

Half-time

By Hatters for Hatters

ORANGE



Season 10-11 No2

Mansfield Edition



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hatters matters

... a word from the editor

WHOEVER dreamt up the Hatters fixture list this season was clearly looking to rile players, supporters and journalists alike.

Darlington away on a Tuesday night? Where's the fun in that?

And if things couldn't get worse, add in Gateshead last weekend, followed by a monstrous drive to Barrow on Saturday.

It doesn't end there either as the match at Wrexham has also been cleverly assigned a midweek spot.

It means the Town players will have certainly clocked up the miles – and that is way before the dulcet tones of Noddy Holder have



WHERE ARE YOU? Hatters score in front of the empty seats at Darlington for hopefully the last time.

hit the high street and Christmas is upon us.

One positive to keep in mind during those various motorway service stations stops, though, is that at least these trips are out of the way before the weather

turns and cancellations become rife.

It could prove vital when the fixtures clog up come January.

The only other positive is that, hopefully, Hatters won't be making these trips again next season!



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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Showing the Beeb his best moves



STRICTLY Come Dancing starts again on BBC1 this Saturday with the usual Z-list celebrities prancing about our screens.

Every year the Beeb get more and more desperate to scrape together a line-up.

They always like a footballer to feature and Half-time Orange can reveal that they made an approach to get Keith Keane on the show.

They even asked a favour of Premier Sports TV to try and make it happen - Keano is shown here with former Hatter Michael Leary before the Grimsby televised game filming some of his best dance moves for an audition tape which was to be passed on.

Keano's lacklustre efforts however put paid to the dream. That and Richard Money being strictly against Strictly.

Me, me, me please



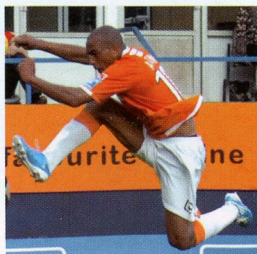
YOU don't get much exposure being stuck in non league. If you want to see the goals again most fans have to rely on dodgy mobile phone videos posted on YouTube.

At least Premier Sports have signed a deal to get a few of the Blue Square games covered.

Knowing how desperate the players of Grimsby and Luton were to get on the box, we thought it was a bit naughty when a Premier Sports cameraman called out "who wants their close-up on TV" as the players jostled for position before a Hatters corner kick.

Jumping on board

RICHARD Money thought he'd bagged an athlete when Kenyan Taiwo Atieno hop, skipped and jumped at the chance of a deal with Town. And looking at this photo from his full home debut against Cambridge it looks like he's quite a triple jumper.



Ken

Rumours, speculation, gossip and half-truths



Tom gets the chop

MOST fans would have been sad to see the departure of striker Tom Craddock.

We all knew a move was likely - particularly when he was left on the bench for the full 90 minutes despite Town struggling to get a winner against Hayes.

But Tom obviously knew his hopes of getting into the gaffer's starting line-up were slim long before that.

He's pictured here at Fleetwood thinking "I might as well saw it off, I've got no chance of coming on".

Motivating the squad



OUR spies have infiltrated the Kenilworth Road dressing room and, as well as the obligatory selection of Page 3 girls pinned by the players' pegs, Richard Money has also had a picture added to the decor. This image of Town performing at Alfreton in pre-season is all the encouragement the boys need to get us back into the Football League. And with half the crowd watching from outside the stadium though, it's no wonder clubs like Alfreton haven't the resources to climb too far up the football pyramid.

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2 pts  steve nolan	Town 2 Mansfield 0 New-found solidity at the back means the Stags hardly threaten and striker Barnes-Homer nets.	Barrow 0 Town 1 Who could resist a nice little trip to the north west? I'll spare you it then, a hard-fought win.	Town 3 Crawley 1 What a game! Big-spending Crawley take the lead but we come roaring back to triumph.	Town 5 F Green 0 A beaming Mr Money heralds the Hatters best show of the season so far as they fell Forest.
2 pts  mike simmonds	Town 1 Mansfield 0 It's going to be a tight one, but I think we're going to edge it with a scrappy set-piece goal.	Barrow 0 Town 2 Atieno and Drury net as the Town stroll to a reasonably easy away success.	Town 1 Crawley 1 Another real battle and, after the shock of conceding, Town come back and are unlucky not to win.	Town 4 F Green 0 There are no easy games - well this is the exception to the rule. A comfortable victory.
2 pts  mark wood	Town 1 Mansfield 1 An expectant Kenilworth Road to leave frustrated as the Stags put up quite a fight.	Barrow 1 Town 2 The sorts of games that Hatters need to be winning and a late goal will see them do just that.	Town 2 Crawley 2 An entertaining night which sees Crawley's expensively-assembled squad nab a point.	Town 2 F Green 0 Goals either side of half time ensure Luton keep in touch with the title-chasing pack.
2 pts  steve nolan	Town 1 Mansfield 1 Two points dropped at home for Town in a rather lacklustre display against the Stags.	Barrow 1 Town 2 A late Barrow goal ensures a nervy last ten for the Hatters after two first half goals.	Town 1 Crawley 0 Vital win against promotion rivals thanks to a dramatic late winner.	Town 3 F Green 0 A more comfortable home win for the Hatters as they stroll past Forest Green.

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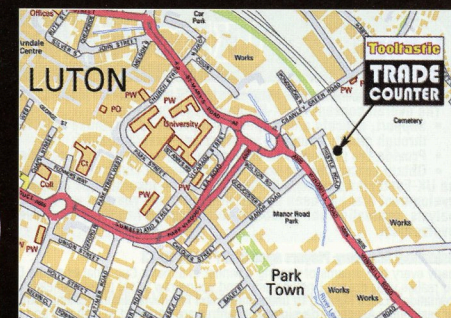
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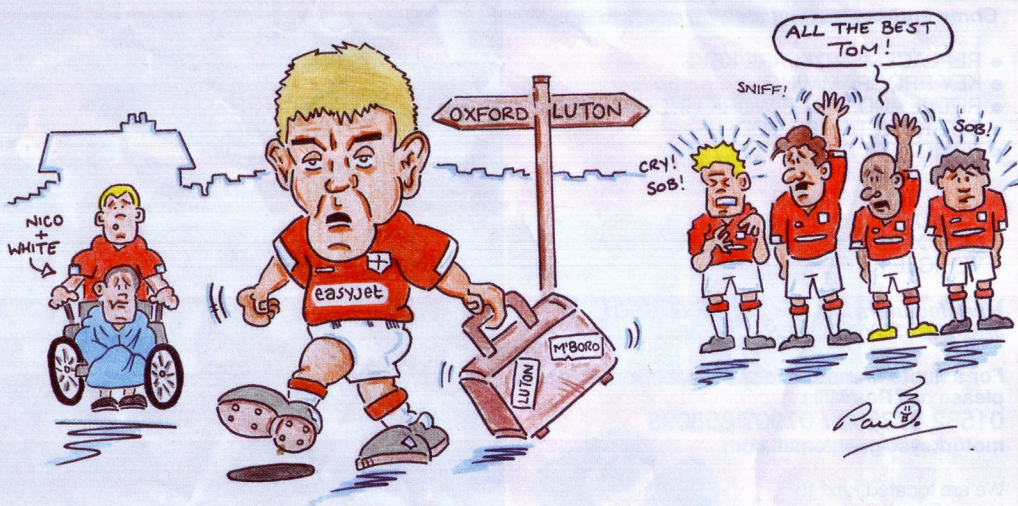
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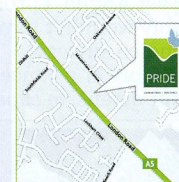


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Tom's take



Tom Skinner gives his thoughts on the latest Hatters news

WRITING following our much-needed win against Cambridge, it's impossible for me to assess the state of affairs going into tonight's match against Mansfield Town.

Certainly, in the interim, we will have had three very difficult games, at home to league leaders Wimbledon, followed by two long trips to the north-east.

There seems to be goals in the side – which is why the sale of Tom Craddock didn't worry me greatly.

Tom joined us when we were at a very low ebb and his enthusiasm and goals in the

JPT semi-final and final quickly endeared him to the Kenny faithful.

However, I've never come across a 20-goal a season man that lacks conviction in front of goal like Craddock does.

In a one-on-one situation, he needs to gain the self-belief that someone like Chris Martin has.

This works two ways though and Craddock's lack of arrogance was reflected in his willingness to engage with the local community during his time with Luton.

No disrespect to Martin, but in light of his alleged off the field



WHICH ONE: Who to pick?

antics, I know which of the two players I'd rather go down the pub with.

Actually, since Martin has reportedly been barred from most of the pubs in East Anglia, I probably wouldn't have the choice anyway!

More of a concern is our defensive capabili-

ties.

Money already bizarrely insists on dragging all our players back into the area when we concede a corner – why not go the whole hog and place every player on the goal line to form the ultimate defensive wall?

On 3CR recently, Money revealed that Godfrey Poku is 'on fire'.

All I can say is, I hope he was extinguished quicker than the blaze that burnt down the Queen Vic in Eastenders, otherwise Pilkington will have to get used to playing centre-mid a little more regularly...

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Sabrina

VITAL STATISTICS

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Occupation: Student

Attached? No

Been a supporter since: 1997

Best looking Hatter:

Danny Crow

Most valuable player:

Zdenek Kroca

Player to flog: Matthew

Barnes-Homer

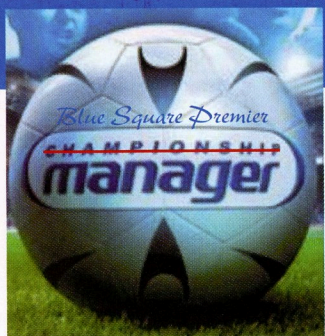
Ideal night out: Going out

for dinner somewhere

Favourite TV shows: CSI,

Friends

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.



I AM writing from sunnier climes this month, on a nudist beach in Greece, a far cry from grim Kenilworth Road, and football is the last thing on my mind.... but anyway...

Back to winning ways for the Town against Cambridge after a shaky start to September, hopefully Money's men will have turned over league leaders (at the time of writing anyway) AFC Wimbledon by the time this comes out and the Hatters will be back among the league's front runners having made up a little bit of ground.

Reliable stopper Tyler would start in between the sticks in my side, with George Pilkington, Dan Gleeson, Zdenek Kroca preferred to Shane Blackett if fit and Freddie Murray making up the back four.

Keith Keane would sit in the centre of midfield if fit, with Claude Gnappka adding a bit of pace on the right, joined by Andy Drury and Andy Murray to make up the midfield four.

With Tom Craddock now departed for pastures new (never scored enough for my liking anyway, 24 in a season – not enough – I'm a hard man to please), Kevin Gallen would be partnered up front with Matthew Barnes-Homer.

Hopefully he might be able to recapture some of the goal scoring form he kicked off the season in.

New lad Taiwo Atieno led the line well against the U's and would add a different dimension to the Town from the bench if need be.

Anyway, back to the beach... enjoy the game.

Steve's line-up for today



SUBS: K Pilkington, Atieno, Howells, Blackett, Crow

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From the Kenny End



With Petey Staniforth

I START this column with a couple of high profile goodbyes, and one that's somewhat personal to me.

I'll begin by wishing former Luton captain Kevin Nicholls all the best for his future, and thanking him on behalf of us all for everything he has ever done for the football club.

Kevin has always been an inspirational figure, and I think any time 'Super Kev' is at Kenilworth Road for any reason he will get a standing ovation that is so truly justified and deserved.

On a personal level we wave goodbye to last season's top scorer, Tommy Craddock.

Tommy is a rare person who is as nice a guy and as good of a friend as he is a player out on the pitch.

Due to injuries that I have suffered in wrestling

shows and a rather unbalanced personal life in the last nine months or so, I've been really grateful for friends standing by me and being there for me when I needed them.

It's rather ironic for me, that my personal life is now sorting itself out, and I have a wonderful new girlfriend called Hannah, it's at the same time as Tommy has left the club.

The last time I spoke to Tommy in person, was the Kilmarnock pre-season friendly, which was on my birthday and he came all the way over the pitch from training before the game to wish me a happy birthday and to say hello to my children (which made their summer holiday completely, and was the main story they took to school to tell teachers

and friends about).

That sums Tommy up completely, and we won't be losing touch at all despite his not being at LTFC any more and I know I speak for pretty much everyone when I say that we want to see him succeed at a higher level.

I'm proud to say that Tommy is a self-confessed fan of my professional wrestling shows, and that he will be keeping up with my schedule.

Sadly at the time of my writing this, things aren't too great on the pitch, and results have failed to go our way.

I have a few thoughts that aren't entirely suitable for print on that subject.

But the one thing I do believe is that we have to get behind the players, and support them during

the 90 minutes as much as we possibly can.

They're wearing the shirt of the team we love, and they are playing for that and us.

So with that in mind, the main focus of our being there as fans should be to shout for and cheer them and encourage them to turn this around.

I stand by my belief that on paper, we have the best squad in the division by far and that if we live up to the potential it has, we'll be finishing the season as champions.

So let's get behind the boys, and stand firm as a club, and show the rest of the division and the country that we are Luton Town!

*Take it easy,
Petey*

So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, goodbye

THE transfer window was a time of transition at Kenilworth Road – with three well-known faces leaving the club.

No-one would have wanted to see Luton legend Kevin Nicholls fade into the back-ground like he did.

The talismanic midfielder offered years of loyal service to the club and it's just a shame that his knees no longer matched the demands of his head and his heart.

It's probably not the last we'll see of him at Kenilworth Road – anyone got odds on him being a future Hatters boss?

Veteran defender Alan White, also in his second spell at the club, was released at the same time.

And while he never had the

impact at the club that Nico did – in fact he never really looked up to speed during his second spell – he parted the club with some extremely kind words for the supporters.

So although his stay won't linger long in the memory, we do of course wish him well.

The departure of livewire striker Tom Craddock for an undisclosed fee, meanwhile, has divided opinion among supporters.

His choice to go to Oxford has saddened some, angered others, while others have even questioned whether he really wanted to go.

All we know is that he served us well, scored some great goals and will always be welcome back – at least in a Luton shirt...



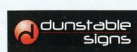
ALL GONE: Nico, TC and Whitey

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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

Luton Town 3 Swindon Town 0 (September 28, 2002)

Following a highly successful
2001/02 campaign, which saw
the Town bounce back to Divi-
sion Two at the first attempt,
the new season got off to a
terrible start.

Four straight defeats were
suffered as the players failed to
come to terms with the quicker
pace of League Two and pes-
simists at Kenilworth Road
were predicting relegation by
Christmas.

Manager Joe Kinnear read
the riot act for two hours after
the fourth defeat which seemed
to work as a 0-0 draw was
ground out at highly fancied
Cardiff followed by the first
win, with Chesterfield seen off
3-0 at Kenilworth Road.

The revival was fragile
though as only two points were



**The enigmatic Andrew Fotiadis nets
against the Robins**

picked up in the next three
games before a fortunate 1-0
victory at Huddersfield brought
a huge sigh of relief from the
travelling supporters.

Next up at Kenilworth Road
were a Swindon side who had
enjoyed a good win over North-
ampton the previous week and
were hoping to have turned the
corner themselves.

The first half was complete
one-way traffic with Steve

Howard netting his eighth of
the season before Andrew Foti-
adis, making his first start for
nearly two years, spurned three
good opportunities to give the
half-time scoreline an unrealis-
tic look.

The Luton supporters were
worried that the missed op-
portunities would come back to
bite them but two minutes into
the second period the frustrat-
ing Fotiadis scored with a far
more difficult chance than he
had been presented with ear-
lier and the confidence flowed
through the side once more.

In truth, the Town could
have netted a hatful against
woeful opposition but had to be
content with one further goal
when substitute Dean Crowe
was tripped in the area leaving
Steve Robinson to net confi-
dently from the spot.

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SIX one.

Six one, six one, six one, six one, six one.

Yes, you can finally breathe a sigh of relief.

After 13 long years we have finally had a better away win than that legendary afternoon at Kennel Road.

That's when we were four nil up at half time, just in case it had slipped your mind.

And you should have been down to nine men but I won't go on about it.

Yes, I took the journey down to the Den recently and



it was a glorious London day for the Golden Boys.

It should have been 10-1.

Yeah, I know we always say that but it really could have been.

It's also a very funny place to win at - as long as you're

a safe distance from the home fans of course.

The poor Millwall man with a shock of blond hair was not happy - particularly when the chants of 'Boris Johnson, what's the score?' went up.

He managed to stay in the ground for 30 minutes before being thrown out.

After an hour most of them left by their own accord.

Six one is a good win, but slightly worryingly I believe it's actually our biggest league away victory ever.

Which bearing in mind Arsenal and Chelsea usually batter someone 6-0 away a couple of times a season isn't that impressive really.

Still, even a record-breaking win wasn't something to brag about on the train back from beautiful South Bermondsey into London after the game.

You should pick your moments - and being surrounded by a train load of shell shocked Millwall fans isn't one of them.

Yellow army.



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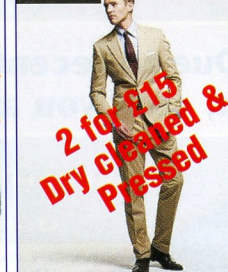
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