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By Hatters for Hatters



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hatters matters

... a word from the editor

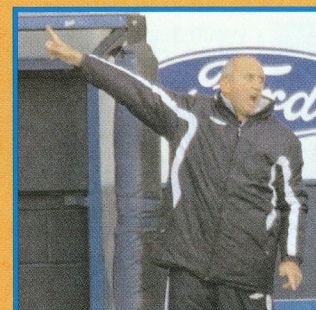
IT'S been a long time since cash-strapped Luton Town had money, but at long last we can proudly make that boast.

OK, so the claim's a bit misleading in that we're not talking pound notes, rather our new gaffer Richard Money who used to play for the club in the early 1980s.

Since he took over at the helm, Hatters have certainly been banging in the goals – well, apart from failing to beat Nathan Abbey (but then Alan Neilson and Kevin Watson were supposedly masterminding that performance).

Unfortunately we've been shipping a few as well – including losing two and three-goal leads against Cambridge and Rochdale respectively.

One thing's for sure we're really going to have to push on now if



IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, THERE'S THE EXIT. New Town manager Richard Money means business as he assesses the squad inherited from his predecessor Mick Harford

we're going to catch the leaders.

To that end Money's made it clear that no-one's guaranteed a starting place as he assesses the strength of his squad.

That can only be good news as those in possession of the shirt know they'll have to come up with the goods or end up warming the bench – or even not making the 16!

Tonight we face the mighty Kettering – unusually on a Wednesday due to our

opponents' FA Cup commitments.

It was a tough game on their patch in September so expect another battle as they've maintained their position in the upper reaches of the table.

Don't forget to give Ian Roper a warm reception, particularly if Tom Craddock starts to give him the runaround. For that matter even Kevin Gallen could probably outpace the man with a bigger turning circle than the QE2!



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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He couldn't miss ... but Enoch did somehow

ALL strikers dream of the chance that came Kevin Gallen's way in the FA Cup replay at Rochdale last month.

He's pictured here signalling the distance (in millimetres) from where he pounced to bag his, and the Hatters', second goal from.

It wasn't the sweetest of connections, but they all count.

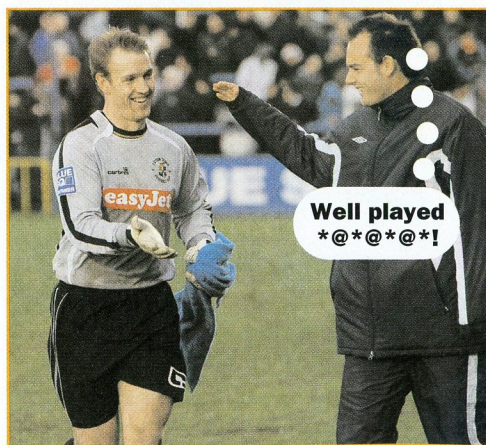
And, of course, it is possible to miss from that range. Enoch versus Colchester anyone?



There's only one... er, me!

Gore blimey, he's been axed

AFTER two excellent performances against Rochdale, back-up stopper Shane Gore was rather unlucky to see himself replaced in the starting line-up by new loanee Kevin



Pilkington.

Although undoubtedly disappointed at Richard Money's decision, Gore seems to hold no grudge against Pilks.

In fact, our picture shows them getting on rather well after the Grays win.

A penny for your thoughts though, Shane.

Ken

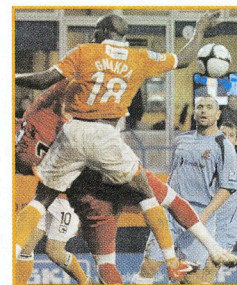
Rumours, speculation, gossip and half-truths

You've got to hand it to them

THE kerfuffle about Thierry Henry's cheating handball role in the goal that booked France's passage to the World Cup had barely died down before Hatters' players were at it against Cambridge.

Our own Frenchman Claude Gnaka is pictured, left, trying to knock the ball into United's net, while, above, wily veteran Kevin Gallen tries to gain an advantage on the ref's blindside.

With so much riding on the outcome of matches these days, players will go to any lengths to get a vital win. And if it means Town go up, where's the arm in it?



WE knew Tommy Craddock would come good again after his nightmare in front of goal.

He's pictured here striking for goal during the middle of his lean spell and as you can see his radar is way out of sync. Instead of arrowing for the net, the ball has skewed off towards the corner flag.

Still, he's bagged a couple from open play since then, so we'll keep him off the list of all-time great Town strikers like Drew Talbot, Warren Feeney, Stuart Douglas and Peter Thomson!

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Town 2 Kettering 0 Without super Mark Cooper the Poppies are mown down by rampant Luton.	Chester 0 Luton 1 I have plenty of sympathy with City's points penalties but we need them more.	Town 5 F Green 1 Finally a game to get the crowd going as Town blow away the minnows in style.	Town 2 Histon 0 Histon will pose some problems for in-form Town, but can't find a way through.
Town 2 Kettering 1 A tough battle under the lights, but one we should shade as Roper returns.	Chester 0 Luton 3 The goals flow as Town stroll to an easy victory to continue their fine away form.	Town 5 F Green 0 It really is about time that we gave someone a damn good thrashing!	Town 2 Histon 0 The visitors are the Christmas turkeys in a straight forward Boxing Day win.
Town 1 Kettering 1 There's nothing to separate these two as they fight out a 1-1 draw.	Chester 0 Luton 1 Not very pretty at the Deva, but Luton do more than enough to take the points.	Town 3 F Green 0 This is far better than the awful 1-0 win earlier in the season as Town cruise.	Town 2 Histon 0 A one-sided game as Luton have too much in the tank for a committed Histon outfit.
Town 1 Kettering 0 Town snatch all the points, with a late goal of their own for change	Chester 1 Luton 1 Just a point gained at the Deva despite a decent showing from the lads.	Town 4 F Green 1 Hatters stroll to victory despite the setback of giving away a sloppy early goal	Town 3 Histon 0 A Craddock brace helps Hatters to victory against tough opposition who finally buckle.

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Lookie likies...

AFTER a long wait for Mick Harford's replacement to be announced, news finally came through that Alan Dale has been appointed Hatters manager.

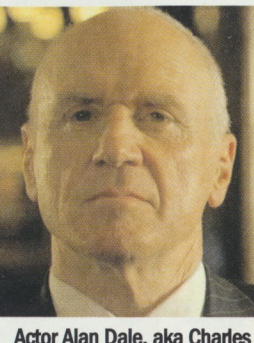
LTFC 2020 finally snared the Australian actor – most famous for his role as Jim Robinson in the soap Neighbours – after protracted negotiations with TV executives.

Alan is currently in the

midst of filming the final episodes of cult TV show *Lost* where he plays the role of the sinister Charles Widmore.

It's something of a coup for 2020 to get Alan. After all he's used to being on the same set as Evangeline Lilly, right, and the other *Lost* lovelies, which he's swapped for the charms of The Kenny and a strong whiff of Deep Heat!

Seriously though, good luck Richard...



Actor Alan Dale, aka Charles Widmore in *Lost*, above, and Jim Robinson in *Neighbours*, below.



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What an absolute nightmare



Roger Wash takes his turn to reminisce about the five worst Hatters performances he's had the dubious pleasure of enduring.

What are the five poorest performances you've seen?

Send us an email to orange@bedsnews.com



Luton Town 0
Sunderland 5
06/05/07

The Town had already been relegated from the Championship while Sunderland needed a win to clinch the title.

In front of a capacity crowd, with seemingly half from the north-east, the Hatters rolled over and allowed their opponents to run riot.

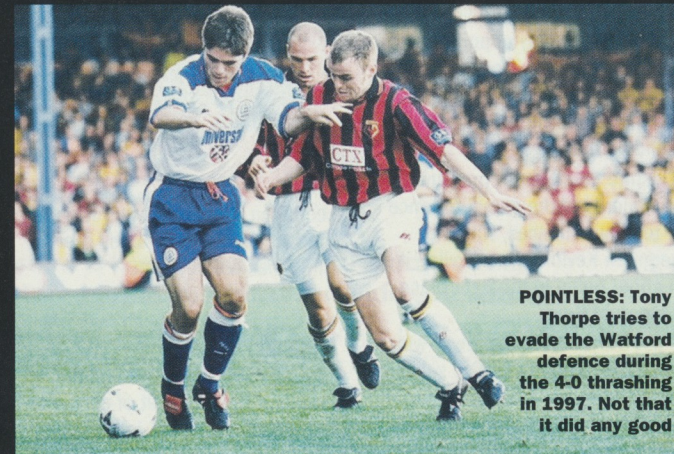
An embarrassing afternoon as the Town slumped to their seventh successive home defeat – a new record.



Luton Town 0
Watford 4
04/10/97

Although hit by injuries, the Hatters put in a truly woeful performance against league leaders Watford who were four up at the interval.

Content that their first win over the Hatters in ten years



POINTLESS: Tony Thorpe tries to evade the Watford defence during the 4-0 thrashing in 1997. Not that it did any good

was in the bag, and fearful that the crowd would erupt, the Hornets sat back in the second period.



Luton Town 0
Manchester United 5
12/02/84

The Hatters appear in their first live television league fixture but are humiliated in front of an audience of millions.

Heads visibly drop as the Reds net three in the final ten minutes to make it a thoroughly miserable Sunday afternoon.



Luton Town 1
Everton 5
07/05/83

The Town are needing a win to be safe from relegation and an early Ricky Hill goal

seems to calm the tension.

The rest of the game is a nightmare as the team falls apart and a slick Toffees side appear to score at will.

All the other strugglers win to make it a doubly miserable day.



Lincoln City 8
Luton Town 1
03/12/66

The Town endured a bruising FA Cup replay win over Exeter less than two days before this Division Four clash with the Imps.

The walking wounded are unable to cope with a rampant home side who pile on the agony.

To make the result even more shameful is the knowledge that Lincoln are rock bottom of the table at the time.

exiled hat



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



SO, Luton have had an injection of Money... not in the form of an Arab billionaire's cash, but a 'note'-worthy managerial appointment nonetheless (OK that's it for the puns – I don't want to run the risk of turning into Euan Duncan!).

Unfortunately, my opportunities of assessing 'Dicky Dosh's' management style so far have been limited to the televised Rochdale replay.

Despite being under pressure for the majority of the game, for once we took our chances, with the evergreen Kevin Gallen proving it's all about being in the right place at the right time.

Post Grays, that's five away wins out of five. With the festive season approaching, we'd be all set for a rendition of 'Oh what fun it is to



ALL TOO EASY: Nathan Abbey

see Luton win away!' were it not for the fact that all our games over Christmas are at home.

No doubt the cracking banter with the Eastbourne Borough fans will make up for it...

Perhaps our good form on the road is simply a result of observing the 'smash and grab' jobs that all

these horrible local sides have been doing at our place.

I was home for the Rushden match, the game in which our finishing was so inept we couldn't even score past Nathan Abbey.

Diamonds' Lee Tomlin showed us how it's meant to be done, before performing a Rooney-esque slide on his knees in front of the Kenny End.

I hope it gave him some painful friction burns – though knowing how much the groundsman water the pitch that doesn't seem very likely!

Talking of which, what's happened to the half-time ritual of the little kids getting soaked by the sprinklers while they try and play five-a-side? Maybe the club has had a crackdown on diving...

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what a beauty!

VITAL STATISTICS

Full Name: Helen Tosney

Age: 26

Occupation: Marketing executive

Attached? Single

Been a supporter since: 2008

Best looking Hatter: Mark Tyler

Most valuable player: Mark Tyler

Player to flog: Shane Blackett

Ideal night out: Cocktails and dancing with my girlfriends

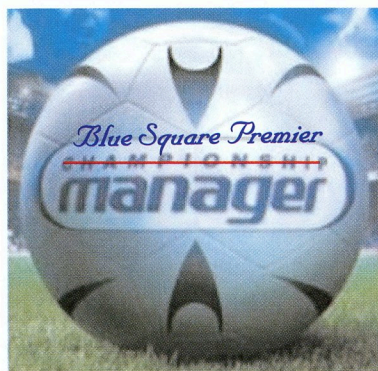
Favourite TV shows: Anything with Michael McIntyre or David Attenborough!

Special Message: Go to www.pinupforheroes.co.uk and purchase a 2010 calendar. All proceeds will go to the Help For Heroes charity and I'm the August model!



Helen

If you'd like to put yourself or a mate forward for this feature then don't be shy send an email to orange@bedsnews.com



Steve's line-up for today



Subs: K Pilkington, Nwokeji, Murray, Gnackpa, Keane

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



UNLIKE new gaffer Dickie Dosh, due to press deadlines, I don't have the luxury of picking a line-up at the eleventh hour, but barring an injury crisis or an outbreak of swine flu in the squad, my line-up would look something like this.

Tyler would come back into the side provided he's recovered from injury, with loan signing Pilkington (Kevin that is, not George) on the bench, despite some more than reliable covering performances from Gore.

Emanuel would also come back into my side providing he's fit too, with Asafu-Adjaye, the other Pilkington (George this time... could get confusing) and Alan White making up the rest of the back line.

Nicholls would still make my line-up despite some pretty hit and miss performances this season, allowing Hall to push

forward and support the attack.

If press reports are anything to go by, the soon-to-be-departing Keane would make the bench and replace Nicholls if he looks off the pace.

Burgess and Newton would provide service for the forward line from the two flanks, with Gallen, who at the time of writing seems to have hit a decent run of goalscoring form, and Craddock, who has FINALLY managed to score from open play, hopefully getting on the end of some of their crosses and bagging some more goals between them.

If that doesn't work then new loan signing Nwokeji could add an extra dimension up front.

I haven't seen him play yet, but apparently he has explosive pace and is pretty powerful, so he could prove an interesting temporary acquisition.

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From the Kenny End...

FOOTBALL, and the internet, have a rather amusing relationship.

The fact you can keep up with the news, and watch video clips past and present, is a major positive.

Football forums and messageboards have their place in the good and bad columns in that they provoke a good discussion, but also attract their fair amount of bad press as well.

But one thing I've recently noticed is the number of footballers who can be found on the social networking website Facebook.

Many don't expect to find their favourite

players online in this manner, but what I think is often forgotten is that the average professional footballer is human just like everyone else.

And in regards to Luton Town FC, the bigger question you'll soon find yourself asking is "what Luton player doesn't have a Facebook account?"

I reckon around 75 per cent of the current playing squad have an account that can be found relatively easily.

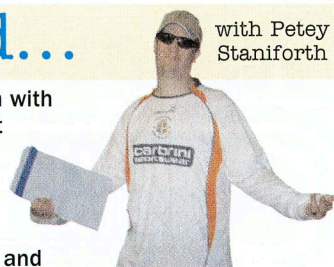
A surprising amount of Hatters from our past can also be found on there and this is something that is just as enjoyable as

keeping in touch with all of the current players.

I recently caught up with former striker Andrew Fotiadis and was fascinated to find out from him what he's been up to the last few years.

Then there's the striker from today's side (I'll spare him his blushes), who contacted me to thank me for my support after the FA Cup home game against Rochdale, after he shouted a rather controversial word in frustration after missing a chance!

And of course, my close friend and LTFC



goalkeeper Ian Feuer, who is my son's godfather, who always welcomes a message from any Luton fan who remembers him and wants a chat.

So the next time you think footballers, even Luton players, aren't that approachable - think again!

Until next time, keep believing!

Petey

with Petey Staniforth



O'Cahan you believe it?

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

Hello there Hatters fans!

Well, I'm writing on the evening of November 19, so I can't be completely up to date with events I'm afraid.

However, Tommy's found his scoring boots, Nico seems to be returning to form and other players are coming back from injury, including Keith Keane, who is one of the most unsung heroes I have seen at Kenilworth Road.

Hopefully things are still going well as you're reading this...

I can't really pass comment on Richard Money yet, seeing as how he's only been in control of the team for three matches.

However, he is unbeaten so far, and the team seems to be playing a lot better.

What's more, he's been giving everybody a fair crack of the whip, which certainly paid off in the case of Steve Basham!

It's encouraging to see that he's willing to give everybody a chance rather than simply carry on with what had been happening before - and, so far, it's working!

The players are now having to compete for places and that's a situation we haven't had for a very long time.

We've got used to the first team simply being slotted into place every week, which isn't a

necessarily a good blueprint for a winning squad.

The gates we've been having are very good for this league too, which shows that support is still there for Luton Town, even though we are at the lowest point in our history.

By the by, I don't feel at the moment that I can write a column without at least a passing piece of praise for striker Kevin Gallen, who has been a stalwart for the team over the last few games in particular.

He may only be a little bloke and he may have lost some of the pace that he once had, but he reads the game as well

as any player out there and that gives him that extra yard or so that can often be the difference between a goal and a wasted opportunity, or between victory and defeat.

A few words for Jake Howells as well, who has done exceptionally well over the last year or so to establish himself as a member of the first-team squad.

He has come on in leaps and bounds in terms of composure and experience, and has lost the naivety that characterised his early appearances as a Luton Town player.

Well done Kevin and Jake.

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Roger Wash tracks down those footballers who were capped with the Hatters...

National honours

Ron Baynham

DURING their Division One days in the 1950s, Ron Baynham was the keeper whose name was on everyone's lips as part a side that more than held its own in the top flight.

Birmingham born Baynham joined Southern League Worcester City before signing for Luton in November 1951 in exchange for £1,000 and was initially seen as international Bernard Streten's understudy.

Ron was content to continue to learn his trade, but within a year was contesting the

number one spot with Streten, although it was not until 1957 that he made the shirt his own.

The Hatters won promotion to the old Division One in 1955 and the following autumn Baynham was capped in the 5-1 thrashing of Denmark in Copenhagen.

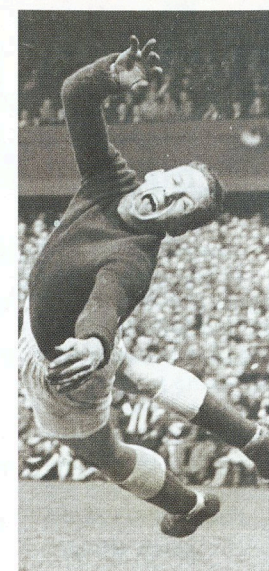
Two more caps came as England beat Northern Ireland 3-0 and Spain 4-1 at Wembley before he was overlooked in favour of Reg Matthews of Third Division Coventry City.

Asked whether he considered winning an England cap or appearing in the 1959 cup final was the biggest achievement,

he replied, "Both were tremendous highlights, but I rated Wembley for the cup final, even though it bought me the biggest disappointment of my career."

The cup final was the pinnacle of Baynham's playing career and within 12 months the 1959 squad were part of the gradual decline of the club as it drifted down to Division Four.

Ron stayed on at Kenilworth Road until 1965 before working as a painter and decorator, as well as at Luton Airport for some years, and is now happily enjoying his retirement.



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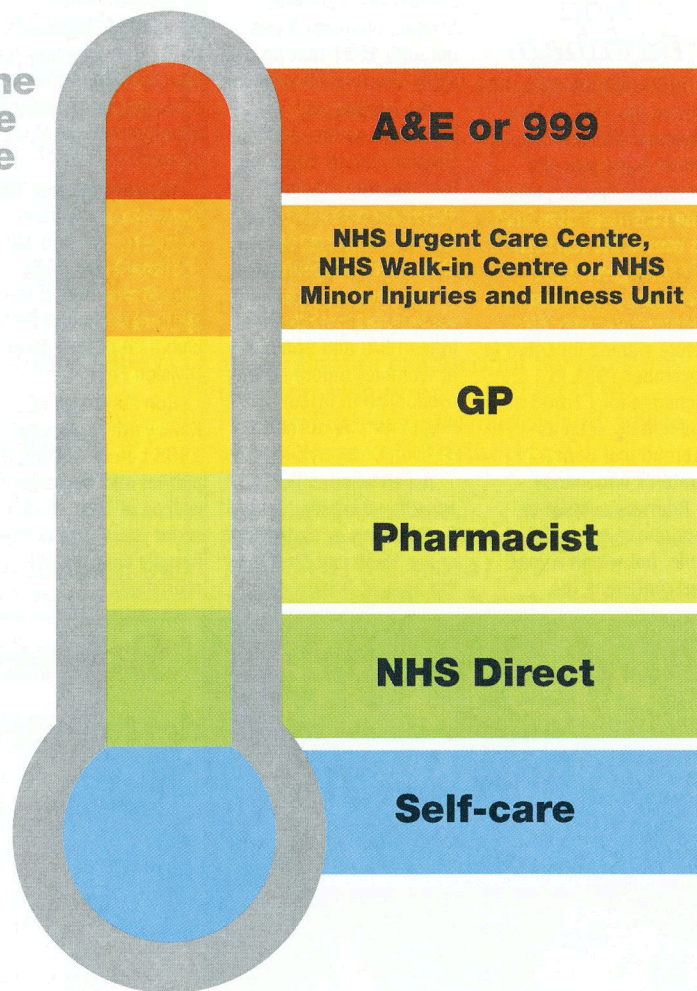
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THERE are many reasons I'm not a fan of Luton.

Firstly, it's in my Watford DNA.

You may flirt an allegiance with another club, although there's clearly a gene which means for me it can never be Luton.

I had a soft spot for Wimbledon when they were a lower league side - then they got to the top flight and started beating us with their long ball game in the 1980's.

Now I'm firmly on the side of AFC Wimbledon - which means I detest MK Dons as much as you.

But back to Luton. Secondly there was the plastic pitch.

What was wrong with playing in a mudbath? Our pitch always used to turn into a cow field by Christmas and it didn't do our passing game any harm.

Then there was the away fans ban.

Deeply unfair -

although thankfully it did spare us that hell of watching you parade with the Littlewoods Cup as we were about to be relegated.

Now there's a new irritation.

Part of any Saturday game is waiting for the announcer to read out the other scores out at half time.

You can't hear a thing below the stand so I've always hung about for a minute to hear your score,

before heading to the pie kiosk.

That used to be no problem at all, buy something inedible and back in your seat in no time.

But every season recently I've had to wait longer and longer to hear your score. By this season I'm been missing out on my pie - half time's nearly gone by the time our announcer reaches the Blue Square. And it's all Luton's fault.

Up the Horns.

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

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