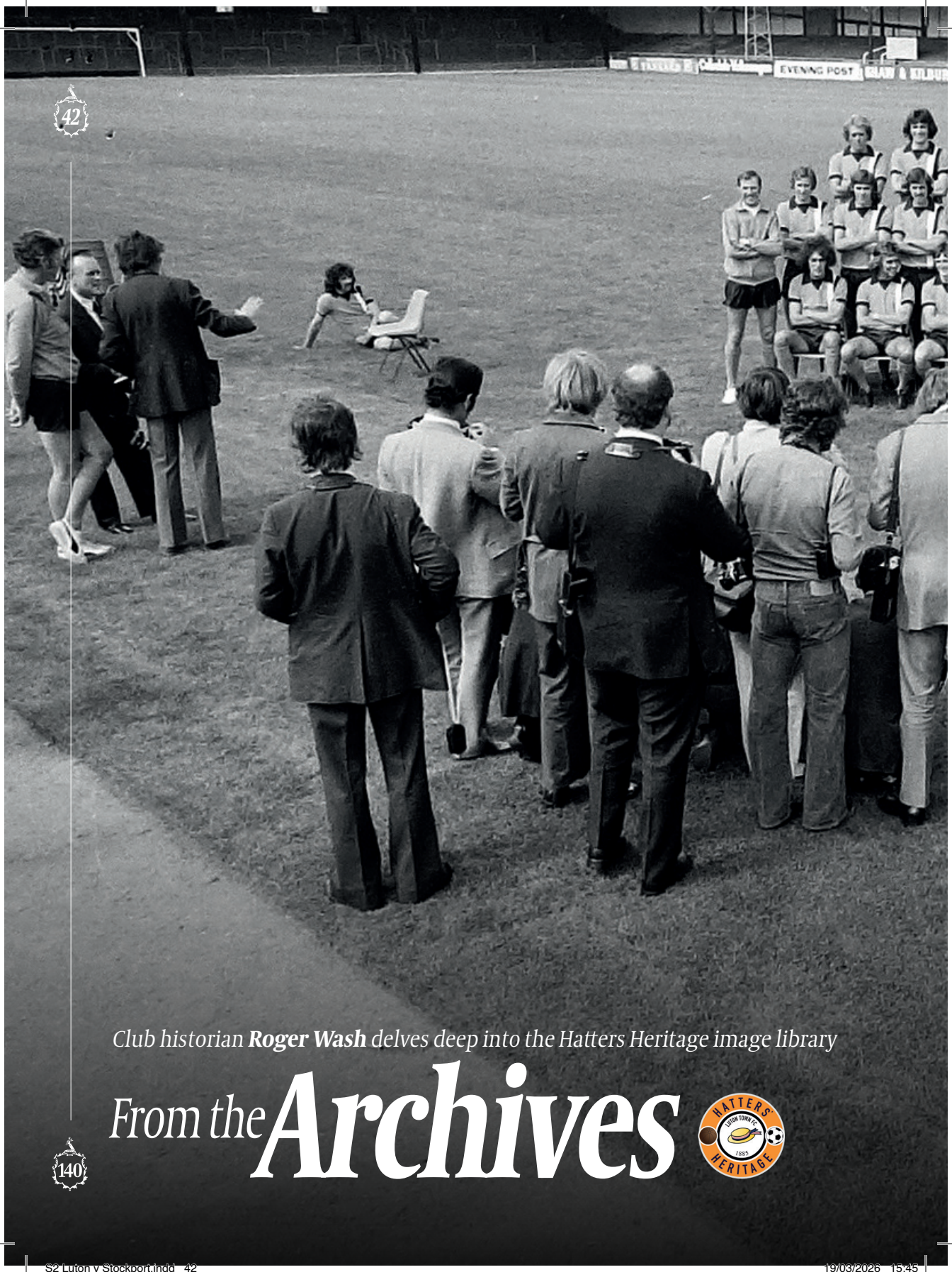
It was Gary Brabin's first match as manager, and a game that we were winning right until the very end. Goals from Willmott, Gnakpa and Jason Walker put us ahead before a Mike Williams equaliser at the death meant we shared the points.

This is a very nice shirt, and one you do still see supporters wearing at the Kenny on matchdays, myself included (complete with 17 Besta print!)



Claude Gnakpa rides a challenge during our 1-0 win at Barrow in this navy shirt in 2010

S2 Luton v Stockport.indd 41 19/03/2026 15:45



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

From the Archives

S2 Luton v Stockport.indd 42 19/03/2026 15:45



An unusual shot of the pre-season team photo being taken in 1973. Derek Hales, shortly to be transferred to Charlton, is left on the grass as an outcast.

Inset: The mercurial Graham French, another who was soon to leave the club, is pictured nearest the camera in the same photoshoot after receiving an electric shock!



S2 Luton v Stockport.indd 43 19/03/2026 15:45

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

ON THIS DAY

21st March



1997 – In a meeting between two promotion contenders, the Sky Sports cameras witness the Town beat Brentford 1-0 thanks to Tony Thorpe's winner. Come the end of the season, neither side win promotion.



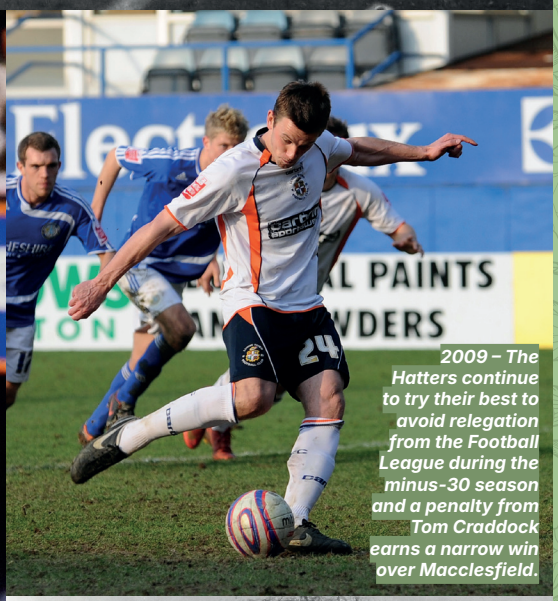
1959 – Missing Syd Owen and Brendan McNally the Hatters slip to a 3-1 defeat at Aston Villa in the top flight in a game to forget for the Town. Billy Bingham scores our goal.



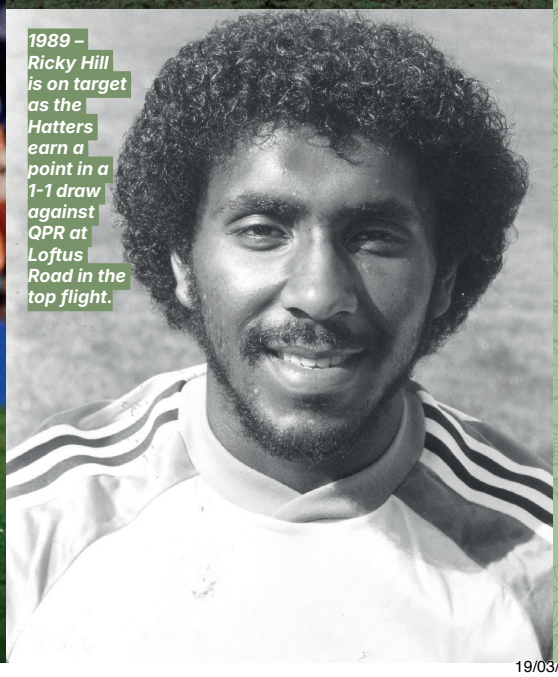
1978 – Goals from Alan West and Phil Boersma are on target as the Hatters see off Bolton 2-1 in an entertaining Division Two (now Championship) clash.



1992 – Mark Pembridge fires the Town in front at Southampton with a free-kick after just 50 seconds. However, in a season in which we are relegated from the top flight without winning away from home, goals from Alan Shearer and former Hatter Iain Dowie condemn David Pleat's side to another defeat.



2009 – The Hatters continue to try their best to avoid relegation from the Football League during the minus-30 season and a penalty from Tom Craddock earns a narrow win over Macclesfield.



1989 – Ricky Hill is on target as the Hatters earn a point in a 1-1 draw against QPR at Loftus Road in the top flight.

S2 Luton v Stockport.indd 45 19/03/2026 15:45



George (right) at his Liberal Club presentation with Harry Arnold in 1932

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

George 'Chubby' Deacon

"Mr Deacon spoke in favour of the proposed formation of the club and said he had been wanting it for two years. He should feel pleased if he could see football improve in the town, and thought that if the best team was put into the field that there were not many towns to beat them" – George Deacon, 11th April 1885.

The world of 1859 feels incredibly distant in time. Charles Darwin published the first edition of On the Origin of Species. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was born. Isambard Kingdom Brunel died. In the US, abolitionist John Brown led a slave rebellion at Harpers Ferry that would be a factor in the eventual outbreak of Civil War. In London people would hear the chimes of Big Ben for the first time.

This was the era into which George 'Chubby' Deacon was born on February 14th of that year, the son of William, a blocker, and Martha, a hat sewer.

It was not a happy home. William was allegedly often drunk and abusive and would leave Martha and the children frightened and hungry. One day it became too much for George, who, anticipating another violent episode, hid behind a door and knocked his father unconscious as he walked in. From there George moved in with grandparents and resolved to be a better father than his own had been.

He married Emma, another hat sewer, in 1878 and was a founder member of the Luton Wanderers Football Club in 1880 where he terrorised the opposition on the wing in tandem with J.C. Lomax. Then, after a combined Luton players side beat a strong Newport Pagnell team in 1883, George first put forward the idea of creating a club that represented the entire town. It would take two years before he could see his dream become a reality.

Throughout the 19th century Luton had significantly outgrown nearby places like Hitchin and Hertford that had been of similar size at the start of 1800s. The arrival of the railway and the availability of land had attracted the hat making industry and brought wealth and employment, particularly among women who could find good wages in the sewing trade. Indeed, they often earned more than their husbands.

It's no surprise therefore that George Deacon and others felt the growing town deserved a team that matched its ambition. Finally, at the Town Hall on the 11th April 1885, Gilbert Small put forward

S2 Luton v Stockport.indd 46 19/03/2026 15:45

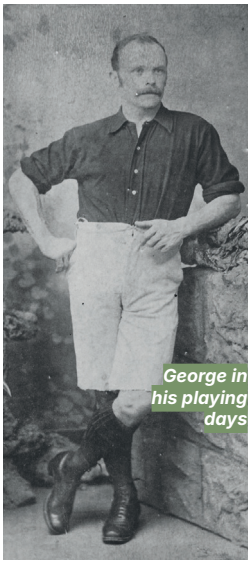
> *"HIS PERSONAL LIFE IS A STORY OF GREAT HARDSHIP BUT ALSO REMARKABLE RESILIENCE. HE HAD TAUGHT HIMSELF TO READ BY GOING TO THE LIBRARY BUT BUSINESS PROBLEMS FORCED HIM TO FILE FOR BANKRUPTCY IN 1889.*

the motion "that this meeting establish a Town Football club to be called 'The Luton Town Football Club'." J.C. Lomax seconded the motion. The club was born.

George was a founder member, and served on the club committee until 1890, at which point players were banned from serving. He was incredibly consistent from his position on the wing, barely missing a game in those early years of the club, and was particularly noted for his dribbling skills. Small in stature like J.C. Lomax, he was part of the reason for the team becoming known as the 'little uns'.

Such was his talent that in November 1891 he attracted a bid from 'a notable Birmingham club' for £3 a week, a significant sum at the time. The Luton News reported Deacon would be staying put, "... Chubby is patriotic, and filthy lucre will not tempt him to desert his old comrades, whom he has accompanied to victory so often."

Sadly he would retire from the playing side of the club a year later, with age and injury starting to catch up with him. He was awarded a benefit of £8 which the committee was hopeful would rise to nearer £10 eventually, and his association with the club would continue, first as an attendant and then as a trainer, where he would work alongside Billy Lawson.



George in his playing days

His personal life is a story of great hardship but also remarkable resilience. He had taught himself to read by going to the library but business problems forced him to file for bankruptcy in 1889. When his beloved wife Emma died at a young age he was forced to send some of his children to live with relatives. This must have been particularly painful for George, but he continued to provide as best he could.

Happier times would follow when he met his second wife, Emily, at a village fete. Things were still hard financially though. George would often take a piece of cheese to work, so that men would see he had his lunch, but then keep the same piece of cheese uneaten until the weekend when he could share it with his family.

During this time he would work in a number of jobs, including as a steward at the Liberal Club, where his long service would eventually be rewarded in a ceremony attended by Luton Town chairman Harry Arnold. He enjoyed bowls and was featured in a Luton News article in 1939, sitting proudly with his son, grandson and great-grandson. He would spend the last years of his life living with his daughter after Emily, weakened by influenza and asthma, had passed away.

George Deacon died in 1943, and is rightfully remembered as a founder member of Luton Town Football Club, but also as a great player, loyal servant to the town and a kind and hardworking family man.

If you would like to read more about George and the other remarkable figures involved in the creation of our club then the Straw Plaiters website, from where the vast majority of this information is sourced, is essential reading.



With his second wife Emily Potton, 1904

S2 Luton v Stockport.indd 47 19/03/2026 15:45

LTFC academy

With Daniel Taylor
Head of Academy Sports Science





As the end of the football season starts to appear on the horizon a greater focus is placed on planning for the upcoming off-season and pre-season. From a sport science perspective in the Academy this requires several considerations.

As a programme based on development, the first of these is planning our end-of-season testing. As well as developing players technically and tactically, we also want to make sure our players are improving physically to be able to impact on first team football. An important part of this is our testing programme that allows us to assess whether our players are improving and to highlight any areas where we may need to develop to push them further.

This testing takes place both out on the pitch – where we test acceleration, speed, change of direction and aerobic capacity – and for our older age groups also in the gym, where we can get measures of strength and power. Our testing gives us a nice snapshot of how our players have improved over the season and also sets some benchmarks of where we would expect them to return after preseason.

The second consideration is what the players do over the off-season. The season is long and the players put in a lot of hard work, so it is important that they get some time to rest and recover. However, it is also important they get this period right to give themselves the best chance of hitting the next season running. They all receive off-season programmes to complete which involves a mix of running and gym-based activities to give them a nice build up ready for when pre-season begins.

For those players carrying injuries, the off-season is a time to continue rehabilitation, and they will continue coming in during this time to work with our sport science and medical staff to make sure that when the season comes around, they are also ready to go.

The third consideration is pre-season planning. Meetings to discuss and plan our pre-season for 2026/27 have already begun. We work hard as a multi-disciplinary team to ensure that we are giving our players the best programme possible. The planning for pre-season involves working together to piece together how our physical work aligns with

S2 Luton v Stockport.indd 48 19/03/2026 15:45

the technical / tactical work, planning when we want pre-season games to take place and how we are going to progress the players through the time to make sure when the season starts the players are ready to perform at the highest level.

The fourth consideration is: is there anything we can do better next season? We always review and see what we can try and do better next season.

Planning is well underway to set the platform for a successful 2026/27. However, there is still much more to do this season with games to play, training and gym sessions to be done as we try and push our Academy players to be able to have a positive impact on our first team.

Town bounce back to secure important three points

Rufus Barnes' second goal in as many games ensured the Hatters bounced back from the 17s PDL semi-final defeat to claim three points in the Youth Alliance at The Brache last weekend.



An own goal following Excel Ed-Okungbowa's header and Barnes second half strike secured three points for Town in their return to league action, overcoming Northampton and their first half goal courtesy of Naishayn Williams.

The visitors made a fast start and took the lead when Williams broke through from an attacking Town set-play, catching Riley Flynn out of his area before racing away to slide the ball into an unguarded net.

A first half devoid of any real quality didn't stop the Hatters from finding their equaliser in stoppage time, a corner swung in found Ed-Okungbowa and although his header was initially saved, Northampton goalkeeper Elliott Smith could only palm the ball against his own player which deflected the ball into the back of the net.

The second half saw a marked improvement from the young Town side and their determination and effort eventually paid dividends when a lofted ball from deep inside Northampton's half, courtesy of Nassim El-Gourja, found a lurking Barnes who managed to guide his header into the far corner of the goal to put the Hatters ahead with just ten minutes left to play.

The Hatters saw the lead out to earn a big three points, though their sights will now turn to a tricky visit to Stevenage, with Joe Deeney's side having battled to an entertaining 3-3 draw in the reverse fixture at The Brache.

Town: Flynn, Richards (sub Norford 65), Barnes, Evans, Roberts-Edema, Passley-James, Knote-Reed (sub Dunn 85), Trialist (sub Norton 69), Takawira (sub Lesser 58), Benagr (sub El Gourja 65), Ed-Okungbowa.

Match Report: Liam Wilmot

U18 FIXTURES

AUGUST
Sat 8 Plymouth Argyle W 5-1
Tue 12 Leyton Orient W 6-4
Sat 16 PDLC Oxford Utd W 3-0
Sat 23 Cheltenham W 4-2
Sat 30 Forest Green L 0-3

SEPTEMBER
Sat 6 Exeter City W 4-0
Sat 13 Oxford Utd W 4-1
Sat 20 Newport County W 3-0
Sat 27 Swindon W 7-0

OCTOBER
Sat 11 Portsmouth D 1-1
Sat 29 Barnet (FAYC) D 1-1*

NOVEMBER
Sat 8 Bristol Rovers W 6-1
Sat 15 Wycombe L 1-2
Sat 22 PDLC Watford W 4-1

DECEMBER
Sat 6 Milton Keynes W 4-0
Sat 13 Cambridge Utd L 3-6
Sat 20 Northampton L 0-2

JANUARY
Sat 3 Stevenage D 3-3
Sat 10 Sutton United W 3-1
Sat 17 AFC Wimbledon L 0-4
Sat 24 Barnet P-P
Sat 31 Bromley D 2-2

FEBRUARY
Sat 7 Cambridge United L 1-2
Sat 14 Gillingham W 4-2
Sat 21 Leyton Orient 11am
Sat 28 Wycombe W 4-1

MARCH
Sat 7 Milton Keynes D 2-2
Sat 14 Northampton W 2-1
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 Stockport.indd 49 19/03/2026 15:45



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youth PROFILE

Charlie Trustram

YOUR NAME? Charlie Trustram

WHERE ARE YOU FROM? Hemel Hempstead

WHAT POSITIONS DO YOU PLAY? Midfielder

WHEN DID YOU JOIN THE ACADEMY? At under-13s

WHO WAS YOUR FOOTBALL HERO GROWING UP? Messi

GO-TO BOOTS RIGHT NOW? Nike Mercurials

FIRST TIME YOU KICKED A BALL? I was either two or three

BIGGEST LESSON FOOTBALL'S TAUGHT YOU? There's a lot of highs and lows

TEAMMATE MOST LIKELY TO BE A MANAGER? Liam Coyne









FUNNIEST TEAMMATE? Jordan Iwhiwhu

BIGGEST INSPIRATION OUTSIDE OF FOOTBALL? My dad

MOMENT YOU'LL NEVER FORGET? A goal from the halfway line

BEST BIT ABOUT BEING AT LUTON? The environment and being so close to the first team

ONE THING YOU'RE WORKING ON? My whole game, more specifically making more right decisions in and out of possession so I'm able to play at the top level with little to no mistakes

FAVOURITE MUSIC/ ARTIST? Drake or Whitney Houston

FAVOURITE GAME? Uno

PRE-MATCH ROUTINE OR SUPERSTITIONS? Kick-ups after the warm-up

GO-TO CHEAT MEAL... Chicken and rice box

IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER? Property or coaching

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

THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE YOURSELF. Hardworking, dedicated, passionate

ONE THING PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT ME. I used to snowboard competitively

BIGGEST FOOTBALL DREAM? To make it to the top and win it all

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LUTON TOWN FC
COMMUNITY TRUST



Today, we are delighted to launch our Carbon Champions project as part of Green Football Weekend – Defend Where Football Lives.

Football doesn't just live in stadiums. It lives in our streets and our parks, our pitches and playgrounds. These are the everyday spaces where people come together to play, connect and belong. Whether playing or watching, when extreme weather like flooding, heat or wildfires disrupts a match, it's not just the 90 minutes that's lost. It's seeing mates. It's a weekly run-out. It's that chance to switch off. But changing climate puts that at risk. The routines, the relationships, the sense of belonging – it depends on the places where we experience the game we love.

To mark the launch of our Carbon Champions project, we are pleased to welcome our first Carbon Champions from Stopsley Community Primary School to Kenilworth Road. They will be around the ground today, speaking with fans about the steps Luton Town is taking, as well as what supporters can do to help tackle climate change and protect the future of the game.

The Carbon Champions project, funded by London Luton Airport's Greener Futures Fund and supported by Bedfordshire & Luton Community Foundation, aims to inspire young people across Luton to take the lead on climate action projects focused on the places they care about.

Working with local schools and youth groups, we will deliver engaging sessions that equip young people with the skills, confidence and support needed to design and lead their own initiatives. These projects may include promoting active travel, reducing food waste, cutting down on single-use plastics, or creating zero-waste events.

Luton Town FC Community Trust will mentor each group, providing guidance, resources and practical support to help turn ideas into action. The project will culminate in a celebratory showcase at a Luton Town home match, where participants can share their achievements with families, fans and the wider community.

Through this project, we aim to contribute to carbon reduction while building environmental awareness and youth leadership across Luton.

Funded by: London Luton Airport

Supported by: Bedfordshire & Luton Community Foundation

> *"WHETHER PLAYING OR WATCHING, WHEN EXTREME WEATHER LIKE FLOODING, HEAT OR WILDFIRES DISRUPTS A MATCH, IT'S NOT JUST THE 90 MINUTES THAT'S LOST.*

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SMOOTHER THAN A DOUBLE NUTMEG



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Ladies face London Bees tomorrow

Ladies return to action to face high-flying Bees

After a week-long break, the Town are back in action when they head to North West London tomorrow to face London Bees.

The last meeting between the two sides finished with a narrow 1-0 defeat for the Hatters at Barton back in November.

With a fortnight since the Ladies' last bout, which finished in a 2-2 draw at home to Milton Keynes, they'll be looking to get back to winning ways and continue their fine form, which has seen the Town suffer just one defeat in their last 10 across all competitions.

The opposition

London Bees, affiliated with Barnet Football Club, play their football on the 3G pitch outside of The Hive.

After relegation from the Women's Championship in 2021, the Bees suffered a second relegation in four years and were relegated to the FA WNL Division One South East last season, where they went on to finish in fourth place.

Dan McKimm's side are enjoying a successful second season in the fourth tier, sitting in third place. His side have scored 41 goals in 18 league games, registering 10 victories from 15 games.

Home advantage has played its part for the Bees this campaign, who have won six games on home soil, losing just twice. Although, they face a Town side who are unbeaten in four on the road.

Back the Ladies in the capital

The Ladies need your support as they play their penultimate away game of the season.

Tickets are available at the ticket office on the day, priced at £5 adults and £1 for ages 19 and under.



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 D 2-2
22 London Bees
29 QPR

APRIL
12 Fulham
26 Chatham Town

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A big shoutout to our mascots at the Exeter game!

JUNIOR HATTERS





Olly Moore

Age: 11
Favourite Player: Gideon Kodua
Hobbies: Football

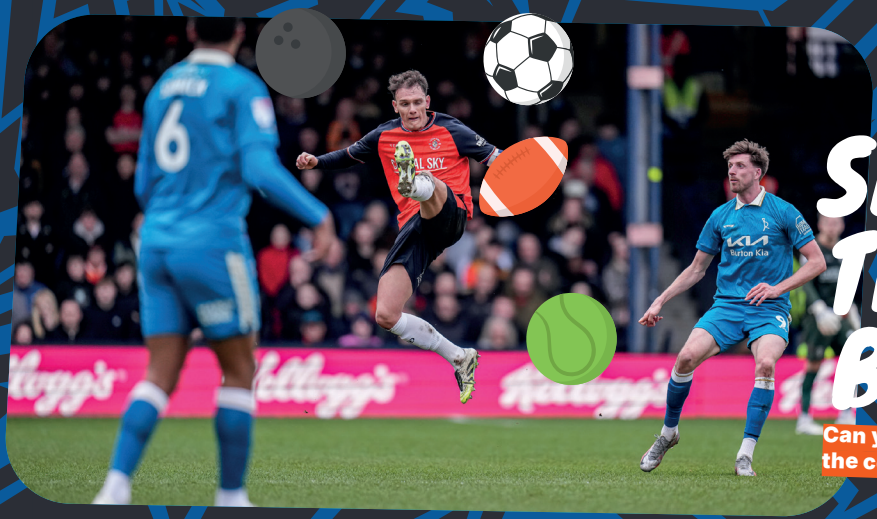
Hudson Angell

Favourite Player: Elijah Adebayo
Hobbies: Watching Luton Town FC & Scooby Doo

Orlaith Angell

Age: 10
Favourite Player: Josh Keeley
Hobbies: Playing for Luton Town Ladies, Swimming & Dancing

also William O'Dell and Harry Fahey



SPOT THE BALL

Can you guess where the correct ball is?

SPOT THE BALL: American football

S2 Luton v Stockport.indd 57 19/03/2026 15:46



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TICKET news

HOME TICKETS

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

WE'RE GOING TO WEMBLEY

Tickets for the Vertu Trophy final against Stockport are now on general sale.

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.

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

HOME GAMES NOW ON general sale

v Peterborough United
Friday 3rd April, 3pm
Category B

v Northampton Town
Wednesday 15th April, 7.45pm
Category B

v Barnsley
Saturday 25th April, 3pm
Category B

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LEAGUE LOOK

Earlier this week we saw another thrilling set of matches in the third tier as the run-in truly gets under way with shocks, late goals and big wins.

Leyton Orient beat AFC Wimbledon away from home in a comprehensive London derby win. Another Dominic Ballard hat-trick helped to guide Orient to a huge 4-2 victory.

Reading climbed inside the play-off places with a 2-1 win against Burton Albion and Bolton dropped two valuable points at home drawing 0-0 with Doncaster.

Peterborough crushed Rotherham 5-0 in an impressive win for Posh leaving Rotherham six points adrift of safety. Plymouth continued their play-off push with a victory over fellow promotion rivals Stevenage.

Lincoln came from behind to salvage a point and continue their unbeaten run with a 2-2 draw against Huddersfield. A late Ryley Towler goal snatched a point for the Imps.

Our opposition today picked up a strong home victory as they beat struggling Northampton 2-1.

Barnsley snatched a point against Wigan thanks to a last-gasp Charlie Lennon strike to draw 1-1. Bradford had to settle for a point at home against Mansfield as the two sides played out a 1-1 draw too.

Blackpool got a much-needed victory at Bloomfield Road as they defeated Port Vale 3-2. Hatters loanee Reuell Walters scored the winning goal late on in the match.

Finally, Wycombe earnt a shock victory away at Cardiff as the Chairboys left South Wales with all three points. Gabe Osho was sent off for the home side early on and goals from Andre Vidigal and Cauley Woodrow did the job in the second half.

PLAYER STATS *2025/26*

	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTAL		LTFC CAREER	
	APP(S)	GLS	APP(S)	GLS	APP(S)	GLS	APPS	GLS
Elijah Adebayo	0 (2)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	184	47
Ali Al-Hamadi	1 (6)	0	0 (1)	0	1 (7)	0	8	0
Millenic Alli	12 (4)	1	3 (3)	0	15 (7)	1	38	5
Mads Andersen	25 (4)	2	6 (0)	1	31 (3)	3	53	4
Ethon Archer	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	1	0
Shandon Baptiste	2 (2)	0	0 (0)	0	2 (2)	0	21	1
Cohen Bramall	17 (12)	2	5 (0)	1	22 (12)	3	34	3
Jacob Brown	3 (4)	0	0 (1)	0	3 (5)	0	60	7
Christian Chigozie	0 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	2	0
Jordan Clark	28 (4)	9	3 (0)	1	31 (4)	11	214	29
Devante Cole	5 (3)	0	0 (1)	0	4 (4)	0	9	0
Fin Evans	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	1	1 (0)	1	1	1
Lamine Fanne	15 (6)	1	4 (2)	1	19 (8)	2	40	2
Harry Fox	0 (0)	0	1 (2)	0	1 (2)	0	3	0
Dawid Gawel	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	1	0
Joe Gbode	0 (5)	0	1 (2)	0	1 (7)	0	8	0
Tom Holmes	0 (1)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (1)	0	22	1
Zach Ioannides	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	1	0
Joe Johnson	14 (1)	0	2 (1)	0	16 (2)	0	33	0
Isaiah Jones	9 (3)	1	12(0)	1	11 (3)	2	32	4
Josh Keeley	37 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	38 (0)	0	38	0
Gideon Kodua	22 (9)	9	6 (3)	1	28 (12)	10	40	10
Emilio Lawrence	8 (1)	0	2 (1)	0	10 (2)	0	12	0
Nigel Lonwijk	29 (2)	2	3 (4)	0	32 (6)	2	28	2
Jack Lorentzen-Jones	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	1	0
Christ Makosso	10 (1)	0	3 (1)	0	13 (2)	0	28	0
Mark McGuinness	4 (2)	0	1 (0)	0	5 (2)	0	51	3
Teden Mengi	21 (0)	0	4 (0)	1	25 (0)	1	80	3
Shayden Morris	7 (17)	3	3 (4)	2	10 (21)	5	31	5
Kal Naismith	27 (3)	2	5 (1)	0	32 (4)	2	114	6
Marvelous Nakamba	0 (1)	0	2 (1)	0	2 (2)	0	61	0
Zack Nelson	6 (12)	1	7 (1)	1	13 (13)	2	51	3
Lasse Nordas	4 (7)	1	5 (1)	3	9 (8)	4	27	4
Hakeem Odoffin	5 (5)	1	2 (1)	0	7 (6)	0	13	1
Kasey Palmer	11 (1)	3	0 (2)	0	11 (3)	3	14	3
Josh Phillips	0 (0)	0	0 (2)	0	0 (2)	0	2	0
Jake Richards	11 (8)	3	5 (3)	0	16 (11)	3	27	3
Sverre Sandal	0 (1)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0	1	0
George Saville	25 (7)	2	4 (0)	0	29 (7)	2	36	2
James Shea	1 (0)	0	9 (0)	0	10 (0)	0	120	0
Davy van den Berg	1 (6)	0	2 (0)	0	3 (6)	0	9	0
Liam Walsh	22 (4)	0	5 (1)	1	27 (5)	1	60	1
Reuell Walters	3 (1)	0	3 (0)	0	6 (1)	0	23	0
Nahki Wells	22 (10)	4	3 (0)	3	25 (10)	7	35	7
Cauley Woodrow	0 (1)	0	1 (0)	0	1 (1)	0	82	6
Jerry Yates	11 (11)	2	3 (4)	5	14 (15)	7	29	7

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. How many points do Wolves now have in the Premier League?

2. Ashley Cole is the new manager of which Italian club?

3. Which player has the most assists in the Premier League this season?

4. Arsenal's Max Dowman became the youngest Premier League goalscorer last week – but which players' record did he beat?

5. Who is a new minority owner at Dagenham & Redbridge?

6. Who scored his first Luton goal in the win at Stockport earlier this season?

7. Which Premier League referee appeared in the middle of the Chelsea huddle last week?

8. Which nation is highest from Africa in the Fifa rankings?

9. Where are England in the Women's Fifa rankings?

10. We beat Stockport 1-0 on their last visit here in 2013 in the Conference – who scored our winner?

1 17 2 Cesena 3
Bruno Fernandes
(16) 4 James
Vaughan 5 KSI
6 Jake Richards
7 Paul Tierney 8
Morocco (8th) 9
Fourth 10 Stephen
McNulty

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FIXTURES & RESULTS 2025/26

		KO	RES		POS	ATT	AWAY							
AUGUST														
FRI 1	**AFC WIMBLEDON** TV	**20:00**	W	1-0	12	11,735	1,321	Keeley	Walters	Lonwijk	Makosso	Andersen	Naismith	Saville
SAT 8	PETERBOROUGH UNITED	12:30	W	2-0	4	10,827	2,995	Keeley	Walters	Alli	Makosso	**ANDERSEN 1**	Naismith	Saville
TUE 12	COVENTRY CITY (CC1)	19:45	L	0-1	-	10,536	515	Shea	Kodua	Bramall	Chigozie	McGuinness	Holmes	Walsh
SAT 16	BRADFORD CITY	15:00	L	1-2	9	20,233	1,338	Keeley	Alli	Lonwijk	McGuinness	Andersen	Naismith	Saville
TUE 19	**WIGAN ATHLETIC**	**19:45**	W	1-0	6	10,751	562	Keeley	Kodua	Bramall	Lonwijk	McGuinness	Naismith	**SAVILLE 1**
SAT 23	**CARDIFF CITY** TV	**12:30**	L	0-1	11	11,456	1,345	Keeley	Lonwijk	Alli	Makosso	McGuinness	Naismith	Saville
SAT 30	BURTON ALBION	15:00	W	3-0	7	4,487	1,675	Keeley	Kodua	**ALLI 1**	Makosso	McGuinness	Lonwijk	Saville
SEPTEMBER														
TUE 2	**BARNET (VT)**	**19:30**	W	4-1	-	3,157	404	Shea	Kodua	**BRAMALL 1**	Chigozie	Makosso	Naismith	Richards
SAT 13	**PLYMOUTH ARGYLE**	**15:00**	L	2-3	9	11,801	1,342	Keeley	Kodua	Alli	Makosso	Andersen	Lonwijk	Saville
SAT 20	LINCOLN CITY TV	12:30	L	1-3	11	9,255	1,433	Keeley	Lonwijk	Alli	Mengi	Andersen	Naismith	Saville
SAT 27	**DONCASTER ROVERS**	**15:00**	W	1-0	10	10,597	1,072	Keeley	Makosso	**NAISMITH 1**	Mengi	Andersen	Fanne	Saville
TUE 30	BLACKPOOL	19:45	D	2-2	7	8,530	520	Keeley	Makosso	Bramall	Naismith	Andersen	Fanne	Saville
OCTOBER														
SAT 4	STEVENAGE	15:00	L	0-2	11	7,228	1,363	Keeley	Makosso	Naismith	Mengi	Andersen	Fanne	Saville
TUE 7	CAMBRIDGE UNITED (VT)	19:00	L	1-3	-	1,767	591	Shea	Lonwijk	Bramall	Mengi	**ANDERSEN 1**	Naismith	Nelson
SAT 18	**MANSFIELD TOWN**	**15:00**	L	0-2	14	11,784	1,308	Keeley	Makosso	Naismith	Mengi	Andersen	Fanne	Saville
SAT 25	NORTHAMPTON TOWN	15:00	W	1-0	10	8,029	1,551	Keeley	Lonwijk	Bramall	Mengi	Naismith	**FANNE 1**	Saville
TUE 28	**BRIGHTON & HA U21 (VT)**	**19:00**	W	3-1	-	2,212	69	Shea	Odoffin	Bramall	**EVANS 1**	Andersen	Nakamba	Walsh
FRI 31	**FOREST GREEN (FAC1)**	**19:30**	W	4-3	-	4,511	462	Keeley	Lonwijk	Bramall	Mengi	Naismith	**FANNE 1**	Saville
NOVEMBER														
SAT 8	STOCKPORT COUNTY	15:00	W	3-0	9	10,090	1,151	Keeley	**JONES 1**	**BRAMALL 1**	Mengi	Andersen	Naismith	Saville
SAT 15	**ROTHERHAM UNITED**	**15:00**	D	0-0	8	11,091	711	Keeley	Jones	Bramall	Mengi	Andersen	Naismith	Walsh
SAT 22	BARNSLEY	15:00	L	0-5	12	10,882	1,478	Keeley	Jones	Bramall	Mengi	Andersen	Naismith	Saville
TUE 25	**HUDDERSFIELD TOWN**	**19:45**	W	2-1	7	9,971	589	Keeley	Odoffin	Bramall	Mengi	Lonwijk	Naismith	Saville
SAT 29	**BOLTON WANDERERS**	**15:00**	D	1-1	7	11,204	1,329	Keeley	Odoffin	Bramall	Mengi	Lonwijk	Naismith	Saville
DECEMBER														
TUE 2	**EXETER CITY (VT)**	**19:00**	W	4-0		2,233	136	Shea	Walters	Johnson	Andersen	Makosso	Nakamba	**NELSON 1**
SAT 6	FLEETWOOD TOWN (FAC2)	15:00	D	2-2*		1,180	663	Shea	Walters	Johnson	Andersen	**MENGI 1**	Saville	Nelson
TUE 9	LEYTON ORIENT	19:45	D	1-1	7	8,176	1,246	Keeley	Lonwijk	Bramall	Naismith	Mengi	Saville	Walsh
SAT 13	**PORT VALE**	**15:00**	D	2-2	7	10,867	1,041	Keeley	Lonwijk	**BRAMALL 1**	Naismith	Mengi	**ANDERSEN 1**	Saville
THU 18	READING	20:00	L	2-3	7	9,252	1,101	Keeley	**LONWIJK 1**	Bramall	Naismith	Mengi	Andersen	**CLARK 1**
FRI 26	**WYCOMBE WANDERERS**	**15:00**	W	4-0	8	11,596	1,092	Keeley	Lonwijk	Johnson	Andersen	Mengi	Walsh	Fanne
MON 29	**LEYTON ORIENT**	**19:45**	W	3-0	8	11,736	1,327	Keeley	Lonwijk	Johnson	Andersen	Mengi	Walsh	Fanne
JANUARY														
THU 1	EXETER CITY	15:00	L	0-1	8	7,912	966	Shea	Walters	Johnson	Lonwijk	Mengi	Walsh	Saville
SAT 10	**STEVENAGE** TV	**12:30**	W	2-1	7	11,434	1,299	Keeley	Lonwijk	Johnson	Andersen	Makosso	Walsh	Fanne
TUE 13	**SWINDON TOWN (VT)**	**19:00**	L	1-2		3,243	585	Shea	Walters	Fox	Lonwijk	Makosso	Saville	Fanne
SAT 17	**LINCOLN CITY**	**15:00**	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	10,364	497	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**	L	2-3	11	11,375	1,311	Keeley	Jones	Johnson	**LONWIJK 1**	Naismith	**SAVILLE 1**	Clark
TUE 10	DONCASTER ROVERS	19:45	D	1-1	11	7,470	642	Keeley	Jones	Lawrence	Lonwijk	Odoffin	Johnson	Clark
SAT 14	WYCOMBE WANDERERS	15:00	W	2-1	10	6,721	1,482	Keeley	Kodua	Lawrence	Lonwijk	Odoffin	**NAISMITH 1**	Clark
TUE 17	**EXETER CITY**	**19:45**	W	3-2	11	9,216	471	Keeley	Kodua	Lawrence	Lonwijk	**ODOFFIN 1**	Naismith	**CLARK 1**
SAT 21	**STOCKPORT COUNTY** TV	**12:30**												
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												
TUE 21	ROTHERHAM UNITED	19:45												
SAT 25	**BARNSLEY**	**15:00**												
MAY														
SAT 2	BOLTON WANDERERS	15:00												

**lost 4-2 on penalties*

				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	
Richards	Palmer	Lawrence	Cole	Walsh	Wells	Kodua	Bramall	Morris
Walsh	van den Berg	PALMER 1	Wells	Richards	Saville	Bramall	Cole	
Saville	Walsh	PALMER 1	Wells	Cole	Johnson	Adebayo		
Saville	Walsh	PALMER 1	Cole	Adebayo	Richards	van den Berg	Sandal	

TABLE 2025/26

Team	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Lincoln	38	24	9	5	37	81
Cardiff	38	23	7	8	32	76
Bolton	38	17	15	6	17	66
Bradford City	38	19	8	11	6	65
Stockport	**36**	**17**	**8**	**11**	**3**	**59**
Reading	38	15	13	10	7	58
Huddersfield	38	16	9	13	10	57
Stevenage	37	16	9	12	2	57
Wycombe	38	15	11	12	14	56
Plymouth	38	17	5	16	4	56
Luton	**38**	**15**	**9**	**14**	**3**	**54**
Barnsley	36	13	11	12	0	50
Peterborough	37	15	4	18	5	49
Wimbledon	37	14	7	16	-6	49
Mansfield	36	11	13	12	3	46
Leyton Orient	37	13	6	18	-9	45
Doncaster	37	12	8	17	-19	44
Burton A	38	11	10	17	-11	43
Exeter	38	11	9	18	-8	42
Wigan	37	10	12	15	-12	42
Blackpool	38	11	8	19	-17	41
Rotherham	37	9	9	19	-20	36
Northampton	38	9	8	21	-20	35
Port Vale	35	6	10	19	-21	28

TODAY'S Fixtures

12.30PM KO

Cardiff v Blackpool

3PM KO

AFC Wimbledon v Peterborough
Barnsley v Doncaster
Burton v Bradford
Leyton Orient v Wycombe
Lincoln v Rotherham
Mansfield v Northampton
Plymouth v Huddersfield
Port Vale v Bolton
Stevenage v Reading
Wigan v Exeter

TOWN Totals

	W	D	L	F	A
HOME	1578	697	637	5816	3277
AWAY	751	721	1424	3330	4989
NEUTRAL	6	4	13	29	43
TOTAL	2335	1422	2074	9175	8309
At KR	1448	669	583	5277	3031

5,831 games played

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

SEASONS TO REMEMBER *1980/81*



Manager David Pleat established at the start of the 1979/80 season that he felt that getting the club back to the top flight was a three-year exercise.

A finish of sixth in 1979/80 showed forward momentum which meant that for once the summer of 1980 was quiet on the transfer front with the only player coming in of note was Yugoslav international Raddy Antic.

If Pleat thought that only a few tweaks were needed to the side to go one step further, he was to be disappointed. Although the season got off to a winning start with FA Cup holders West Ham beaten 2-1 at Upton Park, by the middle of October the Town were down to 19th in the table.

The turnaround in fortunes can be traced to a win at Cambridge in late October which saw a 3-1 victory in a backs to the wall performance with 10 men and a makeshift goalkeeper in Mal Donaghy (the substitute had already been used when Jake Findlay was injured).

After the Cambridge victory, a run of wins, including four straight wins over the Christmas period, sent the Hatters shooting up the table – but unexpected defeats at home to Grimsby and away at Sheffield Wednesday slowed the progress.

The Town, however, enjoyed a successful Easter but then let themselves down with a 2-1 home defeat to a mean spirited Oldham side with the scorer of both Latics goals, Rodger Wylde, lucky to be on the pitch for an elbowing offence which incensed the crowd.

As it was, a final position of fifth was an improvement but the season was full of 'might have been' moments with the slow start and dropped points in vital games leaving supporters frustrated.

Perhaps things would be better in 1981/82!

SECOND DIVISION	PLD	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1 West Ham United (C, P)	42	28	10	4	50	66
2 Notts County (P)	42	18	17	7	11	53
3 Swansea City (P)	42	18	14	10	20	50
4 Blackburn Rovers	42	16	18	8	13	50
5 Luton Town	**42**	**18**	**12**	**12**	**15**	**48**
6 Derby County	42	15	15	12	5	45
7 Grimsby Town	42	15	15	12	2	45
8 Queens Park Rangers	42	15	13	14	10	43
9 Watford	42	16	11	15	5	43
10 Sheffield Wednesday	42	17	8	17	2	42
11 Newcastle United	42	14	14	14	−15	42
12 Chelsea	42	14	12	16	5	40
13 Cambridge United	42	17	6	19	−12	40
14 Shrewsbury Town	42	11	17	14	−1	39
15 Oldham Athletic	42	12	15	15	−9	39
16 Wrexham	42	12	14	16	−2	38
17 Orient	42	13	12	17	−4	38
18 Bolton Wanderers	42	14	10	18	−5	38
19 Cardiff City	42	12	12	18	−16	36
20 Preston North End (R)	42	11	14	17	−21	36
21 Bristol City (R)	42	7	16	19	−22	30
22 Bristol Rovers (R)	42	5	13	24	−31	23

Player focus

After coming up through the ranks at Kenilworth Road, **Paul Price** was a dependable foil to Mike Saxby in the heart of the defence. Sadly, he was to depart to Tottenham in the summer.



Season standout

Ever present **Ricky Hill**, showing silky smooth skills in the Town's midfield, had the international selectors showing interest. He would need to bide his time though before receiving an England call-up.



S2 Luton v Stockport.indd 66 19/03/2026 15:46

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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**

STOCKPORT COUNTY

MANAGER **DAVE CHALLINOR**

1	BEN **HINCHCLIFFE**
2	JOSH **DACRES-COGLEY**
3	OWEN **DODGSON**
4	LEWIS **BATE**
5	JOSEPH **OLOWU**
6	ARTTU **HOSKONEN**
7	JACK **DIAMOND**
8	CALLUM **CAMPS**
9	TANTO **OLAOFE**
11	MALIK **MOTHERSILLE**
12	ROMAN **DIXON**
14	TAYO **EDUN**
15	ETHAN **PYE**
16	CALLUM **CONNOLLY**
18	LEWIS **FIORINI**
19	KYLE **WOOTTON**
20	LOUIE **BARRY**
22	BENONÝ **ANDRESSON**
23	BEN **OSBORN**
24	TYLER **ONYANGO**
25	MAX **METCALFE**
26	OLIVER **NORWOOD**
27	ODIN **BAILEY**
28	JOSH **STOKES**
29	ADAMA **SIDIBEH**
33	BRAD **HILLS**
34	COREY **ADDAI**
48	CHE **GARNDER**

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