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luton

hatters matters

IT'S been a season of ups and downs.

But, unfortunately, after today it'll be the major downer of the campaign that we're all going to have to come to terms with.

Luton Town are down. Out of the Football League and into non-league obscurity.

Of course, it's all due to the pathetic points penalties the club had to battle against. But I still remain convinced that. with the squad at our disposal, we should have had enough quality to get ourselves out of this pickle. But then again perhaps I underestimated the psychological impact of starting the season so far adrift.

It's now time for the community to get behind the club like



LET DOWN: A rare sight, Kevin Nicholls puts in a pants performance before the expectant Luton Town crowd as Hatters show off the Johnstone's Paint Trophy

never before.

More of the 40,000 fans who made it to Wembley need to be coming through the turnstiles regularly next

Our support can help ensure it's only a cameo appearance in the Blue Square Premier (but I bet Oxford, Cambridge, Mansfield, Torquay fans thought the same too.) And if you don't turn out, you're not going to be able to

catch up with the goals on ITV1's The Championship on a Sunday morning, that's for sure.

Next season, once the team crosses that white line, it'll be us against them and for 90 minutes we'll forget about the actual league we're in... maybe.

Mick has to have the boys up in the promotion spots from the opening weeks. If not, there can be no more excuses.



Life at Luton Town is never dull. So why not send us vour views on the Hatters and today's match action by emailing

orange@bedsnews.com

The best messages will appear in the letters pages of The Luton News and Dunstable Gazette

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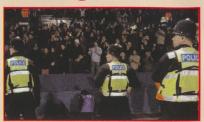
Take note – yet more financial irregularities



POLICE have ditched their investigation into counterfeit currency at Luton Town.

The boys in blue were keenly searching the crowd for the culprit when the now infamous doctored fiver, with Mike Newell's head replacing the Queen, was circulated at the Grimsby game.

Thankfully, Mike saw the funny side



and was seen after the match clapping the efforts of the ioker.

But Town's troubles may not be over. Orange has

heard the FA is sniffing around. Rumour has it a penalty for financial irregularities for the 2009-10 campaign looks certain!

Tom's little balls up

STAR striker Tom Craddock obviously cares about Luton Town judging by his performances for the Hatters. But he can't be the sharpest tool in the box.

Firstly, he signed a permanent two-year deal at a club doomed to relegation out of the Football League (although we bet he's got an escape clause in that contract).

Secondly, he's seen at full-time against Exeter trying to claim the match ball. Yes, you got a goal Tom, and, yes, you had a decent game, but as a striker surely you know you need to find the net three times to earn a nice little souvenir.





'I'm first lads'

CLUB captain Nico always leads by example, but that doesn't usually stop him having the odd tiff with the match officials as passions spill over in the heat of battle.

But is Nico maturing now? He's seen here protecting a dodgy lino from a scrum of angry players. Either that or he's holding them back so he can have first pop at him!

Ken Rumours, speculation, gossip and half-truths

Thank you for your support!

YOU'LL never guess who Orange bumped into at Wembley ahead of the Paint Pot final (well, you will because they're in this photo).

Amazingly, ex-chairman Dave Pinkney and former gaffer Kevin Blackwell had the balls to turn up for the Scunthorpe showpiece.

Dave infamously predicted that Hatters would be in the Premiership in five years when he took over in April 2007 - and left as a broken man a few months later.

Luton lad Kevin's dream job turned into a nightmare and resulted in him being given the boot by the administrator after less than a year at the helm.



Dave, reportedly, had the opportunity to sell to LTFC2020 and avoid our administration hell, which led to the best players being sold and a succession of points deductions.

While Key, who favoured an ultraattacking 4-5-1 formation at home. didn't do us any favours by lumbering us with a succession of over-paid, unmotivated ageing pros.

Thanks for the memories boys!



Where's winger?

by Ian Henderson's regular omission from the starting line-up.

The lively winger has been warming the bench, with Frenchman Claude Gnakna occupying an advanced wide-right role.

We're convinced there's more to it than meets the eye. Judging by his uncomfortable pose, above, has lan got it in the neck from Mick for not peforming in training?

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our survey

THE season may be over for the Hatters. but there's still plenty to play for with our Half-time Orange contest to predict Luton Town's scores.

Amazingly, three of our boys are neck and neck going into the final home game today. Poor Steve, who won last season's contest with 30 points, needs to get the precise score this afternoon to even make double figures.

While the leading trio of Carl. Mark and Alec are all hoping to claim the winner's trophy by moving on from unlucky 13.

We've not going to attempt to predict next Saturday's game at Brentford. Mainly because we're having our end of season lash-up tonight and the winner has to buy all the beers.



mark wood

Town 1 Rochdale 1 Well the season's been all about frustrating draws and this is no different as Tom Craddock nets.



steve sims

Town 1 Rochdale 2 have more to play for. heir desire for the three dispirited Town.

SEASON REFLECTION Silly lost points in the

SEASON REFLECTION

No-one quite realised

quite what a burden

the points penalties

will be different.

would be - next term it

dear, but we should to recover the deficit.



swann

Town 2 Rochdale 0 The league campaign may have ended in disappointment, but the Hatters go out in some sort of style.

before their emotional

ap of honour to mark

the end of an era.

SEASON REFLECTION

A massive deficit and indifferent home form do not make for a successful season and so it proved.



carl field

Town 4 Rochdale 0 **SEASON REFLECTION** Town turn on the style

only ever going to be a matter of when, and not if, the club would

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girls' world

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

WE'RE the famous Luton Town and we won at Wembley.

I have to repeat it over and over, for the tears will come again.

I know there are so many clichés flying around at the moment and it's hard not to use them in everyday conversations.

Just the other day I found myself telling a woman in Sainsbury's, who had noticed my Luton scarf: "It's been a rollercoaster of a season, but we'll bounce back, we always do."

What I really wanted to do though, was throw a tantrum right there by the frozen peas and tell her how bloody unfair this whole thing is.

And if anybody at the FA with half a brain had watched all



Hatters fans at Wembley

40,000 of us at Wembley, they'd give us at least 15 points back.

And as I oh so smoothly link to Wembley...

What a day! Never before have I turned down breakfast and lunch through such nerves.

I even heard one man comment it felt like his wedding day all over again!

And never have I been so

proud to be a Hatter. As I looked at all of us singing, waving our flags and also staring in bewilderment. I realised why I loved being a Luton fan so much.

Why would you want to be a Chelsea or Arsenal fan when vou can watch a team like Luton and get to Wembley with it actually meaning something?

And it meant the world, didn't it? Especially with the next weekend's serious disappointment of relegation.

It was inevitable, and as a Luton fan we take the rough with the smooth (another great cliché), but I think it's our turn for some of the smooth.

So see you all in the Blue Square Premier, where we'll be the stars of the show.





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An honours degree at 2:2 or above English and Maths at GCSE level Grade C or above Good communication skills: IT literate Previous work with children desirable but not essential

INFORMATION EVENING - Wednesday 29th April at 5.45pm

If you would like to find out more about our courses then please come along to this session where you will have the opportunity to meet both staff and trainees. It will take place in the School Hall at Challney Boys School.

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End of season awards



WORST LOAN: Well, it could have gone to Josh Klein-Davies, but the PFA win for lending Chester and Bournemouth cash to stop them getting points deductions for going into administration





BEST HAIRDO: Rossis Jarvis' scalping was in the running as was lan Henderson's trim to render his Alice band redundant, but eventually our judges shared the gong between Michael Spillane and Ryan Charles members of the Orange Rinse Brigade





SAVE OF THE SEASON: We've had a lot of keepers, but the best save has to be off-loading Dean Morgan to Orient to get his mega-bucks salary off the wage bill





BEST BANNER: Hatters fans are famous for their wit, but you've got to be careful with banners otherwise they'll be ordered down by stewards or ignored by TV cameras. Mawhinney The Pooh wins because it made us laugh



NOT LIVING UP TO YOUR NAME AWARD: Keith was Keane in the tackle. Jake Howells out instructions to teammates when he plays, so Dean Brill has to get this one for failing to nail down the keeper's jersey

GOAL OF THE SEASON: All year our goal has been to make up the points deficit. Unfortunately we failed, so we'll have to give his honour to Tom Craddock for his last-ditch point saver at Grimsby - especially as it would have really annoyed Mr Newell



was up for this award, but

WORST REFEREE: There's been some rubbish out on the Kenilworth Road pitch, but what about the man in the middle (boom, boom!). We all got steamed up about Trevor Kettle's performance v Bradford. A clear winner

exiled hat

University of Leeds student Tom Skinner a Luton fan oop north



ALTHOUGH relegation to non-league football had been on the cards since our points deduction in July, the realisation of this on Easter Monday was another cruel twist in a surreal season.

So for those of you who thought Barrow was something found in your shed amongst the potato sacks and Crawley

something the spiders might be doing underneath the flowerpots, it's time to get your road atlas out.

If Jane Ledsom and the boys got lost on the way to Wembley, 'Nico's Van' will certainly need a sat-nav fitting in time for next season.

It really is very sad, when the players have proved in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy how



talented they are.

With league leaders Brentford and four League One sides seen off before we lifted the silverware, our road to glory could hardly have been tougher.

With the shackles off in this competition we have seen the old Luton Town, the club we come along every week to support.

Slick, creative, attacking football and that necessary bit of arrogance was exemplified in Chris Martin's equaliser at Wembley. I challenge anyone to find a better team goal than that this season.

What a perfect day it was in all respects and myself, my father and my

best mate lapped up the occasion (along with some cool beers after the game!)

What keeps me positive for next season is the 2020 consortium. Nick Owen's reaction to Claude Gnakpa's winner was that of any true Luton fan - fists clenched, arms outstretched, head back in delight. What a legend.



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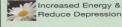
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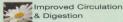
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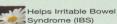
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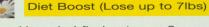












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VITAL STATISTICS

Full Name: Rachel Hennessy

Age: 19

Occupation: Student

Attached? Single

Been a supporter since: A casual fan, been to a few matches with friends over the years

Best looking Hatter: Dean Brill Most valuable player: Kevin

Player to flog: Lewis Emanuel Ideal night out: A decent club, with hot men and my group of

girlies

Favourite TV shows: Hollyoaks,
Gossip Girl, 91210,
The Inbetweeners, Skins

Rachel

Electron



O'Cahan you believe it?

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

So here we are at the end of one of the most unusual seasons football has ever seen.

The minus 30 points finally proved to be too much and the authorities got their way.

April 13 wasn't just a sad day for Luton Town Football Club, it was a tragedy for football as a whole.

Luton Town, the first professional club in the south of England, will be a non-league team next season.

The Blue Square Premier will be a whole new adventure for Luton Town and our target has to be to bounce right back!

However, it would be

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suicidal to approach the first season in non-league since 1920 with a chip on our shoulder.

We can't go into next season seeing this league as below us.

We have to knuckle down, take in the task at hand and get on with it.

We are fortunate in that we have the best people in the background assemble a squad this we could possibly have for our situation. We have people running the club now who are just the right balance between fans and businessmen.

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know how to run a football club.

We'll have another new-look squad next season as certain players inevitably move on or return to their parent clubs.

We are lucky again in that we have Mick Harford at this club. A man who managed to season that undoubtedly would have challenged for promotion on a level playing field.

In the Paint Pot Trophy we beat one of the top teams in the division above (and three more from League One) and that was no fluke.

But just as important as all of the people

involved with the day-today running of the club are you, the fans.

Now, more than ever. your club needs you to stand up and be counted.

Renew your season ticket or, if you don't have one, buy one next season.

This season has shown more than ever that if the fans stand together then the club will never die, but the job is not yet finished.

We have to keep on going, come rain or shine, until this club is great again.

Funnily enough we will probably be playing AFC Wimbledon next year.

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hit or miss?

Half-time Orange gives you its verdict on the best and worst players of this stressful season

HIT: Tom Craddock looks a He's now matured and has snip at £80,000. He's being banging in the goals and always poses a threat to the opposition. Let's hope we can somehow hold on to him.

HIT: George Pilkington: Pilks has been out injured for most of the season and was a big miss for the defence. Results have improved since his return. But is he another with a relegation escape clause?

HIT: Keith Keane: Luton Town through and through.

become an influential part of the team. Gaffer once said: "I wish I had 11 Keith Keanes." Not sure we'd go that far!

HIT: Michael Spillane: Norwich loanee has grown in stature during the season and since being shunted to right back has shown an ability to rampage forward. Thanks for the memories.

HIT: Chris Martin: Another Canary who'll be winging his way back to his parent



OUR GOAL: To keep Tom

club this summer. Got his fair share of goals, but indiscipline has led to some suspensions.

HIT: Kevin Gallen: Golden oldie lacks any pace but knows how to hold the ball up and pick a pass.

But we've been relegated so there must be some misses...

The name Drew Talbot or Sam Parkin and the word 'miss' are never usually used in the same sentence (ahem). Claude Gnakpa may have been a Wembley hero but, after an encouraging start, he went into his shell. Kevin Watson tried - and failed - to fill Nico's boots so decided to coach the boys instead, while my granny really could've done better than Wayne Andrews and Garreth O'Connor.



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Lookie likies...



TWINS: Ian Roper and Andrew Barringer

TWO peas in a pod?

That's the view of the majority of people at Kenilworth Road who have started calling Luton press officer **Andrew Barringer** 'Ropes' after uncompromising Town defender lan Roper.

The pair were snapped together celebrating at Luton Hoo after the Hatters' memorable 3-2 extratime victory over Scunthorpe United in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy.

Popular centre-half Roper has been in and out of the Hatters team this season, but if the Town ever need a ringer at least they have the perfect

replacement on their doorstep.

All of Luton's first team squad and manager Mick Harford refer to Barringer as 'Ropes', and he said: "It causes a bit of confusion with two Ropers around the club. but let's get one thing straight... There's only one lan Roper - and he is Luton's number five - not me!"

Here at Half-time Orange we certainly think they have a point. although Barringer will have to put on a few pounds to make his transformation complete.

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the ones that got away

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



AFTER failing in a trial with his local club, Coventry-born **Graham Alexander.** was more successful at Scunthorpe.

It was at the Iron where he eventually went on to make nearly 200 first team appearances and seemed set to carve out a long career with the Lincolnshire club.

New Luton manager at the time, Terry Westley, who was given money to spend over the

summer of 1995. made Graham one of his signings.

The two-footed defender and dead ball specialist became almost ever-present over the next three seasons during which time the **Town were** relegated from **Division One and** then almost won promotion back at the first attempt.

Strangely, Graham was never a favourite at **Kenilworth Road** and when finances

dictated that he should move to **Preston in 1999** there were not many tears shed on years earlier. the streets of Luton.

Since then **Graham has gone** on to bring his career first team total to almost 850 games, as well as turning out 38 times for Scotland. the country of his father. His move to Burnley in 2007, following a contract disagreement, was met with howls of disapproval at Deepdale in direct contrast with the apathy when he left Luton eight

Now 37 and supremely fit, **Graham still** remains the first name on the **Burnley teamsheet** as he attempts to fire the Clarets into the Premiership.



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... with 'orrible 'ornet Don Monty

ALL right. In all the doom and gloom - and I'll get on to that later - yes, you've won another trophy.

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A tin pot one - quite ironic when it's sponsored by a paint pot firm - but a trophy none the less.

So I'll give you that, and you did it in style in extratime 3-2, which I guess must have been quite exciting.

I don't know quite how I managed to drag myself away from watching it, but sometimes you just can't miss that re-run of Murder She Wrote on

JEALOUS? **Murder She** Wrote re-run proved too good to miss for Don

ITV17, or wherever I found it.

Just please, please don't go on and on and on and on about taking 40,000 'supporters' down Wembley Way. Because if you do I'll start asking where 39,200 of them were the following week at Lincoln City - when your team REALLY needed the support.

They just all wanted a

day out. I went to see Stevenage there the year before (they won 3-2 too. bizarre, must be catching) but it doesn't make me a fan of the mighty Boro.

However, I might just be keeping an eye on how the Boro get on in two games next season. Looks like you have a new derby on your hands.

What's done is done. the FA has given your club a real kicking and you're down.

As with all relegations, and us Glory Horns have suffered a few, it'll kick in when the fixtures are

out. There are times when you hoped to get Blackpool away in August, football by the sea. Then it was Bournemouth, then Morecambe. Now... sorry ... it's Eastbourne.

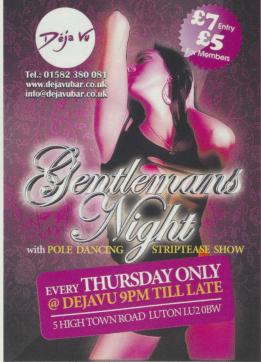
It's not all doom and gloom though. You'll be back and probably stronger. You'll get to go to a few new places, strut around as the big boys and bounce back into the League at the first time of asking.

See you in a few seasons. And no doubt you'll beat us.

Glory Horns.

vou have a message for Don, our contact details are on page







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