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By Hatters for Hatters

ORANGE

Season 10-11 No6

Gateshead Edition



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hatters matters

... a word from the editor

WELL what a season it's shaping up to be.

Things are never dull when the Hatters are in town.

If it's not York bitterly crying wolf over expenses – and I'm sure they endeared themselves to everyone at Kenilworth Road with two red cards and almost breaking Dan Gleeson's leg – then there's always the title race to keep as occupied.

It doesn't look like AFC Wimbledon will be able to last the pace.

We think it will be a two-horse race between us and moneybags Crawley. Any League club want to put in a bid for Tubbs?

Sadly few teams are taking points



GOING NOWHERE: Andy Drury has declared that he has no desire to leave Luton. But will Crawley hitman Matthew Tubbs and Town target David McGurk depart their clubs?

off them at the moment, but I'm sure it will all work out fine when we win our title decider at the Bored-field (!) Stadium.

It will make it all the sweeter that everyone can see it on TV too.

Add to that the possibility of a Wembley final in the FA Trophy and this is shaping up to be quite a season.

So as long as we can keep hold of our stars, it looks like the only way is up for the Hatters!



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

They have snow idea!

IT'S been pretty bitter for the last month or so – and we're talking about the frosty relations between the Hatters and York since the game against the Minstermen was called off on 56 minutes.

Whether or not the ref's decision to go ahead with the match was a slip-up, there were certainly a few slip-ups by the players before the game was finally abandoned.

But the major slip-up has now come from the Football Conference board.

The ref's decision to plough ahead with the December match was controversial to say the least – setting in place a chain of events which came to a head this week when the Conference ordered Town to give up half the gate receipts from Tuesday's rearranged fixture to compensate York.

They also wanted season ticket holders to be charged half price entry to the game – outrageous, we say, and Orange applauds LTFC's decision to fight the ruling.

Two fingers to the football authorities from LTFC – yet again!



Ken

Rumours, speculation, gossip and half-truths

Chill out it's not usually this cold in Luton



CENTRE-HALF Zdenek Kroca has been a great signing for Richard Money.

The beanpole defender joined us from FC Tescoma Zlin, whereas his Czech mate (Pavel Pesta) looks like he just came from Tesco as he's been limited to FA Trophy appearances.

Kroca jumped at the chance to sign for the Hatters. Back home the temperature frequently plummets below zero at this time of year.

Thinking he was moving to warmer climes, it looks like Kroca regrets leaving his thermal vest supply back home.

To cap it all off



BRAVE Amari Morgan-Smith has certainly given his all since signing from Ilkeston Town. He's even played through the pain barrier after fracturing his cheekbone against Charlton.

First he wore Petr Czech-style headgear, then the contraption you see above, then a cap the size of a bottle top.

He finally discarded the protection after being hurt even more by all the laughter and realising he looked ridiculous.



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EST 17
Years

12 pts	Town 4 G'head 0 Brilliant at Kenilworth Road last term the Tynesiders are simply blown away this time.	Town 1 Grimsby 0 The Mariners make us work hard for the victory, but Keith Keane weighs in with a rare goal.	Town 2 Darlington 0 Hatch back at the Kenny and the striker-turned-defender heads through his own net.	Town 3 Glouc 0 The Hatters rely on their kids once again and they deliver in some style against the Tigers.
10 pts	Town 2 G'head 0 They've only won a handful of games all season, but one was against us, so it won't be a rout.	Town 2 Grimsby 1 Time's running out, but a vital win is secured as new boy Owusu dives in to head home.	Town 1 Darlington 0 This one's going to be a tight affair – a Drury pen on the hour settles the encounter.	Town 4 Glouc 0 I'm tempted to go for double figures, but it's unlikely to be a full-strength side so four will do.
8 pts	Town 3 G'head 0 Easy-peasy as Hatters show their away defeat earlier in the season was just a mere blip.	Town 2 Grimsby 1 Grimsby have been scoring goals for fun, but Luton away is a totally different proposition.	Town 3 Darlington 1 Darlo are known for their solid defensive record, but a Drury-inspired Town are too good.	Town 3 Glouc 0 With a few more senior players involved this time, Hatters move even closer to Wembley.
8 pts	Town 3 G'head 1 Comfortable win for Town to make up for the defeat away at the Tynesiders earlier this season.	Town 1 Grimsby 1 Two points dropped at home against the Mariners as Town let the lead slip with a late goal.	Town 2 Darlington 1 A narrow win for the town with Drury and Barnes-Homer sealing a narrow victory.	Town 2 Glouc 0 Hatters' kids stroll to victory and take a step closer to a day out at Wembley.

mark wood

steve sims

mike simmonds

steve nolan

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Tom's take



Tom Skinner gives his thoughts on the latest Hatters news

THE 3-0 win over Rushden proved to be the best way to blow away those New Year hangovers.

The terrace wit was certainly as sharp as ever as, after Money had made three unnecessary substitutions in stoppage time, one fan yelled to the latest arrival from the bench: "Come on Lawless, get involved, you've done nothing in this game so far!"

At the halfway point of the season we've amassed 46 points, an average of two points a game, in addition to a plus 25-goal difference.

Believe it or not, I didn't receive Simon Pitts' stats book for

Christmas.

Nor am I trying to claim that we're on track for top spot, because unfortunately, in this forgotten about league, only exceptional efforts can land automatic promotion.

A third clean sheet on the trot at Bath was pleasing, though the failure to take our chances may come back to haunt us.

There's a long way to go though. Oxford looked home and dry last year, only to then apparently cock things up. However, despite having lost their form, they managed to win the play-offs and are now doing pretty well in the league above.



GET INVOLVED: Alex Lawless

There are many more twists and turns to come and it's up to

us to sing up and get behind the lads.

One game which had a unique atmosphere was the abandoned York match. It was like going back in time with the sound of the brass band and the players skidding around in the snow with the orange ball.

A particularly poignant moment was the one minute's silence for Dale Roberts, perfectly respected as a bell struck 12 in the distance.

Gateshead are aiming to do the double over us today, after our bad day at the office in September. I suppose you could call them a Bogie side...



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Jo

VITAL STATISTICS

Full name: Jo Abbott

Age: 22

Occupation: Receptionist

Attached? Yes

Been a supporter since: 2005

Best looking Hatter:

Dan Gleeson

Most valuable player:

Andy Drury

Player to flog: Matthew

Barnes-Homer

Ideal night out: Girls night
out

Favourite TV shows:

EastEnders, Hollyoaks

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.



Steve's line-up for today



SUBS: Kidd, Crow, Atieno, Poku, Lawless.

AFTER some strong-arm (to say the least) tackles from our old friends from York on Tuesday, it's a surprise there's any fit players left to pick.

It was worrying to see star man Andy Drury limp off and let's hope Gleeson's injury isn't as bad as it looked!

Good to see Town hit goalscoring form again the other night, albeit against a defender in goal, after failing to find the net in consecutive league games. I was beginning to worry that the Hatters wouldn't score on a pre-season trip to Amsterdam – as we should've won comfortably at Wimbledon.

Anyway, Tyler and his back four haven't conceded a league goal since November (slightly less impressive than it sounds given the number of

games that were called off after that), so Pilks and Kroca would take their usual spots in the centre with Asafu-Adjaye deputising for Gleeson on the right. Hopefully Freddie Murray might be fit again, but if not Jake Howells could play at left-back.

With any luck Drury will be fit to start, and with even more luck so will Morgan-Smith. If both are fit then AMS would sit in the middle with Drury in his favoured left wing berth. He continues to look a class apart, and flying Frenchman Gnaka would be on the opposite flank.

Keane would also sit in the middle. If AMS isn't back then it'd be good to see Poku given another start.

Nice to see Lloyd Owusu quick off the goalscoring mark and he'd retain his place in my line-up alongside Barnes-Homer.

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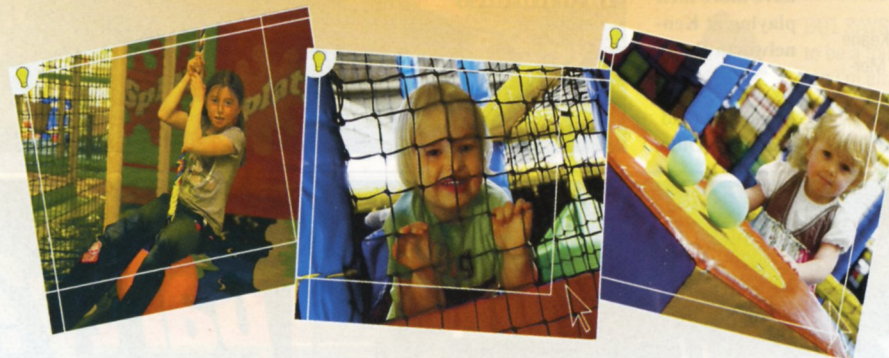
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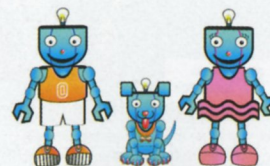
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A dog's life

Life can sometimes be a bitch at Kennelworth Road when the players make a dog's dinner of things - HTO readers Terence and Diane Ilott go barking mad with their own canine line-up

After the disappointing goalless draw at Bath we are worried that the Town may be going to the dogs.

Just look at the team we put out at Twerton Park:

- >> Bark Tyler
- >> Dan Leash-on
- >> Jake Howls
- >> Jaws Pilkington
- >> Zdenek Cocker
- >> Teeth Keane
- >> Amari Morgan-Sniff
- >> Andy Droolly
- >> Clawed Gnak-

pa (replaced by Alex Clawless)
>> Danny Chow
>> Matthew Barks-Homer
(replaced by Jason Walkies)

And don't even get me started on Richard Mutley and his dog's bodies Alan Heel-son and Gary Dogbin...

Perhaps we'll have more luck playing at Kennelworth Road?

By Terence and Diane Ilott (and canine pal Dillon)

ONE MAN AND HIS DOG: As the editor I couldn't resist the chance to gratuitously put in a picture of my own canine companion. In fact when I went to Alfreton I was even told she could come in with me!



dear dot



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



CLAUDE SAYS:
I'm desperate to get into next year's Strictly Come Dancing and

have already been practising my steps. Did you see the ones I unveiled after scoring against Rushden recently?



makes me go quite weak the knees!

DOT SAYS:
Yes I did Claude and I must say the thought of you decked out from head to toe in sequins



AMARI SAYS: Psst, Dot. I have been playing with some protection for my face after breaking my cheekbone in the FA Cup against Charlton Athletic. It's all fixed now, but how do I tell the gaffer I don't actually need it any more?

To be perfectly honest, I just like the fact it makes me look hard to our opponents and they might think twice before putting in a challenge!



DOT SAYS: Boys will be boys I guess. It's not just the players you have to look out for these days, as that poor Stevenage lad found out recently. I say go with it and us girls like a bad boy anyway.



BARNESY SAYS: It's not fair Dot. I want a cool goal celebration like Owusu has. His raise-the-roof efforts have already gone down a treat with the supporters. Any ideas what I could do when I hit the onion bag again?



WOODY SAYS:
Dot, I'm finding that despite playing for the first team, I'm not getting any preferential treatment at school. Can you have a word?



DOT SAYS:
Done, no more double science for you my boy!



DOT SAYS: It's going to be a tough one to top I'm afraid. I was raising the roof over my cornflakes this morning!

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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

**January 22, 1994
Luton Town 2 Derby 1**

AFTER a poor start to the 1993-94 campaign the Town soon found themselves struggling at the wrong end of Division One.

It was only after old boy Mitchell Thomas returned to the club and striker Kerry Dixon signed that the Hatters slowly start to climb the table.

A run of five games without defeat over Christmas and into the New Year pushed the Town up to the heady heights of 17th leading to the clash with promotion-chasing Derby.

A crowd of 9,371, the



**WONDER
GOAL:
Scott
Oakes
lets fly**

best since the start of the season, gathered to see if the Hatters could put one over a side who had won twice at Kenilworth Road the last season.

Young Scot Paul Telfer stroked home the opener for the Hatters just before the interval only for Mick Forsyth to head the equaliser

on 51 minutes.

When fiery midfielder Ceri Hughes was given his marching orders for a second bookable offence Town supporters feared the worst but there soon followed one of the best goals ever witnessed on the hallowed turf to lift the gloom.

Luton defender John

Dreyer laid off the ball to Scott Oakes who was 15 yards inside his own half.

He shuffled past two opponents in the centre circle, then accelerated forward.

Three more Derby players converged on him but failed to halt the run and he shrugged off two more tackles before ramming home from 20 yards.

The crowd went wild, the Luton defence managed to hang on and then everyone was left to talk about one of the greatest goals ever seen at Kenilworth Road.

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to be the bearer of
bad tidings. In fact
there's no easy way
of putting it, but
unfortunately I have
a rather uncomfort-
able truth.

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rivals, my lads, the
Golden Boys, are do-
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season?

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a smaller player
budget than... well,
probably you?

Well, as I sit
writing this we've
just chalked up win



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However, before

you get too alarmed
at our success, you
need to bear in mind
our squad. We're
fine.. right now, but
the 11 on the start-
ing line up is about
it - stars to a man
but that's your lot,
with some plucky
youngsters on the
bench.

So if injuries
strike things will
get a tad more
interesting and
those dreams of the
Premier League may
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