

Half-time

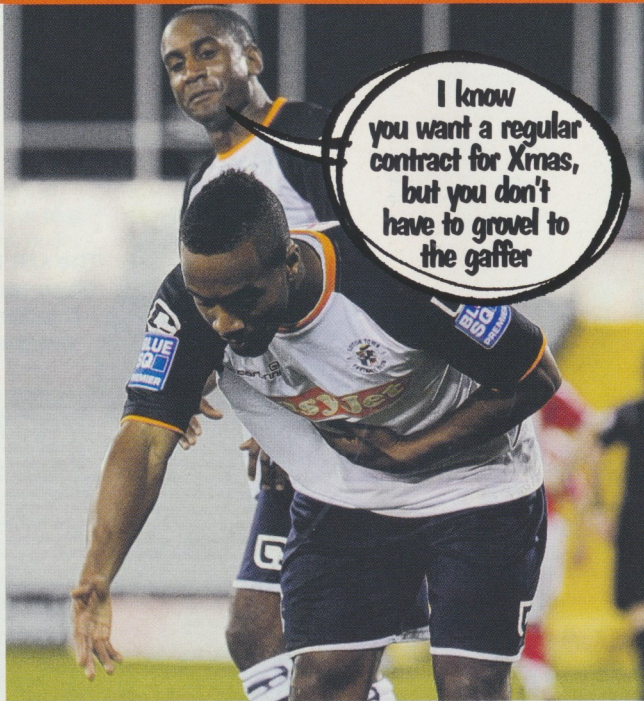
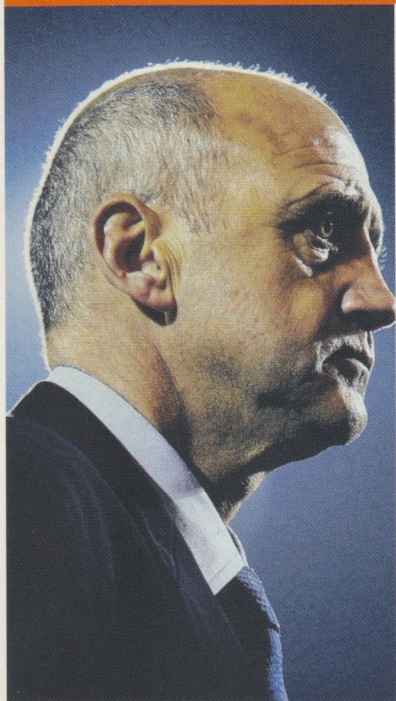
By Hatters for Hatters

ORANGE



Season 09-10 No5

Christmas Edition



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hatters matters

... a word from the editor

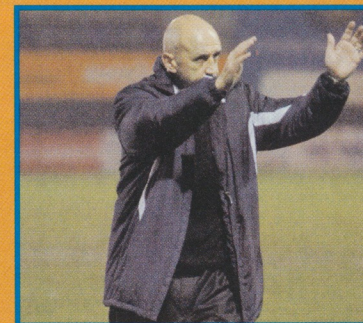
SO expectations at Kenilworth Road are too high are they?

That was Richard Money's take after the Kettering match as the crowd vented its frustrations at the team following the home defeat.

It reminded us of the infamous time when manager Lennie Lawrence made himself unpopular by telling fans the club had over-achieved after failing to get promotion via the play-offs in 1997.

It's become patently obvious that most supporters' belief this summer that we'd bounce back into the Football League with minimal fuss is now not going to happen.

Yes, we're only in the Conference because of the points deduction.



'Calm down, calm down. We may have slaughtered Rotherham but it doesn't mean we'll thrash Forest Green'

Yes, we've got a bigger budget than most, if not all, of the teams we're up against.

Yes, we've got a squad who could play, or have played, at a higher level.

But the harsh reality is nothing is certain in this funny old game.

Personally, this fanzine editor believes fans are right to expect the club to be challenging for top spot, while accepting that life doesn't always turn out

the way you plan.

We certainly can expect to beat sides like Chester who field their youngest-ever team and play the second half with 10 men. Then, in the very next game, our high expectations are supported when Town annihilate Rotherham in the FA Cup.

Hopefully, we can expect some consistency in 2010 when Richard Money gets a settled side.

Happy Christmas!



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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The news at

You've got to hand it to Richard

NOW he's had time to get his feet under the manager's desk, Richard Money is showing Hatters players that he means business.

As a former defender himself, he's keen to sort the defence out as a priority... and he's taking no prisoners.

Take the keeper's jersey, for instance. Shane Gore found himself outed by loanee Kevin Pilkington despite a couple of good performances against Rochdale as the gaffer sought perfection.

Pilks himself has done well, but that hasn't stopped Money threat-

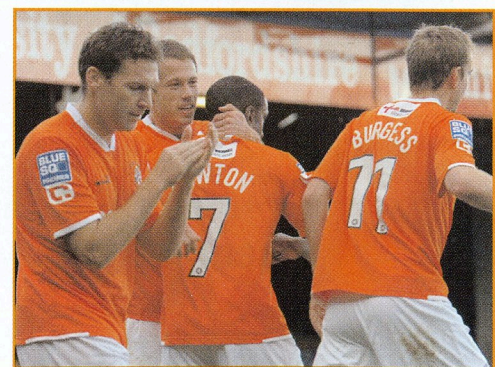


ening to make another change between the sticks - himself. Here he's seen putting some gloves on in a coded warning to keep Pilks, Gore and Tyler on their toes.

Cashing in on his good fortune

NOW, we all know that Hatters players aren't earning the same princely sums they had been in the not-too-distant past.

And beggars can't be choosers when you're in the latter stages of your career and, quite frankly, there aren't too many options on the table.



Veteran Kevin Gallen has proved to be value for money in the time he's been with the club.

As he's bedded in so well we were wondering why he seemed strangely distracted here when the rest of

the team were celebrating a crucial goal.

But on non-league wages every penny helps and Kev tells us in this picture he'd just found the 50p from the pre-match coin toss which the ref had dropped.

Ken Rumours, speculation, gossip and half-truths

The case for Alan's defence

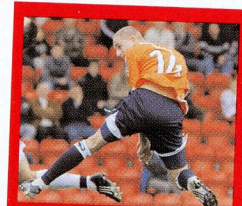
GOOD old Alan White. He's always given 110 per cent for the Hatters and Richard Money knows he'll certainly get a wholehearted display out of the centre half.

But even Alan will admit that, while he certainly puts in the effort, he's not the most mobile of defenders.

Sure, he wins more than his fair share of

headers to avert danger and also bangs in the odd goal into the opposition net, but anyone with a bit of pace can leave him in a spot of bother.

He's seen here in a pre-match kickabout taking the art of static defending a touch too far. The next stage of this warm-up was practising desperately raising his arm for a fruitless offside appeal.



ASA Hall has been in and out of the starting line-up in recent times.

And that means he's been looking to expend some energy in a different way as bench warming doesn't exactly keep the fitness up to scratch.

To give the old ticker a work-out, Asa tells us he's been playing cricket and golf in his spare time.

We found this hard to believe... and then we dug a bit deeper. Team-mates tell us he's spent some of his wages on a Nintendo Wii and he's so addicted to playing virtual shots that he occasional does it in the middle of a Hatters game!

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Secret Santa

Can you identify which Town players have been disguised as Father Christmas?



ANSWERS: 1. Rossi Jarvis, 2. Mark Tyler, 3. Shane Blackett, 4. Kevin Gallen, 5. Kevin Nicholls, 6. Tom Craddock.

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On the 28th October 2009 Community Training Portal (CTP) held an event to promote UK Online Services and Leamdirect Online Training. Part of the event was dedicated to celebrating achievements of our learners and staff through an award ceremony.

The event was hosted by Lobia Begum (Centre Manager) and was attended by Cllr Bullock Norris and the Mayor of Luton Cllr Mohammed Riaz who said, "I am honoured to be part of this as I have been greatly impressed by the achievement of Community Training Portal over the last 5 years. Community Training Portal have reached out to over 4000 local residents who have one way or the other gained something positive from them."

Sulcan Mahmood (Ex Dir) Said:
"CTP is a community-based organisation aimed at long term unemployed, people in low paid employment, and small enterprises. CTP imparts specialist skills, knowledge, expertise and self confidence to enhance individual's prospects within the labour market. Through quality skills training, education and support for enterprise, it will enable its client groups to compete at an equal level for the jobs and business opportunities available or progress further in education and training."

Community Training Portal's primary aim is to offer provision of quality vocational training geared to provide nationally recognised qualifications/skills required to obtain or secure employment for individuals."

CTP currently employs 25 Staff Members who are all qualified to high standards.

Most of our courses are delivered on flexible basis, where learners are in control of their learning.

Pictured on the right are some of the learners who won awards in English, Maths, IT and Road Passenger Vehicle Driving (RPVD - Taxi Qualification) at the CTP event with two directors, Omar Dar (Right) and Sulcan Mahmood (Left) and the Mayor Cllr Mohammed Riaz (Middle Back)

CTP have completed 80+ NVQ's in RPVD and the BTCC in Transporting Passengers by Taxi and Private Hire (Taxi Qualification) with a further 50 on current programmes. CTP has a further 500 taxi drivers on the waiting list that will be starting a programme in near future.

CTP are quick to recognise and award potential and therefore have trained some of the taxi drivers to deliver the training which allows for actual knowledge and experience to be utilised.

To the right is a picture of some of the taxi drivers who have passed.

CTP have recently been accredited to deliver the A1 Assessors course and will soon be starting classes soon. Details of this course and others are listed below.

Some comments on the day:

Melanie Harrison- UKOnline Regional Manager
"It was a fantastic event and I really enjoyed myself"

Ashar Bukhari - Learner
"The event was amazing I have been attending it for the previous 4 years, really enjoyed this one as CTP have the ability to make learners feel comfortable with their excellent hospitality skills."

Shazad Dar - Local taxi driver
"I will recommend CTP to all the drivers, as they truly understand the needs of local drivers."

Mushtaq Ahmed - Acting Chairman of Luton Taxi Drivers Union
"I have recently completed my NVQ and found the learning experience excellent, I feel using actual local taxi drivers, as part of the delivery, gives it that extra touch."

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Lobia Begum
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378 Leagrave Road, LU3 1RW
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Email: info@ctportal.org
Website: www.ctportal.co.uk

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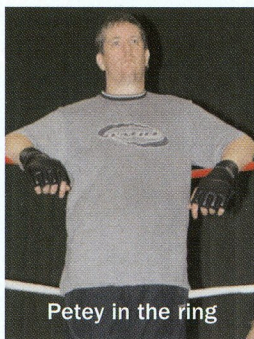


From the Kenny End... with Petey Staniforth

WELL, for those who are keeping track, I survived my wrestling match (and won it too!) on November 28, and am still in one piece.

I must say a personal thank you to the Luton fans who weren't able to go to the Rotherham cup tie, and came out to see me. You guys were great!

My schedule has now finished for the year, but Power Trip Wrestling will be back early next year, and I'll be putting on a very special night for what will be our third year birthday show in March 2010 in Luton.



Petey in the ring

When it's the end of a year, you tend to look back and think how things have changed. That's been very much the case at Kenilworth Road.

We've had a topsy turvy crazy ride in 2009, even more wild than I think any of us

imagined.

I think we're all looking for a little bit of stability at this point, and it seems a fair statement to say that Richard Money is a suitable person to bring that to both the team and the club itself as a whole.

Whatever we do though, I really think at some point over Christmas every Luton fan who owns a copy of it on DVD ought to watch our Johnstone's Paint Trophy winning game at Wembley at least once.

Some of the players have already gone, and, of course, Mick

Harford's gone, but I genuinely believe a glass should be lifted to the squad from that day because it was a day we'll treasure for a very, very long time to come.

Most of all let's support the lads over Christmas and New Year as much as possible and get a good winning run going because we all know that if we play to what we're capable of; then we're worthy of going up as champions!

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you all.

Petey

You wear it well...

Alex Cowan gets kitted out in the best and worst of sartorial football wear

WHEN I was asked to write a review on the different football kits in the Blue Square Premier I was slightly worried as I'm no Gok Wan.

However, I do own a few England shirts so I decided I at least knew something about what makes a good, and comfortable, kit.

Therefore, I decided to give it my best shot and have chosen some of the best and worst kits around...

One of the better kits in the Blue Square is Oxford United's lovely yellow and navy blue number. The shirt is simple but with enough detail on the sleeves to make it interesting, well more so than their football at least. The shorts are a good length, with enough room so that the players can be comfortable.

Next up is the Kettering Town ensemble. Again the shirt is simple, but effective with black and white on the shoulder, contrasting with the all over deep red colour.

Mansfield Town's kit is similar to Oxford's in colour, except the fact that it is brighter. I like the lovely bright blue detail running down the sleeves and the sides of the shirt - their supporters need something to cheer them up watching that dross after all...

The blue and white stripey design on Chester City's kit is nice and interesting, without being too loud. Of course it might all be in vain if they finally fold - maybe it's down to below par shirt sales?

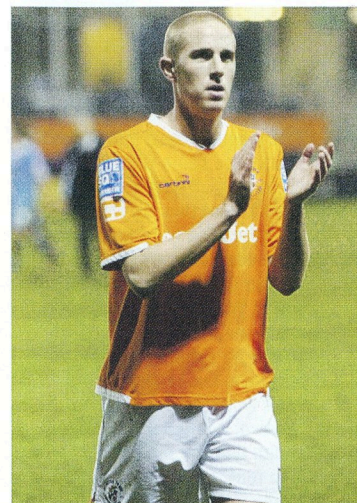
Super Luton Town's home kit is a Dutch orange and white, while their away kit is tidy navy blue and white number. Looks great with airline giant easyJet as their sponsors!

One of the kits I picked that could be described as one of the worst is that of near neighbours Stevenage Borough.

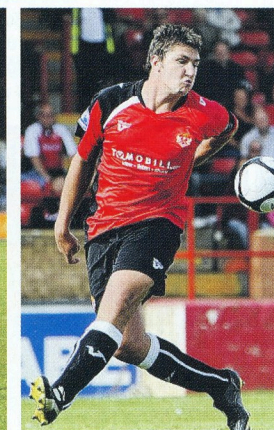
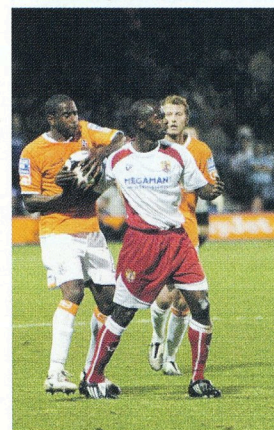
For a start, while researching I couldn't actually find a decent picture of the kit. The picture on the website showed the kits just about visible in a cardboard box. What I could make out was that the shirt was white with black and red detailing on the shoulders, nice!

Cambridge's 'amber' offering - or in other words an uninteresting shade of orange - is also a fashion faux pas. The black slash down the side is obviously supposed to make the shirt more interesting, but I'm not too sure...

Wrexham's away kit is white and quite retro, but that's probably bang up to date if you live in Wales!



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designers
of Hatters'
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below, are the
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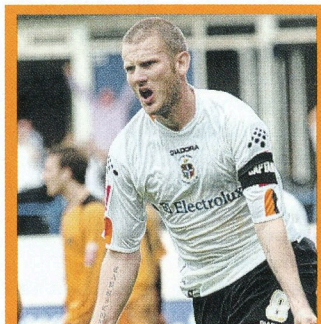


THE game before Christmas: the Salvation Army band playing carols and Happy Harry and Father Christmas handing out mince pies – fortunately some things never change.

However, the rousing lyrics of "O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!" may strike a hollow chord with long-suffering Hatters fans.

Whilst a combination of having to tighten the purse strings prior to this year's festivities and the fact that we're playing Forest Green today (sounds more like a Center Parcs resort than a football team!) will probably result in a lower crowd than usual, there is no doubt that 6,000 Luton supporters have been incredibly faithful.

"Joyful and triumphant" is another matter. Without a home league win since October 3, the



MUDDIED: Kevin Nicholls

Grinches in the Kenny End are bound to start their moaning if we don't score inside the first two seconds today.

Indeed, in the last few months Kevin Nicholls and Tom Craddock have had their names muddied so much that you'd be forgiven for

thinking that they'd been responsible for the recession, the MPs' expenses scandal and Tiger Woods' fight with a fire hydrant.

There again these critics are probably the same people who used to slag off Steve Howard – we wouldn't want this 'lazy' forward back, otherwise we might actually start to score a few goals, eh?

OK, so Craddock seems to be prone to Warren Feeney-itis in a one-on-one situation and Kev is rather more sedate than super these days, but I believe both players would be re-invigorated by a creative, energetic midfielder who can link the play and pass the ball to feet.

Come on Mr Money, this team needs some flair to get the terraces rocking again. Does anyone know if Jean-Louis-Valois has a younger brother?!

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Calendars

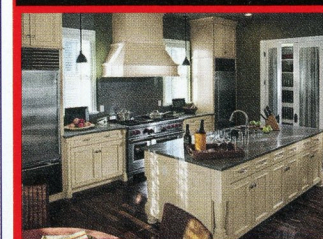
Our selection of 2010 calendars will be arriving during October. Our range will include the best of TV, Film and celebrity. Also, look out for our 'multibuy' savings.



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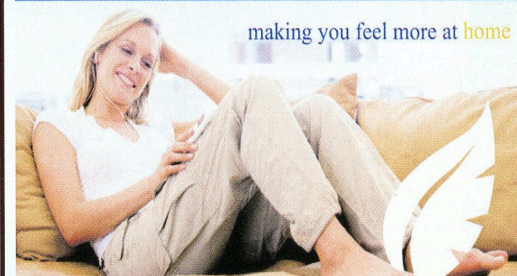
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VITAL STATISTICS

Full Name:

Rebecca Gates

Age: 19

Occupation: Nursery nurse

Attached? Single

Been a supporter since: I was little

Best looking Hatter:

Jake

Howells

Most valuable player:

Keith Keane

Player to flog:

Kevin Nicholls

Ideal night out:

Dinner out or out partying with friends

Favourite TV shows:

Hollyoaks, X-Factor, I'm A Celeb, EastEnders

Rebecca

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



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



THE great performance in the cup win against Rotherham made a welcome change after pretty dire showings against Kettering and Chester, and while, probably like a lot of Town fans, I'd prefer to have chalked up an extra few league wins than earned a trip to Southampton with a cup win, here's hoping such a comprehensive second round win will prove the catalyst for an improvement in the BSP.

Money-man's hand has been forced in terms of team selections by cup tied players, new loan signings and injuries in recent weeks, and it'll be interesting to see what side he'll put out today assuming he has new fresh injuries after the Cambridge game and with no cup tied players. Something of a welcome selection headache for Money given some of the improved performances in the FA Cup.

The ever-reliable Tyler would return to my side if he's recovered from his injury problem, if not Kev Pilkington would get the nod as a more than capable replacement. Blackett and White look like they may be starting to form a solid partnership in the middle, and although George Pilkington hasn't always looked entirely comfortable at right-back, he still gives the Town a solid

base when playing there. Murray would make up the back four, the same back four that kept clean sheets against Chester and Rotherham.

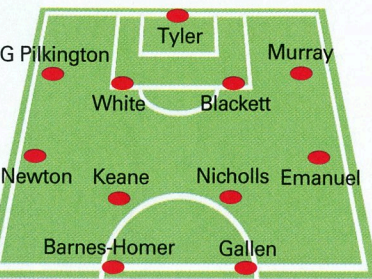
Newton has terrorised teams in recent weeks and always looks dangerous so he'd get the nod on the right. Nicholls' more advanced role against Rotherham was interesting and seemed to strangely work, so perhaps he could push on a touch from the middle, ably supported by Keane.

Emanuel would sit on the left of midfield but track back to help Murray out when needed, but Emanuel could be replaced with the lively looking loanee Cain if ineffective going forward.

Dickie Dosh seems to have plenty of options up front and it's difficult to know who to pick. Gallen's strong performance against Rotherham would earn him a place in my side, if anything he holds the ball up superbly, and it would be interesting to see if he links up well with promising acquisition Barnes-Homer, seeing as the Barnes-Homer/Craddock partnership looked as though it might need some work against Chester.

A much-needed three points to put some pre-Christmas cheer on my face today, please.

Steve's line-up for today



Subs: K Pilkington, Craddock, Nwokeji, Cain, Gnappka

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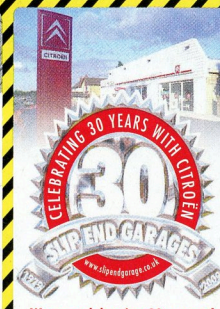
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What an absolute

This month it's the turn of Geoff Cox from The Luton News 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 an email giving your verdict to orange@bedsnews.com



Luton Town 1 Charlton 6 Division 2 10/2/62

My first season watching the Hatters, and after the opening day joy of a 4-1 victory against Preston the horror show against the Addicks reduced this young fan to tears.

New centre-half Ron Cope, signed from Man Utd for a big fee, had a nightmare.

My hero Gordon Turner scored the consolation goal.



Luton Town 1 Leyton Orient 3 Division 2 23/4/62

After a bad run which saw his team slide down the table, manager Sam Bartram tried to put

some life into the goal-shy attack by playing goalkeeper Ron Baynam, an England international, at centre-forward for this Easter Monday game, replacing Gordon Turner. The experiment was a complete flop.



Notts County 0 Luton Town 0 Division 2 15/9/79

Of the hundreds of Luton games I've seen, this one, viewed from the old open terrace at Meadow Lane, sticks in the memory as probably the most boring. Despite a forward line of Stein, Hatton and Moss, there was hardly a decent effort on target and defenders Saxby and Price seemed content to pass back to Findlay from the halfway line.

nightmare!



Luton Town 2 Wrexham 5 Division 2 20/9/97

I was one of only 5,241 die-hards who saw a makeshift defence collapse against the Welsh visitors.

An overweight Andy Dibble, nearly 10 years after his Wembley heroics, replaced Kelvin Davis between the sticks and had a game to forget.

Poor Trevor Peake looked every bit a 40-year-old sub.

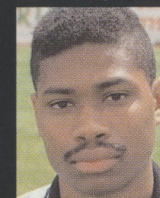


Grimsby 7 Luton Town 1 FA Cup 3rd Round 6/1/96

My wife's relatives in Cleethorpes still won't let me forget this one!

It was Lennie Lawrence's second match as manager and it hardly endeared him to Hatters fans.

Luton were already three down before Dwight Marshall, right, scored and two of Grimsby's three subs rubbed salt into the wounds in the closing minutes.



"It could have been ten, look on the bright side" – Lennie Lawrence after the Grimsby debacle



Trevor Peake was one of the fall guys when Town were embarrassed 5-2 at home by Wrexham



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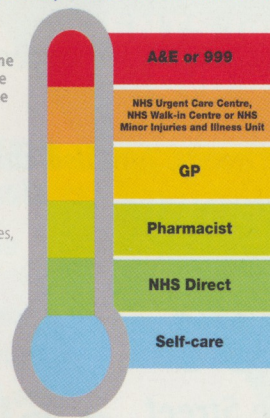
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Roger Wash tracks down those footballers who were capped with the Hatters...

National honours

Mal Donaghy

MAL Donaghy was a promising Gaelic footballer when at school in Northern Ireland and had represented County Antrim. Gradually the other code took over and he eventually joined Lame as a part-timer while taking on clerical officer role at the Post Office in Belfast.

It was while playing for the U21 team against Eire in Dublin that he caught the eye of Luton manager David Pleat. The Lame manager wanted more than the £20,000 on offer so Pleat waited for his counterpart to go on holiday and went back to the Lame board who thought that the player was out of contract. Luton therefore picked up, for a song, a player who graced their defence for 10 years!

Donaghy played his early football for Luton at left-back but moved over to central

defence as the Hatters walked away with the Division Two championship in 1982. His speed, agility, quickness in the tackle and powers of recovery made him the ideal foil for a succession of stopper centre-halves at Luton. In particular he enjoyed the perfect partnership with Steve Foster as the Hatters enjoyed the most successful period in their history.

In his first nine seasons at Kenilworth Road, Donaghy was ever present in six of them and missed only six games in total in the other three. He put down this remarkable injury-free record to playing alongside any number of 'big, ugly centre-halves.' Ironically, Donaghy was injured playing in the Mercantile Credit showpiece tournament at Wembley only a week before the Hatters biggest game in their annals. However,

he made a remarkable recovery from a serious ankle injury and starred as Luton beat Arsenal in the 1988 Littlewoods Cup final.

It seemed that Donaghy, who by now had won 58 caps for Northern Ireland after making his debut in 1980, seemed set to finish his career at Kenilworth Road but a surprise £650,000 bid from Alex Ferguson early in the following season took him to Manchester United, the club he had supported as a boy.

In four seasons at Old Trafford, Donaghy sampled life at the top including forays into Europe but, as Gary Pallister established himself with the Reds, the 35-year-old found himself forced into the background but enjoyed two further seasons in the Premiership with Chelsea before retiring.



LEGEND: Mal Donaghy

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So a trip to London, on a Sunday as well coz neighbours Fulham have bagged the Saturday slot, in early January to sit in a freezing shed – well

Shed End – and hope against hope we don't get slaughtered. The last two times I ventured to the Bridge it was 4-0 (4-0 to them, in case you weren't sure) so I'm not confident.

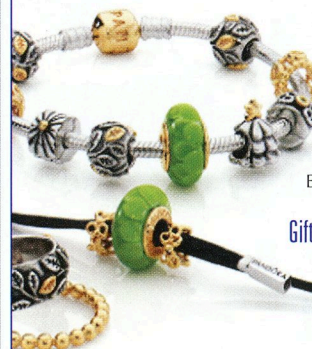
Still, you've got to go. And I suppose the money will come in handy as we do our best to emulate your past of financial diligence and responsibility. Or lack of.

Merry Christmas.
 Up The Horns

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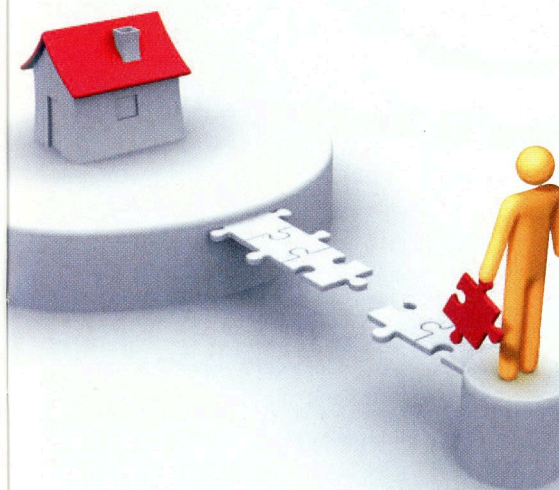
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