

Half-time

By Hatters for Hatters

# ORANGE



Season 07-08 No7

Mission Impossible Edition



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the refs having a  
stinker but we'll  
be playing down  
wind in the  
second half."

Luton



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## hatters matters

... a word from the editor

A COUPLE of issues ago I predicted things couldn't get any worse.

We'd gone into administration, had 10 points deducted, there were no away wins (we've got one now, though!) and we'd been hit by FA charges over the club's finances.

How wrong I was. It's got worse. Much, much, worse.

We've lost key players and now we can't buy a win and we can't bring anyone in to improve matters.

Now the initial euphoria surrounding Big Mick's arrival has subsided, we're staring down the barrel, with relegation a certainty.

Anyway Tuesday's press conference offered some light at the end of the tunnel as the 2020 consortium was given



After much argument amongst the fans, here's the ultimate proof that the Town have been performing like headless chickens for much of this season

conditional approval to take over the club.

However, there's still tough times ahead. Football League regulations and the stance of the Inland Revenue seems to mean that a further points deduction is inevitable if we are to exit administration.

Then there's a possible punishment from the FA for the financial irregularities of the Tomlins regime.

With us so far adrift now, you wouldn't put it past the authorities to save up the penalties until next

season. Fancy starting a League Two campaign with -30 points?

But hey, you need to experience the depths of despair so that you can truly enjoy the euphoria of when we're playing in the Premier League in a shiny new stadium in five years' time!

It really is a rollercoaster ride with Hatters - much better than supporting a Chelsea, Man Utd or Arsenal who churn out one-sided wins every week. Who wants that? Yawn...



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# The news at

## Currie is sailing close to the wind



<< Dazza issues a 'come and get me' plea to a watching scout from Brighton

WINGER Darren Currie clearly hasn't got the stomach for a relegation fight.

As you may have read in the press, he was hoping for a transfer window move to Brighton and was distraught when it all fell through.

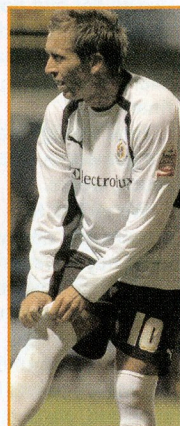
In fact he's also been quoted as saying he hopes the switch can be resurrected in the future.

Orange can't believe he's publically come forward to say he wants out of Luton Town.

We play Brighton again on April 12, so who knows which side Currie will be turning out for then - and, after all this, who cares?



^ We catch his reaction as news filters through that the transfer has collapsed



^ Big Mick's now told him to pull his socks up

## Jeepers keepers

WE'VE learned that after Brilly conceded that silly fourth goal at Hartlepool, the gaffer was planning to pull him out of the firing line.

The look on Mick's face here says it all,

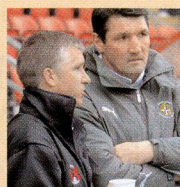


though, as he glances at the bench to mull over his options...

1) A 38-year-old stopper with a dodgy

back... 2) A 39-year-old Russian who was sent off on his debut for mighty Hornchurch six years ago.

LING: 'Yeah, we got him on the cheap but he's yours for £500k'



## Player search starts

THE boss has revealed he's stepped up his search for players in the hope he can strengthen his squad the moment we exit administration. He's pictured deep in discussions with Orient's Martin Ling about the availability of a top goalscorer.

# Ken Rumours, speculation, gossip and half-truths

## Kev tries to hide - and then he legs it!

WHILE visiting Sheffield on a course for work, one of our Orange staff bumped into none other than our former manager Kevin Blackwell.

"Oi, Kev," he shouted to him, only for the ex-boss to try to shield his face and avoid his advances.

When our man explained he was from Luton, Kev told us that he was delighted to have jumped ship and leave all the troubles at Kenilworth Road behind.

His one regret was that the administrator hadn't accepted his £500 offer to take the fabulous team bus with him to Bramall Lane. "It's the newest in the league," he said.

"Shame the team you've left us is the oldest," our man responded.

Unfortunately, before we could get any more out of the fella, our chap let slip that he was in fact an Orange journo and, as you can see, Blackers legged it.



HIDE AND SEEK: You can't avoid H-T Orange, mate

## Good game? Not really...

WITH both Luton and rivals Bournemouth apparently doomed for relegation, Sam Parkin and his marker lost interest in the recent match at the Kenny.

Instead, to mark the 80th birthday of their boyhood hero, the pair decided to a battle it out in a Bruce Forsyth impersonation contest.

We'd also lost the will to live as Town fell behind 3-0 by half-time and so we put our long-range mic on the duo and picked up the following... "errrr, good game, good game, nice to see you to see you nice...errr... all right my loves... I'm in charge... come on dummies do your dealing... errr... didn't they do well... cuddly toy, cuddly toy... you get nothing for for a pair... what's on the board, Miss Ford... give us a twirl... what do points make?... (League One safety I think, mate)."



## Controversial call



AFTER Gillingham match was called off, the gaffer said he hadn't the foggiest idea why, as he couldn't see how the weather would have made a difference. The ref had told Mick: "If we'd played it, your strikers wouldn't have been able to find the goal."



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# from the allotments



... with 'orrible 'ornet Don Monty



SO the Messiah is back, but they can't buy a win anywhere, and lose to one of the big sides in the league in their recent game.

Harford or Keegan? Could be either. You have to admit, the similarity is uncanny. St James Park or the Kenilworth Road Stadium are easily confused.

Since my last wise words it's not been glorious for your boys and as much as it pains me to say it (you know it doesn't, but I'll pretend it

does) it's all looking a bit hopeless for you now.

Still, you can't beat a November Tuesday in Aldershot.

Your one final joy of this season may be to see the glory Horns blow it at the last.

It's tough at the top of the Championship and it's any two from

four for the straight promotion.

Could be Stoke and the Horns - the Premiership culture club can't wait.

We racked up the first win at Ipswich for ages, which would have had Alan Brazil spluttering into his pint. Their fans chanted 'boring, boring Watford' all

game but we soon put them in their place by playing down the clock, hoofing the ball up in the air and running after it.

According to Aidy 'we managed the game' and won 2-1.

Now where do I remember us doing that before? Yellow Army.

**YOUR EMAILS... send your messages to [orange@bedsnews.com](mailto:orange@bedsnews.com)**

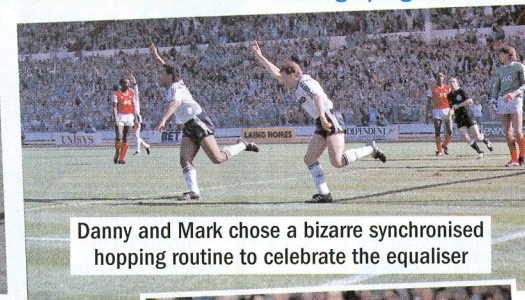
**From Bushmead Bill:** 'We all know why the Football League is not cutting us any slack. Rather than THEY impose a relegation on us as punishment for the bung allegations, they would far rather see us slip down the pan of our own accord! So... no loans, no help with central defenders... and when we go down we won't be able to mount a court case to get any punishment overturned! Sound logical?'

# Happy anniversary Hatters!

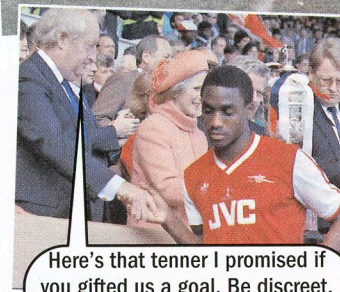
Yes, we know the 20th anniversary of our great Littlewoods Cup win over Arsenal is not until April 24, but, quite frankly, we're all so depressed we could do with some cheering up right now!



When you've quite finished I'd like to start the match



Danny and Mark chose a bizarre synchronised hopping routine to celebrate the equaliser



Here's that tenner I promised if you gifted us a goal. Be discreet, Graham Kelly is just over there



Heck, Lady Penelope from Thunderbirds is showing her age now



Get that nail gloss away from my shirt, I've saving this top as a souvenir for my grandchildren

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check ☒ it out ☒

What to look out for in today's game

Hatters display a new determination ☐

Crowd don't get on the players' backs ☐

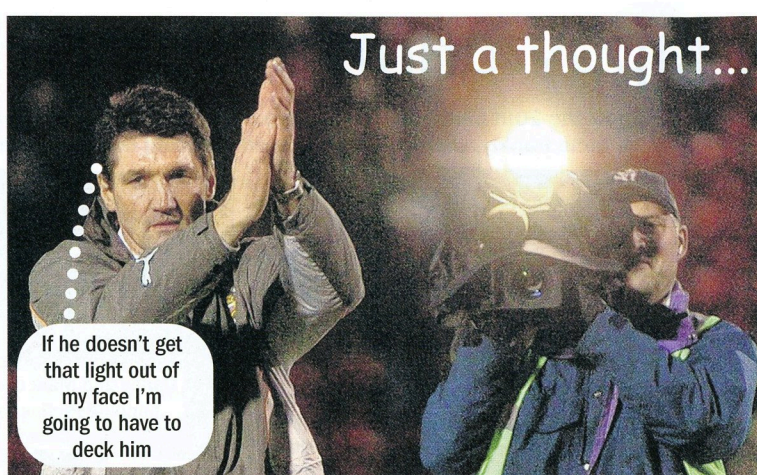
Hatters storm into an early lead ☐

Defence win all their challenges ☐

Springy belts one in from 30 yards ☐

Dean Morgan is tracking back ☐

You wake up & it's 0-2 after 10 mins! ☐



## head to head...

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



Southend (A): 0-2 loss  
Carlisle (A): 0-3 loss  
Oldham (H): 1-0 win  
Cheltenham (H): 1-0 win  
Millwall (A): 0-1 loss

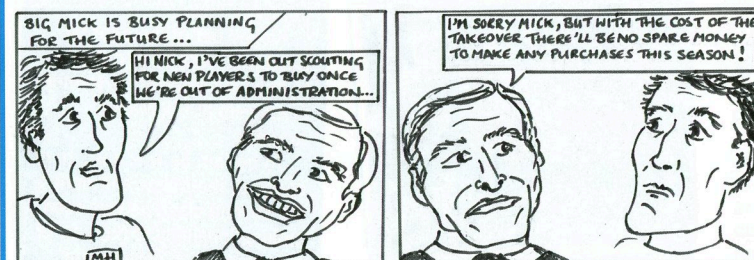
Southend (A): 1-2  
Carlisle (A): 0-2  
Oldham (H): 1-1  
Cheltenham (H): 2-1  
Millwall (A): 2-2



Correct result 1pt, exact score 2pts: Latest score - Steve 20 Andy 19

# Kenny capers

The latest from the Luton corridors with our guest cartoonist



Away the lads... walsall

Da gaffer

Richard Money

Our ex-player returns... meaning finally Money coming into our poor club!



Boo boy

Tommy Mooney

We'll boo the ex-Hornet and he'll probably bag a treble!

Big name

Anthony Gerrard

We've already played against Steve, don't worry this is his naff cousin Ant.

Stop him

Darren Wrack

We'd better be on Wrack tightly or else we'll be on the rack!

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Sat 29th March - MIKE WALKER (Soul to Swing Singer/60's through to current day music)

Mon 17th March - ST. PATRICKS DAY

(ALL DAY IRISH DISCO/MUSIC)

Sun 22nd March - JED McCOY (Singer/Organist/Entertainer)

Sunday 23rd March -- Kids Easter Bonnet Disco - 6pm- 8pm (prizes to be won)

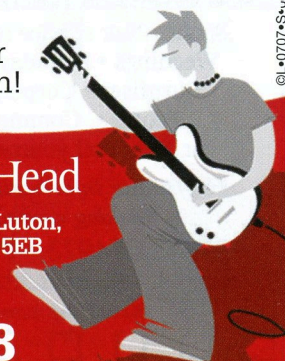
Wed 26th March - WELLINGTON BOOTLES - Jamming/Mic session with the Bootles

All the best to the Hatters for 2007/08 season!

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# boys 'r' us



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

WHAT bothers me as the season appears to whimper to an inevitable conclusion, is that there seems to be a lack of passion on the field.

Sure we've not got much of a squad left, but whatever happens to the 'it's not over until the fat lady sings' attitude?

At least the team showed a bit of fight in the closing stages against Orient. But, surprisingly, despite all the aggro, it looks like one of the old guard (who used to be only second in the nutter stakes to Nico) has lost his edge.

It's good to see Sol back after this season's long-term 'injury' but, rather than spoiling for a fight (remember his red card at Bristol City a couple of years ago), he looks here like a good ruck is the last thing he wants.

>> ED'S NOTE: Billy wrote this prior to Sol's stupid dismissal at Swansea!



SO Boyd's done us, not once, but twice now.

Kicked out of the door by Blackwell, he's helped Orient to two wins against his former employers at Big Mick's expense.

To be fair, he was a waste of space at the Kenny and during the second clash he was seen looking longingly at the part of the pitch which gave us our best memory of the man.

Remember Sheffield Wednesday a year ago as he tried to get a simply pass under control?



# girls world



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

MUCH to my flatmate's annoyance (she's an eco-warrior), this column is written in 16 different ways on a multitude of paper piled up beside me.

You see, my mum has always told me "If you haven't got anything nice to say, then don't say it at all".

Well I don't have anything nice to say, but I am going to say it anyway.

I'm fed up of watching my beloved football team being run by greedy businessmen desperate to make a quick buck. Except they never do...

Haven't they realised it's not possible unless you get a decent team first.

If a team isn't winning then you aren't going to get 20,000 bums on your newly-polished seats.

And as for other businesses

## CELEB WATCH:

Get your vocal chords ready, music mogul Pete Waterman could be supporting Walsall today.

## MAN OF THE MONTH:

George Beavan: He's coped really well. A bright prospect.

## TIP OF THE MONTH:

This month, I'm going to try and not take football so seriously and cheer up!

wanting to invest or have their shops on any complex which may come with a 'fabulous' all singing, all dancing stadium, then surely they want to be associated with a club that is successful and isn't on the brink of administration every five minutes.

Admittedly, I like the idea of

Nick Owen as head of the consortium because I think he has the club's best interests at heart. I'm pleased to see that he has been made the club's ambassador and can watch over what's going on.

Team-wise we seem to have a problem in every area and the disappointment really lies with the lack of motivation within the team, something I think Mick has been left with by previous managers.

I don't know what upsets me more. Mick's face after every game or the realisation that I don't actually want to come next season.



GLUM: Poor Mick looks more and more miserable with every game that passes

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## VITAL STATISTICS

**Full Name:** Dee Watson

**Age:** 17

**Occupation:** Student

**Attached?** Have a boyfriend

**Been a supporter since:** 1995

**Best looking Hatter:** Dean Brill

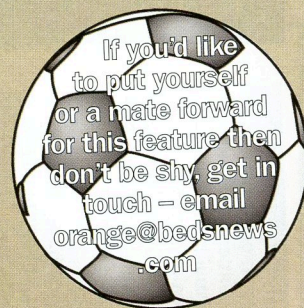
**Most valuable player:** David Bell

**Player to flog:** Dean Morgan

**Ideal night out:** Girls' night in

**Favourite TV show:**

Waterloo Road



Electrolux

Delightful  
Dee





**CELEBRATION:**  
The explosion  
**RATING: 6**  
If you can't think of anything unusual to do then just let off a bit of steam, like Sam did against Leeds after ending his injury hell. At least it shows you care.

# What a goal - shame

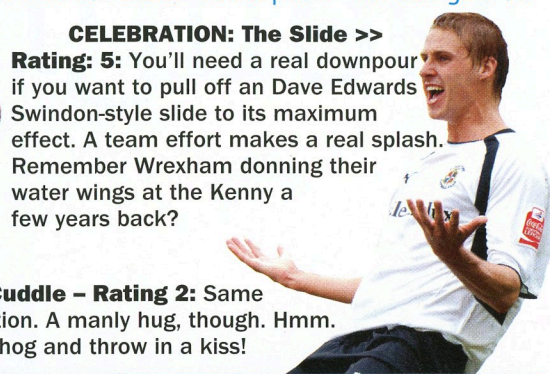
...it's not been the best of seasons on the pitch - and that goes for



**CELEBRATION: The Cuddle - Rating 2:** Same goal, different celebration. A manly hug, though. Hmm. Why not go the whole hog and throw in a kiss!

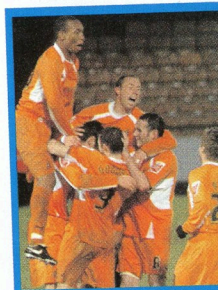


**CELEBRATION: High Fives RATING: 1**  
It may be a handy way of marking a goal, but, let's face it, it hardly sets the pulse racing. All a bit low key and should be saved for the rare (ahem) occasion when you're three down at home and score with a 30-yarder that the keeper fumbles in to the net



# about the celebration

the players' celebrations when Town hit the back of the net, too!



**CELEBRATION:**  
The Man Mountain  
**Rating 4:** How low can you go? - no away wins all season, that's how low. So the lads were on a high at Springy's last-gasp winner at Port Vale.



**CELEBRATION:**  
The tree  
**Rating 0:** They're barking up the wrong tree if they think this lifeless effort is going to earn them any points - a bit like most of the recent displays.

**<< CELEBRATION: Full Throttle Rating 6:** It's Forest in cup. We've scored to set us on the way to a money-spinning game against Liverpool. Emotions take over and you grab the scorer around the throat and tell him he's an utter b@!@! because he's going to get the glory now and not you.



**CELEBRATION:**  
The Buddy  
**Rating 3:**  
A quirky spin on a nest-busting moment. Although you've scored, you allow big-headed team-mate to lead the celebrations for you

**MAY WE SUGGEST...**  
Pretend to flick through a diary to check the last time we scored, turn their pockets out to see if they've any money, burst into tears over Town's plight...or maybe just some kissing of the badge, a windmill, or a naff roly-poly.



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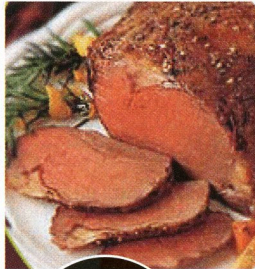


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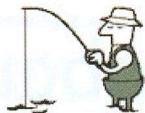
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# the ones that got away

kicked out by Hatters... but they turned out to be quite good, actually



**LEIGHTON** Buzzard-born Alan Biley joined the Hatters from school but, playing on the left wing, did little to impress boss Harry Haslam and when the club disbanded their youth team for financial reasons, he was left out in the cold.

Former Luton coach Paddy Sowden, by now assistant to Ron Atkinson at Cambridge United, had been alerted and signed Biley on a free transfer in

1975 and on the opening day of the 1975/76 season he came off the bench to lay on a goal and then score himself.

Between 1976 and 1979, Biley became the first player to be leading scorer for his club for three consecutive seasons in three different divisions as United stormed up from Division Four to Division Two.

Such was his goalscoring prowess that the

big clubs came sniffing and a £350,000 fee took him to Derby in 1980 and a similar cheque took him to Everton a year later.

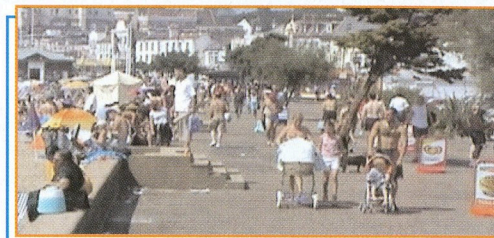
It was at Portsmouth, though, that Alan enjoyed probably his best spell, with a goal in every other game in three years at Fratton Park.

Since hanging up his boots Alan has managed several clubs at non-league level and is

currently in charge of Spalding Town – still sporting the same dodgy barnet that he had back in the 1980s!



## your travel guide to... southend



WITH Hatters all at sea for the second consecutive run-in to a season, it's appropriate that our next match is at Southend.

If you're thinking of going there to enjoy yourself at the match, then wake up! The only pleasure you're likely to find is not at Roots Hall (as Town inevitably lose on their travels again) but on the largest pleasure pier in the world.

The pier is 1.34 miles long and Dean Morgan apparently walked all the way to the end of it during his loan spell... that's 1.33 miles more ground than he's covered for Hatters this season.

Comedians Phil Jupitus and Lee Evans

hail from Southend and rumour has it they'll be going to the match to glean more material by watching Hatters' defence.

Interestingly enough, the central

### directions

M1, M25, Mmm shall we turn back? Exit

offices for the collection of VAT are based at Southend. Let's hope the taxman doesn't wave a bill under Big Mick's nose as Town's coach arrives at the ground.

J29 and hit the A127. It's all plain sailing from then on, but if

## famous fans

### Alison Moyet

One half of pop duo Yazoo, who released The Only Way Is Up – how appropriate for LTFC

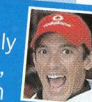


### Gary Wilmot

Currently touring in Half A Sixpence – a comedy show about LTFC's bank balance?

### Frankie Dettori

Actually an Arsenal fan, but has lived in Southend and they're a bit short of supporters



you can't find the ground just hit the pier.

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# who am I ?



use the clues to try to identify Hatters past and present



**I was born in Nottingham and started my career at Forest**



**I joined Luton in 1964 but suffered a broken leg and back problems**



**I scored 10 goals in 79 games as a winger for the club**



**I've had three spells at the club (as a player and then as manager)**



**I was co-commentator for Luton's greatest match and also have fond memories of Maine Road**



**I was born in Bishops Auckland and began my career at Middlesbrough**



**I had two loan spells at Hatters and kept five clean sheets in 19 games**



**I made my Luton debut against Brentford in 2000 - we lost 2-1**



**I played in the 1997 FA Cup Final, but let in a goal in the first minute**



**I have also played for Brighton, Reading, Millwall and Wycombe**



**I was born in Aldershot and Hatters were my first club**



**I made my debut in the 1-0 home defeat to Southend in 1964**



**I netted 24 goals in 44 games as we won the Fourth Division in 1968**



**I went on to net 57 goals in 167 games during four years here**



**I played for Scotland and went on to manage clubs like Millwall, Bolton, Arsenal and Norwich**

ANSWERS: 1. David Pleat; 2. Ben Roberts; 3. Bruce Rioch

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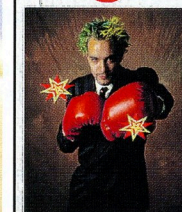
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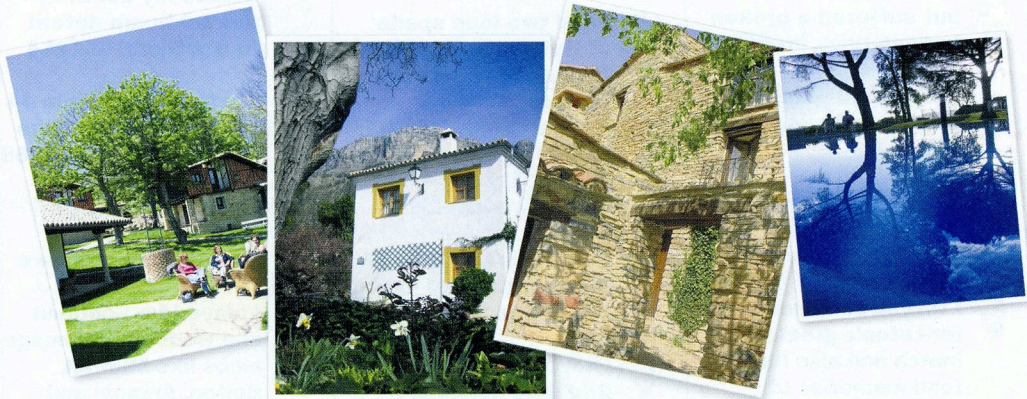
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# what a great save

Hatters have no money, so here are some top HTO tips to save (or raise) some cash for the club

Turn off the scoreboard and make the operator redundant (pretty much done the latter already, though)



Get the team to wash their own kit & pay subs!



Make fans pay to get out of the stadium - otherwise, (a) they'll have to watch the next game or (b) Elton John's Greatest Hits will be played over the tannoy



Save on appearance bonuses by playing 11 cardboard cutouts. Would anyone notice the difference?



Make the press boys bring their own tea bags



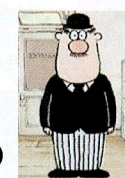
Steal some astroturf from the local indoor bowling green and pass it off as the old Kenny plastic so you can sell it to souvenir collectors



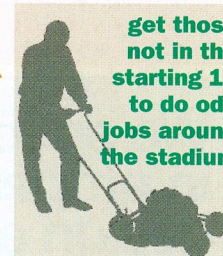
Get club staff to go down the bookies and bet on the next goalscorer (Walsall's leading scorer) or on what year will we next win a game



Don't pay the tax man (oops!)



get those not in the starting 11 to do odd jobs around the stadium



Persuade Jordan (not Joe) to be mascot for the day... but we don't want her fella Peter Andre doing the half-time entertainment



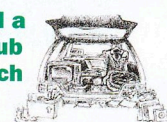
Don't waste £500,000 on a striker who's proven in League One but can't cut it in the Championship... and then ditch him for nothing when you're relegated to the lower level (too late!)



Sell the ground to the council (oh dear!)



Get the players to hold a car boot sale in the club car park after the match



Hold a raffle. First prize = the chance to play centre half. Second prize = a pair of tickets. Booby prize = A season ticket for the rest of the campaign



Cut back on stewards, they only block our view of the action - then again...



Get a new consortium in charge of the club who will run it responsibly without paying out stupid wages we can't afford



# What a mix-up!

Carol Vorderman brings you some Hatters-related anagrams

**DOGMA FERRYING**  
**CARD FORK HIM**  
**NICE WONK**  
**A JADE FA YA SUED**  
**AD DIRK HOVEL**  
**VASES ID VET**  
**LAD FIDDLE VOID**

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

1. Godfrey Ingram; 2. Mick Harford, 3. Nick Owen; 4. Ed Asafu Adjaye; 5. David Khofu; 6. Steve Davis; 7. David Oldfield

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(dedicated to 'Motormouth' Mike's memory)

# talking points

- who said the following?



- 1 "This is The FA Cup, though, and Kevin Blackwell will no doubt send out pacemen Talbot and Darren Currie with the same instructions, to frighten an ageing Reds defence."
- 2 "From one to seven... they were magnificent."
- 3 "As part of the consortium buying into Luton Town, Owen has an even bigger challenge: hauling a club that's slumped faster than his career back from the brink."
- 4 "I think they will do it with Mick going there. I will probably have a beer with him on Friday night and try to get him drunk before he picks his team!"
- 5 "I've seen him twice recently, including the FA Cup tie against Liverpool at Kenilworth Road, when his performance had fans calling him the Ginger Maradona."

(answers below)

1. Setanta Sports ahead of the Liverpool replay; 2. Kevin Blackwell after three were sent off against Bristol Rovers (maths wasn't his strong point!) 3. Sean Ingle of The Guardian; 4. Dennis Wise ahead of the Leeds home game; 5. Steve Claridge talking about Drew Talbot.

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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.

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