

Half-time

By Hatters for Hatters

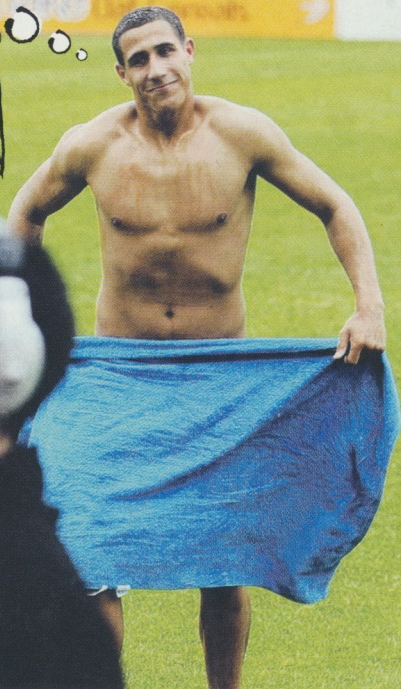
ORANGE



Season 09-10 No 3

No Hallowe'en Horror Show Today Edition

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hatters matters

... a word from the editor

IF you believe what you read in the Luton News and Dunstable Gazette (which we do because it's produced in the same office as Half-time Orange!) then Hatters are "beyond the shortlist stage" in the hunt for a new gaffer.



"Look over there Kev, is that yet another candidate coming for an interview"

At the time of writing (Wednesday), we're still playing the waiting game to see who Mick Harford's replacement will be and the papers report "it may still take some time" before an announcement can be made.

It's obviously a crucial appointment and it's vital 2020 get it right, so we can forgive them for taking their time to find the right man.

Perhaps the hold-up is they're attempting to hunt down that nice Mr

Gurney to ask him for some advice on holding one of his infamous Pop Idol-style manager polls.

That's the brainwave that put Amy Rayner's favourite man at the helm in 2003 (we still can't understand how Gardner Speirs didn't get the job!). Come to think of it Mike Newell has recently left Grimsby, hmm...

I think it's safe(ish) to say that Alan Neilson's odds have lengthened somewhat.

After all, surely they'd have given him the job by now, especially after the decent run of results we've had.

Having said that, we're still not playing that well for 90 minutes.

So perhaps an experienced boss is what we need to steer the good ship Luton Town on a promotion course.

Happy Hallowe'en folks. Let's pray for a frightfully good win against Rushden today.



Life at Luton Town is never dull. So why not send us your views on the Hatters by emailing orange@bedsnews.com

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

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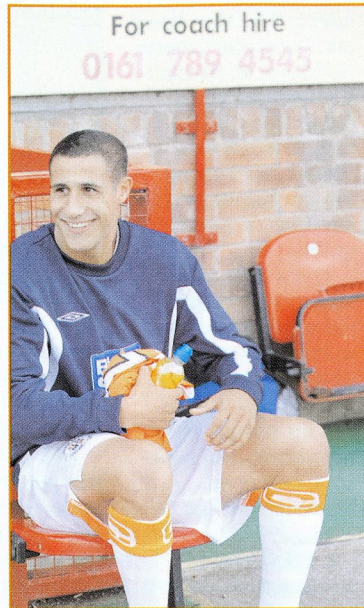
Have we got a new gaffer yet then?

AT the time of writing, 2020 are certainly taking their time in finding a replacement for Mick Harford.

We're told there's been plenty of interest in the post and maybe that explains the delay as the Hatters talk to all the candidates.

Alan Neilson's excellent start has given him a good chance of landing the top coaching role.

If 2020 are still struggling to come to a decision, perhaps help could be on hand... just check out the well-placed advertising message behind the Town bench at Altrincham.



WHO YA GONNA CALL? Well, here's one option

Getting shirty after victory

IT'S a funny old game. That old adage was demonstrated perfectly at Cambridge when Town battled back from 2-0 down with 10 men.

Fans were desperate to be cheered up – especially following successive miserable away defeats to Wrexham and Oxford



– and the 4-3 win certainly did that.

Ex-Cambridge player Freddie Murray is seen celebrating the success, but it surely wasn't the wisest decision to take his top off.

What with the saga of no replica shirts on sale in the club shop, his stripping off prompted a frenzied response from a travelling army desperate to get their hands on the new kit.

Ken

Rumours, speculation, gossip and half-truths

Feeling the pain

YOUR first goal in senior football is obviously an exciting landmark in any young player's career.

And when you throw in the fact that you've just put your team 3-2 up after previously being 2-0 down at half time with 10 men, then it becomes even more thrilling.

So it was understandable that Jake Howells went crazy after his strike against Cambridge put Town ahead. The left midfielder/left back (sometimes rather harshly in the changing rooms this sea-

son) ran behind the goal to celebrate with the fans.

Unfortunately his over-exuberance meant it was the last thing he did. It wasn't exactly a 'Tony Adams drops Steve Morrow off his shoulders after cup final win and he's out for months with a dislocated shoulder' moment, this was just a spot of cramp.

But it ended his game, so no wonder there were Howells of derision on the terraces and in the dressing room at the unfortunate episode.

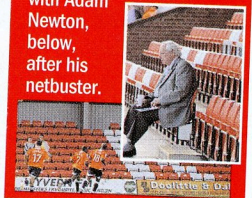


THE results haven't been too bad this season, but some of the performances haven't been the best.

In fact, we're struggling to remember many games where the team have put in a dominant 90-minute shift. Maybe the problem is the lack of atmosphere at some of the games.

Take Kiddeminster, for example. There weren't exactly many home fans for us to have a bit of banter with.

And where's the fun for the players if, when they score a wonder goal, they struggle to find a group of opposition fans who they can taunt over it, as seen with Adam Newton, below, after his netbuster.



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mark wood

Town 2 R&D 0
At last a victory by more than a single goal and no frayed nerves for Town fans.

Grays 1 Town 2
Not an easy place to go and win, but if we're to get promoted we must do it.

Town 4 C'bridge 2
Another terrific encounter, but this time Luton maintain their full complement.

M'field 1 Town 1
One of Town's toughest tasks of the season, but they dig deep for a vital draw.

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

8pts



steve sims

Town 1 R&D 0
Inside info from ex-R&D Andy Burgess should just about sway this tight game.

Grays 0 Town 3
Tom Craddock bursts into life and bags a hat-trick in an impressive romp.

Town 1 C'bridge 0
Both defences tighten up after the last 4-3 encounter. Asa Hall settles it.

M'field 1 Town 1
Town almost make it four wins from four, but are pegged back at the death by Stags.

5pts



alec swann

Town 1 R&D 1
Points shared as Craddock's first-half opener is cancelled out by the visitors.

Grays 0 Town 1
An ugly but effective effort by the Hatters who find the target late on.

Town 2 C'bridge 0
Ryan Charles is on the mark as the home side ease to three points.

M'field 1 Town 0
No joy for the Hatters in Notts as Mansfield take the points with a first-half strike.

5pts



steve nolan

Town 2 R&D 2
A scrappy point-a-piece for the Hatters against a plucky Rushden side.

Grays 0 Town 2
A decent away win for the Town as Craddock and Hall share the goals.

Town 2 C'bridge 1
A tighter game than that at the Abbey Stadium but Town grab the win.

M'field 0 Town 0
A hard fought point for the Hatters who cling on thanks to stopper Tyler.

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CAN you spot the difference?

Yes, I think on this occasion we all can. In fact Tom Craddock and Adam Newton look absolutely nothing alike.

Here at Orange we were baffled by recent national media 'reports' on Luton Town's 1-0 victory at Altrincham.

Anyone can make the odd mistake, but getting these two mixed up - well it simply isn't good enough.

Seems like no-one's interested in us following our fall from grace, but it certainly shouldn't excuse some of the shoddy

journalism that followed our fine win in the north west.

It wasn't as though there was much to get wrong in our column inch, but it wasn't the only howler to be seen. Apparently Colin Little also ballooned his own spot-kick over the bar rather than forcing a fantastic stop out of superman Mark Tyler.

On second thoughts, keep the indifferent reports coming, at least that way we might be able to keep hold of our best players!

Actually this misinformation could become even more valuable when we want to get rid of someone...

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Hatters' Hallowe'en horror shows ...



by Mark Wood

DEPARTED Hatters manager Mick Harford branded Town's 3-0 defeat in North Wales to Wrexham, right, the worst defeat in the club's history.

Quite a brazen claim considering some of the performances we've seen over the years...

Here are five of my worst horror shows:



Reading 4 Luton Town 1, Simod Cup final, 27/03/88:

My first-ever trip to Wembley and what a disappointment!

Big Mick gave us the lead with a diving header but from there it was all downhill.

Maybe not the worst performance, but it left seven-year-old me with tears in my eyes.

Nottingham Forest 3 Luton Town 1, League Cup final, 09/04/89:

I asked my father whether we had gone straight to Wembley as we'd won the cup the year before.

He wasn't impressed with my question considering he'd taken me to plenty of the earlier rounds.

Harford gave us the lead only for Les Sealey to suffer a case of Andy Dibble-
envy when he handed Forest a chance from the spot. Sadly it didn't end in glory.

Wembley hasn't been our happiest hunting ground.

Notts County 2 Luton 1, Division One, 02/05/92:

OK I cried again. The drive home was silent and it felt like a scene from Aliens in my stomach. Sympathy I didn't get.

Luton did us proud, but couldn't quite produce another Great Escape like in previous seasons.

Future Hatter Rob Matthews had a worldy as his two goals cancelled out

Julian James' opener. The defeat meant we missed out on being Premiership founders and all the riches that have come with it ever since.

Luton Town 0 Watford 4, Division Two, 04/10/97:

The worst performance I have ever seen from a Luton Town side.

A showing I can never forgive Lennie Lawrence for, even if he thinks he did perform a financial 'masterpiece' during his Kenilworth Road reign.

He may not have been able to name a strong side, we may have had plenty of injuries, but 4-0 down in less than half an hour to the **** was

unforgivable.

My conversation with an officer of the law over my non-swearing shouting didn't make the day any happier.

Luton Town 3 Wrexham 4, League One, 28/10/01:

The biggest capitulation I've ever seen by a Luton Town team.

We probably never deserved to be 3-0 up, but I don't care.

The fact that Tanny Abbey even made a world class save - well there's a first time for everything - hardly improved matters. In fact I put in more effort bellowing from the sidelines than some of the players did. Now I am depressed...

Want to submit your own five worst games? Send an email to orange@bedsnews.com

exiled hat



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



LUTON'S performances this season have been no laughing matter.

However, perhaps inheriting their sense of humour from Eric Morecambe, Hatters' supporters often look on the bright side of life.

During the excruciating experience of Kettering away, an impressive Avro Vulcan bomber flew over the ground.

It didn't hang around, doubtless worried that Alan White might attempt to play one of his 'through balls'.

"You couldn't come back here and bomb this lot could you?!" pleaded one suffering fan.

Rockingham Road remained unscathed, yet the Luton contingent could have been forgiven for feeling shell-shocked.

With only one exit available, the



SURELY NOT: John & Edward

terrace became clogged up, causing another wit to shout: "Hurry up, I want to get home and see X Factor!"

How about holding a similar competition to decide who the next Luton boss should be? Oh wait...

The reality show is now in full swing, with an unlikely duo dreaming of landing the biggest prize of all.

Well, second biggest anyway. John and Edward have no chance of ending up in the Luton hotseat following Neilson and Watson's unbeaten record!

Without their unshakeable self-confidence, the twins would have gone long ago, which perhaps influenced Watson's comments prior to the York match.

Never one to rile the opposition, Watson gushed: "First and foremost, we are Luton Town and they should be worrying about us." D'oh!

To be fair, the results and performances have improved, though we may have a permanent boss for this Hallowe'en fixture.

So let's continue to banish those early season ghosts and the boos that went with them.

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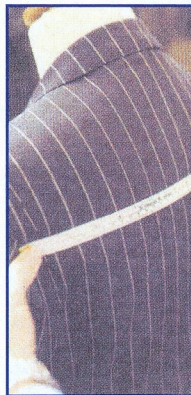
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VITAL STATISTICS

Full Name: Nirvana O'Callaghan

Age: 21

Occupation: Human resources clerk/student

Attached? In a relationship

Been a supporter since: 2006

Best looking Hatter: I'm pining for Dean Brill

Most valuable player: Kevin Nicholls

Player to flog: Couldn't possibly single someone out

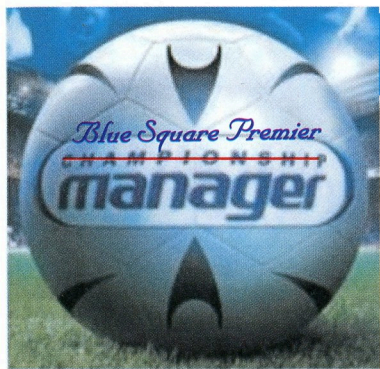
Ideal night out: Student nights in Luton, or a few glasses of Rosé with the girls

Favourite TV shows: Skins or 90210



 **Electrolux**

Nirvana



If Half-time Orange's Steve Nolan was in charge of the team, this is what he'd do.



WITH no new gaffer in Big Mick's vacant hotseat at the time of writing, and not-so-Big Al in charge, albeit temporarily, it'll be interesting to see what change in tactics and approach a new boss might bring to the side this month.

A steady improvement has been made so far since the change at the top, but the Town still seem to be lacking a certain cutting edge in front of goal and hopefully, in the absence of Liam Hatch, Kevin Gallen can use his experience to weigh in with a few as the Hatters hopefully start to bang in a few more goals.

Super-stopper Tyler and the ever-reliable Pilks pick themselves in the back line, and Ed Asafu-Adjaye is a welcome addition to the side at right-back following his recovery from injury.

Alan White and Freddie Murray would complete the back four in my side.

Skipper Nico has looked a little less off the pace and has been flying in with some wince-worthy tackles and looking a little more like his old self of late so he'd make my line-up, joined by Asa who could push forward and hopefully grab one or two more wonder goals like his thunderous strike against York.

The energetic youthful exuberance of youngster Jake Howells adds an extra dimension down the left, with the ever-threatening Adam Newton another automatic choice with his pace and power on the right flank.

It's been good to see Tommy Craddock taking more of a central role instead of being stuck out wide so he'd join Gallen up front in my side, but with the option to bring the impressive-of-late Ryan 'Rio' Charles on to rattle the opposition.

Steve's line-up for today

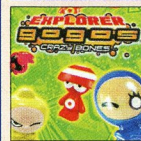


Subs: Gore, Blackett, Burgess, Reynolds, Charles

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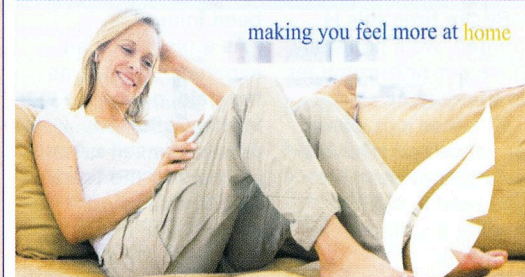
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From the Kenny End...

AND how things change...

By the time this is printed, we'll hopefully have our new manager in the dugout.

I'll either look clever or very silly for having said this by the time you read it, but I'm hoping it's Marvin Johnson.

I'm a sucker for an ex-Luton player as manager, despite what valid points can be made against it, and I feel his successful run with the youth team is certainly one reason why he'd be great for the job.

I also feel it's been very noticeable that we've missed the

talents of one Kevin Gallen in the time he's been injured.

As a player, as an experienced head on the field, on many levels, Gallen has proven himself as an element of the team that is vital to our playing well and winning games.

I hold my hands up as one who was not willing to accept Kevin when he first joined, due to his background of clubs previously played for.

And I will happily say that I was very wrong, and I believe every other Luton fan who felt the same way would certainly do so

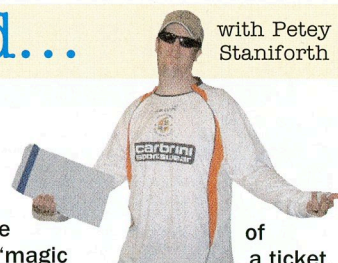
now.

Just like the song says, 'Kevin Gallen's magic,' and you can't rule out the influence of his 'magic hat' either!

Apart from anything else, it's my seven-year-old daughter Victoria's favourite Luton song to sing!

As for me, I'm off my feet busy at the moment getting ready for the last Power Trip Wrestling show of the year, on Saturday, November 28, at Challney School for Girls, Luton.

I'd be tempted to make a token £1 discount on the price



with Petey Staniforth

of a ticket if you

bring your Luton season ticket along to show your love of LTFC!

We get a fair few Hatters fans turning up, and I'd love to see more of you, so I advise kids to nag their parents (and vice versa!); and we'll see you there!

Tickets can be reserved on 07856 164285.

Petey



O'Cahan you believe it?

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

THAT'S more like it. Written before the Grays game, it's four matches, three wins and one draw under Neilson and Watson.

I'm writing this on the night of the 23rd, so I don't know whether in place today or not; I therefore can't dedicate a column to speculating on the identity of the new boss.

I'll just limit myself to saying that at this point in time I'm personally behind Neilson and Watson but, whoever the 2020 boys have chosen, if anyone, I am 100 per cent behind them, as I am sure all of the players and staff will be as well

as all of you Luton Town fans.

Instead, I will use this column to examine the legacy of our fourth manager, Harold Wightman.

Wightman couldn't half spot a striker - although star forwards Jimmy Yardley and Andy "Ratty" Rennie were already on the books when he arrived in 1931, Wightman still saw fit to sign Bolton attacker Tommy Tait. It was a gamble that paid off. Tait scored 27 in all competitions as Luton finished sixth in the table.

Wightman's team then dropped to 14th, but the board kept faith with him and 1933-34 saw Luton

back up to sixth.

The best was yet to come, however. In 1934, Wightman signed a left-winger called George Stephenson and a young wing-half from minnows Bolsover Colliery - his name was Joe Payne.

Payne appeared only twice during his first season, and ran out four times in defence early on in 1935-36 before Wightman was sacked in October following an inconsistent start to the season and a 2-2 draw at home to Cardiff City.

Payne subsequently moved on loan to Biggleswade Town, as the board of directors took charge.

With Stephenson, Jack

Ball and later Willie Boyd leading the line, Luton recovered to be in the promotion hunt by April.

However, an injury to Willie Boyd saw Payne named up front against Bristol Rovers on April 13, 1936.

It was an astonishing success - Payne scored 10 times (still a Football League record) as Luton won 12-0.

Luton finished second, but were not promoted.

That was to come the following year, as Luton romped home as champions; Payne scoring 55 league goals from 42 matches.

So it just shows, the best of Mick's legacy may still be to come.

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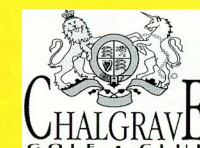
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Roger Wash tracks down those Luton-born footballers who have excelled.....

Boy done good

Dave Pacey

DAVE Pacey stood on the Kenilworth Road terraces as a boy in the 1940s never dreaming that one day he would score the Town's goal in an FA Cup final at Wembley!

After appearing for Luton schoolboys, Pacey played at Hitchin Town where he not only made their Athenian League side as a wing-half, but was also signed on for the Hatters as an amateur.

Called up for National Service, he was stationed with someone on Arsenal's books and had a trial at Highbury before

Luton found out about it and dispatched director Tom Hodgson to Newton Abbott, where Pacey was stationed, to make sure he signed pro forms on leaving the Army.

After working his way up through the ranks, Pacey finally made his Football League debut in a 3-0 defeat at Old Trafford on Christmas day 1957.

He held his place in the return the following day and, by the middle of February 1958, so convinced were the Town that they had unearthed a diamond that the regular number six, Reg Pearce, was allowed to go to Sunderland for a big fee.

The highlight of Pacey's footballing career came as the Town fought their way through to the FA Cup final in 1959.

Although the Hatters did not perform on the big day, going down 2-1 to Nottingham Forest, Pacey had the consolation of scoring the Town's goal.

Following the cup final, Town plummeted down through the divisions and Pacey decided to call it a day at Kenilworth Road in 1965 before enjoying three seasons at Kettering.

Pacey subsequently worked at Electrolux and now lives in Newport Pagnell in retirement.



CUP SCORER: Dave Pacey

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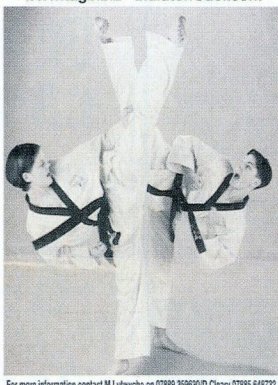
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Can the Hatters emulate the likes of Ronnie Radford



- or the street parade - but look on the bright side, at least you avoided the humiliation of exiting before the First Round Proper. And who knows, you may reach the third round and face the mighty Horns.

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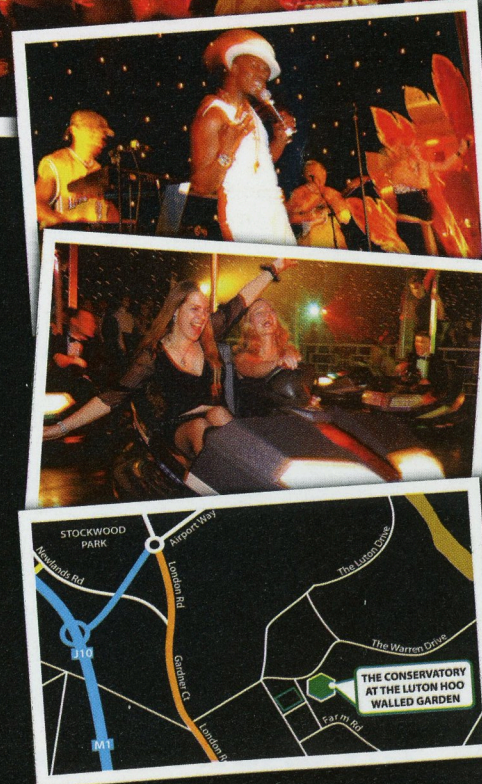
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