

By Hatters for Hatters

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## hatters matters

... a word from the editor

CAST your minds back to the summer of 2008. It certainly wasn't the summer of love... more the summer of hate between the football authorities and LTFC.

After the massive points deduction, Football League chairman Brian Mawhinney spouted some claptrap about

understanding why Town fans were upset at the punishment, adding: "No doubt they will balance this unhappiness against their pleasure in being able to watch their team play league football".

Well Brian, we're still unhappy. A fact you're sure to discover when

our fans inevitably make some sort of protest today.

We see Lord Mawhinney is, ironically, being presented to the teams ahead of kick-off (unless he chickens out). He's got a nerve. Make sure you vent your anger by booing/whistling as loud as you possibly can.

Don't forget to see this week's issues of The Luton News, Dunstable Gazette and Herald&Post for our in-depth coverage of the cup final.

There'll also be a full match report and post-match reaction on our website [lutontoday.co.uk](http://lutontoday.co.uk)



## suited and booted

a look behind the scenes as Hatters get the tailors in ahead of today's match



What are you doing here Ian? I've been told to keep the costs down. You're cup-tied, you're not getting a suit!



Our guys really do have no fashion sense. I told George the shirt doesn't go with the suit



While the players were sorted with their suits, Nico (livid about his five-match ban and the minus 30 points) was being fitted up for a leash so Mick can keep him under control in case the captain bumps into any FA/FL bigwigs at the final



The tailor hesitated as she fitted up our keeper. Like a succession of Town managers, she's not sure if Deano quite measures up



Sam's not bad in the air, but here's proof he struggles a bit on the floor



Nico was spitting feathers when he got hammered with that five-game ban. But he's vowed to keep himself busy during the run-in by doing some videoing for the Hatters' website





# Irons in the Wembley fire

a guide to our cup final opponents



**Joe Murphy:** Irish goalkeeper picks up more yellow cards for time-wasting than any other Iron player. Expect the vociferous Dubliner to be heard all around Wembley when it comes to barking out orders to his back four.



**Josh Lillis:** Young shot-stopper will be glad to see Scunthorpe travel to the final by coach because of his insane fear of flying. He had to drive the 650-mile round trip to Plymouth last season while the rest of the squad went by air.



**Cliff Byrne:** One of United's biggest characters, the former Sunderland youngster took over as club captain in December. Byrne is the old man of back four - despite only being 26.



**Andrew Wright:** Mr Utility of the Iron squad shunned a life of sun and soccer in West Virginia to sign for Scunthorpe. Probably the nicest footballer on the planet too.



**Krystian Pearce:** England U19 defender on loan from Birmingham. Began his career as a striker and often tries to trick his way out of trouble at the back. Softly spoken, but a big influence.



**Joseph Mills:** Southampton loanee is known around the club simply as Fish. It stems from the fact his brother Matthew Mills - a defender at Doncaster Rovers - kept mispronouncing his first name when the duo were young, calling him Joe-fish!



**David Mirfin:** Solid centre-back is only 23 - but looks a good 10 years older. Speak to the Yorkshireman ahead of any match and he'll tell you it's 'a tough game'.



**Sam Togwell:** Midfield enforcer arrived at Glanford Park with the nickname of 'Dogwell' according to boss Nigel Adkins. The former Barnsley ace's bite is definitely much worse than his bark!



**Grant McCann:** Classy international midfield playmaker, who seems to get an unusual amount of stick from Iron fans for not being influential enough, despite providing numerous assists.



**Matt Sparrow:** Ageing veteran of the club. Despite only being 27, the midfielder is the longest-serving member of the squad and is part of the furniture now.



**Martyn Woolford:** The winger's flowing locks are regularly ruffled by some dazzling runs down the left flank. Looks posh, but doesn't sound it.



**Kevan Hurst:** Nicknamed 'Brucey' due to his large chin, but can take stick and dish it out if required. The midfielder is good with the banter too.



**Henri Lansbury:** Arsenal loanee who is always keen to do a bizarre dance after scoring a goal. The box-to-box midfielder has England U17 and U19 honours.



**Kayode Odejayi:** Genuine gentle giant. Towers over most with an imposing frame, but a thoroughly decent chap, always with a smile on his face.



**Gary Hooper:** Incredibly shy with the media, but his goal-scoring antics have made him the talk of the town as he looks to go one better than former star striker Billy Sharp.



**Paul Hayes:** Tricky player whose creativity makes him a big favourite with the fans.... despite his cockney accent! Has scored plenty of goals in his two spells at the club.

# Alexander the great?

FORMER Hatters full-back Graham Alexander will have more than half an eye on events at Wembley today, writes Tom Skinner.

The Scottish international joined Scunthorpe from school and spent seven years there before an unspectacular spell with Luton in the late '90s.

Along with characters such as Tresor Kandol and Vidar Riseth that failed to excel at Kenilworth Road, Alexander has been transformed since leaving, enjoying Championship football with both Preston and Burnley.

However, having missed out on a

Wembley appearance this season when Burnley lost to Tottenham in the semi-finals of the Carling Cup, Alexander is understandably a little envious of the players today.

He said: "Thanks for bringing the Spurs game up! Yeah obviously we were only two minutes away from a cup final - but football can do that to you sometimes. I played at the old Wembley with Scunthorpe in 1992 in the play-off final and we lost on penalties. It wasn't a great feeling."



More of the same today please!

Anyway, with talk recently of Luton's proposed new stadium using Boavista's ground as a blueprint, Alexander was keen to voice his own suggestion.

He said: "Luton don't need a flashy ground - something along the lines of Walsall's place - or in fact

Scunthorpe's ground would be perfect." Lovely. That would make the 60-year wait worth every minute!

Alexander also admitted he is

devastated about Luton's plight, adding: "It would be the biggest miracle of all time if Luton stayed up - a greater achievement than Manchester United winning the Premiership.

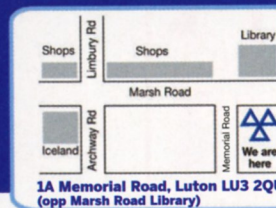
"Every man and his dog knows about the points deduction and it's terrible what's happened because the people who caused the problems aren't there any more. Luton are fighting like hell to stay in the division and I'm willing them to stay up."

Well, any opponent of the FA is a friend of ours. You're forgiven for that dodgy defending Graham!

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# 2020 vision

We speak to Gary Sweet, managing director of the LITFC2020 consortium.



AROUND 10,000 youngsters could be cheering on the Hatters at Wembley today and Town managing director Gary Sweet hopes that they are the future "lifeblood" of the club.

"It's our very future. It's what we are building our business base on. It's vital we convert a number of those supporters into regular Hatters," he said.

Sweet revealed that some young supporters, who have bought a ticket for the final, would also receive a discount on a season ticket for the next campaign, adding: "That's when you start to fill the ground with people who will be loyal for the future."

He also hopes that if the Hatters win the final, the Football League will allow them to defend the trophy

– even though that isn't allowed at present.

Sweet said: "That would certainly increase our profile next season."

However, he admitted that despite all the excitement surrounding the cup final it has still been a bittersweet season for the Hatters because of the points deductions from the Football League and FA.

He said: "We've been playing a cup final every week over the last year, so for us it's just another one."

"It's extended our season. I think a lot of our fans had given up two months ago."

"It's magnificent. We've got 40,000 people pretty much going to Wembley. It underlines what a fantastic support we've got and a fantastic town that is

getting behind the club in its hour of need."

And Sweet was also full of praise for manager Mick Harford who has guided the club through the most difficult spell in its history.

He said: "A lot of people have really underestimated Mick this season. Mick's ability to keep the lads focused on the challenge is awe-inspiring. We are very proud of him."

"I think he has done brilliantly to get to the final, as have the players."

"When the pressure of the 30 points is off we can play football with less of a mountainous task."

So far the cup final appearance has cost the Hatters £20,000, but tickets sales from the day should earn them up to £400,000 after Luton and

Scunthorpe have paid Wembley for the hire of the venue and the Football League has taken its 10 per cent cut.

However, Sweet was disappointed with how much policing and stewarding for the day will cost.

He said: "We understand the cost of such an operation. But what's disappointing is we are being penalised for not being able to sell more tickets."

"I think it's a bit of a shame the organisation from the outset was not as well planned as it could."

Speaking on Thursday, Sweet said of today's big match: "We are clearly excited. I'm trying to get a day off on Saturday just to compose myself for Sunday."

# Trophy special

Who will get the paint pot finish just right?



steve  
sims

**Town 1 S'thorpe 1**  
(Town win on pens)

IT may be a Wembley final, but the pressure really is off today. There's no need to worry about the league struggle and no-one particularly expects us to upset a League One play-off chasing side – apart from our army of 40,000 fans!

The real danger today is the kids freeze and we end up regretting how we never gave it a really good go (like the Chelsea semi 14 years ago). That's why we need that attacking 4-3-3 formation. Attack from the first minute really is the best form of defence. After all, can you really see Town keeping a clean sheet!

After a season which began with some harsh penalties from the FL/FA and continued with Hatters beating Brentford, Altrincham and Brighton on penalties, I can see Town shoving two fingers up at the authorities by winning the cup on spot-kicks.



mark  
wood

**Town 2 S'thorpe 0**

I'VE experienced both the agony and ecstasy of seeing the Hatters play at Wembley.

I was just seven when I saw them surrender to Reading in 1988 before ousting the Gunners in fantastic fashion just a few weeks later.

I also witnessed the defeats to both Forest and Chelsea, but today's going to be different.

Today is hopefully a mark of the things to come and it will be the youngsters that take centre stage.

Hotshots Tom Craddock and Chris Martin will score the goals, while Asa Hall and Ed Asafu-Adjaye will also play starring roles.

But the old heads will play their parts too. With both George Pilkington and Kevin Nicholls back in the mix, we will have enough steel to blunt the Iron charge.

Now whether we choose to lift the trophy – that's a completely different story....



alec  
swann

**Town 1 S'thorpe 2**

The Johnstone's Paint Trophy has been a welcome distraction for Mick Harford's men.

With no points to play for, the performances have been free of any shackles and an appearance at Wembley is well deserved.

The defeat of Brighton at Kenilworth Road showed exactly what the Hatters are capable of and they are going to need more of the same against Scunthorpe.

The Iron are having a good season with promotion to the Championship a real possibility.

But higher league opposition have been seen off on more than one occasion – think Colchester, Walsall and Brighton – and there is no reason why it can't occur again.

However, the Iron could have a little too much for the Hatters and will claim victory by the odd goal.

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We would all like to wish Luton Town FC the best of luck at Wembley

### STEVE'S LINE-UP



Subs: Button, Asafu-Adjaye, Roper, Jarvis, Davis

### MARK'S LINE-UP



Subs: Button, Jarvis, Roper, Davis, Gnarkpa

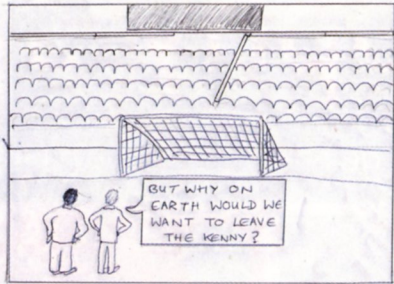
### ALEC'S LINE-UP



Subs: Button, Gnarkpa, Howells, Roper, Davis

our survey says... The orange 'experts' get their crystal balls out (ahem)





The LITFC latest with our cartoonist Sally-Anne Johnson

Kenny capers

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BRIGHT: Luton  
Town's prodigious  
U11s line up for  
the camera, below,  
and celebrate, top.  
What else may the  
future bring?



SO it's taken us 15  
years to get back to  
Wembley.

For a whole  
generation of Luton  
fans this will be  
their first-ever  
opportunity to see  
the Hatters play at  
England's national  
stadium.

Not bad for an  
unfashionable club  
like Luton and  
hopefully this time  
our return to see  
the triumphal arch  
won't take so long.

But if it does take  
another 15 years I  
think we'll be

pretty well placed –  
and we certainly  
won't be playing for  
the Johnstone's  
Paint Trophy!

By then our  
phenomenal U11  
team that fought  
off competition  
from all over the  
world to win the  
Aarau Masters  
tournament in  
Switzerland in  
February will be in  
their prime –  
provided they  
haven't been  
poached by anyone  
else!

Luton Town's

youngsters defeat-  
ed German giants  
Bayern Munich 3-2  
in the final to lift  
the trophy and  
who's to say in 15  
years they won't  
repeat that feat.

Champions of  
Europe? You never  
know. Manchester  
United's youngsters  
could only manage  
ninth and look at  
them.

Let's just hope we  
can keep the  
triumphant squad  
of Willem Van Der  
Schoot, George  
Murray, Cole Da

Silva, Jay Da Silva,  
Frankie Musonda,  
Steven Wake, Jack  
Newland, Jamal  
Lewis, James Justin  
and Louis Michel  
Yamfam together.

In fact, their  
fantastic exploits  
can still be seen at  
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They've already  
beaten the best in  
the world and a 3-2  
victory against  
Bayern in the  
Champions League  
final in 2024 would  
suit us down to the  
ground...



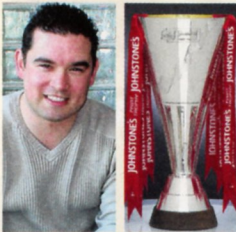
# The 'Midas' touch?

by Tom Skinner

WHEN Luton were hit by the 30-point deduction in the summer, many of us were disgusted by not only the football authorities' betrayal, but at how little coverage the injustice got nationally.

On that dreadful day in July, according to the BBC website, Steve Sidwell joining Aston Villa was regarded as more important than the practical death sentence handed out to the Hatters.

However, one man that was sufficiently appalled by events was Dean 'Midas' Maynard, a psychic with a reputation



for influencing the future.

Dean's offer to try and help the Town miraculously beat the drop was warmly accepted by chairman Nick Owen, but a combination of living in Durham and other work commitments have prevented him from influencing Luton's fortunes as much as he would like.

However, Dean is aiming to be at Wembley this afternoon in order to try and give Luton that extra bit of luck.

He said: "I've spoken to Nick Owen and wished Luton all the best for Sunday.

"It may sound like a kop out, but above the result I'm willing Luton fans to enjoy the day - as they've had a pretty depressing season. I'm involved in predicting the outcome of the Grand National on the Saturday, so I'll try not to use up all my powers there!"

The only game Dean has attended this season ended in a 3-1

win for Luton over Aldershot and Dean hinted that his psychic powers would have been more effective if he had been in contact with the players.

"Perhaps I could have prevented the injuries if I had got close to the players!," he said.

"I'm hoping to meet up with the squad in pre-season so I can show them I'm not a crackpot! All I'll say is - judge how good I am on results next season!"

So just remember, when we struggle to beat nine-man Eastbourne Borough at home next season, it's all down to the man with the golden touch...



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# girls' world



so women and football don't mix? not so says our Orange girlie Becky Gazeley

EVEN though I have been studying in Leicester for the past 18 months, the moment the word 'Luton' is mentioned on the TV or radio my ears prick up.

And as I wait for the newsreader to tell me the inevitable horrific update on my birthplace, it soon becomes clear once again why Luton was named one of the worst places to live in this country – or at least why outsiders would believe that to be true.

Viz magazine's top tip section suggests that "to reduce the chance of depression and possible suicide – move away from Luton".

And we're not helping ourselves either. Ask old Lutonians and they will tell you the town has 'changed' in a dreary tone and whittle off stories of Cheapside and the good old days.

I am just as bad though... when anybody at university asks me where I live, I claim near St Albans or London. To add to the depressing factor, just look at our football club, Luton Town, who I have

been watching religiously since I was five years old. A club whose shirt I wear with pride on sports nights at uni, only to be mocked by the 'fans' of the 'bigger' teams.

These are fans who watch their team on the TV screen and have never felt the atmosphere of a ground like Kenilworth Road.

They are fans that hear their club's name on the news regularly and don't scream 'silence', like us Hatters, when a mention of our team features at the end of a sports bulletin! The problem is, I have no comeback to "So where are you in the league tables Becky?"

This is why it is such a shock to me that I am now experiencing well-wishing.

The tables turned the moment we qualified for the final of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy. People all over the country (apart from Scunthorpe) are behind Luton. The -30 fiasco has caught the attention and compassion of so many football supporters. I feel like the injured

lion that is being lead into the wild with a crowd of people urging me to survive.

And with what looks like 35,000+ people supporting our football team today, I can't help but feel a lump in my throat. In fact, nine members of my family are sat with you today. Not one of them has watched Luton in 10 years. But like my dad and I, their link is with my late grandfather, who started watching Luton Town with his father many, many moons ago.

And this is exactly what today is all about, especially for those hundreds of children who are watching Luton for the first time because they wanted a trip to the new Wembley. But hopefully they will come away with the passion and excitement I felt from my first game. We can assure them it won't always be as special as today, but it will always be nearly as exciting.

And this evening, having won or lost. I look forward to hearing the word 'Luton' come from my TV.

# Quick, to the batmobile....

WINNING the Johnstone's Paint Trophy and avoiding the looming spectre of relegation would make Luton's current crop of players superheroes in the eyes of most Hatters fans.

Spider-man has already put in an appearance in Luton's away following once this season and how we could do with the likes of Batman to help our cause.

Big centre-half Ian Roper might bear more than just a passing resemblance to the Incredible Hulk, so it's no surprise



London, New York, Paris .... Luton

Luton's stars have enlisted the help of the Dark Knight's assistant – well a Robin Reliant at any rate...

The purchase of the yellow three-wheeled beast, which sadly lacks the Trotters'

Independent Traders logo emblazoned on the side, has helped to gee up the Hatters' training sessions ahead of the big Wembley cup final.

Midfielder Asa Hall revealed the decrepit



contraption was the brainchild of captain Kevin Nicholls and left-back Sol Davis, saying: "That's a little Wembley treat for the lads."

"The worst player on a Friday has a run-around in the Robin."

"It's just a spin in front of the lads and a bit of embarrassment."

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# O'Cahan you believe it?

Hatters fan John O'Cahan gives his verdict on the latest Kenilworth Road news

WEMBLEY Stadium.

To any football fan, young or old, rich or poor, Arsenal or Aldershot, it holds a special place in the heart.

The mere mention of the famous ground conjures up memories for any fan. A Hatters' eyes will glaze over as he remembers Andy Dibble's penalty save from Nigel Winterburn, Brian Stein's winner with the last kick of the game and Steve Foster lifting the Littlewoods Cup.

Of course, in the name of progress, the famous twin towers are no more and instead an enormous arch looms over the North London landscape. The old Empire Stadium is now gone and a modern

arena has taken its place.

Some of the greatest sporting moments took place at Wembley.

Geoff Hurst's hat-trick, which saw the World Cup finally return to English soil; Stanley Matthews' magnificent performance against Bolton that saw Blackpool win the FA Cup 4-3; Dave Beasant's Crazy Gang defeating the Culture Club of Liverpool in 1988 - these are only a few of the wonderful memories.

However, some remember that a certain team from Bedfordshire played at this famous ground. Some recall happily, and others not.

Here I will focus on the marvellous 1994 FA Cup run.

Luton Town arrived at Wembley for the semi-final against Glenn Hoddle's Chelsea after a superb run that saw Southend, Newcastle, Cardiff and West Ham all fall by the wayside.

With David Pleat in his second spell as boss, Luton had players such as John Hartson, Ceri Hughes and Kerry Dixon in the team.

Star winger Scott Oakes had notched a treble against West Ham in the replay at Kenilworth Road, David Preece from the 1988 team was still in midfield, and a young forward from Leicester named Tony Thorpe was just breaking into the squad.

A total of 27,500

Hatters fans saw Luton go down 2-0 to the men from Stamford Bridge, with John Spencer getting both goals for the Blues.

The result was disastrous - Luton lost five on the spin afterwards, not scoring a goal in any of them, and only narrowly avoided relegation from the second tier.

Ironically, had Luton beaten Chelsea, the fact that finalists Manchester United also won the league title would have seen Luton competing in Europe!

But I suppose it wasn't meant to be.

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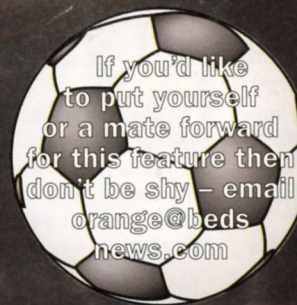
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Jodie & Louise



# Got any tickets ?...

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>> On the morning of the 1959 match wing-half John Groves caught a bus from his home in Sundon Park to meet up with his colleagues at Kenilworth Road.

>> The 1959 FA Cup final, which the Hatters lost 1-2

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## Wembley anecdotes aplenty from Town historian Roger Wash

decided to listen to the club's Hatters Hotline on the hotel telephone before turning in for the night.

He woke the following morning still listening to the dulcet tones of Brian Swain on the loop and was then presented with a bill for several hundred pounds.

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Trophy and was played for by shipyard workers in Middlesbrough.

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The Football League took the news philosophically. "I suppose Luton can be



NICE WHEELS: Circa 1959 transport for the more discerning Hatters spectator

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Within a couple of minutes of the announcement on radio, the Town were inundated with calls from fans, some pledging their support with others wanting their ticket money back.

The callers were all thanked and gently asked to note the date - it was April 1!

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>> Just a week before the

Town's FA Cup semi-final clash with Chelsea at Wembley in 1994, came the shock news that the Hatters were to be thrown out of the competition

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The Hammers had apparently protested that the Town's floodlights

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# Come On You HATTERS



**Neil and Patrick wish Luton Town FC good luck in today's final**

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# C'mon you Hatters...

**We asked you to send in your goodwill messages for the team and teased you with the carrot of a pair of Wembley tickets. Here's what you had to say....**

>> Was with you there 50 years ago. Let's go one better for Syd and the 1959 boys. Peter Cain, Luton  
>> All of Luton are behind you lads. Let's win this and then beat the drop. That will show the FA! Ian Arnold, Luton  
>> COME ON U HATTERS LETS SHOW THE FA WHAT LUTON'S ABOUT. DAVE BYWATERS, LUTON  
>> Good luck Luton. Lets win the cup and hopefully it will spur us on to avoid relegation. Stephen O'Donnell, Luton  
>> good luck luton I know you will win - come on the hatters! M mariga, luton  
>> I've been Luton since birth 1957. I've seen good and bad times but a Wembley win will show we are not a club who die. Gerry Mead of Luton  
>> come on you hatters, love michelle, luton  
>> gd luck u hatters, let it be lucky luton not losing luton. ANON  
>> all the best boys at wembley enjoy the day out give your all its been a tuff season but you have done us proud week in and week out this has made a difficult season worth it i'm so proud to be a lutonian! ELoka Oji of Luton  
>> GOOD LUCK COME ON U HATTERS MAKE MY SONS 14TH BIRTHDAY A DAY TO REMEMBER. U KNOW U CAN DO IT. ANON  
>> show the country just what luton is really all about, true winners good luck boys. mr steve jeeves, luton  
>> COME ON THE TOWN GO STEAMING IN BOYS AND BRING THAT TROPHY BACK 2 LUTON CMON THE HATTERS, THOMAS DUFFY, LUTON  
>> Goodluck u hatters go all the way, kelly embleton, luton  
>> Good luck Town, we have been through the worst and the stage is now set for us to win the cup. We will be cheering you on at Wembley! Stevie.  
>> Goodluck Mick and lads. Hope you all enjoy your day out win or lose you have done us fans proud this long hard season so whatever happens today savour every minute and remember you are all heroes. All the best Derek Borino  
>> All our very best wishes to the Hatters for much deserved success on April 5th, Mike Moore & family, Luton  
>> good luck at wembley, up the hatters! S. Scott, luton  
>> We did it in 88 lets do it in 09 Good luck to Mick and the lads. Jim Carway, Luton

>> Good luck Hatters. You can take home that trophy Adam Pienkowski, Luton  
>> u guys are gonna win no matter wat go on luton! ANON  
>> good luck wishes and hoping for a deserved win from sharon welburn, Luton  
>> come on you hatters was there in 1988 my little girl is 9 now i would love her to see the hatters at the famous stadium, david brammer  
>> was there in 1988 wot a year come on you rip roaring hatters, david brammer  
>> GOOD LUCK BOYS, LETS BRING THE SILVER WARE HOME, I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT. Cmon YOU HATTERS! Chris Lawlor, luton  
>> Good Luck Luton Town - Lads, do yourselves and the town proud - put Luton in the headlines for all the right reasons. Peter Pedder, Luton  
>> come on luton you can do it. Michelle Pratt, Luton  
>> come on the town. Paul Duncan, Luton  
>> A big thank you to Gary Sweet, Antony Brown, Stephen Browne, Nick Owen & all in the supervisory board, for keeping our club alive! To every member of the squad, do yourself, Micky and us proud and get what you and all of us (loyal supporters) deserve! Cheers, DAZ  
>> GOOD LUCK LUTON TOWN ON APRIL 5TH, WHAT EVER HAPPENS THIS SEASON YOU HAVE SHOWN THAT YOU ARE ALLREADY WINNERS... MR D LEE, LUTON  
>> Oh come on luton town we need to lift our heads up and not in shame as the news is about how bad the town is as the troops. Showed us on Tuesday. So come on and lets keep our heads up and support the town at wembley. MR G N BURNAGE  
>> You didnt need my good luck to get to the final, so you wont need it to win! Go get that cup! Emma Peat, Dunstable  
>> good luck to the lads at luton football club cum on lads karl mcphree, luton  
>> good luck luton lets bring home the cup - from wesley  
>> good look luton lets bring home the cup. miss rebecca wilson  
>> good luck lads come on you Hatters do it 4 all us fans out there. Kevyn  
>> come on you HATTERS! ANON  
>> hi luton town im so very proud that u r on your way to wembley. I am proud to be an adopted lutonian  
good luck marjorie burns





congratulations to our Wembley winners Mike Moore, Jim Hewett, Michelle Pratt, Thomas Tillier, Emma Buckingham, Kim Harris, Francis Gilloran, David Brammer, Clive Groom and Gerry Mead who each won a pair of tickets to today's match

>> hi i would just like to say congrats to the luton team. I think its amazing and a wonderful acheivement after all the bad stuff that has happened. If we win this trophy on the 5th of april then i think it will be justice for all our supporters who have never stopped believing no matter how bad the league results have been.

Finally i just wanna say good luck on the day and i'll be watching and hopefully we can bring some joy back. michael dowing, luton

>> keep going fellas, stephen ptolomey, luton

>> GOOD LUCK HATTERS YOU CAN LIFT THE CUP MAKE THE TOWN EVEN PROUDER. TOM GERRARD, LUTON

>> Harfords heroes bring home the cup and show the FA lutons true spirit GLEN STILL, LUTON

>> good luck in the cup and league from adam still, luton

>> Good luck boys even though you wont need it as you would win playin with 1 arm and 1 foot tied together! Hatters for ever! Emma Buckingham, Luton  
>> come on u hatters lets paint wembley orange with our glee. derek fairley, luton

>> come on luton lets show the F.A. what luton is about. ANON

>> good luck lads, be proud of who you are and what youve achieved, you deserve this trophy! All the best! Steven Taylor, Luton

>> Good luck Luton Town for the upcoming Johnstones Paint Trophy game at Wembley. Forget all the troubles this club has had in this recent couple of years and go out there show the FA, the football league and the rest of the footballing world that this club will never be beaten no matter what punishments they throw at us. Make all us Luton supporters more proud than we already are. Good luck boys. Luton town fc will never die. James

>> good luck the hatters do it for the old squad 1980S AS MUCH AS THE NEW SQUAD COME ON LUTON town you deserve to win come on come on clive groom, barton-le-clay

>> cmon u hatters we remember 88 bring the memories back and we hope u stay up. Chris Rogers, luton

>> Good luck, good luck-good luck-good luck, good luck, good lu-uck! to Luton Town and to me to win tickets. Joe Brady

>> hey guys saw some of you in town today come on boys we all Luv ya do luton proud prove we are great. Luv emma knight-Keech

>> come on the hatters, after 16 years of supporting

>> There are more of your good luck messages on page 30

the town with all my heart and soul, we finally get our time to sing, UP THE HATTERS! ANON.

>> good luck you hatters from an arsenal fan who doesnt bear grudges. David the gooner, kensworth

>> COME ON YOU HATTERS. WE R SO PROUD TO BE LUTON FOREVER! ANON

>> good luck boys we can do it come the town colin griffiths, Houghton Regis

>> WE KNOW YOU CAN DO IT WERE WITH YOU ALL THE WAY, L GRIFFITHS

>> We must believe in luck. The harder the team has worked this season, the more we seem to have had. In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity and this is ours, so come on lads lets take it! Marcus Power, Newcastle Upon Tyne

>> Good Luck boys! You and all the fans deserve this and it will be a great day out! Thanks to all at LT2020 for saving our Club. Ian Cardall

>> The pressure's all on them, so go out there, show them how good we are and bring back the cup! Cheers, James

>> Good Luck to Mick and the Boys. Been a lifetime supporter and want a reversal of 50 years ago we got to the cup final and lost and got demoted-this time a reverse of fortune Hatters to win the cup and avoid relegation by a whisper. Colin Waldron, South Croydon

>> really hope we win so pleased we sold more tickets than any team at wembley up the hatters thomas tillier, edlesborough

>> YOURE GOING TO WEMBLEY TO WIN WOULD BE GREAT TO SEE FOR MY MATE KEV AND ME COME ON YOU HATTERS. IAN RICHARDSON, DUNSTABLE

>> good luck town . You can do it. All the best x heather baymar, caddington

>> Lets bring some sunshine to the town.come on luton. spencer shane, stopsley

>> good luck 2 Luton @ wembley. Followed the Town since 1968 & altho' living away i watch them regularly. i would love 2 win this prize & take my son. Mick Kent, snitterfield.

>> My very best wishes and good luck lads. You can do it I have every faith in you. UP THE HATTERS. Love Maz x

>> good luck Hatters :- ) my husband has supported you man and boy. He turned 50 last month and has had a run of bad luck recently (not unlike you guys) I think you both deserve some good luck. Please guys make his day! LTFC we love you. Come on you Hatters ! Catherine xxx

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Lindon said "In the 3 years since joining Autosmart my profit has really grown and I now earn double what I was earning before. I definitely made the right choice with Autosmart, the initial support and training was fantastic but you can't beat the on-going back-up from Head Office. Changing businesses is a big decision, but with my valeting experience it wasn't hard to really make a massive difference - to my customers, my income and my lifestyle."

Would you recommend an Autosmart Franchise then? "Definitely, I now have a better quality of life and am so successful I have just replaced my second hand showroom with a brand new one, it's great!"

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# I could swing for him...



Celtic Youth coach Danny

Keane, aged nine

by Claire Danaher

WHEN Hatters made it to Wembley, one fan was more excited than most.

That's because Danny Danaher thought Town reaching the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final would land him the gift of a golf course from one of Luton's players.

Keith Keane flippantly made the promise when he was just nine and playing for Luton Celtic Youth Club, where Danny was a coach.

Danny, 52, from Luton, said: "When the team got to Wembley I was really happy and then I remembered the promise. We were

## "If I ever get to Wembley I'll buy you a golf course," promises Keane

playing golf with my son when they were nine and I said to Keith that he would get to Wembley one day. He didn't believe me and said if he ever did get there he would buy me a golf course."

Now Keith has got to Wembley, Danny is keen to collect. A nervous Keane told us: "Yeah, I don't think this trip to Wembley would pay for that, but if I ever

did make it that big, I'm sure I would still give him one."

Danny's reaction? "I'm not sure I can let him off, he did promise it!" he joked.

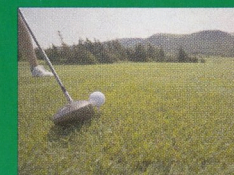
He added: "Well maybe I'll settle for a round of golf until he can afford the whole course after he wins the FA Cup final - which I'm sure he will one day."

Keith, moving quickly on, is looking

forward to Wembley, but isn't the most hyper in the dressing room. He revealed: "The most excited is Mickey Spillane."

"He's like the big kid of the team, always excited and bouncing round the place."

Of the showpiece match, he added: "I hope we go out there and play the best we can - and we'll hope for the best basically."





# Town's road to Wembley

IT'S been a tough time for Luton Town, but the beleaguered Hatters are on their way to Wembley for the final of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy, writes Robert Edwards.

The first match of the competition was a clash with **Brentford** at Kenilworth Road.

Two goals in the first half from the visitors left the home side facing defeat, but striker Chris Martin and Garreth O'Connor struck to set up a tense penalty shoot-out.

Harry Worley may have booted his effort over the bar, but two brilliant saves by Conrad Logan and unerring strikes from sub Paul McVeigh,

Asa Hall, Martin and captain Rossi Jarvis put Town through.

Next up for the Hatters was a more straightforward defeat of **Walsall**.

Town dominated in the first half with McVeigh, Martin and Tom Craddock all going close, but Luton finally booked their passage through with two minutes left when Martin crossed for Jarvis to score.

League One **Colchester United**

were the next team to be put to the sword, when Luton struck gold half an hour in with a goal from Claude Gnaka. The U's picked up the pace, but Town were not to be denied as they progressed into the semi-finals.

Town started the two-legged affair against **Brighton & Hove Albion** with a trip to the Withdean Stadium.

Chances on the south coast were at a premium as the first installment finished goalless.

Back on home turf, the Hatters took the lead after just two minutes when Craddock waltzed in to score following a mix-up between Gulls

goalie Michel Kuipers and defender Adam Virgo. Ian Roper then went close before Nicky Forster levelled for the Seagulls.

The rest of the game was played at a rigorous pace, but with no more goals the tie went to penalties again.

Martin, Craddock, Hall, and Ryan Charles all hit the back of the net, and Lewis Price twice denied the visitors to set up a Wembley final against **Scunthorpe**.

And so, what a journey it's been. With all the troubles that have dogged the club, perhaps at last it could be the beginning of a renaissance for the mad Hatters.

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>>> Brush off the -30 points and give us a gloss finish at Wembley. Nigel Holland, Leighton Buzzard

>>> I would like to wish you all the best this is our day to enjoy. Would like to congratulate Mick Harford 2020 and all the players for this fantastic of achievement of getting to Wembley on a season where we have been punished by a 30 point deduction. Hope this will help us for the future. Diane Tillier, Edlesborough

>>> Enjoy playing at Wembley and enjoy winning the Cup. If any team has ever deserved to win at Wembley its us. And we're staying up! Jeremy Goodwyn

>>> Come on lads. Lets show them all that we still know how to win. Tony Quince, Luton.

>>> **COME ON YOU MODERN LEGENDS, SPIRIT OF 88! ANON**

>>> Come on Luton! Mighty Hatters. Martin Longman, Toddington

>>> Come on you Hatters! Pritesh Shah, Luton

>>> Come on Luton! Will Longman, Harlington

>>> come on luton do the town proud! Francis gilloran, Luton

>>> go on my number one boys Sinead Purcell, Luton

>>> Good luck luton!! Score a goal at wembley for me n my 2 angels x danielle blackburn, dunstable

>>> I would like to wish you all the best this is our day to enjoy. Would like to congratulate Mick Harford 2020 and all the players for this fantastic of achievement of getting to Wembley on a season where we have been punished by a 30 point deduction. Thomas Tillier, Edlesborough

>>> On behalf of my husband Martin Killeen, a lifelong fan of Luton Town Fc I would like to wish the team all the very best of luck at Wembley! My husband doesnt know Ive sent this to you- Ive entered as a surpsie as its his birthday on 6th April and he is gutted he hasnt been able to get a ticket for the match! It would make his ( and my) year if he were to win. He doesnt get to see his team in action very often as we live up near



even more of your Wembley good luck messages



Nottingham but he follows them avidly and is passionate about them. Sue Killeen.

>>> Good luck LTFC. Barrie Sillars

>>> good luck you hatters bring on scunthorpe Tom Webb

>>> HT Orange readers say squeeze them until the pips squeak and bring us back the trophy! im Hewett, Campton

>>> **GOOD LUCK YOU HATTERS JOHN OSBORNE, Luton**

>>> To Mick and the team. Good luck this afternoon-and if you decide to snub the non-royal box post match we'll all understand, as will the rest of football. Dave and Kelly Nicholls

>>> Good luck to our boys, lets bring this Trophy home. Agnes Brady

>>> Good luck Luton we are all behind you. wembley will be more orange than david dicksons face. Jim williams, luton.

>>> Mick, we were there with you 20 years ago we will be there this year also, good luck to the Hatters Jim Carway and Family

>>> Come on luton town! Win and do us fans proud. X aneela hussain, luton.

>>> good luck u can do it please make luton look good ive lived here all my life. ANON

>>> good luck 2 Luton @ wembley. 'followed the Town since 1968 & altho' living away i watch them regularly. i would love 2 win this prize & take my son. M Kent, Snitterfield

>>> I would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody connected with Luton Town FC all the very best for the forthcoming Johnstone's Paint Trophy Final. Let's try in some way to evoke the memories of that fantastic afternoon for the club in the April of 1988!. All the very best. Peter Atkinson, Kempston.

You can also view these messages on the Today's Choice and Half-time Orange sections of our website [lutontoday.co.uk](http://lutontoday.co.uk)



>>> Good luck wishes to luton town fc, this is something that the players and supporters have been waiting so long for. Come on you hatters.x amy dugdale, preston.

>>> **GOOD LUCK TO THE HATTERS FOR THE 5TH APRIL - WE SAW YOU TRIUMPH IN '88 AND YOU CAN DO IT AGAIN! FROM THE ROBERTSON FAMILY, WIGMORE, LUTON.**

>>> Our memories of the teams triumph over ARSENAL seems like yesterday. Whatever the outcome you have made the Town proud of you and I wish the whole team the best of luck on Sunday! Ansar and Saima khan, luton

>>> We know you can do it you've done it before. Pat Mitchell, dunstable

>>> **COME ON THE HATTERS.** Rob Croft, Luton

>>> Come on you hatters show us when it matters. Jim Halley, stopsley

>>> Come on you hatters! Martin kearns, Essex

>>> go on u hatters you can win. ANON

>>> Come on the hatters we know you can do it. Karen Mitchell, Luton

>>> come on the hatters! good luck boys! early mitchell, dunstable

>>> Good luck to Mick and all the team for Wembley- win or lose we're proud of you - Luton til I die! Pat Martin, Luton

>>> **WELL DONE LADS! NOW LETS BRING BACK THE CUP AND PAINT THE TOWN ORANGE. ALL THE BEST, BOBBIE**

>>> **COME ON YOU HATTERS! ALISHA PAYNE, LUTON**

>>> 21years since you last lifted a cup and lifted our spirits. Time to do it again lads! Donna Hannan, Luton

>>> good luck mick and the lads do us proud. Gerry mead, luton.

# BANKRUPT STOCK DISPOSALS

**BEDROOM CABINETS/ DRAWERS LESS THAN 1/2 RETAIL PRICES!**

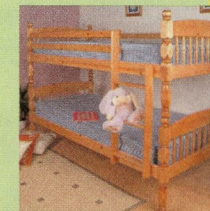
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