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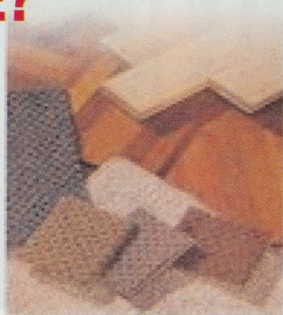
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hatters matters

... a word from the editor

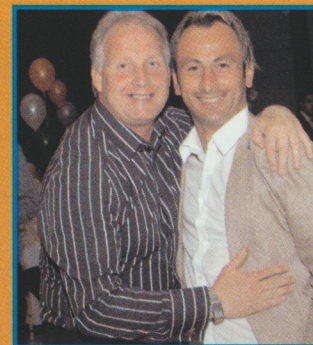
THE proverbial has hit the fan and now we're left to worry about what on earth the fall-out is going to be.

The FA has issued 55 charges in relation to player deals at Hatters and the club has until next Friday to formulate a response.

Most worrying is the fact that a whole heap of charges are against the club, not just former employees. So it looks like supporters could bear the brunt of any punishment, with a possible massive points deduction (which would see their team plummet to the foot of the table) a real threat.

Whatever the outcome, though, anyone embroiled in this sorry mess should be banned from future involvement in football if they're found guilty.

You'd hope that any



We've heard there was a bit of a row after Brko spoke out in The Luton News over his lack of first-team opportunities.

Clearly the Croatian has now made up with the boss, though, and it's all smiles at Kenilworth Road

loss of points would focus players' minds rather than send them into their shells.

It would certainly put added pressure on boss Kevin Blackwell to sort out the appalling away form. With Christmas coming fast, what hope have we of hearing a Hatters rendition of that winning away Jingle Bells song this year?

On a positive note, at least a couple of loan faces have been added to the squad to help

turn things around.

These include Chelsea youngster Anthony Grant who looks like he could be the new Kevin Nicholls?

I say that, not because I've ever seen him play, but because of his record while at Wycombe last season. He managed to pick up 15 yellows and two red cards in 40-odd appearances.

I'm sure most were down to inept refereeing, though...



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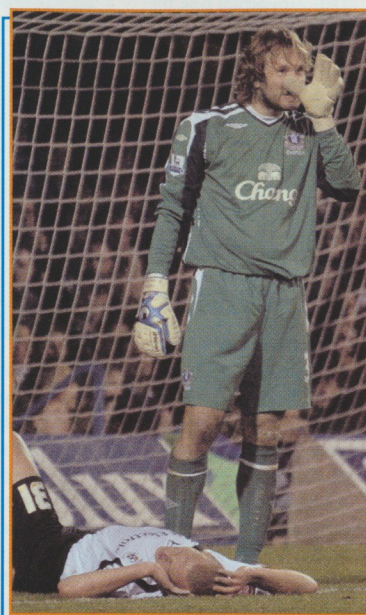
The news at

Signs that they've hit the bottle

WE all know that Town's away woes are enough to make us hit the bottle, but have the players beaten us to it?

Everton keeper Stephan Wessels certainly thinks so judging by the sign language which was spotted during our recent cup clash against the Merseysiders.

Young, and therefore presumably impressionable, Polish defender Jaroslaw Fojut is also pictured giving further substance to the accusation, seemingly unable to stand up and also holding his head because a monster hangover.

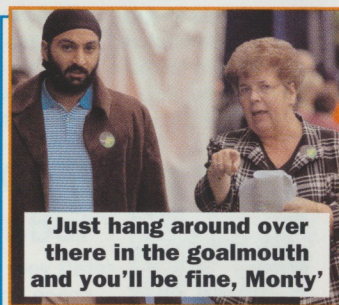


'Na na nana na. We're winning!'

Monty's mission

LUTON cricketing hero Monty Panesar was invited to the Forest game under the guise of being guest of honour. As he was taken on a pre-match tour of the ground, though, Cherry sounded him out about his footballing abilities.

Monty was reportedly bowled over at being asked to fulfil the lone striker's role, but he was left disappointed in the end as Paul Furlong passed a late fitness test and took to the field in his place.



'Just hang around over there in the goalmouth and you'll be fine, Monty'

Do Bell and Furls get on?



Orange has uncovered worrying evidence that two of Town's top stars have fallen out. Belly is seen here shoving Furls off the ball and also grabbing him by the throat. They say the camera never lies...



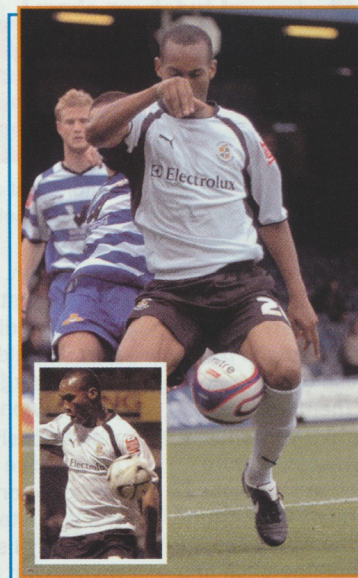
Ken Rumours, speculation, gossip and half-truths

Some help with ball control?

ROOKIE striker Calvin Andrew has been working on the basics in an effort to prove to manager Kevin Blackwell that he can be the new Paul Furlong.

And rumour has it he's come up with a cunning and sneaky way of ensuring the ball comes under his control just that little bit easier.

Calvin's got one of those ball-on-a-piece-of-elastic training devices and has started to use it in matches when he thinks no-one's looking.



It's all under control - or is it?

It's conga night....



HATTERS and Everton players got on so well in the recent Carling Cup match that they decided to have a combined Christmas party. They're seen here getting ready for the big festivities by having a little practice at their conga dance.

AS well as regularly coming unstuck in away games, Town players have now had a sticky moment with management over breaking a ban on gum chewing during matches. The scandal broke after Brilly was caught with some Wrigleys on his chin and we have our suspicions that Coyne is guilty too but he won't let anyone prise his mouth open.

Coming unstuck



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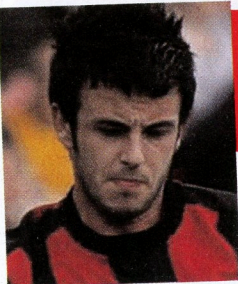
... with 'orrible 'ornet Don Monty



THERE are times when it would just be too cruel to have a pop... But I'll have a go anyway!

I've written this last week ... well, I'm writing it now but you know what I mean .. just as your club officially plummeted into new depths of despair.

First this column was going to be full of wry comments about your mighty draw with Brentford and narrowly missing a trip to Harrogate Railway in the FA Cup second



Just for the record Don, the man that we've signed on loan from Portsmouth is Marc Wilson

preliminary round, or whatever you play in these days.

Then it was to admire your major new signing from Pompey. Campbell? James? Or is it the bloke who wanders round the pitch in a

sailor's hat and bell bottoms before the game?

But then, just when it couldn't get any worse for you, it did - and now it could be grim if these charges against you are upheld.

I obviously don't have a clue as to what has gone on and I'm not going to speculate. But sadly I suspect that if your club is found

guilty as charged, you don't have the muscle of a West Ham to dodge a huge penalty.

They should have been relegated for their crimes last season - but at least you can rest easy in the knowledge that however many points they should have been docked, they still wouldn't have finished below the Golden Boys. That's enough sympathy. Don't worry guys, normal ritual abuse will return in my next column.

Glory Horns.

who am I ?



use the clues to try to identify Hatters players past and present



I made my Luton debut v Everton in 1991



I scored 22 goals in 165 games before a big-money move



My poor disciplinary record caused me to be hauled before the FA in 1998-99



I was called up for Scotland B and got a full cap against France



I now ply my trade in League One and hope to play against Hatters in January



I made my debut in the 6-2 win against Stoke in 1993



I started out in midfielder but was pushed up front



In one season I scored hat-tricks against Plymouth, Crewe and Rotherham



I ended up with 60 goals in 143 games before being sold, although I returned on loan



The fans sing a nasty song about my mother



I made my debut v Coventry in 1950



On breaking into the first team I formed a striking partnership with Jesse Pye



I bagged 13 hat-tricks during the course of my Luton career



I broke the club scoring record when I netted 32 goals in the old Second Division



I ended up with 276 goals in 450 games to become the greatest scorer in Hatters' history

ANSWERS: 1. Paul Telfer; 2. Tony Thorpe; 3. Gordon Turner

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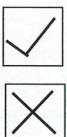
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What to look out for in today's game

Fireworks are lobbed into crowd ☐

Pass, pass, pass, pass, pass... ☐

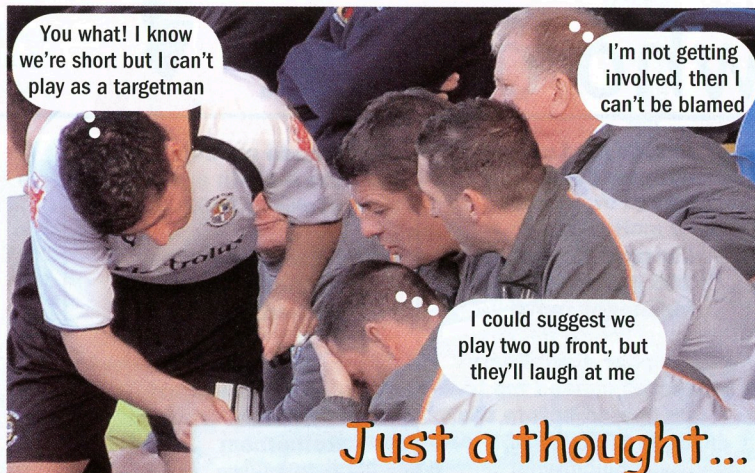
...more passing and no cutting edge ☐

Fans call for the manager's head ☐

More injuries, and all to our strikers! ☐

Not scoring from any of 20 corners.. ☐

...Southend net with their 1st corner! ☐



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

<p>Steve</p> <p>Southend (H): 2-1 win Brentford (A): 1-0 win Oldham (A): 1-1 draw Millwall (H): 2-1 win Cheltenham (A) 1-0 win</p>	<p>Andy</p> <p>Southend (H): 1-1 draw Brentford (A): 1-2 loss Oldham (A): 1-1 draw Millwall (H): 2-0 win Cheltenham (A): 2-1 win</p>
--	--

Correct result 1pt, exact score 2pts: Latest score - Steve 13 Andy 10

from zero to hero?



When misguided Matty decided to pull on the yellow shirt of those 'orrible 'omets the one-time Hatters hero kicked Town fans in the nuts. Mike Newell bought him back though and, after an indifferent end to last season, he's now one of our few consistent players. Here's the proof of his newly-reclaimed hero status:

He's trying his best to look like an all-time Hatters hero

He acts the ref's pal to get away with those two-footed tackles

He's shown he's got the balls for a fight

Even when he's not playing he's directing the action from pitchside

He loves to wind up the opposition and then laugh at them

He's got the bottle to take our pens, three times if required

He'll give encouragement to the kids

What's on...

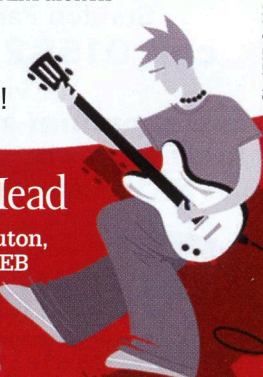
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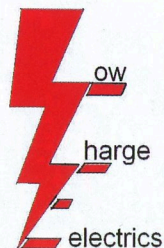
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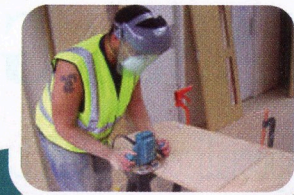
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boys 'r' us



Billy Sugger with the lads' outlook on everything that's kicking off at Hatters

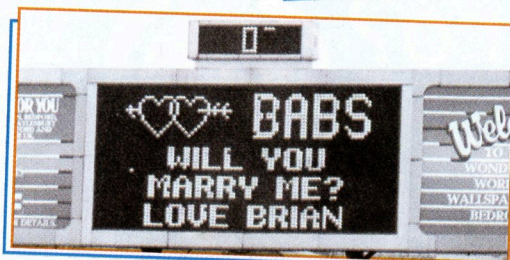
RIGHT, it's about time I got this off my manly chest.

I know everyone says men are supposedly thicker than women when it comes to the old grey matter – and I must admit that maths isn't exactly one of my strong points.

So why, oh why, does the Hatters scoreboard only go from 1 to 45 (the minutes, not the goals tally, of course!).

What's stopping the club keeping the clock ticking on from 45? I mean, how many of us as the game reaches its climax talk about it being the 40th minute of the second half?

Now, once we're in the second period, fans have to manually add 45 on to



The good old days when scoreboards went all the way up to 90 minutes

whatever minute the scoreboard's displaying to work out the where we're at.

I want to start a campaign to get that clock ticking up to 90 again. It used to, so why did they ever change it? My best theory is that reaching the 90th minute always provokes

shrill whistling from the crowd, which made the team nervous as they battled to hold on to a lead.

I suppose I shouldn't moan. After all, for a number of years one of the scoreboards didn't work at all.

Bring back the good old

SOME of you boys have been partaking in a spot of Blackwell bashing recently.

That's prompted Robbo to speak up, saying the boos aren't helping. He said: "You can see people shrink on the pitch – especially the younger players".

That's presumably why Danny Stevens had to leave!

days is what I say. When GOAL! flashed out at you as those tiny men danced around on the scoreboard throwing their little electronic hats into the air.

Where's the excitement now? Sort it!

girl's world



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

AFTER last week's point away from home I should feel like a girl with money to burn in Selfridges.

But no, I think I may have removed large chunks out of my glossy hair after the drama and scandal of the last week.

If one more person tells me "Luton have got themselves into a pickle, haven't they Becky?", I swear to God...

But putting this all to one side I would like to reintroduce my girlie spies:

Vicky – who saw Dean Morgan pulling out of a junction in a very shiny Range Rover Sport.

Laura – who saw Don Hutchison in the petrol station with his Bentley Continental.

Sylvia – who saw Matthew Spring coming out of Sainsbury's in his Mercedes Coupe.

This only means one thing – nice cars lads, but Mr Pinkney,

CELEB WATCH:
Terry Alderton is a fan of The Shrimpers. He's a comedian, or so he says.

TIP OF THE MONTH:
Don't forget your knitting, iPod and maybe a friend – this next month's games aren't expected to be riveting!

MAN OF THE MONTH (JOINT AWARD):

Paul Furlong: Furls, you have done us proud. You came in to maybe play 20 mins of every game. You've been pushed too hard.
Jaroslav Fojut: This Polish hottie has worked like a Trojan. Can we keep him?

the wages are far too high. Don't you know that some of our experienced players just want to get another year out of the game and a healthy pay cheque?

I have travelled down every other weekend from uni and hoped that I might see a turn-around. I don't even mean a win, just a little bit of energy and hunger.

I started the season planning

my promotion outfit. With Blackwell's fabulous sales pitch it was enough to send me into quite a tizz.

Now his managerial skills really have to be questioned. He may have all the badges, but motivational-wise we lack passion or desire.

Blackwell, there is a reason we're booing you. Pull your finger out and bring back Sol!

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Lovely
Lauren

VITAL STATISTICS

Full Name: Lauren Harris

Age: 24

Occupation: Dispatch manager

Attached? Single

Been a supporter since: 2002

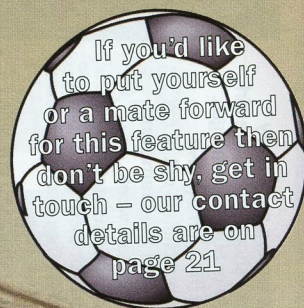
Best looking Hatter: Matthew Spring

Most valuable player: David Bell

Player to flog: Paul Underwood
(he's had an unlucky run with injuries)

Ideal night out: A few drinks with friends or a girls' night in

Favourite TV shows: Scrubs, Holby City



Electrolu

School report

THE HEAD: Mr Blackwell needs to restore order quickly. That's especially on field trips away from the school base, where the players don't appear to be paying attention to his tutoring



TAKING A SICKIE: An out-of-the-blue mystery virus knocked Drew Talbot out for the best part of three weeks and left Blackers up the creek with no strikers.

100 LINES: Now at Southend on loan, Morgs had earlier been sat in front of the head's blackboard as he drew him line diagrams of where he should be crossing, passing and shooting the ball.



DUNCE'S CORNER: Brko's out on loan at Millwall at the moment and has spoken out about not being given a fair chance by the head. Not likely to get one now then. Doh!



HEAD BOY: Well he scores most of his goals with his head so this title must go to Paul Furlong. He's also been on top of his game and his workrate means he can do no wrong in the headmaster's eyes.

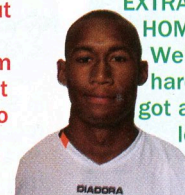
... Kevin Blackwell said the half-term report for his squad would read 'good, but can do better'. Orange decided to look at the players' performances and see if they deserved a gold star or the cane



EXPELLED: Sam Parkin. He hasn't been seen in school for months so we can only assume he's not coming back!



TEACHER'S PET: Young Mr Fojut is much admired by the headteacher who refers to him affectionately as "Yaric". Is that because he doesn't know how to pronounce Jaroslaw? (It's Ya-Ro-Swaw by the way, headmaster)

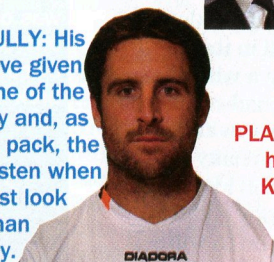


EXTRA HOMEWORK: Well he tries hard, but he's got a lot to learn. Calvin Andrew needs to put in a lot of hard graft so the head can see if he's got what it takes to be the new head boy



THE CANE: The headmaster wants to dish this out to his predecessor for his parting gift - namely signing up a load of players the head doesn't want, on expensive contracts

THE BULLY: His team-mates have given him the nickname of the Aussie Bully and, as leader of the pack, the boys always listen when Chris speaks. Just look at that hardman stare to see why.



PLAYING TRUANT: While their mates are having a kickabout in the playground, Keith Keane, Dave Edwards and Steve Robinson have disappeared on international duty and left us in the lurch.



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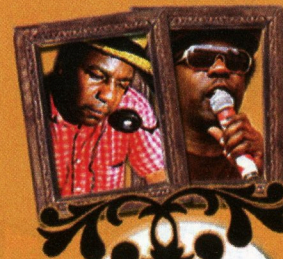


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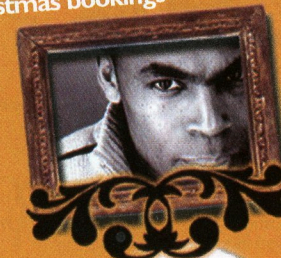
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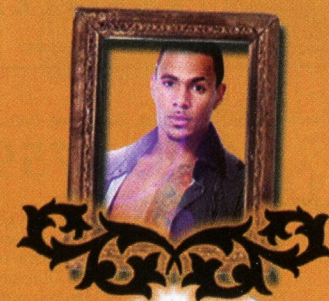
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bring me sunshine ... a light-hearted dip into the archives at Kenilworth Road



When Chris Kamara was loaned out by the Hatters to Sheffield United in 1992 he thought his days at Luton were over and proceeded to hit out in the press about all that was wrong at Kenilworth Road.

The Blades, however, decided not to keep the midfielder who had to return to face the club and the fans and eat a large serving of humble pie.



Trevor Peake was 40 years and 222 days old when he came on as substitute for the Hatters against Wrexham in September, 1997, beating the record set by Dally Duncan in 1947. Sadly, Peake was unable to bring his experience to bear on the proceedings as the Town went down 5-2 to the Robins.



Old man Trev crawls on to the pitch for one last time



In April 1969, during a Hatters home game with Stockport, defender John Moore caught the ball in the Luton penalty area on hearing a whistle. Unfortunately, the whistle had come from the crowd leaving the referee with no alternative but to award a penalty which was converted by ex-Everton idol Alex Young. The story has a happy ending, though, as the Town went on to win 4-1!



When Luton signed goalkeeper Tony Read from Peterborough in 1965 it was only after he arrived that it was discovered he had a broken foot.



what a load of rubbish* #8

* or was he a genius?
...we still can't decide!

WHEN you're substituted on your debut before half-time, it's an ominous start to a career.

And good old Enoch's time at Town certainly veered from the sublime to the ridiculous in a three-year stay at Kenilworth Road between 2003 and 2006.

The best way to describe the gangly forward's stint would be 'entertaining', although it wasn't always for the right reasons.

He came from non-league Wealdstone Constantine when Hatters were in administration and ended up playing under Mike Newell for just his expenses.

Described by Newell as 'raw' (code for 'I know he's blooming rubbish but what

THIS month we've decided to pick on the enigma that is Enoch Showumni. A pretty controversial choice maybe, particular as in some quarters he's viewed as a cult hero who gave the crowd plenty to cheer/laugh at



do you expect for the price of a pint and a bag of nuts?'), Enoch's enthusiasm gained him cult-hero status and even a website set up in his honour.

Typifying his unpredictable nature were two games in February, 2004.

First, against Colchester he hit a fresh-air shot when he tried to thump the ball into an unguarded net from 6cm. Weeks later he bagged a superb hat-trick against Blackpool, which included a Beckham-esque free-kick and a solo run from the halfway line.

He went on to net a number of key goals in the League One title-winning season. Unfortunately, the step up in to the Championship was a step too far for Enoch. He was always going to play second fiddle to Steve Howard and

Rowan Vine, and consequently ended up making more sub appearances than starts.

Fans knew his limitations, but had patience with him because they knew he was trying his heart out.

Actually, on second thoughts, rip this page up and burn it. Enoch doesn't deserve to be in this feature but I can't be bothered to delete all this work and start again!

CARTHORSE OF THE MONTH



police horse Charlie awards a pile of steaming dung to an under-performing Hatter

We've been shipping goals and as a result it was Jacko who got dropped from the team... and in our dung, too!



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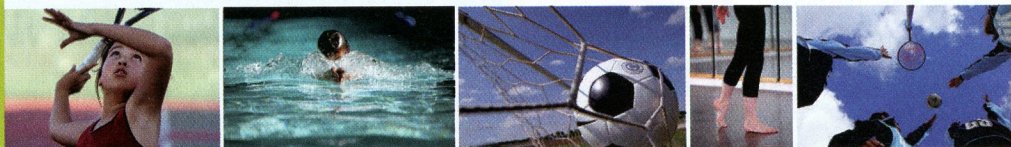
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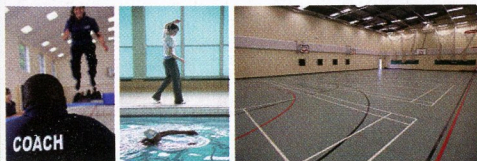
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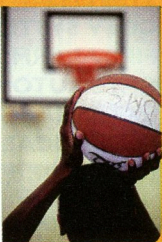


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it's good to talk

Hatters have often being criticised for their lack of communication skills but Orange has now uncovered evidence that perhaps things are finally improving



Assistant boss Sam Ellis has a man in the stands to give him fan feedback as a game progresses



Kevin Blackwell never shies away from a media interview – especially when he can point out he's got a four-year plan and he's only been here three-and-a-half months (he said that in September and he's still saying that now)

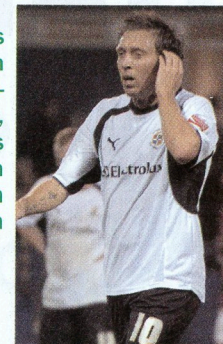


Pc Palmer and Cherry keep in contact with chief executive John Mitchell to discuss the policing bill

Hatters players have now been given the latest in-the-ear microchips, which means they're can be in permanent touch with the bench



Head coach John Carver is either saying 'Beam me up, Scotty', or he's discussing with the physio why a player needs to be off the field 12 minutes to get treatment as we battle on with 10 men



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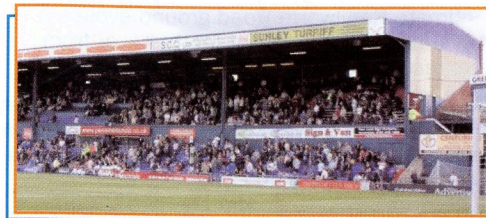
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your travel guide to...oldham



MATCHES at Boundary Park are about as exciting as a wet lettuce when it comes to Town coming away with a decent result.

Of course, that's if the game goes ahead and doesn't get called off because of a frozen or waterlogged pitch.

Many fans (well, maybe a dozen or so) will remember traipsing up the motorways a few years ago for a league game only to have it called off minutes before the kick off.

It always seems to be

directions

It's grim up north so you don't want to get lost up there, do you!

Leave the M62 at J20 and take the

cold at Oldham, with a biting wind that goes right through you. This is due to Oldham being on the edge of the Pennines, so make sure you pack a pair of warm gloves – Morgs takes spares, but he'll be missing from the action (as usual) because he's now with Southend.

Away fans are housed in the Rochdale Road stand, with a normal allocation of 1,800 seats. This can be increased to 4,000 if required by the away club. 'Nuf said.

The town's disputed

A627(M) towards Oldham. Follow the signs for Royton and you should come across a McDonald's and KFC. Stop off for a snack,

famous fans

Michelle Marsh
Page three stunner who certainly has more up front than her team



Cannon & Ball
Performed in St George's Sq. this summer attracting nearly as many fans as Oldham... 51!



Phillip Schofield
He tests the nation and in return, Oldham FC tests his patience to the limit



claim to fame is that Britain's first chip shop was set up in Oldham.

Judging by the amount of batterings the football club take, this could well be true, though. Any hope of us adding to them has been hit by the fact that Marlon's injured himself and he's not going to be playing against us.

but why not stay there – at least you'll be warm and you won't have to watch yet another away defeat in the freezing cold.

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.



WRITE TO: The Editor, Half-time Orange, Luton News & Dunstable Gazette, Media House, 39 Upper George, Luton, Beds, LU1 2RD.



EMAIL: orange@bedsnews.com



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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



BRKO SAYS:

"I haven't been given a fair crack of the whip by the manager. Now

I've been shipped out to the club everyone hates. Bring back Mike Newell! Oh, and by the way, in issue two you told me to keep my head down and I'd eventually get a chance. That turned out to be no chance."



DOT SAYS: "OK, I

accept I was wrong. The boss clearly doesn't fancy you as he

allowed you to be cup-tied. May be you're not old enough for him. Don't be too depressed, I'm sure you'll find a new club and come back to haunt him with an over-head kick or two."



KEVIN SAYS:

"Fans want me out but I've only been here four months.

I've told them it's a four-year plan to win an away game."



DOT SAYS: "Keep the home form ticking over and it'll buy you a bit more time. With

Oldham and Cheltenham coming up, you're bound to win away soon (maybe).

What a mix-up!

Carol Vorderman brings you some Hatters-related anagrams

JEANS JAIL MU
MEEK ELL WIN
MEAGERLY HISS
NERDY IRK O
VERBATIM HOCK
BLACKEN WIN
RICHER SPRY

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

1. Julian James; 2. Mike Newell; 3. Ashley Grimes; 4. Kerry Dixon; 5. Ahmet Brkovic; 6. Ben Altwick; 7. Chris Perry.

(dedicated to 'Motormouth' Mike's memory)

talking points

- who said the following?



- 1 "Luton 's intimate Kenilworth Road ground evokes memories of a past golden age of football - or from another perspective, it's a dump."
- 2 "You would get all sorts of carpet burns and I know for a fact that some of the players who performed on those surfaces every other week now have a variety of problems with their knees and ankles."
- 3 "My first game was for Bushmead Wanderers, which is a local team where I grew up. I was 13 and, you might not believe it, but I played right-wing!"
- 4 "To make it free in the early rounds would get a lot more people in the ground and would probably help them to sell a lot more paint, too!"
- 5 "But unfortunately for us, if someone's not kicking us, we're getting the boards doing the business."

(answers below)

1. Website icliverpool.co.uk following the Everton match; 2. Ian Wright about Town's plastic pitch; 3. Ex-Hatter Leon Barnett; 4. Kevin Blackwell on the poor attendances for Johnstone's Paint matches; 5. Norwich's then manager Peter Grant last year after Adam Drury fell into the Oak Road end.

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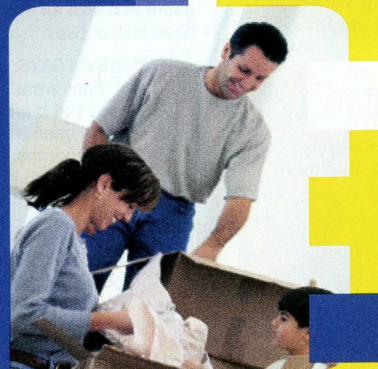
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