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By Hatters for Hatters

ORANGE

Season 07-08 No9

The Fat Lady Sings Edition



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hatters matters

... a word from the editor

SO what's the target now? Win the last four and hope for a miracle?

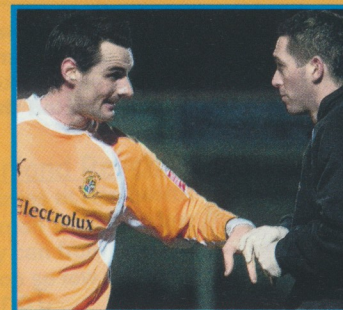
No, let's get real, we've only ever won two on the spin this season - and that was before the squad was decimated by administration.

So boys, your mission (should you choose to accept it) is to avoid the ignominy of finishing bottom of the pile.

We've done the double over Port Vale so surely we can leapfrog them before the season's out.

Here at Orange we're beginning to think we're a bit of a jinx, though.

When we launched in January 2007 the Town were in a reasonably comfortable position in the Championship table - but then the



Supporters have been on at senior pro Matt Spring to pull his finger out in our survival battle - but no-one expected him to go this far. Ouch!

wheels came off with two wins in the final 18 league games.

We thought things couldn't get any worse but we were wrong and now we're on the verge of sinking into the bottom tier again.

Still, there's always next season (although that's what we thought 12 months ago). It's now time to rebuild and bring players in who really want to play for the club.

Mick apparently will have some funds

made available to him by LTFC2020 so he can start the rebuilding process.

Let's hope he spends it wisely and shows us what a good decision it was to appoint him.

Everyone wants him to succeed, he's Luton Town through and through, after all.

That's it from me until our final issue on the day of the Huddersfield match.

I'm off to join in the search for Happy Harry's head!



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)

alternatively EMAIL

orange@bedsnews.com

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The news at

NOT a lot's gone right for Hatters this season, and the latest calamity is the news that the head of our beloved mascot Happy Harry has been stolen. Orange takes a look at the chief suspects who may have masterminded the crime...



Harry The Horner

The mascot from our fierce rivals Watford is the most likely candidate. He's only a poor little Horner, so perhaps he plans on holding the club to ransom to boost his finances.

John Mitchell

Our former chief executive desperately wanted Harry's bounce so he could walk around the streets of Luton in disguise and not be attacked by angry fans for the mess he left behind.



Pete Winkleman

The chairman of Franchise FC is a strong contender for taking Harry's head. That's mainly due to his track record of acquiring things. Perhaps it was a drunken jape after they won at Wembley?

Cliff Bassett

He's desperate to get Town to move to his land by Junction 12, so perhaps he ordered the theft of the head. Then he can use it to do a deal to move the club out of Luton before 2020 have done their independent feasibility study.



Pc Peter Palmer

Harry can get a bit carried away at times and has been known to goad the away fans. The cops, worried that Harry could incite a riot, have secretly hidden the head in one of their police station cells.

Brendan Guilfoyle

Our administrator needs a big paperweight for all those invoices from the Inland Revenue. He's also confessed to a Luton News journo that his daughter has a secret desire to dress up in Harry's costume and run on to the pitch.



A Local Resident

They nick all those balls that go flying out of the ground so they presumably wouldn't hesitate at the chance to keep an unusual mascot head as a centrepiece ornament for their sideboard.

Stuart Hall

The ageing presenter was always up for a laugh, so maybe he's the brainwave behind the disappearance. He probably took it for nostalgia purposes, as the head looks like it belongs to an It's A Knockout character.



Ken

Who nicked Happy Harry's head? **SPECIAL**



The Football League

They docked us points for going into administration. That forced us into player sales, but, with the transfer window shut, they've found a new way to get at us.

The Inland Revenue

These are taxing times at Kenilworth Road and the taxman wants to claw back as much as they can from Hatters. Would they stoop so low as theft?



David Pinkney

The racing driver dude plastered Town's badge on the front of one of his cars. Now, because the ex-chairman has more crashes than the stock market, he's using Harry's head as a protective helmet, due to its extra thick padding.

Harry's Twin Brother, Henry

A slightly chubbier version of Harry, Henry has lived in his brother's shadow for years. Filled with jealousy at the fame Harry has achieved, the theft gave him his big chance as he filled in for his sibling at the Crewe home game.



A Criminal Gang

Balaclavas or tights are so old hat. Today's armed robber wants to do it in style. Perhaps a local gang has been inspired by the Keanu Reeves' film Point Break (where the crims used Reagan and Nixon heads, among others).

Big Mick & The Players

With the amount of balls that get kicked out of the ground we must be running low on them. Rumour has it the squad has been forced into using Harry's head in training. At least it gives Marlon a chance of saving something!



Wacky Macky Bear

This character from Saffron Walden FC won the 2007 Mascot Grand National. As this year's race approaches, was he getting worried about retaining his crown and decided to embark on a dirty tricks campaign?

A Headless Chicken

QUESTION: Why did the headless chicken cross Oak Road?
ANSWER: To go for a trial at Kenilworth Road... oh, and to pick up Harry's head as it was lying in the gutter.



IF YOU KNOW THE WHEREABOUTS OF HARRY'S HEAD OR HAVE ANY THEORIES ON WHO'S RESPONSIBLE EMAIL US AT... orange@bedsnews.com



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... with 'orrible 'ornet Don Monty



AND now, the end is near, and so you face, the final curtain. You may, not be quite down, but you will go, that much is certain...

Well, you've done it your way but there are clouds to every silver lining, so please bear these positive points in mind when the relegation becomes inevitable...

1) You'll get to go to some really interesting places next season - Aldershot, Bury and Rochdale all spring to mind.

2) You can have a day by the seaside in the classy resort of Morecambe.

3) You can crack your Accrington Stanley lines in a Scouse accent all year and then get the chance to go!

4) You get a longer lie-in on a Sunday. Last season you had to be up at 10am to

see your team on Championship Goals. This season it's been 10.30 for Division One - next year it'll be four minutes to 11.

5) You might actually win a game or two.

6) You won't have to sit through Luton live commentary on the radio. It'll just be updates in the middle

of MK Dons matches.

7) Keep an eye on the Blue Square Premier play-offs. Stevenage may be your derby.

8) The Glory Horns will probably blow promotion. We'll have to sell our big money players and the decline will set in. Yellow army!



OUR former boss upset some fans with the picking of his side. And, indeed, his 4-5-1 formation for home matches (sorry, Bell and Morgan out wide and Furlong down the middle was never 4-3-3, Kev) caused us to much head scratching. However Blackers was good at picking something - his nose. A 4-4-2 magazine piece detailed how he was seen in the club car park by fans following the Oldham away game having "a good old clear-out" ... both barrels, apparently.

things can only get better

After our run-down of the games from hell in issue 8, we thought it was only fair to redress the balance. So here's a list of games which make supporting the Hatters so worthwhile...

1. Apr 1990: Crystal Palace (h) 1-0: Seconds from relegation, we'd missed a host of chances, when ... BANG... Ian Dowie slides in a winner which gives us the chance to complete the great escape at Derby.

2. Sept 1998: Ipswich (h) 4-2 (5-4 agg): Having just seen fellow defender Steve Davis put through his own goal late in extra time of this league cup tie, Marv saves the day seconds later with a looping header and a galloping celebration.

3. Feb 1994: Newcastle (h) 2-0: Sky televised FA Cup tie where, as a Division One club, we supposedly didn't have a prayer against Premier League opponents. Hartson and Oakes

the goal heroes.

4. Mar 1994: West Ham (h) 3-2: As Newcastle game, except Oakes bags a hat-trick.

5. Oct 1986: Liverpool (h) 4-1: Mike Newell nets a treble as we wallop the Reds. One looked a tad offside but still stood. Was Amy Rayner's mum running the line?

7. Feb 1988: Oxford (h) 7-4: The scoreboard's never been the same since it worked overtime keeping up with the crazy action. Mark Stein hat-trick this time.

8. Feb 2004: Brentford (h) 4-1: We thought Enoch was rubbish,

then he belted in a cracking hat-trick, including a Beckham-esque free-kick, and a solo run from the half-way line.

9. May 1983: Man City (a) 1-0: Four minutes from being doomed, Raddy Antic scores through a crowd of players, keeping us up, sending City down and giving Match Of The Day their famous image of Pleaty's jig across Maine Road.

10. Oct 1985: Southampton (h) 7-0: It's safe to say England keeper Peter Shilton didn't enjoy his afternoon as Bruno bags a treble.

OH... and wasn't there also a decent game about 20 years ago against a team called Arsenal - see pages 14 and 15. If you'd like to nominate a different game, send an email to orange@bedsnews.com

What's on ... ENTERTAINMENT APRIL 2008

Saturday 12th - DISCO

(From the 60's to Modern Pop)

Sunday 13th - DISCO (from 7pm)

(From the 60's to Modern Pop)

Friday 18th - KARAOKE

(Perry's Karaoke - Probably the best in Luton)

Saturday 19th - PETE SPENCE

(Singer/Guitarist Entertainer)

Sunday 20th - DISCO (from 7pm)

(From the 60's to Modern Pop)

Friday 25th - KARAOKE

(Perry's Karaoke - Probably the best in Luton)

Saturday 26th - KAREN BE

(Female Vocalist)

Sunday 27th - DISCO (from 8pm)

(From the 60's to Modern Pop)

Wednesday 30th -

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check it out ☒ ☐

What to look out for in today's game

Currie talking to the Brighton boss ☐

Tannoy man's records all skip ☐

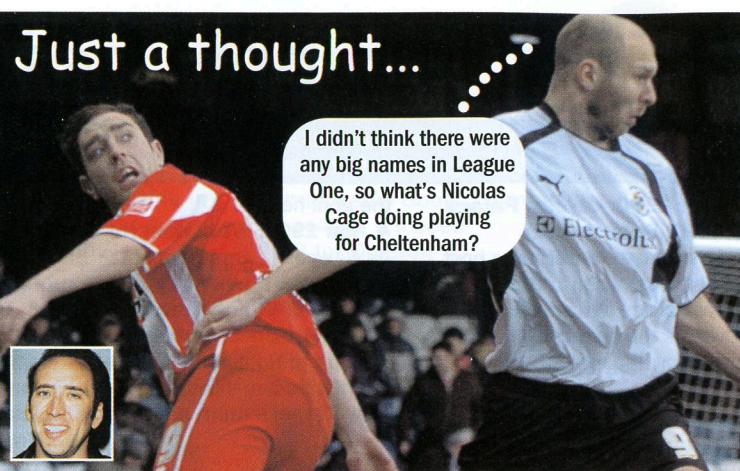
Happy Harry runs out without his head ☐

Floodlights go on unnecessarily early ☐

Mick's programme notes only 90 words ☐

Crowd dips to low 5,000 mark ☐

Mick plays the entire youth team ☐



head to head...

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

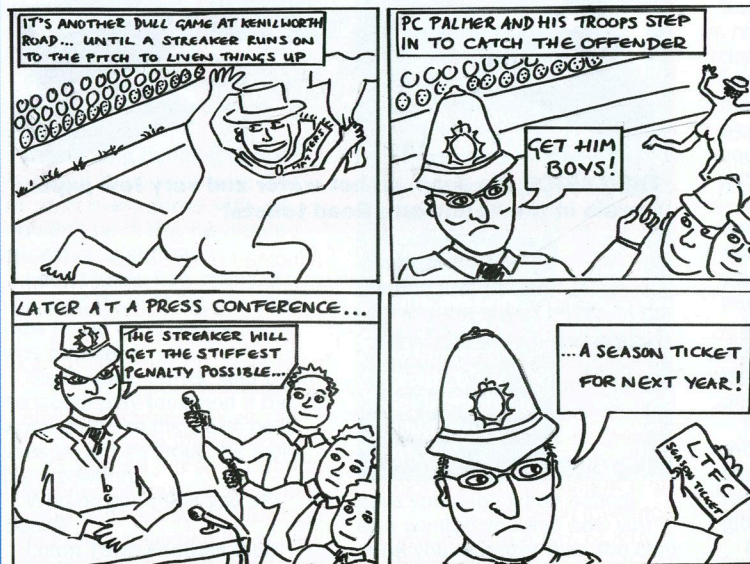
Brighton (H): 1-0 win	Brighton (H): 1-2 loss
Forest (A): 0-2 loss	Forest (A): 1-1 draw
Doncaster (A): 0-3 loss	Doncaster (A): 1-1 draw

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

Correct result 1pt, exact score 2pts: Latest score - Steve 28 Andy 22

Kenny capers

The latest from the Luton corridors with our guest cartoonist



Away the lads... brighton

Gulls gaffer
Dean Wilkins
Brother of Ray, so expect his team to play a lot of sideways football.

Gulls Guy
Guy Butters
Started off at Spurs in the same team as Gazza - but next stop was Oxford United rather than Lazio!

Gulls fool
John Sullivan
Keeper shares name with Only Fools And Horses writer. Presumably not in the side, as he's had one or two comical episodes, too.

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boys 'r' us



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

AT the start of our ill-fated Championship season I arrived at Kenilworth Road all excited at the news that the club had spent a pretty penny on doing up its toilets.

For decades, I'd become used to peeing up against a wall and watching it trickle into the drains in those basic bogs under the Main Stand.

Despite the investment of a lick of paint here and there, we still lack some basic services you'd expect in the modern age.

Now, I'm not expected some posh twat standing there overlooking proceedings, offering us a splash of aftershave and expecting a tip.

But when it's freezing cold, like it was against Cheltenham, and you've got the urge, you should at least be able to wash



THE BASICS: No soap, no hot water and very few paper towels in the Kenilworth Road toilets!

your hands in hot water.

I can't admit to having hung out in all the toilets around the ground, but the ones I've frequented always serve you up with icy cold H2O.

Then you have the liquid soap dispensers which are always empty, but if you're lucky there'll be a manky bar of soap loitering somewhere nearby.

And to make matters worse, the dozen or so paper towels

allocated to each luxury lav have usually all long gone by the time I get round to needing one.

So that means it's grab a piece of soggy toilet roll time, or use your jeans.

All this is playing havoc with my eczma-suffering dainty hands. Come on, Hatters. Come clean and give us the handwashing facilities we deserve. Otherwise you'll find even more fans will simply bog off next season.

girls' world



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

SINCE my last column, it's clear Happy Harry's head isn't the only thing to have gone downhill!

For my sins, I travelled down to Gillingham and we were really poor.

I can't help thinking that if we'd had the enthusiasm that we start every game with, we wouldn't be in this inevitable relegation nightmare.

I don't know how many of you read Dean Morgan's interview in the Luton News, but I was outraged.

He, in basic terms, said that he would play for Luton if the worst came to the worst next season, but he would be looking elsewhere.

Who do you think you are, Dean?

Luton Town Football Club

CELEB WATCH:

DJ Fatboy Slim is a Brighton fan, maybe he'll travel up to see his team play.



MAN OF THE MONTH:

Keith Keane: You have been exceptional, at last someone with some passion.



TIP OF THE MONTH:

Customising is coming back. My 'Get Morgan Out' T-shirt is just drying.



that feeds and waters your family.

At the end of the day, Dean, the future may not look too bright at Luton at the moment, but you're not that good at playing football and you should count your lucky stars you've got a job.

We see flashes of magic, once in a blue moon, which really doesn't qualify you for your probably bulging pay packet.

You also give me an impression of being a Flash Harry, a ladies' man - well don't try it on with this lady!

Come on Mick, let's get rebuilding so we can have a squad in League Two that really wants to play for our glorious club.

Rant over!

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Joli Greene at:

Oak Tree Kindergarten (Lansdowne Road)
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Saucy Sarah-Louise

What a beauty!

VITAL STATISTICS

Full Name: Sarah-Louise Seaman

Age: 17

Occupation: Student

Attached? Single

Been a supporter for: Two years

Best looking Hatter:

Dean Morgan

Most valuable player:

Matthew Spring

Player to flog: Sol Davis

Ideal night out: Going to the cinema, then on to a club

Favourite TV show:

Trinny & Susannah
(What Not To Wear)



rolux

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

A happy anniversary Hatters!

Time flies when you're having fun, so we all must have been enjoying riding the Luton Town rollercoaster. Unbelievably, in 12 days time, 20 years will have flown by since our great Littlewoods Cup win over Arsenal



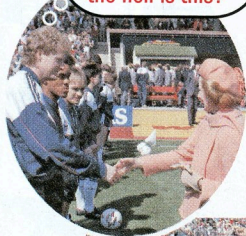
I was expecting the Queen, who the hell is this?

Suspicions that the officials were on our side were strengthened when 12 minutes of injury time was signalled, but only one was played



There'll be a delay. I've lost my 50p

There's always one who's got to spoil the photo...



Where's Danny gone? I quite enjoyed that!



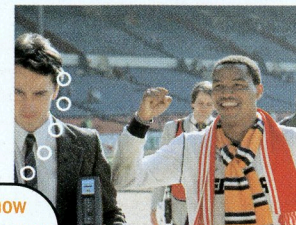
Mark may have thrown his toys out of the pram after being named sub but he did hold on to his teddy



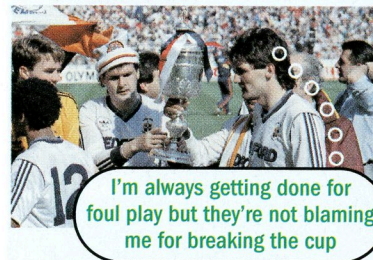
Oi, I can't see. Get yourselves right here immediately

Hey, I'm the one with the cup look and cheer at me!

You're never going to get past me Brian, I NEVER make mistakes



Look, I know you've never won anything before, but everyone's gone now. Can't I pack up and go home?



I'm always getting done for foul play but they're not blaming me for breaking the cup



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the ones that got away

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



DEREK Hales came to the attention of the Hatters when they spotted him banging in goals for Dartford.

Although he had a good job as a qualified Post Office engineer he eventually agreed to take the plunge and joined the professional ranks at Kenilworth Road in March, 1972 at the age of 20.

Even though he scored on his full debut for the

Hatters in a 1-1 home draw with Cardiff in February, 1973, he was never really rated by new manager Harry Haslam and was, therefore, not given much of a chance at Kenilworth Road and departed to Charlton for £4,000 that summer.

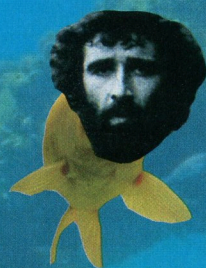
Derek blossomed at the Valley and his aggressive, predatory style earned him a goal

every other game in two spells at the club.

At the end of his first spell he moved to top flight Derby for £333,333, which was only the fifth £300,000 plus deal in British football history at the time. He was then transferred to West Ham for another big fee before going home to the Valley.

Derek's aggression was

legendary, as proved when he was sent off for fighting with team-mate Mike Flanagan (who was also dismissed) during an FA Cup clash with Maidstone!



WE'RE off to the City Ground next, to play the twice winners of the European Cup, Nottingham Forest.

They'll be keen on revenge after our deserved 2-1 league win and the FA Cup victory which denied them a tie with Liverpool.

The City Ground is just 224 metres apart from rivals Notts County's stadium. But don't bother chanting "You all support County" because that's a bit unlikely, considering the Magpies are near the foot of the League Two table.

Most modern stadiums (and even our naff ground, for that matter) have Forest to thank for the lettering that spells out club names on seats. The Brian Clough Stand (then the

your travel guide to... forest



Executive Stand) was the first stand to have this feature when it was built in the early '80s.

Dump the missus at the shops while the game's on because last year Nottingham was voted fourth in the shopping league of Eng-

land, behind London, Birmingham and Manchester.

Oh, nearly forgot... Don't call them Notts Forest unless you want to upset their fans and don't forget to allow time for a trip to see the girls at Hooters!

directions

Head on to the M1, hit cruise control for a

dozen or so junctions. If you miss J24, then J25 or J26 will do and

famous fans

Su Pollard
Hi-de-Hi star loves panto season, so enjoys watching Forest fail to escape League 1



Robin Hood
He robs from the rich and gives to the poor. Hand some dosh to Hatters then, mate!

Brian Clough
The ghost of Cloughie still lingers around the City ground - haunting many a 'young man'



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who are ya?



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



I started my career at Spurs and I made by debut for them in a 1-0 defeat at Blackburn



I was offered a trial with Wolves but turned it down, thinking I was not good enough



I made my debut for my home town club as a substitute against Man City



I've scored 76 times from midfield in more than 500 games for five different clubs



After playing for several non-league teams I eventually signed for Hatters from Worcester City



I scored on my full debut, the 2-0 home win over Hull in 1975



I signed for Luton for £50,000 and I'm in my fifth season at the club



I made my debut in a 3-1 win over Swansea



Former Hatter Billy Bingham took me away from Kenilworth Road, paying £35,000 for my services in 1976



I was initially played out on the right wing and struggled for form



I played for England and my debut was a 5-1 over Denmark



After spells at Everton, QPR, WBA, Wolves and Cambuur I returned to Luton. The 0-0 draw at Leicester in 1986 was my final game



My first Town goal came in the 3-0 win over Swindon in 2002



I was Town's 1959 FA Cup final keeper

ANSWERS: 1. Steve Robinson; 2. Ron Baynham; 3. Andy King

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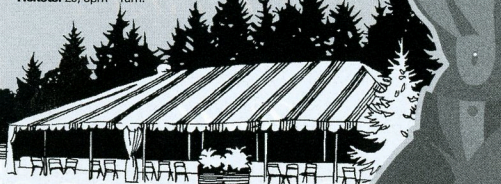
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sing when we're losing

X Factor and Eurovision singer Andy Abraham entertained the crowds when Hatters played Southend, now a host of stars have agreed to perform at a special concert to help our finances



Bryan Adams:

Ain't Gonna Cry (for our fans); **This Is Where I Belong** (for Mick); **Don't Give It Up** (for the team)



Eric Clapton:

It's Too Late, **Going Down Slow**, **World Of Pain** (all dedicated to our fans who have been through the mill)



Daniel Bedingfield

Blown It Again (promotion campaign turns into a relegation fight); **Gotta Get Through This** (for the fans)



The Bee Gees: Stayin' Alive (not down yet); **Giving Up The Ghost** (some of the team have); **Please Don't Turn Out The Light** (the club must survive)



Destiny's Child: Bills, Bills, Bills (there's so many perhaps that's why we didn't pay the VAT one); **The Writing's On The Wall** (League Two awaits)



The Barron Knights: Under New Management (Big Mick's here); **Hatters Hatters** (what a great team!); **A Taste Of Aggro** (Millwall at home)



Elvis: We're Gonna Move (to J10/J12?); **Doin' The Best I Can** (to Mick); **Return To Sender** (Jacko/McVeigh/Hutch?); It's Now Or Never (we need four wins)



Madonna: Promise To Try/ Express Yourself (Mick to the team); **Deeper and Deeper** (into relegation trouble); **Ray Of Light** (after Mick's first win)



Snow Patrol: Downhill From Here (but only short term?); **Somewhere A Clock Is Ticking** (Mick needs results); It's Beginning To Get To Me (Mick)



Oasis: Don't Look Back In Anger (Mick's thoughts on squad he was left); **The Masterplan** (2020 look to future); **Keep The Dream Alive** (not down yet?)



Christina Aguilera:

Make Me Wanna Pray (for the long-suffering fans); **I Got Trouble** (to Mick); **Running Out Of Time** (for the team)



Basement Jaxx: If I Ever Recover/ Broken Dreams (from another poor season); **Red Alert** (2020 have seen the books); **Feels Like Home** (for Mick)



The Cardigans: Sick and Tired (of losing); **My Favourite Game** (we keep coming back for more); **Erase/Rewind** (can we start the season again?)



Dido: White Flag (time to start waving it now?); **Slide** (we got back to the Championship, now we're on the slide again)



Elton John: I Think I'm Going To Kill Myself (watching LTFC can make you suicidal); **Salvation** (2020 take over); **Don't Go Breaking My Heart** (too late)



Eurythmics: Here Comes That Sinking Feeling (relegation looms); **Take Your Pain Away** (go down the pub); **I've Tried Everything** (my hands are tied, says Mick)



Beastie Boys: It Takes Time To Build (no instance success with Mick); **Looking Down The Barrel Of A Gun** (relegation's been on the cards for a while)



Westlife: Against All Odds/ Nothing Is Impossible (can we still stay up?); **If Your Heart's Not In It** (to the players)



S Club 7: Hope For The Future (can 2020 turn club around?); **Stand By You** (Warren Neill in the dugout with Mick); **We Can Work It Out** (how to win, that is)



Kate Nash: The Sh*t Song (sung when the team underperforms); **Foundations** (2020 need to build some); **We Get On** (claim the squad)

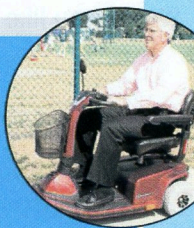
OTHERS: AC/DC (Kicked In The Teeth); When The Money's Gone (Cher); Loyalty Song (Babyshambles)...

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What a mix-up!

Carol Vorderman brings you some Hatters-related anagrams

VANS JOHN MINOR
BAYING SEWING
JAM DUMB SHINY
CEREAL NEWEL INN
AMOEBIC MERCER
PHALLUS AW
CIGARETS DELVE

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

1. Marvin Johnson; 2. Wayne Biggins; 3. Jimmy Husband; 4. Lennie Lawrence; 5. Eric Morecambe; 6. Paul Walsh; 7. Steve Clamage

(dedicated to 'Motormouth' Mike's memory)

talking points

- who said the following?

- 1 "I was a plumber in the North East when I was 16. I was strapped to a chimney during a gale. That was a nightmare."
- 2 "You've got to be careful that you don't sign players with massive reputations who have had their year."
- 3 "I'm a military man. How can I put it? It turned me into an independent person. It made me strong mentally, as well as physically, and they teach you things that mean you're always prepared, and you're always 10 steps ahead of your enemy."
- 4 "I say we, because Luton Town is my club, my family's club. I find Kevin Blackwell a disgrace, and proof that there is little loyalty left in the game."
- 5 "Our ambition is to get Luton into the Premiership."

(answers below)

1. Mick Harford; 2. Kevin Blackwell soon after joining Sheff Utd; 3. Carlos Edwards; 4. Andy Burgess; Rushden player and LFC fan; 5. John Mitchell - a few hours after flogging Carlos

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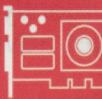
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