

3 Years of Hell in One Issue

Issue No: 13

D. PLEATED



*The alternative magazine for
fans of LUTON TOWN F.C.*



INSIDE THIS ISSUE :
ALL YOUR FAVOURITES,
OLD AND NEW.
POLL '92

... and much more

COMMENT

This is how it all started 2½ years ago when Neil and I decided that enough was enough. Luton Town were the most hated team in the football league (where is that football league now?) and apart from the bigoted views of the press we had no outlet to vent our anger and put our - the fans - ideas forward.

The Luton supporters were the only first division club without a fanzine at that time and everyone outside the club assumed that the away fans ban, the plastic pitch and other directors decisions were popular with the supporters of the club. We were surprised to find that many of you agreed with our views opposing the theaboard, in the mail we received after issue 1 hit the streets in February 1990.

The first edition was a very hit and miss affair. 20 pages was really poor value but we were grateful for all the encouragement we received from all over the country. It was great to see so many people in exile still interested in the "Town" and boosting the away following when the Hatters played in their area.

This enthusiasm, boosted by the fact that Roy Wegerle agreed to an interview with us, led us to believe we could and should carry on with our message; even though we knew that another point of view would soon be arriving in the form of "rival" fanzines. Our belief that fans had been conned in previous seasons at other peoples expense, the prospective move from Kenilworth Road and interim adjustments to the stadium in light of the Taylor report were all dealt with in issue 2.

We were not afraid to say something controversial, and have been taken to task by a few, but we did say in issue 3 that it was strange that a self confessed Arsenal supporter (and Man Utd season ticket holder) had ended the David Evans regime on the board. We wished luck if the trends of the previous chairman were reversed. Nelkin and Kohler must have listened for they indeed had plans for ripping up the plastic and re-introducing away supporters (at a vastly exorbitant rate). This did eventually have a price. The lack of available money for Jim Ryan to strengthen an injury hit squad, disastrous results and lack of morale had us calling for the chairmans head. When it was eventually announced that Nelkin would be stepping down the price that we paid was to see Ryan sacked for keeping the team in the first division.

Mr Pleat was appointed with us having to hastily change our name now the messiah had returned to the Town after wandering in the Wilderness. Our high profile manager brought in new faces whilst selling a couple of players for big money and whittling the squad down where possible. The style of play was usual for a Pleat side but at times without certain key players seemed lack lustre.

Looking back we've reported good and bad, light hearted and serious and have tried to keep fresh, notably with the inclusion from issue 3 onwards of the excellent Kev and Robbie to whom we are eternally grateful. The input of many other contributors, sellers and production staff have been invaluable in making sure we hit the deadlines. Some of the best "efforts" and possibly still as poignant as when they were first written, appear on these next pages. Please do not feel offended to cry "cheat" or "unfair" but we believe that many of these articles were missed by many in the first few issues and as I say; some are still relevant today.

So sit back and read the delights within these pages the old mixed with a bit of the new and reminisce of days of Evans, plastic, crowds of over 10,000 and first division football.....ah well.

QUIZ FROM ISSUE 1 - REMEMBER WHEN WE DIDN'T HAVE TO SELL PLAYERS TO SURVIVE? NEITHER DO I.

You are the Manager of a Famous First Division side who are having a few problems, using your skill and judgement decide the best option when discussing these points:-

1. You are trailing 3-1 at home on a miserable afternoon. The mid-field trio have been appalling:
Do you:- A. Put on 2 subs. B. Continue as you are
C. Sell Wegerle D. Sell Harford & Wegerle.
2. You are trailing 1-0 away when you are given a penalty:
Do you:- A. Give ball to Wilson B. Deny the penalty
C. Give ball to keeper D. Sell Wegerle
3. Whilst with the Chairman, he lets it slip he wants results at any cost:
Do you:- A. Say he'll have to sack you B. Resign
C. Buy him the Sports Pages D. Sell Wegerle
4. During a training session, your star striker admits his scoring touch is coming back:
Do you:- A. Put bromide in his tea B. Say "Well done!"
C. Stop him pulling the birds D. Sell him
5. Whilst on a mid-season break to Spain the hotel waiters beat you 4-0 with temperatures in the 90's:
Do you:- A. Sign 3 of the waiters B. Return Lutons pitch to grass
C. Manage the waiters D. Sell Wegerle.
6. After an away draw you stop at a Service station for a meal and discover you have no money:
Do you:- A. Do a runner B. Forget it
C. Say "The chairman will pay" D. Sell Harford to finance it
7. You are probably the most successful manager Luton has ever had, after a 3rd round Cup defeat:
Do you:- A. Resign B. Say nothing and work harder.
C. Blame everyone else D. Sell more players

RESULTS - Mostly A's - Optimist, B's - Realist
C's - Arsehole D's - You've got a real grudge pal.

REMEMBER THIS GEM FROM ISSUE 1? WE'D JUST LOST THE ENIGMATIC RAY AND BEFORE HE LEFT HE POSED FOR THIS PHOTO. RECENTLY RAY ADOPTED THE SAME POSE TO ANSWER THE QUESTION POSED BY JOURNALISTS AS TO HOW MANY MILLIONS OF POUNDS BLACKBURN WERE TO SPEND TO ACQUIRE FIRST DIVISION STATUS.

How many games did we WIN under you RAY?



Oh! — Only this many!

THIS WAS WRITTEN IN FEB 1990. 2 YEARS ON AND SOME OF THE COMMENTS HAVE BEEN TAKEN ON BOARD. OTHERS, HAVE SADLY NOT. THE TAYLOR REPORT, THE PREMIER LEAGUE AND CERTAIN CLUBS BOND SCHEMES HAVE ALL MERGED TOGETHER AND BECOME CONFUSED. IS THERE ANY HOPE?

THE TAYLOR REPORT

So, Lord Justice Taylor - the thinking mans Colin Moynihan has decreed that football stadiums should become all seater by 1994. Well, I must admit that it sounds as though everything will be fine when we kick off the 1994/95 season. But, hold on a minute lets take stock of the situation, it is very easy to lose track of the issue in question, that is never to encounter the incidents which caused the tragic loss of life witnessed at Hillsborough last April. I feel that everyone has got it out of proportion, as the Taylor report suggests that fans in general and 'hooligans' in particular, were the main cause of the tragedy, when in fact it is due to a sequence of events usually never encountered at League fixtures.

It was decided to use Hillsborough to host this semi-final. an F.A. showpiece, as it had been used quite successfully the previous season. Demand for tickets was abnormally high and the allocation of tickets did not even cover the season ticket holders, let alone the fans who normally pay on the gate. The late arrival of some fans, due to traffic problems, only served to make matters worse, as did the decision not to delay the kick off. The opening of the gates and subsequent non-segregation of the fans all added up to the blackest Saturday in footballing memory.

It is easy to point the finger but nothing will bring back the 95 who died. But as stressed this is an abnormal occurrence only happening on a few dates during the year. Most weekends you have the same set of supporters turning up for home games knowing where they want to stand and arriving in good time for them to gain access to the terraces. What seems to be the problem here then?

The unfair penalising of the fans by installing seats at all grounds does not appear to be a rational way of dealing with the problem. The Taylor report seems to blame the standing terraces indeed he referred to them as places of tribal warfare. This seems a very narrow view of the situation, as most terraces are used by the ordinary working man there to enjoy a cheap game of football, in a great atmosphere. How will people sit and still have the same sense of enjoyment?

What will happen is that the all seater stadiums will price the ordinary working man away from the game, just when the attendances were picking up again. The casual football fan will think twice about the cost of a seat as opposed to a good night out on the town!

Clubs may be forced to shut down part of their grounds, and only open the main stand, for instance, this could then lead to violence erupting between rival fans in the same enclosure. with no revenue from lack of enthusiasm and high prices, added to the cost of installation, clubs will be forced to fold and football will be the loser.

So what should happen? The following, is only an idea, and is meant to provoke thought and discussion!

If stadiums are forced to be all seater, then money should be made available to install seats in 1st and 2nd division clubs. The lower league clubs would be crippled and find they will not attract spectators, which after all is the clubs lifeblood.

Clubs know who season ticket holders and membership card holders are, and so should ensure ticket allocation for loyal supporters and followers. (There are a few critics here who say that Luton membership is 30,000, but the league gates are only 10,000, on this equation what price Man. United's membership allowance?)

Troublemakers, when identified, will have membership cards withdrawn, thus banning them from home games let alone away matches. There needs to be stricter control over ticket allocation, a lot of fans go to away games without tickets with the knowledge that there will always be touts outside the ground. So if you get rid of the touts, will the fans without tickets stop going?

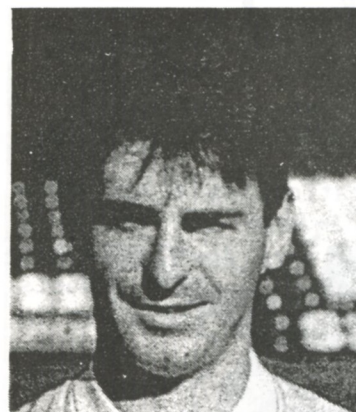
This all adds up to price increases, due to the higher administrative costs, but would it be better than the cost of sitting, which will reduce capacities and possibly double or treble the admission fee to claw back revenue.

SOME HOPE FOR FOOTBALL IN GENERAL!!!

I LOVE THIS STILL. I REMEMBER SPEAKING TO MICK IN THE DAYS PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE TO STOKE IN JULY 1991. HE NEVER APPEARED LIKE HIS CHARACTER OFF THE FIELD, BUT ONCE ON IT.....OUCH!!!

FOCUS ON

FOCUS ON - 'IRON MAN' MICK KENNEDY Loo Town



NAME: Michael "bites yer legs" Kennedy

BIRTHPLACE: Salford

BIRTHDATE : 9.4.1961

CAR: No! Sherman Tank

PREVIOUS CLUBS: Halifax,
Huddersfield, Middlesboro,
Pompey, Bradford,
Leicester.

NICKNAME: Biffa

PREVIOUS TRADE: Butcher

FAVOURITE PLAYER: Vinny Jones.

Superb skills and finesse

BEST ALL TIME BRITISH SIDE: Portsmouth FC squad 85-86
ard but fair. We only had 20 sent off that season.

BEST FOUL COMMITTED: v Charlton 19.2.90 on Andy Peake.
A 15 yard chase then a stud to the chest timed to
perfection.

BEST FOUL SEEN: Harold Schumaker W Germany v France
World Cup semi 82. Great head high tackle from the
keeper without being shown the red card.

MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Jimmy 'Head' Case for
Southampton and Mark Dennis at Palace.

FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Boxing and Rollerball

MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Fighting

FAVOURITE FOOD: 6 inch rusty nails

FAVOURITE DRINK: Paraffin

BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Norman Hunter and
Tommy Smith

SUPERSTITIONS: Headbutting the dressing room door
on leaving for the pitch.

PRE-MATCH MEAL: Toasted Sandpaper.

CAREER AFTER PLAYING: To teach youngsters all
that I have learnt.

PLAYER FOR THE NINETIES: Julian James. Sent off on his
full debut. This lad must have a fine future ahead of
him.

WHO WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET: Whoever wrote this,
so that I can kick him in the b***s !



Insolvent

REDUNDANT RAYS PROBLEM PAGE

If you have any queries that you would like an answer to - try Ray - he can solve most anything; except maybe an away League victory.

Ray: I am writing to you in desperation. I'm a bit of a merchant banker if you know what I mean and whilst I have a fair bit of money I could always do with a bit more. I've heard there are ways in which vast amounts can be made for very little outlay, can you enlighten me please?

Sheik Lowdsa Mah-Ney. Bharain

Dear Lowdsa: Can I recommend the old directorship package. For 200 grand upfront you are guaranteed a tidy return in 3 years with plenty of interest to boot. The club of course receive all the benefits that will price the working man out of the game. So come on Sheik let me hear you sing "Hatters Hatters what a great team"

Drastic on Plastic

Ray: What am I to do? The bottom dropped out of my world in 1985 when the one I loved was ripped out of my life. Even though I still see her from time to time it just doesn't seem the same.

I used to know every inch of her, used to caress and study her, watch the wind gently ruffle her and protect her from the elements when she so desired. Ours was a truly great affair.

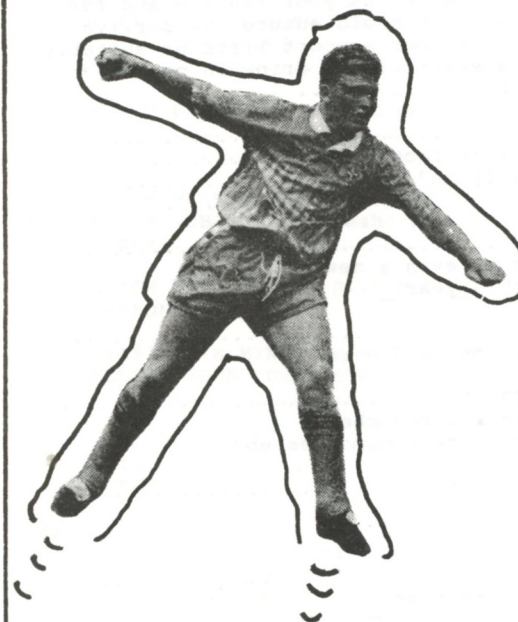
When she left I, like other men before me, turned through frustration to the plastic and rubber versions of the form. Yet as hard as I try I can't seem to get the same pleasure from these imitations. Ray what can I do?

yours I.TFC Groundsman

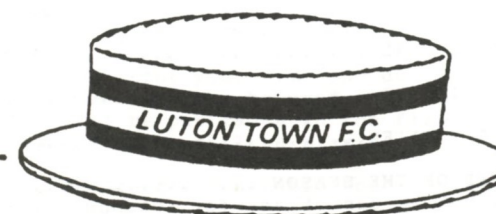
Ray Replies: Piss off you stupid old pervert, it's only fucking grass.

D. PLEATED

POLL of POLLS



SEASON '91-'92





POLL of POLLS

Well its payback time for you loyal 1,000 or so readers, where we ask you to put your personal problems to one side for a while, dig deep into your soul and come up with a few home truths about your season at L.T.F.C.

Now this was well received last year with the now disgraced Alec taking your top vote in the player of the year. I wonder if he'll figure in your thoughts this year.

Please fill in the form or photocopy a few for you mates and return to the usual address. Remember its your fanzine and for the price of a first class stamp you could ensure the survival of this rag for another season; if your support lifts us suitably.

Well here we go then....Lets start with a drink in one hand and pencil poised in the other.....

- 1) PLAYER OF THE YEAR.....
Now I wonder if Nogan will attract Why.....
many votes in this category eh?
- 2) MOST IMPROVED PLAYER.....
A regular from last year or even a new
boy with improved form this year.
- 3) MOST PROMISING YOUNGSTER.....
We've got a few so think long and hard
- 4) BEST PERFORMANCE OF THE SEASON.....
Now think hard here - can you remember
any? Christmas should bring back memories eh?
- 5) WORST PERFORMANCE OF THE SEASON.....
Ah!! which one to choose.
Don't dwell on this one.
- 6) BEST OPPONENTS OF THE SEASON.....
No voting for ourselves this time
in this category please.
- 7) WORST OPPONENTS OF THE SEASON.....
I.E: Someone who let us beat them.
- 8) BEST TOWN GOAL OF THE SEASON.....AGAINST.....
Think hard there were some crackers REASON.....
.....
- 9) BEST OPPONENTS GOAL.....FOR.....
- 10) BEST GROUND VISITED.....
- 11) WORST GROUND VISITED.....
- 12) WORST REFEREE OF THE SEASON.....
I'm sorry but we cannot ask for reasons
why? due to lack of space.

- 13) BIGGEST DONKEY OF THE SEASON.....
Doesn't have to be one of WHY?.....
our lads but it does help
- 14) WORST HAIRCUT OF THE SEASON.....
Again, there are a few of the 1st division
stars who just don't have to visit barbers do they?
- 15) MOST MEMORABLE INCIDENT AT KENILWORTH.....
ROAD DURING THE SEASON
- 16) RUMOURS DICTATE FURTHER PRICE INCREASES. IF WE GO DOWN WILL
YOU STILL ATTEND HOME GAMES?.....
WHY?.....
- 17) HOW SAFE DO YOU FEEL WITH THE CURRENT BOARD AFTER A YEAR WHERE
THEY HAVE REDUCED OUR LOSSES?.....
EXPLAIN?.....
- 18) WHICH PLAYER WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO SELL TO WATFORD AND WHY?
.....
- 19) WHICH PLAYER WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE LUTON TOWN SIGN IF MONEY
WAS NO OBJECT (oh yeah! and we play all our home games on Fantasy
island).....
- 20) WHICH TOWN PLAYER HAVE YOU NOT SEEN DOWN THE BREWERY TAP ALL
SEASON?
- 21) BEARING IN MIND THE SIZE OF THE PLAYING STAFF USED THIS SEASON
SELECT YOUR IDEAL STARTING LINE UP FOR THE TOWN.
1.....2.....3.....
4.....5.....6.....
7.....8.....9.....
10.....11.....
SUBS:.....
- 22) CAN FACILITES AT THE CLUB BE IMPROVED?.....
and I'm not talking about viewing conditions
on the pitch.
- 23) CAN YOU UNDERSTAND WHY PLEATY DIDN'T MOVE IN FOR A STRIKER
TO REPLACE MICK HARFORD EARLIER IN THE SEASON?.....
- 24) HOW DO YOU GET OVER ANTOHER PAINFUL DE FEAT?.....
I usually drink heavily and remain moody
for days - what about you?
- 25) WILL YOU STILL VISIT KENILWORTH ROAD IF IT TURNS INTO AN ALL
SEATER STADIUM?.....
(A question for standing fans mainly)

Right then.....thanks for your time and don't forget to jot down a few ideas for material to be used in future editions of this mag. Results will be published in the first D.P of next season.....wherever we will be playing.

D.PLEATED 3b Swanston Grange, Dunstable Road, Luton, Beds. LU4 0HF.

AH! AN ARTICLE FROM ISSUE 2 WHICH STILL HAS US ASKING THE SAME QUESTIONS TODAY. WHERE IS THE NEW GROUND? WHO IS GOING TO FUND IT? ROADWAYS AND PUBLIC CONVENIENCE ETC ETC? READ ON AND BE SHOCKED.

HOMELESSNESS - A REPORT

I don't know, these days it seems that if you're a single parent with no income, a few badly dressed brats and no conception of anything real, that the council will find a home for you. I'm sure that you'll agree that this is the norm for the most part, in Luton.

Well how can the Borough Council differentiate when the aforementioned paragraph precisely fits the description of the Chairman and his offspring of LTFC?

The days of football at Kenilworth Road are numbered, as you know, due to the club selling off the land to the Council under the premise that all would be done to find a suitable home within a 6 year period. With 2 years nearly up, it seems as though we are as far away as one can possibly get from establishing just where the new ground will be situated.

It is not the intention of this writer to restate the sites that have been well talked about, but to look at some of the decision making that goes on to establish where, in 6 years time, Luton will be playing 1st Division football. Indeed, at the present rate of advancement, will Luton be playing football at all?

Most of the decisions come from a working party which, given the course of time, comes up with various suggestions by sticking a pin into a map of OLD Luton. The reason I say an old map is that the one they use has absolutely no built up areas on it, as it dates from 1892. So when they landed on Sundon Springs they conveniently forgot about the residential areas, lack of routes and transportational difficulties.

Similarly, the Butterfield Green site has too many of the above disadvantages to consider it a starter. It must be pointed out that even when a feasible site is found too many people put on their NIMBY (not in my back yard) hats. They say that a football club in their area will cause traffic chaos and pollution, shove rowdy hoards of people into the area and generally downgrade the scene.

I hear no such complaints when they build large shopping and office complexes where the effects will be exactly the same. Too many people have short memories, don't they?

Indeed, what about getting a supermarket chain to go in with the Council and LTFC to construct a site with amenities, ample parking space and the like, so that the area can be dual purpose. An area such as this will possibly find that shops might have to close on a Saturday or the other way of looking at it is that they may increase their revenue through the influx of 10,000+ people on a Saturday.

You've got to admit that Kenilworth Road is absolutely abysmal for parking even on a reserve fixture, and most shops in the area are still concerned about large crowds even though the element of danger through violence has been, for the most part, eradicated.

We come back to the main problem as to where to site? People are now looking further afield meaning Lutonians have to travel out of Luton, to follow a team reported to be Luton Town. This option though safe as far as undeveloped sites goes, brings us back to transportation and traffic routes. Each site will have to be viewed under its own merits before a decision is made.

Are the council doing all they can to help Luton Town? I hear you ask, or are they hoping to be saved by private development which means that they can wash their hands of this tiresome problem? It was, after all, objections from rent paying members about football crowds that Luton brought in their membership scheme. An attempt to hide the real reason that the council did not care and LTFC were not prepared to foot the Police bills that kept coming in. No the council want to get their moneys worth out of Luton and have probably sold the land to private developers for housing purposes already, without having to spend anything extra to get rid of the club. It would be better for the council if the club did not reside within the borough of Luton anyway.

Is this what they are banking on with their stalling?

MICK KENNEDY APPEARS IN THE ORIGINAL JUNIOR HATTERS COLUMN TO HIT OUR PAGES.

Junior NU HATTERS with Mick Kennedy

Kingsley's not here today kids, he's gone to his Aunties. Taking over in the Junior Hatters' chair this week is Mick Kennedy.

Hello boys and girls. Uncle Mick here. Well didn't we all have a lovely time at the Zoo in the summer? Me and Darron McDonough turned up as surprise guests and what an exciting day it was. Some of you older ones had lots of fun riding on the camel, whilst the younger ones settled for a swing on Dazmo's pony tail. It was very warm and Darron and I got very thirsty, ending up becoming very pissed. I must apologize to the little boy whose ice-cream I nicked and threw at the monkeys, but the bastards were really winding me up. Also apologies to his big brother who had the cheek to ask me for a refund: his nose made a little indentation in my forehead but I forgive him.

Anyway, today's lucky Junior Hatters winner is wee Nigel Bennett, membership number JH000LTFC000000138278292834 who wins a headbutt from me and a flickknife. I'm still looking for new members to join my Kung Fu Club. Enjoy today's game and remember what I told you to shout at the ref. Your vocal support is always welcome, especially if it's Keith Hackett. Be nice to your freinds,

Uncle Mick

(There you are, I didn't say 'fuck' once)

(RIGHT)

THE FIRST ARTICLE FROM THE EXCELLENT KEV. UP UNTIL HIS CONTRIBUTION I THOUGHT I WAS THE ONLY MADMAN SUPPORTING L.T.F.C. THE REST IS HISTORY.

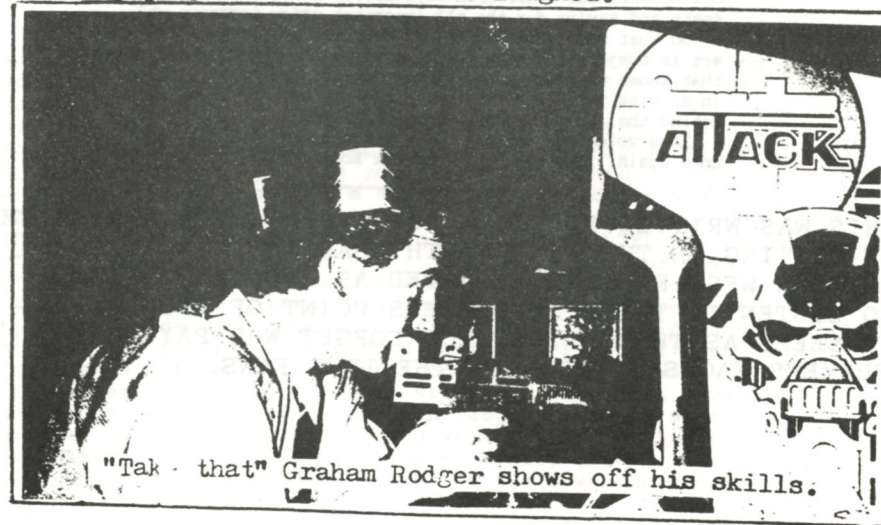
'I'M TURNING INTO A SPACE ALIEN'

admits Graham Rodger

"I played 3 successive games last March without so much as touching a machine- it was Hell" claims Graham Rodger, the man who has become tragically addicted to spending all of his spare time on Space Invader Machines. So much so that :-

- ZAP! He now spends up to 50 hours a week on the wild astro adventureland.
- POW! He hasn't found time for training with the Luton Town squad during the close season.
- SPLAT! His fearless antics have met with criticism among players and management alike and there have been rumours of transfer listings.
- FIRE! Such is his cosmic craving that he has even had to borrow money from the apprentices to keep up with the average £265 a week bill and his intergalactic greed is landing him into serious debt.

"My favourite machine is called "Mechanized Attack" he continues. "Basically you have to zap the shit out of these little green aliens before they get you. You get 50 points if you get those but the purple ones are real bastards. If you don't get them first they start breeding and attack your ship with serious consequences. If you lose 3 lives that's the end of the game. It's a case of do or die. It's much better than playing football. In fact I only came to Luton because I was told they play on ASTRO-turf" he laughed.



"Tak that" Graham Rodger shows off his skills.

DEAF TOO !!!

In line with the Taylor report proposals Luton have come up with the scheme to make the Kenilworth Road stadium all seater over a period of 5 seasons. It is presumed that this will make Luton Town F.C. one of the most progressive and safety conscious teams in the league, giving impressive viewing to all who wish to watch the town. The Oak Road seating area is envisaged to house the controlled introduction of away fans the advantages being not only atmosphere but one of containing the away element and not have them scattered about the ground as at present. The Kenilworth Road end will gradually be converted to seating, working from the back of the stand to the front over a period of seasons.

Pretty big plans you may agree, but have we the fans and paying customers had a say in what will go ahead? Have we been asked if this is what we want and do we have any major gripes about this idea? Clubs around the country have taken the Taylor report to heart and at least have had the courtesy to listen to proposals fans can come up with. Indeed West Ham, to name one, have commissioned a census amongst fans in order to test opinion on a range of topics from all seater stadium to ground sharing.

It is obvious that our progressive thinking management have made this little pearler up on their own and have decided that public opinion will have to be vetoed by commercial common sense. I must admit that we, the fans, have pushed them into it a little as we still only turn out in ten thousands to watch our team play whilst they obviously think that this is not enough. So can we blame them for taking it out of our hands?

Yes - I think so, due not only to the ludicrous decision which saw the plastic pitch put down and the decision to ban away fans. As both of these schemes are being reviewed (with the plastic at least coming up at the end of the season) it is up to us to bring a friend back to the games to show the management that we can fill the stadium each home game.

Lets face it, installing seats reduces the capacity; and if we cannot exceed 11,000 or so fans then it is obvious that the seating arrangements will go ahead as scheduled. So you Oak Roaders and Kenilworth boys better start choosing your seats and saving for the all important price increase eh?

So what should be happening? Well the supporters club should act in conjunction with the fans to voice concern and ensure that those who want to or like to stand have that right and in an area that is historically associated with standing; namely behind the goal (no corner plots thank you).

Lets voice our concern now - and not cry when it's too late once again, like the Maple and Oak Road schemes.

THIS WAS WRITTEN IN "OCT" 90 PRIOR TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF SITTING IN THE KENILWORTH ROAD AND YET IT DOES MENTION WEST HAM WHO WE CITED AS A CLUB WILLING TO LISTEN TO THEIR SUPPORTERS POINT OF VIEW. IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THEY TOO FORGET WHO PAYS THE PLAYERS WAGES. YES, US, THE TRUE FANS.



IT WAS IN THIS CHRISTMAS ISSUE THAT WE STARTED THE NELKIN REBUKES. SOME SAY WE WERE OVER THE TOP. I BELIEVE WE WERE STATING THE TRUTH. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

It was Christmas Eve and the busy village of Luton was readying itself for the festive period. The snow flakes whispered daintily to the ground covering everything with a fine powdery layer and lights twinkled brightly upon each and every household. The night was crisp with anticipation, yes it would be the best Christmas on record.

But down Kenilworth Road the lights burning in the club offices were not those from Christmas trees but that from candles. Mr Nelkin the owner of the football club was making his staff work late into the night. "Christmas!....Charity!...Humbug" he cried "get to work staff and don't light another candle until that one has been totally used up". His staff; a Mr Bob O'Brien, didn't much care for Mr Nelkin, but he needed the job and the pittance it paid in order to ensure the health of his son Tiny Mick. If it wasn't for his sons setback of the broken leg he'd tell Mr Nelkin where to stick it, so he furrowed on thinking of the joy on Tiny Micks face when he opened up his present tomorrow morning.

Eventually at 9.15 Mr Nelkin sent O'Brien home without so much as a Merry Christmas or even a Christmas bonus. "I've given him tomorrow off" said Nelkin "and its not even Sunday" he added indignantly as he settled down in his bed to get his accustomed 8 hours sleep.

He was awoken at 12 midnight by a disturbing, eerie laughing and chuckling. He was just thinking who in the devils name had the audacity to burgle his house, when the bedroom door was flung open. It revealed a ghostly white apparition, apparently an old, smartly dressed man with swept back hair who had a cheery, smiling face. "Who the hell are you?" spurted Nelkin, clutching the bed clothes around him. "I'm Happy Harry" said the vision "and I'm the ghost of the manager past". Nelkin asked what he was doing in his bedroom and more importantly upon LTFC premises. "I'm here to show you" chuckled Harry "the error of your ways, to make you realize that you, and you alone can change Luton Town F.C for the better. When I was here we had good times we brought the fun back into football. Attendances were high and the game was free flowing and good to watch." "Piss off" shouted Nelkin gaining a little courage "you fool yourself old man - nobody respected you, your team only stayed in the first division for a season and everytime you lost you laughed - leave me alone". "As you wish" Harry whispered "but you've got it wrong, people really do matter and even old men like me really care". And with that he was gone leaving Nelkin to settle down once again.

The bedside clock said 1 am and Nelkin couldn't believe that he was awake again. Was it really a scraping and rattling noise that he had heard?

"Who's there?" he lamented and at that instant the bedroom door burst open and the space occupied by a small dark haired man covered in chains and dragging an iron ball behind him.

"I" started the vision in a lilting scottish accent "am the ghost of the manager present, here to pay you a little visit". "Oh shite" wept Nelkin "not another one. But why are you in chains?" "These are the shackles you have put upon me in order to restrain my decision making and spending on new players" groaned the apparition "I warn you now if you do not reverse the trends that have been entrenched in Luton Towns history, we will be heading for ruin" and with that he was gone. Nelkin dismissed him from his thoughts instantly and returned to his slumber wondering if that was the end.

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He thought the world had ended when the crash of the door flying off its hinges and splintered wood flying round his head woke him again. He glanced quickly at the clock, 2 am, and his gaze turned to the doorway. No light filled the door space as the whole area was taken up by one of the bulkiest men Nelkin had ever seen.

"Have I died and gone to hell?" asked Nelkin. "You might as well have" boomed the lard bucket in front of him "for I am the ghost of the future manager; I am Maxwell of the football league and I have acquired your football club and many others like it - whilst you have been banished to live a life of poverty in Sheffield." "You cant do this to me" cried Nelkin "I love Luton". "This is your destiny" screamed Maxwell "you cannot reverse the trends you started three years ago - so its up North for you to the wastelands and ultimately death." And with that still ringing around the room the ghost vanished and Nelkin closed his ears and eyes to block the sound and vision out.

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He awoke in what seemed like minutes but a check of the clock told him it was 7 o'clock. He stumbled out of bed and to the bedroom door. Yes - it was all true - the door was ripped totally off its hinges and money was left in bundles around the floor. Feeling slightly queezy Nelkin vowed to do something about his future and that of the clubs.

By 9 am he was armed with gifts from the local Paki shop who were never known to close and hurried to the house of his employee Bob O'Brien. O'Brien thought Nelkin had come to ask him to work today but when he had presents thrust at him he knew that this was the start of the best Christmas ever. Tiny Mick who had just opened his present of a slightly mouldy orange was speechless when Nelkin gave him a pair of crutches and a vow that he would return to reserve team football.

The churchbells rung and people laughed and all around Luton joy radiated as they all knew that Lutons future would be safe by learning from the mistakes of the past.....

- OR WOULD IT ??? -

STILL TOPICAL AND WHAT WITH THE RUMOURS OVER NEW LEADERS AT THE HELM COULD WE FIND OURSELF STILL MOVING ON?

TOWN IN RELOCATION SHOCKER



We at D.P. can exclusively reveal the location of the new ground, thanks to one of our readers in Cheshire, who is also a County Councillor, his name Mort Mugginshaw, so its thanks to Mort for this up to the minute information. For those of you who thought Milton Keynes would have been too far to travel for a home game how do you fancy a local derby with the likes of Man Utd and Man City and if we keep selling our best players eventually Altrincham. Yes we can reveal Luton Towns new ground is at the Sale recreation ground "Pitch C". Mort Mugginshaw revealed, "apparently Luton Town first had talks with Luton Borough Council and were offered Pitch B at Lothair Road but when told the hire for a match was now over £20 their initial interest soon cooled. We at Sale can offer them a pitch of similar quality for £14. We originally wanted £15 but they knocked us down, pointing out that after all Luton were a first division team. Unfortunately we further learned from Mort that:-

- a) We will be known as Sale Town not Luton Town
- b) Our nickname will now be the "Sellers" not the "Hatters" and c) Our ground will be called "Wholesale Park".

We at D.P. pointed out to a club spokesman the difficulty that might arise from a big crowd for a "Derby Match" v City or United. The spokesman said "no problem we just give up home advantage and play at Old Trafford or Maine Road." We then asked how many games we would actually be able to play at Wholesale Park. We were told only one, against Wimbledon, because in all the other games there would be problems with the large crowd spilling on to pitch B & D. When we asked Peter Nelkin for his comments on the above information all he would say was "Do you want to buy a player?"

FLAIN PROOF



D. Pleated - tipped striker has trials with Luton

Do you know of any young non-league strikers in the mould of Mo Johnston / Paul Walsh? We did. So we got straight in touch with David Pleat. A few weeks later Welwyn Garden City and Stevenage's Stephen Flain found himself playing for our reserve team alongside Kurt! He made an impressive debut in a Luton shirt against Swindon, and broke the deadlock in a 2-1 win with a superbly taken goal. There aren't too many talented youngsters about that we can afford, so we hope this quick, skillful chap gets his chance. If you know of anyone worth checking out get in touch with David Pleat c/o LTFC.

Off the ball

THE threat of a footballers' strike dribbles on like a much-replayed cup-tie.

But the players are kidding themselves if they think they'll get much sympathy from their wage-payers on the terraces.

Ordinary punters don't get signing-on fees that could buy a building society. Or pay-slips with more noughts than Luton Town's score sheet for a season.

The fans want goals — not greed.