

Half-time

By Hatters for Hatters

ORANGE



Season 10-11 No8

Southport Edition



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hatters matters

... a word from the editor

AN issue of Orange can be a lifetime down at Kenilworth Road.

In this month's issue we pay our tributes following broadcaster Ian Pearce's sad passing, but on the football side of things there can be few bigger changes than a change of manager.

Richard Money may not have been everyone's cup of tea, but no-one can deny that his tenure was not largely successful. His fallings out with the fans didn't help his cause and he may not have realised his stated ambition and aim of promotion, but the team have certainly progressed under



THE ONLY WAY IS UP? Gary Brabin gives his players the thumbs-up during Town's hugely entertaining 3-3 draw against the Harriers

his reign.

New boss Gary Brabin has revealed that he is looking to throw the shackles off under his tenure and hopefully this will make for an even more attacking brand of football.

But the fragility at the back is a real

cause for concern and that will have to be addressed if we are to secure promotion through the play-offs.

Good luck Brabs, and we can only hope that, just like you indicate in the picture above, the only way is up.



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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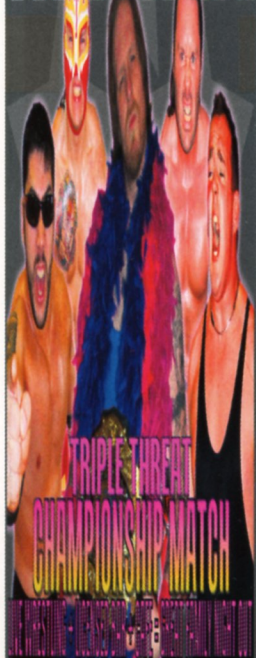
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End of a crazy idea

HATTERS fans were celebrating on Saturday – and it wasn't just because we'd finally managed to bang in a few goals away from home.

You might think the supporters have been driven wild by Robbie Willmott's great free-kick against Kidderminster.

But, in fact, they're cheering because Willmott and Danny Crow had been left upfield when Town defended a corner.



If Gary Brabin achieves nothing else as Hatters manager then at least he can be credited for ending

the previous gaffer's insistence of hauling everyone back to defend a set piece.

Special visitors

THE Luton Town Scandinavian Supporters Club celebrated their 20-year anniversary at the recent home match with Kidderminster Harriers.

Almost 50 fans attended to fill six executive boxes, while their trip was also followed by National Norwegian broadcaster TV 2.

As part of their trip, the supporters attended training on the Friday, meeting Claude Gnaka and Richard Money, while during the game, they spoke to Kingsley Black and Wayne Turner.

At the half time interval, they donated £1,000 to SoLYD with LTSCS chairman Nils Tore Heggstad, founder Lars Petter Ron-



nestad and editor Thomas Moller handing the money over on the pitch.

As match sponsors, LTSCS chose goalscorer Matthew

Barnes-Homer as man of the match, while they hope to be back for the promotion push once more before the season is out.

Farewell Pearcey

IT was with shock and sadness that I learned of the death of Ian Pearcey.

The larger than life character had become so ingrained into life in the Luton Town press box and his voice so synonymous with all things Hatters that it will take me, like I imagine all supporters, a long time to come to terms with his loss.

Not only was he a fine colleague but also a good friend whose friendly manner and enthusiasm both myself and my wife cherished and will sorely miss.



I'm sure there will be a wealth of ideas of how to honour him. Renaming the press room has been mentioned. Perhaps retire his seat? And I'm sure he'd love a 'Pearcey pint' named after him.

A strong Christian, I'm sure we'd all love to picture him looking down from Heaven on the rest of the season.

I find it a sobering fact that the last ever game he got to see was Town's dismal 2-1 defeat at Southport. The big man can scarcely have seen few worse.

He, like all of us, wanted to see the Hatters back in the Football League and would've dearly loved to see the Town succeed this season. That would be a fitting tribute to his memory and would add to the many great Hatters moments he surely saw down the years.

My sincerest wish is that Heaven is

Mark Wood pays tribute to fellow journalist and Town fanatic Ian Pearcey

filled with happy Hatters moments for him and that perhaps he will get to see all the great moments he perhaps missed.

Perhaps there he will get to see Joe Payne's 10 goals, to relive Pleaty skipping across the Maine Road pitch and once again see Steve Foster lift the League Cup. They may seem like silly wishes, but they are ones from the heart and I for one will always value the role he played at both Kenilworth Road and in my own life.

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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 Southport 0 After one of Town's worst shows in recent history they redeem themselves with an easy win.	Crawley 1 Town 1 Crawley have been in unstoppable form this year and battle back to deny Luton a good victory.	Mansfield 0 Town 3 Revenge is sweet. A Mansfield commentator annoyed me so I'll enjoy my chance to gloat.	York 1 Town 1 No love lost between these two sides. At least Luton have learned how to score away.
14 pts  steve sims	Town 4 Southport 0 Revenge is sweet, as the players fight for their places ahead of the play-offs.	Crawley 2 Town 2 With Town cut well adrift of the leaders, both teams can relax and it's a cracking game.	Mansfield 1 Town 3 This time we manage to take our chances and run home comfortable winners.	York 2 Town 1 A disappointing defeat, especially as a win would have cemented our play-off spot.
12 pts  mike simmonds	Town 3 Southport 1 Finally some home cheer and a first win for Gary Brabin, but the Town are still breached.	Crawley 3 Town 1 Hatters come unstuck on the road as the hosts celebrate their title triumph in style.	Mansfield 1 Town 1 Another bad-tempered game between the sides but Hatters eek out another point.	York 2 Town 0 York desperate to make the play-offs and avenge the 5-0 hammering are just too strong.
11 pts  steve nolan	Town 2 Southport 0 Hatters still not firing on all cylinders but an improvement on the away day Southport shocker	Crawley 1 Town 0 Champions (!) Crawley turn Town over thanks to yet another late defensive lapse.	Mansfield 1 Town 1 Hatters continue to look over their shoulders as the limp towards the play-offs goes on.	York 1 Town 2 A change of fortunes for Hatters with a late goal of their own sealing a win at York.

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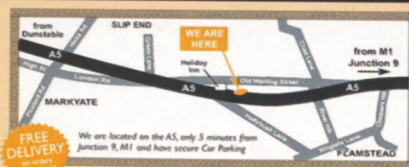
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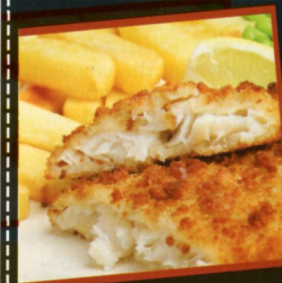
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Tom's take



Tom Skinner gives his thoughts on the latest Hatters news

AFTER that Churchillian speech from Richard Money a couple of weeks ago, I thought some energy had been reinvested into our promotion campaign.

A battling effort by the boys against Mansfield, in spite of some appalling refereeing, was exactly the sort of spirit the manager wanted to inspire, and the fans responded, creating the best atmosphere at the Kenny this season.

However, this aside, we seem to be limping towards the finishing line – jaded and devoid of creativity. The loss of Andy Drury is taking its toll and it's all the more galling that

Ipswich seem to be using him as a cameo player at the moment. Is there no chance of getting him back on loan for the play-off games?

We accept that points have to be ground out sometimes and that being physical and well organised are sometimes more necessary than skill at this level.

However, faced with some turgid football at times, fans can be forgiven for feeling a Churchillian spirit of a different kind and muttering 'no no no no' like the nodding dog off the advert. Money has paid the price for this recent



BRING HIM BACK: Andy Drury

slump and it's up to Brabs to sort it out.

However, when put into context, these matters are trivial.

For I must mention

the sadness which I, and I'm sure many Hatters feel, at the premature passing of Ian Pearce. Amid all the upheaval Luton have faced since the turn of the century, Pearcey has been an ever present, creating a bond with Town supporters over the airwaves through his love for Luton.

It's hard to believe we won't now hear him discussing the excellent meat pies he's enjoyed before an away match, or repeating how officials hate running the line at Kenilworth Road.

My best wishes go to his family at this difficult time.

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Karli

VITAL STATISTICS

Full Name: Karli Humphries

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Occupation: Photographer

Attached? Yes

Been a supporter since: 2007

Best looking Hatter: Claude
Gnapka

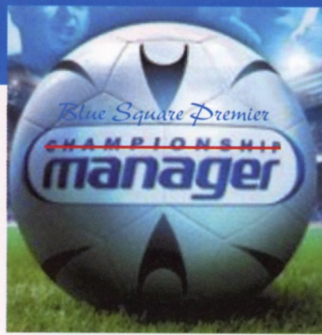
Most valuable players: Mark
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Player to flog: Matthew
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If Half-time Orange's Steve Nolan was in charge of the team, this is what he'd do.



Steve's line-up for today



SUBS: Pilkington, Gnackpa, Owusu, Barnes-Homer, Graham

A LOT'S happened at the Kenny since last month. Another gaffer has vacated the Hatters' hotseat with a new boss in charge.

I can't help but feel a degree of sympathy with Money, although I was no means his biggest fan and some of his comments were never going to get the fans onside. He didn't do that bad a job and assembled a decent squad during his time in charge (short of signing a prolific goal-poacher – something we still lack).

Hatters fans have always been slightly on the belligerent side – you'd think we were a Premier League side sometimes not a Blue Square Premier one.

But having said that I wish Brabin all the luck in the world and hope that he can turn things around and lead

us to promotion – though with current form we'll be lucky to maintain our play-off place!

Brabs has made a few changes in his short tenure in charge and seems to be experimenting to find his best XI. The defence has looked shaky lately and will be keen to shore things up, but Tyler, Murray (if his hamstring is OK), Gleeson and central pairing Pilks and Kroca (who have looked particularly off form) would still be my first choice.

Willmott had a good game at Kiddy scoring a cracker and Jake Howells was in top form on Tuesday so both would join Keane and Lawless in midfield. Shame to see Crow injured, so I'd like to see Jason Walker and Morgan-Smith given another chance up front, with the option to change things with the likes of MBH and Gnackpa on the bench.



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From the Kenny End



With Petey Staniforth

THE schedule for my PTW Wrestling shows is starting to become as busy as the fixture list of our beloved Hatters at the moment, and I don't think it can ever be underestimated the toll that can take on the players.

It's been referenced recently that we need to utilise the squad that we have, due to the amount of upcoming games, and the injury list at time of writing this; and this is something I think us fans need to be very supportive towards the team over.

And on the note of being supportive, the



THAT'S THE SPIRIT: A Team Luton huddle

whole Team Luton concept that has come around recently is something I am very much in agreement with.

Many down the Kenilworth Road end will have noted, at the end of 90 minutes, and the end of the first half of extra-time against Mansfield, my invention of a 'fans huddle'

behind the goal.

It started off as my hugging my two nervous children, who desperately wanted us to get to Wembley once more.

But it soon became a collection of my friends in that seating area, and then various other fans came to join in with us. We now have plans to do this every

game, and that kind of togetherness and commitment amongst the fans is something that we know the players can relate to as well, from the spirit amongst themselves.

So, I'm going to close this column by saying that if we all stick together, we can keep that going, reach the play-offs, banish the experiences of last year's games versus York; and as Team Luton, as a solid unit with full belief, we achieve what we want - promotion back to the league!

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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



DAN SAYS: I thought when I was brought back from Cambridge I was going to feature again, but apparently

I'm a loose cannon. What should I do?



DOT SAYS: Don't get too fired up me lad, I've always thought you were quicker than a speed-

ing bullet and now you could sharpen up your shooting to come back with a real bang.



BRABS SAYS: Dot, you're a lady of fashion. Some advice if you may regarding match-day attire. It used to be so easy before as I could wear my Hatters tracksuit, but apparently that's not the done thing when you're number one. I've worn my suit, my shirt and then a rather snazzy coat, but my wardrobe is a bit bare now. Any shops you'd recommend?



DOT SAYS: As you can see from my hat, I'm at the cutting edge of fashion. I'm sure you can pick up some cheap shirt and tie combos and just rotate them, although personally I think a Tarzan-style outfit would strike fear into the opposition.



LLOYD SAYS: Morning Dot, everyone seems to be so happy now that we have a new manager. Not me though, I preferred the old regime, at least I was getting in the team then!



ED SAYS: It's not fair Dot. I get sent on loan before my nemesis then leaves. I could be fighting for the play-offs

instead of battling relegation at horrible Histon.



DOT SAYS: Keep working young sir, I'll put a good word in. See you in Manchester



DOT SAYS: I wouldn't worry too much pet, Gary B has assured me he still likes you, and it gives you a chance to choreograph some top new scoring celebrations.

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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

April 9, 2005
Bournemouth 0
Luton Town 1

THE Town had enjoyed a remarkable 2004-05 campaign and by April could see the finishing post in their quest to return to the Championship (old Division Two) for the first time since 1996.

With five games to go over 1,600 Luton supporters travelled to Bournemouth to swell the crowd to a record 9,058 at the revamped and renamed Fitness First Stadium.

They saw the Town the quickest out of the blocks with Ahmet Brkovic firing a volley just over from the edge of the box in the fifth minute, and Rowan Vine somehow shooting



wide with just home goalkeeper Neil Moss to beat six minutes later after Steve Howard had robbed Cherries' midfielder Marcus Browning.

Bournemouth came more into the game with John Spicer seeing his shot superbly tipped aside by Marlon Beresford and Wade Elliott having an effort cleared off the line by Russ Perrett as the tide seemed to be turning.

And the momentum

went further with the Cherries a minute later after Perrett was sent off for a clumsy challenge on James Hayter as the striker ran clean through.

Luton immediately brought on Chris Coyne to partner Curtis Davies in the heart of the Town defence and the pair held firm as the Cherries failed to make their numerical advantage count.

Sensing that Bournemouth were running

out of ideas, Luton manager Mike Newell threw on Enoch Showunmi with 15 minutes to go with the instruction to go out and win the game.

Following the instruction to the letter the giant Nigerian international was handily placed in the area to deflect the ball into the net off the bar after a Kevin Nicholls corner was touched on by Howard.

The goal came with six minutes to go and the Town managed to hang on comfortably and cue ecstasy amongst the players and massed ranks of Luton supporters who knew that promotion was theirs all bar the shouting.

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'DIDN'T we have a lovely time the day we went to Barrow'... well, the song went something like that.

Yes, I do envy you boys in orange sometimes. Not very often, mind, but just now and again.

A new league means new places to visit around the country.

Being stuck in the second tier for most of the past 30 years means there are only so many times you can visit Derby, Leicester, Ipswich, Burnley and Cardiff without dying of boredom.



GOAL: But then it went downhill at Southport

You lot have fun. You get to go to Southport (whoops, shouldn't have mentioned that), Grimsby, and the aforementioned Barrow.

Well, as the Glory Horns aren't likely to get there any time soon I teamed

up with family and partner ('you'll love it, honest,' I told her) and joined them and the 43 Bath faithful on the terraces of Barrow a fortnight ago.

Although how they know there were 43 when we all passed through the same turnstiles, I don't know. The only way we reckon was to count the 43 that jumped up when Bath scored the only goal of the game.

Although jumping up to keep warm was a good idea full stop.

A visit to the Barrow Dock Museum

in the morning (very cultural me, it was free as well), football on the terrace next to the self-proclaimed Barrovian Ultras, into the clubhouse bar for a swift pre, half time and full time pint, and then an evening in the local Indian. You can't whack it.

It was probably just as well we didn't make the 280-mile return trip the same night.

We may have bumped into you lot on the way back from Southport and I guess you weren't happy...

Glory Horns!

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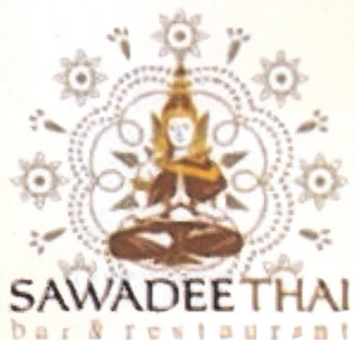
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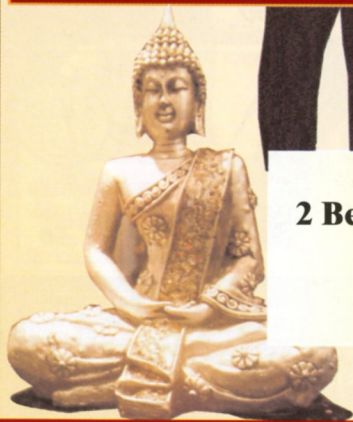
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