


Half-time

By Hatters for Hatters

ORANGE

Season 08-09 No6

No More Negativity Edition



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balls for this
relegation fight

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The news at

You're sh@
aaaaargh!



THANKS, but no thanks. That's been the message from the gaffer to quite a few of the new faces who have been going in and then out of the Kenilworth Road revolving door this season

Tristan Plummer, Josh Klein-Davies, Marc Pugh, Kevin Watson and Harry Worley have all been deemed surplus to requirements having not shown Mick

enough to justify renewed playing deals.

Former Bournemouth and Burnley midfielder Garreth O'Connor is another who couldn't last that long.

He was relieved of his place in the side after Mick saw that he was cr@p on the field – or, judging by this photo, should that read after Mick saw him doing a cr@p on the field.



Eye, eye, eye – just what's going on Ian?

GOAL-DEN BOY:
Ian Henderson would love to be gifted a goal today, his 24th birthday

IT'S fair to say that new signing Ian Henderson doesn't exactly have a net-busting strike record.

In 33 appearances for Northampton he failed to score once and his overall career goal-to-game ratio is 0.06. On that average it means we may just about see one in the onion bag from Ian before the sea-

son's over. Still a fresh start brings fresh hope.

The Cobblers were so desperate to see him score that they took desperate measures. He underwent visionary surgery procedures in the hope he'd finally develop an eye for goal with the extra peeper on his forehead.

New
help
for
Mick

WHEN Mick's former assistant Warren Neill departed in November, the club said an announcement on a replacement would be made within days. However, two months elapsed before Kevin Watson's appointment to a coaching role. This photo, taken in the interim, shows Mick trying unsuccessfully to persuade yet another candidate to sign up for the most difficult mission in football.



"I can't hear you!"

Ken Rumours, speculation, gossip and half-truths



Lining up pointless ritual

AS Town start to put together a decent run of form which threatens to make the great escape a reality, the other teams are getting the shakes.

We've never been a fan of this namby pamby line-up greeting on the eve of a match. It's a time when we

want our Hatters fired up and raring to go after Mick's pre-match team talk – not have the passion doused by such pointless rituals.

It looks like the players have the same attitude as they go through the motions of obeying orders from our good friends at the Football

League/FIFA.

At least you can rely on Happy Harry to liven things up as he gets up to a spot of mischief behind Drew, Rossi and Michael. But perhaps our mascot shouldn't be getting too excited. After all, we don't want losing his head again, do we?



Jump to it

WITH results gradually beginning to improve it looks like Mick's plea for the players to mount a realistic bid for survival is starting to sink in. But Keano has again taken matters too far. Our snapper has also caught him mounting Frenchman Claude Gnappa – or was it just an impromptu game of leapfrog.

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10pts



mark wood

Town 2 B'ford 1
The Hatters played so well at Valley Parade and turn on the style again to claim victory.

B'outh 1 Town 2
The biggest result of the season so far. Town hold their nerve after going two up.

Town 2 Bury 0
Big Mick's midas touch just can't fail and the shaky Shakers are no match for Luton.

Town 3 Grimsby 2
Possibly the game of the season. The Mick v Mike relegation scrap goes Luton's way.

It's 1pt for a right result and 2pts for a precise score

our survey says...

4pts



steve sims

Town 1 B'ford 0
It's going to be a tight one, but I see a second half Chris Martin goal earning the points.

B'outh 1 Town 0
It's the biggy, but how many times do we get the right result when the pressure's on?

Town 3 Bury 1
Routine home win as the boys start to turn the Kenny into a fortress again.

Town 2 Grimsby 2
Same theory applies as the Bourmemouth game. Hope I'm wrong though.

6pts



alec swann

Town 1 B'ford 1
Home games need to be won but the Hatters can only claim a point this time.

B'outh 0 Town 0
Crucial relegation six-pointer results in an uninspiring goalless draw on the south coast.

Town 2 Bury 0
The Hatters ease to victory as a double in the second half brings home the points.

Town 1 Grimsby 0
A game that has to be won is - just. Nerves all round, but it is the hosts who prevail.

9pts



carl field

Town 1 B'ford 1
Hatters' inability to win their home games once again means vital points are dropped.

B'outh 3 Town 3
Both sides are desperate for a result and I can see this being a repeat scoreline.

Town 1 Bury 3
Bad day at the office for Mick's men and they certainly can't afford many more.

Town 2 Grimsby 2
Newell back at the Kenny, but Luton snatch a point with a disputed penalty in stoppage time.

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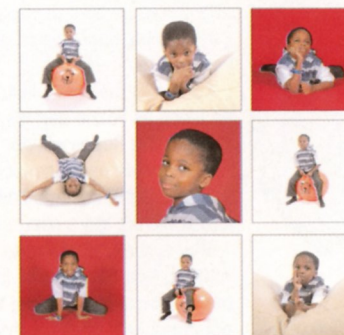
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Lookie likies...



CULT Hatters hero Ian Roper obviously thinks he can cut it with some of the club's greatest legends as he tries to impersonate Littlewoods Cup-winning captain and current backer Steve Foster, left.

No-one in the club's history has ever achieved as much as Fozzie and it's unlikely that current number five Ropes will get anywhere near.

His fetching bandage lacks the panache and individuality of Foster's headband, but you can't knock the big guy's commitment.

After a shaky start Ropes has become a big hit with the Kenilworth Road faithful. His performances are starting to match the adoration he's been receiving - even though all he does is boot it and head it according to Mick.



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Forward planning

how striker Chris Martin is going to fire us to safety

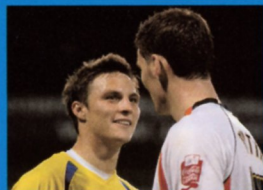
>> He's prepared to risk a card for diving in an attempt to get Hatters a crucial spotkick



<< He got whacked in the nuts once but he's going to take early precautions to prevent a repeat of Town ending up playing with 10 as he recovers >>



<< His confidence is sky high after the players set up a fan club in his honour after his double strike versus Lincoln



<< As the dressing room joker Chris boosts team morale. He also doesn't mind sharing the odd gag with the opposition (during a match so they lose concentration) >>



<< Since this early season example of poor control, his touch has improved - just ask this opponent >>



<< He's already served one suspension - mostly for back-chatting the ref - so now he's promised to keep his gob shut and let his shooting boots do the talking

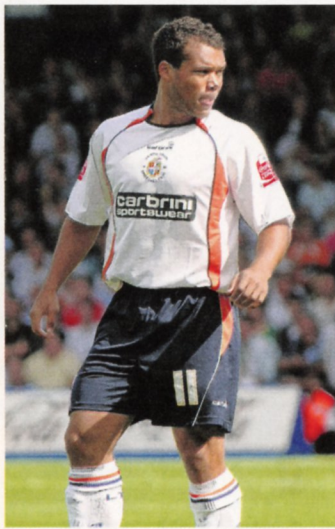


<< He realises that he's got to convince Mick not to send him back to Norwich with the prospect of one ex-Scum boss Hoofroyd replacing another (Roeder)





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



SUBLIME TO RIDICULOUS: A goal followed by injury for the unlucky Lewis Emanuel

AS if our task wasn't difficult enough already, our quest for survival seems to be constantly hampered by disruptions.

Firstly, the temperature has been dipping below our points' tally for the first time this season, with the Kenilworth Road pitch being left harder than the brick wall that is Ian Roper.

I had planned to go and visit one of my Uni friends who lives in Chester and take in the match at the Deva Stadium.

However, with the West Coast Mainline in chaos, and then my dad's car deciding not to start, a re-think was in order.

Fortunately, I stayed at home, with the match postponement confirming it was 'one of them days'.

However, when the match did get played, another all too common

disruption thwarted us again.

Ahead through Chrissy Martin and a Lewis Emanuel special - a low shot from miles out that took about 20 bounces before finding the bottom corner - unlucky Lewis fell victim to a nasty knee injury.

The game was stopped for nearly 10 minutes, causing us to lose all our flow and drop two vital points. Just how many times has that happened?

Remember the Aldershot game when we started like a house on fire but then had to stop after Keano's piledriver hit a bit of loose wood in the Oak Road End?

However, the result meant we still hadn't lost since November 29.

So if Darlington didn't manage to beat us last week, I expect the Kenny to echo with 'We are unbeatable!' today!

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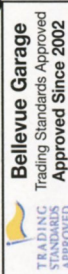
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[illegible]

what a beauty!

VITAL STATISTICS

Full Name: Jenna Bruce

Age: 19

Occupation: Lifeguard

Attached? In a relationship

Been a supporter since: I was six

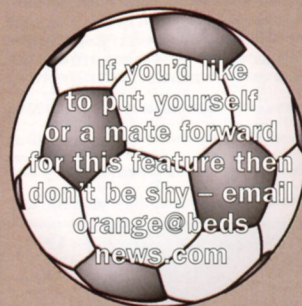
Best looking Hatter: Dean Brill

Most valuable player: Sol Davis

Player to flog: George Beavan

Ideal night out: Anywhere with
my friends

Favourite TV show: Hollyoaks



Jenna



girls' world



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

THIRTY down to zero, here come the Hatters again!

I'm trying to remain as happy and excited as I was when I came home from university for Christmas.

Two draws and a win, was the best present I could have had (apart from three wins perhaps! - Ed).

And while I mention Christmas presents, I received two Hatters-based gifts.

The first was the Luton Town book Staring Into The Abyss: Minus 30, The Coldest Place In Football. It's been a really good read and perfect for when I should be doing uni assignments!

The second present was

RUMOUR MILL:

A certain stropky loan player is on his way back and the natives are getting restless.

MAN OF THE MOMENT:

Mick Harford - he had no qualms about telling us how badly we played. And we appreciate that, Mick.

CELEB WATCH

My sources tell me the Chuckle Brothers are fans of Rotherham United! How unfortunate!

the Luton Town calendar, which I have had every year for as long as I can remember.

However, now that I'm in my 21st year I would like to point out the obvious fault with this gift. The players that have

been chosen for October, November and December may not be with us by then - just like the last couple of years, when I've flipped the pages over to see such players as Warren Feeney and Dean Morgan.

It's a really depressing way to start the month!

Therefore, I propose a sticker process where you just change the head and can have the player you want each month! Although in my case, just give me 12 Nico stickers!

I'm very excited at the arrival of our new player Sunday-Akanni Wasuu.

I'm just waiting for the song you guys are going to come up with for him!

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Peek at pressies

at the Morecambe game we had a word with Santa to find out what gifts he was offloading at LTFC



"Nice outfit Santa, but wouldn't that basket be more suitable for the Easter bunny"

Kevin Nicholls: Some new hair clippers. He's let his hair grow and now we can see he's gone grey with the worry of Town's troubles - see right. **Kevin Watson and Gareth O'Connor:** Some hooks to hang up their boots on. **Jordan Patrick:** Some GCSE text books to help him revise. **Ian Henderson and Drew Talbot:** After long barren spells, both strikers received some goalscoring ability. **Tom Craddock:** A pen to sign a renewed loan deal.



Chris Martin: Santa got confused and thought Chris was Coldplay's lead singer so he received the band's album and 2009 calendar. **Dean Morgan and Sam Parkin:** Return tickets back to Leyton Orient. **Michael Spillane and Ian Roper:** A golden boot each as it looks like one of the



defensive duo is most likely to end up our top scorer. **Jake Howells:** Matt Taylor footage on DVD to help his development. **Mick Harford:** By the time he'd dished out gifts to the players Santa had ran out of pressies. He offered Mick the sack but the gaffer turned it down.

reasons to be positive+

now we've not got a negative points tally can Town's great escape gather pace?

AT -30 we were the coldest place in football. But now we've got that monkey off our backs it's time to be positive. Here are some reasons why Hatters can mount a bid for football league survival:

Other teams may soon call in the administrators, so they'll be docked 10 points, making reeling them in that little bit easier.

Nico will be back and if he's fit this time our

Our escape will be made that bit easier if other League Two clubs are forced to give big Brendan a call to sort out their finances

midfield will be totally transformed.

We've got a promising batch of kids fighting for first team places, including Jake, Ed, George, Jordan and Ryan.

We've got 21 cup finals



left to play this season so it's going to be very exciting.

We've got a great away following which will help us bag some vital points on the road. There's also a possible trip to Wembley in the paint pot trophy which could put a bit of

gloss on the season.

The law of averages says Drew Talbot must score soon.

Forget the Marvin or Enoch fan clubs of recent seasons, we can all now sign up to the newly-formed Ian Roper Appreciation Society.

We can look forward to a massive party when we pull off the miracle.

One way or another we might well mount a title challenge next season.

STICK YOUR 30 PTS UP YOUR FA.

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the ones that got away

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



CLIVE GOODYEAR:
No-nonsense central defender Clive started his football career with his local non-League side Lincoln United, from where he was recommended to then Luton manager David Pleat.

After signing on for the Hatters as a 17-year-old in October 1978, Clive climbed his way up through the ranks and made his league debut at home to Wrexham in April 1980.

One man's misfortune is

another's opportunity, and so it proved for Clive, who replaced the injured Mike Saxby in 1981/82 and held his spot as the Town walked away with the championship of the old Division Two at the end of that campaign.

Retaining his place the following season, all seemed set fair for a long Luton career for Clive, but Pleat then brought in Paul Elliott and his days at Kenilworth Road were numbered.

Offloaded to Plymouth in August 1984, Clive enjoyed three years at Home Park before being catapulted back into the top flight after a £45,000 bid from Wimbledon was accepted.

Although a string of injuries cut back his appearances at Plough Lane, which included him missing out on the FA Cup semi-final clash with the Hatters in 1988, he was back in the side shortly afterwards and picked up a winners'

medal as the Dons beat Liverpool 1-0 in the final.

After retiring from playing, Clive became a qualified physiotherapist and worked for a number of clubs, including the Town. Clive now has his own practice in Bletchley.



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from the allotments



... with 'orrible 'ornet Don Monty



JANUARY'S here and that means one thing in football world - transfer talk.

Not necessarily transfers. Transfer talk is what it's all about, who was seen watching who and where.

So when Mark Hughes is spotted taking a weekend trip to Milan and watching a game featuring Kaka, you know talk of a bid isn't far away.

If Rafa Benitez is caught watching Boca Juniors v River Plate,

the chances are he's got a player in mind.

And when Mick Harford is seen hopping on an easyJet flight from Luton to Barcelona and spotted in the Nou Camp watching Henry and Messi ... well, you know he's just gone on holiday.

There's not much New Year cheer right now.

It's all grim at the Glory Horns. 2-0 last Saturday with our two former strikers doing the damage.

Worst defence in

the league, leakier than a chocolate sieve in a heatwave.

However, talking of letting in goals... the less said about your defeat at Darlington the better. Oh, go on, just a few words.

You know things are pretty bad when you have to play Darlington in the league anyway, but sympathies to those who did make the 2,500-mile round-trip for that one.

Even Mr Harford reckoned it was shambolic at the

back. You're on zero points and half way through the season you've made up half the ground on the third from bottom side.

Having said that, Grimsby were pretty hopeless for the first half of the season - can they be that bad in the second half?

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See, it's not all hopeless! Yellow army.



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