

Half-time

By Hatters for Hatters

# ORANGE

Season 07-08 No8

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# hatters matters

... a word from the editor

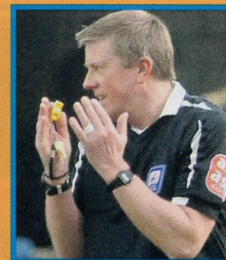
SO it's three games unbeaten now. I suppose it's a start but it's too little too late as far as this season goes.

Of course, Mick and the players will tell you that while it's still mathematically possible to escape the drop, they'll still believe it can be achieved.

Getting two points out of six over Easter against lowly sides may not have been the final nails in our coffin yet, but there's only a couple more left to hammer in.

There's now 14 points to make up, but today we play Crewe, the side immediately above the drop zone. If we win and then triumph in our game in hand then it's just eight points to make up! Unfortunately...

1) Crewe have been in



Millwall ref Tony Bates shows Mick how many points he needs to pick up in the next three games if Town are to have any chance of survival... oh, dear!

decent form recently. 2) We've only won once since January 1. 3) Take these games out of the equation and there'd only be five further games to make up the deficit.

So, getting out of his hole would be the greatest of Great Escapes – apart from Max Branning's in EastEnders this week.

In any case, if we do

by some miracle manage to claw our way out of this mess, I'm sure the FA would be woken from its slumber and finally hand us a points deduction over the charges for financial irregularities. Failing that, the Football League would dock us points when we come out of administration.

With the cause all but lost, the pressure's off the players to some extent, so they should be able to play with some freedom and show Mick if they're worth having around next season.

In the coming weeks, our fans need to be encouraged by what they witness on the pitch and what 2020 tell us off it. Otherwise, I dread to think what our attendances will fall to in League Two.

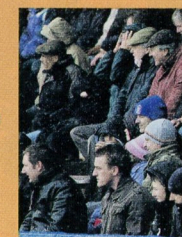
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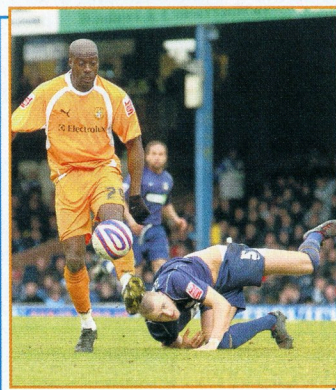
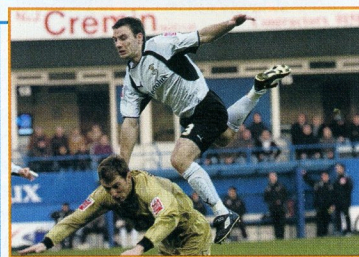
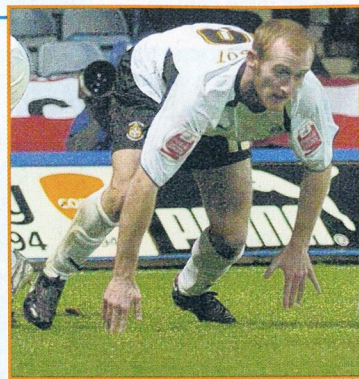
# The news at

## Duo ready for the Olympics?

WITH a miserable season of football coming to a close, two of our playing squad have turned their attentions to fulfilling their dream of competing at the Olympics.

Now, obviously, neither would make the GB soccer team, so the duo are trying to make a late bid to convince the selectors of their worth in other disciplines.

Drew fancies a go at the 100 metres, while Alan has decided to give the long jump a go in Beijing. If they're not careful they'll be for the high jump, though, when Mick has a summer Hatters clear-out.



## Main target is identified

IT'S no secret that Hatters are in dire need of a big centre half.

Rumour has it that Big Mick's first target is Southend's number 5, Peter Clarke.

The gaffer thought the defender would fit in perfectly with our current squad. As can be seen from this photo, he's good at getting rolled over.

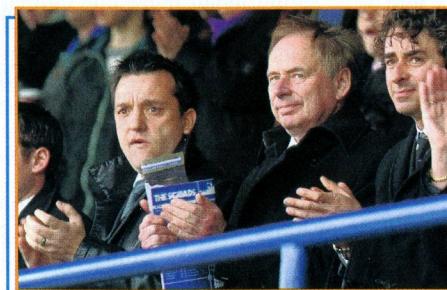


## It's utterly pointless!

AT a recent game, bored fans in G Block asked the away end how many points they thought Hatters would pick up in the season run-in. The bloke on the left, circled, clearly isn't that clued up about the crisis going on here at LTFC.

# Ken Rumours, speculation, gossip and half-truths

## At last, a good reason to clap



IT'S not all doom and gloom at Hatters these days. We may be firmly entrenched in the relegation zone but with new owners set to take over soon, hopes are high that the long-term future of our beloved club is far brighter.

It's been a terrible time on the pitch and fans have been left almost suicidal after the run we've been on, thanks to the sale of key players since we've been in admin-

istration. However looking at this photograph, it appears some of the consortium members finally found something to cheer at the Southend match.

We checked with the photographer and discovered the snap was taken at 2.45pm. Presumably the applause is for the team successfully completing a pre-match warm-up without picking up any injuries.

## 40p – is it overcharging?

IT'S highly commendable that the new owners in waiting, LTFC2020 Ltd, have decided to allow kids in to see matches for 40p.

Youngsters were allowed in to the Walsall and Cheltenham games on the cut-price deal, which has helped keep our attendances up around the 6,000 mark.

Rumour has, it though, that they settled on this 40p charge after

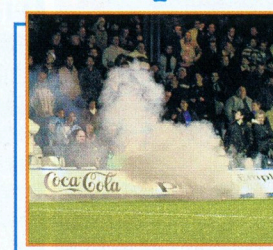
conducting an independent feasibility study on the maximum amount supporters are willing to pay to see what's on offer from the players at Kenilworth Road these days.

It would be nice to see a promotion on the field next season as well as in the ticket office, but they've a heck of mess to sort out first.

## At last, some flare on the pitch

WE'VE been known for our passing football over the years, but there's been a bit too much long ball and not enough flair for our liking this season.

Hearing our groans, a sympathetic Millwall fan decided to take action into his own hands, as you can see from the photo. Grabbing a quick word with the dunce before he was ejected, he said: "It's was the only way you'll see some flare at Kenilworth Road."



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# from the allotments



... with 'orrible 'ornet Don Monty



YOU'VE won a game, you've won a game, you've won a ... Luton's won a game.

Crikey, we had to do a double-take when the hordes of Glory Horns heard the result that you'd actually overcome another team. The mighty Oldham, no less.

It must give you hope - only joking.

I thought I'd seen everything as a Watford boy until the other week when we took on Stoke (one for the football purists that one, I

can tell you).

There I was, enjoying my pre-match pint in the stand when a big cheer went up.

No, Luton hadn't been relegated early - that'll be at least mid April - there was a man standing on the bar. On the

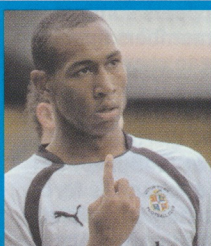
bar. And not just any old man. Aidy Boothroyd, THE man.

He spent five minutes giving a rallying call to the fans - from the stand bar, and nearly banging his head on the ceiling - and then he bought everyone a drink.

It was one of those mad moments.

I'd like to see Micky Harford do it - although I dare say he might be better off winning a few more games first before facing the crowd.

Glory Horns!



WHEN he first was appointed as boss, the crowd demanded to know what Big Mick's target number of wins would be in his first 15 games. He cautiously went for five victories, but clever Calvin knew the true depth of the problems here and hit the nail on the head with his guess.



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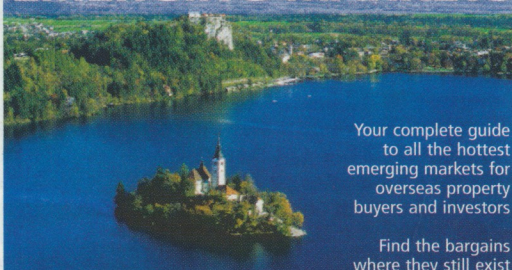
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## can it get any worse than this?



### 1. Oct 1997, Watford (h) 0-4:

Four goals down in the first 29 minutes against your local rivals was a bitter pill to swallow. Apparently we had about 22 players out injured and when Julian James came on he looked like an international, according to Lennie!

3. Apr 1997, Bury (h) 0-0: If ever a visiting team deserved the "top of the league, you're having a laugh" chant it was Bury. They parked the team bus in front of their goal and got the point they came for.

4. Jan 1996, Grimsby (a) 1-7: Our FA Cup run was over before it started as we were 3-0 down after half an hour. At least only 5,387 saw the embarrassing rout.

5. Oct 2000, Wrexham (h) 3-4: It looked plain sailing on a close-to-being waterlogged pitch but 3-0 is a such a dangerous lead! Wrexham hit

back with four goals and celebrated the late winner from Ferguson by the whole team doing a belly slide through the puddles in front of the dismayed Kenny end.

### 6. Mar 1988, Reading (Wembley) 1-4:

A month before our greatest triumph we were playing lowly Reading in the Simod Cup final - and got humiliated.

### 7. Sept 1979, Notts County (a) 0-0:

They were thinking of renaming Luton Town, Luton Town 0 after this stalemate. We played very defensively and Paul Price back passed to Jake Findlay at every possible opportunity to break up the play.

### 2. Jan 2006, Watford (h) 1-2:

The infamous match where we, once again, had a sluggish start and then Betty 'managed the game' as players went down like flies to disrupt what rhythm we had.

Following the Walsall home game we received a text from a fan who claimed it had been the worst game for years. So, just to cheer you all up, we decided to dig out some other contenders (it wasn't that hard!). You can nominate a best or worst game by emailing [orange@bedsnews.com](mailto:orange@bedsnews.com)

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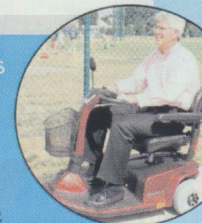
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check it out ☒ ☐

What to look out for in today's game

Morgs is sitting in the stands ☐

More empty than full seats ☐

Pathetic following from Crewe ☐

20 balls are lost in Bury Park ☐

We desperately throw on 5 up front ☐

Keano plays his heart out ☐

We're lucky to get nil - and lose... ☐

Just a thought...



Oh well, it was worth a try, but Mick's spotted me trying to hide in the crowd

head to head...

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



Crewe (H) 0-2 loss  
Gill'ham (A): 0-2 loss  
North'ton (A): 1-2 loss

Crewe (H) 1-2 win  
Gill'ham (A): 2-2 draw  
North'ton (A): 1-1 draw



THE NEXT ISSUE OF HALF-TIME ORANGE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE BRIGHTON MATCH

Correct result 1pt, exact score 2pts: Latest score - Steve 25 Andy 22

# Kenny capers

The latest from the Luton corridors with our guest cartoonist



Away the lads... **crewe**

Da gaffer

Steve Holland

Being boss is all double Dutch to Holland so maybe it's why they're struggling



Buzz off

Neil Cox

Captain is an ex-Hornet so has struggled to adjust to Crewe's passing style.

On ya marks

Steven

Schumacher

Was gutted when John Gurney's promise of an F1 track fell through



Weak link

Ben Williams

Ex-Man Utd keeper scored an O.G. on Crewe debut

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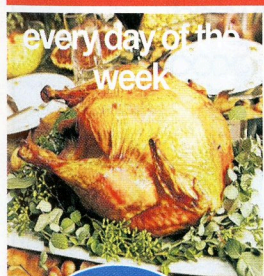
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# boys 'r' us



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

I HAVEN'T the foggiest idea about who the joker was that decided to rearrange our game with Gillingham for April Fool's Day.

Anyway, for Tuesday's game at the Priestfield Stadium, I thought I'd look down the contenders for who might prove to be the biggest April Fool once the game has run its course:

>> Big Mick: After a dismal run of results and another reverse at Gillingham perhaps he'll realise what a fool he was to take on the hardest job in football.

>> The away fans: We're in such poor form that surely you'd be a fool to get stuck in a Tuesday late afternoon M25 jam to go to this one.

>> Our team: It would be

unfair to pick on individuals as most have been playing like fools since the turn of the year.

>> Paul Peschisolido: Quoted



as saying we are still capable of beating all the sides in this division. If we lose at lowly Gills we'll be finally

change his mind?

>> Gillingham's

Efe Sodje is on loan at Bury so won't be in the squad. If you thought his bandana was bad enough then the ex-Hatter has added a mask to his repertoire.

>> The officials: If we manage



to put in a decent performance you can bet we'll be shafted by the ref or his linos making some daft decisions.

>> Gills chairman Paul Scally:

He shot his mouth off when Hatters were deducted 10 points for going into administration. Reckoned we should have been instantly relegated. Let's win and take Gills down with us.

Oh, and by the way, we all know the football authorities have a terrible sense of humour, so the club had better keep on their toes on Tuesday. Take with a pinch of salt any memo about us being cleared of FA charges, escaping further punishment for exiting administration or being reimbursed the 10-point penalty and being allowed to sign players.

# girls' world



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

AFTER the depressing state of my last column, I was worried about about the inspiration for this month's write-up.

Well, look no further than the results of the past three games. Now I'm as positive as one of Amy Winehouse's drugs tests – and that's quite a turnaround!

Mick's attitude and confidence in the young players just confirms his appointment as a wonderful move. And nobody is happier than I am to see Captain Keith at the helm. It just shows the complete transformation that Keith has had since he first joined the squad and it's fabulous to see a home-grown Lutonian taking the armband!

However, after the Millwall game on Monday my house was divided and nearly in battle.

## CELEB WATCH:

The Railwaymen's most famous fan is Michael Crawford. Look out for the thespian in the directors' box!

## MAN OF THE MONTH:

Ryan Charles: Great debut goal. keep up the good work!

## TIP OF THE MONTH:

Get the hat and gloves ready and snow boots steady!

I stand in the Orange corner, dreaming of... winning the next six games... Drew Talbot making a full recovery and scoring the hat-trick he deserves today... Gillingham going into administration... Watford discovered as fraudsters and starting in the Blue Square Premier next season... Jaroslaw Fojut and Kevin Nicholls returning... under-seat heating fit-

ted (with no cost to the club, of course!)... and a £3 big bottle of Cherry Lambrini to celebrate Luton Town staying up!

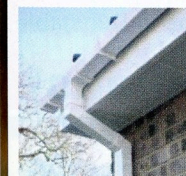
But in the Black corner stands my dad, Mr Gazeley, supporter for 40 years, with the notion that we ought to be careful next season that we don't end up being relegated to non league.

Oh dear, this pessimism isn't helping anyone father dear, so get a grip! We haven't been relegated yet and as the person that introduced me to Kenilworth Road in the first place, I feel very disappointed in you!

If you, like me, are having similar problems at home, don't worry – threaten them with MK Dons tickets.

Suddenly their love for Luton Town will return with a flourish!

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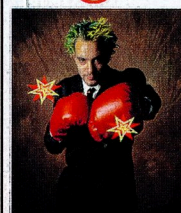
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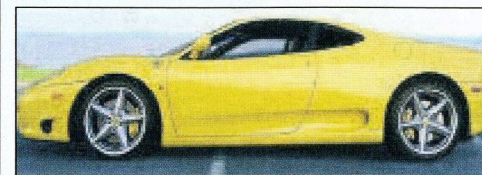
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# Natasha

what a beauty!



## VITAL STATISTICS

**Full Name:** Natasha Higgins

**Age:** 25

**Occupation:** Senior Recruitment Consultant

**Attached?** Single

**Been a supporter since:** I was born a Hatter as I'm a Luton girl

**Best looking Hatter:** Ooooh, David Bell and Darren Currie

**Most valuable player:** Keith Keane

**Player to flog:** Dean Morgan

**Ideal night out:** Out with the girlies or with my mates Zoe, Justin, Tiddles and Poguey!

**Favourite TV show:** Lost, Sex And The City, Hollyoaks and EastEnders

If you'd like to put yourself or a mate forward for this feature then don't be shy, get in touch - email [orange@bedsnews.com](mailto:orange@bedsnews.com)



# the relegation book



**EXCUSE 1:**  
The players don't know each other well enough. Here's one example against Orient where Springy seems baffled as to who Deano is



**EXCUSE 2:**  
The players aren't taking the survival challenge seriously



**EXCUSE 3:** Our players are losing their contact lenses during matches. No wonder they play so many blind passes during a 90-minute match



**EXCUSE 5:** Senior pros have been putting their feet up instead of battling for some vital victories



**EXCUSE 6:** Some of our former coaching staff thought having a cup of tea would solve the problems of the world instead of extra training



**EXCUSE 4:** Some of the players have an awkward running style

# of excuses

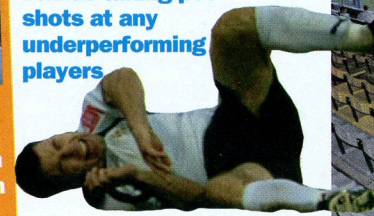
so there's been a financial crisis, administration, a points deduction, player sales and Springy's even blamed the pitch, but Orange has uncovered even more reasons for this season of misery



**EXCUSE 7:** We've thrown away so many games from a winning position it's scary. Just ask Sodje



**EXCUSE 8:** Some players are getting in each others' way



**EXCUSE 9:** There's been a sniper in the stands taking pot shots at any underperforming players

**EXCUSE 11:** Some of our new signings have been a little wide of the mark



**EXCUSE 12:** Our flair players have been fighting over who gets the chance to blaze the ball over the bar at free-kicks



**EXCUSE 10:** Crowds have fallen away rather worryingly so the players aren't being roared to victory



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# the ones that got away

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



**GARRY PARKER:** After coming up through the ranks at Kenilworth Road, Parker signed pro forms in May, 1983, but the cultured midfielder could only manage 42 league appearances in three years, such was the Hatters' depth of talent at the time.

Unable to get past the likes of Ricky Hill and David Preece,

Garry reluctantly stepped down in 1986 to join his old pal Brian Horton, by then manager at Hull.

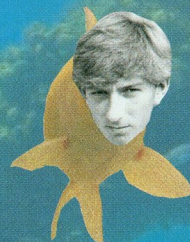
The £40,000 paid by the Tigers turned out to be a steal as Garry went on to win England Under-21 caps while at Boothferry Park before a big money move took him to Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest in 1988.

At the City Ground, Garry was reputed to be on the fringes of the full England side such was his form and he came back to haunt the Hatters with a fine display in the 1989 Littlewoods Cup final, which his new team won 3-1.

Garry went on to enjoy further moves where big cheques were paid out with Aston Villa and Leicester

benefiting from his midfield prowess.

He is still involved in the game in his role as manager of Kidlington reserves.



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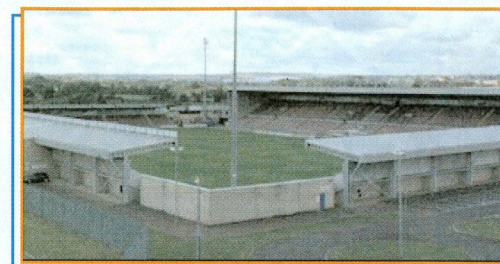
# your travel guide to... Northampton

LET'S skip Tuesday's re-arranged trip to Gillingham because travelling to watch Town on April Fool's Day is asking for trouble.

So instead let's move on to the short 35-mile journey up the M1 to Sixfields... although if you can't find your way here, you must be as misguided as a Richard Jackson pass.

Northampton's oldest standing building is the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. It was built in 1100 - only just before Kenilworth Road, then.

You may be fascinated to learn (more



likely you won't give a toss), that the town claims to have Britain's largest market square. If only we had such a large piece of land we could put our state-of-the-art new stadium on it.

Northampton was used as the town location for the hit BBC

comedy Keeping Up Appearances between 1990 and 1995.

Of course it's most famous for its shoe industry and the movie Kinky Boots was filmed there - and you thought they got their nickname after years of playing absolute Cobblers.

## famous fans

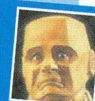
**Des O'Connor**  
Briefly played for Cobblers, then decided on pursuing a showbiz career. Lucky us!



**Joan Hickson**  
Even Miss Marple can't solve the mystery of why they're stuck in the lower leagues



**Robert Llewellyn**  
Red Dwarf star is about as attractive as the football his team plays



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# who are ya?



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



I was born in June  
1963 in Alnwick and  
began my career with  
Wallingford Town



I played against Luton  
during their 1988  
Littlewoods Cup  
campaign



I signed for Hatters for  
£140,000 and played  
left back and then  
centre back



I was surprisingly given  
the job of penalty taker  
and had an usual style



The executive box net  
is named in my honour



I was born in Wembley  
(not the stadium) in  
1968



I came up through the  
ranks and made my  
debut in March 1988



I scored 10 goals in  
440 appearances,  
prompting fans to say I  
deserved an England  
chance



I was briefly given  
penalty taking  
responsibilities during  
the 1994/95 season



I've now retired and run  
my own soccer school



I made my Town debut  
as a sub against  
Liverpool



In 70 appearances I  
bagged 27 goals



My first goal for Luton  
was against Mansfield.  
I netted five goals in  
two games against  
them in 1989



I got on the scoresheet  
in the last game of the  
1990/91 season to  
save Luton's top flight  
status



I also go by the name  
Darando

ANSWERS: 1. John Dreyer, 2. Martin Johnson, 3. Lars Elstrup

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# there's only one Keano!

few players can hold their heads high after our recent results... except flat-footed Keith



His performances during the early days had us in stitches... HA HA HA



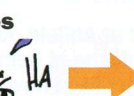
He gets knocked down - but he'll get up again



Despite being small he wins his fair share of aerial duels



Having learned a bit from Nico he's now developing his Mr Nasty face to scare a few opponents



... so we'd often stitch him up in HTO about his lack of pace, running style, etc...



When he got a gash down to the bone he was back in action in a week, not three months like Markus Heikkinen



He can play a pass intuitively without even looking at the target



He's a good boy who always brushes his teeth 3 times a day so he has a sparkling set of gnashers to show off at photoshoots

When we played Liverpool at home he marked £11.5m Ryan Babel out of the game

He's a Luton boy who went to Cardinal Newman High School, so he loves the club



...despite that, he always saw the funny side

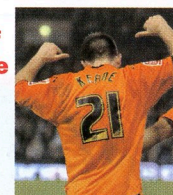


He's been played out of position for his entire Hatters career. He's a midfielder who's had to play at right back, left back and centre half

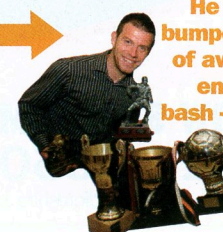


He used to be our worst player...  
...now he's our best

Keano's capable of scoring the odd goal. Beating 3 men and scoring at WBA last season felt very odd at the time



He's remained positive throughout our dismal run. After the Orient defeat at home, he said: "As long as the points are there to get out of it I believe we can get out of it." (Shame some of other players don't)



He picked up a bumper selection of awards at the end of season bash - which was held in January!



# What a mix-up!

Carol Vorderman brings you some Hatters-related anagrams

TRAINMAN IDIOTS  
RAGWEEDS FREED  
HOTTER PONY  
ALTARS DUGOUTS  
A CHALKIEST MIL SNOW  
ANTACID DRY  
LLAMA COMMAND COLD

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

1. Administration; 2. Deferred wages; 3. Tony Thorpe; 4. Stuart Douglas; 5. Mike Watson Challis; 6. Raddy Antic; 7. Malcolm MacDonald

(dedicated to 'Motormouth' Mike's memory)

## talking points - who said the following?

- 1 "I will be sat in the stand at Anfield, knowing that we have a manager who thinks he is being 'helpful' for giving a month's notice. I'd rather he'd have walked straight away and never shown his face again in the town."
- 2 "Paul Furlong can be a handful in this division, but as the game went on we wore him down and nothing was coming off him."
- 3 "I was so enthusiastic that we got letters of complaint from people saying they could work out the result because I was in such a buoyant mood it was obvious Luton had won."
- 4 "It's a lovely little club and I enjoyed my time there. I have great sympathy for the players and the fans."
- 5 "If we'd known earlier on, we'd be playing in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy. We could have done a deal with them to do this place out. As it was, we used Dulux in the end!"

(answers below)

1. Andy Burgess (Rushden player but LFC fan); 2. Danny Wilson after his Hatter-press room after Town beat Northampton in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy.  
4. David Edwards on his brief stay at Luton; 5. Kevin Blackwell in the redecorated Southampton v Luton (Littiewoods Cup quarter final) on Midweek Sports Special; pool side beat Town 4-0; 3. Nick Owen after presenting highlights of the

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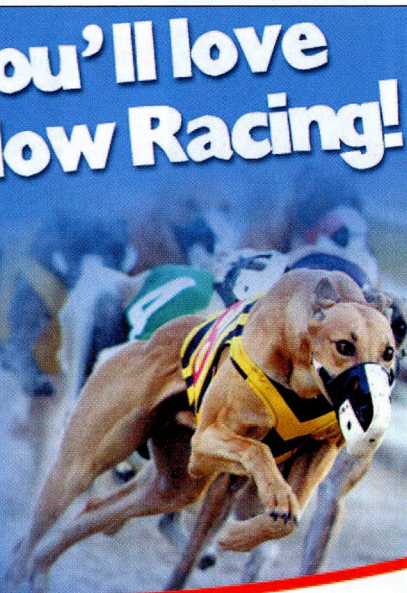
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If you urgently need medical help and the GP's surgery is closed, you can call Luton and south Beds Urgent Care Service on 0845 6340 166. If you're not sure what to do, or whether you need help urgently or not, you can call NHS Direct at any time on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

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.

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