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ORANGE



Season 2010-11 No1

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hatters matters

... a word from the editor

LET'S hope that this season isn't going to mirror the crushing disappointment of last year's campaign.

At the time of going to press, Hatters had 10 points from their opening four games, and sat at the top of the tree.

All going swimmingly, right?

Rewind a year though, and they also had three wins and a draw at this stage, beating Mansfield, Gateshead, Forest Green and drawing with AFC Dons.

From there, only two wins out of six followed, and Luton eventually missed out on a place back in the Football League.

There appears to be something dif-



HANDS UP IF WE'RE GOING UP: Matthew Barnes-Homer in action against Newport

ferent in the waters at Kenilworth Road this time round though.

Boss Richard Money has spent the summer bringing in prove Conference performers in the likes of Adam Murray, Andy

Drury, Danny Crow and Dan Gleeson.

Add in the two Czech imports and it's been said the Hatters could field two teams capable of taking the league title.

Hopefully just one will do the job!



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

half-time orange is brought to you by the team behind...



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With special thanks to Gareth Owen

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The news at



Kroca's not superstitious

FOOTBALLERS are said to be a very superstitious lot, but maybe that's not the case with new signing Zdenek Kroca.

He's eagerly nabbed the number 13 shirt which is unlucky for some, but certainly not for the Czech defender. After netting at Kenilworth Road twice already he's our top goalscorer - for home games.

Come on lads, let's start banging some more in today from open play.

WE were taken aback a little bit when the gaffer started groaning about pre-season attendances.

Warning supporters that the playing budget could be affected by lower than expected attendances against Liverpool and Newcastle was a bit rich in our view.

Friendlies never set the pulses racing - especially if you're asked to fork out a whopping £18 for a 'nothing' game against Premiership youth/reserve sides.

The good news is that the early attendance figures for the matches that matter have been encouraging so hopefully the money will keep rolling in.

Where were you all then?



ONE, TWO, THREE... Richard Money starts counting the paltry crowd

And another one...

RICHARD Money has assembled quite an impressive squad this summer. Some of the players can't quite believe the funds have been made available for so many newcomers. Kevin Pilkington is one new signing and he's pictured here looking in disbelief at the sight of yet more recruits heading on to the training ground.



Ken

Rumours, speculation, gossip and half-truths



Come on give us a big hug

THE re-emergence of striker Matthew Barnes-Homer is like having a new signing this season.

He's been banging in the goals for fun so far (let's not mention the Newport penalty though) and therefore has been the main beneficiary of the new team-building goal celebrations like the ones shown above. Hugs and bundles all round and long may it continue!



Hat's the way to do it Danny



NEW striker Danny Crow likes to build up a sweat in training.

He dreams of being hot stuff in front of goal and that's why you see him here in pre-season training with the summer sun (there was a little) beating down on him while he wears a beanie hat.

In fact, come to think, whenever we see him around the club after a game, or in training, he's always wearing that hat.

Perhaps he came unstuck with Hatters play-a-prank-on-the-new-boy tradition and someone's super glued it on.

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0 pts  mark wood	Town 3 Hayes 0 Not quite as emphatic this time but Luton are far too good as they sweep Hayes aside	Grimsby 1 Town 2 In front of the TV cameras the Hatters perform valiantly to sink the Mariners	Town 1 Camb 0 Gleeson and Crow shine against their old club and it is the diminutive striker who scores	Town 2 Wimb 0 The high-flying Wombles are simply no match for on-fire Hatters who triumph easily
0 pts  steve sims	Town 3 Hayes 0 We'll huff and we'll puff and we'll (eventually) blow Hayes away, with Crow the difference	Grimsby 0 Town 0 Never a pleasant trip and I can't see it being a classic for the Premier Sports TV cameras	Town 2 Camb 0 Crow will be fired up against his old team-mates so I can see maximum points from this one	Town 2 Wimb 2 Hatters will come back strongly after conceding early on, but I reckon it'll be a point apiece
0 pts  mike simmonds	Town 4 Hayes 1 Hatters put the frustrations of Newport County behind them in a goal fest	Grimsby 1 Town 1 The Mariners will be out to put on a good show for the cameras. A hard-earned point	Town 1 Camb 0 Former U's Gleeson and Crow will put one over their old team-mates – but only just	Town 2 Wimb 1 Hatters put an early marker down by edging out one of their closest rivals for the title
0 pts  steve nolan	Town 2 Hayes 0 Barnes-Homer's second-half brace gives Town a comfortable bank holiday win	Grimsby 1 Town 1 Town are lucky to escape with a draw against relegated Mariners in front of TV cameras	Town 3 Camb 1 Easy home win for Luton with three first half goals as Cambridge's poor start continues	Town 1 Wimb 0 Late winner for Town as the Hatters take all three points against promotion rivals

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WEDNESDAY	Contraception & Sexual Health Clinic 9.30am-1.00pm Appointments Only Contraception & Sexual Health Clinic 9.30am-1.00pm Nurse Led Appointments Only Consultant Contraception Clinic Appointments Only		
THURSDAY	Contraception & Sexual Health Clinic 10.00am-12.30pm Appointments Only		Contraception & Sexual Health Clinic 6.00pm-8.00pm Nurse Led Walk In
FRIDAY	Consultant Contraception Clinic 9.30am-1.00pm Nurse Led Appointments Only		
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Tom's take



Tom Skinner gives his thoughts on the latest Hatters news

AFTER three years of living 'oop north, I have now returned to the more familiar pastures of Bedfordshire, with a 2.1 degree in English in hand and some good times to look back on.

I've also acquired a taste for the local Black Sheep ale, which went hand in hand with those good times on more than one occasion.

At the moment ('murr'-ment as Mark Lawrenson would say), however, as I attempt to find work in one of the toughest job markets in years, I'm grateful for the sanctuary of home.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not sitting on my backside scrounging off my parents.

It's just that whilst the unpaid work experience I'm currently doing should do my career prospects the world of good, it's not much use when it comes to paying rent, so it's



TASTY: Following Luton has rarely been a piece of cake

cheerio to Leeds for now.

Of course this means that my simple away trip to York is now a thing of the past... but bearing in mind what happened in May, I don't suppose it's going to be an easy away day for any Luton supporter now.

May 3 was a horrible day and

I am glad that the FA have chosen not to hurt the majority of well-behaved Luton supporters with a punishment – they have seen that the police have taken strong action to deal with the mindless minority concerned.

Following Luton is rarely a piece of cake – apart from in June, when as part of my 21st birthday celebrations, I was presented with a birthday cake emblazoned with the Hatters' crest.

I'd like to think we won't get sliced through so easily in the re-branded 'Blue Square Bet Premier' this season.

With Drury, Howells and Gnakpa supplying the ammunition, one particular Hatter has been transformed.

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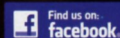
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What a beauty!



Electrolux

Nicola

VITAL STATISTICS

Full name: Nicola O'Donnell

Age: 23

Occupation: Advertising rep

Attached? Yes

Been a supporter since: 2000

Best looking Hatter:

Adam Drury

Most valuable player:

Zdenek Kroca

Player to flog: Alan White

Ideal night out: Girls night out

Favourite TV shows:

Soccer Am, X Factor



Steve's line-up for today



SUBS: K Pilkington, J Howells, T Craddock, S Newton, P Besta

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



WHAT a great start to the season with Town sitting pretty at the top of the table (at the time of writing anyway...). But it was September last season when Hatters slipped up several times and lost ground on the main players in the BSP, so it's crucial that Money's men keep the momentum up and rack up a few more wins in the coming weeks.

And with tough trips north to relegated Grimsby and Darlington, and home clashes with some of the league's other big names (ie - a couple of teams you'd heard of before last season) - Cambridge and Wimbledon - Town could be in for a tough month.

I'm a big fan of Tyler so I'd stick with him in goal despite Pilkington looking just as assured.

Kroca has been a welcome

addition to the back four alongside the ever-reliable George Pilkington and has looked just as dangerous from set pieces as his defensive partner with two goals to his name already.

Dan Gleeson has also looked fairly imposing at right back, with Murray taking his place on the left. Andy Drury would play on the left of midfield for me ahead of Howells, though he would be on the bench to provide a late injection of energy, with Gnackpa getting back to his fully fit best on the right.

Clever passer Adam Murray would partner Keith Keane as he returns from suspension in the middle. Barnes-Homer has been on fire so far (apart from the penalty miss) with Gallen a useful foil up front alongside him.

If we don't get out of this league this season, we never will.

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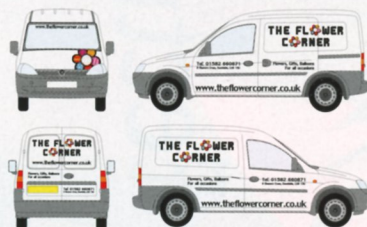
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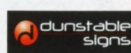
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From the Kenny End



With Petey Staniforth

IS there anything more odd than the time between when a season finishes and when a new season begins?

For a true football fan, probably not.

I think if a lot of us had our own way, we'd have football literally every week of the year.

It really does make you wonder... is there life without Hatters?

I've tried, believe me, this summer to explore that concept. And it really hasn't worked!

I had five of my wrestling shows in the space of a month, in what I thought and hoped would take my mind off things.

One thing that was a lot of fun was that it brought me the chance to work with former Luton player and friend of mine Andy Burgess.

I had the opportunity to have Andy appearing on my show... and it led to him being special guest ring announcer for the afternoon - which I think might have made my show the only professional wrestling show in the country to ever have a high-profile footballer do that! And then there was the World Cup, but I think the majority of us would rather forget that...

On a brighter note, is the pre-season matches and signings we've played, and made.

Having attended both the Liverpool and Kilmarnock friendly matches (the latter being the first time I've ever been able to go to a Luton game on my birthday... yes, yours truly is now 35 years old), I feel we've

been looking brighter than ever.

The new signings appear to be settling into the team nicely and Matthew Barnes-Homer is looking very impressive and almost like a new signing.

I really feel we have the two best goalkeepers in the division and, in my view, the four best strikers too. I'll never quite understand, how in the end, when you look at that run of games we went on, we never went up last season.

I still believed right to the very end that we could, and that we would. But the one thing I think it's done is show us just what it takes to get out of this division and I'm extremely confident that this will be, quite simply, our season.

The one thing for sure is we have the right people at the club, on and off the field, and fans that will be there week in week out and support the club through no matter what fate brings us.

And whilst I may be blessed with writing this column, with a higher profile life, with friends in the team, and more, the one thing I will always be, is that guy in the front row of the Kenilworth Road end at every home game, with his son and daughter by his side, and giving his friend Happy Harry a 'lucky hug' before a game!

I'll say it again... this is our season! So let's get behind the boys, and believe!

Take it easy,
Petey

hit, miss or maybe

Mike Simmonds assesses Town's new recruits



ADAM MURRAY:
Calming influence in the middle of the pitch - there is more to come but all the signs are promising
VERDICT - HIT



DAN GLEESON:
Efficient, dependable, comfortable in possession and an eye for a pass. Everything you want from a full-back
VERDICT - HIT



ANDY DRURY
Already a hit for turning down the Football League to join Luton. Wizardry wing play has had fans purring
VERDICT - HIT



ZDENEK KROCA:
Luton haven't had such a prolific centre-half since the days of Steve Davis. Fans favourite status is approaching
VERDICT - HIT



PAVEL BESTA:
Money is hoping for big things from his Czech import. Will have his best moments on Luton's travels
VERDICT - MAYBE



DANNY CROW:
Excelled in pre-season and a constant menace when on the pitch. No doubt the goals will start to flow soon
VERDICT - HIT



KEVIN PILKINGTON:
Name another team in the Conference, or League Two, who have two keepers of Luton's standard
VERDICT - HIT

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Blast from the past

Roger Wash looks back to see how the Town fared on this day in years gone by

August 30, 1975
Luton Town 3
Chelsea 0

THE Town had been relegated from Division One alongside Chelsea at the end of the previous campaign and with both sides tipped for a swift return to the top flight an early season clash was seen to be a strong pointer.

Several thousand yobs from London made it a highly charged atmosphere at Kenilworth Road but the tension spilling over from the crowd seemed to affect Chelsea rather more than the Town.



GOAL!
Steve Buckley nets the Town's second goal from the spot

The Hatters started brightly against the young Chelsea side and it was no real surprise when they took the lead on 25 minutes.

An Alan West corner was headed against a post by centre-half John Faulkner with Peter Anderson quickest to react to the rebound to slot home.

Adrian Alston, Ron Fletcher and Andy King all went close before the Town went further ahead a minute after half-time after Brian Bason brought down Fletcher in the area with Steve Buckley hammering home the resulting spot-kick.

Chelsea were now

dead on their feet and a third goal from Fletcher on the hour killed the game as a contest.

All that was left was a pitch invasion by the Chelsea hordes, the dismissal of Luton winger John Aston for clouting the annoying Ian Britton and the unfortunate leg fracture of Chelsea teenager Graham Wilkins.

The game received national TV headlines that evening, not for the quality of the Luton goals but for the fact that disappointed Chelsea 'fans' had set fire to a train on their way back to London!

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Make it your reason to get fit, walk in memory of a loved one, step out in style in your best fancy dress outfit, or join us purely for the buzz and excitement on the night. Whatever you do, your sponsorship will help us continue the essential care and support we provide for local adults and children at Keech Hospice Care.

Entry is £15 and every walker will receive an event pack and Midnight Walk t-shirt before the day and refreshments and well-deserved medal on the night.

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from the allotments

...with 'orrible 'ornet Don Monty



IT'S August, the sun is out (well not really) and that can only mean one thing... the start of the league season.

And, most importantly, the first round of the Carling Cup.

Oops, sorry, you'll have the dubious honour of playing in this competition again at some point.

The joys of the first round can mean a jaunt to a far-flung ground you haven't ventured to before

And as luck would have it, this year Watford's glory horns fans were given the luxury of



a trip to Aldershot, the first since David Pleat and Graham Taylor patrolled the touchlines.

There's nothing quite like a rainy, grim Tuesday evening in the away end at Aldershot, as I can now confirm.

Even when your team manages to,

YOU WON'T WIN IT: The Carling Cup

rather surprisingly, dispatch the opposition 3-0 without too much difficulty.

You have to laugh. If you can't be bothered with the queue round the block for the refreshments – or Only Rolls And Sauces, to give it its full title – then you can always opt for the queue to the four loos in the portable building. Even longer, trust me.

But the highlight of the night is bel-lowing out 'west stand, give us a

song' repeatedly to no response.

Largely because the west stand is a line of trees at the opposite end.

The Watford of old would have been able to clear those 30ft trees no problem – sadly now we're playing it on the ground so no such luck.

On with the new season. I fancy your chances against Hayes, or Yeading, whichever team turns up today.

As for us, we won the first game. Forty seven points to safety....

Yellow army.



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