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hatters matters

... a word from the editor

HOW good does the future currently look at Kenilworth Road?

Although boss Richard Money admitted he wasn't concerned whether his side progressed in the FA Trophy or not, he couldn't disguise the look of delight after Alex Lawless' late winner at Welling on Tuesday night.

What made the victory even more impressive was by the time the whistle blew, Hatters had five teenagers on the field.

Over the two games, Alex Lacey stood out as a potential star in the making, while Godfrey Poku and Dan Walker continued their development in the first team.



TAKEN FOR A RIDE: Young pup Alex Lacey showed what a talent he is in the FA Trophy

While the three substitutes, New-man Carney, Cauley Woodrow and Jordan Patrick, also caught the eye during their brief cameos.

With a combined age of 50 between them, they are

further prove of the old adage, if you are good enough, you're old enough.

And although one famous ex-footballer said you can never win anything with kids, Hatters' Trophy run might just prove him wrong!



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

Picture by Dave Budden

Merry Christmas from everyone at
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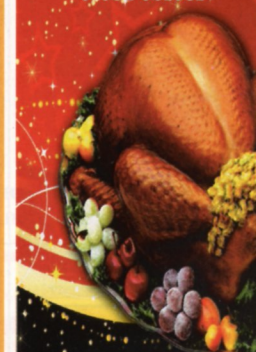
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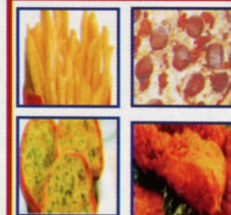
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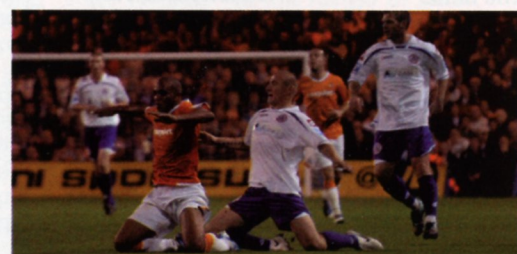
The News at Ken

Keep fit for a full Xmas programme

DESPITE being super-fit athletes, Richard Money has felt the need to warn the Town players to only eat and drink in moderation over the festive period. Keith Keane has clearly been at the mince pies and mulled wine, though, and it's his paunch which has presumably prompted the gaffer to warn the rest of the squad against over-indulgence.



Time to get the party started



THE party season is upon us and no-one in Town's squad is more excited at that than Taiwo Atieno. The Kenyan has had a mixed start to his Hatters career, but despite that he's seen here obviously enjoying himself. With the LTFC Christmas bash on the horizon he's been taking every opportunity to practice his party dancing (Oops Upside Your Head being a particular favourite). In fact this photo is evidence of one of the rare occasions he was spotted leading a defender on a merry dance!

Put the boot in



MBH may be our top scorer at the moment, but it's fair to say that he's not won everyone over just yet. Add Santa to that list too... because Saint Nic has just informed the striker that he's been a bad boy and there won't be any more silly coloured boots in his stocking this Christmas.

secret santa



Can you identify the Hatters hiding behind the Father Christmas disguise?



ANSWERS: 1. Andy Drury, 2. Richard Money, 3. Freddie Murray, 4. Dan Walker, 5. Dmitri Kharrine, 6. Danny Crow, 7. Amari Morgan-Smith, 8. George Pilkington

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

11 pts  mark wood	Town 1 York 0 Victory goes some way to avenging the painful play-off semi-final defeat last season.	Rushden 1 Town 2 Cheered on by a massive army of travelling fans Luton battle back from a goal down.	Town 2 Tamworth 0 Lambs to the slaughter as Town create umpteen chances but only take two.	Town 2 Rushden 0 Hatters show they are real Diamonds with a no-nonsense win to put pressure on Crawley.
9 pts  steve sims	Town 1 York 0 If we escape the snow then I expect us to shade a tricky match on a tricky playing surface.	Rushden 1 Town 1 Another tough game, but a late Drury pen stops us from looking like Christmas turkeys.	Town 3 Tamworth 0 They did us up at their place so now it's time to set the record straight and thump them.	Town 1 Rushden 0 Home advantage sees Town edge this one thanks to a second half winner from Barnsey.
7 pts  mike simmonds	Town 3 York 1 Hatters make a mockery of York's recent defensive record with an impressive display.	Rushden 2 Town 2 A Christmas cracker for those in attendance at Nene Park as Town are held to a draw.	Town 4 Tamworth 1 Another game, another hatful of goals with Hatters' supply-line proving just too strong.	Town 2 Rushden 1 Richard Money's men make the perfect start to the New Year with another crucial win.
7 pts  steve nolan	Town 1 York 1 I'm hoping for more excitement on the pitch than off it this time, but I may be disappointed!	Rushden 0 Town 1 Town scrape a win with a Barnsey goal, as the home side prove a tough nut to crack.	Town 2 Tamworth 0 Revenge is sweet, I'm confident this will end up being a comfortable win for Hatters.	Town 2 Rushden 1 Have we ever done a double over a team in a matter of days before? A vital three points.

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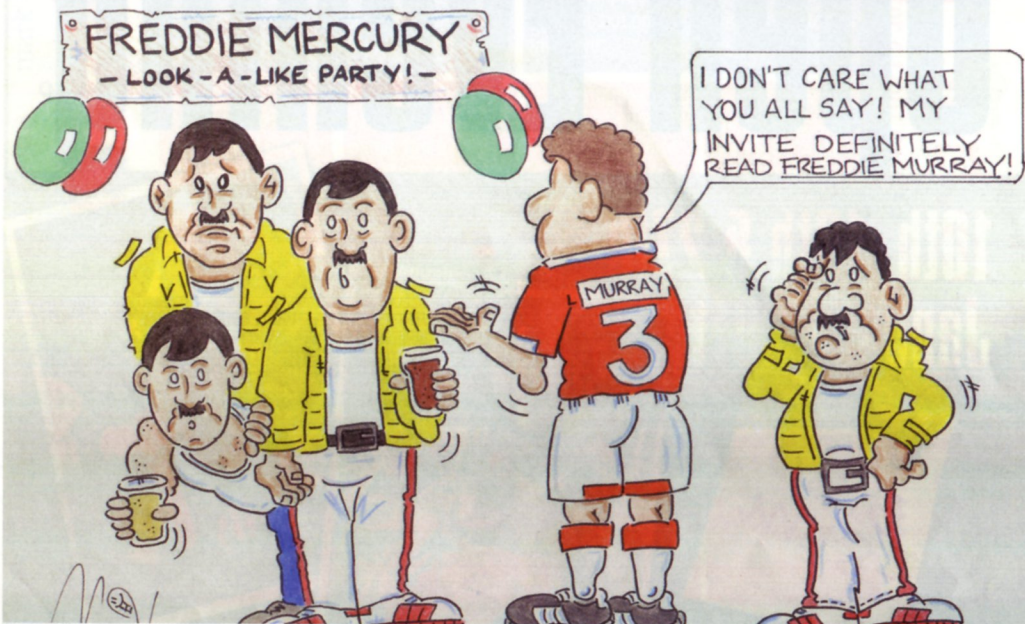
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Tom's take



Tom Skinner gives his thoughts on the latest Hatters news

YORK City, our nemesis from last season, arrive in town today... Brodie-less, Alex Law-less and presumably staying well clear of any hardware shops this time round.

In our four games against the Mins-termen in 2009-10, we managed just a solitary goal and at the time of writing, City have only conceded once in over 600 minutes of football.

Even more frustratingly, Hatters' transfer target David McGurk will be marshalling the visitors' defence, despite last month voicing his desire to come to Bedfordshire.

Come on David,

actions speak louder than words – how about opening your Luton account by scoring a couple of own goals this afternoon?

Hopefully though, with our explosive frontline, we shouldn't have to rely on any favours.

It was a pleasure to see us go to The Valley and take the game to a top League One side and, for large periods, play them off the park.

Drury's second goal was sublime, leaving keeper Elliot rooted to the spot, pink with embarrassment.

Not that he looked a different colour at any other stage in the match, clad in his



LUTON BOUND: David McGurk

favourite 'Barbie Girl' jersey.

Unfortunately, we lost the replay.

That's a pity because if we had got through, Tottenham would have awaited.

Claude versus Bale would have been interesting. Pace, trickery and skill... how would Spurs have dealt with our flying Frenchman?

Oh well, at least missing out on the flirtation with Premiership opposition means such a game can't go to the players' heads.

However, I'm worried about Amari Morgan-Smith already. Every Wednesday evening, a black Rolls-Royce with the numberplate 'AMS 1' appears on my TV screen.

The car actually belongs to Alan Sugar and he won't be going back to Spurs in a hurry either!



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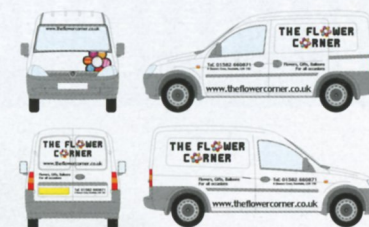
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Andy Drury

Most valuable

player:

Matthew Barnes-

Homer

Player to flog:

Taiwo Atieno

Ideal night out:

Dinner with boy-

friend then clubbing

Favourite TV shows:

Friends,

Inbetweeners

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

Electrolux

Tiffany



Steve's line-up for today



SUBS: Kidd, D Walker, Atieno, Asafu-Adjaye, Lacey

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



I DON'T know about anyone else, but I'm beginning to forget the last time the Hatters played a game in the BSP.

What with the double-header with Charlton, the... err... excitement of the FA Trophy (could mean a trip to Wembley I guess) and the inclement weather it's been almost a month since Town hammered Histon 5-1.

But with hopes of a glamour FA Cup tie with Spurs to look forward to dashed, it's back to the glamour of chasing the tails of AFC Wimbledon and Crawley.

After resting quite a few players for the two games against Welling, I'm sure Mr Money will be fielding a stronger side for today's outing.

With Freddie Murray out injured for a little while, Jake

Howells should deputise at left full-back, alongside usual suspects Kroca, Pilks and Gleeson.

I really hope Town manage to keep hold of Drury, what with numerous suitors said to be lining up to buy him in January, but seeing as he's definitely here for now he'd partner Keane in the middle, with Gnapka returning on the right.

Hopefully, Morgan-Smith might be fit to play on the left, but he's perhaps doubtful after breaking his cheekbone, but if not perhaps Lawless could cover.

Barnes-Homer and Crow would play upfront.

Let's hope this time the home clash with York is remembered for all the right reasons with a resounding win rather than the behaviour of a small minority of idiots.

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Still going strong

This season the Hatters are celebrating 125 years of the club's existence. To mark the occasion, HTO has dug into the archives to reproduce a few dusty old pictures from the bottom draw of the office filing cabinet. The Luton News/Dunstable Gazette has also produced a souvenir pull-out with its December 15 issue (see right). Pick up a copy now. It's packed with nostalgia.



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dear dot



Half-time Orange's agony aunt Dorothy Doolittle tackles some of the problems brewing under the surface at Kenilworth Road



PAV SAYS
Dear Dot. What is it with the English and their love of football?

Playing Saturday, Tuesday, Saturday just wouldn't happen back in the Czech Republic and wasn't in the brochure when I agreed to sign!



DOT SAYS:
Come on now Pav. Be a man about it. With the winter we

have in store, you haven't seen the half of it yet!



BRABS SAYS: Life's not very fair at the minute Dot. I try to act as the peacemaker against Corby but picked up a £400 fine and four-game ban for my troubles. Not only am I going to have to downsize my Christmas presents, but worse than that, I was sent to the sidelines too. I had to sit in the stand all by myself and looked a right Billy No-Mates. My mates haven't stopped taking the mick out of me since.



DOT SAYS: Chin up chuck. I saw the incident on the box and thought you were very brave and strong standing up to that horrible Corby player. If only Mr Dot was more like you, ah well.



JASE SAYS: I'm worried Dot, really worried. Every time the gaffer signs someone with the same surname as a current member of the squad, they get shipped out on loan to Mansfield. Kevin Pilkington, Adam Murray, I don't want to go back up north yet!



TYLES SAYS:
Just writing my Christmas list Dot and could do with another pair of gloves as they weren't very sticky in the Trophy at Welling.



DOT SAYS:
Come on Mark, what do they say about bad workmen?



DOT SAYS: Best keep banging them in then lad. Otherwise you could well be banished.

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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

**December 18 1996
Millwall 0 Luton 1**

Following relegation from the old Division Two (now the Championship) in 1996 the Town found the adjustment to life in the third tier particularly hard.

The first three games were all lost and the doom-mongers at Kenilworth Road were all predicting another season of struggle but gradually the players lifted themselves up by the bootstraps and started climbing the table.

A 6-0 home win over highly fancied Crewe,



Town go top after three points at Millwall

with Tony Thorpe netting a hat-trick, on December 14 pushed the Town up to third spot adding spice to the visit to second placed Millwall four days later.

The Town had yet to win at the New Den and a crowd of 7,077 gathered to make sure the run continued.

It was the Hatters, though, who were

quickest out of the blocks with top scorer Thorpe spurning a good opportunity when firing wastefully over from ten yards.

Millwall huffed and puffed but could not find a way of breaking through the Town's offside trap and instead resorted to tough, uncompromising play in an attempt to rattle the Hatters.

With 17 minutes to go the Town appeared to have broken the stalemate when full-back Julian James hammered in a rocket which beat the goalkeeper but rebounded off the

post with no-one alert enough to apply the finishing touch.

The game seemed to be drifting to a 0-0 draw when, with 50 seconds to go, Ceri Hughes dispossessed Millwall's David Sinclair and fired in a shot from the edge of the area which squeezed into the far corner of the net.

Millwall did not have time to mount another attack and when the final whistle went the Town sat proudly on top of the table – a suitable present for manager Lennie Lawrence celebrating his first year in charge of the Hatters.

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from the allotments

...with 'orrible 'ornet Don Monty



REGULAR readers of my column (both of you) will recall I made an emotional return to the Kennelworth a short while ago. Under the guises of being a Bath City fan I hid my Hertfordshire drawl and saw my new team.. lose.

Still, I thought I'd share a few more of my memories of the day, and in particular, that national treasure, cruelly missed from the list of the Seven Wonders of the World – the Oak Road End.

Famous through-out football,



The magic of the Oak Road end. What's the problem there's loads of room!

although I guess it remains a secret for home fans as you need to go back in time to (well let's be honest, a time when we were both good) when Luton fans occupied this end on a regular basis.

If you did enjoy the hospitality back then.. well, it prob-

ably hasn't changed.

Yes, you still have the delightful view of surrounding homes and gardens as you walk in – and I bet they're equally delighted that we can look in. I didn't brave the toilets this time so can't comment on whether they've improved from the last time I paid a visit. The pies were tasty and, well, they didn't prompt an urgent visit to the aforementioned loos which in football grounds is always a good sign.

The view from the seats remains truly shocking and,

oh yes, I'd almost forgotten, the only seats in the civilised world that actually slope forward.

However, whoever put them in thought about this and didn't want people to slip off them. So they put the rows so close together that your knees handily dig into the top of the seat in front.

So I've been back. It may well take the magic of an FA Cup fixture to get me there with the Glory Horns – but who knows, maybe with Bath again?

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