

# DEPLETED

The Original Luton Town fanzine

50p

The EXCLUSIVE Fazza Interview

Inside.....

## The Relegation "Battle"?

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September 1990

*"There's money available if you want to buy Shalom Tikva*

*-Nelkin to Ryan*

October 1990

*"£600,000 was a good offer for Tim Breacker"*

*-Nelkin*

February 1991

*"There's no money available"*

*-Nelkin*

## WE WANT RESULTS

40 pages of sheer tripe



**DEPLETED**  
**3B Swanston Grange**  
**Dunstable Road**  
**Luton**  
**Beds**  
**LU4 0HF**



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**AVAILABILITY:-** Depleted can be found on sale around  
Kenilworth Road on Match days not to be mistaken with  
any other rags.

**ALSO:-** Behind the bar at:-

Brache Sparta FC, Foxdells, Dallow Road, Luton.

Ewe+Lamb P.H., Luton Road, Dunstable

Waggon & Horses P.H., High St. South, Dunstable

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TO HELP US FLOG WOULD BE MOST WELCOME.

Issues 1 & 2 sold out. Copies of 3, 4 and 5 are still  
available.

All articles and opinions expressed in this mag are  
not necessarily those of the editorial team. We believe  
if an article is worth publishing it should be so in  
its full context. If anyone feels mis-interpreted  
they have the right to reply.

**Special End of Season Edition**

Don't miss the next issue of DEPLETED. Glossier than ever, more colourful than ever,  
but still the same load of tripe with as many pages but STILL ONLY 50p! Look out for us  
(hopefully at the Wimbledon game) and buy your copy before someone else does.....

# Editorial

When the chips are down it's all too easy to criticise but, to be totally honest, what have the faithful 8,000 got to cheer about at this moment in time. It's a sobering thought that since the December 8th draw with Arsenal we've lost every league game except for the 2-0 home win over Chelsea. Some of these pitiful displays would have seemed unimaginable earlier in the season. To lose any game against another relegation battler is disappointing, to lose at home is even worse, but to lose 3 times at home to struggling sides in the space of 5 weeks is very difficult to come to terms with.

If beating Sheffield United in the FA Cup was some consolation (they'll make it hard for us up there in the league fixture) then the debacle at West Ham is hard to swallow as the reward. Jim is doing his best with the resources he's got but basically people will not flock to see a team in trouble. If money's not going to save the day, then it's down to us, the hardcore supporters, (particularly the ones with the loud voices) to put the past behind us, get right behind the lads (every minute of the game) to build morale, confidence and the results that we all want and deserve. We're good enough on the evidence from earlier in the season, and the spirited performance at Leeds justified that.

On the pitch it seems that certain individuals, when selected, haven't given 100% effort to the task in hand or are simply not good enough to play for Luton Town in Division 1. OK, so we all know that money's tight but where will it all end? - Division 4? Club officials still insist we have one of the largest squads in the 1st Division but how many of these players are actually up to 1st Division standards.

Once again we seem to be looking for the younger members of the squad to pull us out of the hole we are digging for ourselves. But time and results are running out and it's not too much fun checking the tables on Saturday night to see how far Derby and Sheffield are behind us. Will we be looking up at them in a few weeks time?

Off the field there are rumours that Lars will leave (possibly Exeter? possibly back home) as predicted in D.P.4. As his contract expires in June we are powerless to do anything except try to persuade Lars that the new pitch can give him and Luton a new lease of life next season.

Another supposedly unsettled player is David Beaumont who is struggling due to fierce competition in a dodgy defence. Good points are Graham Rodgers return to 1st Team football, dominating aerial battles and looking useful on corners, in Steve Foster style, Mark Penbridge's successful plugging of Ceri Hughes slot, Kingsley's continued improving form, and Dowie's improved ability in the air. It's getting harder for Fazza and Nogan as Dowie's got his passion back for playing. Lastly, welcome to Paul Holsgrove, our new signing from mighty Wokingham. Good luck, Paul!

Well, that's enough rambling save to say thank you for all your support, sorry we can't print everything but hopefully you'll find your piece in the next issue. We are trying to improve your mag 'cos you deserve quality and it is for you that we exist.

Keep up the feedback.

Get behind the lads, as otherwise we'll have to prepare ourselves for days out at exotic places like Grimsby and Cambridge - sad but true.

Cheers!

Ed.



# Taylor Made

Following the recommendations of the Taylor Report (has this "Taylor" ever been to a football match in his life?), we reluctantly have to look forward to all-seater grounds, regardless of whether the games longest serving fans may have stood safely on football's terraces for half a century.

The tall sods who, for so many years have delighted in standing right in front of those with a height disadvantage, will now find that "Taylor's" report means that their legs will gradually deteriorate after being crushed up against the seat in front of them (as in fig.1 - this is the standard design of seats in the once-great Oak Road Stand).

The "Taylor" Report now means that the overweight, loudmouthed, retarded fellow that attempts to spoil everyone's afternoon by constantly hurling abuse at players and manager alike (the one you always move ten feet away from to prevent you nutting him) will have a season ticket - in the seat right behind yours, and you can't move because you've just bought your season ticket for YOUR "Taylor" made seat.

Then there's the old sod who's got bladder trouble and he won't be able to simply disappear like he does at the moment - no, every five minutes he'll be asking you to stand up so he can get past you to get to the bog before he bursts. He'll reappear again and again - and after seventy minutes of the game he'll decide he'd better leave now to avoid the crush. (Maybe he should have a "type b" seat as in fig. 2?)

You see a mate you haven't seen for God knows how long but can you go and talk to him? NO! And why not? Because "Taylor" says you've got to sit put.

You can hear the chanting (faintly - remembering what it used to be like when you used to stand) but you join in to no avail. Everyone around you is made of stone but you still can't move closer to the chanting few or jig up and down with them harmlessly, because you're a prisoner in a world of crammed-in plastic seats.

It's a goal! You enjoy what is traditionally among the best moments of your life, jumping up in the air - and back down to earth onto the seat in front, grazing both legs and tripping over the seat rest at the same time. "Taylor" says you must refrain from getting excited when your team scores. Just a polite cheer and round of applause will suffice.

A coach load of fans arrive late, will they fit in at the back where there's a bit of space - or right at the front? NO! They've all got numbers on their tickets and 50% of supporters already in their "Taylor" seats will have to be disturbed while they look for their places.

What happened during the Millwall riot? They made straight for the seats in the Bobbers. Gone will be the days when everyone is searched on the way into the ground. What's the point when everyone is presented with a potentially lethal weapon?

What's happening to our game? Will Hillsborough really ever occur again with new safety gates in the fencing and attendance/capacity checks at the turnstiles? Surely that would be adequate without the imposed seating. At Hillsborough a huge contingent of Liverpool supporters entered the ground with either a forged ticket or no ticket at all. Is "Taylor" suggesting that his seats would have prevented the tragedy which prompted his report in the first place? Lord - is this justice?

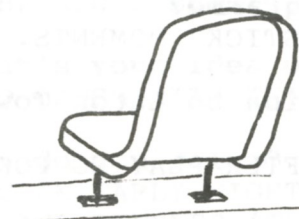


Fig.1

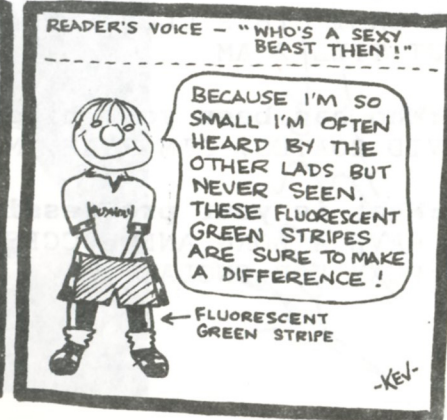


Fig.2

"de-Luxe" model

After recent singing successes i.e. Gazza, Waddle & Hoddle, Lars is set to release a 7" single entitled, "If I had the wings of a sparrow" B side "My old man said be a Watford fan". Jim Ryan said "we hope Lars single will help us and our friends at Watford to forge closer links." Lars when interviewed said "I fucking hate Watford".

## PREECE'S SHORTS





# The Fazza Interview

**DP: Which will you live down first, being born in Watford or playing for Luton?**

I DENY BOTH DEPENDING ON WHERE I AM.

**DP: Do you really want to be a Pop Star?**

YES: JUST CALL ME GEORGE BUT G M FOR SHORT

**DP: What's your favourite vegetable?**

I ENJOY A GOOD LEEK

**DP: What is your favourite TV programme?**

AUF WIEDERSEHEN PET, MINDER AND STICKY MOMENTS.

**DP: What was your first introduction to Luton Town F.C.?**

I WAS ASKED ALONG FOR TRAINING AFTER PLAYING FOR HERTFORDSHIRE AGAINST WAT\_\_\_\_\_

**DP: Who did you support/still support as a lad/now?**

DARE I SAY IT, BUT THEN EVERYONE SAY'S I'M MAD.

**DP: Is your hair all your own work?**

YES, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S A FULL MOON

**DP: What was your first game in a Luton shirt?**

SOUTH EAST COUNTY'S LEAGUE CUP V READING WON 4-1  
SCORED 2

**DP: Was there any competition/prospects from other clubs?**

THE ONLY OTHER CLUB'S WHICH TOOK AN INTEREST DIDN'T SHUT TILL 2 AM

**DP: Who has been your biggest influence?**

DAVID COATES, JIM RYAN, MY DAD AND GEORGE MICHAEL

**DP: What is your professional ambition?**

TO HAVE A LONG AND SUCCESSFUL CAREER. MY DREAM IS TO PLAY FOR ENGLAND.

**DP: Have you any brothers and sisters - if so are they any good at footie?**

ONE BROTHER CALLED TRIGGER (LEE) HE'S QUICK BETWEEN THE POSTS

**DP: What has been your best moment in a Town shirt?**

WINNING THE SOUTHERN JUNIOR FLOODLIT CUP.

**DP: Are you a hater of anything**

DOG'S, BAD DRIVERS AND A-HA

**DP: What's your thoughts on yourself - too tall, fat, slow, (hey these are all negative aspects give me some good points)**

ALL THE ABOVE BUT YOU FORGOT UGLY

**DP: What's your idea of a good night out?**

A GOOD LAUGH WITH THE GIRL'S AT THE ANTENATAL CLINIC

**DP: How do you relax?**

HAVING AN EARLY NIGHT WITH THE WIFE TO BE JOHANNA, DAB'S AND RUFFLES (THE MAD CAT'S)

**DP: What's your most embarrassing moment at L.T.F.C.?**

BEING ASKED TO SIGN MY FIRST AUTOGRAPH

**DP: Who do you most fear in training?**

MICK O'BRIEN - I WOULDN'T BE SURE IF IT WAS HIM OR A GHOST

We thank Sean for his time in what was a busy week for him - cheers



*George Michael*



# AAAAAAAHH YOU'RE SHIT! AAHH

## DEPLETEDS GUIDE TO THE FIRST DIVISIONS TOP TEN USELESS PLAYERS KNOWN AS DONKEYS

THIS ARTICLE IS DEDICATED TO THE IMPRISONED MEMORY OF TONY  
ADAMS (THE DRUNKEN ASS FORMER ARSENAL CAPT & ENGLAND STAR).

1. **Alan Mcknight** WEST HAM UTD  
Even tho' the Hammers are playing their football  
in the 2nd division this goalkeeper has to take  
top honour's.
2. **Jim Leighton** MAN UTD  
His legs are so bandy you dont have to try to nutmeg  
him. Hes toothless, useless and very inconsistent  
A right ol' flapper
3. **John Gayle** WIMBLEDON  
Clumsy, awkward & slow, cant take a joke, has no  
skill and doesnt know what ball control is.  
Totally crap.
4. **Gus Ceasar** ARSENAL  
About as good as Marvin was 4 years ago. Doesnt get  
involved & doesnt have a clue when on the ball.  
Very good at stumbling on the Wembley turf
5. **Nigel Callaghan** ASTON VILLA  
Has been crap thro' out his entire career. Pussyfoots  
around, avoids all body contact and suffers from  
having a big head. Useless
6. **Ralph Milne** MAN UTD  
What the hell is he doing at Man Utd, he had a loan  
spell at Port Vale but wasnt very impressive.  
Crap all round.
7. **Vinny Jones** SHEFF UTD  
Endless battler, Ruthless tackler & long throw  
specialist. Has no brain, skill or control and  
behaves like an animal.
8. **Ian Ormandroyd** ASTON VILLA  
Very unorthodox, never looks comfortable on the  
ball, lacks vision & passing ability. A right  
plonker. (ROONEY!)
9. **Niall Quinn** MAN CITY  
Quinn is not useless, if feet wernt used in football  
hed be a star. good with his nod but crap with  
his feet.
10. **Michael Phelan** MAN UTD  
Hitler look a like, utility player, very over rated  
Didnt deserve an England cap as hes not very good.

## OTHERS WORTH A MENTION

BARRY VENISON (LIVERPOOL) MITCHELL  
THOMAS & PAT VAN DEN HAWE (YIDOS)  
GARY THOMPSON (CRYSTAL PALACE)  
SHEFFIELD UNITED, STEVE BOULD (ARSENAL)  
& OF COURSE MARVIN JOHNSON (sorry pele)



VINNY ONLY 7th

# All Ticket Fiasco

So far this season Luton have had three all ticket  
away games where we have supposedly had to purchase  
tickets before travelling to Liverpool, Spurs and  
Leeds to obtain entry to our section.

The club itself and the local papers stated that  
there would be no cash entry on the day of any of  
these games and not to travel without tickets. So  
how was it then that I and a few hundred others gained  
entry to the visitors sections without any trouble  
whatsoever?

At all the games in question there was plenty of  
space for more spectators.

The game at White Hart Lane saw only a small contin-  
gent of Hatters fans on the terraces yet this is a  
fixture where we usually take a large following. O.K.  
so the game was played on the Saturday before Christmas  
when many people are down the Arndale getting their  
last minute pressies but that's a pitiful excuse.  
Many people didn't bother because of the "all ticket"  
aspect of things after all if the club says no cash  
entry on the day whats the point in travelling?

Now we all know that Luton's travelling support  
is one of the smallest in the 1st division and when  
was the last time that a Town away game was a complete  
sell out? There are an awful lot of our supporters  
who live a fair way from Luton and find it difficult  
to get to the ticket office during their working week.  
What are they supposed to do?

The question is what is the point in having all  
ticket games involving Luton? I know it's not the  
clubs fault but surely they could inform the opposing  
club that we will only be needing a small allocation  
or even better still inform us, the supporters, that  
entry CAN be gained by paying at the turnstiles.  
It really pisses me off when you ring the club on  
a Friday afternoon and are told by the girl in the  
ticket office that you won't get into Leeds without  
a ticket then find out that people did get into the  
match with cash payments. So come on L.T.F.C. please  
tell us the truth in future. Don't forget if there  
were no supporters there would be no football club.



# Say A Prayer For Me Now



Seen above, Luton's No.1 female fan Henrietta Hatter, saying a quiet prayer of thanks. The reason for Henrietta's joy, the fact that Jim Ryan has made his first signing as manager, getting Paul Holsgrove from Wokingham for a fee believed to be in the region of twenty five thousand pounds. Henrietta said with glee "although Jim Ryan and his young team are doing a good job under difficult circumstances, I felt we needed a big-money signing to confirm our status of being one of the "Big Six", with the board prepared to lash out this amount of money surely it won't be long till the European Cup will be in John Dreyer's grasp". Thanks Henrietta fine sentiments.

Seriously though there are a lot of very good players to be found in amateur football and if Paul Holsgrove proves to be half as an astute signing as Brian Stein, Kirk Stephens, Iain Dowie, and the like, he will do for us. Here's wishing you a long and successful career at Luton.

Good luck Paul.



Henrietta's praying  
Has brought the new  
Messiah - and now  
his 1st Disciple.

# A Seat In The Stand

We've had letters for and against, there's been gossip and unfounded rumours, but let's face it there is still a huge breaching of the away fans ban taking place at Luton each home game. I don't know how some can claim safety around the ground for themselves or their children when we've seen violence in the seats, the main stand itself and regularly (yes even v Southampton) in Kenilworth Road.

WAKE UP LUTON THIS IS A REALITY

I cannot believe the blinkered view of the club and the police who, just because they do not get there on time to see or break up incidents, choose to air the view of "no violence at another Luton game today". Chelsea and Arsenal brought down large contingents many without tickets or cards to get in, most of whom standing in the Kenilworth. (Ah yes standing outside I was approached by many away fans asking for entry advice for each game; I of course said there was no chance - yet come 3 o'clock these fans were conspicuous by their absence - how the f--k had they got in? - there is an obvious loophole LTFC so sort it out with the gate staff.)

Anyway - the point I was originally making was that if us Luton fans stood in the Kop or the Kippax or Stretford end to view a Luton away game there is every chance of us being evicted and/or arrested, but these supporters can stand in "our" end and sing/chant etc. etc. and get away with it - WHAT A FARCE.

Now Peter Nelkin has stated in the press that he wants an introduction of away fans soon. Has he seen the light and has he heard some of the comments supporters and fanzines have been making, or is he just trying to fob us off and keep us on ice?

Lets face it the police have stated they want no such re-introduction as they've got it "cushy" anyway ( oh no did I mean to say that?) so unless Mr Nelkin has got friends in the "funny handshake" mob he's knackered eh? Or has his segregation plan found an ally?

Seriously though you've got to doubt that the Oak roaders are going to all cram into the "New" family enclosure alongside the Maple Road main stand as Mr Nelkin advises and how will the police like a few thousand away fans in the Oak Road seats? Perhaps all parties will like these proposals.

Now I know there's a lot of points here:-

- A) Where away fans currently sit/stand
- B) How some fans obtain entry with apparently no visible means
- C) Re-introduction of away fans on a segregated basis
- D) New family enclosure
- E) Ease of control for the police

But they all link in together. I will stick my neck out and say it will work for the future and welcome any suggestions from "us" supporters.

P.S. I'd like to know if the F.L. trust can foot the bill for our new stadium as they will supply the grant for the new stand.

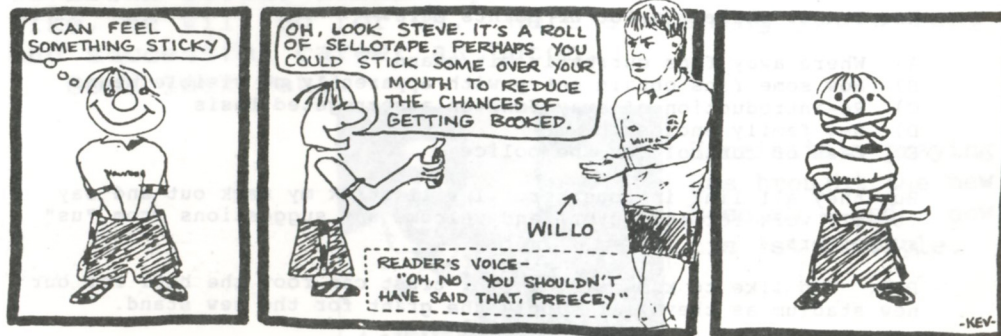


# Give Me Consistency

The meeting between league referees and the football authorities over the "lack of consistency" which is affecting a lot of referees at the moment had hardly finished when the football league committed one of the biggest acts of inconsistency ever seen in football.

During the summer of 1990 Swindon Town were found guilty of making illegal payments to players and were promptly demoted from their recently won 1st Division place into the obscurity of Division 3. Although on appeal they were reinstated into Division 2 the club were still denied millions of pounds in potential gate receipts and all the other prestige that goes with being a 1st Division club. This punishment from the football league may have been a harsh one but it was designed to shock and meant that any other clubs breaching these rules knew the risks they were taking and what consequences they were likely to face if caught. So when Chelsea were found guilty of the same as Swindon were some 6 months previous it looked as though the writing was on the wall for Ken Bates - but no, as usual the only thing consistent about the football league is its inconsistency and Bates was fined a poultry £105,000 - (a sum which would not even buy a decent reserve team player) - yet again the football league had failed miserably and have now created an even bigger problem for themselves. For instance what punishment will be given to the next club found guilty? Whichever they choose will mean admitting one or the other is a mistake. What makes this latest punishment a complete cock-up is that Bates is not only a member of the football league management committee but he is also a very critical member and following this let off proceeded to attack the league committee and still walk away with his job on the committee. It seems that Swindon were caught at a time when it was easy for the league to punish not just the club but the team and when it comes to the crunch the league has not got the bottle to carry out its punishment on what would be a more controversial club. If this is the case then the league should not have gone through with its punishment to Swindon. Are the league going to pick and choose which clubs will be fined and which will be demoted or expelled? If so, if Luton were caught I wonder what punishment they would receive? I think we all know. Basically its one rule for some and a different one for others.

## PREECE'S SHORTS



## DELINQUENT HATTERS FAN

According to some of Andy Pettersons Australian relations, Kylie Minogue recently live on T.V. down under confessed to being a secret Hatters fan. The adorable cute little Aussie who frequently jet sets across the globe to Great Britain, said she thoroughly enjoys watching a Barclays First Division league game at Luton. Kylie who occasionally visits Champneys health farm near Tring, on her visits to Britain, said she first started visiting Kenilworth road over a year ago. It began when one of Champneys staff who was a close friend of Julian James offered her guest tickets for one of the Beech Hill Path executive boxes and since that first match she has been totally dedicated to Luton and finds it difficult to stay away. It was said that with Kylie being Australian, she found it difficult at first to consume the idea and objective of the game of soccer. But once she had mastered the rules, she was thoroughly converted to the sport and it was difficult to stop her from cheering and jeering through the whole duration of any match involving the Hatters. Kylie who cant be with us today because of her heavy work schedule involving feature films pop records and concerts, has recently been receiving some harsh press criticism. She recently adopted a new raunchy, pouting, sexy style which Michael Hutchence of Inxs and herself created, and has been run down for abandoning her ordinary girl next door look which found her fame and fortune. Some newspapers suggested that Mr Hutchence had corrupted her mind and body and others even had the cheek to suggest that she had spent a large sum of money on a BrigtT Nielson silicon implant operation, to enlarge her breasts. The back-lash came as no surprise to us, as we all know how much the press love to hate Luton Town Football Club and the people who support it. so when Kylie took to stage wearing her umbro replica jersey she should of realised that she could have been digging her own grave. To make matters worse with her popularity falling in the press, her latest LP has not been selling as well as its predecessors and squabbles have broken out between herself and Stock Aitken & Waterman. Kylie at present is trying to close a recording deal which should see the release of an up to date Luton Town anthem, which depleted has been working on for sometime now, so keep your eyes and ears open and on the look out in the near future. We would also like to take this opportunity to defend Miss Minogue because she is a Hatter's fan and inform all concerned that every inch of her breasts is her own and have been naturally home-grown. We would also like to advise her to totally ignore all the national press backlash that she has been receiving, as journalists only knock those who prove to have more talent than they anticipated them to have and prove them wrong, or those who dare to introduce change. As a final note we would also like to send Kylie all our love and best wishes and we hope to see her back at Kenilworth road as soon as possible, perhaps maybe even in a cheer leading role as pre match entertainment.



Kylie Ann Minogue.



# Oh! Steve

An awful lot has been said about the Steve Williams affair, in this fanzine and others, and at the chance of incurring the wrath of thousands of fellow Luton fans here is my view.

Steve was bought by Ray Harford for three hundred thousand pounds in 1988 and made his Luton debut in the 1-0 defeat at Sheffield Wednesday, the first game of the 88/89 season. When I heard the news of his signing I was like many other fans pleased we had bought a proven quality player. Yeah we knew he could get very agitated during games but so do a lot of players. Unfortunately his performances in that season did not match his ability. He only made 13 appearances that season, his final appearance coming at Coventry on November 12th. The game in question was a dismal one with Luton playing terrible, and Graham Rodger, now with Luton, scoring the only goal of the game. My abiding memory of that game was when Steve Williams was substituted. The roar of approval from the Luton fans was like a goal being scored. He also started as first choice for the midfield at the start of last season but made his final appearance against Notts Forest on Boxing Day.

When Jim Ryan took over as manager from charisma (Ray Harford) and led us to that excellent escape on the last day at Derby, he ignored Steve, and blooded many kids for the seventeen games he was in charge. I must say that I agreed with that decision because to my mind his display's up to that point suggested he would not have the stomach for the fight. In fact it looked to me as though he had come to Luton to see out his playing days, without breaking sweat and earning a bloody good wage too boot. Imagine my angst then, when turning up at Norwich, to find Steve Williams back in the side in place of Jason Rees. Oh shit, I thought, What's Jimmy playing at. The first half the whole team were dreadful and they turned round 1-0 down. The second half was brilliant though, with Lars Elstrup scoring a hat-trick including two headers from brilliantly bended in free kicks. Steve Williams and the rest of the team's second half performance was brilliant, (had they taken a few Ben Johnson's at half time). Ever since his return Steve Williams has been superb and seems to be relishing the fact that he is the senior professional, helping to give his experience to the kids. So why the transformation, did he 1) take an awful long time to settle in. 2) Have his differences with Ray Harford (who can blame him for that) 3) Have ructions with team mates, with equally strong personalities, eg Les Sealey, Steve Foster, Ashley Grimes, Danny Wilson, Mick Harford. We may never know the truth, but he is now showing the Luton fans what made him an international. One more gripe though Steve, for god sake stop talking to the referees and linesmen, I know some of them are so incompetent they would make a saint swear but in what could be another tight finish to the season, we need you on the pitch playing, not sitting in the stand serving a suspension.



"For Christs sake Ref if you're going to give me any backchat I'm going to have to book you"

## Great Moments in History

### No.1 The Signing of John Seasman

#### THIS IS A TRUE STORY - HONEST!!!

"Twas a cold afternoon in the 1970's when Harry Haslam's telephone rang. Upon answering he heard a faint voice on a crackly line; it was an old friend who still did a bit of scouting for the Town.

"Can you make it up to Tranmere tonight?" said the man, "take your chequebook with you - you've just got to snap up this winger of theirs; all the big clubs are after him and I've seen him a lot of times - he'll do wonders for Luton".

With that, the line faded, Harry looked at his watch and, knowing how reliable his scouting friend had been in the past, decided he would make the long journey north.

After sitting through a fairly uneventful game Harry decided that one winger seemed to have a better game than the other, and he made his way to the Tranmere manager's office in an attempt to sign him.

After talking to the player, who seemed happy enough with the terms offered to him, Harry made his way back to Luton, muttering the name of his new-found talent quietly to himself. "John Seasman...well I hope he proves to be as good as what my faithful old buddy says".

Harry had only just arrived in his office the following morning, when his old scouting friend phoned. But Harry was somewhat bemused by what his friend was saying.

"So you didn't make it to Tranmere last night then?"

"Yes I did, replied Harry, proudly. "And I signed the boy. John Seasman".

"Who?"

"John Seasman, that winger you told me about".

"Oh, no. Not him! I meant the other winger. Maybe he just had a quiet game or something. No, it's in today's newspapers that Man. United have just snapped him up for £50,000. His name's Steve Coppell. Still, never mind".

"Steve who?" said Harry. "I'm sure my boy Seasman will go further".

Harry spent the rest of his life regretting that small mistake - and anyone reading this (for it's perfectly true) should have good reason to feel a bit miffed too.



## JOHN SEASMAN

No doubting who got value for money on this deal is there? This tale is really true and can be borne out by checking out transfer dates in any book.



# IAIN DOWIE A CLOWN ?



Wowie !



Dowie !



Powie !

With his recent dismissal from the starting line up, instead of rivetting himself to the substitutes bench, Towns International target man Iain Dowie, has been taking up residence at local Big tops. Wowie Dowie as he has been billed, has been pulling the crowds in and making people laugh ecstatically with his clowning performances in the ring. He has recently been watched by Billy Smarts, who are said to be interested in striking a deal with the club which see Iain don his hat and clown around town to town for six nights a week (subject to cup games) with fridays given as a days rest prior to Saturdays big match. But seriously folks, Iain Dowie was undeservedly criticised recently in some areas of the underground press. Now I dont want to be dragged into a slanging match with rival fanzines, as we are all supporters of Luton Town, and we all want what is best for the club. But I would like to defend Mr Dowie on his behalf as I find it rather unnecessary to knock or dig at any of Lutons players in this sort of manner.

For those of you who cant remember, it was only two years ago, yes only two years ago, when an unknown Non League striker joined the ranks at Kenilworth Road from Hendon for a fee of £30,000. A bargain buy for a very intelligent former British Aerospace worker who had a formidable non league goal scoring record. The player in question made a big decision to ditch his former career, for the chance to play professional football for Luton Town.

But all did not start well for Iain, on his debut he failed to impress anybody and it must be said that he did look out his own league. Still despite being dropped and disappearing from the managers plans altogether, being the honest hard working sort of chap he is, he continued to concentrate on his own game with general progression being made he began to settle in with the Hatters and also improve his fitness. The first months were the hardest and despite waiting silently he just didnt get his chance or really deserve it. Even when the new season started and with top strikers injured he still didnt get his break. But then it all started to change, a loan spell to Fulham even marred by a sending off, proved to be a success with Iain scoring his first ever football league goals. Upon his return his performances were consistent, as he run his heart out for the club and went on to earn international honours with Northern Ireland. At the end of what was a torrid season full of twists and turns, which saw star strikers sold and purchased off the field, whilst not really performing on it Iain who is not a million pound player was turning into a bloody good target man and was there when it mattered most, especially against Crystal Palace when he scored in the final minute and turned into everyones hero. So remember that and give him credit for it because Luton Town would not be in the First Division at present without him.

But so far this season he has not been doing so well and has missed more chances than he has buried. But Iain has not let this bother him as he is an endless trier who is full of overwhelming effort. It must be said that his goal tally would of increased somewhat, if he had not been fouled when he found himself in goal scoring positions in the penalty area. Although the Town were awarded penalties as a direct result of these fouls, this is not a recommendation that Iain takes the penalties, remember Bradford ? Chris Waddle eat your heart out!

By the way my favourite Star Wars film is Jedi, but did you know that this is only the third book out of a series of ten.



## Kicked Out of It

PALACE 1 v 0 TOWN

SUPPORT 400

16-12-90

In a niggly bad-tempered game Luton succumbed to the power play of Palace by 1-0. In an attempt to stifle the threat of twin strikers Wright and Bright, Luton changed from their normal 4-4-2 to a 5-3-2 formation. The switch was good in theory but in practice never worked, with Palace winning the midfield with a mixture of fast flowing football mixed with the long ball and crude tackles and challenges both on and off the ball. In a first half with few chances for Luton except a half-chance for Dowie, Palace took the lead when Salako crossed from the left. Dreyer mistimed his jump and Bright headed in at the far post. In the second-half Luton pushed up in search of an equaliser and got caught square a few times by long balls to the very impressive Ian Wright, who was stopped by two excellent saves from Alec Chamberlain. In the last 25 minutes Rees replaced Black and Farrell replaced Beaumont who had been playing sweeper. Palace sat back and although Luton had plenty of possession never really looked like scoring, except for a half chance for Farrell who shot straight at keeper Martyn. Not a great performance from Luton but not many teams will get much at Selhurst Park.

M.O.M. Luton - Alec Chamberlain

M.O.M. Palace - ref Vic Callow seemed to have an aversion to booking anyone unless they were wearing a white shirt.



## Ref 3, Stewart 2, Dowie 1, Points 0

SPURS 2 v 1 TOWN

SUPPORT 1000

22.12.90

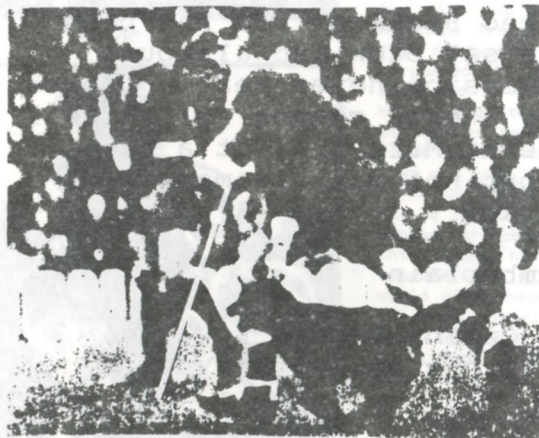
Disgraceful that's the only thing I can say about David Ellery's decision to send off Ceri Hughes at White Hart Lane. But first things first.

Town started positively and looked the better side so it was no surprise when Dowie hammered home a cross from a left wing cross from Hughes (or was it Black?) Then Nayim was sent off for not going back the full 10 yards at a free kick. He'd already been booked and the home nerds were not impressed. But they managed to equalise soon after through Stewart who was left unmarked in the six yard box.

A few minutes before half time Pat Van Den Hauwe produced probably the most horrendous tackle I've ever seen, on Dowie. Ellery had no option but to send him off.

Town with a two man advantage obviously thought that the best way to win now was to play a patient build up game and it backfired terribly. Spurs won a corner and fatboy swung it in to the, yet again, unmarked Stewart and we'd lost.

Ten minutes on and Hughes challenged fair-play Lineker on the touchline. Nowt wrong with that we thought but for some reason fair-play went off the head running to the ref followed



Today's match Referee is David Ellery. Dog and white stick come courtesy of the Blind Association.

by two other lillyshites plus some 4,000 Israelies (did anyone else see the flag? David??) in the main stand. Ellery obviously influenced by this produced the red card to the dismay of the Luton players and fans. Well played Mr Lineker. Don't ever moan at the cheating Argies again please.

For the last ¼ fatboy got away with pushes, shoves and hold-offs which any other player would never have got away with. And all in front of the ref. He should have worn a white shirt too!!

## Windswept

WIMBLEDON 2 v 0 LUTON TOWN

SUPPORT 300

1.1.91

At a very blustery Plough Lane on New Years Day Town started very well against a gale force wind and played some excellent football with Black, Harvey and debutant Mark Pembridge going close with good efforts and the defence doing very well against Fashanu and his mates. Unfortunately all this good work was undone a minute before half time when Wimbledon took the lead from you've guessed it a corner, swung in from the left by the impressive Warren Barton and met by the unmarked John Fashanu 1-0. In the second half with the wind Luton did not play as good as they had in the first. During this half James replaced Johnson and Dowie replaced Rees. Elstrup had a good second half and set up chances for Rees and Dowie that were not taken. McDonough also hit a reasonable chance wide. Cork replaced Fashanu for Wimbledon and eight minutes from the end he struck a superb shot past Chamberlain. Although they lost this was not a bad performance but yet again points were thrown away as against Arsenal and Spurs in recent weeks, by an opposing player being unmarked at a corner. This is getting beyond a joke.

M.O.M. Mark Pembridge - very impressive debut.



On a windy day in South Yorkshire the lads started off cautiously against Vinny & co. There was very little to write about in the 1st half with honours even.

But three minutes into the second period Town took the lead. Preecey and Black took a short corner, I moaned, and Farrell nodded in the resulting cross. Why did I open my big gob? What made it even better was Fazza's reaction to scoring as he hurdled the advert hoardings and made his way up to the traveling contingent. Superb.

Town took control of the game now and when Elstrup got the ball on the halfway line and sprinted towards goal, before unleashing a power driver under Tracey from 20 yards, (for a superb strike) the writing was on the wall. Sixteen minutes from time another short corner from the tiny twins was nodded home by the Great Dane, almost identical to Fazza's opener. Ecstasy, and all up our end for once.

Sheff pulled one back after Chamberlain superbly saved a Vinny Jones blockbuster and Deane almost got a second but shot just wide with a couple of minutes left.



So all in all the most satisfying away performance of the season so far (for me anyway) and well worth travelling in the terrible conditions.

M.O.M. Preecey, Lars and the brilliant vocal support of the loyal travelling contingent.

LEFT: "Ooooh Lars Elstrup"

# UNITED FANS LEFT AS MAD AS HATTERS!

**A**NOTHER  
**V**IEW

We are indebted to our Sheffield pals for sending us this clipping.

DAVE Bassett called it unbelievable and Vinny Jones said it was unprofessional. But the thousands of United fans, filing home in Saturday's gale, almost certainly used more colourful judgments after watching their side go tamely out of the FA Cup to Luton on Saturday.

**UNITED**  
Tony Pritchett reports

In the space of 90 storm-tossed minutes, all the sharp questions about the club's ability to survive its crisis were asked again. United, beaten 3-1 to a side they had comfortably overcome on Boxing Day, offered only 15 minutes of genuine Cup football — but by then Luton had condemned them to defeat.

No excuses can genuinely be offered. True United had their problems, notably in centre defence where David Barnes was pressed into service, but so had Luton. They were away from home and without their two first-choice midfield players.

Perhaps if first Vinny Jones and then Ian Bryson had taken early chances, set up against the wind, the story would have been different. Bryson, perhaps the best player on an undistinguished day, came closest but even so, when they were still level at half-time the opinion was that, with the growing gale at their back, United would be too strong.

A goal from a short corner — a popular Luton tactic, it emerged and one which United had seen many times — started the rot. Sean Farrell heading in from a position in which he should have been more vigorously challenged.

## Sucker punch

And when the Danish international Lars Elstrup picked up a throw and ran away from sickness-victim Richard Lucas to score a magnificent second, all thoughts of a repeat of last season's run to the quarter final were blown away.

Lucas went, Barnes going to his normal left-back spot and clearly glad to do so, but United fell for the sucker punch again. Another

short corner, another ball in, more poor defending and Elstrup headed his second and Luton's third, a goal which half-emptied the South Stand although 15 minutes remained.

It was all up for United although Jones brought a brilliant one-handed save from Chamberlain and Brian Marwood set up a goal for Carl Bradshaw.

Perhaps if Brian Deane had been a touch lucky with

a shot that scraped the outside of a post there could have been a grandstand finish and, at worst, a replay on Wednesday night.

But Luton might well have scored again as United, caution gone, had nothing left at the back.

The light at the end of the tunnel, glowing brightly after three League wins, had been switched off again and Vinny Jones looked sombre and deflated as he headed

home for a 25th birthday party that had gone flat around him.

Elstrup said: "We had something to prove after Boxing Day."

They made their point forcibly. To rescue their season United now face the same challenge all over again.

Goals: Farrell (47), Elstrup (61, 75) for Luton. Bradshaw (80) for United.

Attendance: 13,897.



GOALMOUTH TUSSELE: Brian Deane up against Luton goalkeeper Alec Chamberlain

Star player: IAN BRYSON — best on a day to be forgotten. SHEFFIELD UTD: Tracey, Wilder, Lucas (Marwood 62), Jones, Barnes, Hill, Bryson, Gannon, Bradshaw, Deane, Hoyland. Unused sub: Pemberton.

LUTON: Chamberlain, James, Harvey, Pemberton, McDonough, Dreyer, Elstrup, Preecey, Farrell, Beaumont, Black. Unused subs: Nogan, Dowie.

Referee: Joe Worrall (Cheshire).



# Cheat! Cheat! Cheat!

LEEDS UNITED 2 v 1 LUTON TOWN

SUPPORT 3,297 19.1.91  
(where did that 3 come from??)

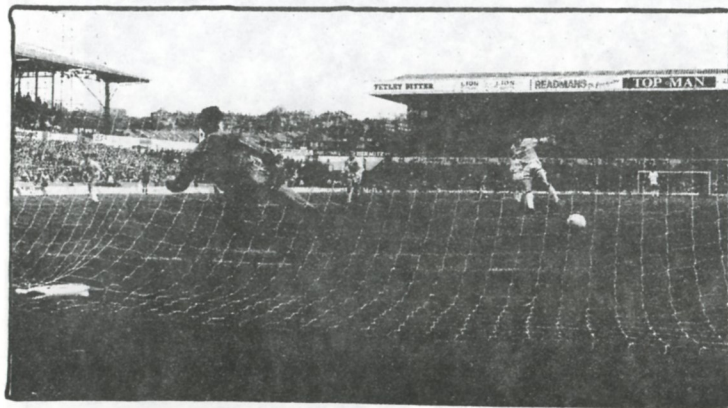
## HOW IT HAPPENED....

Luton kick off. Lars hits the post after 45 seconds. Leeds awarded dubious penalty by bent linesman. Strachans scores. Pembroke equalises after racing through Leeds defence. Linesman Billy Bremner flags after ball hits the net. No goal. Town still go forward. Sterland under pressure boots ball over line. Bremner signals goal kick. Black takes on Sterland and is pulled back. Bremner signals free kick to Leeds (this is getting boring).

Leeds kick off second half. Leeds go two up when Chamberlain fumbles long throw-in and Fairclough taps in. Town go forward. Lars gets in a volley and Johnny Bostic falls behind the line. 2-1. Town continue to press forward. Leeds miss 4/5 chances when on the counter. Ref carries on giving weird decisions. Final whistle goes. We've lost again.

Well Leeds won, which means we got out of Elland Road alive as did referee Norman Hunter and his 2 linesmen Bremner and Jack Charlton. Actually the place is not as intimidating as I thought. See you next season..... If we stay up!!

M.O.M. Darren McDonut. Hardly put a foot wrong.



"Oh Shit"  
Alec goes  
left -  
the ball  
doesn't  
and we're  
1 down.

## THE STRIKERS CHALLENGE



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GOALS!  
WIN  
PRIZES!

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CALLS 25p, CHEAP 38p PK/STD PER MIN

Please pass this on to  
Iain Dowie. It may help  
him rediscover that  
scoring touch hopefully.

F A CUP 4TH ROUND REPLAY 30.1.91

WEST HAM V LUTON TOWN

SUPPORT: NOT ALOT

An impartial view of the Hats playing the Irons, an invitation to view the match from the executive seats and to mix with the "Croft Originals" in the executive suite, was too good an opportunity to miss.

After a couple of drinks and a meal it was into the cauldron of Upton Park clutching a betting slip with Elstrup to score the first goal.

After the deadlock of the first game the first half began evenly, both sides having good chances. McAvennie and Parris both shooting straight at Chamberlain and Dowie having a goal disallowed although it looked perfectly good from my executive seat. Then Elstrup the selfish git goes off injured. Kiss of death bet!!

I see nothing much has changed with Steve Williams - mouth in overdrive as usual. The man must have a death wish. Every time he went near the crowd the rabid bunch of I.C.F. boneheads surged down towards him. Did he care? Booked for dissent and lucky to stay on - the talent is still there though - build the team around him.

Then the goals start going in - what happened to the defence? Some elementary errors (was it Luton in white or Spurs??). Bishop was running the show unchallenged for West Ham in midfield and by the time the third went in Williams had had enough, you could see it in his face. Dowie and Farrell were running their nuts off but to no avail. Why don't they get any decent support?

When West Ham score everyone turns into Alf Garnett, and the bubbles begin to get blown forever - and on the evidence of their second half goal glut and display they will soon be back in division one.

After seeing Luton routed in their worst display I have ever seen it was back with the "Croft Originals" for a beer (and the Arse score).

I hear all about Luton from various people and it seems to me, especially after this display, that the problem is not with the manager, but with the squad and his resources. Apparently he could do with some cash?

The very recent chants for David Pleat are totally pathetic (I haven't heard them(ed) and anyway it wouldn't be safe for young women to walk the streets if he came back would it!!

A GOONER. (Who are you!? Ed)

P.S. This is the view of a non-Luton fan - will it get printed? (No.(Ed) Anyway would it be so bad if Pleaty came back?)

Does Pleaty know something we don't  
about our man between the sticks?

Maybe we're  
all a little like  
Chamberlain,  
waving that  
piece of paper  
and praying  
nothing bad is  
going to hap-  
pen. But it does

— David Pleat, after being  
sacked as Leicester manager.





**FANZINE**



**OLD GAME!**

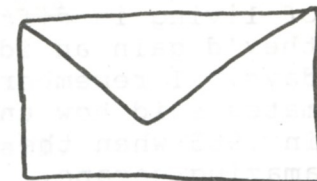
# WATCH OUT! BEADLES ABOUT



DEPLETED  
3B SWANSTON GRANGE  
DUNSTABLE ROAD  
LUTON, BEDS.  
LU4 0HF

NEW ADDRESS!

**MAILBAG**



Dear DP

I am writing to you with regard to my live T.V. sending off on new years day. I am currently trying to get football fans everywhere to rally round and give me their moral support. I still claim to this day that I was innocent because I never \*\*\*\*ing said any \*\*\*\*ing thing to that \*\*\*\*ing \*\*\*\*dy \*\*\*\*ky ref, to give him any \*\*\*\*ing motive to send me off. Your support would be most appreciated, so if you could please write a letter of complaint to the F.A. I would be most pleased.

Yours Fattingly

Paul Gascoigne D.P. \*\*\*\* off you whinging fat sod!

Dear fellow fans!

I am an eager LUTON TOWN fan from Norway. Here in Norway are a great many Luton Town fans. Therefore I am to start a supporters club for the team here in Norway.

The only thing left now is to have the supporters club acknowledged by Luton Town. As I am going to run the supporters club, I need a lot of material/information etc. about the Hatters. I have heard that your fanzine has very much material about "our club", so I would very much like to take out a subscription for your fanzine.

UP THE HATTERS!

Yours sincerely

Lars-Petter Ronnestad , 6076 Moldtustranda, Norway

ALL THOSE WISHING TO WRITE TO LARS-PETTER CAN DO SO AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS.

Dear DP

Thanks for sending the back issues I requested so promptly. They made very interesting reading for a Hat so far away.

I must say I wish that the directors had a spell



of living in different parts of the country so that they'd gain an idea of how unpopular we are these days. I remember back to 1975 when all my school mates said how unlucky we were to go down. Then again in 1983 when the whole country seemed chuffed at our amazing escape. We were popular with media and other fans alike. How things have changed since then, it seems nearly every day for the past five years I have had to stand up for our club during sometimes heated arguments in which most of the accusations aimed at the club were completely justified. The pitch is, thank God, a dead duck from next year but the continuation of the pathetic membership scheme is a disgrace. When was it ever justifiable to punish the fans of teams like Norwich, Southampton, Aston Villa etc. for the transgressions of those Millwall lumpheads. I thought our new chairman wanted to better our image, mind you it won't be the first promise he's broken i.e. MONEY!! I also think we shouldn't allow the board to get away with pushing the myth that our gates are so terrible. Remember you can only hope to pull in attendances relevant to a catchment area, and our potential area of support is undoubtedly the smallest in England. i.e.

Luton Pop. 160,000 Avg. gate 10,000 so 1 in 16  
 Liverpool Pop. 500,000 Avg gate 35,000 so 1 in 14  
 Southampton Pop. 300,000 Avg gate 17,000 so 1 in 17

Although places like Liverpool, Manchester and London have more than one team in each place they also have better grounds, more resources and no 100% bloody membership. Of course you could throw statistics around forever but I believe, considering our ground, our membership scheme and our kamikaze board of directors, our crowds aren't that bad.

Well I suppose there's always hope that Nelkin will be true to his word but the shameful selling of Sir Tim Breaker to West Who? isn't a good omen.

Thanks again for sending the mag so quick and keep up the good work, if any clubs fans need an alternative voice it's ours. It's good to let off steam to some proper fans - but now it's off to work to hear more bullshit about scouse and Mancwank.

Yours Steve Hitchings - Poole, Dorset

# "AN ODE TO LUTON FANS EVERYWHERE"

Oh Neil and Vince you came to stay,  
 In Sunderland for that Saturday,  
 When "Luton Town" gave their "all",  
 But couldn't get a touch of the ball,  
 Your confidence made you refuse,  
 To believe "Luton" could ever lose,  
 But you didn't count on our mighty reds,  
 Luton should have stayed in their "BEDS"!!  
 The Luton lads they tried their best,  
 But Sunderland put them to their test,  
 And when we beat your team 2 - nil,  
 It must have been a bitter pill,  
 You travelled miles to see your team,  
 But victory was just a foolish dream,  
 Afterwards we did not gloat,  
 As you threw down your scarf and coat,  
 We tried so hard to commiserate,  
 As Luton Town we did "obliterate",  
 But after defeat you both cheered up,  
 That night we all went out to sup,  
 Around our town you downed a few,  
 Of good strong North-Eastern Brew,  
 Compared to Luton Town you did more,  
 At least you really tried to score,  
 Even if it wasn't in the net,  
 But in Fino's nightclub with girls you met,  
 We hope you enjoyed your visit anyway,  
 And you're welcome back anytime to stay,  
But next time Vince please don't snore,  
 And Neil, don't drop pizza on my floor!!

Lots of love

Kathy xxx Sunderland





## Away Fans - Stay Away

It is widely believed that all right thinking "Loyal Supporters of Luton Town" (What are they? Do they look any different to the disloyal supporters?) are in favour of the return of the away fans. Well they ain't. Not me anyway. It is traditional, at this stage, for self opinionated old gits (like me) to ramble on about having watched Luton, man and boy, for 30 years. Remember the good old days; when at home matches against Watford the Oak Road end was so crowded that people would urinate down your back rather than push through the crowd to reach the toilets. Ah happy days? Right, if anyone is still awake I'll get back to the point.

Why am I in favour of the ban, indeed would like to see it in operation at every club in the country? Firstly, the myth of the good old days is not true. Not as far back as the early sixties anyway. There has always been a significant number of trouble makers among the away fans. As time passed by these Neanderthals visited fear in our town centre as well as at our pristine football stadium. All this came to a head the night that those nice chaps from Millwall tried to attract the players attention by throwing them some plastic seats. I was there with my two young sons, as usual (Oh by the way, old gits always have cherubic children who never swear at matches). They were terrified. I vowed never to take them to see "the Town" again. I still went; masochists are like that! Then that nice Mr Evans (universally popular with Depleted readers) announced the away fans ban.

Now, I can take my lads to games with no worries. They even go unaccompanied when I can not make it (if you see two nancies skipping towards the ground hand in hand, then that's them). There is absolutely no hint of menace or violence. The town centre and areas near the ground are safe again (this pleases firstly the businesses/shops who are only interested in the money they can make, and secondly the people not interested in football that use the town. These miserable individuals generally despise the football club and everything that is associated with it). So what are we losing? Smaller attendances? I'm not really sure about this one. Over the last few years our gates have marginally improved. But would they be higher still if the away morons were admitted? Some local supporters would be deterred from going so often (call them wimps if it makes you feel better, but it is their choice). It is my belief that Luton has a higher than normal percentage of young fans and women who, if I am correct, would be quite likely to stop coming. Atmosphere. Luton's ground is said to lack atmosphere since the away fans ban. This is clearly true. Oh how we long for the return of obscene chants and threats being merrily passed between the two sets of supporters.

The return of the town centre being a no go area for old ladies and ex Luton Town directors alike. The cheerful angelic fans from Manchester (these paragons of virtue badly vandalised my car a few years ago), Leeds and Liverpool blitzkrieging the town.

One last thing, no I am not really concerned if other clubs reciprocate and ban Luton supporters. Away fans, stop where you come from. By the way if anyone disagrees with my views (is it possible?) then just ring up the editor and he will tell you where I live. Just nail a burning cross to my front door and I'll get the message.

# ceri hughes - fun page -



**A page designed to warm  
the heart of our injury-hit  
half boy-half Welsh wizard**

Referee David Elleray sent poor Ceri a get well card in Hospital. However, Ceri was slightly confused as the card had a plain red cover with no message, and it didn't open.

Asked what went wrong with the Town's performance in the Cup Replay at Upton Park, Ceri said that he had no defence whatsoever. Bit like the Town themselves really

There is no truth in the rumour that the Welsh have found out 2 more things to do with sheep -  
**SHEAR THEM AND EAT THEM**

Why do Welshmen shag sheep on the edge of a cliff?

Cos the sheep pushes back that much harder.

Evans was bemoaning his fate. "Do you see that house over there? I built that with my own hands - but do they call me Evans the housebuilder? And that bridge - I built that in a week but do they call me Evans the Bridge builder? BUT JUST ONE SHEEP AND.....

Dear DP.

I am writing to you to report a very disgusting incident involving the use of sheep, which I witnessed when working on my farm near Luton. The reason that you may be able to help me is that the three youths responsible for this act were all between the ages of 18-20 years old, all had dark hair and were all sporting Vauxhall/Umbro training tops. What I would like you to do is to locate these youths so that I can Hire them for some slave labour in order to do the crappy jobs around the farm.

yours in the mire

Farmer Palmer

DP. THE YOUTHS IN QUESTION ARE NONE OTHER THAN JASON REES AND KURT NOGAN. THE 3rd YOUTH, CERI HUGHES WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT, AS JASON AND KURT WERE TRYING TO CHEER HIM UP WITH A DISPLAY OF THE ANCIENT WELSH RITUAL OF SHEEP SHAGGING.

**Get well Soon !**





# Who's Fooling Who?

If you turned up for the home games against Sheffield and Chelsea over Christmas you'd have been swamped with a glut of paperwork to read. Yes - not only the match day programme but 2 fanzines on sale as well. If you purchased all of these goodies you may think that you have been slightly ripped off. Some of the writing is not topical, certain pages have no relevance to football or Luton Town F.C and there could have been a duplication of information.

DP are determined to find out what value for money each publication actually deserves, for if readers are being ripped off then eventually no-one will purchase the aforementioned items.

## SURVEY

<u>PUBLICATION</u>	<u>OFFICIAL PROGRAMME</u>	<u>DEPLETED</u>	<u>MAD AS A HATTER</u>
<u>ISSUE</u>	Dec 19 v West Ham	No.5	No.4
<u>FORMAT</u>	A5 glossy	A5 mono	A5 mono
<u>PAGES</u>	40	36	32
<u>PRICE</u>	£1.20	50p	50p
<u>COL/MONO SPLIT</u>	11/29 mono	all mono	all mono
<u>PICTURES</u>	37	23	15
<u>RATIO PER MAGAZINE</u>	1 per page	1 every dps.	1 every dps.
<u>ADVERT PAGES</u>	13	-	2
<u>RATIO PER MAGAZINE</u>	30%	0%	6%
<u>LUTON RELATED TOPICS</u>	18	29	16
<u>RATIO PER MAGAZINE</u>	46%	84%	50%
<u>LETTERS</u>	1	3	3
<u>STATISTICS</u>	4	-	-
<u>OTHER EDITORIAL</u>			
<u>NOT RELATED TO LUTON</u>	4	4	11
<u>RATIO PER MAGAZINE</u>	10%	10%	32%

So there you have it look carefully at the coloumn for the Luton related topics, and the other editorial pages, and find this total considerably higher than the offical programme.

Now I know that the match day programme is put out on a bi-weekly basis so has to struggle to produce 20 plus magazines in a year, yet this alone does not excuse the lack of topical information within its pages. A lot of the pages are standard repeats with black text changes but to be fair there are a fair share of action photos of players in strange positions, and a profusion of sponsors photos.

In contrast a fanzine has to remain topical, witty, sometimes informative to retain and generate readership. It sometimes has to revert to being controversial in order to do this. The official programme always has the edge though, due to the wealth of statistical information and those all important team line ups (and how many times have these 2 items not been up to date eh?)

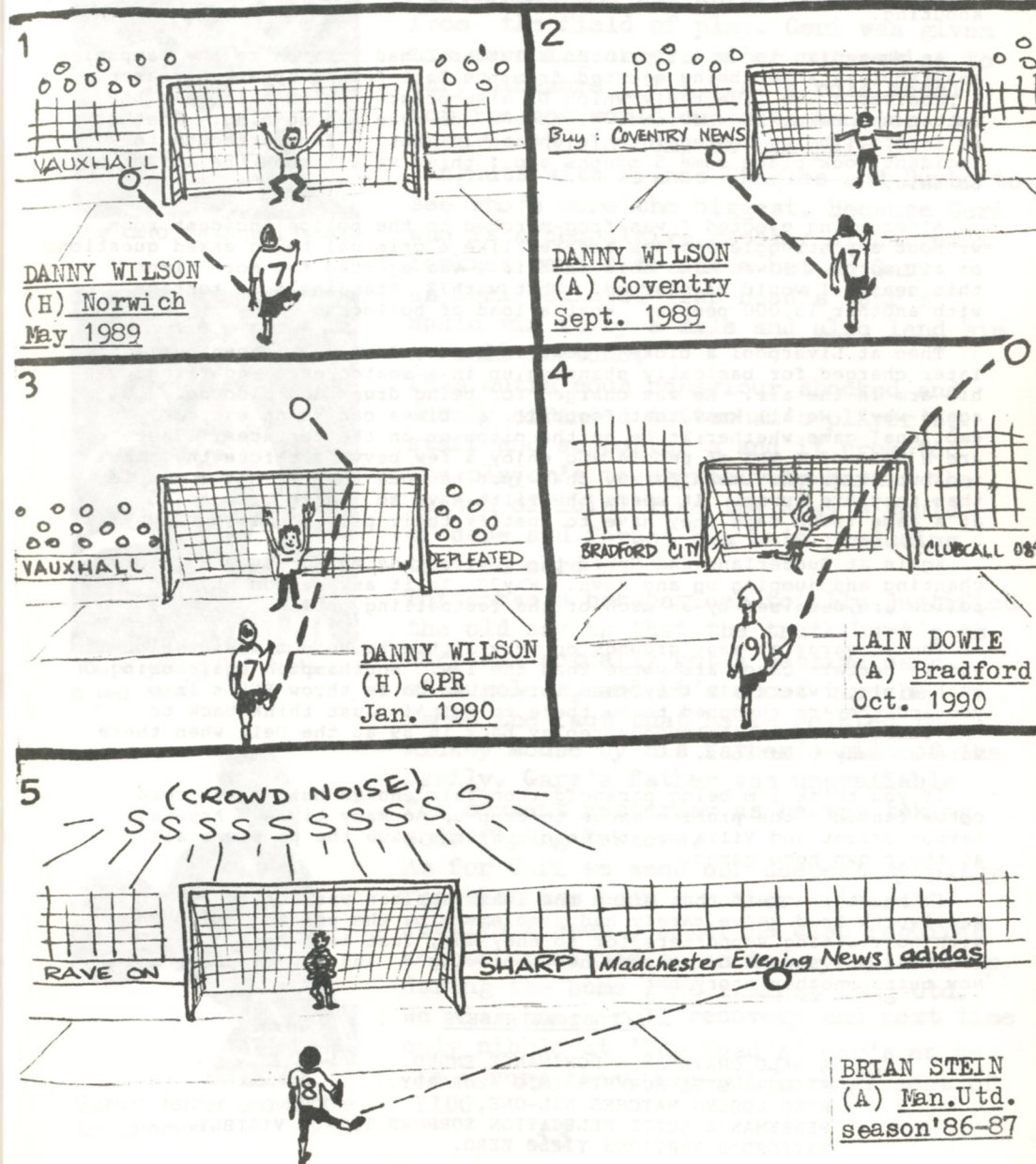
Still its horses for courses as they say. Each will find its own little niche in society but it seems to me that a combination of the vigour of fanzines and the resources and statistics of the official programme will clean up the market.

Anyone on the editorial staff want to talk to me?

You know where to write.

SPOT ~~ON~~ OFF

**DEPLETED** takes a look at some not-so-great Luton Town penalties of recent times





# Sheer piggery

Going to a football match is a fairly normal thing on whether it be a Tues/Wed evening or a Saturday afternoon, to thousands of us all over the country even the world. So why is it that I, personally, am totally pissed off with the way I and many other innocent supporters have been warned and thrown out of grounds for doing nothing more than shouting.

As stated in issue 4 I printed a letter I had written to the Hampshire constabulary after being ejected from the Dell for no apparent reason. I received a two line reply which DP also printed which said that the matter was being looked into. I have since received nothing. Whether it is still being looked into is debatable, but seeing as though the incident took place some 5 months ago I think we all know the answer to this.

After being ejected I was frog-marched to the police incident room without any struggle and was treated like a criminal being asked questions on all sorts. I was also told that if I was ejected two more times this season I would be charged. What with?? Standing on a terrace with another 15,000 people. What a load of bollocks.

Then at Liverpool a bloke 6 rows in front of us was thrown out and later charged for basically standing up in a seated area and flinging his arm in the air. He was charged for being drunk and disorderly but again why? We all know that football, at times can be an extremely emotional game whether it be on the pitch or on the terraces. There are a hell of a lot of people who enjoy a few bevvy's before the game too but it doesn't mean to say that just because they've had a couple that they are drunk. It seems the filth have so little else to do at a game these days they have to justify their presence in some way!

Again at Sunderland and Spurs there were lads being slung out for chanting and jumping up and down. Why?? Is it any reason why the police are despised by so much of the footballing public.

The stewards at many grounds do very little to help the situation and in certain cases are worse than the law. Southampton again being such a place where all they seem to want to do is throw FFF's into you and they're supposed to be there to help!! Just think back to the Quarter-final Littlewoods replay back in '89 at the Dell when there were so many ejections.

If you think I'm being paranoid then fair enough but if you read other fanzines the problem seems to crop up so many times. Arsenal, Leyton Orient and Villa are three clubs that have the problems all at their own home games.

It has to be said that since the away fans ban was introduced to Kenilworth Road we've rarely had problems with the police. Mind you with no visiting supporters (or so they say. Just tell Arse, Spurs, Chelsea) why should our ground need policing?? And so few arrests! Now thats another story but.....

## A TO Z ALPHABETS

A BALD CHAIRMAN'S DOMINANCE ENDED.  
FAILURE GETS HORNETS INTO JEOPARDY,  
KEEP LOSING MATCHES NIL-ONE.  
PERRYMAN'S QUIET RELEGATION SORROWS TOT-UP VISIBLY.  
WATFORD'S XERTIONS YIELD ZERO.

## CERI HUGHES WAS INNOCENT

TAP HEAD GOT TOWN MAN SENT OFF!



the aero-dynamic Lineacre



You're joking Ref thats a red one.



Gary's father unavaliable for comment.

During Town's defeat at White Hart Lane Ceri Hughes Luton's Welsh under 21 international was unfairly dismissed from the field of play. Ceri was given his marching orders after suggesting to Gary Lineacre ( F.I.F.A.'s role model for the new world cup with handles ) that he should compare his pair of wingnuts with Prince Charles and Dumbo to see who's were the biggest. Because Ceri who is a compulsive gambler at Sargeant Yorkies wanted to put a bet on Gary as Ceri believed 'Tap Head's' ear's would win it by a mile and also land him a small fortune.

This outrageous behaviour shocked and deeply offended tottenham's player's, staff and supporter's and it prompted the player's to aggressively harass the match official like the Kray's would of done and forced him into producing the red card .

Tottenham's behaviuour totally justified the old saying that the truth hurt's as Gary has actually got a massive pair of lugole's, and it's about time he faced the fact that he is related to Mickey Mouse by his father's side of the family. Gary's father was unavaliable for comment yesterday as he was taking solo flying lessons.

As for Ceri we send our deepest sympathy for what has been a rather miserable festive season , after he also required a knee operation on an injury picked up during the home game against Thug Utd. We wish him a full recovery and next time only nibble at 'Tap Head's' ear's as he is a very sensitive but loving? sort of YIDO.



# IS NOSTALGIA

## A THING OF THE PAST?

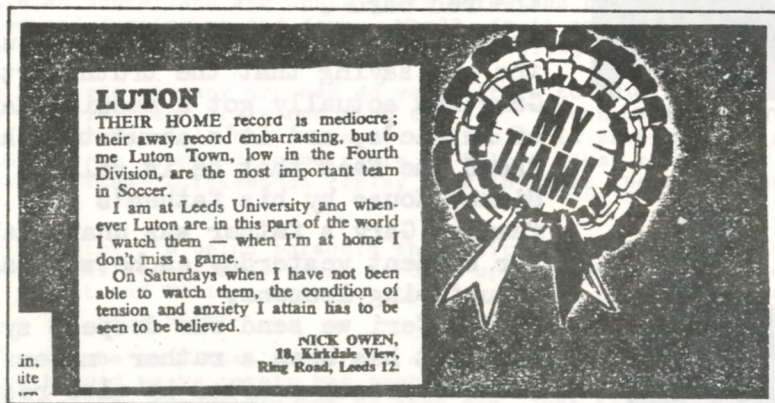
The Beatles and flower power, World Cup Willie and Nobby Stiles. Luton getting stuffed at Newport and Hartlepool. Yes all belong to that exciting and colourful era - the sixties and archetypical (big word for a fanzine innit?) of the whole period was Charlie Buchan's football monthly - no true fan would be without it.

All levels of the game were covered in this mag - not like todays periodicals who think football begins and ends with the "Big Six". You could find full page colour photo's of players from such clubs as Chester and Mansfield alongside the stars of Chelsea and Liverpool. I remember waiting with baited breath every month to see if any of my Hatters Heroes were featured, but we had to wait till 1970 for that (and then it was only John Collins stuck on the back page).

They also used to run a feature called "My Team" in which readers were invited to submit a short letter explaining why they would follow their particular favourites for evermore.

Now recently a good friend of mine decided he no longer had room for his sizeable collection of football magazines so I gladly took them off his hands. They have proved invaluable of late in providing an escape from both Luton's dismal form and the more serious problems occurring in the world. To get to the point I was flicking through the February 1967 issue (which incidentally contained a large article on our very own Joe Payne) when I found the following letter on the "My Team" page. Nothing outrageous I hear you say. But look again at the sender. Yes, I reckon its our favourite I.T.V. sports presenter old slick Nick! Perhaps he will confirm it in the next issue, after all he's bound to read DEPLETED.

And it just goes to show you all - a letter in your fanzine could lead to mega stardom in a few years time.



FOOTNOTE: Sadly, Charles Buchan's famous rag went to the wall in 1973 - its loss was lamented by soccer fans everywhere.

A.J.R.

A BAD CHRISTMAS DICTATES EXIT FOR GRIM HARFORD. IMMEDIATELY JIM'S KIDS LIVEN MATCHES NOTICEABLY ON PLASTIC. QUITE REMARKABLE SUDDEN TRANSFORMATION UPLIFTS VIEWERS WITH XCITING YOUTHFUL ZEAL.

# Boxing Day Blues

There is something about a bank holiday derby that really gets the adrenalin going. Stories have been handed down through the years from father to son about the odds being upset in these fixtures as the lesser of the sides has risen to defeat their opponents. Players thrive or freeze in front of a big crowd as the atmosphere and pride get to them. It is a time when many clubs rely on the Boxing Day/New Years Day Derby for a much needed revenue through the turnstiles. How many times have gates and indeed receipts ever been higher?

Lets ask two questions here.

- 1) Who wants to travel from Southampton to Sunderland, Chelsea to Leeds, Barnsley to Plymouth, Stoke to Orient and so on over the festive piss-ups?
- 2) Are the F.L. trying to kill off their own member clubs by depriving them of much needed holiday money?

Take the first question and in particular the Plymouth - Barnsley, Sunderland - Southampton games. Surely it would be far fairer on both Barnsley's players and more importantly their supporters to send them down the road to Sheffield Wed or even over the Pennines to say Oldham instead of giving them a 600 mile round trip. The same can be said for Southampton surely even though no local derbys, why not send them to Wimbledon or Palace even. Thats still 70 odd miles but by far more acceptable than 600 there and back. There were plenty of examples to look at in last years holiday period believe me. We at Luton were lucky this time round but what about the previous season. Away to Everton with a New Years Day hangover. It was so appealing about 70 Town fans made the effort. Who knows what next year?

The second question is a difficult one to answer. Most people would think that the football league would do their best to help clubs make money and in many ways they do, what with sponsorship deals and the like. But this is definately not one of them. If you looked at attendances last Xmas/New Year you'll probably agree that they were piss-poor to say the least and this on the back of a supposedly successful world cup.

Go back to the early to mid eighties when there was a slump in attendances and you'll still find crowds far larger in comparison with recent years festive football.

It has to be said that it's not only the clubs losing out through gate receipts but also fans who won't or can't travel long distances. Crowd violence is slowly dying so why let football die with it? Lets get back to festive Derby days when the adrenalin will once again flow on Xmas day night with thoughts of beating local neighbours on Boxing day (even if we won't be playing Watford for another decade!!). Think about it you chaps at the football league. How come the fans know better?





## TWELVE MONTHS AND A YEAR AT THE VICARAGE.

Way back in easter 1990 part of Englands current managerial squad was then managing our darling neighbours Watford. That man was king of the punt Graham Taylors ex number two Steve 'long ball' Harrison. During Steve's last season at Watford before he was given the big heave- ho, for apparently being over



Lee 'Shit'



Perryman 'No job'

involved with Elton'rent boy' John and Paul 'sleaze king' Raymond's bring & buy sale of the club, Steve dipped into the Foreign Transfer market. The player he signed was Gary egg fried rice from a Nissan retail outlet in the Bristol & Bath area. The manager who took the toilet seat over from 'long ball' was ex-yido Colin 'shit' Lee who brought in five more Nissan players during the summer lay off period just in time for the new season's assault on promotion from the second division. But what 'shit' didn't realise was that Japanese people have a hereditary problem of being less than five foot high which didn't really suit the punt and run style that is associated with Watford. It was also revealed that the imports also had a mental 'kamikaze' fit problem, and when the Hornets took to the field of play they subsequently had fits which caused them to attack their own goal and even sometimes occasionally scoring in their own net. Problem led to problem and Watford soon nosedived into the second divisions relegation zone. Sooner rather than later 'shit' was ousted and executed for his appalling managerial tactics, (Harford eat yer heart out), and replaced by another ex-yido Steve 'no job' Perryman, then the clouds started to lift

Soon the clubs coaching and playing staff started altering and Perryman introduced new playing tactics it is said that the long ball style has been omitted from their game (can you believe it?) Change after change took place and all the Japanese except egg fried rice (who was injured) were packed up and returned to Nissans. Even whilst you read this 'no jobs' revival is continuing in patches and with it he might save Watford's second division status this season. 'SHAME!'



## LOYAL LUTON SUPPORTERS CLUB

Chairman: Lenny Pengelly · President: Alan Garner

We, being the Loyal Luton Supporters Club, are alarmed at the current slump in the teams' results and feel the following points should be raised:-

- 1) Although Jim Ryan was aware that limited funds were available when he initially took charge, it is felt that the board of Directors should act immediately making funds available for new players before the distinct possibility of playing 2nd Division football next season is realised.
- 2) It is reasonable to assume that if the "self-destruct" target of 2nd Division football descends upon us the likes of Elstrup, Black and Preece would be on their "way", thus weakening the team even further.
- 3) The assumption must also be made, based on these "probable" transfers, that presumably younger players will be brought in from the reserves. The traditional 2nd Division physical dog-fight would be too much for the new recruits sentencing us to a continual slide to the lower echelons of the 2nd grade.
- 4) Steve Williams, whose experience and skills are currently the focal point of Luton Town's "hope" is marred by his constant bickering with officials. Perhaps making him Captain of the side would channel his undoubted knowledge of the game into a more appreciable channel rearing the youngsters of the team.
- 5) We, as true supporters of Luton Town F.C., are only too aware that the low attendances and high first division wages are a strain on financial solvency. It is, however, discouraging to find that we are constantly selling quality individuals. Queens Park Rangers F.C. are continually searching for, and buying, quality players. Two opposite ends of the spectrum relevant to proportionally two financially equal football clubs.
- 6) The Club is once again becoming a "selling" institution. If there is pressure from the bank to sell an asset such as Lars, it should preferably change to a more understanding bank (with a view to the future). After all, how many League Clubs are in the black financially? If the inevitable does occur and we have to sell Elstrup could we please get a decent price for him, and not continue to be the "Happy Shopper" club of the First Division, ie. where other clubs can get goods of equal quality, but for a lower price than elsewhere eg. Danny Wilson £200,000 and Tim Breaker £600,000. It should be remembered that Wegerle has one more goal than Elstrup, but Wegerle takes Q.P.R.'s penalties. Elstrup does not take Luton's. With this in mind we deem Elstrup's value to be equal to that of Wegerle's £2 million, if not more.



- 7) Jim Ryan, who has done a good job in exceptionally difficult circumstances, needs an injection of cash to secure our 1st Division status to buy new players. We thank Mr Nelkin and Mr Kohler for their efforts in searching for a new ground site and realise that money for new players would be an extra burden, but we believe that it would work out cheaper in the long run, ie. hopefully guaranteeing 1st Division survival, as relegation would certainly affect attendance figures.

As the LLSC and not the official LTSC we feel the task of raising these points via "pen to paper" is just and easier. We know that several members of LTSC agree with the aforementioned points but are restricted in voicing their opinion because of their close association with LTFC. Several members would feel that they have deserted the club by publicly stating their grievances. WE DO NOT!

If you agree with some or all of our views come along to the Brache Sparta Football Club at the top of Dallow Road before or after any home game and ask for Tom, Nick, Rob, H, Eddie, Neil or Chris to see about joining. It is a good club with good cheap beer, good conversation and the chance to arrange lifts to away games.

NB. We only make the aforementioned points because we care about Luton Town Football Club's future

E. Kelly & R. Roche (Press Officers)  
L.L.S.C.  
Brache Sparta  
Foxdell  
Dallow Road  
Luton  
Beds

MARV JOHNSON  
935 7" £1.99 You got what it takes

WHILST GLANCING THROUGH A RECORD CATALOGUE I WAS SHOCKED TO DISCOVER THIS. SURELY OUR MARV IS NOT GOING TO CHALLENGE THE LIKES OF PAVAROTTI AND GAZZA [BOTH FAT GITS!] IF SO GOOD LUCK TO HIM. HIS SINGING CAN'T BE AS BAD AS HIS FOOTBALL SURELY?



IDEAS, COMMENTS, OBSERVATIONS, CARTOONS, PHOTOS,

#### A MESSAGE FROM FREECEY:

HEY, READERS! YOU CAN RECEIVE AN EXCLUSIVE COLOUR BADGE OF ME OR LARS IF YOU SEND DEPLETED A FUNNY ITEM OR INTERESTING PIECE WHICH CAN BE USED IN A FUTURE ISSUE. THEY'RE VERY LIMITED EDITION AND I'VE ONLY A LIMITED SUPPLY OF THEM DOWN MY SHORTS, SO BE A CONTRIBUTOR AND RECEIVE YOUR REWARD!



CAPTIONS, PRESS CUTTINGS, PUZZLES, STORIES

Dear DP I must congratulate you on what is on the whole an excellent read. However I felt the comments in your last issue, under the heading Half-Term Report, on one certain player, Marvin Johnson were derogatory, over the top, and uncalled for. I feel Marvin after a shaky start in the right-back berth has settled down well, gives 100% and does what the rest of the defence can't do i.e gets distance on his headers. You have to remember that the right-back berth is not his normal position. He is not as good going forward as Tim Breaker, but there again as I regard Tim as the best attacking right-back in the country that is hardly surprising. I know freedom of speech is what we preach but felt the comments about Marvin particularly unfair.

Eddie Kelly -

THE TOWN ARE ON THEIR TRAVELS,  
THE LADS ARE GOING TOO,  
BUT DON'T FOLLOW OUR DIRECTIONS,  
COS WE HAVEN'T GOT A F\*\*\*ING CLUE!!

## "If You're All Going To..."

MARCH 9th:- ASTON VILLA: M1 North to JCT 19 (M6). M6 to JCT 6. Follow A38M to roundabout staying left. Follow signs for Aston/Aston Sports Centre. Rakes of parking in Asda car park - if you want a bevvie keep away from pubs near the ground. They make up some sort of membership crap when we go (sound familiar). Their away end is now all-seated.

MARCH 23rd:- MAN UTD: M1 North to JCN 19 (M6). M6 to JCT 19 (A56 Altrincham) then A56 to Old Trafford. Good parking at cricket ground £1 per car. Some half decent pubs around the ground plus ale on sale under visitors stand.

MARCH 30TH:- SHEFF. UTD.: M1 North to JCT 31 (A57). Follow A57 for 5 miles to Park Square roundabout. Take 3rd exit on left (Sheaf Street). Then bear right into Sheffham Street, 2nd right into St. Marys Road. Turn a left at roundabout. Bramall Lane. Loads of parking on streets around ground. Royal standard on St Marys Road is good for ale. That's where we'll be.

APRIL 5TH:- CHELSEA: Well not much point in giving directions for this one. How many of us will bother to turn up this year after last years piss poor following. Travelling by B.R. and tube seems favourite. Head for district line and get off at Fulham Broadway. If you want a bevvie best bets to get off a few stops before.



# Venables in I.Q. Shock

Spurs boss Terry Venables controlled his anger when told of Dreyer's claim and said: "John Dreyer? Who's he?"

Gazza

1 Fat Gut 2 Braincells !!!



Dreyer had blasted: "As for Gary Lineker's Fair Play award, he should have that taken away."

Tottenham Crisis.....Tottenham Crisis.....Tottenham Crisis.....