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hatters matters

... a word from the editor

SO Mr Mike Newell made his triumphant return to Kenilworth Road on Tuesday... erm maybe not.

His Grimsby side seemed to show none of the style or panache of his old Town teams and the Hatters deservedly grabbed all three points, despite the Mariners' constant time wasting and spoiling tactics.

Having levelled his hefty financial claim against the Hatters, Newell even had the audacity to clap all sides of the ground, before saying afterwards he doesn't have to 'justify' himself to anyone.

Oh for a phone vote



Who wants to be first to clap Newelly in irons?

now to decide who is right.

At least there was no calamity Kettle to ruin our last-minute celebrations this time around.

And with Grimsby floundering at the bottom end of the table, we could well be welcoming the Scouser back next year too!

Still, at least we have Wembley to look forward to. The Hatters will be taking more than 30,000 fervent fans to the hallowed venue for the final of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy and let's hope they do us proud.

Also, keep an eye out for a special Wembley edition of Half-Time Orange.

Win some Wembley cup final tickets

LUTON Town are off to Wembley on April 5 for their first cup final in 20 years. And if you take the trouble of sending the Hatters a good luck message for the Johnstone's Paint Trophy match against Scunthorpe you could be joining them there.

In conjunction with the Herald&Post we're giving away 10 pairs of £40 tickets

to see the big match.

Messages need to be sent by text or email by 12noon on March 30 at the latest.

The randomly-selected lucky 10 recipients of a pair of Wembley tickets will then be notified and will need to collect their prize from our offices at Media House, 39 Upper George Street, Luton.

WHAT TO DO >> Send in a text message. Type **LHWEMBLEY**, followed by a space, then type your good luck message, followed by your name and address. Then send the text to 81800. Your message must not be longer than 160 characters. Texts will cost 60p, plus your standard network rate.

>> You can also email nominations to editorial@heraldpost.co.uk, but please include a daytime telephone number.

>> This competition is run by Johnstone's Paint. Premier Newspapers tries to ensure satisfactory service, but does not accept responsibility should problems arise. Normal rules apply.

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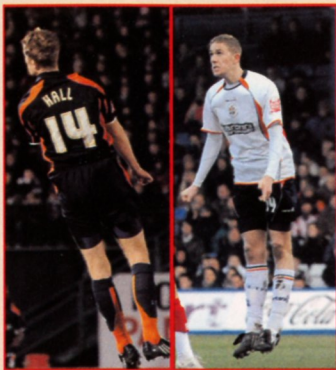
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The news at



Heads you win

MIDFIELDER Asa Hall has been in the goals this season. Among his tally, he's weighed in with quite a few headers. It all goes to show that practice makes perfect. Earlier in the season his heading had a distinct Frank Spencer style about it. But now coaching from Big Mick (who, of course, used to score the odd goal or two with his bonce) has seen him heading in the right direction. Keen-to-impress Asa jumped to the task in hand before Mick did his nut.

Just the ticket – and not 30,000!

LTF2020 have been giving it large about how we're suddenly going to rustle up 30,000 fans to help fill Wembley for the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final. They reckon there are enough supporters somewhere in the rotten Main Stand woodwork to outnumber and out-sing Scunthorpe. I know the FA have got it in for us, but judging by this sign outside the ticket office there may be a bit of a problem with Hatters' ticket allocation.



Sickening pressure

WE were well proud of the boys when they held their nerve to smash home some great spot-kicks to seal victory in the penalty shoot-out against League One Brighton.

One by one, Chris Martin, Tom Craddock, Asa Hall and Ryan Charles hit the net to secure our showpiece Paint Pot

match at Wembley.

But have you ever wondered on whose shoulders the responsibility would have fallen if a fifth kick had been needed? It's just as well Rossi Jarvis wasn't required. He's seen here as the drama unfolds, sick as a parrot at the thought of the pressure ahead.

Ken Rumours, speculation, gossip and half-truths

The case for the defence



MICK'S suffered more than a few injury setbacks this season. And the back four has been particularly unsettled. With even more injuries now, it's left just Ed still standing as our only recognised defender. That was until the gaffer managed to unearth some new recruits, which he unveiled to the press in the Armdale earlier this week. Will Sol, Pilks, Ropes & Co be able to force their way back into the team?

You could make it up!

IS this the moment, far right, when Luton Town boosted their chances of a Wembley appearance?

The FA thinks so and is investigating if Rossi Jarvis slipped Brighton keeper Michelle Kuipers a crispy £50 note during the handshake ahead of our Paint Pot Trophy area

final showdown.

Moments later Tom Craddock cashed in to open the scoring after the keeper booted.

To most fans our innocence seems very cut and dried – so expect to be thrown out of the competition and another 10 points off the league tally.

Sit down, but we won't be shut up



WITH Nico on the sidelines again, our passionate skipper has had plenty of time to mull over protest ideas against the FA/FL at Wembley. He's decided the boys should do something before kick-off to make the authorities sit up and listen for once.



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Town 2 Macc 0 Now steady at the back, the Hatters fire on all cylinders in attack to claim an easy victory.	More 0 Town 1 The spirit of Eric Morecambe is with the Hatters who snatch a late winner on the day.	Town 3 Roth 1 The teams above the Hatters are beginning to look nervously over their shoulders.	L'coln 0 Town 2 Everybody has started to believe the Hatters may just pull off the greatest escape.
Town 3 Macc 1 I'm expecting a comfortable home win. But with Town all you can expect is the unexpected.	More 0 Town 2 A point at Kenilworth Road, but Morecambe won't be as jammy this time around.	Town 2 Roth 0 A third straight win, I must have been on the booze. Martin and Craddock to net.	L'coln 1 Town 0 It's mid-table opponents who have nothing to play for. That'll be a definite defeat then.
Town 1 Macc 0 A tense afternoon is settled by a Tom Craddock strike that secures the three points.	More 0 Town 1 Arsenal-esque Hatters claim another narrow victory with Sam Parkin on target.	Town 1 Roth 1 Just the one point this time as the hosts battle back from a goal down to claim a draw.	L'coln 0 Town 0 Another point as the defences rule the game, but the Hatters are still in with a shout.
Town 2 Macc 1 A Tom Craddock double is enough to hand the Town maximum points at the Kenny.	More 3 Town 2 Rene Howe treble downs Harford's men. Should have signed him eh, Mick?	Town 1 Roth 1 Again, chance after chance goes begging at home and the end is nigh for Luton.	L'coln 5 Town 1 Oh dear. Town not yet down but, mathematically, after this defeat, it won't be long.

our survey says...
It's 1pt for a right result and 2pts for a precise score

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girls' world



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

THE temptation with this column is to focus on the 'doom and gloom' that surrounds the club at the moment.

The newspapers and radio stations are already relegating us, even The Times suggested that our trip to Wembley is a consolation prize.

I'm outraged, our relegation is not a done deal (although I've written this ahead of Tuesday night's return of a certain Mr Newell).

I'll admit our results are not consistent, but don't write us off just yet, please.

Girls, what do we make of Ian Henderson's Alice band?

Whilst this attire looks fabulous on the more exotic players from Brazil and Spain in the higher leagues, I'm not sure he doesn't just look like a



CELEB WATCH:

It was once quoted that the infamous WWE wrestler Dwayne Johnson, otherwise known as the The Rock (pictured), supported Macclesfield. I could just about cope with Meat Loaf and Hartlepool, but this is ridiculous.

MAN OF THE MONTH

I still stand by Ed Asafu-Adjaye as one of the most hard-working players at the moment. And he is superstitious - when the Johnstone paint trophy came to the Arndale Centre, he wouldn't touch it.

bit of a buffoon!

Still at least he's letting his hair down and putting in some decent performance on the pitch.

But instead of nipping down to Accessorize to purchase his headbands, why doesn't he do a Nico and shave it all off?

And with Wembley looming,

I'm hoping that Nico is match fit. There is nothing I would rather see than him lifting the cup, but I won't speak to soon!

With 29,000 tickets (and counting) sold already for Wembley it's going to be more than just the consolation prize!

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Famous Hatters fan Eric Morecambe is commemorated by a bronze statue in the seaside town, above, the real Eric poses with a nurse, right, and Morecambe fans don his famous hat, coat and glasses at Kenilworth Road



Bring us some sunshine Eric

BATTLING Hatters will be hoping to have the last laugh when they make their first-ever trip to Morecambe next Saturday.

Larger-than-life Luton legend Eric Morecambe took his stage name from the town in which he grew up in, but Town will be hoping his spirit is with them when they make the long trip north to Lancashire.

The Hatters are in desperate need of some sunshine in

what has been a long season with all the points deductions.

One can only imagine what Eric would have made of it.

If only he was still around to bring the FA and Football League to book on the Morecambe and Wise show - perhaps Brian Mawhinney would even have been offered a guest slot.

Depressingly, he'd probably have taken him up on it as Mawhinney seems to crave the limelight ahead of justice, judging by his past actions.

The club has fostered good relations with their northern adversaries, who gave them a miniature bronze of the funny man in December when the two sides drew 1-1.

However, a group of Hatters fans are set to deck him in a Luton shirt prior to the game, he'd probably have liked it - but not a lot.

Let's hope both sets of fans cherish the comedy legend, but if Eric was there on the day, there's only one team he'd be cheering for...



However, this disappointment is

**GOALKEEPERS' UNION: Jimmy Glass, Dean Brill and Lewis Price**

Price's on-loan heroics reminded me of the story of Jimmy Glass, the keeper who, having just joined Carlisle, kept them in the Football League with a last-gasp goal, having

With our next game on Sky being the JPT final, I should probably head down The Eldon again to make sure we secure the trophy. Not a chance. We're going to Wembley!

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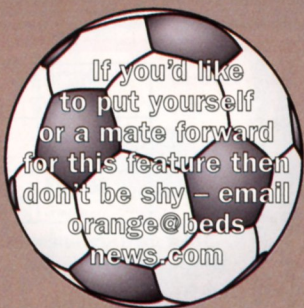
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VITAL STATISTICS

Full Name: Sarah Saunders

Age: 20

Occupation: Sales advisor

Attached? Single

Been a supporter since:

I was little

Best looking Hatter: Dean Brill

Most valuable player:

Kevin Nicholls

Player to flog: Ian Roper

Ideal night out: Going out with my girls and having fun!

Favourite TV shows: Friends

sarah



O'Cahan you believe it?

Hatters fan John O'Cahan gives his verdict on the latest Kenilworth Road news

SO we're 15 points adrift. Yes, it's starting to look impossible after that defeat at Aldershot, and our inability to string two wins together is starting to come back to haunt us.

It's beginning to look as if all that could save us now is financial meltdown at clubs above us, and the subsequent administration or bankruptcies.

As of the time of writing (before the Grimsby game), we are 14 points behind Grimsby and 15 behind Chester.

However, we have a game in hand on Grimsby and two on Chester - if we can somehow put a good

string of games together in the run-up to Wembley, then the table starts to look a bit nicer.

You may have seen in The Independent that there was reference to an "un-named source" claiming that a Fourth Division (and it will always be the Fourth Division) side will be unable to fulfil their fixtures.

However, I think we should concentrate on trying to dig ourselves out of the hole ourselves first. It's of little consequence anyway, because if we do manage to put a winning streak together and catch either Grimsby or Chester, then we will probably catch the other

one as well.

This isn't the first great escape we've had, though we've not had one of such a great magnitude.

However, in my opinion, this is the most important. Dropping out of the Football League would be an absolute catastrophe, not just for this club but for football as a whole.

Someone remarked to me that next season will probably see Luton Town, Oxford United and Wimbledon all playing each other in non-league football. It's a crazy thought, isn't it?

Think back to '83, when Antic tucked it away at Maine Road to

keep us up at the expense of Man City.

And of 1990, when six points adrift with only three games to go, and surely doomed, we managed to beat Arsenal 2-0 and Crystal Palace 1-0, before that magical 3-2 win over Derby County at the Baseball Ground that saw us stay up on goal difference ahead of Sheffield Wednesday.

This is what it is to support Luton Town. Even if we do go down, I don't believe it will make that much difference in the long term. 2020's plans go to... well, 2020.

There's a long way to go yet. Keep on believing. Our time will come.

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Just call him Sol



ONLY 503 of you lucky so and sos made the glamorous trip up to Vale Park to watch the Hatters turn in some Brazilian magic against hapless Port Vale.

Town were in scintillating form as they tore the northerners apart with some lovely pass-and-move football.

Veteran maestro Kevin Gallen pulled the strings, while there was also plenty of flair on display from the likes of Ian Henderson, Chris Martin and Tom Craddock.



But none of them could upstage crowd favourite Sol Davis who took the game by the scruff of the neck in the closing stages.

Several marauding second-half runs by the



popular left-back, which the likes of Socrates, Ronaldinho, Pele and Juninho would have been proud of, left the Valiants trailing in his wake.

Here at Orange we think that Mr Davis now deserves special dispensation to be simply known (in true

Brazilian style) as Sol.

It will save you money putting his name on the back of your shirt and busy referees would also be given a break when it came to jotting down his name in their notebook.

Here's to Sol – get in there my sun!



Sol gives it some Brazilian finger waving, top left, and some potential new teammates celebrate, above

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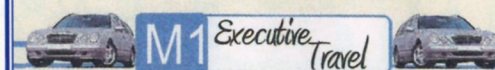
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the ones that got away

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



AFTER being rejected by his boyhood heroes Liverpool as a youngster, Mike Newell joined Crewe in 1983, but after making only three League appearances he was allowed to slip through the net at Gresty Road and went to Wigan on a free transfer.

He enjoyed much more success at Springfield Park, including scoring against Brentford in the Freight Rover final win at Wembley in 1985, and was becoming a sought-after commodity when Luton manager David Pleat paid out £90,000 to bring him to Kenilworth Road in January 1986 as a replacement for the injured Emeka Nwajobi.

Newell went straight into the Town's top-flight side and scored a respectable six goals in 16 outings in 1985/86 before being ever present the following season and ending top scorer as the Hatters finished in their highest ever position of seventh.

The high spot of his career at Kenilworth Road was a hat-trick in the 4-1 thrashing of Liverpool in October 1986 in front of an incredulous crowd of 13,140.

It came as a surprise when new manager Ray Harford allowed him to go to Leicester in September 1987 for a record Foxes fee of £350,000, explaining that the club had an embarrassment of riches at the time and he did not like playing him and Mick Harford together!

After a successful spell at Filbert Street, where he eventually joined up with David Pleat again, he moved to Everton for £1 million in 1989 and then picked up England B caps before becoming a £1.1 million Kenny Dalglish signing for Blackburn, where he helped them to the Premiership title in 1995.

By the time he hung up his boots Mike had made over 500 league and cup appearances for 12 clubs, attracting transfer fees totalling £3.5 million along the way!



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By remaining focussed and professional at all times, you must have the skills necessary to support them through into further education, training or employment. Knowledge and understanding of local organisations and agencies including training and employment opportunities for young people is essential.

Job descriptions and application forms are available from:
Claudette Brown

47 Cardiff Road, Luton, LU1 1PP
Telephone: (01582) 458965

Closing date for applications: Friday 27th March

Nacro values the diverse nature of its staff, trustees and service users. We will ensure that this is reflected in all our practices, policies and services. We welcome applications from candidates regardless of ethnic origin, gender, age, religious belief or sexual orientation or disability, and from ex-offenders. Nacro is a registered charity no. 226171.

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You will be responsible for leading and inspiring a small team. You must be a team player able to maintain team spirit and be able to listen to the views and opinions of others, sharing your knowledge with them to ensure good practice.

Closing date for applications: Wednesday 1st April 2009
Interviews will be held on: Wednesday 8th April 2009

For an application form and further details please contact:

Centre for Youth and Community Development (CYCD)
94-106 Leagrave Road, Luton, LU4 8HZ
Telephone: 01582 480779 (24 hrs answer phone)

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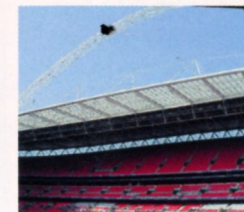
And, I guess, if you actually win the thing you'll be torturing us Golden Boys with more drivel about how



you've actually won trophies and we haven't.

That may strictly be true, I have to admit. That's if you don't count the pre-season Copa Ibiza we proudly lifted in the summer five years ago.

I also think it's really unfair we can't count the Herts Senior Cups



we've won (which actually isn't that many, as we usually get embarrassingly skittled out by Hemel or Hitchin or Harpenden).

No doubt you'll be all witnessing that great woodwork evacuation all clubs see at cup final time?

You know, when the

7,000-odd crowd you get at home each week (along with the excuses of 'sorry, just don't have the time to go to games these days') suddenly swells to 40,000 as people amazingly find they have a day free to go to Wembley... if there's decent weather of course!

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Please contact Mrs A Pitchford, PA to Headteacher, for more details regarding this post on: 01582 415791
Heads-pa@putteridgehigh.luton.sch.uk

An application form and information pack can also be requested online at: recruitment@putteridgehigh.luton.sch.uk

Closing date: Tuesday 24th March
Interviews will be held during the week beginning Monday 30th March

CV's will not be accepted.

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post including checks with past employers and the Criminal Records Bureau. We are an equal opportunities employer.

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Interview Dates 21st April and 24th April

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Or call Jason or Jenny for a discussion on
01225 780145.

www.reconstruct.co.uk

IT Systems Manager

Urban Saints is a Christian missionary movement committed to seeing a generation of young people make a difference in their world.

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Essential experience includes working with Microsoft Windows server/ network administration and support, Microsoft Exchange administration, loading OS and software on to PCs and project management.

Salary range £22-30K pa,
 dependant on skill and experience.

Closing date for applications:
Friday, 3 April 2009.

For more information or an application pack,
please contact recruitment@urbansaints.org.
Full details at www.urbansaints.org

Urban Saints is the operating name
 of The Crusaders' Union,
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