

Half-time

By Hatters for Hatters

ORANGE

Season 07-08 No6

The Messiah Returns (Again) Edition



"If Mick wants to make the changes himself, shouldn't someone tell him he needs the subs' board?"



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hatters matters

... a word from the editor



The January transfer window was about to close and after all the enforced sales, Luton's squad really was down to the bare bones

WELCOME back, Mick. It's the big man's fourth stint at the club, by our reckoning – but who's counting?

Harford's arrival offers plenty of cause for initial optimism but we've got to be realistic, too.

He's got a tiny squad and with the Football League tying his hands behind his back he'll have his work cut out.

As well as playing for Hatters, Mick is fondly remembered for putting through his

own net at the Kenny end while with Derby in 1991.

His new assistant Warren Neill went one better with QPR in the mid '80s. He banged in OGs in consecutive seasons at Kenilworth Road – each the only goal of the game!

With that in mind, let's hope the appointment of Mick and Warren won't prove to be a sentimental own goal, then.

Hopefully the 2020 consortium, who had a say in the managerial

changes, will soon be installed as new owners by the administrators and we can look to the future with a lot more optimism.

But optimism was in short supply on the final whistle at Dean Court on Tuesday.

How gutted were you after we snatched defeat from the jaws of victory, this time at Bournemouth?

I think we've been kicked in the teeth so many times now, you become immune to LTFC-inflicted pain.



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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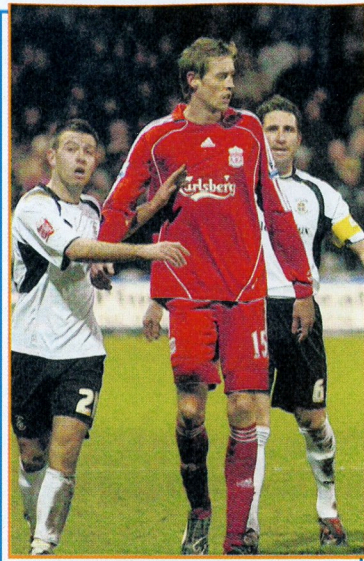
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The news at

Stand up – oh you are, Keith!

WE heard that after the first match with Liverpool, Keith Keane approached Hatters' administrators asking for funds to buy a stepladder so he had a chance of marking Peter 'Freak' Crouch properly in the replay.

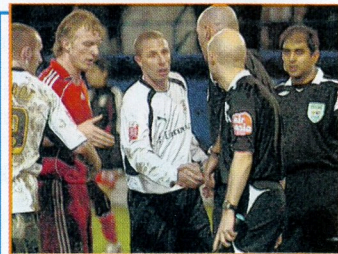
Mr Guilfoyle obviously wasn't impressed by the request. We can't tell you exactly what he told Keano due to reasons of confidentiality, but the long and short of it was that the England international beanpole can't shoot, can't run and can't head the ball, so why waste £8.99 at B&Q?



PETER PANNED: Despite scoring a tap-in, Crouch didn't scale any great heights at Kenilworth Road

Dirk's game for a laugh

AFTER enduring a nightmare time at the Kenny, Liverpool's Dirk Kuyt's humiliation was complete on the final whistle. While the rest of the players wanted to shake hands with the officials, Kuyt insisted on having a game of Paper, Stone, Scissors with referee Howard Webb. He lost, of course.



The sportsman in Dirk badly wanted to shake hands with the ref, but after a few dodgy decisions his body was resisting

Erm... one of the players is off the pitch!

WE know they're a mad lot, them Scousers, but crazy Jamie Carragher decided to do an 'Irish pitch invasion' on the final whistle. Instead of some of the crowd clambering on to the pitch as is traditional at the end of exciting matches, Jamie decided to do the opposite and jumped up into the stands to have a row with some fans.



Ken Rumours, speculation, gossip and half-truths

LIVERPOOL SPECIAL (part one)

Signed at the final whistle?

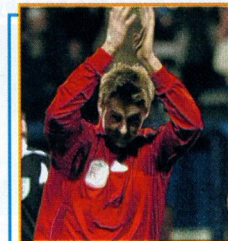
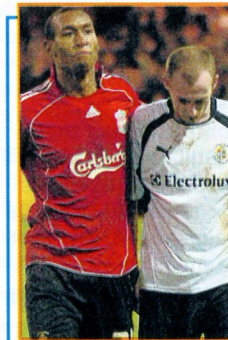
WE expected a high profile televised cup tie to put our players in the shop window, but we didn't expect the vultures to swoop seconds after the first game ended.

H-T Orange has been told by completely unreliable sources that as Rafael Benitez watched his Liverpool side being outplayed in the second half, he ordered the club's lawyers to draw up the relevant papers so he could secure the services of Calvin Andrew

and Dave Edwards as soon as the match was over.

He was so quick off the mark that the players were informed of their transfers within seconds of the final whistle and were decked out in Liverpool kit as they left the field.

Calvin is pictured breaking the news to strike partner Drew Talbot, while Dave Edwards thanks the fans for their support during his six months with Hatters (and you thought he'd signed to Wolves!).



Own goal will be taken lying down by defender

AFTER his calamitous own goal, Riise was so embarrassed he wanted the ground to open up and swallow him. He thought his dream was coming true when the grass began vanishing, then he realised it was simply that he had slid into a goalmouth mud bath. He's pictured here begging to be subbed to spare himself further embarrassment.

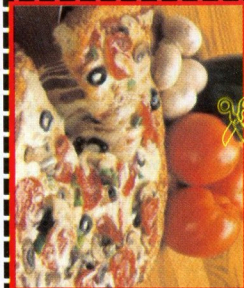


Just so bleeding unlucky

ORANGE discovered the reason Chris Coyne has had so many nose bleeds during his Hatters' career following the final whistle against Liverpool. As Coyne trudged off against the Reds he crossed the half-way line and his nostrils started oozing the red stuff. The Aussie often ventured into the opposition's half for set-pieces over the years, but during the cut and thrust of the action we'd never realised it was the cause of the bleeding problem.



News At Ken (Replayed) – turn to p15



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MY last wise words were made a month ago. Since then you have a new manager, a new owner.. sort of, a new ground... well, maybe not, let's not get carried away.

Even this hard-nosed Hornet couldn't help but give a slight nod of credit to your battling display at home to the Scousers.

You haven't had the better of a top side at home like that since those '80s glory days... when you played on a plastic pitch, banned any

other fans from turning up and made the opposition play blindfolded. Or something like that.

Still, the odd grin possibly appeared as the replay went a little pear-shaped. It wasn't so much the floodgates opening as

someone building the Channel through your defence. Time to concentrate on the league, guys.

Still, at least you can cheer yourself with the thought that the Golden Boys still can't win at home in the league.

It's eight games and counting now and after our keeper's howler last weekend it's hard to know where the next win is coming from.

We might not go up. You've got to feel for us.

Glory Horns!

Kevin Blackwell speaks to the media after being given the boot by the administrator



'I don't care what Brendan says, this is the best coach in the Football League and I'm taking it with me!'

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bring your boots!



H-T Orange picks a post-transfer window team to represent Hatters



GOALKEEPER KEVIN BLACKWELL: If the former gaffer's at a loose end then why not offer the ex-Barton stopper a short-term deal between the sticks.



SWEeper GUS FROM EASTENDERS: We had a quick word with Walford council and they've agreed to release him from his roadsweeping duties



RIGHT BACK RICHARD JACKSON: He came on a free so he's not going to be sold. Jacko's chance to make the right-back berth his own.



LEFT BACK (in the press room) MARK WOOD: The Luton News sports ed talks (and writes) a good game, so now it's time to put up or shut up.



CENTRE HALF SAM ELLIS: Made 400-plus career appearances as a centre-half averaging a goal every 10 games. Also has time on his hands now.



CENTRE HALF STEVE FOSTER: He's involved in the 2020 bid to buy the club so he'd surely help out in a crisis. Leadership skills vital.



RIGHT MIDFIELD ALAN WEST: Ex-player Alan West is the club chaplain so as well as saying a few prayers for us he can get his old boots out, too.



CENTRAL MIDFIELD PC PALMER: The midfield general will bark out orders to his troops to get them toeing the (thin blue) line.



LEFT MIDFIELD GARETH OWEN: The super snapper can hug the touchline so he can be near his camera and still bag action photos for the club programme.



STRIKER NICK OWEN: When opponents see the name Owen on the back of a Luton shirt it's sure to strike fear into them - until they realise it's the TV presenter and 2020 bid frontman.



STRIKER HAPPY HARRY: Taking over from the likes of Howard or Harford are big boots to fill - but he's got some! Banged a few goals in at the Oak Road end before, too.

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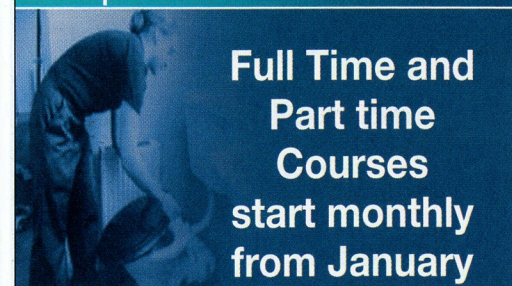
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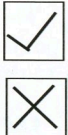
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check it out



What to look out for in today's game

'One Micky Harford' chant from crowd

Blackwell spotted in the away end

Morgs wishing he was in Leeds' team

... our fans wishing Morgs was, too!

Box 6 'Scousers' bring flat caps & whippets

Kandol nets the obligatory goal

The Luton stalker strikes again



Forget Gerrard and Crouch. Talbot, Andrew, Keane, Currie, Perry... My first England squad is coming together already

Just a thought...

head to head...

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



Leeds (H): 1-3 loss
Swindon (H): 2-0 win
Hartlepool (A): 1-2 loss
B'mouth (H): 2-0 win
Gillingham (A): 2-1 win

Leeds (H): 1-2 loss
Swindon (H): 2-1 win
Hartlepool (A): 1-1 draw
B'mouth (H): 3-0 win
Gillingham (A): 2-2 draw



Correct result 1pt, exact score 2pts: Latest score - Steve 19 Andy 19

Kenny capers

The latest from the Luton corridors with our guest cartoonist



Taking the Mick

So Big Mick Harford is back at the club as manager. Orange looks at the pros and cons of the appointment

PRO He's a Luton legend

PRO: He brings with him an instant feel-good factor

PRO: His presence should help boost attendances

PRO: He knows the club inside out

PRO: As an ex-striker he'll be able to show our frontmen where the goal is

PRO: He's a no-nonsense guy, so all our long-term injured will miraculously be fit again

CONS: Managerial track record isn't the best

CONS: He's a big chap so we can't think of anything else negative to say!

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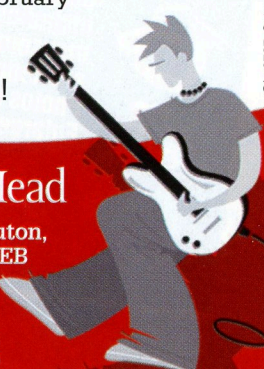
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boys 'r' us



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



THE Bristol Rovers game has gone down in the record books as one of the strangest in Luton Town's history. The fact that we were reduced to eight players for the first time ever is interesting enough, but then to pull off a record victory at the same time is a remarkable achievement. And, no, McVeigh didn't get one of our 70 goals!

tried to interview the now ex-gaffer.

Blackers denied the music (whatever it was) was his choice – and I believe him. That's because a LTFC insider has emailed me with a list of tunes currently loaded on to Blackers' iPod.

- >> Theme tune from Mission Impossible
- >> I Want To Break Free (Queen)
- >> Sending Out An SOS (Abba)
- >> Nothing Good About This Goodbye (Rachel Stevens)
- >> Givin' Up (The Darkness)
- >> Never Had A Dream Come True (S Club 7)
- >> Promises (Take That)
- >> Since You've Been Gone (Kelly Clarkson)
- >> Where Have All The Good Times Gone? (Elton John)
- >> Laugh To Keep From Crying (Madonna)
- >> The Long Goodbye (Ronan Keating)

girl's world



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

HAPPY New Year and what a start to 2008.

So much has happened, but I don't want to hover over the rubbish bits (*there won't be much to write about then – Ed!*)

Mick Harford is back and it's so delicious to have the '80s heart-throb at the helm.

You know with Mick you won't get any of this silly sales patter or random outbursts.

It's just the boost we needed!

He has said that we can survive and I believe in him, 2020 and the players. Yes, we can get out of this mess. Remember, not long ago we were getting promoted with Mick and we were in the Championship.

I heard somebody describe us recently as the "Britney" of the Football League. How dare they! As far as I'm concerned every-

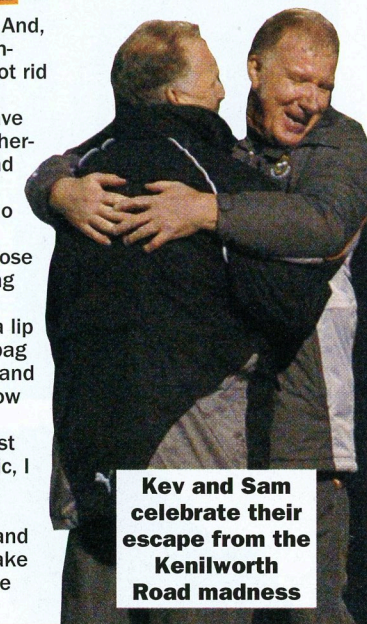
body is wearing underwear! And, in any case, Britney is a complete mentalist and Luton got rid of all of those just recently!

The Liverpool matches have been the highlight of this otherwise slightly poor season and I have to say how amazed I was at the amount of us who went. What an amazing ground. Super big and all those female Liverpool fans singing for their team.

Perhaps we should take a lip gloss out of their make-up bag (or a leaf out of their book) and make sure that the lads know we really are behind them.

The atmosphere at the last couple of games was electric, I have nearly wet myself with excitement.

Sing as loud as possible and let's be the 12th man to make sure Mick gets his first home win!



Kev and Sam celebrate their escape from the Kenilworth Road madness

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VITAL STATISTICS

Full Name: Beverley Trotman

Age: 38

Occupation: Primary school teacher

Attached? Yes, to Jonathan Trotman

Been a supporter since: Began supporting when my nephew Leon Barnett started at the club ten years ago

Best looking Hatter: Chris Perry

Most valuable player: David Edwards (oh dear!)

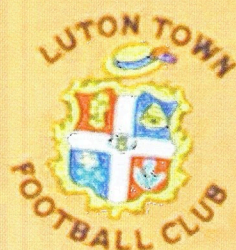
Player to flog: Don't we need them all?

Ideal night out: Meal at a fancy restaurant

Favourite TV shows: Heroes

what a beauty!

Breathtaking
Beverley



If you'd like to put yourself or a mate forward for this feature then don't be shy, get in touch – send an email to orange@bedsnews.com

Monkey business

Hatters' next away game is at Hartlepool so we got Bedfordshire-based Monkey hanger Mark Payne to look ahead to the big clash

DEAR me! It's all kicking off at Luton, isn't it? Administration, points docked, player sales, a management team who resigned and were still sacked.

Trying to come out with any witty one-liners about that little lot is a bit like cracking a joke at a funeral. So instead, I will focus on the upcoming match between our two teams on February 2.

Yes, after the glamour of playing Premier League big boys Liverpool twice, it's back to reality for you and a 200-mile trip up north

to Hartlepool.

How many away fans can we expect to see? I bet it won't be 6,000.

I will be looking for revenge for your narrow 2-1 win over Pools on the first day of the season.

Come on, we should have had a draw that day at least!

In fact, Luton have always been something of a thorn in Hartlepool's side over the past few years.

The only win I can remember was when we beat you 4-3 at our place a few years ago. Boyd scored the winner

from a pen!

A 30-yard wonder strike by our Hugh Robertson was particularly memorable and named goal of the season.

Recently, though, we have become 1-1 draw specialists, including at Leeds when we should have won and Orient, when we were lucky to take a point.

I am hoping the combination of your depleted squad and the bitter North Sea wind will be enough to see you off. My prediction is 2-1 to us. Come on Pools!

famous fans

Jeff Stelling
Tortured every week on Sky. As results pour in, he waits & waits and finally - oops lost again



Peter Mandelson
So sport and politics don't mix? He's the club's president



Phil Middlemiss
Once in Corrie, his acting career is now loitering in the lower leagues - like Pools



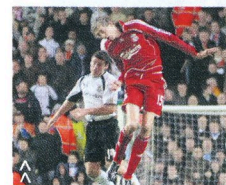
The news at Ken

LIVERPOOL SPECIAL (Replayed)

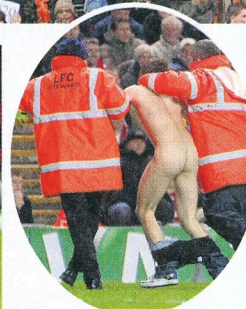
Supporters >> were upset when they realised they'd all been sold the 8.20pm goal time in the fans' sweepstake



Under pressure Rafa felt really let down when even Kevin 'no mates' wouldn't speak to him



The club has pleaded to the Football League for special permission to bring back Jaroslav Fojut after Robbo found playing centre half an extremely tall order



<< Jacko couldn't believe his luck when he secured a transfer to Liverpool on the back of his awful Anfield performance

<< In an exclusive interview with H-T Orange this fan said he'd only stripped because he had the arse with the way the club was being run and wanted to get to the bottom of it



We've discovered evidence that the match stats were wrong. Here's a photo of Currie having a strike at goal. It'll be added on to the shots tally. That's one shot, then!

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



THE youngest player to turn out for the Hatters was Mike O'Hara at 16 years and 32 days when he played in goal in a 0-3 defeat at Stoke in October, 1960. The previous week, Luton's international goalkeeper Ron Baynham fractured his skull in a home game against Sheffield United, and with reserve Alan Collier recovering from a broken arm the Town were left with little option but to play O'Hara.



LUTON signed Billy Boyd from Workington in December, 1935 and after scoring on his debut on Christmas Day he went on to bag 11 goals in only 13 starts. His bad luck was to be injured on Easter Saturday during a clash with Millwall as in the next game - at home to Bristol Rovers on Easter Monday - his replacement Joe Payne banged in 10 goals in a 12-0 landslide. Sadly, Billy was not able to reclaim his place in the side, given the even better goalscoring prowess of Payne, and he drifted off to Southampton that summer.



SUCH were the Town's injury problems leading up to an away game at Bristol City in September 1997 that manager Lennie Lawrence was forced to give four teenagers their league debuts. Alan White and Liam George started the game, with Rob Kean and Matthew Spring coming on later as substitutes. A fifth teenager, Colin Omogbehin, was left on the bench. Unsurprisingly, the Hatters went down 0-3.



1940s Hatters full-back Billy Cooke, who lived in one of the club's houses at the top of Kenilworth Road, played on while smoke was billowing from his chimney - necessitating a visit from the fire brigade!

what a load of rubbish #9

NOT to be confused with the beanpole striker Peter Thompson (who was equally useless and couldn't even head a ball), Steve Thompson signed for Luton in August 1991 and was a one-paced midfield playmaker.

After nine successful years at Bolton, Thommo had about nine successful seconds at Luton - when he managed to successfully execute a Ray Wilkins-style square ball to David Preece.

After picking up such midfield maestros as Preece,

Blink and you'd have missed him. Steve Thompson came, he saw but he most certainly didn't conquer and Pleaty got shot of him before you could say 'naff midfielder'

Nominate a rubbish ex-Hatters player by emailing orange@bedsnews.com



Horton and Hill during his time in the Kenilworth Road hot seat, Pleaty soon realised that the £180,000 he paid Bolton wasn't the best bit of business he'd ever conducted.

So he decided to recoup the money as soon as possible before anyone realised how inept his signing was. The wheeler-dealer managed to off-load

Thompson to Leicester after he'd made just seven starts in a deal which saw Scott Oakes

and Des Linton move in the opposite direction.

Steve had three seasons at Filbert Street before moving on to Burnley, Rotherham, Halifax and Leigh RMI.

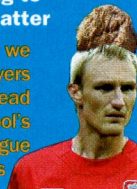
Records aren't clear about what happened to Steve after he left Leigh in 2002 but, quite frankly, who cares?

CARTHORSE OF THE MONTH



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

With all that's happened we thought we'd give our players a break this month. So instead the award goes to Liverpool's Sami Hyypia for looking like a non league defender when we played the Reds



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- ✓ Injunctions
- ✓ Care Proceedings
- ✓ Property Disputes
- ✓ Maintenance
- ✓ Inheritance Act Claims

SEPARATING?

Knowing your options could save you and your family hardship in the future.

Are you worrying:

Do we have to sell the house?
Who will pay the mortgage?
Can the children live with me?

What will be the impact on my business?
How much will it all cost?
I don't want to go to court.

Mary McEvoy and John Walsh have each been advising on these matters for over 25 years. They can help you make the best decisions for yourself and your family. They can offer alternatives to the court process, supporting you through mediation or offering resolution through collaborative law; but if you cannot resolve your problems by agreement they can provide experienced representation in court.

For experienced and sympathetic advice contact Mary McEvoy or John Walsh at Neves Solicitors, 8 George Street West, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU1 2DA, telephone 01582 725311, email info@neves-solicitors.co.uk or visit our website at www.neves-solicitors.co.uk



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www.sbedscamra.org.uk
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CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

Smart move secures future

In March 2006 Frank Sutherland made a life-changing decision. "I was fed up of working for others and decided it was time to take control of my own destiny and set up my own business. I saw an advert for an Autosmart franchise in the paper and gave them a call.

"Right from the start Autosmart has been outstanding," declares Frank, who previously worked as a regional manager for a food retail group. "Starting a new business venture is exciting, but as a family man you worry about the risk involved. From the first call I felt confident that I was in safe hands.

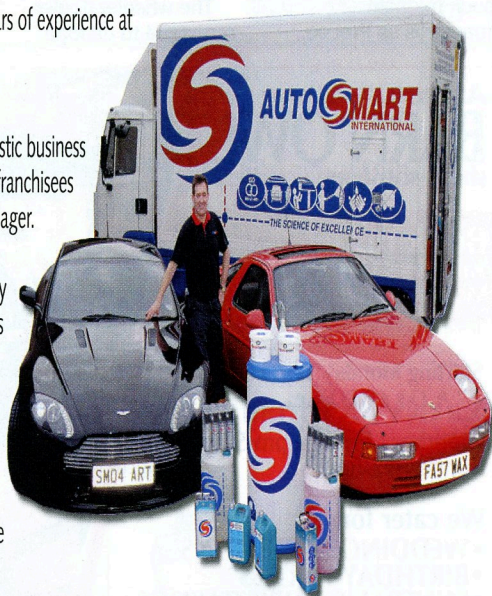
"Autosmart is the UK's leading manufacturer of vehicle cleaning products for the automotive trade, so companies have usually heard of us before I call. It's a tried and tested formula – there are over 100 franchisees throughout the UK and they've got 30 years of experience at ensuring franchisees succeed.

And the support?

"Fantastic!" raves Frank. "The business team helped me formulate a realistic business plan and ensured that my start-up costs were kept low. Most Autosmart franchisees have never sold before so they assign you a dedicated Sales Support Manager. They work with you in your own territory and shows you how to grow your business. I started in November 2006 and have increased my sales by more than 70% in just one year. I work hard, but I love it and the rewards are there too", states Frank.

Would Frank recommend an Autosmart franchise?

"Definitely. You're not stuck in an office, you meet all types of people and you can earn a great living. And if you're interested in cars or bikes then this franchise is made for you as you're meeting people from all areas of the automotive trade every day."



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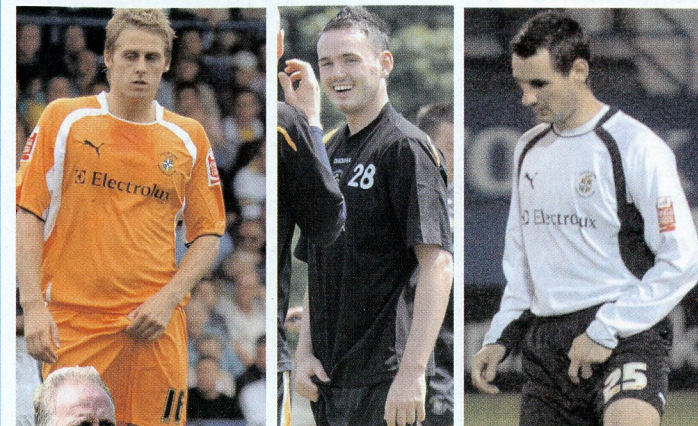
WHY NOT START THE NEW YEAR WITH A NEW CHALLENGE?

Call Autosmart on 01543 482926 or email: franchising@autosmart.co.uk

www.autosmart.co.uk

The boys have balls

... the ex-gaffer said the lads have got the balls to battle back against adversity and we've uncovered undeniable evidence that Blackwell spoke the truth



'Anyone who was at Bristol knows that these guys have got balls'

Away the lads... Leeds Utd

Da gaffer Dennis Wise

The poison dwarf had plenty to say when Nico wanted to return to us. Sit down, shut up, man!

Fare play award

Tresor Kandol While with Hatters, the ex-Hatter got in a spot of bother for fare-dodging on the railways.

What an 'anker'

Casper Ankergrén

Was a hero last season when he saved Dean Morgan's late penalty at Elland Road. Although a blindfolded grannie could equal that feat!

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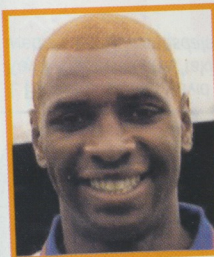
blast from the past

haircut horrors...

HATTERS players
perform (or don't
perform!) week in
week out in front of
thousands of
supporters. So it's
only natural for
them to want to
look their best for
their adoring fans.
Half-time Orange
has dug into the
archives to uncover
some real haircut
horrors – proof that
not all Town talent
is a cut above
the rest...



WASH GOING ON? The pre-cut shot before the hairdressers did their
worst to Marv, Ceri and Billy 'what's he doing here?' Schwer



YOU thought David James
set the wacky hair dye
trend. Wrong! Mitch set
the early standard but
'Calamity' took it to
ridiculous heights in
later years



<< BONTCHO BODGE JOB:
Bulgarians are famous for having
classy barnets (ahem) and
Bontcho didn't let his nation down
when he paraded his long-haired
locks after Westley picked him up
on a free from Ipswich



**<< LET'S TALK ABOUT
SAX: Big curly haired
Mike had a bit of a
reputation as a playboy.
But if that silly
moustache and hairstyle
did the trick with the
ladies, why change a
winning formula?**



FOXY COXY? After
displaying this
extremely unfortunate
creation to fans, Jimmy
proved that he also
couldn't cut it on the
pitch and only made a
handful of
appearances

**NO GOOD
NOGAN >>**
After he
scored on
his debut
at Liverpool
in 1990,
young Kurt
unwisely decided to
adopt the hairstyle of
Kop legend Kevin
Keegan. Unfortunately
the '80s-style perm went
out in the, er... 80s!



**ALEXANDER THE
GREAT:** The
curtains came
down on
Graham's Luton
career in 1996
when he refused
to get a more
modern haircut



FRENCH FOLLY: Upon his arrival,
fans thought Herve 'the swerve' Bacque got his
nickname from his swivelling hips which took him
past dumb-ass defenders. And after bagging a
brace in a hair-raising pre-season friendly against
'The Arse', we all felt let down when he
subsequently flopped under Lennie (although his
hair didn't). Pass the man some clippers

in style
keep warm



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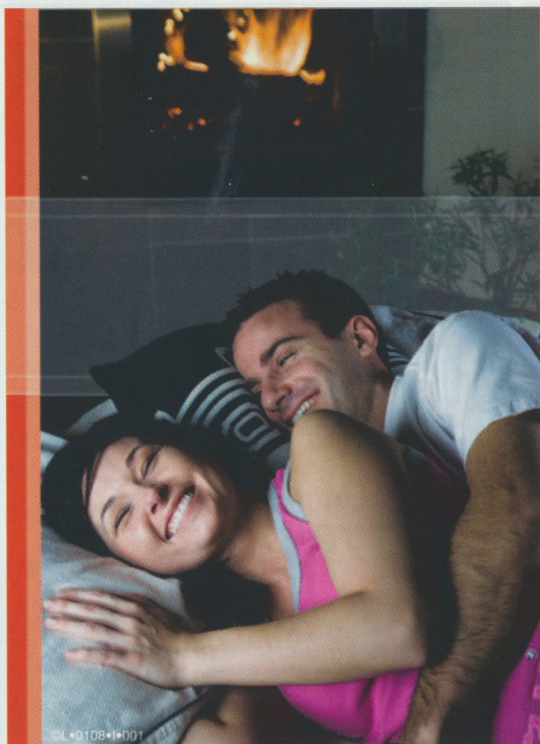
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What a mix-up!

Carol Vorderman brings you some Hatters-related anagrams

GRUNTED NOR OR
WATTLED BRO
JEEPS YES
BAKED PERM GRIM
BAN HORN RIOT
JAB AIM WEE OINK
NEAR TOYE HELPS

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

1. Gordon Turner; 2. Drew Talbot; 3. Jesse Pyle; 4. Mark Pembridge; 5. Brian Horton; 6. Emeke Nwajioji; 7. Stephen O'Leary

(dedicated to 'Motormouth' Mike's memory)

talking points

- who said the following?

- 1 "We have eight players here who have not kicked a ball this year. That's a lot of money in wages. It's eight players that might as well be cleaners but we're not allowed to get them to do that!"
- 2 "I snore really badly when I share a room with someone - I have to let them go to sleep first."
- 3 "I want to play and not be a bit rubbish. If it's not one thing it's been another and I think I've tried to come in without being fully fit."
- 4 "I don't think I've worked with a team this young since I was in charge of the Huddersfield Town youth team."
- 5 "I've learned to dislike Plymouth nearly as much as I dislike Luton. It's a grubby little hole where we have the complete inability to play well."

(answers below)

1. Former chairman David Pinkney; 2. Richard Langley; 3. Paul Peschisolido; 4. Kevin Blackwell after taking over as manager; 5. A writer for Crystal Palace website www.holmesdale.net

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The NHS in Luton offers lots of choice, and if you make the right choice at the right time, you'll get the best treatment. You might need to see a doctor (please make sure you're registered with a local GP, even if you feel fine now), chat to a pharmacist or visit Luton Walk-In Centre (call 01582 556400 for opening times). You can also visit NHS Direct's website at www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk.

If you urgently need medical help and the GP's surgery is closed, you can call Luton and south Beds Urgent Care Service on 0845 6340 166. If you're not sure what to do, or whether you need help urgently or not, you can call NHS Direct at any time on 0845 4647, and get advice from a nurse or health information specialist.

So you see, when it comes to your health you have lots of options – it's your NHS and we're here to help you.

Luton teaching Primary Care Trust is the NHS organisation that plans and pays for NHS healthcare for the people of Luton. If you have any questions or comments about NHS healthcare, please visit our website at www.lutonpct.nhs.uk, send us an e-mail at enquirieslpct@luton-pct.nhs.uk or give us a call on 01582 528840.