

Half-time

By Hatters for Hatters

ORANGE

Season 07-08 No1

The Line In The Sand Edition



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hatters matters

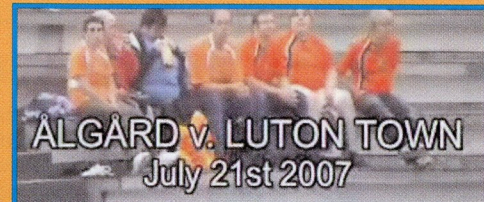
... a word from the editor

KEEP the faith...

That's what Big Fat Joe used to tell us... but it's been a big ask this time around for many long-standing Hatters fans.

From the limp performances of last season, the outrage of the Sunderland supporters in the home stands for the final game, the flogging of countless players for big money, an FA investigation into the club's finances – it's tested our patience to breaking point.

So it'll be very interesting to see what the crowd is today for the season's curtain-raiser with Hartlepool. Whatever the figure, it'll probably be higher than the number that turned out for Town's pre-season friendly



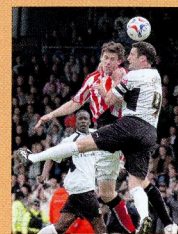
This lot looked on in disbelief as Richard Langley scored a stunning free-kick in our Norwegian pre-season friendly. There'll be more Hatters fans in the stands for today's match (well probably).

with Algard (see photo). On the subject of Hartlepool, welcome (I think) to former Hatters hero Danny Wilson, despite him laughing all the way to the bank with the £500,000 he robbed off us for Boyd.

Thankfully, major surgery has been performed on last season's squad in an attempt to arrest the rut we found ourselves in. Of course, we've sold Leon for £2.5million, but eight

new players have come in (at the time of writing) to add some much-needed experience to the side.

In recent months a lot has been said about how our club's been run, but forget all that for now. This afternoon it's time to get behind the boys (yes, even Furlong if he gets on) and hopefully we'll be three points nearer a return to the Championship come 4.50pm.



**TEXT your verdict on
today's game to 84070**

(start your message with LDNEWS followed by a space and then add your view on the action)

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Hair-raising

WHAT YOU LOOKING AT, PUNK?

IT was a hairy experience for Town as they kicked-off their pre-season with a 3-0 win over Hitchin.

New senior pro Rob Sinclair chose the occasion to reveal his new Mohican look, which scared the bee-Jesus out of ex-Hatter Parys Okai.

Luton were the better side overall. Canaries fans will disagree, but that would just be splitting hairs.

Rumours that Barnet were interested in the youngster after his stylish display at Top Field were unfounded.

FAIRY UNFORTUNATE

THE views of cynical Hatters fans that Richard Langley played like a fairy were backed up by some strange poses from the former QPR man during pre-season training.

The 27-year-old tried to despatch the myth by re-inventing himself as a tough-tackling centre-half during Town's friendly defensive crisis.

However, that backfired when he was stretchered off in the 0-0 draw at Rushden & Diamonds.

PRESSING MATTERS

LEFT-back Alan Goodall impressed after his move from Rochdale.

But his attempts at press-ups left something to be desired...

pre-season...

BOTTOMS UP, THE SEASON'S HERE

TOWN striker Drew Talbot was fearing he had got a bum deal when he didn't feature in the Rushden friendly.

But the former Sheffield Wednesday man soon got to the bottom of the situation and realised it was a case of squad rotation as the line-up turned arse about face for the Oxford clash.

Talbot was a pain in the backside for the United defence as he breached the U's rear-guard to get Luton's opener in a 2-1 win.

What a bummer for Oxford.

LET'S TWIST AGAIN

NEW signing Paul Peschisolido looked lively against Rushden - and he also showed glimpses of his talents on the dance-floor as he pulled out some shapes like this one.

Rumour has it that the diminutive striker was a big fan of Chubby Checker's 1960s hit Let's Twist Again and here is Pesch twisting, just like he did last summer when at Derby County.

BLACKWELL'S TUNNEL VISION

BOSS Kevin Blackwell's high demands and insistence on excellence from his players during the pre-season marked him out as a man who won't suffer fools or time wasters gladly.

That was the case when Blackwell was caught berating Danny Stevens, just out of the picture (right) for asking for another chance at Kenilworth Road after his release.



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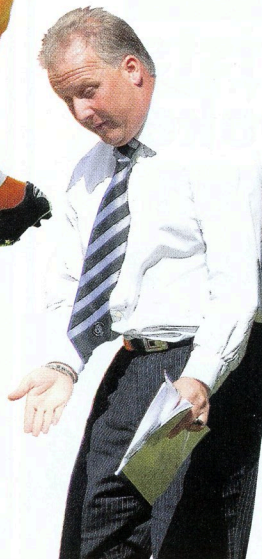
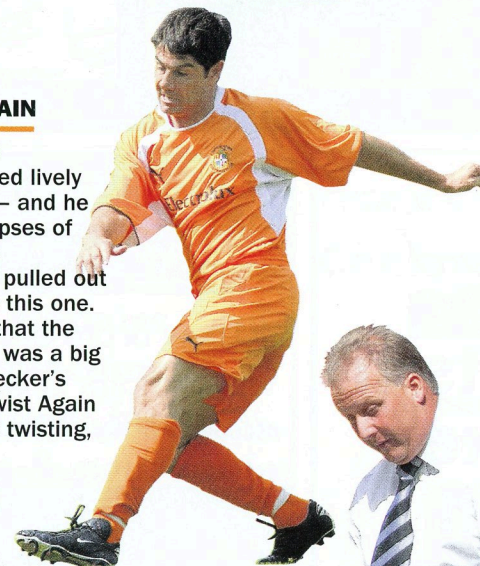
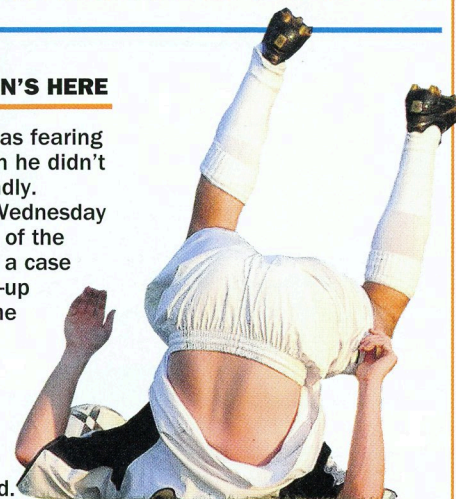
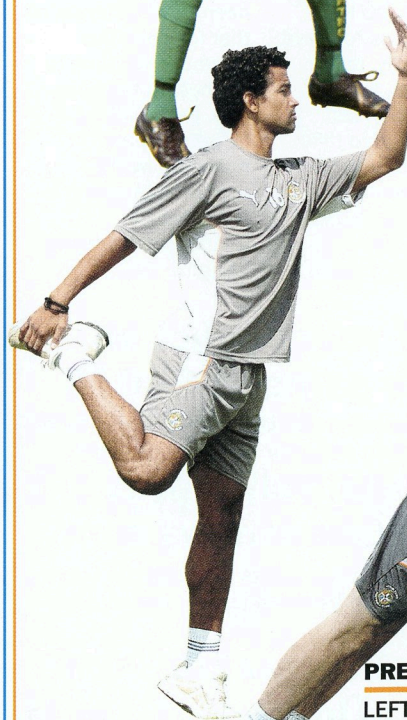
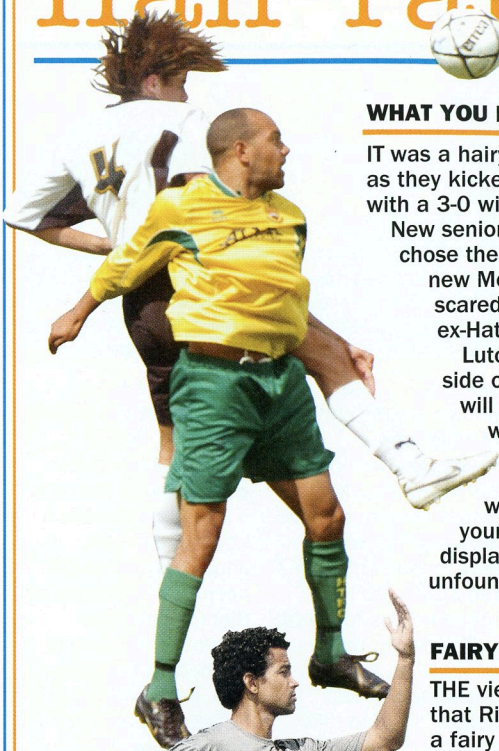
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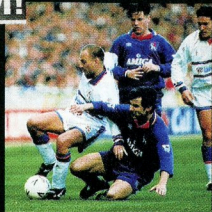


David Preece: 1963-2007



PREECE SLAYS 'EM!

ASTON VILLA were felled by a brace and a century double, and a hat-trick for the club captain, David Preece, in a 4-0 victory at Villa Park on Saturday.



PLEAT GETS CUP HERO



'David was a true Luton great, a 100 per cent footballer with a wonderfully educated left foot'
- *LTFC historian Roger Wash*

Cup heroes get back together



Together again: David Preece was re-united with five of Luton's triumphant 1993 Littlewoods Cup final team when he celebrated 10 years service with a testimonial match against Manchester United, here are three of them. From the left, Northern Ireland ace Mal Donaghy and former England players Ricky Hill and Brian Stein. The game ended in a 3-0 draw - but was it Preece's last in a Luton shirt? See page 110



...Games 395...Goals 27...Debut: 8.12.84 v Aston Villa (H) ...Last appearance 7.5.95 v Stoke (H) ...

rude boys!

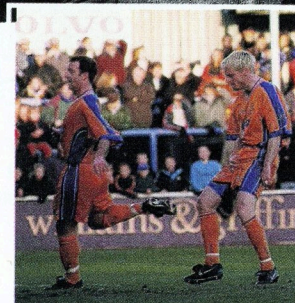
... we went innocently groping around in the archives and were shocked at what we found



No, they're not doing pre-season training on a beach... the Kenilworth plastic really did have that much sand thrown on it in the good old days. 'La La' Lars Elstrup was so desperate to impress upon his arrival at Luton that he used an underhand Vinny Jones on Gazza-style tactic to gain possession of the ball ahead of a team-mate



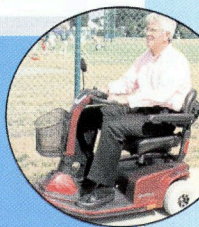
After securing promotion to the top flight in 1981, Brian 'Nobby' Horton was so excited at the prospect of meeting Jim Rosenthal that he forgot to put any clothes on before revealing all in his TV interview. What a cock up!



As a defender, Graham Alexander obviously had a strong tackle on him. The Scottish international had a bit of a fall-out with the Hatters crowd when he made it clear he wanted a move out of Kenilworth Road, so we're not sure which set of fans this gesture was aimed at

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check it out



What to look out for in today's game

Applause for Pools boss Danny Wilson ☐

Minute's silence for David Preece ☐

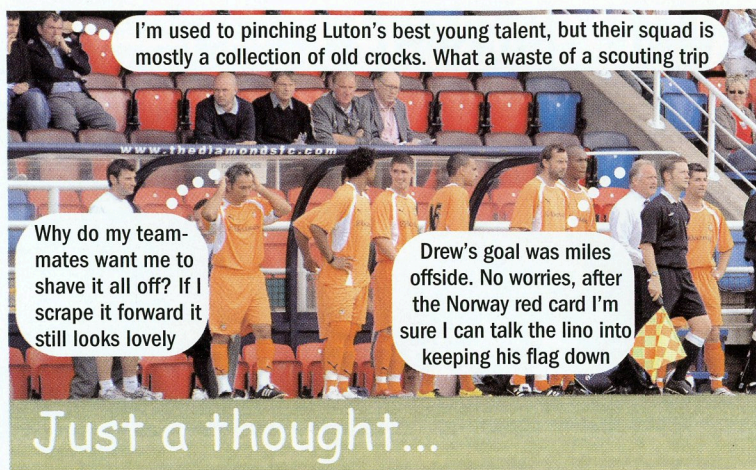
Pitch looking nice (for 1st few games) ☐

Plenty of stock in club shop!!!! ☐

Our older players flagging in the sun ☐

Pools taunting us about Boyd ☐

One victory & fans think we'll win title ☐



Why do my teammates want me to shave it all off? If I scrape it forward it still looks lovely

Drew's goal was miles offside. No worries, after the Norway red card I'm sure I can talk the lino into keeping his flag down

Just a thought...

head to head...

The orange 'experts' get their crystal balls out (ahem)

<p>Steve</p> <p>Pools (H): 2-1 win Daggers (A): 0-2 win Swindon (A): 2-1 loss Gills (H): 2-1 win Leeds (A): 1-1 draw</p>	<p>Andy</p> <p>Pools (H): 2-0 win Daggers (A): 2-1aet Swindon (A): 1-1 draw Gills (H): 2-2 draw Leeds (A): 0-1 win</p>
--	--

Correct result 1pt, exact score 2pts: Latest score - Steve 0 Andy 0



cheeky monkeys



SO after a disappointing season at Luton that was more pathetic than prolific, former Hartlepool striker Adam Boyd has been shown the door.

And being able to count the number of goals he scored on one hand, Hatters fans could be forgiven for wondering why your club ever shelled out half a million quid for him (thanks very much for the cash by the way, it came in very handy!)

I did not follow his time at Luton that closely but was informed of his progress - or lack of it - by a couple of Hatters-supporting mates.

Emails telling me things like "Boyd is rubbish" and "he's like a knackered cart horse - can't even run for five minutes" indicated all was not well.

Did he spend more time on

Mark Payne supports today's opponents Hartlepool... you know, the northern monkey hangers who had the cheek to take half a mill off us for that waste of space Adam Boyd



his knees than a carpet fitter?

Well, hold on to your hats, Hatters, and take it from this Hartlepool fan... Adam Boyd is/was a good footballer - who scored goals. Impressive and important ones, too!

At Hartlepool he scored 53

times with one of his finest hours being a hat-trick to demolish Sheffield Wednesday on a rain-lashed pitch.

So what went wrong with you lot?

To be fair, at times Boyd could go missing for large parts of a game. But every time he got the ball I felt something special could happen.

Personally, I reckon Newell bought Boyd on the basis of his previous season's performance when he netted 29 times in 2004/05.

He spent the majority of his last season with us out injured and never regained his best form.

As for whether I would have him back at Pools, I would say not now.

And certainly not for £500,000!

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Dan of the Dongs

by MK Dons fan Dan Dyson

KEEP looking over your shoulders sad Hatters, because the MK Dons are embarrassingly becoming a bigger club than you.

We've already got a brilliant new 22,000-seater stadium, a multi-million pound youth academy and one of the brightest young managers in Paul Ince - and we've only been around for three years!

And how our stadium must grate on you...jeez, you have been farting around looking for a new ground to replace that Kenilworth Road tin shed for 50-odd years now!

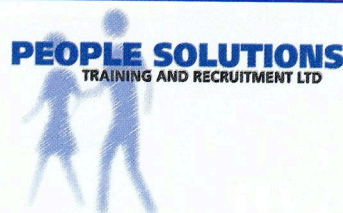
I don't mean to gloat (much) but everything comes easy to us in this 'can do' place MK. We don't have grumpy old cronies dragging their heels over things for decades like in L*ton. Talking of cronies, we don't have to resort to signing a team of arthritic grandads either!

*Hi John,
Trust everything is coming along nicely ahead of Saturday's first ball game. Sorry I couldn't be with you to take some of the abuse but the holiday was pre-booked before I took over. If you run into trouble with the supporters there's a baseball bat in my bottom drawer. I'll be thinking of you as the sun shines and the booze flows! The beaches here in Barbados are lovely and simply perfect for drawing a line in the sand. I'm praying we win on Saturday and things begin to look upbeat. I hear Kevin's made even more signings while I've had my back turned. How the hell am I supposed to pay all their wages? Cheers Dave*



*John Mitchell
LJFC
Hartington, Luton
ENGLAND*

HATTERS chairman David Pinkney is missing today's first match because he's in Barbados. We know this because his postcard to Town chief executive John Mitchell has turned up at the Half-time Orange offices by mistake... that's Royal Mail for you!



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girls world



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

COME 2.30pm as you arrive, settle in your seats and nod at the familiar people that surround you, I hope, like myself at the start of every new season, you have that funny feeling in your stomach...

And no, I'm not talking about the effects of the Pukka Pie you've just scoffed down! I'm talking about the anticipation of Luton Town's 2007-2008 season.

Anticipation indeed, we've now got a whole new coaching team and new experienced team members, (perhaps fresh sets of legs is taking it too far) ... but there is some definite eye candy available for the more mature lady!

CELEB WATCH:

Hartlepool fans Meat Loaf and Timmy Mallet could be loitering around the directors' box today. Sky Sports' Jeff Stelling is also a fan, but will be on the TV. But two outta three ain't bad!



Timmy Mallet



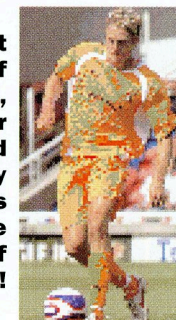
Meat Loaf

But Blackwell hasn't forgotten us youngsters, oh no! He's brought in Dave Edwards, who it would seem is just not a pretty face.

A promising player, whose ability definitely stood out at the Rushden friendly.

And before you start... I find it very difficult to shop each and

He cost a fee of £250,000, so for that wad it's only right he's got a nice set of pins!



every Saturday afternoon!

On a sad note, the injury to Richard Barrington Langley (and yes, that is his middle name) at the Rushden & Diamonds game will be a worry to us all, after all he made such an amazing contribution to our relegation last season.

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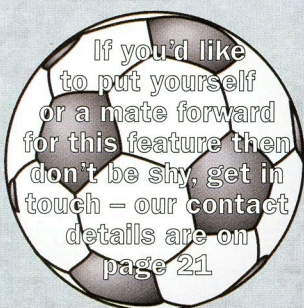
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what a beauty!



VITAL STATISTICS

Full Name: Lisa Williams

Age: 32

Occupation: Young persons
drug worker

Attached? Getting married
this year!

Been a supporter since: 2000

Best looking Hatter: Dean Brill
and David Bell

Most valuable player: David Bell

Player to flog: Richard Langley

Ideal night out: Champagne and
dinner in New York, Empire State
Building at night

Favourite TV shows: Desperate
Housewives, The F Word



Lovely Lisa

in with the old... in with



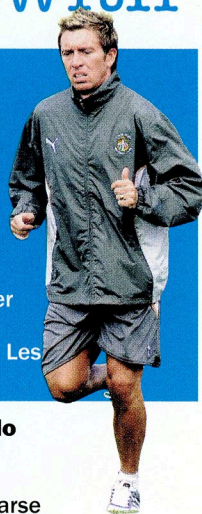
<< Chris Perry Age: 34
Strengths: Reading the game
Weaknesses: Vertically challenged
Likely starts: 36
Most Famous For: Being the shortest ever Premiership centre half
Song: Who needs John Terry, we've got Perry
Rating: ☆☆☆☆☆



<< Paul Furlong Age: 38
Strengths: Physical power, heading
Weaknesses: Energy levels, ex-Hornet
Likely starts: 1
Most Famous For: Being Chelsea's biggest waste of money (£2.3m)
Song: He's only a poor little Hornet
Rating: ☆



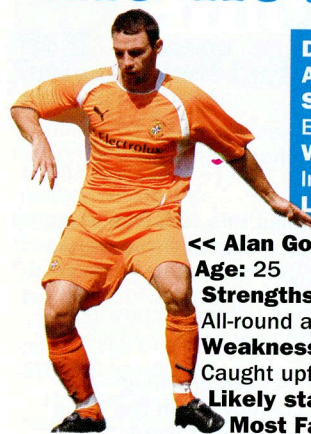
Darren Currie >>
 Age: 32
Strengths: Passing, crossing
Weaknesses: Engine
Likely starts: 20
Most Famous For: Being the David Beckham of the lower leagues
Song: Vindaloo - Fat Les
Rating: ☆☆☆



<< Paul Peschisolido
 Age: 36
Strengths: Finishing
Weaknesses: Short arse
Likely starts: 25
Most Famous For: Being Karen Brady's husband
Song: Ooh, Pesch It (Pesch It Real Good) - Salt n Pepa.
Rating: ☆☆☆☆☆

the new

Orange takes a look at Blackwell's signings and rates their chances of becoming a Hatters hero



<< Alan Goodall:
 Age: 25
Strengths: All-round ability
Weaknesses: Caught upfield
Likely starts: 40
Most Famous For:

Playing every minute of every game for Rochdale last season
Song: Goodall Vibrations (Marky Mark and the Funky Bunch)
Rating: ☆☆☆

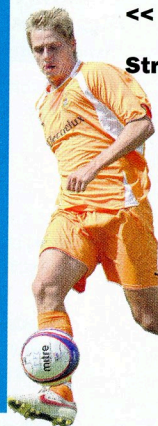


Don Hutchison>>
 Age: 36
Strengths: Experience
Weaknesses: Injury prone
Likely starts: 7

Most Famous For: Dropping his trousers in a pub and placing a Budweiser label over his 'tackle'
Song: Donald, Where's Your Troosers?
Rating: ☆



Rating ☆☆☆ **Richard Jackson >>**
 Age: 28, **Likely starts:** 17



<< Dave Edwards Age: 21
Strengths: Box-to-box player
Weaknesses: Defending
Likely number of starts: 35
Most Famous For: Not being Carlos
Song: There's Only One Carlos (oops Dave) Edwards
Rating: ☆☆☆☆☆

Age: 28, Strengths: Versatility,
Weaknesses: Distribution.
Most Famous For: Not being famous, **Song:** I'm Sorry Miss Jackson (...Your Brother's Gotta Move To Luton) by Outkast

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What a mix up!

Carol Vorderman brings you some Hatters-related anagrams

**HONCHO NUDIST
RAG OF PULL NU
REFS TOE VEST
HAH PRAY PRY
DIAL BEND BY
BURN CRY HEW RYE
RANDIER RECUR**

(answers below - don't look until you've tried very hard or Carol will get cross!)

Cherry Newbury, Darren Currie
Steve Foster, Happy Harry, Andy Dibble
Don Hutchison, Paul Furlong

(dedicated to 'Motormouth' Mike's memory)

talking points

- who said the following?



- 1 "I used to love the astroturf because we'd be out there all day practising our skills, whereas you dare not go on the pitches now!"
- 2 "The worst thing that happened this club was going up so early. Going into the Championship the cost aspect suddenly jumped just to try and compete at that level."
- 3 "It seems like we're playing on tighter pitches in a strange way, even though they are actually bigger."
- 4 "That sort of thing doesn't resolve anything - especially if you're one of the players on the pitch and your head needs to be lifted next week."
- 5 "If I didn't know any better, you'd think someone had been deliberately trying to mess the club up."

(answers below)

1. Ex-Hatter John Hartson, 2. Chief executive John Mitchell, 3. Dean Morgan attempts to explain Luton's terrible away form, 4. Ex-chairman Bill Tomlinson on fans' protests last season, 5. Boss Kevin Blackwell after taking over.

what a load of rubbish #6

HE'D played for Manchester United and not looked out of place, he'd played twice for Alex Ferguson in the Champions League and even scored in one of those matches ... now he was signing for Luton Town!

Lennie Lawrence's capture of midfielder Simon Davies from the Red Devils in August 1997 was seen as a real coup. In reality it was £150,000 down the pan.

He started the season in the team, but it didn't take long for even Lennie to realise he had a dud on his hands and the player ended up on the bench for a lot of his Hatters career.

Davies made a total of 11 starts and 14 substitute appearances in his first season at Kenilworth Road.

WE could have picked Adam Boyd, the half million pound misfit, to kick off the new season... but that angle's already been pretty much covered on page 9. Instead we focus on **Simon Davies**, the Man Utd starlet who was going to lead our charge back up the league ladder - well that was the idea, oh dear!

He did manage to somehow score in one match, the third in a 3-0 home win against Plymouth in October 1997 after hauling his sorry arse off the bench.

The 1998-99 season was a disaster though as he was limited to two starts in consecutive matches - where amazingly Luton remained unbeaten with draws at Lincoln and at home to Manchester City.

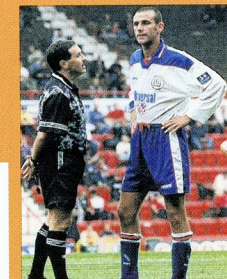
His most memorable Kenilworth Road moment undoubtedly came on May 1,

1999 - but that was in a Macclesfield shirt. A first-half injury to a Macclesfield player saw Davies enter the fray on the half-hour mark.

It took just six minutes for him to ram supporters' jibes down their throats, by putting Macclesfield 2-0 up.

A late Gary Doherty strike wasn't enough to overturn the scoreline and so Simon's goal turned out to be the winner.

Clearly exuberant after his torrid time with us, he ran from the Kenilworth Road goal-mouth all the way down to the



'I'm not going to lecture you, you're getting enough stick from the supporters'

rowdies in Main Stand J Block to share his big moment with them.

He had a big grin on his face and to be fair, despite losing, the home crowd saw the funny side and gave him a round of applause.

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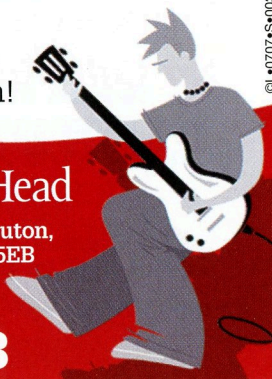
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your travel guide to...swindon



YOU'RE Welsh and you know you are!

Yes, we're off to the West Country (well, near enough) for our first away match of the new League One campaign and that means a perfect chance to start chanting about sheep.

Make sure you follow our directions to the County Ground or you could end up in Wales yourself. That's because Swindon is Milton Keynes Mark II, as the town is most notable for its round-

abouts. It loves them so much that they sell yearly calendars featuring a different roundabout each month - rumour has it that it outsells the Swindon FC effort by 100-1.

The Magic Roundabout, which is the one nearest the ground, has been dubbed the Tragic Roundabout by locals due to the accidents that occur on it, mostly on matchdays because away supporters can't fathom how it works.

directions

Hit the motorways and pray you don't get caught up in a jam.

Leave early and if you turn up ahead of sched-

ule you get more drinking time! M1, M25, M4. Leave the M4 at J15, and then work the rest out for yourself as you get

famous fans

Diana Dors
Busty blonde hailed from town and offered two big reasons to support club



Melinda Messenger
Busty blonde hails from town and offers two big reasons to support club



Willie Carson
Wee Willie, the ex-jockey got saddled with supporting the club & has invested cash in it



LTFC has two similarities with The Robins. Both teams have won the League Cup by beating the Arse, and both have had a song recorded about them by super group, The Barron Knights.

Oh, nearly forgot, scenes for two Bond films have been shot in Swindon.

dizzy on the zillion roundabouts... Don't worry too much though, there's bound to be signs for the ground somewhere.

dear dot



there's always plenty of agony involved in all things Hatters, so we've roped in our very own agony aunt Dorothy Dixon to help relieve the suffering



JOHN SAYS:

"The fans are never happy. We're sorting out a lovely new stadium, investing in the squad and still they're calling for my head."



DOT SAYS:

"You've sold most of the best talent so no wonder some fans are finding it hard to draw a line in the sand on the disaster of last season. Maybe if the stadium gets planning approval some will come round and a favourable ending to the FA investigation may help. If you don't like the heat, get out of the kitchen!"



PAUL SAYS:

"I'm getting abuse already and the season hasn't even started because I used to play for Watford and QPR. What's it going to be like when we kick off for real?"



DOT SAYS:

"If you're that concerned, stick some cheese in your lugholes. If the fans see you giving 100% then they may come round. I wouldn't worry too much, though, you'll be lucky if you make the bench."

Don't forget to get in touch..

It's a funny old game and we know fans enjoy sticking their oar in... so what are you waiting for? We'd love your contributions.



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EMAIL: orange@bedsnews.com



FAX: 01582 526012 marking your fax FAO: The Editor, Half-time Orange.



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from the allotments

with 'orrible 'ornet Don Monty

SO will it be a double promotion this year?

I suppose you could argue that the Hatters technically had a better season than us last time. After all, you did finish second from bottom thanks to

Leeds going belly up whereas we propped up our division. Maybe you'll be good enough to go straight back up. At least then you'll still only be one league below us... honest!

But we're not giving you Clarke Carlisle back, and we're definitely not buying back Matthew Spring.

I went to Milton Keynes' new stadium on Wednesday. All very posh with facilities you can only dream of, like

running water and seats with a view of the pitch.

However, you'll be glad to hear that even the 'wonderful' city that is

Milton Keynes can still make a pig's ear out of a concrete cow's purse.

The match was made pay on the day ... and unfortunately Bob and Betty in the ticket office weren't quite expecting 3,000 visiting fans to turn up. I took half an hour to buy a ticket and get in, and I was one of the lucky ones - for others it took an hour.

The rumour going round was they got their local rivals mixed up and were just expecting Luton's travelling army to arrive... in a taxi of course.



boys 'r' us
with Billy Suggest

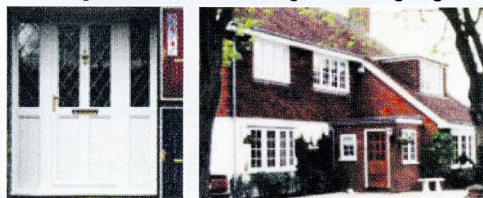
SO we're strapped for cash, right? Well here's an idea. When our groundsman's finished grooming the Kenny carpet, let's get him out earning the club some extra revenue with that pitch marking dye. Advertising images like this pole dancer (above) are popping up on fields by airports across the country. So let's get him painting a similar one for the saucy website around the Luton airport flightpath perhaps. Who says birds can't play an important role in football?

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