

Half-time

By Hatters for Hatters

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hatters matters

... a word from the editor

SO we start off this season just as we finished the last – frustrated.

The opening game of the campaign at AFC Telford was postponed for what ultimately proved to be a pointless reason.

Then came Tuesday night's 1-1 draw with Forest Green Rovers. We bossed possession, created chances, but couldn't take them, and unsurprisingly got punished at the other end.

If football had a script it would be almost always the same at Kenilworth Road.

But we battled back to claim a point against a Forest Green Rovers side that looked



MAKING A MARK: Dean Beckwith nets

much improved from last year.

However, wins are what we need and, while we look more attack-minded than last year, I can't help feeling that at this second our squad is not quite as strong, while the league has im-

proved.

Signings look to be on the horizon and I'm hoping that at least one 'arresting' acquisition could be all we need.

And of course if Andy Drury is reading you're welcome back any time...



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...



The Luton News
Dunstable Gazette
Herald & Post

With special thanks to Gareth Owen

Half-time Orange, Media House, 39 Upper George Street, Luton, LU1 2RD. 01582 700600. Published by Premier Newspapers, Auckland Park, Bletchley, MK1 1BU. 01908 649377. Part of Johnston Press Plc. Printed by Regal Litho.

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mark wood



0 pts

Town 5 Southpt 0
If we're going to romp this league like I believe we will have to start like the clappers.

Mansfield 0 Town 3
They have a radio journalist who annoyed me last season, perhaps I'll ring up to gloat.

Town 6 Braintree 0
It is still the cricket season right? Nothing like a real thrashing to get the juices going.

Hayes&Y 0 Town 2
Perhaps a more sensible suggestion and we're on our way to promotion to the Football League.

steve sims



0 pts

Town 3 Southpt 1
A sluggish start but by the end it'll turn into a comfortable win for Brabin's boys.

Mansfield 1 Town 2
Resolute defending at the death sees us hanging on for a win against tough opposition.

Town 5 Braintree 0
I don't know much about Braintree apart from the fact they're going to be torn apart here.

Hayes&Y 1 Town 2
The run of wins carries on. Let's hope Town hit the ground running – but we don't usually...

mike simmonds



0 pts

Town 2 Southpt 0
Southport are lucky to be in this division and although tough to break down, will pose no threat.

Mansfield 1 Town 1
Hatters never beat Mansfield these days, and this is another frustrating example.

Town 3 Braintree 0
Although buoyed by their magnificent win over Grimsby, Luton should have too much.

Hayes&Y 1 Town 3
Three points from these sorts of trips are vital if Hatters are to win promotion this season.

steve nolan



0 pts

Town 3 Southpt 0
A comfortable win for the Town who stroll to victory with three first half goals.

Mansfield 1 Town 0
Unlucky Town look to have secured a point until Mansfield grab a last-gasp winner.

Town 7 Braintree 0
Didn't even know Braintree played football. A resounding win against poor opposition.

Hayes&Y 0 Town 2
A comfortable away day victory at Hayes for the Hatters secures a third win in four.

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

Sports editor Mark Wood was yet again last season's prediction winner

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Tom's take



Tom Skinner gives his thoughts on the latest Hatters news

SUPPORTING Luton definitely makes you do some odd things.

No self-respecting 22-year-old would ever watch Countryfile, yet a few weeks ago I found myself deliberately tuning in to see Keano and the lads plaiting straw on the programme.

Then there's the minor matter that I attended a personal record of 37 games in all competitions last year. Did it all end in a thrilling climax?

No. I, along with the rest of you, were 'rewarded' for our commitment by watching a so-called striker attempt to cheekily chip possibly the most

important penalty in our history.

Missing penalties can happen to the best of them (remember Roberto Baggio in 1994), but sadly we never saw the best of Jason Walker.

I've replayed THAT header in my mind a thousand times since the disappointment of Eastlands but it still hits the post and bounces back into the grateful keeper's arms.

The sickening thing is, you know Walker will suddenly find his shooting boots at moaning specialists York City. And if he doesn't, they'll probably ask us for compensation. After



all it would be our fault, like the time when we made it snow on purpose so they had a wasted journey down south.

Anyway, don't look back in anger I hear you say (even that phrase has a Mancu-

nian connection). It's time to look forward... to playing teams we've never heard of.

We're going to Braintree, Que Sera, Sera!

Joking apart though, if we are going to win the league, we simply cannot go and lose at places like Tamworth and Southport this year.

We musn't leave any stone unturned, though at the time of writing we are still missing a clinical striker and physical presence up front.

Still if we don't do it, there's always the consolation prize of the play-offs... third time lucky anyone?

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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

What a beauty!

Vikki



Electrolux

VITAL STATISTICS

Full name: Vikki Dodd

Age: 26

Occupation: Advertising Field Sales
Rep

Attached? Nope

Been a supporter since: 2001

Best looking Hatter:

Freddie Murray

Most valuable player:

Robbie Willmott

Player to flog: Matthew Barnes-
Homer

Ideal night out: A girlie night out
with cocktails, bit of karaoke and
probably some junk food at the end
of it!

Favourite TV shows: Scrubs, Two
And A Half Men, Traffic Cops, ER



Steve's line-up for today



SUBS: Barnes-Homer, Morgan-Smith, K Pilkington, Antwi, Watkins

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

SO, another season and another year languishing in the BSP.

Can't say that I expected a third non-league campaign nor can I say that I'm particularly looking forward to it.

Fleetwood have splashed the cash this year – perhaps not as much as Crawley last – and look a likely threat to a Town charge on the league.

But my main worry is (at the time of writing anyway – Brabin has bidden for Constable, so fingers crossed that I'm wrong) that we still haven't signed a forward who's likely to be a 25 goal a season man – something we desperately lacked last term in my opinion.

Of the summer signings that have been made, it's good to see the backline bolstered with the signings of Dean

Beckwith, Will Antwi and Curtis Osano – as we should have a strong backline when the likes of Murray and Pilkington are fully fit too.

James Dance should make a fantastic addition to the midfield and hopefully Willmott will really shine in his first full season here.

It will be very interesting to see the impact young players like Watkins might have when given the opportunity too – he looks a particularly good prospect. Hopefully another new boy Aaron O'Connor can come good on his aim to score 20 goals.

Let's hope this is the last season we have to play a load of teams I've never heard of – as I can't stomach a fourth season here.

Anyway, third time's a charm as they say. Up the Hatters.



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From the Kenny End



With Petey Staniforth

HELLO and welcome back for the new season which hopefully when we look back in a few month's time will be subtitled 'Third Time Lucky'.

The curse of the play-offs struck again, first York, and then AFC Wimbledon.

I have to say, one of the hardest moments in my life was holding my son Drewy at Eastlands for the play-off final as the whistle blew after the last penalty.

He literally just broke down in tears in my arms. I had two close friends around me, one in absolute shock (he'll read this, and I will do him the honour of not nam-

ing him); but it was just impossible to believe we had got so far and then crashed and burned in such a manner.

I have to give a couple of lines to a friend of mine, who Luton have since released, namely one Adam Newton. Adam's a great guy, who even came over for a quick chat with me and my son at half-time at Eastlands when he was supposed to be training (I figure I can mention it now, and he won't get in trouble!).

I know I speak for most Hatters fans when I say that we'll miss him, and wish him the best of luck in the future.

Also, I'll have to wish all the best to Claude Gnakpa, who I really wish had stayed another season (although at least my mother is potentially safer from not getting hit in the face with a football now!).

I can't say Jason Walker will be as missed.

I'd hoped he was going to stay and have the courage and decency to make up for his mistake in the play-off final, but I guess some people just don't have that side to their character.

The new signings have potential though, Dean Beckwith, Aaron O'Connor, and James Dance, are looking

especially good.

Hopefully there's been a little more business done by the time this column is printed, as I feel we're still a little bit light in some departments.

But I'm confident that this is the season that players like Dan Walker, Godfrey Poku, JJ O'Donnell, Adam Watkins and one or two others will show their talents and make the breakthrough that we all believe they are capable of doing.

All I want to finish this with for now, is just to get behind our Hatters - this is our season!

*Take it easy,
Petey*

A Diverse view



Steve Moore at Diverse FM has his say on all things Hatters

SO, here we go again! Third time around at places like Forest Green and Tamworth. Third different manager. Third time lucky?

Gone is Mick Harford's phoenix from the flames project, and Richard Money's defend at all costs approach has failed too.

As for Brabin? Well, but for a lick of paint, he would have succeeded already and like Jason Walker and many others, I did think it was in too.

But with a full pre-season, what appears



to be the 'Brabin Way'?

As of right now, it does seem that it will be one that is flexible. We have seen 4-4-2 and 4-3-3 in pre-season and both have been effective at times.

What we do have though, is a crosso-

ver where our wide-men, James Dance, Robbie Willmott and Aaron O'Connor seem more suited to being part of a front three whereas MBH, AMS and Danny Crow work better in a strike partnership than as the central striker in a trio.

Looking outwards from Kenilworth Road, the landscape of our position in the division is changing.

In year one, we were the big fish expected to run through the division, whereas last year it was all about whether Luton could

keep up with the Crawley spending powerhouse.

Now, while we are still the team everyone wants to beat, we are considered no more than one of a pile of favourites that include Fleetwood and York.

That is a very dangerous road to go down, ask Cambridge United, who followed the same path and spent last year near the drop zone.

Still, unlike them, at least we find out what happens with a Brabin team the season after play-off final heartbreak!

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from the allotments

...with 'orrible 'ornet Don Monty



THE sun's still shining and cricket's on the telly but August means football's back.

I've never been a big fan of early kick offs to the football season. It's all a bit wrong, playing football in hot sunny weather.

Although it's probably got more to do with the fact that my early season hopes and dreams get dashed that bit sooner.

Still, I spent a couple of months trying to get away from the domestic football over the summer.

And I failed miser-



Richard Money used to manage the mighty Vasteras

ably.

'When in Sweden, go and watch second tier football', so goes a not often heard saying.

So when I was in Sweden in June it was time to toddle off to a major Swedish Second Division game involving the mighty Vasteras.

The small town of Vasteras, an hour outside of Stock-

holm, is famous for two things. Firstly, it was home to the very first H&M store.

And secondly, one of its former managers was a certain chap called Richard Money.

A side formerly managed by Money, little atmosphere, and they lost. I'm racking my brains to work out who that reminds me of.

Then I get back to Blighty and find my beloved glory horns are being managed by a former Kenilworth hero, Sean Dyche.

Still, he's exorcised that demon by

playing for us more, so he has official fan support for being the latest in our line of managers with no cash and facing relegation in the face.

But can he live up to his predecessors who have defied the odds?

It's an impressive list including Ray Lewington, Sir Aidy Boothroyd and Mr Malky Mackay.

Interspersed with that chap Rodgers, I know, but he kind of burned his bridges.

Still, onwards and upwards. Third time lucky for your boys? We'll see.

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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 20, 1966
Luton Town 2
Halifax Town 0

AFTER narrowly failing to win promotion from the old Division Four at the end of the 1965-66 season, all Luton supporters knew that the new campaign was likely to be one of struggle.

The reason for this was obvious – the complete dismantling of what was a decent side.

Out went top goalscorer John O'Rourke, talismanic centre-half Matt Woods, combative midfielder John Reid and goalkeeper Colin Tinsley.

In their places came some cast-offs with the rest of the depleted squad made up with untried youngsters.

It was therefore a much changed side that kicked off the new season at a hot Kenil-



New signing Gerry King and his wife are greeted at Luton station by manager George Martin

worth Road against Halifax in front of a crowd of 6,149 who were still basking in the glory of England's World Cup winning performance over West Germany only three weeks before.

The 'Green Un' reporter remarked that many spectators were in 'shirt sleeves and summer dresses!'

Luton manager George Mar-

tin had decided to opt for the newly fashionable 4-3-3 system but his players struggled to impose themselves in the first half.

All this changed after the break though with new signing Gerry King netting in the opening minute.

The lead was doubled two minutes later when King, who had helped Torquay to promotion the previous season, nodded a David Pleat centre down to 18-year-old Bruce Rioch who made no mistake from close range to secure the two points.

Sadly, it did not get any better than this as the predictable slump arrived pretty soon afterwards and it took a change of manager and a couple of astute signings before fears of re-election could finally be banished.

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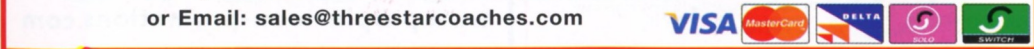
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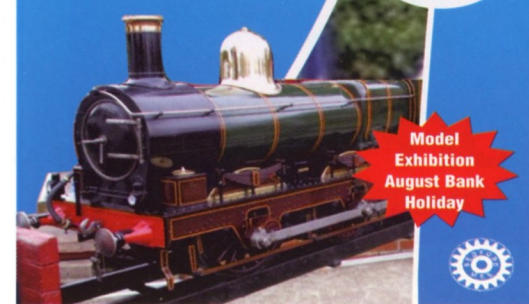
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