

welcome

TO KENILWORTH ROAD

If you didn't have the pleasure of witnessing any of our three home pre-season friendlies then we welcome you all back to Kenilworth Road for what promises a fascinating night of football.

With the Football League programme kicking off at Carlisle on Saturday and with our first home league fixture at Kenilworth Road taking place this coming weekend, tonight's game has its own significance. As you'll read elsewhere in tonight's issue, it's five years to the day that the Hatters last played a League Cup tie at Kenilworth Road - and a lot has happened

With a number of former Swindon players in the Town's ranks, there is plenty of interest in the tie that pits two past winners of the competition

After tonight's fare we're back at Kenilworth Road again for the big one against AFC Wimbledon - the Town's first home match back in the Football League. We'll have a special 100-page issue of Talk of the Town so make you get hold of your copy!

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Follow the Hatters' progress throughout 2014/15

LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB 2020 LTD

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JOHN STILL

Good evening and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for tonight's Capital One Cup tie against Swindon Town.

I don't think it would be right by me starting these notes without saying what fantastic support we had at the opening game of the season at Carlisle on Saturday. It was brilliant backing, but would we expect anything less?

Last year the level of support blew us all away and it was a terrific sight to see so many of you making the longest trip of the season. It wasn't just the numbers though; the noise you created was terrific and made it a great occasion for our players. As I said many times last season, you are the best part of our team – so thank you for playing such a big part in our victory.

Occasion

I think Saturday, in a funny way, was a really emotional day for the football club. It was, of course, a day that so many people had been waiting for so many years. It was a momentous occasion for those players – Alex Lacey, Matt Robinson and Jim Stevenson – who were making their Football League debuts, as well as those players who were making their debuts for the club.

Given the circumstances and the hype surrounding this club's return to the League, I thought the players handled the game extremely well and were a credit to themselves and Luton Town.

We started the game brightly, and deservedly led 1-0 at the break thanks to a really well-worked goal. We could have even added to our tally in the first 45 minutes. After the break Carlisle changed their formation and we were kicking against the wind. We knew, therefore, that we would be under the cosh but we showed great character and discipline to keep Carlisle out.

"WE'VE ALL BEEN THROUGH IT A BIT AS LUTON FANS IN THE LAST EIGHT YEARS OR SO AND THIS MARKS THE START OF A WHOLE NEW ERA FOR OUR FOOTBALL CLUB."

It was unbelievably heavy, having been used for the Horse of the Year Show a week before!

I hardly need to add that we also beat Arsenal 19 years later to lift the trophy too, and we really should have won a year after that when we reached the final again and lost to Nottingham Forest.

So a very warm welcome to everyone from the County Ground tonight and let's hope for a cracking match. Swindon are a League 1 side, of course, so it will be interesting to see how we shape up against them.

Thanks

I must put in a word, as always, about our magnificent support. Some 5,700 season tickets have been sold, well over a thousand travelled all that way to Carlisle for our first match of the new season and record sales in the shop on the day we launched the new kit. Over and over again - thanks.

The players are only too well aware of our magnificent following and the newcomers are relishing the prospect of running out at a packed Kenilworth Road. The players who did so well last season are also raring to go in the higher division. They did brilliantly last time - I see no reason why Vich Den it shouldn't be the

Enjoy the game



Littlewoods Challenge Cup:

Winners 1988, Runners-up 1989

FA Cup:

Runners-up 1959 Semi-finalists 1959, 1985, 1988, 1994

Johnstone's Paint Trophy:

Winners 2009

Simod Cup:

Runners-up 1988

Football League Division Two:

Champions 1981/82 Runners-up 1954/55, 1973/74

Football League Division Three (South):

Winners 1936/37 Runners-up 1935/36

Football League Division Three:

Runners-up 1969/70

League One:

Champions 2004/05

Football League Division Four:

Champions 1967/68

Football League Division Three:

Runners-up 2001/02

Skrill Premier Champions:

2013/14

Blue Square Premier:

Runners-up 2009/10

Southern League Division One:

Runners-up 1894/95, 1895/96

Southern League Division Two:

Runners-up 1913/14

United League:

Champions 1897/98 Runners-up 1896/97, 1900/01

Southern Alliance:

Runners-up 1913/14





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FROM THE DRESSING ROOM WITH SKIPPER STEVE McNULTY

It was a pleasure and an honour to be chosen by the gaffer to captain Luton Town for the forthcoming campaign.

I have gone on record and said how important the move here has been to me, as it came at a time when I was even considering giving up the game completely.

The backing and support I've received from the manager, my team-mates and you the supporters are the main reasons why I'm still playing and why I've got my love of the game back again. It was a huge pleasure to be able to put on the armband for the opening game of the campaign back in the Football League at Carlisle at the weekend.

The result made it even sweeter, too. But what a difference a year makes. 12 months ago we were losing at Southport and I was sent-off! Seriously, though, that result at Southport goes to show you cannot read too much into opening day results. We went onto win the league by 19 points in the end and finished way above Southport. That's why you won't see us getting too excited about the Carlisle result because there is a long, difficult season ahead of us.

What pleased us the most about Saturday was our second half performance when Carlisle came back at us. It highlighted the hard work we put in on the training ground.

In training, the gaffer's methods has the back-four, goalkeeper and one holding defender attempting to stop 11 attackers and we put defending that into practise in the second 45 minutes at Brunton Park. For a good 25 minutes it was backs against the wall stuff but, apart from hitting the post, we restricted Carlisle to shots from distance. We were not fazed by the pressure that Carlisle put us under, and that training exercise stood us in really good stead.

While we want to keep our feet on the ground it wasn't difficult to be impressed with the result and, especially, the winning goal. Cully was in the right place at the right time to finish off a lovely move.

To get the longest trip of the season out of the way in the first game and to come away with all three points is extremely pleasing, and I doubt many teams will leave Carlisle with three points. I wouldn't fancy many teams' chances of going there on a cold Tuesday night in winter and getting something.

Special

That brings me nicely on to the support we received on Saturday. To see over 1,000 of you really brought home to us again – and especially to the new lads – how special this club is. On behalf of all the dressing room thank you. You gave us that little extra lift, especially when we were up against it in the second half.

Tonight our attention turns away from the League and towards the Capital One Cup. We have a few ex-Swindon lads in our side and Benno, Smudger and Rooney's past with them will add that little extra spice.

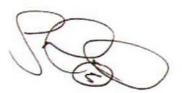
I know their manager Mark Cooper well and he's done a really good job there. They were unlucky not to reach the Play-Offs in League 1 last year so we know how tough the tie will be.

The pressure will be off us but we know if we can play to our potential we can beat anyone here at Kenilworth Road

Last season this place was a fortress for us, and it would give us a great platform to build on if we could begin our home campaign with a victory tonight.

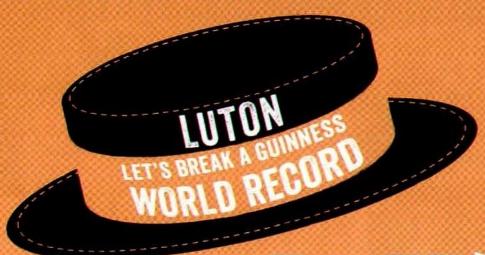
The League is our bread and butter but there's nothing like getting into winning habits early on in the season, no matter what the competition.

It promises to be a great occasion so get behind us tonight and enjoy the game.









WE NED 2000 People to wear STRAW BOATERS WARPOWN PARK MUSEUM 16 AUGUST 2014

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Or visit Wardown Park Museum to register in person. Participants must be available from 11.30am on Saturday 16 August 2014. The first 300 people registered will receive a special Museum Makers gift on the day. If you can't find your own boater, boaters will be available on the day.

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AKE SATURDAY A **FALLOFCOLOUR**

We are calling on Hatters supporters to show their true colours for the Hatters' opening home match of the new season against AFC Wimbledon on Saturday.

As the new Sky Bet Football League season kicks-off, fans across the country are being set the challenge of creating a 'Wall of Colour' at their side's opening home league match. Fans can get involved by donning their club's famous colours, as well as finding the most innovative ways to show off their love for their team through social media using #WallofColour.

The Hatters will be looking to kick off the new season in style, with the first home result often proving a useful pointer to a team's prospects for the season ahead.

Last season, none of the 10 clubs that won promotion from the Sky Bet Championship, League 1 or League 2 lost their first home league match. Additionally, none of the nine clubs that were ultimately relegated won their opening home game.

Atmosphere

The game will be the Town's first home league fixture back in the Football League since being relegated to the Conference and we want to show everybody what they have been missing by turning Kenilworth Road into a sea of orange and creating a memorable atmosphere to inspire the team to victory - so get those orange shirts, t-shirts and scarves - or just anything orange - ready on Saturday!

Tew kit now on sale!

The wait was finally over last week when the Hatters' new range of playing shirts for 2014/15 - went on sale in the club shop and online.

Town trio Alex Lawless, Jake Howells and Alex Lacev were in the club shop to sign autographs and pose for photographs to mark the availability of the new replica shirts and goalkeeper jerseys, and Gareth Owen was on hand to capture supporters' purchases - you can see more of those on page on 37.

As we revealed in June, all the new shirts will be manufactured by Fila. Following the supporter poll back in March - in which Hatters fans were asked to vote on their preferred shirt colour - this season's home shirt will be orange, but distinctly different to last campaign's offering. The first choice colours are completed with naw blue shorts and white socks.

The away shirt will be a distinctive orange and navy-blue striped number with a round-neck collar that features a plain naw blue back. The change colours are accompanied with white shorts and navy socks with orange trim. Also new for 2014/15 will be a classy, predominately white, second change shirt which encompasses orange and naw-blue trim. This shirt is joined by an orange shorts and orange socks combination.

Supporters can also take advantage of a £10 discount on any of the new shirts if they trade in their orange or white shirt from last season (one trade-in per new shirt purchased). This offer is available up until, and including, Tuesday 30th September. This offer only applies to purchases made in the club shop and not online. Any returned shirts from last season will be donated to charitable causes in the UK and overseas.

New kit prices: Shirts: Adult sizes £40, junior sizes and infants £30, baby sizes £25. Shorts: Adults £17, juniors £17. Socks: Adults £7, juniors £6.

QUARTET SENT OUT ON LOAN

The Hatters have loaned out young professionals lan-Rees, Zane Banton, Brett Longden and Charlie Smith on three-month deals. Midfielder Rees and striker Banton have joined Biggleswade Town, midfielder Smith has joined Hitchin Town, whilst defender Longden has joined Maidenhead United.

We wish them all the very best of luck during their time away from Kenilworth Road on loan.

Don't forget...

LTFC season ticket holders travel at child rate on match days. Don't worry about parking, connect

with the Busway at Luton Station and get dropped right outside the ground.

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go on, get on!



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LUTON TOWN v AFC WIMBLEDON



SKY BET LEAGUE 2

SATURDAY 16th AUGUST 2014, KICK-OFF 3pm

Tickets for this match are now on sale at normal matchday prices. £20 adults, £15 golden seniors and young adults, £12 seniors, £8 youths, £5 juniors.



LUTON TOWN v BURY



TUESDAY 19th AUGUST 2014, KICK-OFF 7.45PM

Tickets for this match are now on sale at normal matchday prices. £20 adults, £15 golden seniors and young adults, £12 seniors, £8 youths, £5 juniors.



ACCRINGTON STANLEY V LUTON TOWN



SKY BET LEAGUE 2

SATURDAY 23rd AUGUST 2014, KICK-OFF 3PM

Selling arrangements for this match will be confirmed in due course. We have been given an allocation of 350 seats and 1,600 terrace places. Prices for seats and terracing: £20 adults, £15 64+ and students with ID, £10 under-18s, £5 accompanied under-12s.



SHREWSBURY TOWN V LUTON TOWN



SKY BET LEAGUE 2

SATURDAY 30th AUGUST 2014, KICK-OFF 3PM

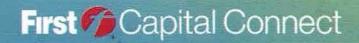
Selling arrangements for this match will be confirmed in due course. We have been given an allocation of 990 seats in the Provision CCTV North Stand for this match. Prices: £20 adults, £15 over-65s, £14 students with NUS ID, £12 juniors 12-16, £5 under-11s. Disabled adults, seniors or students £15 with free carer. Juniors charged dependant on age category (above) with free carer.

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WITH COMMERCIAL MANAGER DAVID HOSKINS

Welcome back to our all our corporate guests and sponsors for our first home match of the season against Swindon Town in the Capital One Cup.

It has been a busy summer at Kenilworth Road with the phones red hot with interest in executive boxes, hospitality packages and the various sponsorship deals available, including programmes, stadium and player sponsorships.

Throughout the season we will continue to notify supporters of any availability of packages on a match-bymatch basis via the official website and in forthcoming programmes.

For our home Sky Bet League 2 match with Bury a week tonight we have match and matchball packages up for grabs. If you're interested then please do get in touch with us.

PACKAGES AVAILABLE THIS SEASON

ERIC MORECAMBE LOUNGE

Seating in the directors' box with an exclusive pre-match two-course meal, waiter service and cash bar available before, during and after each game. Team sheets and programmes are included for each guest and post-match you'll get to meet the man-of-the-match and receive photographs of you with him.



MATCHDAY MASCOT

Treat your child to a matchday mascot experience at Kenilworth Road this coming season. The mascot package is a day to remember for any young fan wanting to meet their heroes and lead Luton Town onto the Kenilworth Road pitch.

MATCHBALL SPONSORSHIP

Matchball Sponsorship offers a unique opportunity for guests to sponsor the matchball at Kenilworth Road - and then keep it afterwards with the players' autographs. The package is a fantastic way to enjoy excellent hospitality whilst promoting your business or entertaining friends, family or clients.

Also hosted in our Eric Morecambe
Lounge, the matchball sponsors will enjoy a
two-course meal before being seated in the
directors' box to watch the match. To top off
a great day, you will get the chance to enjoy
our post-match presentation and receive your
signed ball from the man-of-the-match.

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It gives us great pleasure to welcome Swindon Town Football Club as the first visitors to Kenilworth Road this season for tonight's eagerly-anticipated Capital One Cup first round tie.

This evening's game doesn't just represent the Hatters' first home game as a Football League club since 2009, but also pits two previous League Cup winners together. The Robins famously beat Arsenal in the 1969 final – then as a Third Division club, the level that tonight's visitors find themselves in today. And of course, who can forget the Town's triumph in the 1988 final – also against Arsenal.

Whether or not both clubs can challenge for honours in the competition this season remains to be seen, although the Hatters can look at Bradford City's exploits in the League Cup from two seasons ago when the Bantams defied the odds to go all the way to the final as a League 2 outfit.

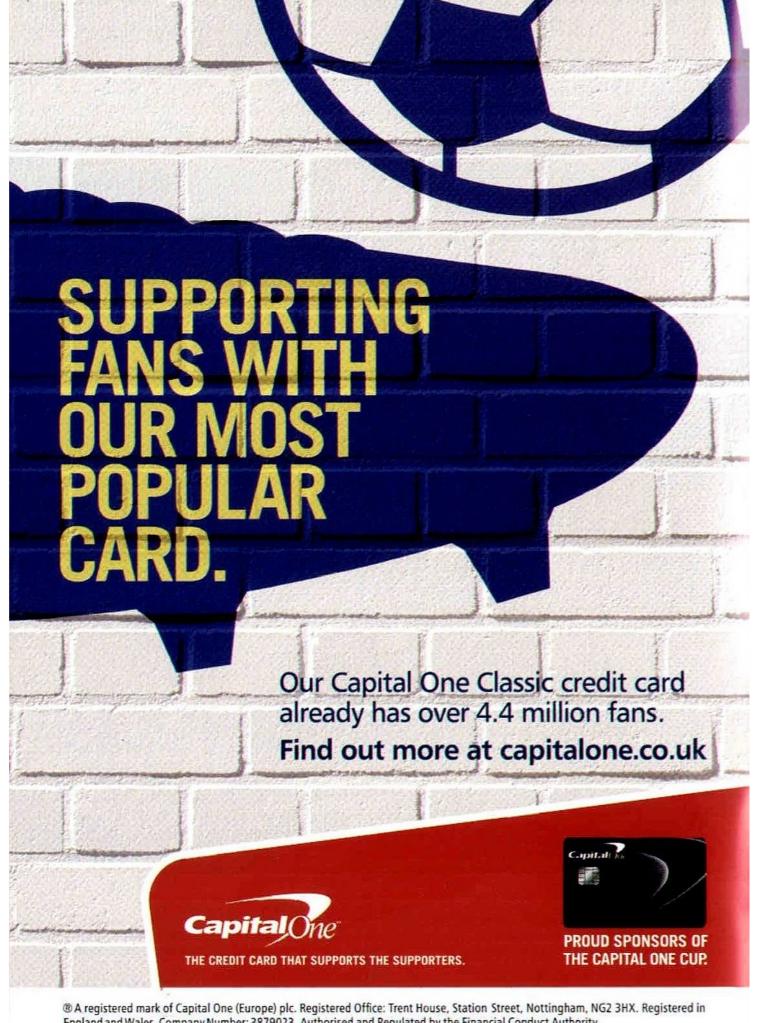
Swindon, though, will provide the Hatters with a stern test. Mark Cooper – the former Kettering, Darlington and Peterborough manager – guided the Robins to an eighth place finish in League 1 last term – just six points shy of a crack at the Play-Offs.

In Cooper's first season at the helm the Robins reached the third round of the League Cup and were losing Area Finalists in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy, losing out to eventual winners Peterborough. Cooper's side got off to a winning start at the weekend, comfortably beating newlypromoted Scunthorpe 3-1 at the County Ground. One man the Town will need to be wary of this evening will be striker Michael Smith, who scored two of the Robins' goals. The young striker scored twice on his debut last season having joined the club from Charlton this year.

Tonight's visitors ended last season with six wins from their final nine matches including victories over Preston, Sheffield United and Brentford, the latter of which went on to win promotion to the Championship. Cooper will be hoping his side can improve their form away from the County Ground, however. The Robins won just five times in 23 away fixtures last term – a statistic that ultimately cost them a place in the top five. Swindon won 14 times at home, losing just six times.

As we elude to on page 21 there is also plenty of current ties between the two clubs in the respective dressing rooms. The Hatters have ex-Swindon players Paul Benson, Jonathan Smith and Luke Rooney, whilst the Robins' Yaser Kasim spent time on-loan at Kenilworth Road two seasons ago. The Iraqi international midfielder was restricted to just 11 appearances in Town colours under Paul Buckle but has gone onto flourish at the County Ground. Since making the move permanent in 2013 from Brighton he has become a first team regular in the middle of the park for Cooper.

You have to go back to January 2008 for the last time the Town met Swindon at Kenilworth Road and the Hatters will be hoping the result this evening will be better than on that occasion when the Robins ran out 1-0 victors courtesy of a Christian Roberts goal.



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in opposition



AN AT-A-GLANCE GUIDE TO OUR VISITORS FROM THE COUNTY GROUND

▶ THE BOSS

MARK COOPER. A midfielder as a player with over 450 senior apperarances to his name, Cooper began his managerial career with Tamworth before taking over at Kettering. He then moved to Peterborough and then Darlington, where he won the FA Trophy, before rejoining Kettering in 2012.

A short spell at AFC Telford followed before he replaced Kevin MacDonald at Swindon in August last year.

▶ GOALKEEPERS

WES FODERINGHAM. Former Fulham trainee
who signing for the Robins in January 2012 from Crystal
Palace following a successful loan spell. Helped the club
win the League 2 title in the same season and penned a
new deal last summer.

Mark Cooper
to

TYRELL BELFORD. Highly-rated young goalkeeper signed last summer after his release from Liverpool's academy. Made his debut in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy and his league bow last February.

▶ DEFENDERS

NATHAN THOMPSON. Tough-tackling, fans' favourite who was named captain this summer. The defender rose through the Robins' youth ranks and made his breakthrough into the first team during 2012/13.

NATHAN BYRNE. Versatile member of Mark Cooper's squad, the defender can play at left-back, right-back, wing-back or right-wing. Started his career as a youngster at Tottenham.

DARREN WARD. Vastly experienced defender who arrived at the County Ground in 2013 after a successful loan spell. Began his career at Watford before four years at Millwall. Joined Wolves in 2007 before re-signing for Millwall in 2010.

JACK BARTRAM. Versatile young defender or midfielder who signed for the Robins last summer having previously been on the books at Tottenham. His performances last term led to an extended deal.

RAPHAEL BRANCO. Brazilian centre-half who arrived at the County Ground last summer after a successful trial. Began his career as a trainee at Brighton.

MATHEW JONES. Young left-back who has come through the ranks at the County Ground and signed professional forms this summer. JOSH LELAN. Mobile defender currently on an initial one month's loan from Championship Derby County.

Graduated from the Rams' academy and spent time on loan at Gateshead last term.

► MIDFIELDERS

MASSIMO LUONGO. Another former
Tottenham man in the Robins' ranks, the
Australian midfielder played in this summer's
World Cup for the Socceroos. Signed for
Swindon after a successful loan spell.

RYAN HARLEY. Experienced midfielder who joined

the Robins in July 2013 following his departure from Brighton. Made his name as a youngster at Exeter before a spell at Swansea.

YASER KASIM. No stranger to Kenilworth Road, the Iraqi central midfielder spent a short spell on loan with the Hatters during 2012/13. Came through the youth ranks at Brighton before penning a permanent deal at the County Ground last season.

LOUIS THOMPSON. Young Welsh midfielder who came through the ranks at the County Ground. Together with brother Nathan, he made a little bit of history when the two became the first brothers to play in the same Swindon side since 1947.

BEN GLADWIN. Former Reading trainee who penned professional terms with the Robins in November 2013. The midfielder signed from Marlow and made his debut in a Johnstone's Paint Trophy win over Stevenage.

ANTON RODGERS. Midfielder who is the son of Liverpool manager Brendan. Arrived at the County Ground this summer following his release from Oldham. Began his career as a youngster at Chelsea.

► STRIKERS

CONNOR WALDON. Swindon-born attacker who came through the youth ranks and made his debut at the end of the 2012/13 campaign.

MICHAEL SMITH. A January 2014 signing from Chariton, the striker made the perfect start to his Robins career with a brace on his debut against Shrewsbury. Ended last term with eight goals to his name.

GEORGE BARKER. Another former Brighton scholar who made his debut for the Seagulls in 2013. Joined Swindon last year having previously been on the books at Newport County.

FROM OAK ROAD

Swindon supporter Roger Bunce has seen it all at the County Ground: the eccentricity of Paolo Di Canio to the pragmatism of Mark Cooper. But, much to his relief, he didn't see one infamous match at Kenilworth Road...

TALK OF THE TOWN: Tell us about the Robins' transfer activity over the summer. Are you pleased with the way the squad is shaping up?

ROGER: Last year we used the loan market really well, thanks to links with Spurs. There is not a lot of cash to throw about here so it looks like it could be a case of using the loan market again. We do have some youth players coming through but we could also do with getting a couple of experienced players in to guide the youngsters.

TOTT: Which Swindon player should Hatters' fans keep an eye on tonight?

ROGER: One of our home grown players, Louis
Thompson. He's the younger brother of club captain
Nathan and a hard working midfielder who can only
progress with more matches.

TOTT: Paul Benson has now signed for Luton following a hugely successful loan spell last season. Were you disappointed to see him fade out of the picture at the County Ground? What about fellow League 2 winner Jonathan Smith?

ROGER: Paul Benson was very popular with the fans
- an honest, 100 per cent player who found the net
for a few goals in his time here. Jonathan Smith was a
hard-working midfielder, the type every successful team
needs. Probably never wins too many man-of-the-match
awards but is vital to keep the midfield functioning.

TOTT: Hatters' fans know Mark Cooper well from his days at Kettering. Were you surprised by his appointment? How have the fans taken to his style of play?

ROGER: Mark was a surprise appointment to everyone. His style of football of keeping possession has sometimes upset a few, who would rather see a long ball. But coming from nowhere and taking us to eighth place - in view of what was happening off the pitch - he has much to be proud of.

rott: Tell us about the Di Canio years. Do you feel he was unfairly treated by Sunderland?

ROGER: Paolo Di Canio was someone completely different. He kicked every ball and made every tackle, such was his passion. He changed the fans' attitude and the ground, which had become somewhat quiet, became a ground full of passion, as the manager's ways moved onto the terraces.

I remember when we scored a last minute winner at Northampton – and who was in the penalty area celebrating? It was Paolo. He got in trouble with the authorities, but the passion was there for all to see. At times his previous antics didn't help him. Sitting just behind the dugout, I could see that he got into trouble, while members of the away bench seemed to avoid punishment. The other side of Paolo was shown when he arranged for two long serving members of the Town backroom staff, Roger Reeves and Curley Withers, to sit on the bench at Wembley.

I always thought it would be a problem for him at Sunderland, as I could not see Premier League players reacting in the way he would want them to. It was bound to end in tears.

TOTT: What are your memories from past games between the sides?

ROGER: One game which will be remembered by Swindon fans is the game on 4th November 1972, the first match after the one and only Don Rogers was sold. We won thanks to a Ray Tracey goal. The player with the impossible task of following Don was Tommy Jenkins, who scored just five goals, including one at Luton.

I also had one lucky escape at Luton. When I was visiting Dunham and Haines, one of the employees offered me a ticket for the infamous Millwall game in 1985. Thankfully, I declined the offer.

TOTT: What are your ambitions for the season ahead? Where does a league cup run rank in the list of priorities? What's your prediction for tonight's game? ROGER: Our ambition this season is for the club to finish as high as possible, to keep the season going for as long as we can. As for the League Cup, a match against Chelsea like last season, to see the ground full to the rafters. Prediction for tonight: 2-1 Swindon!

AND A ROBIN

Hatters midfielders Jonathan Smith and Luke Rooney and striker Paul Benson all enjoyed success with the County Ground outfit and all picked up League 2 winners medals following Swindon's title success under Paolo Di Canio in 2011/12.

Smith made 48 appearances in Swindon colours, scoring three times: Benson struck 15 goals in 39 games; whilst Rooney scored twice in 32 appearances.

The one man in the Robins squad this evening that will know Kenilworth Road better than his team mates is Iraqi international Yaser Kasim.

The central midfielder arrived on-loan from Brighton at the start of the 2012/13 season and made 11 appearances scoring once, in a Tuesday night victory away to Tamworth.

Our focus for this evening's player, however, is defender Sol Davis who went onto become a fans' favourite at Kenilworth Road after signing from Swindon in 2002.

The tenacious left back had already played over 120 times for the Robins before Joe Kinnear persuaded him to join the Hatters and the reliable defender would go on and make 199 league appearances in Luton colours over a seven-year spell.

Davis was named players' player of the year in the season the Town lifted the League 1 title in 2004/05 in which he netted his first senior goals and was a regular in the Hatters side in the Championship.

The club was shocked in October 2006 when Davis suffered a stroke on the team coach pror to a 5-0 defeat at Ipswich. However, his recovery was remarkable and the defender returned to action on New Year's Day 2007 to a hero's welcome against Cardiff City.

Sol's last season with the Town saw the club relegated from the Football League but the likable left-back still picked up another medal, as

he was part of the squad that won the Johnstone's Paint Trophy.

Davis ended his career with spells with Kettering - playing against the Town in the process in the Conference - and Ariesey. In total, Sol made 229

appearances for the Hatters and scored three goals.



HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

Perhaps the question should be 'how many times have we met before?', as the Town and Swindon have been regular adversaries over the years - 100 times to be precise.

The Town hold the edge in the head-to-head meetings with the Robins, with 45 victories to Swindon's 34, 21 matches

32 of the 100 games between the two clubs took place in have ended in draws. the Southern League between 1895 and 1920. During that time the Town beat the Robins 7-1 on 22nd February 1896 and 6-2 on 9th February 1907. However, in the two clubs first meeting in the Football League on 28th August 1920 the

Robins triumphed 9-11

Club historian Roger Wash will go on to recall the last cup meeting between the two sides, in the Simon Cup, in 1988, but the first ever meeting between the clubs was also a cup tie. The Hatters ran out 4-3 winners back in 1891 in an FA Cup tie in what was only the Town's 11th match in their

The last meeting between the clubs came in League 1 in January 2008 at Kenilworth Road in which the visitors ran out. 1-0 winners thanks to Christian Roberts' goal.



Thank you for supporting your team and best of luck for the season.







emorie

While the Hatters and Swindon meet for the first time in the League Cup this evening, both clubs have won the competition in the past.

In 1969 Swindon lifted the trophy as a third division club with a stunning 3-1 victory over Arsenal in front of almost 100,000 at Wembley.

The Robins saw off Torquay, Bradford, Blackburn, Coventry, Derby and Burnley en-route to the final and weren't given a chance of beating Bertie Mee's Arsenal side.

Arsenal began on the front foot, but the first goal came from Swindon in the 35th minute, against the run of play, when Roger Smart gave the Robins the lead. A mix-up between defender lan Ure and goalkeeper Bob Wilson over a backpass led to confusion in the Arsenal defence, and allowed Smart to capitalise and score.

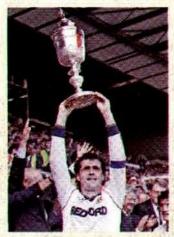
Leading 1-0 at the break, the second half was again one-sided, with Swindon's tactics being those of all-out defence to protect their lead. Swindon goalkeeper Peter Downsborough prevented numerous Arsenal players from scoring, including saving efforts that looked unstoppable from Jon Sammels and Bob McNab.

Swindon continued to hold on as time ticked down but with four minutes left Downsborough tried to claim a ball and fumbled, allowing Bobby Gould to equalise with a header and take the game into extra-time.

Swindon dominated extra-time. A header from Smart rebounded off the post after beating the Arsenal goalkeeper, and from the resultant corner, Don Rogers became a Swindon hero just before the end of the first period. Arsenal failed to clear the comer and in the goalmouth melée Rogers coolly controlled the loose ball and fired it from close range into the net.

Hurt, the Gunners responded in search of an equaliser, but Ure lost the ball in the Swindon half to Smart, and Arsenal were caught on the counter-attack. A long pass from Smart to Rogers, who receiving the ball midway between the halfway line and Arsenal's penalty area, ran unopposed all the way to goal, rounded Wilson and sealed victory for Swindon in the 109th minute.

If there are any neutral Arsenal supporters inside Kenilworth Road reading this tonight they won't need



reminding that the Town also recorded a League Cup triumph over the Gunners, some 19 years later at Wembley in 1988.

Ray Harford's side had beaten Wigan, Coventry, Ipswich, Bradford and Oxford on their road to Wembley but, although the Hatters were in the top flight at the time, they were still massive underdogs against an Arsenal side including Tony Adams, David Rocastle and Alan Smith.

In arguably one of the greatest cup finals of all time (yes, we're biased, but come on...) the Town took the lead when Brian Stein finished smartly in the 13th minute to

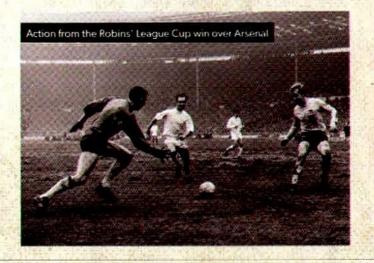
give the Hatters a lead at the break.

Arsenal upped the pressure in the second half and substitute Martin Hayes levelled for the Gunners on 71 minutes. Rattled, the Town conceded a second three minutes later through Alan Smith to give George Graham's side the lead.

But then came the moment that changed the game and history. Rocastle's theatrics won him a penalty but Andy Dibble was the Town's saviour, turning away Nigel Winterburn's effort from 12 yards.

That spurred the Town on, and with eight minutes left Kingsley Black's left-wing cross was helped on by Brian Stein and nodded home by Danny Wilson from close range.

With their tales up there was only ever going to be one winner after that and Stein had the final word in the last minute when expertly finishing Ashley Grimes' right-wing cross to ensure the Hatters' place in history.



back to the future

FOOTBALL HISTORIAN LEIGH EDWARDS TRACES WHAT HAPPENED TO TWO OF SWINDON TOWN'S GREATEST POST-WAR TEAMS

▶ 1969 LEAGUE CUP WINNERS

PETER DOWNSBOROUGH: Ever-present goalkeeper who made 274 League appearances before joining Bradford City in November 1973. Later working at a power station, he has settled in Elland.

ROD THOMAS: Welsh international right-back who followed Dave Mackay to Derby County in November 1973. Later with Cardiff, Gloucester and Newport County, he became a publican in Stroud.

JOHN TROLLOPE: Record appearance holder who became Swindon's coach, then manager from November 1980 until March 1983. Awarded the MBE, he had a spell as the Robins' youth team boss.

JOE BUTLER: Versatile midfielder who netted 18 goals in 362 League games prior to joining Aldershot in August 1976, then played for Witney Town. He has since run his own taxi firm in Swindon.

FRANK BURROWS: Central defender who became Swindon's assistant-boss. He has held various coaching and management posts, including spells in charge of Cardiff City, Portsmouth and Swansea.

STAN HARLAND: Ever-present captain who joined Birmingham in December 1971. He managed Yeovil and Gravesend & Northfleet, then ran a delicatessen in Yeovil until his death in September 2001.

DON HEATH: Winger who moved to Oldham Athletic in July 1970, then Peterborough United, Hartlepool, Crook Town and Gateshead. Settling back in his native Stockton, he became a buyer for ICI.

ROGER SMART: Striker who netted 43 goals in 349
League games before joining Charlton Athletic in May
1973, then Bath City. Melksham and Trowbridge. He was
licensee of The Plough in Swindon.

JOHN SMITH: Ex-England Under-23 international who joined Walsall in June 1971. Briefly their manager, then Dundalk's player-boss, he managed a social club in Harlesden until his death in February 1988.

PETER NOBLE: Ever-present striker who netted 62 goals in 216 League games before joining Burnley in June 1973, then had a spell with Blackpool. He has since run his own sportswear business in Burnley.

DON ROGERS: England Under-23 winger who reunited with Bert Head at Crystal Palace in November 1972. Later with QPR, Swindon again and Yeovil Town, he has since run his own sports shop in Swindon.

▶ 1992/93 PLAY-OFF WINNERS

FRASER DIGBY: England Under-21 goalkeeper who joined Crystal Palace in August 1998, then Barry, QPR and Kidderminster. Later Swindon's commercial manager, he now works for Sports Solutions GB.

NICKY SUMMERBEE: Another England Under-21 international who later played for Manchester City, Sunderland, Bolton, Leicester City, Bradford City, Swindon again and Tranmere. He is now involved in property.

PAUL BODIN: Welsh international left-back who netted 37 goals in 239 League games in two spells, moving to Reading in June 1996. Later Bath City's player-boss, he is now coaching back at Swindon.

GLENN HODDLE: Ex-England international midfielder who was player-boss until June 1993, then managed Chelsea, England, Southampton, Spurs and Wolves. He runs his own Soccer Academy in Spain.

COLIN CALDERWOOD: Scotland international who later played for Spurs, Villa and Forest, then managed Northampton, Forest and Hibernian. He has since assisted Chris Hughton at various clubs.

SHAUN TAYLOR: Ever-present central defender who moved to Bristol City in September 1996. Later Forest Green Rovers' assistant-boss, he has held coaching posts at Exeter City and Torquay United.

JOHN MONCUR: Hard-tackling midfielder who joined West Ham in June 1994. Since hanging up his boots in May 2003, he has become a born-again Christian and was briefly chairman of Grays Athletic.

ROSS MACLAREN: Scottish favourite who became reserve team boss. Later Aston Villa's chief scout and Notts County's assistant-manager, he now owns the Blue Bell Inn in Kirk Langley, Derbys.

DAVE MITCHELL: Australia international striker who moved to Millwall in October 1993. He has since coached Sydney Olympic, Sydney United, Parramatta Power and now manages Perth Glory.

MARTIN LING: Midfielder who netted ten goals in 152 League games before joining Leyton Orient in July 1996, becoming their manager. He has since managed Cambridge United and Torquay United.

CRAIG MASKELL: Striker who joined Southampton in February 1994, then Brighton, Happy Valley, Leyton Orient. He has since assisted Steve Cordery at Hampton & Richmond, Aylesbury and Staines.

EX-ROBINS REAL TO ROCK N' RO

THERE IS ONE PLAYER IN PARTICULAR WHO IS EXCITED ABOUT THE TOWN'S CAPITAL ONE CUP TIE AGAINST SWINDON – MIDFIELDER JONATHAN SMITH.

The 27-year-old spent 12 months at the County Ground under Paulo Di Canio and helped the Robins win the League 2 title during 2011/12.

"I'm looking forward to it," Smith told Talk of the Town after hearing of the draw which handed the Hatters a home tie in the first round of the League Cup. "I had a great time at Swindon and I felt I enjoyed a really good relationship with the fans. It was a great experience, especially playing under the manager there at the time.

"It gave me a lot of experience which I have brought with me to Luton. Swindon's a great club and obviously this game is going to be of big interest to me."

On the tie itself, Smith added: "We'll go into the game holding no fears. Being at home is an advantage and I'm sure our fans will get behind us which will give us a chance of causing an upset."

Smith made an emotional return to the Town side in the final game of the season at Hyde on 26th April - four months to the day that he broke his leg in the 2-1 win over Barnet on Boxing Day.

The midfielder is hopeful that he can play apart in the tie having made huge strides in his recovery during preseason that has seen him involved in the Hatters' friendly matches.

Raring

"I've been working hard over the summer and my recovery has been going really well," explained Smith. "There have been no ill effects, I feel good, I feel fit. I can't wait for it to start. I'm raring to go."

Smith appeared 48 times for the Robins either side of two spells at York, and the midfielder is looking forward to locking homs with his former employers tonight.

"I have very good memories of Swindon," Smith added. "I had a great time at the County Ground, the fans were superb and being part of the title winning side was fantastic.



"It is an interesting draw for me, Paul Benson and Luke Rooney were also at Swindon at the time of that success.

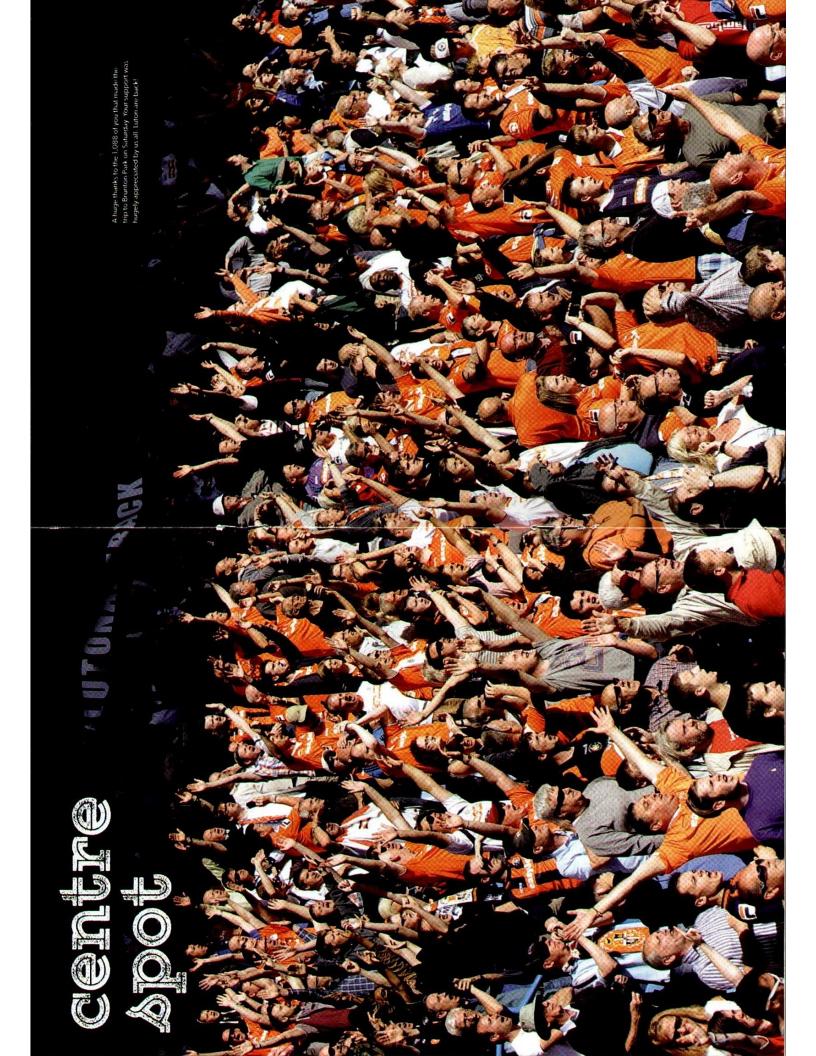
"Both clubs have a got a very good cup pedigree and hopefully we will do well in what will be a very close match.

"We've done well in cup competitions in recent seasons against higher league opposition - the wins over Wolves and Norwich are moments that I will never forget."

Striker Paul Benson is another Town man eager to do well tonight. The 34-year-old enjoyed a superb campaign for the Hatters last season netting 18 goals whilst on-loan from the County Ground.

But while Benson, now a permanent fixture at Kenilworth Road, will look forward to being reacquainted with some former team-mates, the forward is hoping the Hatters can cause an upset.

"It's a very winnable game," said Benson. "We're at home and for us that is a massive advantage as last season our form at Kenilworth Road was fantastic."



PICTURE THE PAST

Club historian ROGER WASK delves into his photographic archive

Swadgering bulles, we fire title earnest by the Fatters after buckproming Switchen to a 2-0 defect at Kentworth Road in a Division Three (now League-On encounter in November 1968). with swincist ignorates in the coordinate are by departure and are united with the fown sending their heavy made of native Sheffield and ferry florated in a corner with Brian Lewis coming in behind with his knee for good measure.

delves into his photogr Club historian

YESTERDAY'S PAGES

Club historian **ROGER WASH** looks back at a past cup tie between the Town and the Robin.

And the second s

Luton Town 2-1 Swindon Town Simod Cup semi-final 8th March 1988

expensive time to be a
Luton Town supporter. From
mid-January 1988 through
to mid-March the Hatters
would play only four
League games but would
feature in 11 cup ties!

The Town had fought their way through to the Littlewoods Cup final, where they were due to be playing Arsenal at Wembley, were about to play an FA Cup quarter-final against Portsmouth and amidst all this had suddenly found themselves about to contest a Simod Cup semi-final against Swindon.

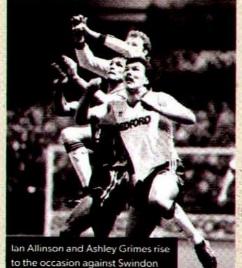
The Simod Cup was open to all full members of the Football League (the top two divisions) and seemed to sneak up on the club given that the Town had received a bye until the third round. Swindon, on the other hand, had embarked on the road to Wembley at the first round stage.

In the third round a crowd of only 5,204 at Goodison Park had seen teenager David Oldfield score twice in a 2-1 victory over Everton, which was remarkable given that youngsters Gary Cobb, Richard Harvey, Marvin Johnson and Ricky McEvoy were given rare outings in the Luton side.

Next up were Stoke in round four at Kenilworth Road with Mick Harford and Brian Stein each scoring twice in a comfortable 4-1 win. Suddenly the Town were through to the semi-final where the opponents would be Swindon from Division Two (now the Championship).

The Robins, who had won promotion at the end of the previous season, had seen off Blackburn at Ewood Park before beating top flight sides Derby, Chelsea and Norwich all at the County Ground. They were certainly on a roll.

Such was interest in the game from the Wiltshire end that 3,500 supporters travelled to Kenilworth Road to



boost the gate to 10,027, which was better than most of our League gates that season.

The game itself was a cracker played out in a typical cup-tie atmosphere with the Town enjoying the majority of the first half with Swindon taking the second.

The Hatters went ahead on 28 minutes when Brian Stein headed in Tim Breacker's cross and all seemed set fair for another trip to Wembley.

Swindon had other ideas, though, and manager Lou Macari's half-time team talk seemed to work with the Town on the end of a battering in the second period.

The deserved equaliser came in the

67th minute when a Jimmy Quinn free-kick was too hot for Luton goalkeeper Les Sealey to handle with Keiran O'Regan quickest to the loose ball which was hammered into the back of the net.

Lifeline

The Hatters were then given a lifeline with 15 minutes to go when Ian Allinson was bundled over in the area by Dave Hockaday and Harford smashed the resulting penalty straight at Fraser Digby in the Swindon goal.

An extra 30 minutes was therefore called for which the Town could have done without given their punishing schedule and an FA Cup quarter-final to fight in three days time.

After Swindon's Paul Bodin hit a post with a 25 yard effort, the Hatters came back into the game and with substitute Kingsley Black running at the Robins' defence, the tide began to turn. It was from a run by Black that the winner was secured after 109 minutes when his cross was headed back across goal for Mark Stein to nip in and deflect the ball past Digby.

"We rode our luck a little bit", was Luton manager Ray Harford's comment afterwards.

The Town were now through to Wembley again where their opponents would be Reading, also from Division Two...but the least said about that game the better!

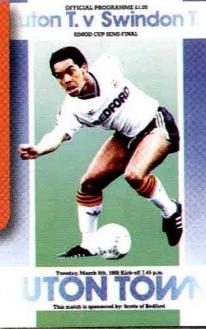


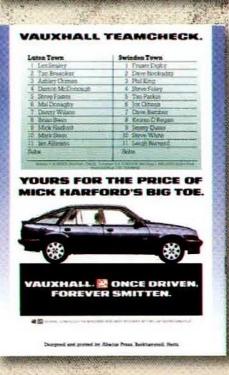
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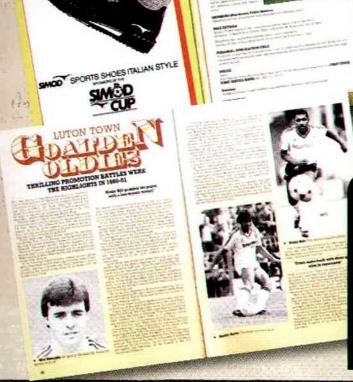
The Town produced their normal 40-page programme for the visit of Swindon. As to be expected the issue was dominated with preparations for the forthcoming Littlewoods Cup final against Arsenal – thoughts about possible trips to Wembley in the Simod Cup and FA Cup were firmly on the back burner.

Details of ticketing arrangements for the Arsenal clash were published (standing tickets £8) and the club secretary revealed that he had received hundreds of letters from fans professing to have been supporters since the days of Joe Payne, with some of whom saying they had been regulars in the Bobbers Stand for years despite the fact that the Executive boxes were now a permanent fixture!

BOX OFFICE INFORMINION LITTLEWOODS CUP FINAL







ELSEWHERE IN FOOTBALL

Tottenham refuse the Welsh FA permission to approach Terry Venables for their manager's job.

Paul Walsh scores his first goal for Spurs since his transfer from Liverpool.

Watford striker Trevor Senior requests a transfer after scoring only one goal so far this season.

It is announced that the capacity of Wembley Stadium will be reduced to 87000 when additional seating is installed in the summer.

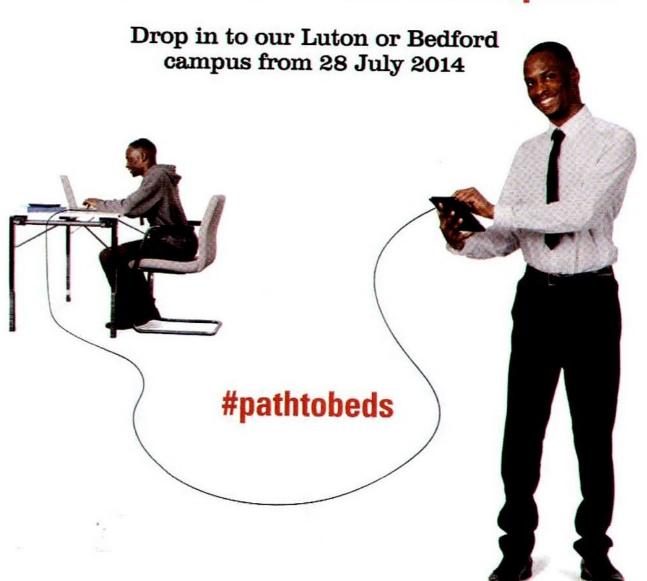




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ON THIS DAY

THE RECORD

This evening's game will be the Town's 5,212th match in the history books but tonight's encounter will only be the seventh played on 12th August.

Half of the previous six games have taken place in the League Cup, with the Town taking on Colchester United, Yeovil Town and Plymouth Argyle in the competition in 1997, 2003 and 2008 respectively.

The other three games, against Cardiff City, Notts County and Norwich City, have taken place in Division 2 (now the Championship). Division 2 (now League 1) and the Championship respectively.

Overall the Hatters' record could not be more black and white. Three of the matches have been won and three of the fixtures have been lost. The Town have scored 10 times in these games and conceded seven.

THE LAST TIME

Fittingly enough for this evening's game, the last time the Town played on this day was also the last time the Hatters took part in a League Cup match at Kenilworth Road before relegation to the Conference.

That night, Plymouth Argyle, then in the Championship, were the visitors, and goals from Rossi Jarvis and Tristan Plummer gave the Town a comfortable 2-0 win before a sparse crowd of 2,862.

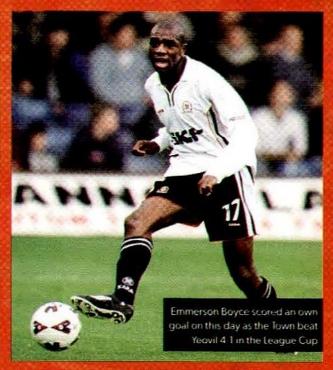
However, the Hatters' run in the competition would come to an abrupt end in the next round with a 5-1 defeat against Reading at the Madjeski Stadium – the last time the Town would play in a League Cup tie...until tonight.

▶ CANARIES FIGHT BACK

The Town's previous league fixture on 12th August came in 2006 in the Championship against Norwich at Carrow Road.

The Town had begun their second campaign in the second tier following promotion in 2005 in good style, winning their opening two matches, and goals from Rowan Vine and Dean Morgan had the Hatters on their way to seemingly another victory. However, the Canaries had other ideas and three goals in 14 minutes from Darren Huckerby, Lee Croft and Robert Earnshaw sealed a dramatic turnaround.

Town boss at the time, Mike Newell, said afterwards: "At 2-0 I'd have certainly been looking to take something from the game, but you take it on the chin and move on."



TOWN BEAT THE NEW BOYS

In 2003 the Hatters were in League 1 in what was Mike Newell's debut season in the hotseat. His first cup fixture saw newly-promoted Yeovil Town visit Kenilworth Road on a warm August evening.

The Glovers, who were relegated from the Championship last season, had won promotion to the Football League as Conference champions in 2003 and a healthy following from Somerset boosted the attendance at Kenilworth Road for their first ever League Cup tie to 6,337.

On the pitch the Town led at the break thanks to Kevin Foley's first ever goal for the club but Yeovil levelled shortly after the break after Emmerson Boyce scored an own goal. But that spurred the Hatters to go up a gear, and goals in the final 34 minutes from Tony Thorpe, Courtney Pitt and Steve Howard sealed a comfortable 4-1 win.

▶ AND THE REST...

In Division 2 (now the Championship) the Town lost 2-1 at Cardiff in 1972 with John Aston scoring from the spot... in 1997 the Hatters beat Colchester 1-0 thanks to sole Tony Thorpe goal in the first round first leg of the League Cup...and in 2000 the Hatters' new era under manager Ricky Hill ended in a 1-0 home defeat to Notts County in Division 2 (now League 1).



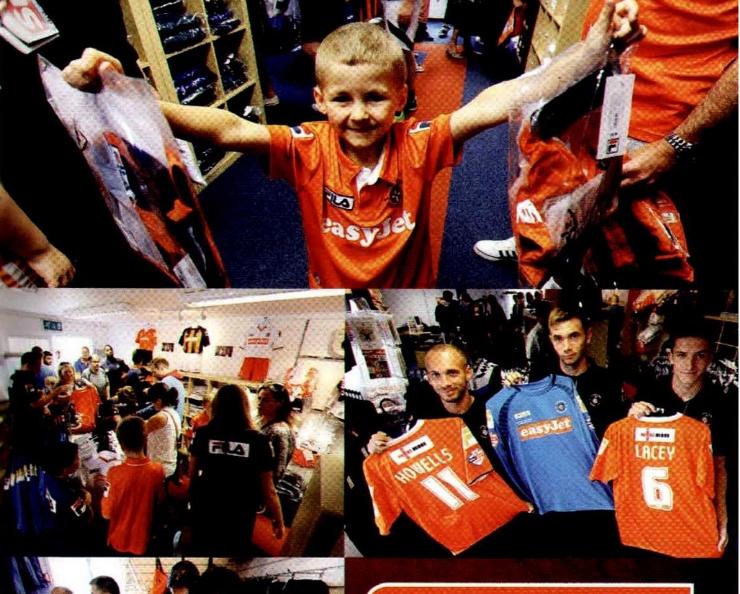
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THE ONLY PAPER FOR THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE FAN

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All bets are off!

Imagine you are working the gate at Dagenham & Redbridge, your salary a few quid and a free ticket.

You watch the game, go home, stick on Sky Sports where Real Madrid are playing Osasuna. "Ah," you think. "Banker – I'll have a fiver on that."

All standard, innocent Saturday fare. Except now, thanks to new betting rules, you could find yourself hauled before the FA.

As of 1st August, it is an offence for any employee of any football club – including directors, owners and some subcontractors – to place a bet on any match in the world.

Previously, it was only illegal for club staff to bet on a competition in which they were involved, but those rules failed to prevent a string of high-profile incidents.

In July 2009, three Accrington players were handed lengthy bans for betting against their own side in a final-day match against Bury. Last year also saw England winger Andros Townsend fall foul of the rules after he bet on Premier League games whilst on loan at Leeds from Tottenham Hotspur.

And the biggest casualty of all was Ronnie Moore, sacked as manager of Tranmere in March after placing a total of 95 wagers – none against his own team – on matches in the Football League. His winnings? £3.93.

Now the FA have moved to remove any ambiguity by slapping an outright ban on all betting in football, with punishments ranging from bans and fines to criminal prosecution for the most serious breaches.

"The idea is to make it as simple and clear as possible," said Darren Bailey, the FA's director of football governance and regulation.

"When you start slicing and dicing, you have people asking 'Can I do this? Can I do that? Is this competition OK?' Then you get situations like we've had in the past.

"Now it will be very difficult for anybody to argue that they didn't understand their responsibilities. And I think it will be welcomed. In my experience, people in sport like a really clear line and once they've got that they are happy to go with it."



So back to the fella at Dagenham – would he really be prosecuted? In theory, yes. In reality, it ain't going to happen. Because whilst the FA has 'prosecutorial discretion' in every case, the reality is that it only has so much cash.

"There's no immunity," says Bailey. "All employees of a football club are covered, along with certain subcontractors.

"But we're all football people and we're pragmatic. We want to deal with this in a proportionate and practical way and we'll focus our resources on the most serious and significant cases."

So the Dagenham turnstile operator can flutter away, but there is one caveat – he has to keep his trap shut if he's got some gossip on the latest signing.

"If you are in and around a club environment, you may happen to know if someone is injured or who is taking penalties, or have inside information on a managerial appointment or transfer," said Bailey.

"Telling people those things may seem harmless but if that information can be used for betting, there is the potential for that to be deemed an offence. The message is 'Be careful what you say and who you say it to'."

And to think a trip to the bookies used to be a staple of every player's pre-match routine.



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the new faces

Been away on holiday? Not been to the friendlies? Or just too busy take note of the new faces who have arrived at Kenilworth Road this summer?

Well there have been nine new signings made by John Still during the close season so, with a number of them in line to feature tonight, we thought it best to give you a quick run-down of who's who.

MEET THE NEW BOYS

Detailed profiles of these and indeed the whole squad, will be featured in Saturday's programme.

CURTLEY WILLIAMS

Position: Defender

Signed from: Lowestoft Town

Bio: A former Ipswich scholar whose primary position is right-back. Spent time in Spain at the Glenn Hoddle Academy before spells in non-league. Helped Lowestoft to the Play-Offs in his first season before enjoying another successful campaign in Suffolk last term, with the club winning promotion through the Play-Offs.

ROSS LAFAYETTE

Position: Striker

Signed from: Welling United

Bio: Strong and pacey frontman who scored 39 goals in 90 matches with former club Welling, who he helped win the Conference South in 2012/13. A regular scorer further down the pyramid he also has experience of coaching in the United States.

RICKY MILLER

Position: Striker

Signed from: Boston United

Bio: Last season's Conference North player of the year and top goalscorer who ended the campaign with a haul of 28 goals for Boston. Previously on the books of Rothwell and Stamford, the striker began his career on the books at Charlton as a youngster.

ANDY DRURY

Position: Midfielder

Signed from: Crawley Town

Blo: No stranger to Kenilworth Road, midfielder Drury returns to the club he left in January 2011. Scored eight goals in just 26 matches in his first spell for the Hatters after joining from Stevenage. Left the Town for Ipswich, playing in the Championship before two spells at Crawley.

PAUL CONNOLLY

Position: Defender

Signed from: Crawley Town

Bio: Hugely experienced right-back who has enjoyed almost 10 years' worth of football in the Championship with spells at Plymouth, Leeds, Derby and Millwall. Most recently with Crawley.

LUKE WILKINSON

Position: Defender

Signed from: Dagenham & Redbridge

Bio: Centre-half who has previously played under John Still whilst with Dagenham. The former Bristol City and Portsmouth defender enjoyed a successful spell on-loan at Dartford before nailing down a place with the Daggers and was voted their player of the year two seasons ago.

CHARLIE WALKER

Position: Striker

Signed from: Peacehaven & Telscombe

Bio: Prolific striker who joined the Hatters after scoring 43 goals last season as Peacehaven won promotion. Joined the Town on trial this summer and scored twice in the friendly against AFC Dunstable before being snapped up on a permanent deal.

MARK ONYEMAH

Position: Defender Signed from: Thurrock

Bio: Young left-back who arrived at Kenilworth Road at the same time as Walker having also impressed on trial. Rose through the youth ranks with Thurrock and made his debut as a 16-year-old.

LEE ANGOL

Position: Striker

Signed from: Free transfer

Bio: Promising young striker who arrived at Kenilworth Road following his release by Wycombe Wanderers in the summer. Was immediately loaned out to Boreham Wood, in the Conference South for the whole of this coming season. Spent a successful loan spell with Wood last term and began his career as a youngster at Tottenham.



WHAT'S IN STORE ONLINE AT THE HATTERS OFFICIAL WEBSITE

Hatters Player has been busy this summer with each of the Town's new signings interviewed exclusively on the channel, which complements our official YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/lutontown.

Player really is the best way to keep up to date with everything at Kenilworth Road with the biggest change from previous seasons in the Conference being exclusive online match commentary. Player is the only way that you'll

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be able to listen to commentary online through your computer or mobile device this season with the Hatters back in the Football League.

A number of previous subscribers have returned to the new improved video service and if you are wondering what complementary services the video subscription site, www.hattersplayer.co.uk, provides in addition to the official website, www.lutontown.co.uk, on a matchday, we have provided a taster below.

TEAMSHEETS

Match line-ups have to be confirmed in writing to the referee one hour before kick off; not long after the match officials have seen them they are available to for you to view on www.lutontown.co.uk.

FREE CLOCKWATCH

On the homepage of www.lutontown.co.uk. you can see our popular live, minute-by-minute text commentary, absolutely free, direct from the press box. Every incident is reported from the games - chances, goals, substitutions, bookings, you name it - it is the most comprehensive free service for Town games anywhere on the internet.

LIVE COMMENTARY

If you want to get closer to the action, Hatters Player's Match Live console brings you full live and interactive audio commentary in association with Diverse FM. Complemented with score flashes from around the country and real-time match stats everything you need to know will be right here.

FULL-TIME REPORT

As soon as the full-time whistle blows, a match report is available to read on www. lutentown.co.uk. Complemented by all the statistics that matter, as supplied to us by Opta, as well as our breakdown of the key incidents as the match unfolded.

POST-MATCH REACTION

We will bring you all of manager John Still's reaction from his post-match press conference on www.lutontown.co.uk. Hatters Player subscribers can then watch to a more in-depth interview on the site, later in the evening, along with player reaction from the dressing room.

SEE THE HIGHLIGHTS

Approximately 24 hours after the final whistle, you can re-live all of the action again with home match highlights on Hatters Player.

MOBILE INTERNET

If being by a PC isn't practical for you, you will be pleased to know you can view our Mobile Internet site on a handheld device. You can see the team line-ups, read the live updates, check the match report and find out what the manager and the players had to say after the game. Simply visit lutontown wap.com on your phone. For full details, please visit the Mobile Services section of www.lutontown.co.uk.

STAY IN TOUCH AND HELP THE HATTERS TOO ...

On the occasions when you can't make it to a match, you can connect to the club's official services and keep abreast of event, knowing that the cost of these products is directly benefiting Luton Town.

Visit www.hattersplayer.co.uk for more nformation.

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Weekly - £50 JD gift card

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LOOK BACK

PRE-SEASON ROUND-UP

HITCHIN TOWN (A) THURSDAY 17th JULY. WON 5-0.

The Hatters' opening pre-season fixture of the summer ended with a comfortable victory at Top Field. Alex Wall was the star of the show with an impressive hat-trick, which included a sublime volley and a penalty. Shaun Whalley had put the Town in front with an impressive strike and Mark Cullen completed the scoring.

AFC DUNSTABLE (A) SATURDAY 19th JULY. WON 4-0.

The Hatters retained the David Precce Memorial Trophy as a young development squad scored four second half goals to beat AFC Dunstable. Ricky Miller put the Town ahead before a quick-fire brace from Charlie Walker made the game safe.

BARNET (A) SUNDAY 20th JULY. WON 2-0

Mark Cullen put the Town in front moments before the break at the Hive and after Alex Wall missed a second half penalty, Jake Howells doubled the Hatters' lead from the penalty spot with 10 minutes left after Shaun Whalley had been fouled.

EAST THURROCK UNITED (A) WEDNESDAY 23rd JULY, DREW 0-0.

The Hatters had to settle for a goalless draw at East Thurrock despite the home side being reduced

to 10 men in the first half following the dismissal of their goalkeeper for handball outside the penalty area.

ROYAL ANTWERP (H) SATURDAY 26th JULY. WON 4-0.

Goals from Alex Lacey, Fraser Franks, Ross Lafayette and Alex Lawless gave the Hatters a comprehensive victory over Belgian second division Royal Antwerp in their first home friendly. Over 800 Belgian fans made for a special atmosphere inside Kenilworth Road.

COLCHESTER UNITED (H) BOREHAM WOOD (A) TUESDAY 29th JULY. DREW 2-2 AND 0-0.

John Still utilised the Town squad to play two friendlies simultaneously, both of which ended in draws. Against League 1 Colchester, the Town led thanks to Mark Cullen's goal before the U's fought back to lead 2-1. But substitute Luke Guttridge's late equaliser earned the Hatters a draw.

ST NEOTS TOWN (A) WEDNESDAY 30th JULY, DREW 0-0.

Young Town development side were held to a goalless draw against Southern League St Neots.

PETERBOROUGH UNITED (H) SATURDAY 2nd AUGUST. DREW 1-1.

The Hatters led League 1 Posh at the half-time break thanks to a fine finish from Mark Cullen. After a number of changes, it was the visitors who gained the upper hand in the second half and Britt Assombalonga's penalty gave Posh a draw.

BIGGLESWADE TOWN (A) MONDAY 4th AUGUST. WON 3-1.

The Town lifted the Bedfordshire Premier Cup after coming from behind to beat Biggleswade. Charlie Walker, Andy Parry and Ricky Miller scored in the game which saw Luke Guttridge play 90 minutes.

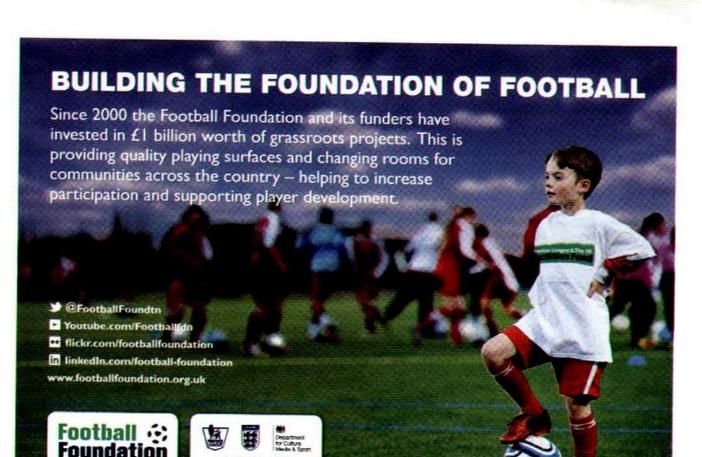
SKY BET LEAGUE 2

CARLISLE UNITED (A) SATURDAY 9th AUGUST. WON 1-0.

The Hatters began life back in the Football League with a determined 1-0 victory at Carlisle United thanks to Mark Cullen's first half goal.

The Town striker was on the end of Jake Howells' cross following a fine move, to give the Hatters a half-time advantage.

carlisle upped the ante in the second half in which the Hatters
resilience shone through as they kept out a barrage of pressure and
shots from the home side and in the end the hosts had no answer as
the Town held out to record all three points.







STILL RATHER PLEASED

What pleased me was our organisation and competitiveness and the way we dug in well when they got into the ascendency.

They hit the post and Mark Tyler's made a good save but other than that we didn't think Carlisle posed us too many problems and as time ticked down we had several opportunities ourselves to put the game beyond doubt.

All in all I was absolutely delighted with the result and the performance against a very good side who I believe will be up there come the end of the season.

Boost

Winning the first game of the season was nice to give the whole football club a boost and I would like to thank everybody involved – on and off the pitch – for their hard work which enabled us to kick start the campaign with such a good result.

This evening we entertain Swindon Town, a side from the level above, so it goes without saying how tough the challenge is going to be.

I know Mark Cooper very well and I have admired the job he has done at the County Ground. Succeeding Paolo Di Canio was a challenge in itself. They enjoyed a decent season last year, just missing out on the Play-Offs.

While tonight's tie will be tough, I hope that in games like this – and throughout the League campaign – our players learn from coming up against better quality opposition. Last season our players overcame so many different hurdles and subsequently learned from them to make them better players.

Tremendous

Tonight's match is also this club's first home match back as a Football League club and I hope that we can get off to a good start in front of the home supporters here at Kenilworth Road. The backdrop of our season last term was our tremendous home form. "WE WANT OUR
HOME FORM TO
BECOME A FEATURE
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AHEAD ONCE MORE
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We made this place a fortress, and while we had a little blip towards the end of the season, by and large our performances at home were fantastic.

Clubs came to Kenilworth Road knowinf they had to be on their game to get a result because our strength, quality, attitude and support was always in our favour.

We want our home form to become a feature of the season ahead once more and a positive result tonight would be the perfect start.

Savour

On Saturday we play our first home game back in the Football League against AFC Wimbledon which I am sure is going to be one incredible occasion. It's a game I know a lot of people are looking forward to – me included – and I'm sure it will be a day to savour.

A lot has happened over the course of pre-season and I will fill you in more about that in my notes at the weekend.

Until then, please get behind us this evening.

Remember this is your team and you are a part of our team. Your support can – and has in the past – make a difference.

Enjoy the game.

BOARDROOM

WITH CHAIRMAN NICK OWEN



Good evening and welcome to this historic occasion, our first match back at Kenilworth Road as a Football League club after five seasons 'away'. Feels good, doesn't it?

We've all been through it a bit as Luton fans in the last eight years or so and this marks the start of a whole new era for our football club.

It was a terrific start to the season on Saturday at Carlisle, boosted by superb support of more than 1,000 of our fans making the 500-mile round-trip. However, I have a confession to make...My son Tim and I got stuck in horrendous traffic on the M6. We finally arrived at twenty-to-four so we missed the goal! Having seen it on television, though, what a good one it was, and what an excellent hard-working performance from the team as a whole. Really encouraging!

Tonight is the first time for the majority of Hatters fans to see the side that John Still has assembled for the League 2 season.

Leader

And I would first like to congratulate Steve McNulty on being appointed captain. What a great choice – he's a real leader out there on the field, whether he's wearing the armband or not.

Secondly, I would like to welcome the new boys who've helped create a real buzz around the place. It's fantastic to see Andy Drury back, who was so popular and effective last time around, plus newcomers Paul Connolly, Mark Onyemah, Charlie Walker, Lee Angol (who is now on-loan at Boreham Wood and scored on Saturday), Luke Wilkinson, Ricky Miller, Curtley Williams and Ross Lafayette. I wish them all a long and successful stay here at Kenilworth Road.

Also, I'd like to make a special mention of Danny

Fitzsimons, who's fit again after such a wretched time with injury last season, and wish him all the best this time around, as well as saying how good it is to see Jonathan Smith and Luke Guttridge out on the pitch again.

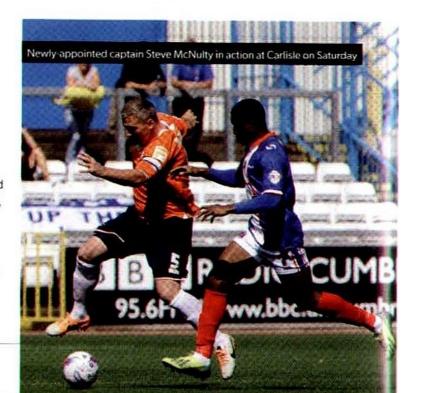
Today means so much to Luton fans, doesn't it? For the youngsters, this may be their first season of watching Football League action at Kenilworth Road. For those of more mature years, it is such a relief to be back where we belong and with a burning ambition to rise further up the pyramid.

It also means we are in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy again, having never had the chance to defend it after that wonderful day at Wembley back in 2009, and, of course, we are back in the Football League Cup, which tonight means we welcome Swindon Town.

Shocks

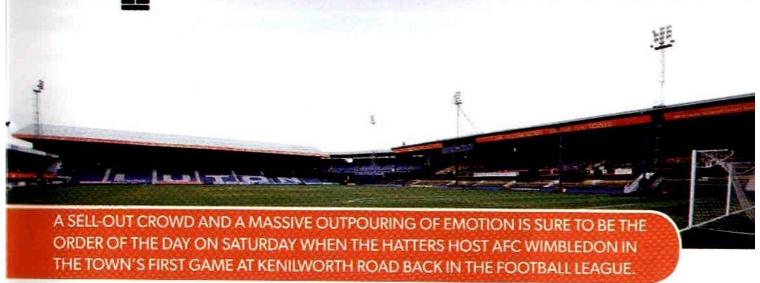
Swindon have glorious memories of this particular competition, just as we do. Back in 1969, as a Third Division club, they pulled off one of the biggest shocks in the history of any cup when they beat the mighty Arsenal 3-1 in the League Cup final at Wembley.

I remember it well, particularly the brilliance of Don Rogers. I also recall how awful the pitch was.



up next

AFC WIMBLEDON



Not only is a special atmosphere guaranteed for the Hatters' first home Football League match since April 2009, but the fixture also promises to be a cracker with both teams fancied to do well in League 2 this term.

And, let's not forget Saturday's encounter will also be the first time the two clubs have met since the Wombles' penalty shootout victory over the Town at the City of Manchester Stadium in the 2011 Conference Play-Off

A lot has changed at both clubs since that day in Manchester. Both managers in charge of that match have now moved on, as have a number of players. Mark Tyler, Jake Howells and Alex Lawless are the only three players still in the Town squad from that afternoon of disappointment at Kenilworth Road.

The Dons, now under the tutelage of Neal Ardley, are enjoying their fourth season in the Football League. AFC have never finished higher than 16th place in League 2 - achieved in their debut season in the League - and in their last two campaigns the Dons have finished in 20th position in League 2.

But hopes are high at Kingsmeadow that Ardley's side can make the step up to League 1 for the first time in the club's short history.

The squad and summer arrivals have certainly piqued the Dons faithful's belief of a successful campaign and the Town will certainly need to be aware of prolific striker Matt Tubbs, who arrived on a season-long loan from Bournemouth this summer.

The diminutive striker fired Crawley to the Conference title in 2010/11 with 40 goals and has previously netted against the Town whilst with Salisbury.

Danger

However, Tubbs - who netted on his debut for the Dons in their 2-2 draw with Shrewsbury on Saturday - isn't the only danger in the Dons squad. Ardiey's group contain a plethora of experienced heads, including striker Adebayo Akinfenwa, Dannie Bulman, Andy Frampton and Sammy Moore.

The Dons' were comprehensively beaten the last time they set foot inside Kenilworth Road back in 2010/11 with the Hatters winning 3-0 in front of the live Premier Sports cameras.

On that Friday night goals from Zdenek Kroca, George Pilkington and Matthew Barnes-Homer were enough to give the Town all three points.

That remains the only time the Hatters have beaten the Dons. Take away the Play-Off final and Saturday's visitors have only beaten the Town once. That also came at Kenilworth Road in February 2010 when Danny Kedwell hit the winning goal.

If you cast your mind back even further back the Town and Wimbledon faced each other on the opening day of the Conference season back in 2009/10 - a game that ended in 1-1 draw.

As highlighted on page 11, we are urging all supporters to dress in orange and create a Wall of Colour to welcome the Town back home to the Football League. So make sure you don - no pun intended - your orange shirts. hats and wigs and be a part of what promises to be a fascinating afternoon inside Kenilworth Road.

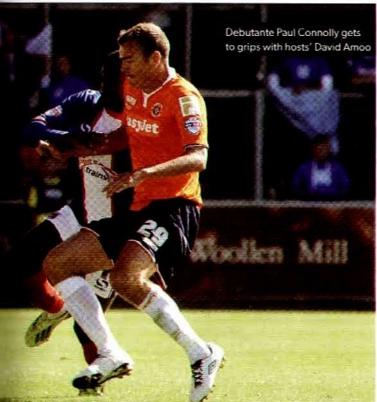
THE SEASON

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DECEMBER Sat 13 3.00pm A Morecambe Sat 20 3.00pm H Newport County
Sat 13 3.00pm A Morecambe Sat 20 3.00pm H Newport County
Sat 20 3.00pm H Newport County
Fri 26 3.00pm A Wycombe Wanderers
Sun 28 3.00pm H Portsmouth
Goalscorer Mark Cullen fends off his marker at Carlisle
Sat 3 3.00pm A Mansfield Town
Sat 10 3.00pm H Shrewsbury Town
Sat 17 3,00pm A Plymouth Argyle
Sat 24 3.00pm A Cheltenham Town
Sat 31 3,00pm H Cambridge United
FEBRUARY
Sat 7 3.00pm A Oxford United
Tue 10 7.45pm H York City
Sat 14 3,00pm H Carlisle United
Sat 21 3,00pm A A.F.C. Wimbledon
Sat 28 3.00pm H Accrington Stanley
MARCH
Tue 3 7.45pm A Bury
Sat 7 3.00pm H Morecambe
Sat 14 3.00pm A Portsmouth
Tue 17 7.45pm A Newport County
Sat 21 3.00pm H Wycombe Wanderers
Sat 28 3.00pm A Northampton Town
APRIL
Mon 6 7.45pm A Transmers Bovers
Sat 11 3.00pm H Burton Albion
Tue 14 7.45pm A Dagenham & Redbridge
Sat 18 3.00pm H Hartlepool United
The field Cardeo Material
MAY Sat 2 3,00pm H Stevenage

Fixtures & Results

SHE

Drury ● Howells ● CULLEN 1 Berson Franks Wall Rooney ● Ruddock Guttridge Stevenson ● Justham



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		Mark Tyler punches clear the danger as home side press
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LEAGUE TABLE 2014/15											
		P	W	D	1	F	A	GD	PT		
1	Morecambe	1	1	0	B	3	0	3	3		
2	Wycombe Wanderers	1	1	0	0	2	Ē.	2	3		
3	Burton Albion	1	1	D	0	1	9	1	3		
4	Cambridge United	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3		
5	Cheltenham Town	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3		
6	Luton Town	- 1	1	0	0	1	0	-1	- 3		
7	Northampton Town	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3		
8	Southend United	1	1	D	0	1	0	1	3		
9	Stevenage	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3		
10	AFC Wimbledon	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1		
11	Shrewsbury Town	1	0	1	9	2	2	0	1		
12	Exeter City	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1		
13	Portsmouth	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1		
14	Transmere Rovers	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1		
15	York City	1	0	1	D	1	1	0	1		
16	Accrington Stanley	1	0	0	1	Ū	1	-1	0		
17	Bury	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0		
18	Carlisle United	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0		
19	Hartlepool United	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0		
20	Mansfield Town	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0		
21	Oxford United	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0		
22	Plymouth Argyle	1	0	9	1	0	1	-1	0		
23	Newport County	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0		
24	Dagenham & Redbridge	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0		

	EDAGEE			DP CERTAIN			1000		DECP		DEED TOO		
	APP	3	GLS	A	75	GLS	4	PPS	GLS		R	APPS	GL
Zane Banton	0	O)	0	8	(3)	0	0	(0)	0	ō	0	6	0
Paul Benson	1	0)	0	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	39	19
Paul Connolly	11	OF-	0	0	(3)	0	1	(0)	0	1	0	1	9
Mark Cullen	1	m.	1	0	(0)	0	1	(G)	1	5	0	37	11
Andy Drury	1 1	Ti-	Ð.	ō	(3)	8	1	(0)	0	5	ê	27	8
Fraser Franks	0 4	Di-	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	8	0	0	17	0
Scott Griffiths	1 1	9	0	0	(3)	8	1	(0)	8	0	0	53	1
Luke Guttridge	0 (25	0	9	(3)	ō	0	(0)	8	ð	0	33	13
lake Howells	1 (Œ	0	0	(3)	0	1	(3)	8	0	0	277	Z
Elliot Justian	0 1	Ti.	8	5	(0)	0	9	(0)	0	0	0	7	0
Alex Lacey	1 (355	ō	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	32	1
Ross Lafayette	0 1	OF.	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	0	0
Alex Lawless	0.4	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	D	0	0	156	18
Steve McNuity	1 1	N.	0	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	69	2
Andrew Parry	0 (3)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	26	4
lan Rees	0 (3)	0	ô	(0)	0	0	10)	0	0	0	4	9
Matt Robinson	1 (00	0	0	(0)	0	1	(0)	0	0	0	45	3
Luke Rooney	0 (1)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(1)	9	0	0	7	0
Pelly Ruddock Mparuru	0 ((0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	24	2
Charlie Smith	8	O)	0	0	問	0	0	(3)	G	0	0	3	0
Josethan Smith	0 ((0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	60	3
Jim Stevenson	0 (T)	0	0	個	0	0	(1)	0	0	8	7	0
Mark Tyler	1 ((0)	0	0	(0)	0	1	[0]	0	0	0	231	0
Alex Wall	0 0	00	0	0	(0)	Û	0	御	0	0	0	27	6
Share Whaley	0 1	D)	0	0	(0)	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	22	2
Luke Wilkinson	1 1	Di-	0	0	(0)	0	1	608	0	0	0	1	0

HOLD THE BACCIR IP A OF E

Luton Town versus Swindon Town in the Capital One Cup. Sounds good doesn't it?

It's been a long time in coming, but Hatters are finally back where they belong in the Football League.

Fans are already starting to enjoy all the trappings that go with it, increased media coverage, being part of the Football League Show, not having to worry if Wrexham are winning or not any more.

It was definitely a case of new season, same old story for Hatters at the weekend though as they carried on exactly where they left off.

Against a much stronger opposition than they had come against at any stage during their Conference title success, Town showed hugely promising signs for the campaign ahead.

Optimism

Solid and committed in defence with some lovely pass and move football on display too, boosted by a huge away following, it was as if Hatters had never been away.

More importantly, with some key players to come back, in the shape of Luke Guttridge, Jonathan Smith and Alex Lawless, there's rightly an air of increasing optimism at Kenilworth Road.

It's worth remembering too that there were a number of Football League debuts out there for the likes of Alex Lacey, Matt Robinson and Jim Stevenson, and these players can only get better with the exposure.

Looking at the squad John Still has put together this year, he managed to cover all the areas he was wishing to strengthen. The departure of leading scorer Andre Gray to Brentford was unavoidable, but somewhat inevitable after a prolific campaign where he bagged 30 goals.

Ross Lafayette, Ricky Miller and Charlie Walker have all come in with the hopes of replacing Gray, but I think this will finally the time for Mark Cullen to step into the spotlight.

A run of games at the end of last season showed what he can do when given

the chance, while although the bookies would disagree, his preseason form hinted he could

> well be the man to watch this term.

Saturday's goal was another example, as yes it was a tap-in, but he was the one who had made the run to make it look as simple as it eventually was. Still clearly has faith in his forward too, offering him a three year deal in the summer, Finally, the choice of Steve

McNulty as a captain, although not unexpected, is an excellent decision by

the boss too.

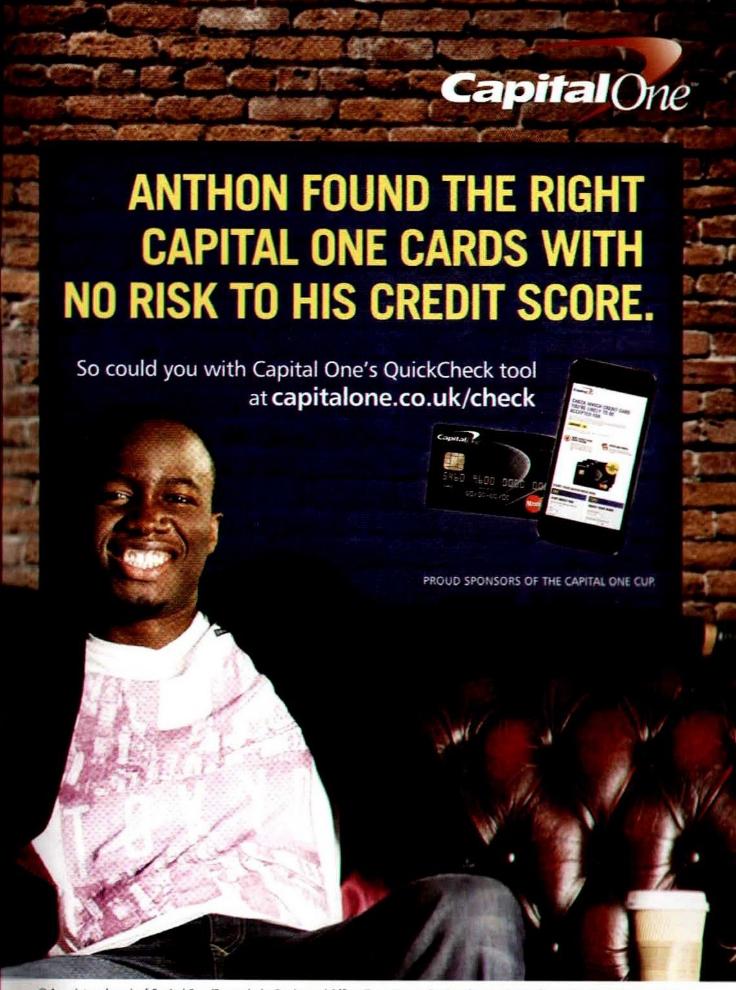
You only had to take a look at any game last season to see that although Ronnie Henry had the armband, McNulty's leadership qualities shone through on the pitch.

He demands incredible respect from the rest of the squad and will relish the increased challenges that come from playing against higher standard opponents this year.

So get ready to enjoy the ride again this year, as after tonight, Hatters welcome AFC Wimbledon and Bury to Kenilworth Road.

When you think it could still be Altrincham and Nuneaton, that definitely sounds good!





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THE SQUADS



LUTON TOWN

- Mark Tyler
- 2 Fraser Franks
- 3 Danny Fitzsimons
- 4 Jonathan Smith
- 5 Stephen McNulty
- 6 Alex Lacey
- 7 Alex Lawless
- 8 Andy Drury
- 9 Paul Benson
- 10 Alex Wall
- 11 Jake Howells
- 12 Scott Griffiths
- 13 Mark Cullen
- 14 Andy Parry
- 15 Luke Rooney
- 16 Elliot Justham

- 17 Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu
- 18 Ross Lafayette
- 19 Ricky Miller
- 20 Shaun Whalley
- 21 Luke Guttridge
- 23 Matthew Robinson
- 24 Curtley Williams
- 28 Jim Stevenson
- 29 Paul Connolly
- 30 Luke Wilkinson
- 32 Brett Longden
- 33 Mark Onyemah
- 34 Zane Banton
- 35 Charlie Walker
- 36 Charlie Smith
- 39 Ian Rees

SWINDON TOWN

- 1 Wes Foderingham
- 2 Nathan Thompson
- 3 Nathan Byrne
- 4 Massimo Luongo
- 7 Ben Gladwin
- 8 Yaser Kasim
- 9 Michael Smith
- 10 Andy Williams
- 15 Josh Lelan
- 16 Connor Waldon
- 17 Ryan Harley

- 18 George Barker
- 19 Louis Thompson
- 21 Mathew Jones
- 22 Darren Ward
- 23 Jack Barthram
- 24 Curtis Da Costa
- 25 Tyrell Belford
- 26 Anton Rodgers
- 27 Josue Antonio
- 29 Raphael Branco
- 30 Harry Agombar

TONIGHT'S OFFICIALS



Paul Tierney



圖=1 = 圖

Anthony Coggins



Matt Foley



Mathew Bounassisi

NEXT UP

v AFC WIMBLEDON • SATURDAY 16th AUGUST 2014 • 3pm • SKY BET LEAGUE 2