

Half-time

By Hatters for Hatters

# ORANGE

Season 08-09 No5

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# hatters matters

... a word from the editor

At the end of 2007, the Half-time Orange crew thought life at Luton Town couldn't get any worse.

It was good riddance to a year of relegation from the Championship, player sales, administration and points deductions.

Now as we approach the end of 2008, we're certainly not daft enough to repeat our 2007 prediction - especially with us still presently stuck on minus points and an injury jinx to overcome.

Yes, 2008 has been a bitch of a year - and there's only so many kicks in the teeth the average supporter can take - but at least we've still got a club to get behind.

Look on the bright side, at least today you're at your second home freezing your nuts off, rather than trawling



HO, HO, HO: We hunted high and low through our archives and, believe it or not, we did manage to find a jolly Luton Town photo

through a crowded shopping centre looking for last-minute gifts.

It's also "Eric" day today as Town take on Morecambe for the first time ever.

The late comedian Eric Morecambe (born Eric Bartholomew) hailed from the Lancashire town and, of course, served as a Hatters director.

Supporters are being asked to don flat caps,

glasses and rain coats in tribute to him and bring a little sunshine to what have been pretty depressing times of late.

I'm sure Eric wouldn't begrudge Town a win this afternoon - after all, our need is greater than his other team's.

Merry Christmas, let's hope the visitors gift us a festive three points, and just pray that 2009 is much, much, much kinder to Hatters fans.



**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



### Are we taking this cup seriously?



DESPITE the prize of a Wembley final at stake something tells us that Hatters haven't been taking the paint pot (sorry, Johnstone's Paint Trophy) seriously.

Despite that they pulled off a great 1-0 win at Walsall, and there was no glossing over that success as it won the performance of the round accolade - it's

a pity the game didn't make it on to Matt Of The Day, though.

So why aren't the boys that bothered?

Well, rumour has it the JP trophy has a lid on it which you have to prise off with a screw-driver! And if you leave it for a few months it goes a bit crusty and you have to throw it away.

### Is our defender a real phoney?

AFTER finding himself on the sidelines for the early part of the season, Ian Roper has now found himself a nice little sales sideline to supplement his Hatters wage.

The press boys were a little shocked when they turned up for a post-match press conference to discover that big old Ropes was trying to flog them a range of phones.

And we didn't think the lad was that mobile!



### Keith's the star of the show

WE'VE been impressed with the improvement seen in Keith Keane in recent times. To progress from fringe player to captain shows he's got better with every game (or there's no-one decent left!). Keane was told by Mick that he needed to be a star this season, but it looks like he's taken it a little too far.



## Ken Rumours, speculation, gossip and half-truths

### So who's mad enough to be Mick's number two?



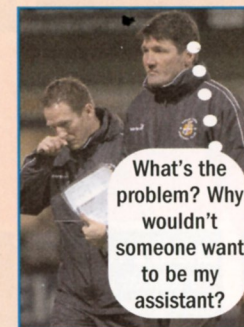
WE were warned that it could get worse before it gets better, but HTO didn't think we'd be struggling quite so badly to get results.

Of course, there's the psychological burden of being on minus points, plus the injury list which have hindered the Hatters, to take into account, but

even so we were convinced that the Kenny would be a fortress and not a house of cards this season.

Mick's assistant Warren Neill got the boot as a consequence and now we're wondering who'll be crazy enough to join a club cast so far adrift.

Perhaps the answer lies



What's the problem? Why wouldn't someone want to be my assistant?

within? If Nico is struggling to stay on the field (due to injury rather than rash tackling), maybe he's the ideal man for the job. He certainly looks the part in the photo and there's no doubting he'd give his all for the cause.



### Bum deal

IT'S one FA rule for Luton Town and another for all the rest, it appears.

Southend were allowed to play their 15-year-old against us in the cup, while we were refused permission to name our kid on the bench in round one. Confirmation of the bum deal was flagged up during the pre-match entertainment at Southend.

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# Secret Santa

Can you ID the mystery Hatters?



ANSWERS: 1. Drew Talbot, 2. Kevin Nicholls, 3. Paul McVeigh, 4. Ian Roper, 5. George Pilkington, 6. Asa Hall, 7. Conrad Logan, 8. Rossi Jarvis

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## our survey says...

It's 1pt for a right result and 8pts for a precise score

**Chest 0 Town 1**  
We have to start beating the teams at the bottom if we're to stand a chance.

**Chest 1 Town 2**  
Chester are in the lower reaches, so let's pray we can start to reel them in by winning away.

**Chest 0 Town 1**  
A deserved away win as Mick's men claim a hard-fought three points on their travels.

**Chest 1 Town 2**  
Great way to start the New Year and Town are into plus points, but is it too late to stay up?

**Town 2 Lincoln 0**  
Having finally found a bit of form at home, Lincoln will be no match for the Hatters.

**Town 1 Lincoln 0**  
It's not going to be pretty, but grit and determination will see us scrape a vital 3 points.

**Town 1 Lincoln 1**  
Stalemate this time around as the visitors snatch a share of the spoils late on.

**Town 1 Lincoln 1**  
Countless missed chances and the woodwork means Luton will end 2008 on -1 point.

**Chestf 1 Town 1**  
Hardly a local Boxing Day derby, but another valuable point, nevertheless.

**Chestf 3 Town 1**  
Boxing Day blues for Town as it's not just the Christmas turkey that gets stuffed.

**Chestf 2 Town 0**  
No festive joy for the Hatters as the Spireites claim an easy win on their home patch.

**Chestf 1 Town 1**  
Old boy Alan Goodall's late own goal rescues a vital point for Harford's Hatters.

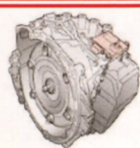
**Town 1 M'cam 0**  
Now is the time to grind out results and the Kenilworth Road Crowd can really help.

**Town 2 M'cam 0**  
Good old Eric M looking down on this wouldn't begrudge us a win over his other side.

**Town 2 M'cam 0**  
The Hatters have started scoring all of a sudden and they will notch another two here.

**Town 2 M'cam 1**  
Luton are (finally) starting to find some form and I can only see one result in this one.

6



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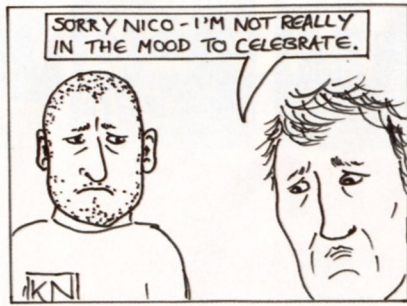
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# Kenny capers

The LITFC latest with our guest cartoonist Sally-Anne Johnson

## On the ball... with Ricky Hill PART TWO

It's an interview of two halves as Orange's Steve Sims asks the Luton Town legend some more daft questions...

### >> What's your favourite goal?

"It was a midweek game against Everton. A header against Neville Southall. I think we won 2-1. It was April 1985/86ish. There was also Peterborough, 1984, in the FA Cup. The keeper kicked it, it was flicked on and, with my back to goal, in one motion I caressed it down and volleyed it in from 20 yards. The ball never touched the ground from the moment the keeper kicked it. I've never seen that goal since, so if anyone out there's got any footage..."

### >> Do you keep in contact with many old team-mates?

"Mark Stein is my biggest mate from that era and I'm close with Brian Stein too, Mick Harford, Mitchell Thomas, and was with the late David Preece. The wonderful thing about playing for Luton Town is that it has given us a bond for life."

### >> How did you get to be so two-footed?

"At our garage at home we had a toilet which had a seat made out of concrete."

"I used to wear plimsolls and the toilet seat fell and landed on the left foot. It took my nail off the big toe. I was nine years old."

"I always thought from a technical element, dribbling felt much more fluid on my left foot but after that I was a bit tentative to use it with the ball and I played and used more of my right foot. It's possibly why I became more balanced."

### >> Did you have to twist Ray Harford's arm to get in that 1988 cup final team, having been out injured since Boxing Day?

"No. The team lost the FA Cup semi against Wimbledon and the Simod Cup final. My coming back, whether 50 per cent or 75 per cent, gave the players and fans a lift. I would have liked to have been totally match fit to really take the stage. I was intelligent enough to let the ball do the work."

"I was playing on instinct. I'd only had one behind-closed-doors game 10 days before the final."

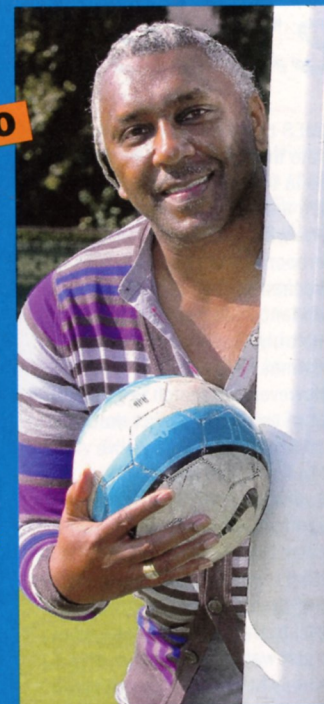
### >> Weren't you worried you'd break down during the cup final?

"I never dwelt on injuries or played with fear. You have to take the whacks and get on with it."

"I enjoyed the physical side of the game. I wasn't just a silky player, I loved to barge someone off the ball."

### >> How do you relax?

"I like to have a bet now and again on the horses and that kind of stuff. A lot of players fall into it as they have so



much time on their hands. I also enjoy the cinema, a meal, theatre and concerts. A little of everything in moderation."

### >> There's a new book about crises at Kenilworth Road. Were you ever at the centre of one?

"In 1975 when I joined as an apprentice, the survival of the club depended on Peter Anderson going to Antwerp. Luton always come out of a crisis and produce some very good football."



Ricky leaves 'Donkey' Adams in his wake at Wembley in 1988

Ricky reckons a concrete toilet seat is the reason he became so two-footed? Is he extracting the urine?

>> Ricky was interviewed by HTO's Steve Sims. See what happened when Steve and Ricky squared up on the football pitch by viewing the Half-time Orange section of [lutontoday.co.uk](http://lutontoday.co.uk)

## What's on...

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**Friday 26th December - KARAOKE**  
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**Saturday 27th December - JED MCOY (Irish Country Singer)**

**Sunday 28th December - DISCO**  
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# exiled hat



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



GAMES these days don't jump off the fixture list like when we were in the Championship.

It's unlikely that a packed house will witness this afternoon's clash with Morecambe, even though the attendance will be boosted by yours truly, back home for the Christmas holidays.

However, the match is given a bit of spice by the fact that since I have been at uni, I've got to know Dan Hatton, the first, and probably last, Morecambe supporter I will meet.

Every house party the scene is set. Getting ready to crack open another can of Kronenberg and introduce myself to the pretty brunette who has just walked into the room, I suddenly hear: "So how are Luton doing, then?" in Dan's broad



Lancashire accent.

Perhaps unconsciously remembering Mike Newell's infamous words that "if you start bringing in women, you have big problems", I decide now might not be the best time to introduce the girl to the conversation.

Half an hour later, I am an

authority on Morecambe, knowing not to "bother turning up at Christie Park in the first half because we always start slow" and that Danny Carlton is their main man.

Rumour has it Mick Harford will be making me chief scout on Monday morning.

Seriously, though, it's great to talk to someone who is equally passionate about a lower league club, and the rest of Dan's house doesn't let the side down either, as it includes supporters of Sheffield Wednesday, Oldham and Leeds. Oh, and the obligatory Man United fan from Kettering!

# girls' world



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

CHRISTMAS time, mistletoe and wine, let's get more balls over that line!

As I am sure we have all worked out, by January we could be out of the minuses and start the New Year with three points, ready to catch up the likes of Grimsby and Bournemouth.

And nothing would please me more than to see Luton overtake Grimsby in the table.

To wipe that smug smile of Mr Newell and also to put my very irritating housemate Laura on quiet time.

She insists on waving her blow-up Harry the Haddock in my face every time Grimsby win. Which, to be fair, isn't

## RUMOUR MILL

>> One of my girlie spies claims she saw a certain defender in Boots this week. Perhaps someone will be getting soap on a Roper this Christmas!

## MAN OF THE MOMENT

>> Ian Roper, what a legend. Definitely better than Coyne and he's putting his all into every game, exactly what we need.

## CELEB WATCH

>> Erm... Morecambe claim that Eric Morecambe was a fan of theirs. Sorry, but you're wrong.

that often, but nevertheless. Horrific! While I'm seriously concerned about the league action and our fight to stay in League Two, I have to admit to

being fairly excited at the prospect of getting into the final of the Johnstone Paint Trophy and, more importantly, playing at Wembley.

I just hope we have plenty of notice – a girl has to plan for such an event, you know. What does one wear to Wembley?

Did anybody else notice Andy Cole in the director's box on Tuesday?

Just an evening out? Or sussing out the club for the future? Hmmmm..... intriguing!

Well, what a year it's been. Here's to 2009. The year that Luton defies the FA.

Merry Christmas.

Becky x

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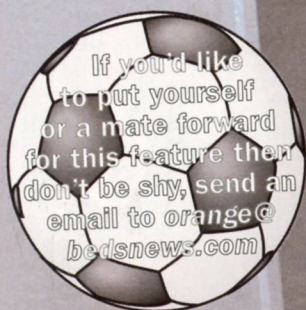
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# Ciara

# What a beauty!



Electrolux

## VITAL STATISTICS

**Full Name:** Ciara Kenny

**Age:** 16

**Occupation:** Trainee hairdresser

**Attached?** Yes

**Been a supporter since:** For as long as I can remember

**Best looking Hatter:**  
Paul McVeigh

**Most valuable player:**  
Kevin Nicholls (when fit)

**Player to flog:** Wayne Andrews

**Ideal night out:** Night on the town

**Favourite TV show:**  
EastEnders



# what do we think of it so far?

ANOTHER month has passed and we're still well adrift at the foot of the table. It's been a struggle to find goals, which has hit us hard. Even the rare goal blitz against Bournemouth consisted of an own goal, free kick and penalty. Some conviction in the box would



be nice and a few more strikes from open play. We've missed injured loanee Tom Craddock in recent weeks and we've obviously also missed the goals of workaholic Drew Talbot - since he signed for us!



The ref decided Luton were never going to score, so made up his mind to end the game early

AFTER a storming start to his Kenilworth career, Claude Gnappa seems to have lost his way. Did you see the way Conrad shoved him in the back after the third Bournemouth goal went in? And rather than react with anger at the assault, the Frenchman just sloped back to his position for the kick-off. Come on man, we know you can do better.

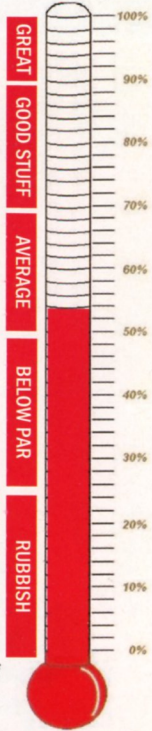


That's funny, I could swear there was something wrong with you

WE'RE so desperate for wins that we seem to be rushing back players who aren't really up to speed. Frustrated Nico and Lewis attempted comebacks, only to end up back on the treatment table. But you try telling Nico he can't play!



OUCH, THAT'S GOTTA HURT: We'd play a one-legged Nico ahead of some of the other centre-mid options



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# Gaffer Mick's the loan

IT'S been a season where we've seen unprecedented levels of loan signings as Mick struggles to plug titanic holes in the good ship Luton Town. Throw in a heap of short-term permanent contracts, the summer squad clear-out, a sprinkling of youth teamers and schoolboys and we could be on course to set a record for the number of players to represent Hatters in a campaign.



**NUMBER ONE:** Mr Craddock has been the most impressive addition to the squad so we were delighted when his loan was extended – and then, of course, he instantly got injured



**DOUBLE ACT:** Nicknamed Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee by Norwich boss Glenn Roeder, the performance stats of the Norfolk lads are virtually inseparable as both have put in some decent showings



**JUST** when we thought Mick's enthusiasm for loans was running on empty, he went and filled up his squad with a Gallen. We'll defer judgement on whether plucking an ageing striker from MK Dons Reserves is a master-stroke. We'd have preferred to have refuelled our survival fight with a litre, though (Leroy Lita)

**LOGAN'S RUN:** After a shaky start, Conrad Logan has grown in confidence between the sticks. He certainly fills the goal well, as shown by trio of penalty takers who couldn't beat him in the Altrincham FA Cup replay

# arranger...



Harry Worley, left, did his best for the cause, but you can only afford so many inexperienced kids in a relegation scrap. Paid the penalty and was sent back to Leicester to take a battering in training from Howie with Pilkington approaching fitness.



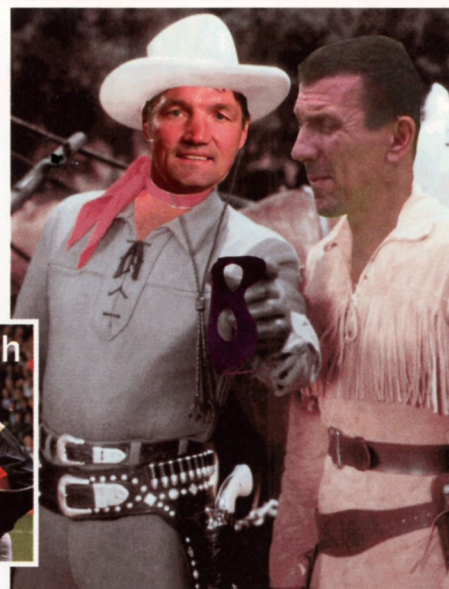
The pacy Tristan Plummer could've been our very own Theo Walcott on the wing... he wasn't!



Like Josh, left, we're scratching our heads over the logic of Klein-Davies signing



"The number's up mate. You're the 31st loanee of Mick's reign. I'm sure there must be some rule against it – or if there isn't they'll quickly make one up."



Hi-Ho, Silver, away! Mick and Warren have had the lonely task of riding up and down motorways looking desperately for temporary players

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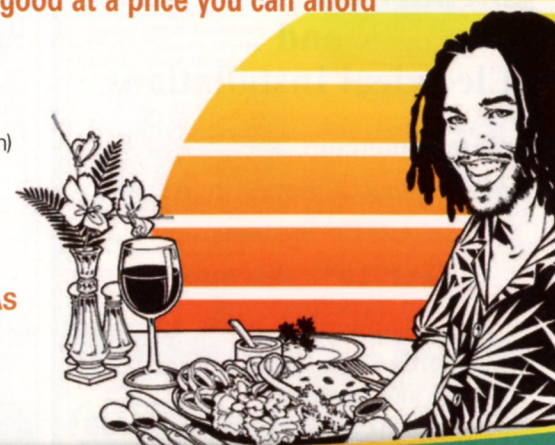
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# the ones that got away

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



## PAUL ELLIOTT

Lewisham-born Paul had early contact with the Hatters, but failed a trial at Kenilworth Road as a striker and instead signed forms for his local club Charlton, where he was converted to a central defender.

With the Town needing a strong and commanding centre-half to bolster their defence as they

attempted to avoid relegation from the top flight in 1983, they paid a cut-price £95,000 to cash-strapped Charlton for Paul to achieve their aims.

Unfortunately, Paul broke his leg in a League Cup tie with Leicester in 1984 and by the time of his return the Town had signed Steve Foster.

Unable to keep both players happy, the Hatters sold Paul to Aston Villa for £400,000 and

from there he sampled life in Italy with Pisa and then turned out for Celtic, where he was awarded the Scottish Footballer of the Year.

He finally turned out for Chelsea, who paid £1.4 million for his services.

In September 1992, Paul received a career-ending knee injury following a clash with Liverpool's Dean Saunders at Anfield, but lost a subsequent well-

publicised court case after he sued the Reds striker.

Paul was awarded an MBE in 2003 for his work with young players and is now a football pundit regularly seen on our TV screens.



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... with 'orrible 'ornet Don Monty



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Brendan who?

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Hopes were surely high around the Vic when the news filtered out that we were signing a Chelsea manager and Frank Lampard. Not Big Phil and Lamps, though - it's the reserve boss, and Frank's dad.

Even I went:

"Brendan who?"

However, I believe that a few years ago you were all saying "Adrian who?" Now he's one of the most respected managers in Europe - in my opinion, at least.

Anyway, prepare for more hilarity as apparently he wants us to play a new style of football.

None of this direct, up-in-the-air stuff. All passing, keeping the ball, bidding your time.

I'm really not sure about all this. We spent millions of pounds on our ground

removing all the pillars so we had a good view of the ball however high it went.

Was it all in vain? It used to be a nightmare when we went to Kenilworth Road. The only time we ever saw the ball from your creaking stands was when it was in the net, which admittedly was quite often in the past few games.

Still, we're a patient lot in Hertfordshire. We'll give him time to bed down his new system. Who knows,

he could lead us back to the Promised Land.

We do, of course, keep a watchful eye on events at the (never really) mighty Hatters. A good win over Barnet and the excitement must be at fever pitch now. I'm sure even Mick smiled.

That magic zero is looming large - do you get a trophy for reaching that major milestone?

Merry Christmas, I'm sure you can't wait for 2009! Glory Horns.



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