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ORANGE

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hatters matters

... a word from the editor

ANYONE got a spare pair of boots? Get them on, Mick might need you...

Yep, the Hatters' age-old injury curse is beginning to bite again and you can only admire the way the youngsters Mick's been forced to draft in have coped.

We were always going to miss the likes of Kevin Nicholls, Sam Parkin and George Pilkington, but there's almost as many unfit players at Kenilworth Road now as there are fit.

At least the club's physio is earning his money, and LTFC2020 always said their policy was going to be to give youth a chance.

However, they're getting so young these days that I'm expecting the new



REMEMBER HIM? Orange was gutted to hear that Unders' time at Kenilworth Road had come to an end due to his ongoing knee problem. The highlight of his time at the club was obviously winning the League One championship, but getting his hands on the League Cup (albeit during a Sainsbury's PR stunt) ran it a close second!

Carbrini kit collection to include nappies soon.

Big Mick, though, looks to have unearthed another experienced gem in the form of Garreth O'Connor.

The Irish winger made an instant impact on his debut

and put in a number of telling crosses against Brentford in the Johnstone's Paint Pot Trophy.

Hardly a priority for us, but another trip to Wembley might be nice. Look how excited the MK Dons got! On second thoughts...



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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RAYNERS

The news at

'Don't make me Chuckle!'

TAKE a look at the league table and you'll soon remind yourself that our plight is no laughing matter.

Despite the gaffer's best efforts to lift the players, there's inevitably some negativity on their minds due to being so many points adrift.

In an effort to raise spirits, chairman Nick Owen went beyond the call of duty after being roped into the half-time raffle at Rotherham alongside the Chuckle Brothers.

After drawing the winning tickets (as well as the short straw) instead of running for cover, Nick spent some more time with the slapstick duo trying to glean some humorous material to lift the dressing room. Let's not get our



HAVING A LAUGH: The chairman meets the Chuckle Brothers

hopes up, then!

There are also rumours that the "comedians" have offered up some footballing tips to Mick.

The evidence comes from mid-week training. Our squad has been told to become much more vocal during passing drills to avoid on-pitch confusion and are now shouting "to me, to you, to me, to you".

Shoooooot! Oh, dear...

HE'S certainly not a natural goalscorer, but bless him, Keith Keane always does his best to find the net for Luton Town.

It doesn't always work - remember the shot which started to demolish the Oak Road stand against Aldershot?

We asked him what was on his mind when he took over free-kick duties in the absence of Nico.

Apparently, he wanted to make an impression on the scoreboard.

I suppose a few inches even higher and he may just have knocked out a few bulbs.



NOT SO NEAR MISSES: Part of the Oak Road collapses and, inset, Keane must score!



Channelling energy

EVER wondered what channels your Hatters' heroes turn to when they switch on their TV sets? I think after a game it's a safe bet Rossi and Sam flick straight to BBC1 for Strictly Come Dancing!

Ken

Rumours, speculation, gossip and half-truths

Time for a song with our Bev



IT'S been a bit of a mixed bags of results for the team to date as that elusive X Factor eludes Mick's men.

But the gaffer's now found a solution - and here he is unveiling yet another loan signing.

Simon Cowell has allowed Luton-based singer Bev Trotman - aunt of ex-Hatter Leon Barnett - to come to Kenilworth Road on a temporary basis.

Bev and Mick have shook hands on a deal which will mean, when we finally do get a run of victories, the boys really will be able to sing when they're winning.

Get a grip, Claude's nobbled the keeper

IT was a hell of a wait, but we finally chalked up that first home league win against Aldershot. Claude, as usual, played a big part in our performance, but were his actions a touch underhand? Maybe he doesn't know his own strength, but in the top photo it looks like he's badly bent back their keeper's hand with a very loose handshake. Judging by the other snap, though, he didn't need to bother. Try protecting your net mate!



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4pts

mark wood

Town 2 D'ton 0
Having spent six months in sunny Darlo I know that nothing good has come out of it.

Town 3 Ac'ton 1
Accrington Stanley? Who are they? Exactly. Let's stuff them.

Grimsby 2 Town 0
It's in the name, something fishy is bound to happen to send us to defeat.

Bury 1 Town 1
At long last some joy on our travels, but we should have won after leading.



1pts

steve sims

Town 2 D'ton 1
Martin leaves it late to grab a vital winner. Why can't we win easily for once?

Town 4 Ac'ton 0
At last, a big win which start the nerves jangling among the other struggling teams.

Grimsby 2 Town 1
We really need to beat the Mariners – but remember Macclesfield away, anyone?

Bury 1 Town 1
A tougher away game but Town will rise to the challenge and bag at least a point.



4pts

alec swann

Town 0 D'ton 0
No goals on offer today as the Hatters claim a point in a drab affair.

Town 1 Ac'ton 0
You've got to win your home games and a Nicholls penalty settles this one.

Grimsby 0 Town 2
Poor Mariners are eased aside as a resurgent Parkin notches a good double.

Bury 3 Town 1
No joy in the north-west as the hosts prove too strong in all departments.



3pts

carl field

Town 2 D'ton 1
Still missing big players but Town should just about hold out to earn all three points.

Town 1 Ac'ton 1
Another two points tossed away at home after taking a first-half lead.

Grimsby 0 Town 0
Grimsby isn't the most exciting of places and this won't be a very exciting match.

Bury 1 Town 0
Another defeat here – it's going to be touch and go right up until the last game in May.

our survey says...
It's 1pt for a right result and 4pts for a precise score

Lookie likies...



DAVID Edwards, left, was a huge loss for the Hatters when he was sold to Wolves last season. However, Mick Harford seems to have found a carbon copy of him in young midfielder Asa Hall, right. Not only do the pair look the same and play in a similar way, but they also have the balls to get stuck in.



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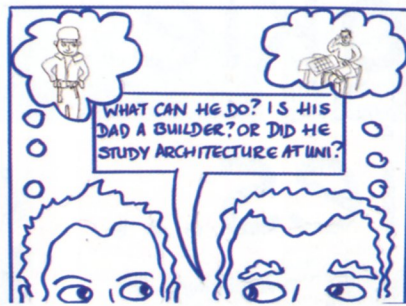
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The haves and have nots

I THOUGHT Quakers were supposed to live a simple existence?

Darlington may bear the nickname but their palatial home is about as far from the simple life as you can get.

The Darlington Arena is ever so slightly different to our ageing Kenilworth Road home. Rumoured to boast gold-plated taps in its innards and able to host 25,000, it wouldn't be unfair for the Hatters to envy our northern visitors.

Grim up north? Far from it, it would appear.

Boasting state-of-the-art facilities

It's grim up north - or is it? by Mark Wood



Former Darlington chairman George Reynolds unveils Tino Asprilla at the Darlington Arena, while the damage done by Keith Keane's free-kick is repaired, bottom left

and theoretically possible to boost their capacity to 60,000, Darlo would seem to be well placed for the future. Shame they only average less than 4,000 a

week. Seven seats each - you'd hardly ever be pushed for space! And if you want a reason to hate them even more, the first musical act to perform there was that yellow-bellied Hornet, Elton John.

But I'd choose the Kenny any day. A bit of atmosphere and the tightly-packed bodies help to take the edge off the cold in winter. They

freeze to death in Darlo - I should know - I had the joy of living there for six months.

And where's the fun in a stadium that Keith Keane can't destroy with one of his explosive and eccentric free-kicks? None, I'd suggest.

But it's not like we don't have our similarities. They've had their fair share of unusual chairmen, too.

Look at the creator of the Darlington Arena - safe-cracker George Reynolds.

The zany northerner even claimed to have

signed Colombian showman Tino Asprilla not so long back.

And then there was his loud-mouthed missus who landed herself in hot water when she accused the Darlington team of not trying.

Almost makes a stadium on stilts perched over the motorway with an F1 track running through it not seem such a silly suggestion.

Or perhaps we could build our own version of Center Parc with a movable pitch.

Perhaps messrs Kohler and Gurney weren't so mad after all...



exiled hat



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



I'VE always been a stickler for routine.

So after three weeks in exile, where the infrequent lectures which make up an English degree mean weekends blur into weekdays, I felt a Saturday afternoon of football was needed to restore some perspective.

Fortunately, Luton decided to turn up virtually on my doorstep, so I persuaded a couple of my uni friends to come and cheer the lads on at Valley Parade.

Mike Newell used to describe the squad as being down to the 'bare bones' and that certainly applies at the moment.

When you consider how young the team was we had out at Bradford, it was a magnificent achievement to go and boss the game at a side which many fancy for promotion.

However, despite all of our

possession we never looked like finding the back of the net.

Indeed, the lyrics of Jane Ledson's song have proved to be prophetic – '21, 18, 15 – who's gonna score?'

Chris Martin certainly had 'The Hardest Part' to play, in the loan striker position. Roll on the return of Rio and the Ginger Maradona!

While on the music theme, I have to mention the tremendous backing from the Luton fans.

The near constant chant of 'Thirty points, who gives a stuff!' in the second half must have urged on Micky Spillane to that tremendous equaliser.

And yes, I have censored the chant slightly here – I'm sure Big Fat Joe would be able to substitute in the appropriate word if you asked him!



SPOT ON: Jane Ledson's lyrics are uncannily true

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girls' world



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

THIS month is full of good and bad news, both of which you'll no doubt have an opinion on, but here is my two pennies' worth.

The bad news:

Paul Underwood, the rough diamond, who has been riddled with injury for a bloody long time, has inevitably left the club.

Well, I will definitely miss such amazing highlighted hair and a player who I hoped would return to work with Sol.

The good news:

Mike Newell has finally got a job, HURRAH!

Thank God for that. Perhaps now the bitter Liverpoolian can stop appearing again and again in the press (did anyone hear him on Radio 4?) playing the martyr.

CELEB WATCH

>> Look out for funny man and Darlington supporter Vic Reeves.

SONG OF THE MONTH

>> Ain't no Sunshine – Bill Withers.

Surely we can't be missing NICO that much!

Good luck Grimsby Town, you're going to need it.

A big fat special mention to Joe Kinnear, who was nothing but a triumph at LTFC and now is being attacked by smarmy hedgehog-haired orange men on sports programmes that seem to forget his glorious stint at Luton Town. I'm right behind you, Joe, keep the faith.



NO MORE: Paul Underwood

As for our football team, I'm remaining positive... by the time our Christmas trees are covered in sparkly bits and we're singing Silent Night, we'll be well out of the minuses.

Fingers crossed, but for now we need to wop the arse off every League Two club and prove ourselves, especially on October 21!

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VITAL STATISTICS

Full Name: Amanda Earl

Age: 17

Occupation: College student

Attached? No

Been a supporter since:

The day I was born

Best looking Hatter: Dean Morgan. What a shame he's out on loan!

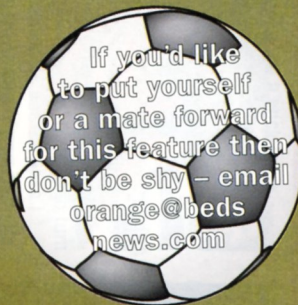
Most valuable player: Matthew Spring (he's out on loan, too)

Player to flog: Last year I was keen to shift Richard Langley but no one wanted to pay a transfer fee!

Ideal night out: A girls night out

Favourite TV shows:

EastEnders



what a beauty!

Electron

Amanda

what do we think of it so far?

IF, like me, you thought we'd be rattling up win after win (at least at home), then reality has bitten.

Making up the deficit isn't proving so easy.

We're struggling a bit at both ends of the pitch. Goalscoring remains a concern. So much so that even Sol's trying to weigh in with the odd goal (see the photo) - that ball's a bit low for a diving header though, mate!



At the other end the defence is looking a bit like the strangers they are. Without Pilkington, there have been a few dodgy moments where our assistant manager couldn't bear to look.



THERE'S been a bit of concern over the keepers. Brill, er... hasn't been. He got beaten by a lofted cross at Rotherham and loanee Conrad has also not been totally convincing. Bring back Ian Feuer, we say - or a 2004 version of Marlon.



'Stop pretending to be hurt, that was a howler'

WE'VE suffered from a distinct lack of pace in the side. Mick's seen here pondering whether a worm on the training ground is quicker than Ian Roper and Kevin Harper combined!



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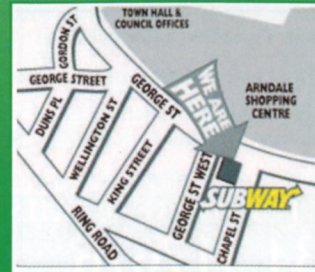
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How are we going to

We're now two months into the season and it's time to face facts - we haven't clawed back the points deficit as much as we'd hoped. But it's a marathon, not a sprint and all is not lost. Orange investigates some ways the Hatters can help boost the long climb up the league.



WE need to unearth a player who can finally fill Steve Howard's boots and bang in a hatful. How about, er... Steve Howard! Premiership Championship, now League One. His career is in free-fall, so why not give League Two a try, Howie?



IMPROVE THE PRE-MATCH ENTERTAINMENT: Come on LTFC, never mind playing a few records, get some girls to do their thing on the pitch. This photo was taken at Doncaster in April and our sources tell us that the only reason Calvin left us for Championship side Crystal Palace is get a second eyeful of the Keepmoat Stadium talent. Heck, our HTO women will probably get their pom-poms out if it gives the lads a pep up and helps ensure no more stars leave.



CALL IN SOME FAVOURS: Big Fat Joe had a degree of success at Hatters and now he's at Newcastle there must be some stars we can get match fit for him. Michael Owen or Shola Ameobi would do for starters. After that he'd probably suggest Mick dips into Wolves Reserves for good measure.

get out of this mess?



IS IT TIME TO PLAY DIRTY? After we beat Exeter, their boss Paul Tisdale accused Town's players of stretching the laws of the game to the limit. But hey, we won, and that's all that matters in our perilous plight. So come on Nico, Sol and any other bad boys, tread on some toes, pull some shirts and fight for the cause. Chris Martin looks up for it. He's pictured considering the type of tackle that Vinnie Jones carried out so ruthlessly on Gazza once.



TRY TO SWAY THE OFFICIALS: Let's face it, most refs and lins are completely incompetent. Therefore they're probably daft enough to fall for a spot of flattery. Get Warren to have a quiet word of praise in their ear when they do the basic things right. That way when a big decision comes along they'll probably side with us.



ADD SOME CREATIVITY: We've got rid of one number 7, so bring in an old favourite who used to wear that shirt.

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the ones that got away

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



WITH a famous name like his, Tom Finney was always destined to play football – but he first needed to resort to working as a pipefitter while playing part-time for Crusaders in his native Belfast.

Tom's big break came in the summer of 1973 when he was quietly picked up by Luton manager Harry Haslam for £17,000, before becoming an instant sensation for the Hatters.

Scoring twice on his full debut against Carlisle in



FINNEY: The other Tom

September 1973, he then netted in his next three games. But no sooner had his star risen than it started to wane, not helped by a knee injury, and the following summer he was transferred to

Sunderland for £50,000.

He fared little better at Roker Park but it was his next move where he found his niche.

Joining Fourth Division Cambridge United for a knockdown £15,000 in 1976, Tom linked up with another ex-Hatter, Alan Biley, and the pair scored goals for fun as United won consecutive promotions and were soon pitting their wits against Luton in Division Two.

In all, Tom made over 300 league appearances for Cambridge as well as picking up caps for Northern Ireland and several player of the season awards, together with a place in the Abbey Stadium Hall Of Fame.



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Get Back Into Sport and Physical Activity...

The *Get Back Into* programme is for anyone who is 16 or older and wants to start playing sport or take up a more active lifestyle again. Sessions are relaxed and fun, led by experienced coaches and instructors, and are a gentle introduction back into the activity. Sessions normally run for between 5 to 10 weeks. Participants can then follow a pathway onto more recreational activities or, into a competitive environment (if applicable).

GET BACK INTO SESSIONS IN LUTON...

ATHLETICS - Stockwood Park Athletics Track. Tuesdays, 7th October - 11th November, 19.00 - 20.00.

BADMINTON - Hightown Community Centre. Wednesdays, 8th October - 26th November, 18.30 - 20.00.

BADMINTON - Vauxhall Rec Centre. Sundays, 12th October - 16th November, 10.00 - 12.00.

BOXERCISE - Putteridge Rec Centre. Mondays, 6th October - 10th November, 19.30 - 20.30.

DANCE MATS - Lea Manor Rec Centre. Wednesdays, 8th October - 12th November, 16.30 - 17.30.

FRISBEE - Stockwood Park Athletics Track. Fridays, 17th October - 5th December, 18.00 - 19.30.

GOLF - Stockwood Park Golf Centre. Tuesdays, 7th October - 11th November, 10.00 - 11.00.
Thursdays, 9th October - 13th November, 13.00 - 14.00. Saturdays, 11th October - 15th November, 10.00 - 11.00.
(*PAY IN ADVANCE)

GYMNASTICS - Galaxy Gym, Hightown. Wednesdays, 15th October - 17th December, 20.00 - 21.00.

HOCKEY - Denbigh High School. Wednesdays, 8th October - 12th November, 20.30 - 21.30.

KEEP FIT - Putteridge Rec Centre. Fridays, 10th October - 14th November, 19.30 - 20.30.

KEEP FIT - Hightown Community Centre. Wednesdays, 8th October - 12th November, 13.00 - 14.00.

NETBALL - Luton Regional Sports Centre. Wednesdays, 15th October - 3rd December, 18.30 - 20.00.

PILATES - Putteridge Rec Centre. Mondays, 6th October - 10th November, 18.00 - 19.00.

PILATES - Hightown Community Centre. Tuesdays, 7th October - 11th November, 13.00 - 14.00.

SWIMMING - Putteridge Rec Centre. Thursdays, 9th October - 27th November, 19.00 - 20.00 & 20.00 - 21.00.

TENNIS - Luton Regional Sports Centre. Tuesdays, 14th October - 2nd December, 18.30 - 20.00.

SESSIONS ARE JUST £2.50, PAY AS YOU GO *

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WE'VE been robbed of two points.

It's an outrage and you probably have no idea how it feels to be outrageously stripped of points. I don't know how we'll recover from this.

All right, OK, maybe you do have a slight inkling...

It was the Goal That Never Was that robbed us of a win.

You know it. You laughed at it. Then you laughed even more. Then everybody else laughed, but we didn't.

Unbelievable. That ball nearly hit me. It was

closer to Luton than our net. In fact it nearly walloped some bloke in a cave in Peru, too - but he didn't see it go anywhere over a goal-line, either.

There hasn't been that much stunned disbelief around the Vic since Springy hit that 30-yarder in that pretty pointless Carling Cup derby match a few years ago.

Apparently your mob are still claiming Spring's miskick (obviously he didn't mean it) was from 70 yards.

Spring is the only man to have abuse hurled at

him by both our fans, then your fans, and now our fans again - if we ever play you again, that is (or even Sheffield Utd - Ed).

Aidy was so incensed with the Goal That Never Was he was sent to the stands by the ref - although to be fair the ref just pointed to the stands so we shouldn't take that as a given, he probably thought he was signalling for a throw-in, or something.

Aidy was sent off because, in the great man's words "I called the ref a name".

Apparently you'll get 10-1 odds on that name being "idiot" and 550-1 on "berk".

Still, the Goal That Never Was has sent us into freefall.

Two goalkeepers injured, players sold, the ones we have managed to hold onto are injured, a half-finished ground. Go on, get out the violins.

Even Elton's weighed in and told the board to sort it out. That's when you know you're really in trouble.

But at least we didn't lose to Rotherham. Ouch. Glory Horns.

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