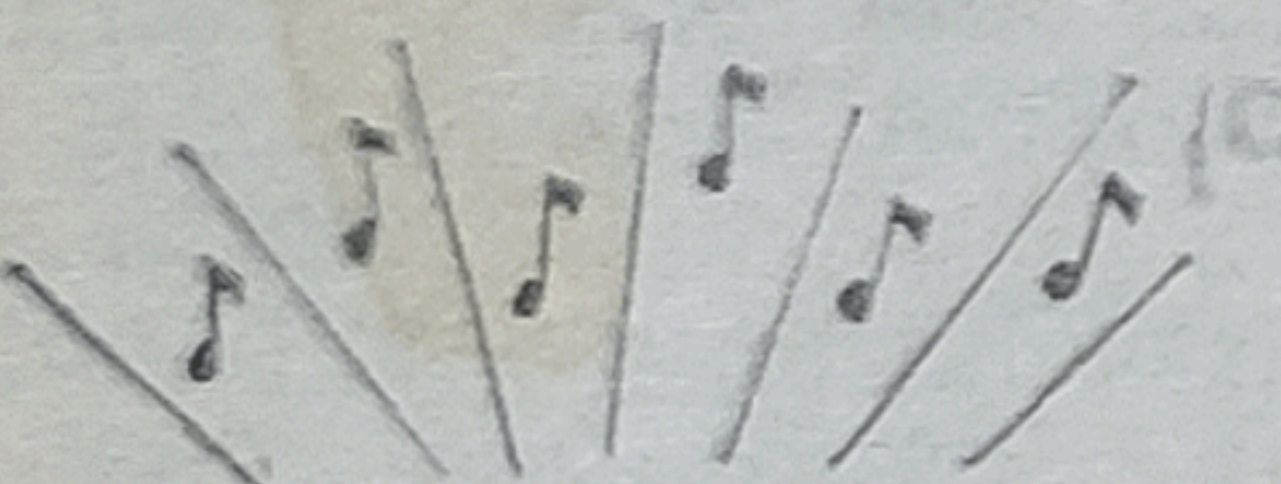
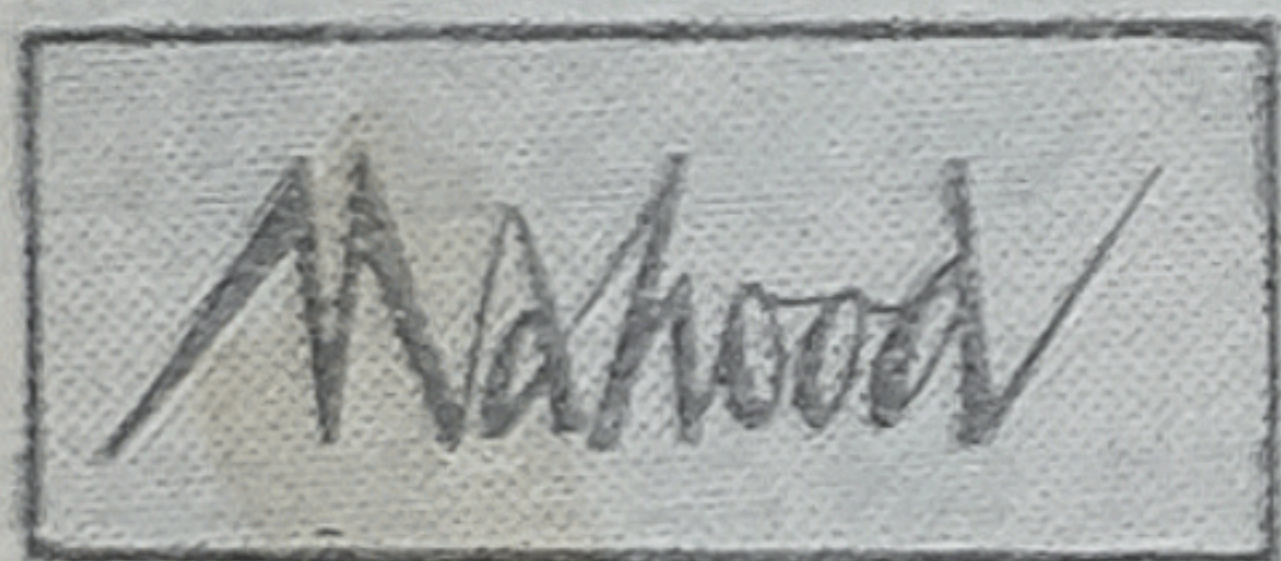




'It's their new song—Don't Fence Me In!'

LUTON and Millwall's truculent refusal to take their medicine for the good of the game is more dismaying even, than the continued leniency of the Football Association.

Luton, a pleasant, conscientious club, was the last we would have suspected to impede the crusade against hooliganism.

Self interest, it now seems, dominates football's every nook and cranny.

It's not as if the FA came down with anything like the weight of the flying seats hurled at police during that infamous quarter-final, the televising of which finally roused the Government to intervene.

Hoist on the inadequacy of its own legislation and the feeble precedent set in dealing with Chelsea—it could hardly be seen to beat up the small fry after bottling it against a big club—the FA administered a joint slap on the wrist barely audible above the public clamour for punitive action.

JEFF

POWELL'S

VERDICT



All clubs, like it or not, will come under Government instruction soon to fence their grounds. Luton have the chance to do so with good grace and as a gesture, at least, to football's image.

If they and Millwall insist on anarchy or appeal, the FA might delay the next hearing until Government legislators have protected their legal rights . . . and then increase the sentence dramatically.

Perhaps banning two of the FA Cup quarter-finalists from the competition next season would reassure the community.

Meanwhile, it would not go amiss if the disciplinary commission fired a warning broadside, spelling out to future offenders the severity of measures which will be taken once Mrs Thatcher has untied their limp, rot hands.