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hatters matters

... a word from the editor

SO there was a deadline day double for the Hatters as they swooped to secure a brace of strikers.

Neither though was that 'big man' we had heard so much about. Many feel we need a Steve Howard-esque figure leading the line and it seems we came mightily close to securing the transfer of Oxford United striker James Constable (damn his derby day double against Swindon!).

That elusive target man may not have come to Kenilworth Road but the Hatters did secure the signatures of Stuart Fleetwood from League Two strugglers Hereford



NEW IN: Collin Samuel and Stuart Fleetwood

United for a significant five-figure sum and Trinidad & Tobago international Collin Samuel.

Neither may quite fit the profile of a 'big man' but Fleetwood is undoubtedly a goalscorer and we need someone to regularly finish



off the chances we create.

Skilful midfielder John Paul Kissock could also prove quite a coup so hopefully some exciting times are ahead.

Now we just have to find some fit defenders...



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

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Odds on

by Graham
Sharpe, Media
Relations Director,
William Hill.



WE all have our own memories of how we initially became Luton Town supporters. Mine dates back to the middle ages – well, 1959 – when, as a kid of eight I trundled down to the bottom of our street, Grant Road, on the morning of the FA Cup final to watch the coaches carrying the fans of both sides making their way through Wealdstone High Street en-route to Wembley Stadium.

Of course, that day the two teams taking part were Nottingham Forest and Luton Town and, yes, I took the fateful decision to support the side wearing black and white – well, there was very little colour in the world back in those days just a few years after the end of WW2.

So, no regrets that I passed up the chance of deciding to support the team who would go on to win virtually every major honour in the game and instead jumping on the roller-coaster ride which would see my chosen heroes surging up, and mainly down, the divisions year in, year out.

Fast forward 50 years or so and I still feel like that innocent eight-year-old from half a century ago when I look at the shenanigans still involving the Hatters.

How did it happen that we should have to start the season a match behind everyone else (except Telford, obviously) when our game wasn't allowed to take place? Why were we the only team (except for Hayes, obviously) not allowed to play on August Bank Holiday Monday for reasons once again apparently police-related – thus meaning that we would then have to turn out again only three days later for a televised match which was bafflingly taking place in opposition to an England Euro 2012 qualifier?

How many 'casual' or 'neutral' viewers were likely to have sacrificed watching their country playing in order to watch a BSP game?

There are always excuses about such matters, but rarely acceptable reasons and almost invariably we seem to be the sufferers.

Occasionally – very occasionally



**WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN:
Forest lift the 1959 FA Cup**

– we get the chance to snipe back at our torturers.

I have several Arsenal supporting pals, and when they were recently humiliated by Man United, I was able to send them an email wondering whether they'd noticed that Luton's last two home games against Southport and Braintree had produced an aggregate of 8-2.

Mention of Braintree reminds me that just a few seasons back they were in the same division of the Ryman League as my 'other' hometown team, Wealdstone – who gave the world of football Stuart Pearce, Vinnie Jones and Jermaine Beckford. We were battling with them for the title and they came to play us at Edgware, where we were groundsharing.

I decided to watch the game from behind the goal Wealdstone were attacking and managed at a crucial moment to call out to the Braintree keeper, who turned around to see who had insulted him, just as a Wealdstone player launched a speculative punt towards goal, which ended up in the back of the net as the keeper was completely distracted by my shout!

Follow my twitter feed, which features plenty of LTFC content – @sharpeangle.

Saturday's odds: Luton win 4/6, Darlington win 16/5, draw 5/2.

Hatters Q&A

HTO bullies a Luton Town player into answering questions from Hatters fans. Why not follow @LutonNews_LTFC on Twitter for the chance to put your own question to next month's victim

> **Q.** What is the best penalty you have saved?

> *The one against Mansfield last season. Unfortunately they scored the rebound! Felt so bad afterwards.*

> **Q.** What's the worst goal you've conceded?

> *The last one! Hate conceding any goal whether it's an absolute stunner or a mistake from myself.*

> **Q.** How does Luton compare as a club to all the other clubs you have played for?

> *It's a great club to play for. Has a lot of history and is still a big club but the current squad has got to make its own history. Good people on and off the*

field and with great supporters

> **Q.** Do you have any pre-match routines?

> *I used to eat off the same plate with the same knife and fork the day before a game for a whole season!*

We got promoted that season though. Maybe I should try it again? Only thing I do now is look up to the skies and have a little chat with my dad.

> **Q.** Fish and chips or curry?

> *Curry. Favourite dish is lamb tikka biryani with peshwari naan bread.*

> **Q.** Have you ever been mistaken for Ricky Gervais' mate Karl Pilkington?



Kevin Pilkington

> *No!*

> **Q.** Who is your favourite pundit and why?

> *I like Graeme Sou-ness. Says it like he sees it. Not afraid to upset people!*

> **Q.** Who from the Lu-

ton squad would make a good pundit?

> *Dan Walker talks a good game. Gleees would be good with his dry sense of humour.*

> **Q.** If you could sign anyone in the world, who would it be?

> *Messi. Very obvious I know but the man's a genius.*

> **Q.** Who is the worst dancer at the club?

> *I'll take that one! Awful dancer! On a night out you'll find me at the bar!*

> **Q.** In your view, who is the best goalkeeper to have played the game?

> *Peter Schmeichel. Unbelievable keeper. Made saves that he had no right to make.*

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mark wood 2 pts 	Town 3 Darlo 1 Our current defensive frailties mean we are going to have to outscore our opponents.	Telford 1 Town 2 A first-ever trip to the New Bucks Head and Town have to come from a goal down to win.	Town 3 Lincoln 2 This is a real see-saw battle, but it's a game we must win against another old League team.	Bath 0 Town 2 At long last a clean sheet. Bath show no idea going forward and Town plunder two goals.
steve nolan 2 pts 	Town 2 Darlo 0 They start the match above us in the table but by the end of the game it's a different story.	Telford 1 Town 2 Pending further riots/marches, a second-half strike from Fleetwood bags the points.	Town 3 Lincoln 1 Ruthless Town have little sympathy as the Imps' poor start to the season continues.	Bath 0 Town 2 Last year it was 0-0, but this time around there are no mistakes and City are sunk.
mike simmonds 4 pts 	Town 2 Darlo 1 Hatters leave it late, but Fleetwood's first goal ensures Town are victorious.	Telford 2 Town 3 A thrilling night for both sets of fans as a see-saw game ends with Luton just nicking it.	Town 4 Lincoln 1 Much easier for Town this time around, but still they don't manage not to concede.	Bath 0 Town 2 Hatters quick to make amends for last season's stalemate and finally a clean sheet too!
steve nolan 2 pts 	Town 1 Darlo 1 A late defensive lapse (again!) means that Town have to settle for a point against Darlo.	Telford 0 Town 1 A first half goal edges it for the Hatters who earn a rare clean sheet after a nervy finish.	Town 2 Lincoln 2 An even game sees The Imps twice come from behind to snatch a draw at the Kenny.	Bath 1 Town 3 An early defensive set-back is forgotten as Town come back to win in the second half.

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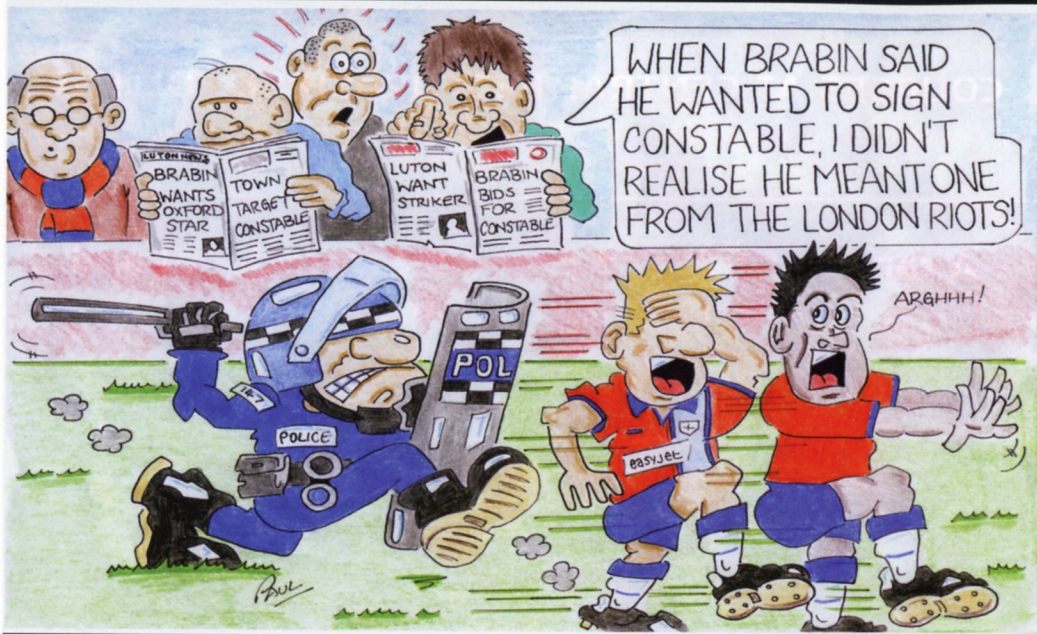
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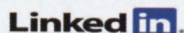
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Tom's take



Tom Skinner gives his thoughts on the latest Hatters news

FROM the opening games of this fledgling season, it's difficult to tell how well equipped Luton are to mount a title challenge this year.

I thought we were absolutely dire in the Forest Green game and for the majority of the Southport match, and then came that seven-minute spell when we completely steamrolled them in a manner Man United would have been proud of.

Following a hard-fought point at bogey ground Field Mill and an energetic and



REASON FOR HOPE: Alan Goodall

entertaining disposal of Braintree, I'm willing to give the lads the benefit of the doubt and put that earlier lethargy down to a combination of an Eastlands hangover, new players needing a few games to gel and just not being up to speed after the Telford game was called off.

Hopefully by now we will have signed that elusive target-man. Brabs keeps saying he's been

working on getting someone in '24/7' over the summer and if he means what he says literally, perhaps that's where we're going wrong.

If you were James Constable, how would you react if a phonecall from a chirpy scouser woke you up at 4am?

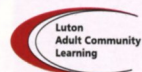
Early indications seem to suggest that the title race could be a bit more open this year, and it would be refreshing if a team didn't run away with the league this time round (though I'd make an exception if that team was us!).

The fact that Alan Goodall started Fleetwood's first few games gives us a huge reason to be optimistic.

Writing this on Bank Holiday Monday, I feel cheated that yet again an away game has been postponed (to the Tuesday) on police advice.

Alarm bells must have been set ringing after Hayes & Yeading's last home attendance of 172.

Now even Stevenage's measly support would be ashamed of that crowd...



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VITAL STATISTICS

Full name: Sophie

Timmons

Age: 18

Occupation: Student

Attached? Yes, in a
relationship

Been a supporter since:
2009

Best looking Hatter:
Mark Tyler

Most valuable player:
Alex Lawless

Player to flog: Collin
Samuel

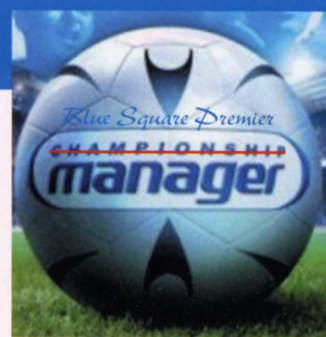
Ideal night out: Night out
on the town with my girls

Favourite TV shows:
EastEnders

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

Sophie

Don't forget you can pick up the new Hatters kit at the club shop!



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



SO, an interesting start to the season with several frustrating draws already and one or two frankly sub-standard displays against poor sides.

We're already playing catch-up it seems.

The Town defence has looked akin to a sieve, with no clean sheets and Mark Tyler's goal looking vulnerable every time an attack comes its way.

And unfortunately it's looking likely that the defensive trio of Gleeson, George Pilkington and Blackett still won't be available for selection today.

The Hatters looked a bit sturdier against Stockport with Keane and Antwi at centre-half, so I'd leave Beckwith on the bench even though he's expected to be fit today.

Full-backs still seem to be

an issue – but I'd keep the faith with Asafu-Adjaye and Osano for now, partly through a lack of other options until Gleeson and Murray return.

Hopefully Howells should be back today and he'd sit alongside Lawless in the centre of midfield with Dance on the right flank.

Leaving Willmott out when fully fit belies belief – Luton's most lively looking player – so he should start on the left.

Despite having scored 13 goals in six games, Luton have at times still seriously lacked a cutting edge.

Hopefully the signing of Fleetwood, whose Conference goals record speaks for itself, will change all that.

He'd start alongside top scorer Morgan-Smith for me with Crow dropping to the bench.

Steve's line-up for today



SUBS: K Pilkington, Beckwith, Crow, Kissock, Watkins

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From the Kenny End



With Petey Staniforth

IT'S been a strange start to the season.

Print deadlines have a habit of making a column rather dated, and it's almost a game of hoping you've not been proved too wrong with what you've said in your previous scribbles.

So, with that in mind, I'm going to go the route, just a few games in at this point, of getting my crystal ball out, renaming myself 'Mystic Petey', and predicting who I believe could well be our main players this season.

Danny Crow: I've

had this nagging voice in my head, saying that if anyone is going to get the best out of him, it's Gary Brabin.

You can see and hear that the fans want Danny to do well.

I think that if he's given a good solid run of matches, from the start, it could well be his time to really shine through.

Curtis Osano: I personally believe that this has been the tidiest piece of business the club has done in the summer, by picking him up on a free.

It might be his

season as he could be one of the main factors in our (hopeful) success.

Adam Watkins: I called this, in my previous column, that I thought it was his time to step up, and it's clearly looking that way so far.

As long as the trap isn't fallen into where his talents are relied upon, and he's given time to progress with not too much pressure, I think Adam will become something very special this season.

Amari Morgan-Smith: Again, rather like Danny Crow,

he perhaps hasn't quite had the run of successive games that he justifies, in my view. But for me, AMS is a difference maker, who can change a game with his pace, and shooting ability.

In the meantime, of course, it's just a case of seeing how we do, and if I'm proven right.

I will admit though, I'd more than happily settle for being proved completely wrong, as long as we have a successful season!

*Take it easy,
Petey*

A Diverse view



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

IN the last two years, 'working' for Diverse on the Hatters, very little has surprised me.

Even the fact that we are still in this division, despite the fact it is disappointing, is not overtly surprising to me.

Neither managerial changes we have had in the last two years were in the least surprising either.

The writing was on the wall for Harford and Money with their losses to Stevenage and Southport respectively.

On the subject of Southport though,



Surprising: Midfielder John Paul Kissock

Brabin managed to surprise me on Friday with the signing of John Paul Kissock.

Maybe not with the fact Kissock has joined Luton, due to their previous links, but the timing of it, with our endless striker pursuit in full

flight, certainly did.

As a result, my initial reaction was one of anger with the lack of sense in signing an attacking midfielder when we are after a striker.

That though, is the reaction of someone who has been sucked in so much by Brabin's very vocal desperation for a striker that all other thoughts have been pushed out.

On reflection, the actual signing of JPK is a very useful one indeed.

Anybody who saw his performance in that aforementioned

defeat up at Haig Avenue last season will not argue with his ability to control an entire game with his playmaking ability.

The amount of times he won man of the match in Southport wins last year adds even more credence to the fact that the performance against us was more than a one-off thing.

The biggest criticism I've heard of the signing is that Kissock will take Adam Watkins' place.

Seriously? There is no way that Watkins is ready to play 40-plus games a season.



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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 1
Wolves 1
September 10, 2005

THE Town decided to use this game as a celebration to mark the 100th anniversary of football at Kenilworth Road.

Great efforts were made to bring back many past players who were paraded before the start of the match in a carnival atmosphere despite the rain.

It was appropriate that Wolves were the guests to our party as they had broken the league attendance record at Kenilworth Road back in 1955, during the Hatters' first-ever season in the top



Paul Underwood gets the better of Wolves' Kenny Miller

flight. Everyone was hoping for a repeat of that 5-1 scoreline!

The Hatters had started off their first season in the Championship (the old Division Two) in brilliant form and were up to third spot, three places ahead of Wolves.

Despite a bright start by the Town it was Wolves who opened the scoring on 25 minutes when Mark Kennedy sent over a brilliant cross which was slid home by Carl Cort at the far post.

The Hatters roared back on the wet surface and saw an effort from Chris Coyne cleared off the line before Steve Robinson headed an Ahmet Brkovic cross against the bar.

The second half continued in the same vein with Wolves content to soak up Luton pressure but we had to wait until 10 minutes from time for the

deserved equaliser.

Carlos Edwards, in for the injured Kevin Foley at right back, went on a marauding run down the wing before squaring a delightful ball to skipper Kevin Nicholls who curled home an unstoppable shot.

At the end of the game Wolves manager Glenn Hoddle looked on the draw as a point gained while Luton boss Mike Newell, who had been sent to the stands at the interval for 'kicking the ball at referee Lee Probert in an aggressive manner', thought that the Town were the stronger side and deserved to win.

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from the allotments

...with 'orrible 'ornet Don Monty



I'M writing this shortly after my beloved Golden Boys have made a slightly earlier than planned exit from the Carling Cup.

Our game at Bristol Rovers was shoved back a week because of the riots (nothing to do with our captain John Eustace, who could pick a fight in a phonebox).

It was slightly less embarrassing than the postponement of your major footballing showdown at Telford, but rather silly nonetheless.

But despite know-

ing we had a trip to the Orient lined up in the second round if we went through - Sky Sports were surely licking their lips at that one... not - we didn't.

Two goals in the first five minutes to cancel each other out, then none for the next 115 minutes. Out on penalties.

It's amazing, we actually scored a couple of those.

So yes, we're out of the League Cup.

And yes, we've never got to the final of the League Cup.

And no, we've not won the League Cup

and you have.

Boring, boring, boring.

But at least we still play in the League Cup (until now of course).

We haven't actually managed to win any of our first four games, pre-season was dismal too, and we've managed the grand total of one league goal in four matches.

We've lost our star striker Danny Graham, who has opted to spend the season playing in the centre circle in the hope Swansea get the ball far enough upfield for him to do some-

thing with it.

Some fans could say we're doomed but I think that's an optimistic view.

I'm pleased you've been able to at least bring some joy to our misery with some spectacularly average results at Hayes & Yeading and the likes.

Yet despite this I'm assured by your faithful fans that you could be playing us in the league in two year's time.

Funny, didn't hear any mention of the leagues being redrawn?

Yellow army.

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