

Half-time

By Hatters for Hatters

ORANGE

Season 08-09 No1

Two Fingers To The FA/FL Edition



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They've all shot down the bookies to change their bet on the season's first red card

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hatters matters

... a word from the editor

THEY say one man can't make a team, but perhaps they were wrong.

Super Kevin Nicholls is back in town and in an instant his arrival gave everyone at Half-time Orange renewed belief that we really can get out of the mess we're in at the foot of the basement division of the Football League.

We're convinced Nico's leadership qualities are just what we need to make sure we start the season with a bang, with every player fighting for every ball. After all, you wouldn't want to upset Kev and Big Mick, would you?

Much has been said about the 30 points we've been deducted by the Football League and FA, but the bottom line is the new owners, the players



"It's a good thing we're getting a new kit, the stripes are falling off this one."

and the fans are left to carry the can for the actions of others.

And we couldn't quite believe what we were hearing when Football League chairman Brian Mawhinney said he understood why some supporters would be unhappy at the points penalty, but added: "No doubt they will balance this unhappiness against their pleasure in being able to watch their team play league football. I am also delighted that the

community of Luton will continue to have a Football League club."

Well, with a whopping -30 points to make up, that statement may only be true for nine months. Cheers, Brian!

Anyway now's the time to get behind the club. Bring along friends, family and work colleagues to crank up the match atmosphere and help the lads climb the table. Then we can stick two fingers up to the Football League and FA come May.



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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The news at



Supporters turn their back on the authorities

RUMOUR has it that Town supporters are going to display their utter contempt for the Football League by mounting a protest at Tuesday night's League Cup tie with Plymouth Argyle.

The demo is expected to take the form of fans turning their back on the match action.

How do we know this? Well, some fans were spotted performing a dry run at a pre-season friendly (see above).

An alternative protest suggestion of supporters simply being asked not to turn up to the tie – in an effort to keep the attendance well below 3,000 – was dismissed for some strange reason!

Celebrate good times

HATTERS fan Monty Panesar has confessed that one day he'd like to invest in the club and maybe become chairman eventually – and this isn't just media spin.

But for now the Luton-born England cricketer is happy that he's helped introduce a new goal celebration routine for the new season.

Expect some loony leaping and high-fives when Town hit the net.



Carol quits countdown to help Mick

THE entertainment world was shocked to hear that Carol Vorderman was quitting Channel4 numbers and letters game Countdown. And Orange can reveal that the reason for her departure was the offer of a new job with Hatters. We hear that Mick wants Carol to demonstrate to the players each week that it's very much mathematically possible to stay up.



Ken Rumours, speculation, gossip and half-truths

Nuno is a big no-no for Mick

BICK Mick pulled off a real coup by getting proven international striker Nuno Gomes to pull on a Luton shirt for the pre-season game at Bedford.

Before appearing for Town, the Benfica striker had turned down the chance to link up with ex-Hatters coach John Carver at Toronto, preferring the chance to win a regular place at Kenilworth Road.

Apparently, after starring for his national side and in the Portuguese league for years, Nuno wants the bigger challenge of -30 points.

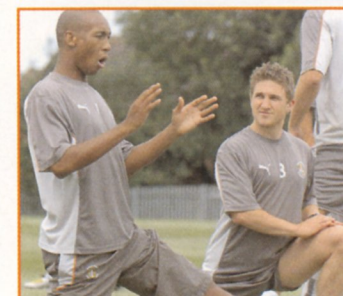
Unfortunately, despite being impressed by the trialist, Mick had to show Nuno the door... possibly due to his £100k-a-week demands.



NOW YOU'D BETTER BELIEVE IT: Nuno Gomes playing for Portugal and the Hatters



Calvin's wages soar at Eagles



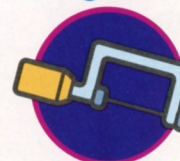
OUR former striker Calvin Andrew will be on a nifty salary now that he's signed for Crystal Palace.

On the eve of the move, our Orange photographer caught the young striker boasting to an envious Paul McVeigh about the size of the signing-on fee he was about to receive.

"Make sure you earn it," was Paul's response. No, we could hardly believe what he was saying either!

Stick it to them, Alan!

NEW youth coach Alan Neilson was tempted back to the club by a promise that he would be able to try out some of his wacky training techniques on the club's kids. We're not quite sure what's going on in the picture, right, but don't give Al any stick – he's got four strange illuminous red ones already!



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mark wood

Town 4 Vale 0
It's a new season I'm allowed to be optimistic. I don't even know what the team will be.



steve sims

Town 2 Vale 0
The miracle starts here. A Nico-inspired win and an easy three points.



alec swann

Town 2 Vale 0
A late strike will see off the visitors as Mick's survival battle begins in style.



carl field

Town 1 Vale 1
The team who were relegated with the Hatters last season will pose a stern test.

Town 1 Plym'th 0
The cup double and survival is all I ask. Oh, and dumping both cups in the Ouse.

Town 1 Plym'th 3
The road to Wembley starts (and ends) here as the Pilgrims prove to strong.

Town 0 Plym'th 2
The cliché of the cup not being a priority will get an early season appearance.

Town 1 Plym'th 1
Mick's men to send weakened Argyle outfit crashing out of the cup on pens.

G'ham 1 Town 1
We never travel well but need the points. A last-gasp goal will save us.

G'ham 2 Town 0
We've got a phobia about winning away. Can't see the jinx ending here.

G'ham 0 Town 0
A gutsy point at the Priestfield Stadium. Not pretty, but highly effective.

G'ham 1 Town 0
Late goal will send Luton to a narrow defeat and still looking for that first win.

Town 2 Notts C 0
Our Fortress Kenilworth Road will be filling up by now and it's full steam ahead.

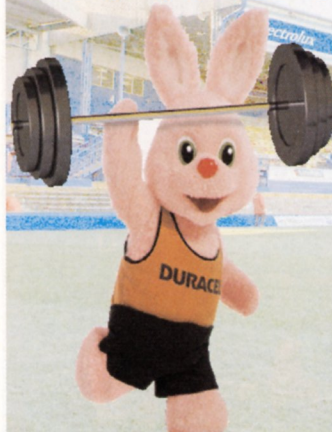
Town 1 Notts C 0
It's usually dire stuff when we play County. I'm praying we just edge this one.

Town 3 Notts C 1
You've got to win your home games and the Hatters will win comfortably.

Town 2 Notts C 1
-26 and we're away. After going 1-0 down, Hatters will snatch it late on.

The orange 'experts' get their crystal balls out (ahem) **our survey says...**

Lookie likies...



BRANDED Hatters' ginger-haired Maradona by former Town striker Steve Claridge, there's no doubting Drew Talbot's ability - although a few goals would be nice. But here at Orange we think he has similar looks to a Duracell battery, above, and keeps running just like the Duracell bunny, left. Do you look like a Luton player or think a Hatter is the spitting image of someone past or present? Email orange@bedsnews.com



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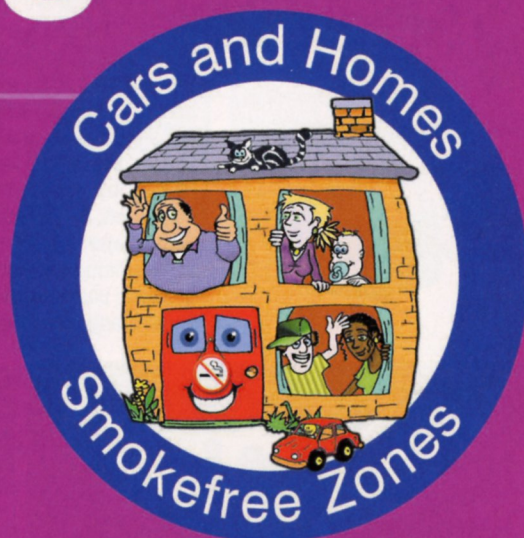
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Mission Impossible just got possible!

We deserved some good news and, boy, did we get it last Saturday with the news that Nico had rejoined the mighty Hatters



HE'S BACK: Super Kev renews acquaintances with the Kenilworth Road faithful at Saturday's friendly with Brighton



NICO THINKS: "Right, the ref's not looking, who's going to be first?"



NICO SAYS: "Don't even think of tackling me. It might be a friendly but you can still end up in the stands, mate."

IF there was one player you'd want to lead the boys into the battle to save our Football League status, then it would be Kevin Nicholls. Here are some reasons why we're so thrilled to see him back...

>> He's already a Luton legend and he's been here and done it before.

>> He's a fighter and we'll need strong characters to lead us out of this mess.

>> He'll motivate his teammates into greater efforts too.

>> His arrival is a massive boost to the club and fan base.

>> He loves Luton, clearly wants to be here, and took a massive pay cut to come back.

>> His arrival means we don't have to watch Spring prance around unmotivated.

>> He never misses a penalty (touch wood).

>> He makes us laugh and wince in equal measure with his manic midfield tendencies.

>> If he can't get the ball he'll make sure his opponent ends up in the stands.

>> It brings back magical memories such as (1) him falling into the Oak Road end, leaping up from his concrete landing and sprinting back to the half-way line as if nothing had happened and (2) Nico sitting in the stands with Luton fans and cheering on the boys when not he's not playing.

>> Increased chances of winning the fair play league!!!!
>> Deano is no longer the most tattooed player at the club.



NICO THINKS: "Easy man, I haven't even kicked a ball yet. Imagine what he'll do if we get the club out of the relegation zone."



REF SAYS TO THE LINOS: "Better get a drink and a breather in boys. I've a feeling life's gonna get much busier from now on."

exiled hat

University of Leeds
student Tom Skinner –
a Luton fan oop north



A FEW weeks ago, on that awful Thursday evening when we learnt we would be starting on -30 points, I could have perhaps slightly comforted myself with the thought that I wouldn't have to sit through the majority of such a farcical season.

After all, I would be up in Leeds, working on the second year of my English Literature course and enjoying another nine months of lie-ins and Pound A Pint nights. The only whiff of Luton around West Yorkshire would be Enoch Showunmi, who has come to both amaze and annoy the locals with his unpredictable performances.

But the passion I have for Luton is too strong and certainly wasn't going to die after the sterling efforts of the 2020 team. Now the



SLAPSTICK: Goodall and Perry or Kevin and Perry?

optimism that saw me journey to Hartlepool on a bitter February afternoon to witness some slapstick defending from Alan Goodall and Chris Perry (or should that be Kevin and Perry?) and a 0-4 loss, is sure to spur me on to nearby Bradford, Accrington and Bury this campaign.

Administration was becoming as interminable as Duffy's journey to Warwick Avenue, but finally we have

been given salvation (though not from the song, unfortunately!).

The delay has meant we have been unable to sign players – indeed I managed to buy all my books for the new term before Mick had the chance to offer a contract! Let's hope it will be a case of All's Well That Ends Well rather than a Comedy Of Errors this season.

girls' world



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

AND so we start another season a league lower and with a new board. I do hope though we find you sun-kissed with your season ticket in hand, looking forward to Luton's almighty comeback!

After leaving Kenilworth Road in May with a collection of mascara-ridden tears in a puddle around my neck, I promised myself I would never be back. OK, so I'm ridiculously dramatic... but I wasn't the only one! I suppose that's why now it seems odd to be so excited about today's game.

I have to admit, having our captain returning home certainly helps!

But with that pompous administrator out of the way and 2020 having taken the helm, I feel safe once again that LTFC will not dissolve like

CELEB SPOT:

Robbie Williams is Vale's most fabulously famous fan. Perhaps he'll take a break from LA and pop on over to the Oak Road!

RUMOUR MILL:

Apparently, shin pads and shower gel have been hurtling across the dressing room. The 'Diva' (Deano) is said to be unimpressed with the 'new arrival' in stealing what he believes is his 'time to shine'.

trust. Not once have I heard them utter the words 'new stadium'. Instead they have quietly got on with it and made some smart moves.

And surely nothing can be smarter than bringing back Mr Kevin Nicholls! If you have ever read my column before then you will know that Nico was my favourite player and naturally he has returned to that role very nicely!

It's clear to say that Luton is where Nico belongs. As I understand it, although he hasn't been entirely happy up north (well who would be!), he has given up a lot to come back.

Something tells me both Mick and Nico are well up for a challenge. So boys... let the battle commence!

sugar paper on my tongue, but instead be around for many moons to come.

Of course the cynics (and as LTFC fans we now have a given right to be cynical by the way!) will say we are never safe, and you would be right. But under 2020's wing I'm gaining more

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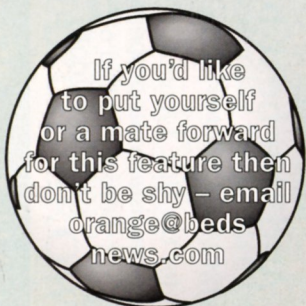
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VITAL STATISTICS

Full Name: Lisa Hawthorne

Age: 19

Occupation: Hairdresser

Attached? Yes

Been a supporter since: As long as I can remember

Best looking Hatter: Keith Keane

Most valuable player: Dean Morgan

Player to flog: Calvin Andrew (my wish was granted!)

Ideal night out: With my boyfriend or the girls!

Favourite TV shows: The Bill, Hollyoaks, EastEnders

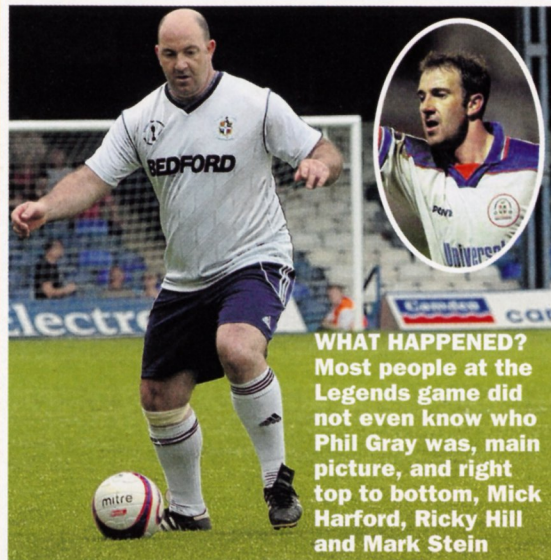
what a beauty!



LISA

Hit or miss? Which

And which ones don't...



WHAT HAPPENED?
Most people at the Legends game did not even know who Phil Gray was, main picture, and right top to bottom, Mick Harford, Ricky Hill and Mark Stein



A HOST of Hatters stars rolled back the years this summer to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Luton Town's magnificent 3-2 Littlewoods Cup win over Arsenal. Could any still do a job?

Phil Gray - Many couldn't believe it was him! Could hardly move.

Mick Harford - Lacked agility... but would you tell him?

Ricky Hill - Had filled out a bit, but still had those silky skills.

Mark Stein - Still a goal-getter... looked better than in his last spell at Kenilworth Road!

Tony Thorpe - Defied the boo-boys who sung his mum's name.

Kevin Nicholls - Oh to have him back, hang on a minute...

Kingsley Black - Anybody still have his number?

Rob Johnson - Has actually improved since 1988.

Hatters still have it



STARS: Tony Thorpe, main picture, Rob Johnson and Kingsley Black, above, and Kevin Nicholls, below

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It's kamikaze defending

IT'S been a summer of gloom, but one small (very small) crumb of comfort was a victory for Hatters fans against a bunch of Japanese no-hopers... The following report has been sent in by the team.

The date was Saturday, June 7. The location, Osaka.

The city deep in the heart of the land of the rising sun was to host the most unlikely of fixtures – Luton (represented by five die-hard fans) versus Japan.

The match, arranged by Tom Stones (now a teacher in Osaka), was to be against a team of finely tuned J-League hopefuls.

Upon arrival at the venue, the Hatters faced their first



RISING SONS: The Hatters fans stuffed Japan 14-1

obstacle. They were required to hire shoes, with the maximum available a size nine!

Man-mountain Rob Greensmith (size 13) would feel the pinch more than us mere size 10s. This, along with the sweltering heat, was only

compensated for by the marvellous backdrop... hills as far as the eye could see. The kind of sweeping grandeur one would hope for such an epic battle.

The opening period saw the Hatters storm ahead 2-0. It >>

as Town fans run riot



▲ The Japanese were left in a state of shock by the result...



▲ ... although some of their players didn't look all that oriental, it has to be said

► The level of commitment of the opposition was highly questionable though



► LTFC were accused of diving for some bizarre reason



◀ Victory? Er, no you lost love...

Have you unofficially represented the Hatters in a match? Tell us about it by sending an email to orange@bedsnews.com

>> could have been more as they pressed for goals. Spurred on by the ever vocal Darren 'Chopper' Rolls, the Hatters were in the ascendancy.

The next period saw the Japanese claw one back as the Hatters stagnated. However,

this was as close as Japan would come to victory.

The Hatters took the game to their opposition in the following periods and 14-1 was the final score in an amiably-contested game.

In a post match interview the

captain of the Japanese side conceded that the Hatters were 'very tough'.

>> For more photos from the game, see the Half-time Orange section of the website www.lutontoday.co.uk.

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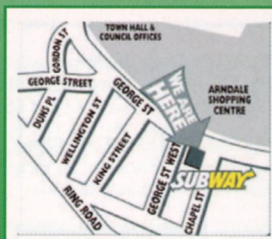
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from the allotments



... with 'orrible 'ornet Don Monty



IT'S always difficult doing the first column of the season. After all, nothing happens in the summer does it? Oh dear. Oh dear. Oh dear.

There came a point last season where I began to feel sorry for you. And we've gone way, way past that point now.

The bloke in the pub who said you were being twinned with a town in Siberia - cos you're both minus 30 in August - really wasn't funny. Not that funny anyway.

I'm not going to rub your nose in it - well, not much - but I'll give you a few reasons to cheer. I'm

writing these pearls of wisdom watching the DVD of Watford's 2007-08 season (You know DVDs? They're cleverer versions of the Betamax tapes you have of your glory days).

Anyway, our DVD has got a great start but it's like watching a slow motion car crash. The wheels didn't just come off, they sailed off down the road and left us completely stranded.

Ten days ago I saw us lose to a League One side, MK Dons, in a friendly. Things couldn't get worse - until I went to Barnet last Saturday and saw us turned over by a

team you'll probably beat this season. Although, at least in Division Two you'll visit Underhill, which'll make your place look plush.

They smashed us for three goals and we got off lightly. Which technically makes us the second best team in Hertfordshire.

Our super striker Darius has gone, we can't sign anyone and we can't sell half the players we need to leave. Our one remaining dodgy stand - the one the world sees on telly - has been condemned but the Premier League money's run out and it doesn't

look like we'll be replacing that stand in much of a hurry.

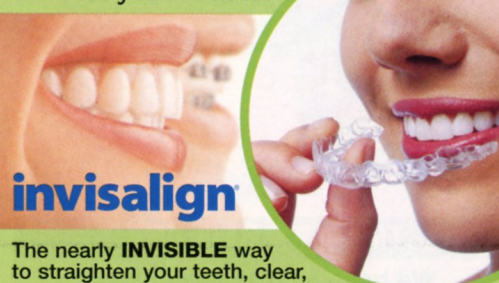
Watch and laugh. In January we were dead certs to go up.

Now we'll do well to stay up. But here's the real horror. We've started playing the ball on the ground. We've started passing the ball.

It really is a change we couldn't have expected - and sadly we're not much cop at it yet.

At least there'll be fewer balls landing in the allotments. It's gonna be a long hard season boys... but I'll keep the faith. Glory Horns!

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the ones that got away

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



AFTER visiting his home town club for training and coaching sessions from the age of 11 and scoring goals for fun in the Hatters youth team, Kerry Dixon was devastated to learn that he was not about to be offered apprentice forms at Kenilworth Road.

Reserve team manager at the time, David Pleat, thought that the tall striker had an attitude problem and so the disillusioned youngster joined

Chesham, then managed by ex-Luton full-back Brendan McNally, and took on a toolmakers' apprenticeship with Cardale Engineering.

After hanging in the goals for the Chesham first team as a 16-year-old, Dixon was given a second chance to join the professional ranks by Tottenham, but was eventually rejected for the same reason as he had been at Luton.

Determined to prove everyone wrong, Dixon

became a prolific scorer for Dunstable which led to a £20,000 move to Reading.

Dixon was not about to let this chance slip and, after scoring a goal every other game for the Royals, won a dream £175,000 transfer to Chelsea in 1983. He netted 147 league goals in nine years at Stamford Bridge and also picked up eight England caps along the way.

Another big money move, this time to

Southampton, did not work out and things then turned full circle with a free transfer to David Pleat's Luton in 1993 where he netted 19 times and appeared for the Hatters in an FA Cup semi-final against one of his old sides, Chelsea.



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Fantasy football

Premiership clubs rally round to help
Hatters – who should we get?



HOW HE
WOULD
LOOK:
Cristiano
looks a
natural in
the orange
of Luton,
right

SO our magnanimous Premiership and Championship brothers and sisters are rallying to our aid after the FA and Football League decided to make us a scapegoat. Who should we ask for?

Cristiano Ronaldo – Sir Alex will obviously need to get him match fit again after his ankle operation and

he just might be better than Currie...

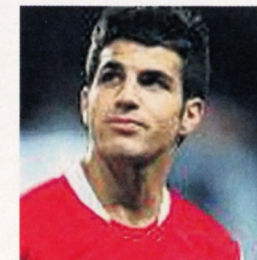
Cesc Fabregas – Well Stephen Browne said in The Luton News we wouldn't turn Cesc down if he was offered to us. He would certainly add some extra bite and creativity to our midfield...

Dimitar Berbatov – He's fallen out with the Spurs faithful so he could certainly do with some match practice at Kenilworth Road. Now where's that nice Mr Pleat?

Frank Lampard – The Chelsea midfielder wants to get away and what better place? He may even get a few goals.

Jermaine Defoe – The England striker, a mysterious visit at Hatters' friendly

with Boreham Wood, would most certainly be a welcome addition...



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THE JOB

We have the opportunity for a highly skilled, experienced person to join our select team. Primarily we work on executive marque cars eg, Porsche, Jaguar, Audi but also mainstream cars under 5 years old - so quality is our watchword. The hours of work are 8.00am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, with overtime sometimes available.

THE PERSON

The ideal person will have a proven record of producing high quality work to time. The desire to work on good cars with pride and professionalism is vital.

THE REWARDS

We offer very good rates of pay, a successful team bonus scheme, challenging and rewarding work, secure employment, a generous holiday entitlement, contributory pension scheme and ongoing training programmes for personal advancement.

THE COMPANY

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Telephone Sue Holder on 01582 510101 for an application form.



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- Clean driving licence
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Training will be given to the successful candidate. Hours of work - Mon to Friday with the occasional weekend as required.
Salary - Negotiable

For more information & interview please contact: 01582 492749



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I am looking for experienced Waiting Staff to work as part of a team to provide a complete food & beverage service at various catering venues. Previous experience working within the Hospitality Sector would be an advantage, however all levels of experience will be considered. Knowledge of Silver Service waiting would be beneficial.

Please note, successful candidates will be asked to provide their own black and white attire.

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For further information contact Marion on 01202 338051

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A highly customer centric approach to communication and response is essential.

The ideal person for this role will also be able to recognise and exploit opportunities to up-sell to existing customers.

It is our philosophy to cross-train our employees within department, in order to develop both you and the company.

Full training will be given.

The ideal candidate will be

- Customer focused and a work well in a team
- Excellent telephone manner and communication skills
- Fluent in English and at least one other European language
- Proficient in MS office suite
- SAP software experience an advantage
- 2-3 years experience within a customer facing function.

Salary package £15k - £18k depending on experience.

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