

Half-time

By Hatters for Hatters

ORANGE



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hatters matters

... a word from the editor

SO, it's the final league game of the season at Kenilworth Road today.

When the campaign kicked off in August we were probably all expecting to be breaking out the champagne (or sparkling wine) and partying with the players by the end of today's match.

It hasn't quite turned out to be that straightforward though – despite the last six weeks where the team has finally clicked and it's been raining goals (top effort boys).

So why has it taken until now for our season to kick on? Perhaps it's the form of two quality wide men in Jake and Claude,



TIME FOR A PRAYER: Claude got injured on Saturday, failed to score and Town dropped crucial points against Tamworth. The Luton News reported how the Frenchman put his recent rejuvenation down to his mum's soup. If supplies have now run out then let's pray a fresh consignment comes quickly across The Channel and helps secure our return to the Football League.

perhaps it's because Craddock is back through the middle, maybe it's down to Heslop forming a great partnership with Keane in the middle.

Our 1-0 win at Stevenage at Easter kept things interesting at the summit,

but it looks like, despite our late charge, we'll have to settle for the play-offs now unless Stevenage blow it in spectacular style.

One thing's for sure, if we have to go down that route, no-one will want to face in-form Luton.



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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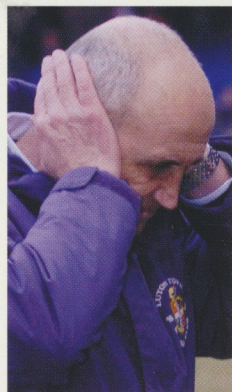
Three and easy

KEVIN Gallen likes a good joke, so he was thrilled when he came up against the Grays defence!

You may think Kev's pretty pleased with himself and is busy showing the crowd how many goals he's bagged, but in an exclusive interview with HTO, he's revealed the real truth behind the photo.

During a lull in the match, the striker – who grabbed the first hat-trick of his career against Grays – actually counted the number of supporters in the away seats and was informing everyone at the other end of the ground that there were actually three people in the Oak Road end.

In this instance it really was a case of the away fans coming in a taxi.



Listen here boss

RICHARD Money just couldn't believe his ears when some fans started grumbling as 30 minutes ticked by against Grays and we hadn't troubled the scoreboard operator.

He's seen here shielding himself from the criticism off the terraces before the avalanche finally began.

But don't totally block out the fans' views, Richard. We do have some valid advice (occasionally!). Like placing Tom Craddock right up front instead of isolated on the left flank.

Net result of more work

BEING Town's scoreboard operator used to be such a cushy job. After suffering three successive relegations, it really was a simple task adding on one or two goals a game (if we were lucky!). But suddenly there's no more smoking a fag or reading the paper during the play as Town have been on fire in front of goal. We hear the scoreboard chap has now asked for his wages to be at least doubled given that his work has been quadrupled in certain games this term.



Ken

Rumours, speculation, gossip and half-truths



I can't understand why we've had all these injuries...ooouch!

Newton's law of physics

WE'VE had a few injuries over the course of the campaign, but thankfully as the promotion race enters its final furlong most seem to have cleared up (touch wood). Adam Newton's missed a few games and maybe this contortionist warm-up routine we saw him performing could provide us with the key clue to his absence.

Shocked by 'rest'



YOUNG Asa Hall can't hide this shock during a recent reserve game after news filtered through that Town had signed a new midfielder. He can count himself a little unlucky to be 'rested'. But as Keano and loanee Simon Heslop have struck up such a good partnership in the middle of the park he may as well purchase a comfy cushion to avoid a numb bum during his anticipated lengthy bench-warming duties. Who knows, Dunelm may even have a BOGOF cushion deal on in their post-Easter sale and he can get one for Rossi Jarvis too while he's at it!

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

17 pts  mark wood	Town 3 Alt'ham 0 The high scoring days are over for now, let's not get too greedy. A comfortable win.	Rushden 1 Town 2 Sadly this win may be too late if Boro have already won the title. A Wembley warm-up?
17 pts  steve sims	Town 2 Alt'ham 0 A battle to get the first goal but after that it's a relatively straightforward three points.	Rushden 0 Town 2 Diamonds rest a player or two as they're already in the play-offs which makes this easier.
11 pts  alec swann	Town 3 Alt'ham 0 The Hatters are in good form and the visitors offer little in the way of resistance. Easy.	Rushden 0 Town 0 With both sides having little to play for before the big games arrive, this is a tame affair.
16 pts  steve nolan	Town 3 Alt'ham 1 Comfortable win for the Hatters against mid-table team. Title fight goes to last week.	Rushden 0 Town 1 Late goal hopefully (you're being very hopeful - Ed) wins Town the Blue Square crown.

Boro boy...

Stevenage fan Simon Downes sticks his oar in as the promotion race reaches its climax

WELL, I'd like to say it's been fun, but it's been more nerve-racking than anything else.

After 14 years of hurt - and the odd play-off heartbreak - Boro finally look like securing their place in the Football League.

Who would have thought that Stevenage would be top dog in the Three Counties?... yet here we are!

The recent derby defeat to Luton hurt and gave the Hatters hope, but recent wins over Wimbledon and Forest Green have got us back on track, with a little help from Tamworth.

The Chester situation obviously worked to Luton's advantage, although the Conference probably did make the right decision. That said I think justice is going to be done.

Luton will find their way back into the FL sooner rather than later, but you'll forgive me if I don't feel too sorry for you right now.

I'm not going to lie and pretend I want you to win the play-offs either...

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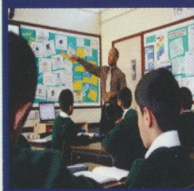
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In the run up to Easter Justin Craig will bring you the tips and tricks to help ensure your son or daughter achieves their full potential when those exams arrive.

Week 2 - Exam Preparation

Getting started is always the hardest bit but don't despair if you haven't because it's not too late! Just gather your notes, exam papers, find yourself a suitable space and write a broad but realistic revision programme and you'll be up-to-speed and ready for the most important step - exam preparation. This is the meat in the sandwich that will give you the necessary fuel to pace yourself over the coming weeks to finish the 'marathon'.

So, tip 2 is all about 'SMART revision' because it's not how much you do, but what and how you do it that really matters. S - 'Specific' - Make sure your revision sessions are 'specific' - revise just the one topic at a time and be clear what you want to learn;

M - 'Measurable' - test yourself towards the end of your session to see what you have learnt;

A - 'Achievable' - build your knowledge from the beginning - don't jump straight in to the material you find hardest;

R - 'Realistic' - keep time back for enjoying yourself otherwise you will burn out and get bored of revision very quickly;

T - 'Time-bound' - revise in short sharp bursts of 45 minutes to keep revision fresh and motivating. You may even break each session down further.

- Then comes the content itself - try and use a variety of revision techniques in each session e.g. making notes, mind maps, create flash cards, write your own mark schemes and practise lots of past questions.

- Finally don't forget to be proud of your achievements and let everyone around you know how you are getting on. Be honest, open and receptive to suggestions from others as to how you may improve! Remember - you can 'cherry pick' the best ideas and ignore the worst because after all... this marathon race is yours and nobody else's!

Objective Setting. This week you have three objectives:

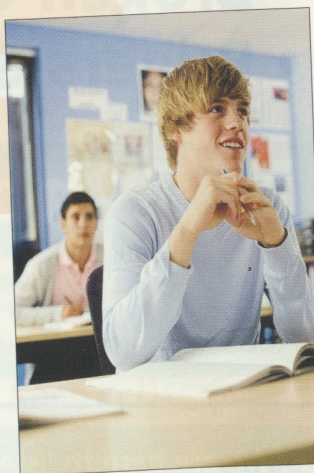
- SMART Revision - All revision should be 'specific', 'measurable', 'achievable', 'realistic' and 'time-bound'
- Variety - Use lots of revision techniques to keep things interesting
- Share your thoughts - talk to friends and family as much as possible

Next time we will give you tips on how to tackle exam day - until then - pace yourself and learn as you go!

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Hatters horror shows



MICK Harford said the 3-0 defeat at Wrexham this season was the worst performance in Hatters' history. Here we continue our series of articles where fans pick out their own nightmares. This time it's Ian Morris's turn.

Notts County (a), 1-2, 02/05/92: My first experience of watching Luton get relegated. A typical away scenario... Town take the lead and throw it away. Also memorable due to the friend who drove us to Notts almost

getting arrested after the game. He started shouting at someone who was laughing at our result. A copper stepped in and he started shouting at him too. Fortunately he calmed down and we got home.

Chelsea (Wembley), FA Cup semi, 0-2, 09/04/94: My first trip to Wembley and we lost. Luton were absolutely hopeless. I don't recall us having a shot in the entire game. The only consolation was that Chelsea got thumped 4-0 by Man Utd in the final.

Spurs (a), 1-4, 16/11/91: Everyone remembers this one. Luton play very well until the floodlights fail in the second half with Town leading 1-0. Spurs bring their players off the pitch. Luton keep theirs on it. When the game resumes Spurs are on fire as Hatters are caught cold. We're demolished and it all seemed mightily unfair.

Charlton (a), League Cup, 4-4, 23/09/03: Town take a 2-0 lead and end up 4-4 after extra time. Then we lose 6-5 on penal-

ties. A great game but I'll remember it for being taunted on the train station platform by Charlton fans and eventually getting home at 1.30am.

Cardiff (a), FA Cup, 2-1, 20/02/94: It's a stadium and a team I will never want to see again. Fantastic result. However a pitch invasion by the home fans who were baying for our blood at the final whistle took the gloss off and was fairly terrifying. Luckily I wasn't in the coach that had its windows smashed.

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Exiled Hat



Ramblings
from a Luton
fan up north...

IN my last article, penned prior to the Wrexham game I admitted: 'It's beginning to look like the best we can hope for is the play-offs'.

Since then, as I write following our demolition of Grays, we have won seven games, scored a whopping 29 goals and only conceded two.

I'd like to think that Richard Money pinned my column up in the dressing room to spur the lads on, but in reality, I'm sure the audacious appeal made by certain clubs to have the points they won against Chester reinstated provided more incentive for us

to catch the teams clearly 'messaging their pants'.

Therefore, using reverse psychology to the full, may I say we have absolutely NO CHANCE of winning the title and neither will 'Boro BLOW IT AGAIN.

Since my first Luton game in April 1997, I had never seen us score more than five goals until we beat Hayes 8-0 a few weeks ago.

Like London buses, it wasn't long before the next rout came along.

Our victory at Broadhall Way topped this, however, and was made all the sweeter



RAINING GOALS: Hatters are about to find the net yet again

by the mad ravings of their thuggish captain Mark Roberts. Following the game he responded to the jeering of Hatters' fans by pointing to his badge, though I still had

troubled deciphering the crest. Stalybridge? Stourbridge?

Football is a simple game and with Howells and Claude on the wings, Ed at right-back, Craddock up front and a suitable partner for Keano in Simon Heslop, we look to have found the winning formula. The system also means Adam Newton can be used as 'super-sub', which is sure to frighten any opposition.

I sincerely hope we will celebrate promotion at Nene Park or Wembley but, even if the unthinkable happens, come August, I'll be back with my season ticket.

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Samantha

VITAL STATISTICS

Full name: Samantha Mead

Age: 22

Occupation: Cabin crew

Attached? Yes

Been a supporter since: Birth

Best looking Hatter:

Well I did like Callum

Reynolds earlier this season

Most valuable player:

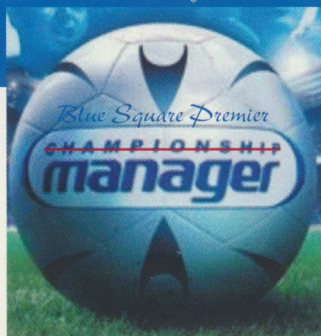
Tom Craddock

Player to flog: Claude Gnapska

Ideal night out: Drinks with the girls

Favourite TV shows: Gossip Girl and The Hills

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: Gore, Blackett, Hatch, Barnes-Homer, Newton

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



WELL, what more can be said about the last six weeks of Hatters' football?

At the time of writing, nine wins on the bounce, 34 goals banged in and just five conceded in the process.

Hopefully, by the time you're reading this, we'll have scored another hatful of goals, Boro will have bottled it a la wobbly Oxford, and we'll be perched proudly at the top of the tree just needing not to self destruct today and against Rushden to take the Blue Square Crown. The team picks itself these days doesn't it?

Tyler has had a relatively easy ride of it of late and keeps his place between the sticks, with reliable steady-Freddie at left-back, Asafu-Ajaye at right-back, big Kovacs in the middle partnered by the ever-

reliable George Pilkington.

Jake Howells has looked excellent in recent weeks on the left terrifying full-backs with some energetic displays, complimented with the pacey goalscoring displays of flying Frenchman Claude on the right.

Nico certainly hasn't been missed in the middle with Keane putting in some terrier-like performances, partnered well by the impressive Heslop.

Up front, on his day Gallen is a class apart in this division and his hit a rich vein of scoring form at the time of writing, thoroughly deserving that hat-trick against Grays. Tommy Craddock has also hit form at the right time, back where he belongs not stuck out on the left. And with a strong bench, it's an embarrassment of riches for Money.

Up the Hatters!

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From the Kenny End



With Petey Staniforth

WELCOME one and all, to what is the last column of the season for yours truly.

It really doesn't seem that long ago that I was really excited to be offered the opportunity to do this, and I genuinely want to thank those responsible for doing so. Just as one example, I've gained some really good friends in the space of this season. People who have read my columns here, and got in touch with me for a chat.

I'm going to have to say, that as I am writing this column, I'm in a great position to say that I called the situation that LTFC are in right now. I have said all along, that if we play to our potential (and what we are capable of) then there was no reason at all why we couldn't go up as champions. I said it at the start of the season, I said it in the middle, and

I'm certainly standing by my words at this point in time.

I've felt all along that we are the best side in the division and the last few weeks have proven that now. The players have realised it as well and are really coming good at the perfect time in the season to do so.

I can't deny, on a personal level, I've been so frustrated that I've had to miss a couple of matches due to running my wrestling show. When we won 8-0, I had to miss the game due to promoting one of my events in Corby.

Clearly I wasn't on my game as I got beaten in my own match that day and went home wondering quite how I was managing to be grumpy over such a result for our boys!

And, of course, if you

give it a chance to, lightning will always strike twice. Deciding to let an old friend call in a favour, I took the chance of performing on two shows in two days at Santa Pod raceway in Northamptonshire.

I thought I'd beaten my little jinx, as I made sure I was in attendance at the Stevenage game, front row behind the goal, as our boys got a very well deserved and hard-fought win. I went off to the shows, happy as anything, ready to be a part of a tag team match and feeling confident that I'd have a good time.

Making my mood better, was the fact myself and my tag team partner won our match (including the fact I was wearing the current LTFC home shirt to perform in) and whilst a little annoyed I'd miss

the game on the Monday, I tried not to dwell on it too much... until we went and hit another six goals without me in attendance!

Weighing it up, 14 goals scored in two games that I've missed is something that can make even the most devoted fan just a little paranoid!

But from here, we're set for the final few games left in the season and what is clearly going to be a very intense run in.

I feel in my heart that we're going to take the title and go back into the league where we all feel that we belong and should never have been forced out from. So let's keep our faith in these last nervous games, stay behind our boys, and give them the support they deserve!

Take it easy,
Petey



O'Cahan you believe it?

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

MANGWANANI from Harare! LTFC's Zimbabwe branch is in good health, and growing with every day.

You'll probably be amused to know that there's now a whole workforce of Zimbabweans here who want to know the Luton Town result every week. I've been updating them on our run of wins and they've got very excited. I think they like the idea that I've actually seen my team play!

You'll also probably like the comment of my originally Scots co-worker Iain, who, on being told of our 6-0 victory over Grays, dismissively said: "It

was 8-0 last week, you must be playing in a blind man's league."

It seems as if my presence is a curse for Luton Town Football Club. Since I've left the country we've done nothing but win, win and win (at the time of writing!). Tommy finally seems to have retrieved his shooting boots from behind the sofa, Gallen is still rolling back the years, Heslop appears to have made a world of difference and Claude seems to be recapturing the form shown on that wonderful day beneath the Wembley sun last year.

I'm very disappointed to not be there

to see it. I hope to hear and read more good things from across the globe, however!

I remember playing Altrincham last year, in the cup. From what I remember, we made a real meal of it, scraped our way to a replay at their place and got through to the next round by the skin of our teeth (by penalties, if memory serves?).

I'd just like to congratulate Richard Money on our recent run. We have come from nowhere right back into the title race and now stand a chance of winning the league. A couple of months ago I would have given us little or

no chance, along with many other fans and, if memory serves, Richard Money himself. It's therefore great testament that we're in the position we are.

Player of the season so far? It's hard to say at this point (April 9) but I think I would have to go for Keith Keane for the third year in a row. Keane is unsung and underappreciated by many Luton Town fans I know, but for me he is a vital part of how we play and an important pin in the middle of the park. Well done Keith.

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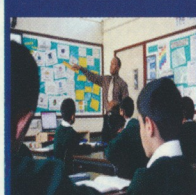
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National honours

Club historian Roger Wash talks about Kenilworth Road internationals



CAPPED: Syd Owen was picked for England three times

SYD Owen had signed on with his home city club Birmingham as the war ended but due to the large number of professionals on the books at St Andrews at the time he found it difficult to claim a first team spot.

Desperate for regular football, Owen jumped at the chance to join Luton and the Hatters' gain became Birmingham's loss as he enjoyed a 12-year spell at Kenilworth Road as a player, culminating in skipping the side at Wembley in the 1959 FA Cup final.

Although Owen started out at Luton as a wing-half, he moved to centre-half two years later when it became ap-

parent that his abilities in the air meant that he was made for central defence.

Aside from his mastery in the air he showed cool distribution skills as well as long legs that seemed to snake out to dispossess many an opposition forward.

Syd was picked for England three times and played in the 1954 World Cup and would certainly have gained more caps but for the automatic selection of Wolves' Billy Wright in the centre-half berth at the time.

Owen took the Hatters into the old Division One in 1955 and played his final game when captaining the side in the 1959

FA Cup final at Wembley against Nottingham Forest.

It was common knowledge that Owen was to assume the manager's job at Kenilworth Road after the cup final but the new season started badly and got steadily worse. The team had grown old together and the reluctance of the board to spend money meant that it was a miserable campaign ending in relegation.

Owen resigned at this point but picked up his career again at Leeds where his coaching abilities came to the fore, assisting Don Revie to make the Yorkshire side the team of the 1960s.

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4 BACK THE NHS

Increase spending on health every year, and make the NHS work for patients not managers.

5 RAISE STANDARDS IN SCHOOLS

Give teachers the power to restore discipline, and create new, smaller schools.

6 CHANGE POLITICS

Reduce the number of MPs, cut Whitehall and quangos by a third, and let taxpayers see where their money is being spent.

5 more years of Gordon Brown's tired government making things worse

or David Cameron and the Conservatives with the energy, leadership and values to get the country moving

We can't go on like this. Vote for change and:

■ **Change the economy.** Back aspiration and opportunity for all. Gordon Brown's debt, waste and taxes are holding us back and threatening the recovery with higher interest rates. We need action now to cut the deficit, help keep mortgage rates low and get the economy moving.

■ **Change society.** Mend our broken society by encouraging responsibility and backing those who do the right thing. Make Britain the most family-friendly country in Europe. Back the NHS, which matters more to families than anything. Reform education, with new schools – and standards and discipline for all. Tackle welfare dependency and the causes of poverty.

■ **Change politics.** Give people more power and control. Sort out the mess of MPs' expenses, cut Parliament, Whitehall and the cost of politics. Make politics more local, more transparent, more accountable.



David Cameron



A RECORD OF ACTION A PROMISE OF MORE

Over the past three years, local Conservative campaigners Jeremy Brier and Nigel Huddleston have stood shoulder to shoulder with residents fighting to make our community an even better place to live and work.

After 13 years of Labour, crime rates and unemployment are far too high locally.

Both Nigel and Jeremy have surveyed your views about crime and passed your concerns to the police. They've called on our Labour Council to be more flexible over landing charges to help save Easyjet jobs. They've worked with local MEPs to ensure the German Government did not do a deal over the future of GM which could have risked UK jobs. To improve health and childcare services they sent out NHS surveys to tens of thousands of local residents last year, and shared the results with our healthcare professionals to help them deal with the concerns expressed.

LUTON'S CHANCE TO VOTE FOR CHANGE

In just a few weeks time people here in our local community will have the chance to change the government.

Both Luton constituencies are amongst the most marginal in the country.

So that means that how people vote here really will help to decide whether David Cameron or Gordon Brown is Prime Minister for the next five years.

As David Cameron said when he came to Luton last year, 'Luton holds the key to the election'.

At the last election the Liberal Democrats came a poor third in both seats and the Conservatives were the only major party to increase their share of the vote here in last year's European Elections.

So here in Luton North and Luton South, a vote for the Liberal Democrats, or for any other candidate or party, is a vote for another five years of Gordon Brown.

CONTACT YOUR CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATES FOR LUTON

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VOTE FOR CHANGE

from the allotments

...with 'orrible 'ornet Don Monty



I TOOK a break from following the mighty Glory Horns recently and decided to head to a little local kick about. Nice to head down the leagues once in a while, isn't it.

Yep, I went to Stevenage v Luton instead.

According to Three Counties Radio it was the biggest derby since Real v Barcelona. The top two in a head-to-head clash.

Everybody else in the country realises it was a game between the 93rd and 94th placed teams in English football.



Still, I couldn't find anything better to do on an Easter Saturday so I enjoyed the hospitality of the mighty Boro.

And my abiding memories of the day were... the worst coffee I have ever tasted in my life (surely that should have been reserved for the away end) and being

stuck in the tea bar queue behind loads of 'on duty' policemen taking a break from crowd control to gorge their faces.

Amusing as usual to see 20 coppers in the corner between the seats, and one or two in between the rival standing fans until it nearly kicked off. Oh yep, and 3,000 odd Luton fans going mad about sneaking a win, a visual memory I'll do my best to get rid of.

Nice to see your finest fans out for the big day. What a shame derby day just seems to drag

the dregs of Lutonville to football once in a blue moon to play up and be a general vile pain in the backside.

I've seen them before. Goading and poster and hurling stuff at a bunch of passive Stevenage fans who couldn't pick a fight in a boxing ring.

Wow, impressive – not. If you do make it up to Division Two (and yes, that may be only one division behind us the way we are falling apart, relegation looms) leave those morons behind.

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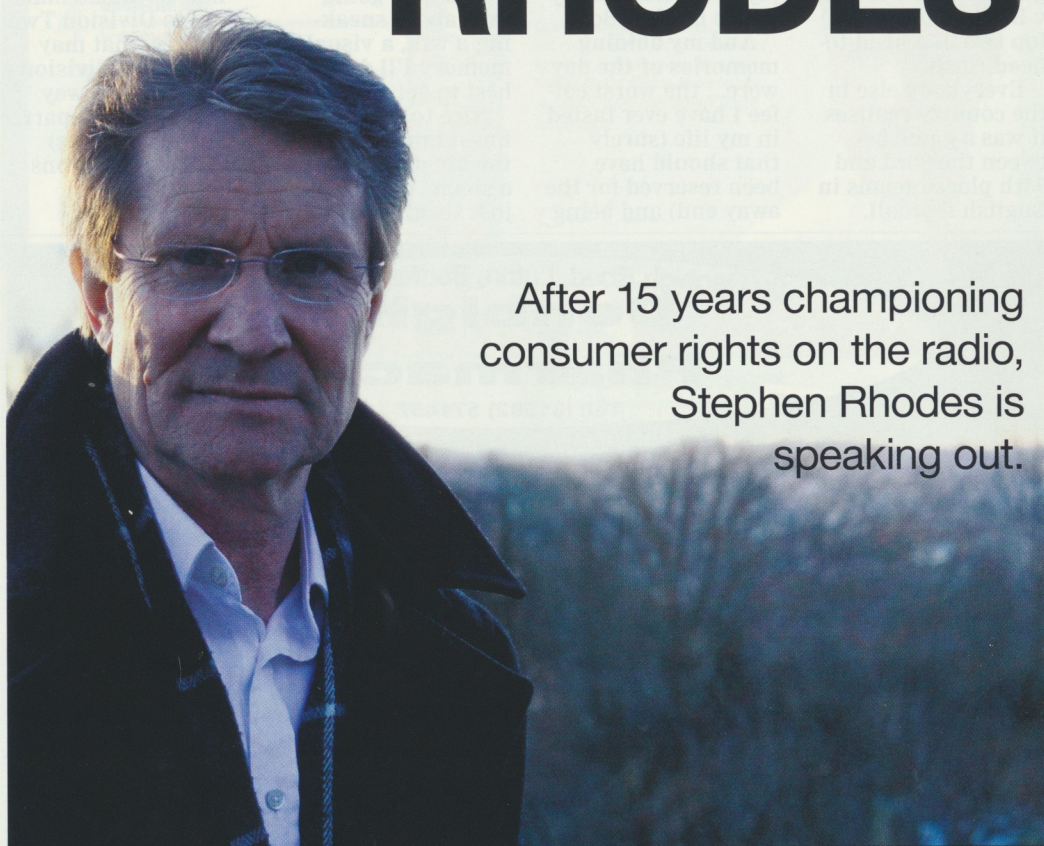
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Stephen Rhodes. A real voice for Luton South.

Why I want a new football stadium for Luton Town.

Stephen Rhodes Independent Parliamentary Candidate for Luton South.

I first came to Luton to work for BBC Radio 15 years ago and at the time there was talk about a new stadium for Luton Town. Over the years options came and went and still no stadium. I can understand the sentiment attached to Kenilworth Rd but given the state of the ground and the fact that this is the 21st Century, surely now it's time to move on.

As I write Richard Money and the team are battling to make their way out of the conference and loyal Town fans are, for the most part, right there behind them.

Given that the Town has taken such a kicking over the last couple of years and set that against the Wembley success last year and the number of fans that still support the town, you've got a club with real spirit. There are other clubs that have done better, yet they don't have half the passion or loyalty of Hatters fans.

I used to work up in Wolverhampton at the time when they were about to be kicked out of the league and the Molineux was falling down. The town got behind them; a new stadium was built (OK and Steve Bull made the team around the same time!) but look where the Wolves are now!

So c'mon, let's stop the faffing about. I am supporting the new £50m community stadium in Bushwood for any number of reasons not least because I believe that it will be good, not just for the Hatters but a more successful team will be good for the whole town.

If we said yes to the plan today, it would still be 5 years before a game could be played there, but at least the Town would be on the way.

I am the only Parliamentary Candidate who is upfront enough to come out in full support for this new stadium, and no, I'm not being paid to say this. I am and have always been my own man. I just think this is an opportunity not to be wasted.

So if you want the new stadium, you know what you have to do.

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