

Dunstable Gazette

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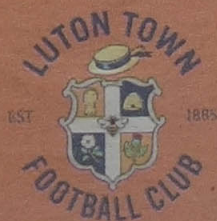


Champions

LEAGUE ONE

BACK TO BACK PROMOTION SPECIAL

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CHAMPIONSHIP



**WE'RE GOING
UP!**

CHAMPIONS 2019

Tell me how good does it feel...

Luton Town were crowned League One champions on Saturday by beating Oxford United 3-1 in front of a packed Kenilworth Road.

The Hatters knew that a win was all they needed and they got that thanks to George Moncur's double and Elliot Lee's strike.

That saw them finish on 94 points, three above Barnsley and led to scenes of unbridled joy amongst the home fans as they celebrated a return to the second tier of English football for the first time since the 2006-07 season.

To show their appreciation, Luton Council held a promotion parade on Sunday, with the Hatters players on an open top bus tour of the town, eventually delivering the trophy to a packed St George's Square.

Boss Mick Harford, who has led the club to promotion since Nathan Jones left in January, said to the thousands of supporters in attendance: "You're the most amazing fans in the country by a mile, absolutely excellent."

"I would like to say a big thank you to the players for

the work they did and the way they went about their business.

"It's absolutely 100 per cent fully deserved, we have now got champions on our hands now."

When asked how he had celebrated the promotion, Harford continued: "It was absolutely brilliant, spending time with the fans."

"I was at a couple of pubs, ended up in the casino, I had a great evening, the atmosphere around the town and around the ground was amazing."

Midfielder Luke Berry said: "It's been a fantastic season, the best two years of my career so far, it's been brilliant."

"Going up as champions, the game, the atmosphere in the stadium, all the fans came on it was brilliant."

Meanwhile, chief executive Gary Sweet, who has worked so hard in getting the green light for Power Court and Newlands Park added: "It's the support we get from our families, from the rest of the staff, but also from this lot out here. This is absolutely beautiful, you are beautiful, I love you lot, this is fantastic."



BACK2BACK PROMOTIONS



Alan Sheehan and Sonny Bradley lift the League One title in front of the crowds in St George's Square.



Hatters chief executive Gary Sweet.



Andrew Shinnie.



Hatters chairman David Wilkinson joins the squad.



Midfielder George Moncur entertains the crowds.



A young fan flies the flag.



Thousands of supporters were in the town centre to greet the title-winning heroes.



The players aboard the open top bus.



Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu takes the microphone.



Matty Pearson lifts the trophy.



The players take in the acclaim from the crowd.

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CHAMPIONS 2019

BACK2BACK PROMOTIONS



CHAMPIONS 2019



Hatters past and present celebrate Town's promotion

Luton players past and present have been celebrating the news that the Hatters will be playing Championship football next season.

A host of players from the current squad and those who have played for the club over the years were quick to take to Twitter in the aftermath of the success.

Club captain Alan Sheehan said: "Back to back promotions. Who would of thought it Championship here we come. Love you all @LutonTown."

While midfielder Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu wrote: "heard it was BACK TO BACK. WE ARE GOING SAY WE ARE GOING UP."

Defender Dan Potts added: "Back to back promotions! What a feeling!! And what a group to do it with!! Let the celebrations begin!!"

While Luke Berry said: "WOW back to back!! We are going up say we are going up," with Players Player of the Season, Andrew Shinie tweeting: "Unbelievable achievement and thoroughly deserved!! A joy to play in this team three promotions

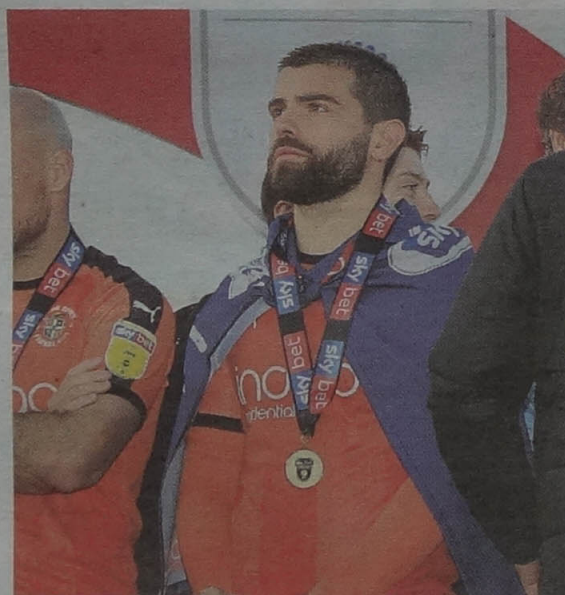
in a row...maybe another next season?!?! @SkyBetChamp here we come @LutonTown."

Experienced midfielder Alan McCormack said: "Get in there u absolute beaut. Unreal year. What a group of players to share this moment with. I love every single one of them. What a day Saturday is gonna be."

Popular defender Matty Pearson continued: "What a feeling it was last night!! Still not fully sunk in @LutonTown we are going up!!!!"

Attacker Elliot Lee tweeted: "WE DID IT!! 2 IN 2 @LutonTown COULDN'T BE PROUDER OF EVERYONE AT THE CLUB!! as Hatter of the Year Jack Stacey said: "What a season!! We are going up," with Danny Hylton adding: "WHAT A BUNCH OF LADS!!! WHAT A TEAM! WHAT A SEASON!"

Keeper James Shea said: "GET IN THERE!!!! WE ARE GOING UP!!!!!!", while fellow stopper Marek Stech said: "We are going up, back to back promotions, unbelievable feeling, what an amazing team,



Elliot Lee proudly displays his medal after the Oxford match.

well deserved."

Meanwhile, chairman David Wilkinson also paid tribute to the squad of players and those who helped Town get back up from their days in the Conference.

While former chairman

and now vice-president Nick Owen tweeted: "On this historic night for Luton Town, huge thanks to the players, coaches, manager Mick H, staff, investors and die hard fellow fans.

"All played a part and

done so much to lift us back into the Championship.

First team coach Inigo Idiakez said: "Well done. So so proud to be part of this incredible team. Championship next year. Congratulations to everyone involved

Former players also had their say on the Hatters' success, with one time manager and star Ricky Hill saying: "Heartfelt congratulations to all the @LutonTown Players, @Mickharford the Staff, the board and our superb supporters on a fantastic achievement...well deserved."

Ex-striker Steve Howard said: "Absolutely buzzing for @LutonTown @Mickharford and the players! Great club, good people and thoroughly deserved! Big things going to be happening with this club!! congrats."

Fan favourite Marvin Johnson said: "Big big congratulations to Luton Town players, staff and board for achieving promotion to the Championship!!!!"

Defender Curtis Davies, who played for the club when they last reached the second tier, said: "Congratulations

to @LutonTown for finally securing promotion back to the Championship. One more push to be champions like this lot."

Ex-striker John Hartson tweeted: "Well done and huge congratulations to Luton Town for winning promotion to the Championship.. #LTFC."

One time defender Matt Taylor said: "Congratulations to everyone at Luton Town on promotion to the Championship. Exciting times ahead!! #hatters. Absolutely buzzing to see @LutonTown promoted back to the championship."

Former loan keeper Christian Walton, now with Wigan on loan, added: "Congratulations to everyone at @LutonTown on back to back promotions, unbelievable achievement!!"

Goalkeeper Dean Brill, who went up with Leyton Orient at the weekend, said: "Two promotions in a week!!!! Get In there @LutonTown back in the champ!! Congrats to everyone involved. Big micks barmy army."

BACK2BACK PROMOTIONS

Harford thanks players, board and supporters

Luton manager Mick Harford sent a message to the club's players, fans and board after the Hatters won promotion to the Championship last week.

Defeats for both Portsmouth and Sunderland meant that Luton secured their place in the second tier of English football with a game to go.

In a video on Twitter, Harford, who took over once Nathan Jones had left in January, winning 12

of his 20 games in charge, with six draws and just two defeats, said: "Congratulations everyone. I'd like to send a big message to all the Luton Town fans, all the fans who have travelled for miles throughout this season and got their just rewards.

Your support has been immense and without it, we wouldn't have got over the line.

"I'd like to also send a message to all the players. The players this season have

been absolutely magnificent from the first game to the last game, which will be on Saturday where the Kenilworth Road will be rocking.

"And I'd also love to send a message to the board and 2020 and the consortium, with their support, things have been immense.

"I'd also like to send a message to Luton Borough Council, thank you for the planning application, Luton Town are going up, we are going up."



Harry Cornick, James Shea and Jack Stacey celebrate in the directors' box following Saturday's game.



JJ O'Donnell, who was part of the team that famously beat Norwich City in the FA Cup, tweeted: "YES-SSSSSS!!!! @LutonTown are promoted to The Championship."

"Congratulations to everyone involved at the club. Another unbelievable achievement. GET IN THERE!!!! WE ARE GOING UP!!!!!!"

Midfielder Paddy McCourt, who played for both Luton and Barnsley said: "Massive congratulations

to two of my old clubs @LutonTown & @BarnsleyFC on promotion to the championship tonight.

"Both clubs are full of great people & it's great to see them back competing at championship level."

Ex-long serving defender Jake Howells said: "Congratulations to @LutonTown on promotion to the championship! Back where they belong."

His fellow team-mate Keith Keane also said: "Absolutely buzzing to see @Lu-

tonTown promoted back to the championship."

While former striker Gary McSheffrey tweeted: "Congrats Mick great achievement mate. Delighted for everyone involved with @LutonTown fully deserved."

Finally, midfielder Cameron McGeehan who is part of the Barnsley side trying to win the title at the weekend as well, added: "Well done to all my friends at @LutonTown as well...best two sides have got what they deserved...see you at the finish

Fans groups' joy at second promotion

The chairmen of the two main Luton Town supporters' groups have expressed delight over a 'momentous' season for the Hatters after promotion was secured.

Luton Town Supporters' Trust chairman, Tony Murray, said: "This is a tremendous end to what has been a momentous season. The two planning approvals and now promotion, which no-one was expecting at the start of the season, is the cherry on the cake.

"This is historic, as Luton had never done back-to-back promotions before.

"It's a great time to be a Lu-



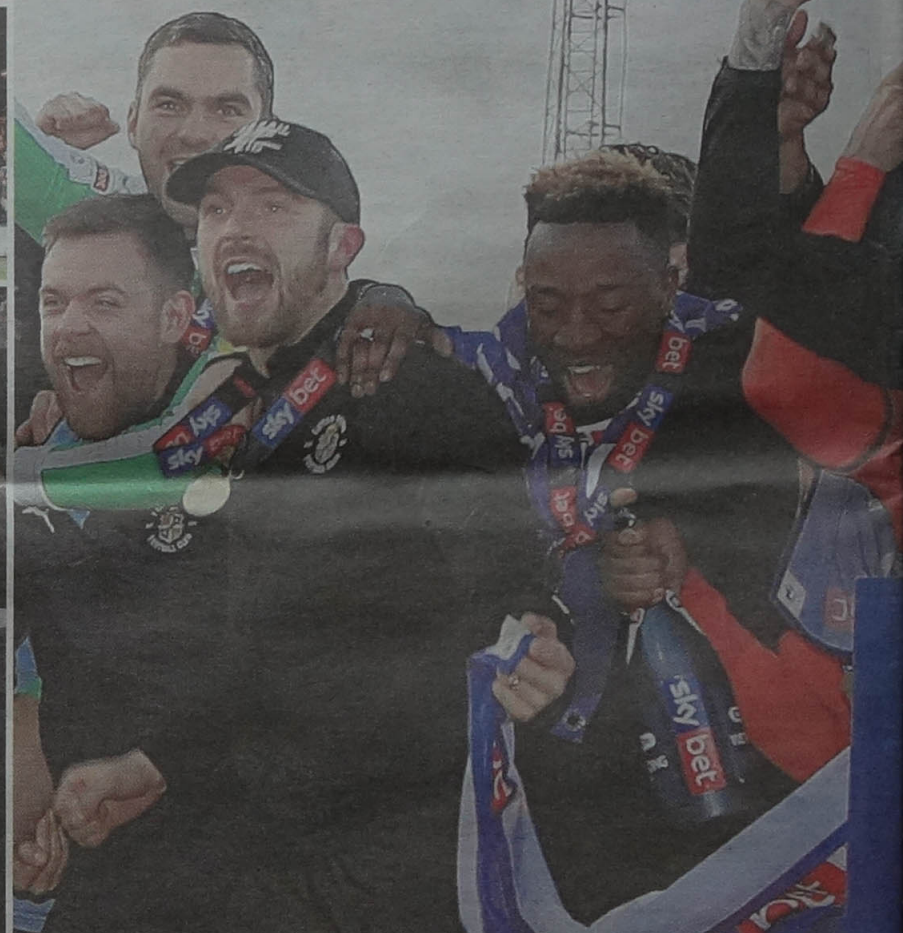
Mark Bradbury and Tony Murray.

ton supporter, a total turnaround from 12 years ago. A big thank you to 2020, the players and management."

Mark Bradbury, chairman of Loyal Luton Supporters' Club, added: "We can finally relax! What an amazing year,

planning approval granted for Power Court and Newlands Park to provide for the long term sustainability and future of the football club and which will also of course be key to the regeneration of the town itself, now topped off with promotion back to the Championship. Fantastic!

"Loyal Luton are obviously so so happy with these mind-blowing achievements and are especially delighted for the investors into 2020 who have put their money into the club and town that they and we all love. Gentlemen we sincerely thank you."



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