

Half-time

By Hatters for Hatters

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hatters matters

... a word from the editor

SO Big Mick has hatched a plan to get us back into the Football League has he?

However, just two games into the season and it appears we might need a plan B as our main targetman and half the squad are already on the sidelines.

We've managed to replace crock Sam Parkin, who suffered with three years of ankle problems, with another big man in Liam Hatch - who received a pre-season hairline fracture to, yep, inevitably, his ankle.

Lewis Emanuel is also on the long-term casualty list, so soon after Mick heralded his re-signing as a



STAY PUT:
Tom is the only Hatter looking uninterested in this set piece. Let's pray he's similarly dismissive of a rumoured move to Southampton or Leicester

coup for the club.

The first two games have yielded four points and yet, remarkably, we sit in second place as only Salisbury have picked up two wins in two.

The Hatters need to hit the ground running in this first month of the season to send out a strong message to the rest of the Blue Square Premier teams.

We all know that Luton never do things

the easy way, but on this occasion things really should be different.

We've got the squad - even if it is a bit stretched at the moment - in theory, to storm this league.

However, teams are sure to park the proverbial bus in front of their goal, so patience could be the key today and throughout all the home fixtures.

C'mon you Hatters!



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

orange@bedsnews.com

The best messages will appear in this fanzine or the letters pages of The Luton News/Dunstable Gazette

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The news at

Celebration really set to take off

AS we find ourselves facing a stream of non-league opponents with, let's face it, a team that could probably cut it in League One, Hatters are hoping to bang in the goals from all angles this season.

To relieve the monotony of the same old celebration time and time again as the net bulges once more, Happy Harry has been given the task of livening things up.

He's seen here trying out his new aircraft-style celebration, ingeniously devised as a tribute to our new sponsor easyJet.

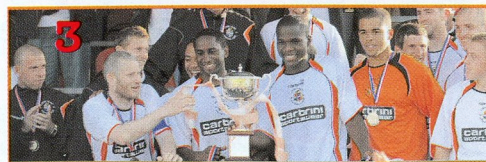
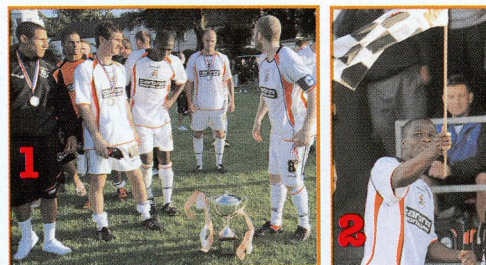


Harry on the Kenilworth runway

We've won the cup - how exciting!

If you thought the Johnstone's Paint Trophy was a bit of a Mickey Mouse trophy - until we got to Wembey that is! - then what about the Errea Cup which Hatters won in a Devon pre-season tournament?

Finalists Grimsby pulled out at the last minute leaving us to



play a bunch of Belgian no-hopers.

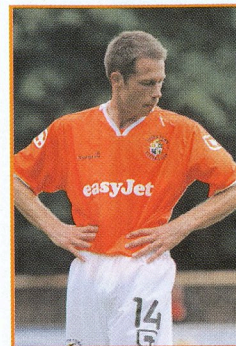
Picture (1) appears to show that no Town player really wanted to pick up the silverware. However, then

memories of Wembley started to get Claude all excited (2), which then spread to the other players (3), although Keano still looks unconvinced.

Ken

Rumours, speculation,
gossip and half-truths

They've got the moves



FANS are dancing with delight over the fact that we've held on to key players and made a few impressive additions to the squad.

The players have also got in on the act showing how much they love being at Kenilworth Road.

Nico, as usual, has led the way with a rendition of The Locomotion, right.

While new recruit Steve Basham, left, has been told to 'put your hands on your hips' by the club. That's in the hope Hatters get into a Time Warp so they can fast forward to 2020 where they're competing at a much higher level.



YOU could hardly have failed to notice that LTFC have a bright orange new home kit.

But did you know that, like the Tango away outfit of a few years ago, the opening for the head to go through is quite small - as shown by the struggle in the photo.

But this time it's a deliberate club ploy. They're worried that with all the goals flying in, players will get carried away and pick up countless yellow cards as they rip off their shirts in celebration.

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mark wood

Town 3 G'head 0
The Geordies don't stand a chance against the prolific Craddock.

F'st Gn 1 Town 2
Feeling a little bit parochial, the Hatters have to come from behind in Gloucs.

Town 2 Chester 0
Finally a team I've heard of. That can't save their bacon as Tom doubles up.

K'ring 0 Town 1
A Roper howler hands Town all three points as they threaten to romp the league.



steve sims

Town 4 G'head 0
It's never that simple for LTFC, but on this occasion, maybe it will be.

F'st Gn 0 Town 1
The Town face a real battle as Green dig in, but they can't keep Craddock at bay.

Town 3 Chester 0
The goals keep on coming as Town continue their impressive form.

K'ring 0 Town 0.
Inside info from ex-Hatter Roper mean Town are stifled in a bore draw.



alec swann

Town 1 G'head 0
Everyone behind the ball from the visitors before a late winner gives Town the points.

F'st Gn 0 Town 2
Easy does it for the Hatters who have no trouble seeing off the home side.

Town 4 Chester 0
City's financial woes are added to as Town show their visitors little sympathy.

K'ring 1 Town 1
A point on the road as the Poppies take the lead before Town strike back.



steve nolan

Town 2 G'head 0
The home side cruise to a comfortable win against their northern rivals.

F'st Gn 0 Town 1
Late goal does the job for the Hatters as the visitors snatch all three points.

Town 2 Chester 1.
Town scrape to victory despite a late fightback from visitors Chester.

K'ring 0 Town 3
A happy Hatters away day as a Craddock double helps blow the Poppies away.

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The new arrivals at Posh Luton

Our Blue Square Premier Travel Guide - Part One

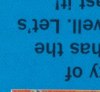
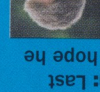
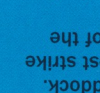
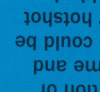
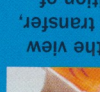
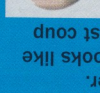
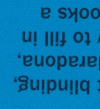
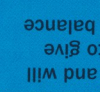
Let's face it, life in the conference will involve travelling to places you probably wouldn't have known actually had a football team (Hayes & Yeading anyone?).

But with our exclusive travel guide, the murky waters of the Blue Square Premier should seem a bit clearer. Half-time Orange's **Adam Parris-Long** takes a look at life outside of the Football League.

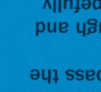
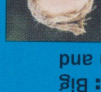
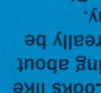
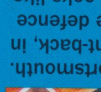
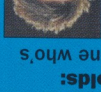
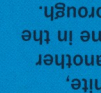
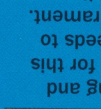
Barrow: With a round trip of over 500 miles this one will be strictly for diehard fans. Despite the long trip, the Hatters will look to demolish the Bluebirds who barely survived relegation last year.

Forest Green Rovers: While many of you may think this sounds like a national park, The Green host Luton on August 18. The 120-mile journey will take us past Watford along the M25, so get your eggs at the ready!

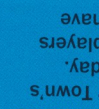
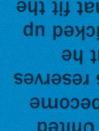
Also watch out for Rovers fan Tom Smith of indie band Editors who will look to rewrite Forest's bad run of form come full-time.



the realisation of his Luton dream can inspire him to great things. **Adam Newton:** Yes you've guessed it, he played for Peterborough. Enjoyed two promotions, straight the last time with Brentford, and will hopefully help to give the Hatters the balance they need. Quick, but not blinding, tricky, but no Maradona, the boy's happy to fill in anywhere and looks a real team player. **Liam Hatch:** Looks like being the biggest coup of the season. Yes he's from Peterborough, but isn't everyone?



play with the heart and the passion the shirt deserves. Looks better at centre-half rather than at left-back. **Alan White:** Back again? Really? Why? We don't need any own goals... That was all a long time ago and hopefully it's all behind him. Big and strong and hopefully ideal for this division, but needs to cool his temperament. White, is also another who's spent time in the blue of Peterborough. **Callum Reynolds:** Not been to Boro... Another Luton lad who's back on loan from Premiership Portsmouth. Can play at right-back, in the heart of the defence or in midfield. Looks like he has something about him and could really be a player one day. **Andy Burgess:** Big Luton Town fan and we're glad to have him on board. Can play in the middle or left of midfield and can really pass the ball. A Hatter through and through and hopefully



THE Hatters have been busy in the transfer market this summer, but contrary to popular belief they are not being named Posh Luton - despite the influx of players from London Road. Peterborough United may well have become the new Wolves reserves for Big Mick, but he looks to have picked up some players that fit the bill perfectly for Town's non-league holiday. Plenty of the players he's signed up have enjoyed recent promotion seasons, and almost all of them are seasoned campaigners. Here's Half-time Orange's guide to the new players: **Mark Tyler:** Up there with Harford's most astute signings. Unsurprisingly he's from Peterborough, but doesn't have Dean Brill's vampiric fear of crosses. Looking good. Hopefully his vast experience will also help to put some confidence into Luton's defence. **Shane Blackett:** Big Mick knows how to have a good time - apparently he spends his holidays in Cambs. Blackett's a Luton lad and hopefully he'll

Still here?



The transfer merry-go-round may have been in full swing at Kenilworth Road this summer but still about. That or there are rules in the Conference about toilet breaks...

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

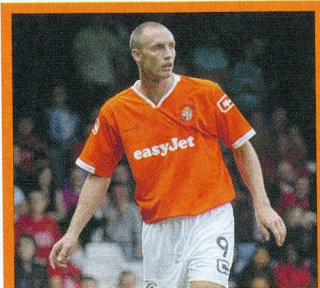


GREAT expectations ahead of the new season are rather like believing the weather forecasters' prediction of a 'barbecue summer' – you dare to dream the impossible.

That's probably why at the start of the previous three campaigns, we've come along with the hope that, come April, we would be celebrating on the Kenilworth Road pitch, rather than shaking our heads in despair.

I'm glad to announce that the same blind optimism persists and 4,000 nutters, Hatters rather, have committed themselves to another 23-game emotional rollercoaster.

Hopefully, this year's emotional rollercoaster will keep on going upwards, as I'm sick of repeated rides on the one that resembles



SMALL BOOTS TO FILL: Hatch

Alton Towers' Oblivion.

So what are the reasons to be cheerful this time around?

Personally, while the continuation of my studies at Leeds means I can't commit to a season ticket, due to the absence of League Cup and JPT ties clogging up the fixture list, I'll be able to attend six home league

games before I go back to Uni!

Also, while Sam Parkin had the unenviable challenge of stepping into legend Steve Howard's shoes, new target man Liam Hatch has the rather easier task of filling Sam's boots.

Admittedly, Hatchy may need to spend some time re-introducing the boots to the concept of kicking the ball into the opposition's goal...

This is judgement year and I'm not just talking about my finals, which I'll be sitting next May.

Mick Harford is now operating on a level playing field and anything less than promotion will be seen as a failure. With fewer injuries and a more ruthless streak in front of goal, perhaps this year our hopes won't be disappointed...

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**T Rextasy
Dr & the Medics
The String of Pearls**



T Rextasy

Friday 28th August 7.30pm
Grove Theatre, Dunstable

T.Rextasy are now officially recognised as the world's No.1 group dedicated to the greatest glam rocker of them all: **Marc Bolan** of T.Rex. With their uncanny doppleganger lead singer and lead guitarist, **Danielle T.Rextasy** perform a powerful and mesmerising presentation of **Marc Bolan's** rock and pop anthems.

This is a ticket only concert, tickets are available from the Grove Theatre Box Office **01582 602080** or visit www.grovetheatre.co.uk. Tickets £12 & £15 with concessions available.



Dr & the Medics

Saturday 29th August 5.00pm

Grove House Gardens, High Street North, Dunstable
This **FREE** concert sees a fantastic line up in Grove House Gardens, headlined with the fabulous **Doctor and the Medics** who were created 21 years ago, the band is best known for their 2.4 million selling No 1 hit "Spirit in the Sky". They have always been recognised as one of Britain's greatest live act, they have developed a great live show that just has to be seen to be believed which is unique and sensationally flamboyant.

They will be supported by **ENQ**, along with 2009's 'Battle of the Bands' winners **Sarah Doe & Jonny Fever**. The concert starts at 5.00pm so be sure to get there early to ensure a good view.



The String of Pearls

Sunday 30th August 3.00pm

Grove House Gardens, High Street North, Dunstable
Sunday sees a total change of mood to mellow jazz and big band sounds. This is the time to get in the gardens for 3.00pm get out a picnic, lay back and enjoy the smooth jazz sounds of the **Sheela Munro Jazz Band** and then as the evening draws in it is time to revel in the outstanding big band sound of **The String of Pearls** as they play some of your very favourite big band sounds. What a way to finish a fantastic weekend of music.



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Becky

VITAL STATISTICS

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Best looking Hatter: I used to
love Dean Brill, but now I'm
struggling to pick anyone out!

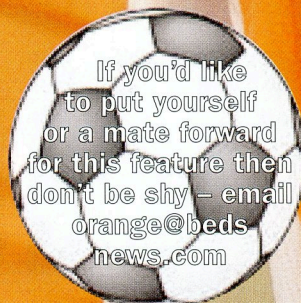
Most valuable player:

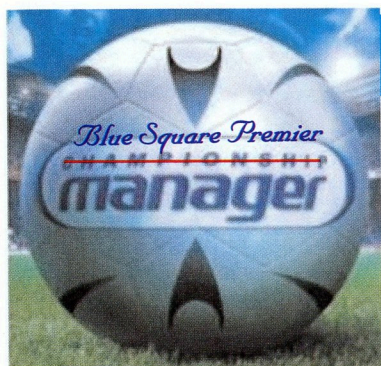
Kevin Nicholls

Player to flog: Don't be so
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If Half-time Orange's Steve Nolan was in charge of the team, this is what he'd do.



SUMMER? Pah! BORING! The football season is back and the Kenny will get its first ever taste of Premier League football... Blue Square Premier unfortunately, but premier football all the same.

And with Big Mick preening some of the dead wood from the squad (who needs a 6ft 2ins striker who can't win the ball in the air anyway?) and bringing in new faces-a-plenty there's no reason why the Town's new charges shouldn't take non-league football by storm.

While it's difficult to predict which of Mick's new signings will make an impression, experienced new stopper Mark Tyler will be a solid replacement for (not so) Brill between the sticks, with another former Peterborough man Shane Blackett adding some much-needed height and pace to the Town's defence.

Composed Callum Reynolds

would have been sitting on the right of my defence but as he got sent off on Tuesday, we'd better throw in Claude.

Joint leading scorer George Pilko and new boy Freddie, who had an excellent debut in the week, make up the numbers in the back four.

Skipper Nico's suspension will make him a big loss in the middle of the park, but Keith Keane and Asa Hall will make a solid midfield pairing with summer signing Andy Burgess on the left.

Adam Newton would've been an obvious choice for the right flank, but I'll have to settle for Rossi Jarvis and pray he gets involved in the game, as Adam looks to have a knock.

Tom Craddock should bang in a hatful of goals at this level and as Liam Hatch is out I'll better stick Steve Basham up there with him. Easy home win!

Steve's line-up for today



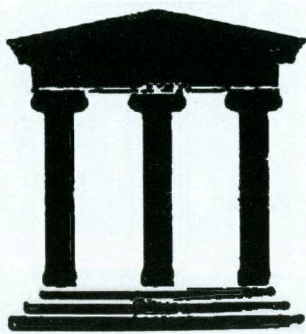
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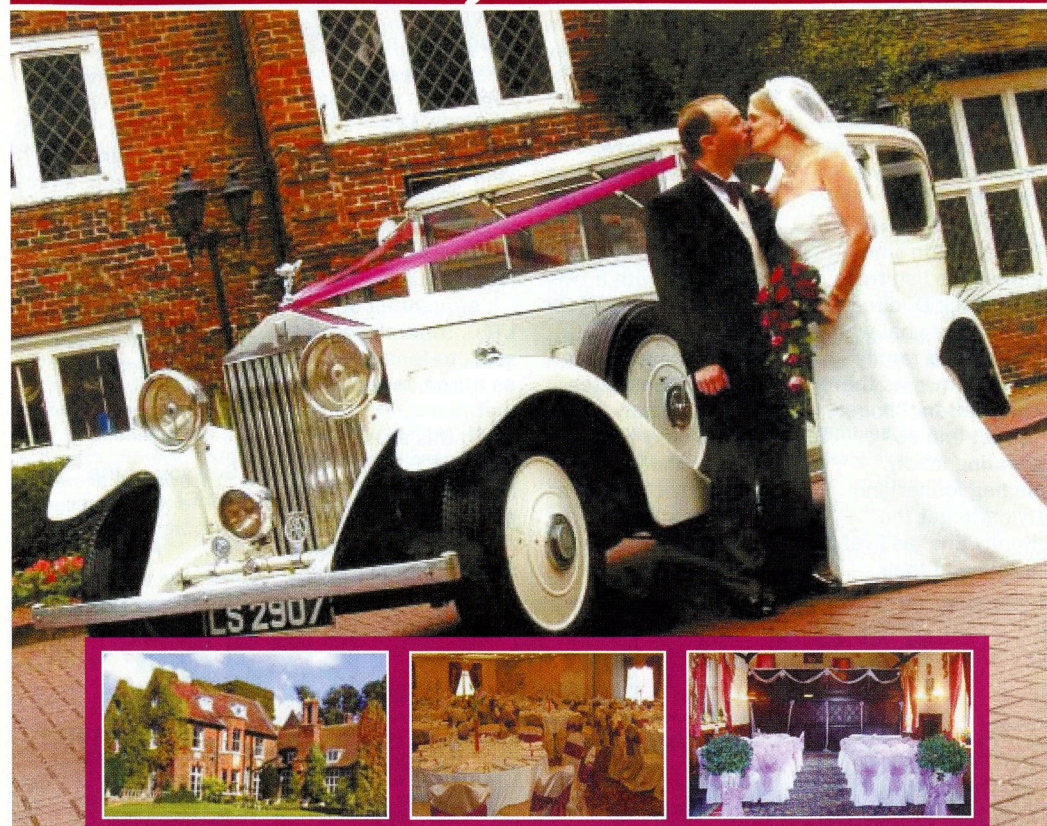


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From the Kenny End...

HELLO, and welcome to my first column for Half-time Orange.

My name is Petey Staniforth, and I am a lifelong Luton fan.

I'm now 34 and proof that once the Hatters are in your life, you will never quite be the same again.

I myself am easy to find at Luton's home games, as I sit front row, block D, directly behind the goal with friends and family - we're known as the Mad Hatters Clique.

You'll find us shouting loudly, singing louder and trying to get the 'Kenny End' as lively as possible in their

support of Mick and the boys!

I also have a rather strange and high-profile job.

I am a professional wrestling promoter, and I run a Bedfordshire-based show called Power Trip Wrestling (PTW).

I also perform on the shows, essentially as myself, but with a twist as the 'evil boss' of the company.

My character is one of an arrogant Luton fan who proudly wears the club shirt and criticises the fans (especially children in replica shirts of Premiership teams) at the shows for support-

ing a team other than Luton FC and is irritating and smugly superior in his love of the Hatters.

So now I've introduced myself to you, all I can say is that to me, last season was not as bad as some people would have thought.

It brought all of us at LTFC, from players and staff, to fans, together as a true collective unit.

And this season in the Blue Square Premier is going to be a lot of fun as we visit new grounds, take on new teams, and meet



with Petey Staniforth

new people.

Predictions... Straight back up? Champions?

As I have done all my life, I believe in the Hatters and I believe that come the end of the season we will be celebrating being back in the Football League, having defied the disbelievers once more.

See you at the games!

Petey



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 start of the first non-league season since 1920.

In a way it's appropriate that on the first day our opponents were Wimbledon. Both of our clubs won major honours only 21 years ago, in two of the greatest Wembley finals - and what is more, Mick Harford is a veteran for both teams.

Our two clubs are not alone. Many fans will recall the 7-4 victory over Oxford United that same year, with Mark Stein scoring a hat-trick. Oxford too are in this division, bringing the tally of 1987-88 top-flight clubs to three.

Big Mick has assembled

a formidable-looking squad for the coming season, the operative word being squad. We do not just have a strong starting line-up. I am meaning no disrespect to the Blue Square Premier when I say that any one of the squad we now have at Kenilworth Road would be a key player at any club in the division.

But let us spare a thought for Wimbledon. Like us, they had their League status cruelly ripped away from them; in fact, they had their whole club dismantled, and were forced to start again from scratch.

Plough Lane, a vital part of the fairytale that was the original Wimbledon

club, was finally demolished in 2002, 11 years after Wimbledon had moved into Crystal Palace's Selhurst Park.

Both clubs played reserve matches at the ground until 1998, and the stadium then stood derelict for four years, the pitch used by local travellers as a paddock for their horses.

Plough Lane's gates, (stubbornly bearing the message Womble till I die!) remained until 2006, when they were replaced as part of the new development of 570 executive flats that now stand on the site that was deemed unable to house a professional football club. Meanwhile, a

phoenix was rising at Kingsmeadow at the Fans Stadium - the new club - founded in 2002 in protest at the infamous relocation of the original team, that have been promoted four times in seven seasons, and now takes its place among non-league football's elite.

One can only feel that history is repeating itself in south-west London... though let's hope that fate can satisfy itself with a play-off spot for Wimbledon this season!

Here's to the reclamation of our rightful Football League place and to the swift return of the Dons, one of football's greatest stories.

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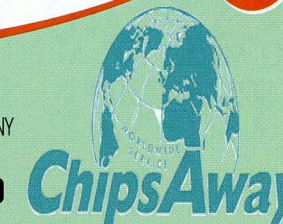
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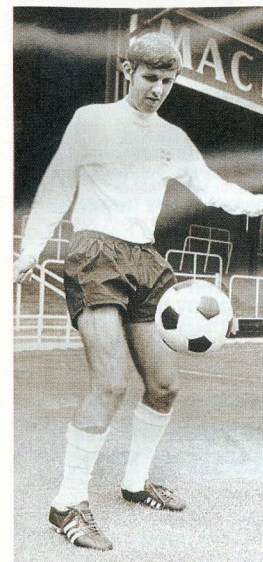
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* TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

Roger Wash tracks down
those Luton-born footballers
who have excelled.....

Boy done good



VERSATILE: Alan Slough

Alan Slough

LUTON born Alan had trials at Watford while the Hatters dallied over his signature.

It was only the personal intervention of Jim Rioch, father of lifelong friend Bruce, that led to him joining the playing staff at Kenilworth Road at a time when the Town were at their lowest ebb.

A right-footed, quick defender, Slough was at his best as an old fashioned right-half but, in his nine years at Luton, he turned out in every shirt including 10 minutes

in goal to replace the injured Tony Read.

A mainstay in the team that fought back from the depths of the old Division Four to the brink of the top flight, it was a sad day when the reliable and loyal defender was shown the door as new manager Harry Haslam cleared the way for his own players in the side.

Rejoining his old mentor Alec Stock at Fulham, Slough became a regular in a team containing Alan Mullery and Bobby Moore and later George Best and Rodney Marsh and enjoyed a trip to Wembley in the 1975 FA Cup final

before becoming skipper at Craven Cottage.

A move to Peterborough followed where he gained the distinction of netting a hat-trick of penalties in a promotion decider at Chester - the only player to have done so away from home in the Football League.

Slough then enjoyed one season at Millwall before joining up with Bruce Rioch as coach at Torquay. Settling in the Paignton area, Slough was playing local football with Christians in Sport until well into his 40s and has his own coaching school.

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Under 12A Boys Div 3 (Year 7) Training Friday eve 7pm to 9pm
Outfield players required for above teams
Under 13 Boys Div 2 (Year 8) Training Friday eve 7pm to 9pm
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from the allotments



... with 'orrible 'ornet Don Monty



YOU must look on the bright side.

There's a lot to be all doom and gloomy about this season. I don't need to say what about. OK then, you twisted my arm so I will. We're in the League - you're not.

So when you've just got back from Wimbledon land and are plotting your route to the North East you must keep looking on the bright side.

Firstly, you'll go straight back up. No

doubt, you'll walk it, trust me. If you can't beat Altrincham and Eastbourne at home you don't deserve to.

Secondly, we won't go up. Indeed, the mighty Glory Horns are sixth favourites to go down. Watch this space, we'll sell more players before the end of August - usually to Sheffield United.

Thirdly, you'll get to go to new places. Barrow In Furness just for starters is always a good one although

Gateshead will give a nice view of St James' Park next season



you've skipped the wonderful option of a Tuesday night fixture there. Eastbourne is just like Blackpool (or maybe not) and then there's Hayes & Yeading so you'll get to go to Hayes... or Yeading. You're on the very edge of my knowledge on the Blue Square Premier.

Fourthly, you won't have to buy Setanta this year or watch TV games on a Thursday night which is just wrong. So look on the bright side. You could be a Newcastle United fan - those Magpies expect to be in the Champions League but this season they're off to Scunny.

Still, you'll have a good view of the situation at St James' Park next year - from Gateshead.

Glory Horns.

If you have a message for Don, our contact details are on page 3

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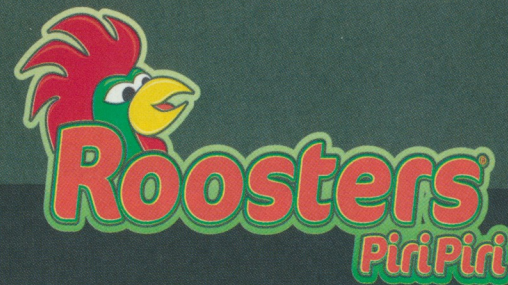


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