

Half-time

By Hatters for Hatters

ORANGE

Season 08-09 No2

The Big Nico Interview Edition



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hatters matters

... a word from the editor

IT wouldn't be Luton Town if we didn't do it the hard way.

After getting our hopes up with two successive 1-0 away league wins, the boys came unstuck last weekend at Macclesfield - a team who hadn't won a game before that encounter.

That heaps a bit of pressure on today's match with Aldershot Town. After winning the Conference last year, Gary Waddock's men are still on a roll with just one league defeat so far.

Let's hope that's soon to become two and the ex-Town skipper leaves the Kenny an unhappy man (nothing personal, but our need is greater than yours, Gary).

Speaking of skippers, keep your fingers crossed that Super Key is back today to steer the ship.

If he is, Orange is



Aldershot manager Gary Waddock made 133 appearance for Hatters and netted 3 goals! He's seen here pledging his allegiance to the Town. So his team will be handing us three points without putting up a fight today then! (hmm)

Nico's influence is rubbing off on the dressing room already. Even tiny Tristan has learnt a naughty trick or two!



confident Mick's men will finally pick up their first home league win of the season.

So far, goalscoring has been a bit of an issue. We've not netted more than a single goal in a league game so far... but then again, if you want to be a bit more positive, you could say we've scored in every match to date as well!

Big Sam, Chris Martin and Ryan

Charles should be able to poach a few between them this season, as long as they get some decent service.

There's still plenty of time to save ourselves and, as the team continues to gel and get to know each other, we really should be capable of racking up a few straight wins.

Just don't look at the table for another couple of months.



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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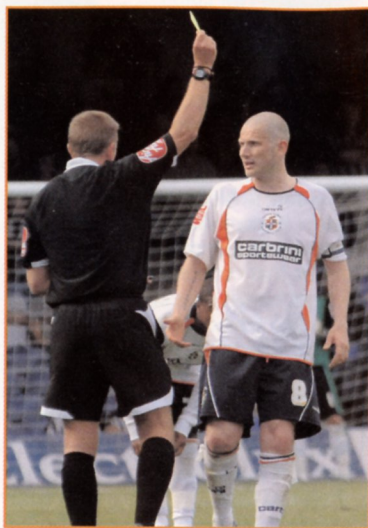
Up for a battle?

THE return of former skipper Nico gave everyone a huge lift as the new season approached.

Kev's battling qualities are just what's required as we fight to catch up with the dross at the foot of League Two.

But is he the same player who left Kenilworth Road for Leeds a couple of years ago?

Clearly not. It took him fully 21 minutes of his second debut to commit a dodgy foul. Then, to compound matters, it wasn't until the Notts County game that he picked up a booking – and that was only for a bit of moaning (who could blame him with that ref?) rather than a reckless tackle.



LIKE OLD TIMES: Nico's back – but if you're going to get booked mate at least chop down an opponent please!

Old farts leave club

ONE was an old fart signed by Blackwell, the other was a good keeper in his day who got wind of the fact that he was never likely to feature again in our first team.

As well as leaving Kenilworth Road though, Darren Currie and Marlon Beresford also had another similarity – they farted like troopers in training.

The duo claim they only did it



because the gaffer (or should that be gaffer?) told them "better out than in" – but they didn't realise he was referring to their position at the Hatters.

Of course the club is used to whiffs of controversy like this.

Lewis left to take a bow



MIDFIELDER Lewis Emanuel has quite a good left peg. So good, in fact, that he decided to have a trial with Birmingham. He's ended up staying with Town, so now

he's convinced he's got the best left foot in League Two. We even caught him taking a bow after one fine pass down the line earned a ripple of crowd applause.

Ken Rumours, speculation, gossip and half-truths

Who are ya?

THERE'S been a lot of comings and goings at Kenilworth Road so far this season.

In fact, so many that we've lost track of the number of new faces.

The turnaround has left long-serving Hatters in a bit of a spin as they try to remember the names of their new team-mates. Just look at Sol here. He's deep in concentration trying to remember the name of newcomer George Pilkington.

SOL ALSO THINKS: For goodness sake, getting us to line up for a pre-match hand-shake fair play idea is stupid. I'll do it, but it won't stop me putting their winger into the stands at the first opportunity.



So embarrassing

IF you were a pro footballer and people found out you were miles adrift at the foot of the bottom tier, would you be ashamed to show your face? Of course, the 30-point deduction is behind our perilous position, but Brilly, Chris and Claude have still felt the need to hide from the public.



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mark wood

Town 2 A'shot 0
 It's about time we start picking some points up at home and this should be three.




steve sims

Town 3 A'shot 2
 Third time lucky for a home league win. A thriller as fans are made to bite their nails.



alec swann

Town 3 A'shot 1
 Newly-promoted Aldershot are no match for in-form frontman Chris Martin.



carl field

Town 3 A'shot 0
 Harford's Hatters should have no problem beating this new mob from non-league.

R'ham 1 Town 2
 Must-win game, but this is all the more important with the docked points issue.

R'ham 1 Town 1
 Two teams who are desperate for maximum points, so one apiece for certain.

R'ham 2 Town 0
 Rotherham have started the season well and this won't be a trip to remember.

R'ham 1 Town 0
 Rotherham have been in great form so far and a sole effort will see off Luton.

Town 5 Chester 0
 Whipping boys Chester City come to Town and I predict a goal glut.

Town 4 Chester 0
 The team is gelling now so the goals are beginning to flow - hopefully.

Town 2 Chester 0
 Struggling City are eased aside with Sam Parkin finding the net in both halves.

Town 3 Chester 1
 Chester are in a bit of disarray at the moment so Luton should win comfortably.

Bradford 1 Town 1
 A conservative prediction for once, but a valuable point nonetheless.

Bradford 0 Town 1
 It's our favourite score when we win away and so it proves again as we sneak the win.

Bradford 0 Town 0
 A goalless bore draw up in Yorkshire as both sides fail to hit the target.

Bradford 1 Town 2
 This could well go down as one of the results of the season on Town's travels.

It's 1pt for a right result and 4pts for a precise score

our survey says...

what do we think of it so far?

IT'S been an indifferent start to the campaign, which obviously isn't ideal given the deficit we've got to claw back before we break even with our points tally.

One of the main problems is that we haven't been all that free-scoring in the early games.

Mick told the lads they needed to hit the back of the net with more regularity, but Tristan (top right) and Chris seem to have missed the point!

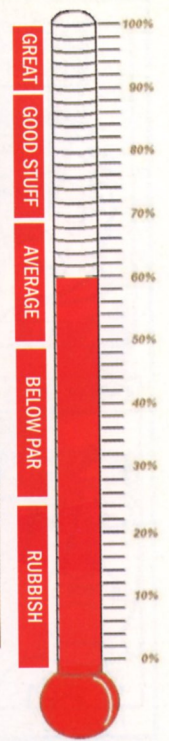


WE know Nico can play at a much higher level, so credit to him for coming back. He could easily play in the Championship so let's hope he doesn't find the lower leagues a bit boring... oh dear!



WE like what we've seen so far of George. Solid, dependable and prepared to give blood for the cause. It was a tall order to

replace Coyne and Pilks comes up short - but only by a few inches. Well done, my son!



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Kenny capers

The LITFC latest with our guest cartoonist Sally-Anne Johnson

WARREN I'M WORRIED. WE HAVEN'T WON AT HOME IN THE LEAGUE YET.

WITH ALL THE INJURIES WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO FIELD MY BEST XI.

HMMM...

A FEW DAYS LATER...

DON'T WORRY BOSS, IT'S SORTED. YOU'LL BE ABLE TO FIELD THE A-TEAM AGAINST ALDERSHOT.

I LOVE IT WHEN A PLAN COMES TOGETHER!

When Becks met...



Orange girlie Becky Gazeley talks (in between swooning) to Nico about his love of Luton Town, the fans, Hollyoaks girls and Dennis Wise (ok, we lied about the last one!)

>> You've said that Luton Town is your club and that you supported Luton even when you were playing for other clubs. Why do you feel you have such a bond with Luton?

My team is West Ham, but yeah, I was at Luton for six years. I have a love for the club and I was treated so well by the fans and had such amazing success when I was here, that I'll always support the club even when I'm not playing any more.

Was Mick one of the biggest reasons you came back to Luton?

There are not many people in football like Mick. He is honest and he treats you like a man. I won't lie to you, I wanted to play regular football. I wasn't getting that at Preston and I wanted to be part of the challenge we've got now at Luton.

>> Did you realise how important you coming back to Luton was to the fans?

I know that the fans have always been supportive of me. I don't mind saying that I had a lump in my throat at the Port Vale game. My kids were mascots and my family was there. I want to do

the best for my club. I regret leaving. But I'm back home now.

>> When you were at Leeds there were plenty of rumours and controversy about you wanting to come back. Was it blown out of proportion?

I went to Leeds in the July and by October I knew I wanted to leave. I've never held back what I think. What they wanted were 'yes' men and I voiced my opinion. I didn't want to leave Luton. I was 26, it wasn't about the money. What's funny is that now I'm 29 with a three-year contract.

>> Since your return we've heard that other ex-players want to come back. Is that your influence?

I think because I left a Championship side to come back, others have thought about it. I speak to Brkovic a lot and I text him after games saying "did you play?" and he'll say "I was bloody subbed again". I know he'd come back in a shot.

>> If you could be any football player for a day who would you be?

Roy Keane. I try and play like him, although I've

calmed down a lot! But it meant everything to him to play for United. He looked after the young players and got them to play for the shirt because he cared about the shirt - and that's what it's all about.

>> If money was no object and you could drive any car, what would it be?

Drive! I'd have a driver!

>> Who is the worst dressed at the club?

Definitely Ryan Charles. We're trying to help him though!

>> What was the last CD you bought?

It was for my little girl. That low, low, low one! (Flo Rider - Low)

>> If you could date any celebrity woman who would it be?

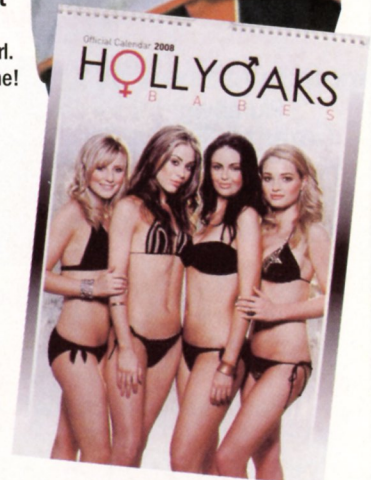
The girls from Hollyoaks are hot - all of them!



CLOTHES SHOW: Nico ain't impressed by Ryan's dress sense



"C'mon Becks, ask me another!"



IT'S A DATE: It's a safe bet that Nico will be getting a Hollyoaks (and not a LITFC) calendar when the 2009 one is released!

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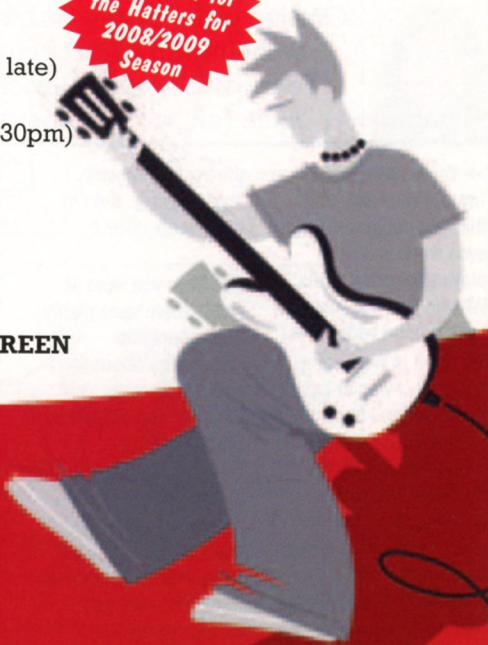
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Season



girls' world



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

AS you will have noticed on page nine of today's fanzine, I had the thrill of interviewing Luton Town's captain supremo Kevin Nicholls.

And consequently I'm now under strict instructions from the Orange editor not to mention him in this column... through fear of overkill! (failed already then - Ed)

So, as I struggle for material, I'm seriously beginning to ask myself what else could I write about that could compete with the thrill of meeting Nico?

OK, I'll start with last Saturday's trip up to Cheshire and why, even though we are five games in and actually seven points better off, I still had a face like David Beckham's other half and that feeling I used to get before school plays.

RUMOUR MILL

>> While wandering through the Arndale, someone overheard a couple of the lads suggesting we needed a Plummer to help out the leaky midfield. God knows what they're talking about?

CELEB WATCH:

>> Celebrity Aldershot fans? Do they even have any fans?

What's wrong with me? I need to get a grip. We have a new team, enormous pressure on us, and to top it all, everybody else is telling us we can't do it. Well, we bloody well can do it, I am certain of that.

To be honest, for the Port Vale game, I was on the edge from the moment I stepped out of the car on

the way to the ground.

Once that banner was whipped out, you know the "Luton shall never die" one, I thought I was going to have an emotional meltdown.

As you may have read in my interview with you know who, I wasn't the only one!

It was then that I had that really bad cheesy moment where I wanted to give everyone a hug through my bleary eyes and say "I love Luton Town, don't you?" But I held back.

While most of us fans look all right, some of you look at bit dodgy and I daren't risk talking to you, let alone giving you a hug!

Fingers crossed for today's game. Let's get behind the lads and prove everyone wrong. Because quite frankly I love Luton Town. Don't you?

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VITAL STATISTICS

Full Name: Kelly Ingmire

Age: 17

Occupation: Full-time college student

Attached? Single

Been a supporter since: 2005

Best looking Hatter: I used to like Matthew Spring – before he left!

Most valuable player: Dean Brill

Player to flog: None, we've got rid of too many already

Ideal night out: Anything with the girls

Favourite TV shows:

Supernatural, Men In Trees



Kelly



exiled hat



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



FOR freshers, the day before you go to university is a nerve-wracking experience.

Yet now I am a hardened second year, I should be feeling relaxed ahead of tomorrow's trip to Leeds, safe in the knowledge I've made a good group of friends.

However, no doubt the experience of sitting through the Aldershot game will reduce me to a quivering jelly.

Please Sam, we don't want a demonstration of your skills as a volleyball player today.

In fairness to Parkin, he's coming up with the goods at the other end of the pitch and he must thrive on having Kevin Nicholls in the team, who can produce a quality, whipped delivery.

I was delighted Nico returned this summer, not just because we've

lacked a holding midfielder, but because of his character and infectious enthusiasm.

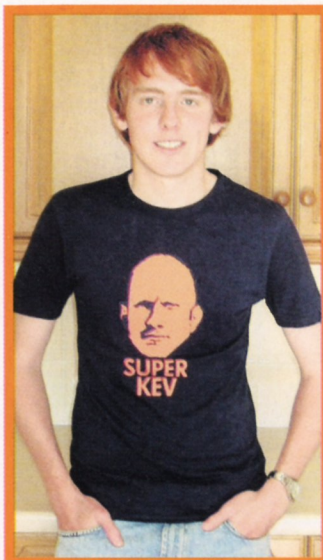
One minute against Notts County he was a general waving his men forward.

The next he was an impatient kid in the playground, pushing rivals out of his way in pursuit of the ball and all wide-eyed surprise when he was told to stop it.

So to pay tribute to the legend, I've invested in a 'Super Kev' t-shirt.

You can see me modelling it here, vainly trying to mirror the expression of a man once described as 'a petulant rascal...with mad eyes and a beard'.

However, much as I love it, I think I'll choose something else to wear on my nights out in Leeds. I hear he's not a very popular man up there...



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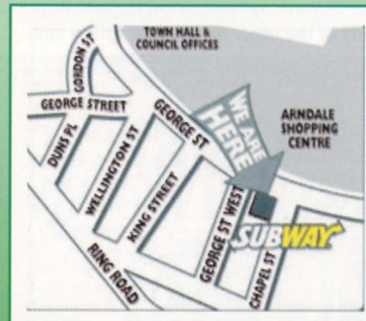
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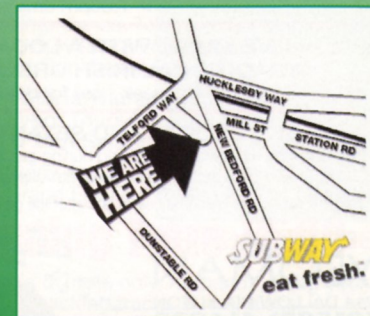
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What do your boots

Chris Martin,
Wizard Of Oz
- or more like
Dorothy?



DO you remember the days when everyone used to play in just black boots? So do we. But our Hatters heroes seem to have discovered a penchant for coloured footwear.

Here's what we think their choices say about them:

Chris Martin - Red boots. So the boy from Norwich chooses to play in a pair of ruby slippers. Sure, some of his performances give the impression he could have a bit of magic, but after three clicks could he be wanting to head back home (in his case to East Anglia) just like Dorothy?

Ryan Charles - Blue boots. Elvis was a fan of the old blue suede shoes and young Ryan certainly has plenty of attitude. As the song goes: 'You can burn my house, steal my car, drink my liquor from an old fruit jar - but just lay off my blue suede shoes...' Let's hope these boots will leave a few defences All Shook Up.

Rossi Jarvis - White boots. Certainly noticeable and an attempt to stand out from the crowd, but they lack the panache of other colours. Other Town devotees include Sam Parkin and Tristan Plummer.

Kevin Nicholls - Black boots. Old school. The non-sense midfielder doesn't have any time for these new fashions. Put your foot in and get on with it. Sol Davis and many of the other senior pros follow suit.

say about you?



COLOURFUL: Rossi Jarvis, above, Kevin Nicholls, below, and Ryan Charles



Terry and Maggie
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And yep, you may have won at St James' Park a



I've always dreamt of playing at St James' Park, Sol, but Exeter's ground wasn't quite what I had in mind.

couple of weeks ago, but we all know it wasn't the real one.

But it could be worse. Off the pitch, I read that it's all systems stop on your new ground.

Now there's a surprise. That's never happened before.

Now your Junction 12 plan appears to have gone by the by, Flitwick Rangers can breathe easy that they won't have a new derby game in a couple of seasons.

You've tried Junction 10, then Junction 12 - if I was you I'd be a bit

worried 'cos if the developers try to build two more junctions up the M1 you're in MK.

And weren't both our clubs in danger of heading to the concrete cow hole 20-odd years ago? God forbid.

Take slight heart though from the fact that, looked at from the telly, even your stand of executive boxes look better than our empty ramshackled old main stand.

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the ones that got away

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



LUTON manager Terry Westley ended his search for a striker to replace the injured John Taylor when he paid £110,000 to bring Vidar Riseth to the Hatters from Norwegian club Kongsvinger in October 1995.

Westley was desperate to get his man after the tall 23-year-old scored three times in a hastily arranged private practice match at Kenilworth Road. Town beat German champions Borussia Dortmund to his



WESTLEY: Desperate signature.

Riseth then made six league appearances without scoring, before the manager was dismissed leaving the tall striker floundering in a poor Hatters side destined

for relegation.

Vidar turned out five more times for the Hatters, again without scoring, before leaving for Linz the following summer on a free transfer – after which his career was seen to take off spectacularly.

A fee of £1.5 million took him to Celtic in 1998 and another large sum saw him move to TSV Munich two years later.

By now settled in midfield, Vidar caught the eye last

season when his steady influence helped Rosenberg to a 1-1 draw at Chelsea in a Champions League tie.

With more than 50 caps for Norway under his belt, Vidar signed on for Lillestrom over the summer.



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