

HATTERS MATTERS

Issue one - January 1995
292 Icknield Way, Luton, Beds, LU3 2JS.

This is the first issue of what is intended to be a monthly newsletter for exiled Luton Town supporters. Although it is being produced by "Mad as a Hatter!", it's aim is to provide those without access to the local newspapers in Luton, with a summary of the information to be found in them. Mainly we will concentrate on details of players injuries, transfers and loans, plus results for first team, reserve and youth matches, and anything else that may be considered relevant. This will probably include forthcoming fixtures with a summary of ticket information where available. This will not be the place for general comment, which will remain in the fanzine, which this will supplement. All we ask for this service is a contribution towards its costs which we calculate to be £2.00, which will take you through to the end of July or August. At that time we will be in a better position to calculate an annual subscription fee.

Injuries

Tony Adcock suffered a depressed fracture of the cheekbone in a reserve game at Bristol City and is likely to be out for some time. Martin Williams received a broken nose in the same match, but has been in action for the reserves since. Des Linton has had an operation on a torn stomach muscle, and will be out of action for four to five weeks. Fred Barber, who has yet to play for the first team, suffered a shoulder injury whilst playing (on loan) for Peterborough and, having had an operation, is likely to be out for the rest of the season.

Transfers/Loans

Jamie Campbell returned from a loan spell at Mansfield, and there will not be a permanent transfer (Luton were asking for a "nominal" fee). Paul Allen has not returned to Luton for a second loan spell, as had been suggested in some sources. John Hartson has been sold to Arsenal for a fee of £2.5 million, a record for a teenager, of which £500,000 is said to be dependant on an (unspecified) number of appearances. Luton have signed Stoke City striker Wayne Biggins on loan.

Other News

David Pleat has been chosen to manage an Endsleigh League side to play against an Italian League Serie B side, this will be an under 21 match and all the Endsleigh League players will be qualified to play for England. The match is to take place at Andria, in southern Italy on Wednesday 15th February.

Luton Town FC recently announced a trading profit of £785,687 for the financial year ending 31 May 1994. Of this, some £678,812 was profit from transfers.

The club suffered a burglary, the night after John Hartson's transfer to Arsenal. Several computers were stolen, along with a safe, but the thieves were unlikely to find £2.5 million in the safe, which was reported to contain petty cash.

Secretary John Smylie has left the club at very short notice. Ticket Office manager Cherry Newbery has been named as acting secretary.

Results

26.12.94 Reading A 0-0 Att: 11,623 (incl 1805 from Luton)
Team: Sommer, James, Peake, Johnson, Thomas, Telfer, Allen (Oakes 70 min), Waddock, Preece, Dixon (Hartson 42 min), Marshall. Sub not used: Davis. Ref: Gurnam Singh, Wolverhampton.
No goals, no bookings.

27.12.94 Sunderland H 3-0 Att: 8,952 (incl about 1,000 from Sunderland)
Team: Sommer, James, Peake, Johnson, Thomas, Telfer, Waddock, Preece (Skelton 80 min), Oakes, Hartson, Marshall (Williams 80 min). Sub not used: Davis. Ref: John Holbrook, Ludlow.
Goals: Oakes 22 min - low drive from a lay off by Marshall, Oakes 26 min - shot on the turn from a low cross by Telfer, Hartson 49 min - header from a cross by Thomas.
Booked: Preece - foul, Marshall - playing on after whistle for offside.

31.12.94 Notts County A 1-0 Att: 6,249 (incl 1,100 from Luton)
Team: Sommer, James, Peake, Johnson, Thomas, Telfer, Waddock, Preece, Oakes, Hartson, Marshall (Adcock 70 min).
Subs not used: Skelton, Davis. Ref: Rob Harris, Oxford.
Goal: Telfer 71 min - low drive from 20 yards, after Preece's free kick was headed out by a County defender.
Booked: Telfer - foul, and McSwegan and Marsden of County for fouls.

02.01.95 Charlton Athletic H 0-1 Att: 7,642
Team: Sommer, James (Adcock 67 min), Peake, Johnson, Thomas, Telfer, Waddock, Allen, Oakes, Hartson, Marshall.

Subs not used: Skelton, Davis. Ref: Paul Alcock, Redhill.

Goal: David Whyte 19 min - far post header from cross by Robinson.

Booked: James - foul, and Chapple of Charlton for a foul.

07.01.95 Bristol Rovers (FA Cup Rnd 3) H 1-1 Att: 7,571 (incl 2,000 from Bristol)

Team: Sommer, James, Peake, Johnson, Thomas, Telfer, Waddock, Preece, Oakes, Hartson, Marshall (Adcock 68 min).

Subs not used: Williams, Davis. Ref: Paul Rejer, Tipton, West Mids. Linesmen: French & Saunders!

Goals: Marcus Stewart 20 min - crisp early drive after being put through by Hardyman. Hartson 37 min - thundering 12 yard shot into roof of net. No bookings.

14.01.95 Barnsley A 1-3 Att: 4,808 (incl 457 from Luton)

Team: Sommer, James, Peake, Johnson, Thomas, Telfer, Waddock, Oakes, Harvey (Skelton 73 min), Dixon, Marshall.

Subs not used: Woodsford, Davis. Ref: Neil Barry, Scunthorpe.

Goals: Dixon 47 min - lob from 30 yards after pass from Oakes, Redfearn 66 min - low drive after free kick was knocked out, Liddell 71 min - crisp shot after beating offside trap, Liddell 76 min - easy shot after poor clearance by Sommer.

Booked: Steve Davis of Barnsley for a foul on Dixon.

18.01.95 Bristol Rovers (FA Cup R3 Replay) A 1-0 Att: 8,218 (incl 776 from Luton)

Team: Sommer, Chenery, Peake, Johnson, Thomas, Telfer, Waddock, Oakes, Preece, Dixon, Marshall. Subs not used:

Woodsford, Skelton, Davis. Ref: Paul Rejer, Tipton, West Mids.

Goal: Marshall 62 min - simple header at far post after chipped cross by Preece.

Forthcoming fixtures

Sat Jan 28	Southampton	H	FA Cup 4	All ticket
Sat Feb 4	Oldham Athletic	H		
Sat Feb 11	Grimsby Town	A	Tickets: Pay on the day only, Seats £11, Standing £8 (no concessions.	
Sat Feb 18	Swindon Town	H	Subject to FA Cup progress.	
Tue Feb 21**	Portsmouth	A	Tickets: Seats £13, standing (open) £8. Available on the day, but	
Note change of date			concessions only on seats purchased in advance.	
Sat Feb 25	Bristol City	A	Tickets: Seats £8.50, should be available on the day, no cons.	

Reserves and Youth

A quiet spell for both teams who take a bit of a break at Christmas. The reserves fixture at Brighton on 4th January was postponed, and that at Bristol City on 16th January was abandoned after 67 minutes as the pitch was waterlogged. Town were losing 3-2 at the time with goals by Aaron Skelton and Tony Adcock, but it was this game in which Adcock and Williams were injured (see above). The only results to report then is a 1-0 defeat away to West Ham on 10 January (a match in which Scott Oakes played at right back!), and, on 25 January, a 2-1 win at home to Crystal Palace, with two goals for Matthew Woolgar. The return game against West Ham, on 18 January was postponed.

The youth team only played one game, getting a 5-0 home victory over Wycombe with goals from Jamie Woodsford (2), Ben Chenery, Andrew Fotiadis and Robert Sharpe. The away match at Crystal Palace (31 December) was postponed, as was the away game at Brighton on 14 January, after the club received what turned out to be a hoax phone call telling them the match was off!

Forthcoming fixtures:

Reserves

Wed Feb 1	CHARLTON ATH	H
Wed Feb 8	ARSENAL	H
Tue Feb 14	Crystal Palace	A
Thu Feb 23	BRISTOL CITY	H
Sat Feb 25	Arsenal	A

Youth

Sat Jan 28	READING	H
Sat Feb 4	Southampton	A
Sat Feb 11	OXFORD UNITED	H
Sat Feb 18	Bristol Rovers	A
Sat Feb 25	COLCHESTER UTD	H

Home reserve games are played at Hitchin Town FC, and youth games at Luton Rugby Club. Please check with home club for venue of these teams away games.

Comments

That's it for now, hope you like the idea and the content. If there's anything else you do or don't want to see, then let me know. As an exiled Hatters fan, this is being produced for your benefit, so it should fulfil your needs. The next issue, assuming anybody wants it, will be out at the end of February.

HATTERS MATTERS

Issue two - February 1995
292 Icknield Way, Luton, Beds, LU3 2JS.

Welcome to issue 2 of Hatters Matters. So far we have 28 subscribers to the newsletter, in 18 counties with Avon and Cambridgeshire leading the way with 3 each. Thanks for the many encouraging comments sent in. As the viability of the newsletter is not dependant on a minimum number, you can be assured that it will continue.

Injuries

Ceri Hughes is now back in training and could be in contention for the first team in a couple of weeks. Des Linton is also close to returning. Ben Chenery suffered a leg injury in a reserve game and will be out of action until mid/late March.

Transfers/Loans

Wayne Biggins has had his loan period extended for a second month. The club gave a two match trial to 20 year old German striker Carsten Jancker of FC Cologne. He has returned to Germany and it is not clear whether a transfer is likely to follow.

No purchases have been made, but David Pleat has been watching several players. He has watched Notts Forest reserves, Bradford City and Walsall recently, and is rumoured to have had bids turned down for Gerry Creaney of Portsmouth and Andy Hunt of West Brom. Pleat has also said that he will probably put a couple of players on the transfer list before the transfer deadline.

Seven players have been made available for loans, in order to gain league experience. They are Richard Harvey, David Greene, Paul McLaren, Jamie Campbell, Aaron Skelton, Tony Thorpe and Martin Williams.

Other News

The Football League, Football Association and FA Premier League have agreed in principle to the idea of indoor soccer, as proposed in the "Kohlerdome" concept.

An end of season trip to Barbados, to play the national team, has been turned down as the terms were "not quite right".

The Endsleigh League Under-21 side, managed by David Pleat, achieved a 3-2 victory over the Italian Serie B side on February 15th. Kelvin Davis was the only Town player selected, but remained on the subs bench for the full 90 minutes. In the opening round of the Evening Standard 5-a-side Town have been drawn against Watford. The tournament will be held at Wembley Arena on Monday 15th May. Ticket details will be given in a later issue of HM.

The home match against Wolves, postponed in January, has been re-arranged for Tuesday 4th April, kick-off 7.45 pm. Tickets for the original match will be valid, but contact the club if you had gained entrance to the ground.

Results

28.01.95 Southampton (FA Cup Rnd 4) H 1-1 Att: 9,938 (incl 2,000 from So'ton)
Team: Sommer, Telfer, Peake, Johnson, Thomas, Marshall, Waddock, Oakes, Preece, Dixon (Williams 88 min), Biggins. Subs not used: Skelton, Davis. Ref: Gerald Ashby, Worcester.

Goals: Neil Shipperley 54 mins - near post flick from Neil Heaney's low cross. Biggins 81 min - sidefooted in at near post from Marshall's belting low right wing cross after cutting in to penalty area.

Booked: Telfer - foul.

Other comment: Telfer had a penalty saved, and narrowly avoided giving one away at the other end. Excellent entertainment for the whole 90 minutes, and not a bad debut by Biggins.

04.02.95 Oldham Athletic H 2-1 Att: 6,903
Team: Sommer, James, Peake, Johnson, Thomas, Marshall, Waddock, Telfer, Oakes, Dixon (Thorpe 69 min), Biggins. Subs not used: Harvey, Davis. Ref: Paul Vanes, Warley, West Mids.

Goals: Marshall 37 seconds - low drive past advancing keeper after through ball by Biggins. Rick Holden 75 mins - shot through crowded penalty area after corner wasn't cleared. Marshall 80 mins - low drive after flick on by Biggins.

Booked: Sommer - time wasting.

08.02.95 Southampton (FA Cup 4 Replay) A 0-6 Att: 15,075 (incl 2,000 from Luton)
Team: Sommer, James (Dixon h-t), Peake, Johnson, Thomas, Telfer, Waddock, Preece, Oakes, Marshall, Biggins (Thorpe 69 min). Sub not used: Davis. Ref: Gerald Ashby, Worcester.

Goals: Matt Le Tissier 6 min - side foot drive from edge of box after poor clearance by James, Jim Magilton 32 min - 18 yard shot after low cross from Heaney, Le Tissier 36 min - penalty after handball by Thomas, Neil Heaney 42 min -

diving back post header from Le Tissier cross, Ken Monkou 50 min - close range from Le Tissier pass, David Hughes 67 min - shot from angle of penalty area.

Booked: James and Telfer - fouls.

11.02.95 Grimsby Town A 0-5 Att: 4,615 (incl 319 from Luton)

Team: Sommer, James, Peake, Johnson, Thomas, Marshall, Waddock, Oakes, Preece, Dixon (Woodsford 62 min), Biggins (Telfer 74 min). Sub not used: Davis. Ref: Roger Furnandiz, Doncaster.

Goals: Jim Dobbin 8 min - tap-in after Woods beat offside trap and drew Sommer out, Dave Gilbert 27 min - tap-in after Sommer beat out a header by unmarked Groves, Neil Woods 73 min - complete fluke as cross by Gilbert hit him on the knee and looped over Sommer, Tommy Watson 75 min - cool finish after excellent passing move, Watson 86 min - from pass by Laws.

Other comment: Score would have been worse but for great performance by Sommer.

18.02.95 Swindon Town H 3-0 Att: 6,595

Team: Sommer, James, Peake, Johnson, Thomas, Telfer, Waddock, Oakes, Preece, Marshall (Woodsford 75 min), Biggins (Dixon 75 min). Sub not used: Davis. Ref: John Kirkby, Sheffield.

Goals: Kevin Horlock 19 min - own goal, accidentally meeting rebound after keeper beat out a shot by Marshall, Marshall 50 min - converted low far post cross from right by Biggins, Marshall 63 min - shot on turn after Telfer flicked on Preece corner.

Other comment: Scott Oakes missed a penalty (hitting the post), the fourth missed by a Town player this season.

21.02.95 Portsmouth A 2-3 Att: 7,363 (inc 323 from Luton)

Team: Sommer, James, Peake, Johnson, Thomas, Telfer, Waddock (Woodsford 84 min), Oakes, (Harvey 51 Min) Preece, Marshall, Dixon. Sub not used: Davis. Ref: Ken Leach, Wolverhampton.

Goals: Telfer 11 min - close range conversion of James cross, Alan McLoughlin 49 min - header from Preki corner, James 73 min - cracking 25 yarder, Preki 75 min - solo effort after Johnson was dispossessed in midfield, Gerry Creaney 79 min - penalty (given for trip by James on Preki, but disputed as Town claimed Creaney tripped his team-mate).

25.02.95 Bristol City A 2-2 Att: 7,939 (inc 427 from Luton)

Team: Sommer, James, Peake, Johnson, Thomas, Waddock, Telfer, Oakes, Preece (Williams 74 min), Marshall, Dixon. Subs not used: Biggins, Davis. Ref: Alan Flood, Stockport.

Goals: Oakes 28 min - thundering 30 yarder over the keeper, Oakes 53 min - low drive, from tapped on free kick, which squirmed through keeper's hands, Gary Owers 65 min - unmarked (and looked offside) header from Fleck cross, Junior Bent 85 min - shot into empty net after Sommer failed to collect ball in a challenge with Fleck

Other comment: Sommer saved a penalty, and Oakes had a "goal" disallowed for offside.

Forthcoming fixtures

Sat Mar 4	MILLWALL	H	
Tue Mar 7	PORT VALE	H	
Sat Mar 11	Southend United	A	Tickets: Pay on the day only, Seats £9 (no concessions)
Sat Mar 18	TRANMERE ROVERS	H	
Tue Mar 21	Burnley	A	Tickets: Pay on the day only, Seats £9.50 (no concessions), terrace £7.50 adults, £4.00 juniors/senior citizens.
Sun Mar 26	WATFORD	H	Kick Off 2.55 pm. NOTE CHANGE OF DATE FOR TV.
Sat Apr 1	Bolton Wanderers	A	Dependant on result of Coca Cola Cup semi-final.

Reserves and Youth

The home reserve match against Charlton on Feb 1st, was switched to The Valley and then postponed. The next game, against Arsenal had it's date changed to Feb 6th, and venue changed to Kenilworth Road. The Town side lost the game by 3-1, with Tony Thorpe getting the Town goal and Richard Harvey missing a penalty. A 3-1 victory away to Crystal Palace on Feb 14th was secured by goals from Harvey, Jamie Woodsford and Thorpe. On the 20th, the semi-final of the Bedfordshire Premier Cup was played at Potton, with the home side going through after a floodlight failure, extra time and penalties. The score was 2-2 at the end of extra time with David Greene and Jamie Campbell scoring the Town goals, but in the shoot out the score was 2-0 to the home side after Matthew Woolgar, Martin Williams, Paul McLaren and Campbell failed to score from the spot. All in all, the match lasted 3hours 10 minutes. A home game against Bristol City was won 4-1 at Kenilworth Road on 23rd, scorers for the Town being Thorpe and Woodsford, with two goals each. This was followed by a 4-1 defeat by Arsenal at Highbury on Saturday 25th, the Luton scorer was Woolgar. The away match at Brighton on 27th was postponed, much to the relief of reserve manager Wayne Turner.

The youth team got a home 1-1 draw with Reading on 28th Jan with a late equaliser scored by trainee Stuart Douglas. They then got "an ear bashing" from coach Terry Westley for being pleased with the result. On 4th February a 1-1 draw was secured at Southampton, with Chris Wilmott scoring for Town. This was followed by a 3-1 home win over Oxford United on February 11th, when Stuart Douglas, Gary Issott and Paul McLaren scored the Luton goals. The 18th saw a 0-

0 draw away to Bristol Rovers. Andrew Burr and Jonathon Clarke were the goalscorers in a 2-1 victory at Colchester on 25th, with the Town team including 6 players under the age of 16.

Forthcoming fixtures:

Reserves

Wed Mar 8 SOUTHAMPTON H (ko 2pm)
 Wed Mar 15 Wimbledon A (ko 2pm)
 Wed Mar 22 MILLWALL H (ko 2pm)
 Wed Mar 29 Ipswich Town A (ko 7.30pm)

Youth

Sat Mar 4 Wimbledon A
 Sat Mar 11 BRENTFORD H
 Sat Mar 18 Bristol City A
 Sat Mar 25 SWINDON H

Home reserve games may be played at Hitchin Town FC or Kenilworth Road, and youth games at Luton Rugby Club.

Youth games usually kick-off at 11am. Please check with home club for venue of these teams away games.

Statistics

Appearances and goals scored for the season so far are as follows:

<u>Player</u>	<u>Lge</u>	<u>Gls</u>	<u>Cup</u>	<u>Gls</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Lge</u>	<u>Gls</u>	<u>Cup</u>	<u>Gls</u>
Sommer	32		6		Greene	6		2	
James	32	2	4		Allen	4			
Peake	32		6		Linton	3 (2)		1 (1)	
Johnson	32	1	6		Skelton	3 (2)		(1)	
Telfer	31 (1)	4	6		Biggins	3		2	1
Preece	29	4	6		Harvey	1 (1)			
Marshall	26 (5)	9	5 (1)	2	Houghton	1		1	
Thomas	26 (2)		4		Woodsford	(4)			
Waddock	26		4		Adcock	(2)		(1)	
Oakes	25 (6)	8	5 (1)	1	Thorpe	(2)		(1)	
Dixon	21 (3)	6	4 (1)		Williams	(2)		(1)	
Hartson	11 (9)	5	1	1	Chenery			1	
Hughes	8 (1)	2	2		own goals		4		

There have been 35 bookings and 2 sendings-off. The tally for these is:

Red cards: Hughes and Waddock - 1 each.

Yellow cards: 7 - James; 5 - Telfer; 4 - Peake; 3 - Greene, Johnson and Thomas; 2 - Sommer, Waddock, Preece and Marshall; 1 - Skelton and Allen.

Any Other Business

That's your lot for now, the next issue will be out at the end of March, just after the home defeat of Watford. The statistics section will probably not appear again until the end of the season, unless I'm really short of anything to put in. One item requested was information on pubs for away matches, but this is already covered in Mad as a Hatter!, so it won't be repeated here. The next issue of the fanzine will be on sale at the Tranmere game on March 18th, with subscription copies in the post a day or two earlier. As always I will be grateful to receive any comments about the newsletter.

HATTERS MATTERS

Issue 3 - March 1995
292 Icknield Way, Luton, Beds, LU3 2JS.

Welcome to issue 3 of Hatters Matters. I have at last opened a bank account for HM, so your cheques will now have been cashed, apologies for the delay. We now have 40 subscribers.

Injuries

Aaron Skelton has been recovering after a cartilage operation. Tony Adcock has recovered from injury and is back in the first team squad. Ceri Hughes is back in full training after a ligament operation, as is Des Linton after a stomach op. Scott Oakes, with an ankle injury, and Mitchell Thomas, with a hamstring strain, missed the local derby, but are expected to be in contention for the Wolves match. David Preece is under treatment for a sore foot and ankle, which caused him to miss the game at Southend.

Transfers/Loans

Talk about good timing! As soon as I had copies of issue 2 in the envelopes the news came through that David Pleat had swooped to sign Rob Matthews from Notts County for a fee of £80,000. Matthews, aged 24, will of course be remembered for scoring the 2 goals against us, at Meadow Lane in May 1992, which resulted in our absence from the inaugural season of the Premier League. Matthews is described as a striker but has played so far as an attacking midfielder.

On 10th March Martin Williams went to Colchester United for a one month loan, and Jamie Campbell went to Cambridge United for a similar spell. In the same week Wimbledon and Peterborough were amongst several clubs said to have enquired about David Greene, and Colchester about Richard Harvey, but neither player left on loan as they are needed to cover for injuries in the first team.

Wayne Biggins returned to Stoke City from his loan spell after the Tranmere match. In his return game he scored a goal and got sent off for an altercation with the referee, for which he received an immediate 4 match ban, and an invitation to an FA hearing!

On deadline day, the Town signed striker John Taylor from Bradford City for £200,000. The 6ft 2in tall 30 year old target man has scored 14 times this season after being signed from Bristol Rovers last summer for £300,000. His previous clubs were Cambridge United and Colchester United.

Also signed, on loan, was goalkeeper Martyn Margetson from Manchester City, mainly to act as cover for Sommer's trip to the USA.

Leaving the club, for a nominal fee of £5,000 was striker Kerry Dixon, who scored on his debut for new club Millwall.

Other News

The last game of the season, at home to Stoke City, has been put back 24 hours to Sunday 7th May, kick-off 3 pm.

Scott Oakes has signed a one year extension to his existing contract, which will now expire in June 1996.

The Bolton match, postponed on April 1 due their Coca Cola Cup final appearance, has been re-arranged for Tuesday 11 April kick off 7.30pm. This match could now be subject to a replay of that final, however.

The away game at Middlesbrough has now been switched to Sunday for TV. This will be the last League game at Ayresome Park, and the last ever if Boro avoid the play-offs. The match is all ticket, as stated below.

Juergen Sommer missed the Watford game on 26th as he was playing an international for the USA against Uruguay, a match which finished 2-2.

David Greene played in the Republic of Ireland under-21 side beaten 2-0 by England in Dublin on Monday 27 March.

Kelvin Davis played for the England under-18 side in Hungary on 29 March, keeping a clean sheet in a 1-0 victory. The second leg takes place at Walsall's Bescot Stadium on April 25th.

Danny Power is in the Welsh under-18 squad against Northern Ireland at Wrexham on Monday 3rd April.

Andrew Fotiadis, on the Town's books while continuing his studies, played for the England Schools under-18 side against Northern Ireland on 27th March, in a match which finished 4-4.

Results

04.03.95 MILLWALL

Team: Sommer, James, Peake, Johnson, Thomas, Biggins (Dixon 69 min). Sub not used: Davis.

H 1-1

Att: 6,864 (incl under 1,000 from Millwall)
Telfer, Waddock (Matthews 79 min), Oakes, Preece, Marshall,
Ref: John Lloyd, Wrexham.

Goals: Marshall 33 min - drive into bottom corner after being put through by Oakes. Dave Mitchell 57 min - close range header after Alex Rae headed back across goal.

Booked: Thomas - foul, and Roger Joseph of Millwall for a foul on Matthews.

07.03.95 PORT VALE H 2-1 Att: 5,947

Team: Sommer, James, Peake, Johnson, Thomas, Telfer, Waddock (Matthews h/t), Oakes, Preece, Marshall, Biggins (Dixon 71 min). Sub not used: Davis. Ref: Peter Foakes, Clacton.

Goals: Telfer 50 min - solo run and shot after being set up by Preece. Dixon 82 min - close range after volley by Matthews rebounded off keeper. Andy Porter 84 min - after run and pass by Foyle caught Town on the break.

Booked: Johnson - foul, and Lee Glover of Vale for tripping Oakes.

11.03.95 SOUTHEND UNITED A 0-3 Att: 4,558 (incl 1,033 from Luton)

Team: Sommer, James, Peake, Johnson, Thomas, Telfer, Waddock, Oakes, Matthews, Marshall, Dixon (Biggins 64 min). Subs not used: Harvey, Davis. Ref: John Holbrook, Ludlow.

Goals: Gary Jones 28 min - shot through Sommer's legs after keeper came and failed to collect a through ball. Andy Thompson 76 min - a gift after Sommer chased and failed to collect a cross. Keith Dublin 89 min - easy header from close range.

Booked: James - handball, and Andy Edwards for tripping Marshall.

18.03.95 TRANMERE ROVERS H 2-0 Att: 6,660 (incl less than 1,000 from Tranmere)

Team: Sommer, James, Peake, Johnson, Thomas, Telfer, Waddock, Oakes, Preece, Marshall, Biggins (Matthews 76 min). Subs not used: Dixon, Davis. Ref: Graham Pooley, Bishop's Stortford.

Goals: James 14 min - 20 yard shot after Tranmere failed to clear Town attack. Biggins 68 min - close range after fine passing move.

Booked: John McGreal and Liam O'Brien for fouls on Oakes, and Shaun Garnett for a foul on Biggins.

Comment: Good performance from the Town, in which Marshall could have had a hat-trick.

21.03.95 BURNLEY A 1-2 Att: 9,551 (incl 200 from Luton)

Team: Sommer, James, Peake, Johnson, Thomas (Harvey h/t), Telfer, Waddock, Preece (Woodsford 80 min), Marshall, Dixon, Matthews. Sub not used: Davis. Ref: Richard Poulain, Huddersfield.

Goals: Marshall 60 min - Near post tap in from Harvey's cross. John Mullin 73 min - easy shot after Sommer was shoved aside by Nogan while trying to clear. Gerry Harrison 83 min - Cracking angled shot.

26.03.95 WATFORD H 1-1 Att: 7,984 (incl approx 900 from)

Team: Davis, James, Peake, Johnson, Harvey, Telfer, Waddock, Preece, Matthews (Thorpe 79 min), Taylor, Marshall. Subs not used: Adcock, Margetson. Ref: Kevin Breen, Liverpool.

Goals: Telfer 4 min - cracking volley after Harvey's cross wasn't cleared. Kevin Phillips 63 min - careful shot past Davis after springing offside trap.

Booked: Davis - foul.

Comments: Excellent home debut by Kelvin Davis, but TV's Man of the Match was won by Hessenthaler.

Forthcoming fixtures

Tue	Apr 4	WOLVES	H	
Sat	Apr 8	NOTTS COUNTY	H	
Tue	Apr 11	Bolton Wanderers	A	Kick-off 7.30 pm. Tickets: Pay on the day only. Seats £11 adult, £8.50 concessions. Terrace £8 adult, £5.50 cons.
Sat	Apr 15	Sunderland	A	Tickets: Pay on the day only. Terrace £9 adult, £4 cons. No seats.
Mon	Apr 17	READING	H	Kick-off 3pm.
Sat	Apr 22	Charlton Athletic	A	Tickets: Pay on the day. Seats only,, no concessions.
Sun	Apr 30	Middlesbrough	A	Note change of date for All ticket match, seats £11, poss no concessions. Must be bought in advance from LTFC, check with club for details.
Sun	May 7	STOKE CITY	H	

Reserves and Youth

The reserves had a fairly lean month, with only 1 win and 4 goals in 5 matches. On 10th March Southampton won 2-0 at Kenilworth Road, and on 15th Tony Adcock netted for the Hatters in a 1-1 draw at Wimbledon. The victory came in a home fixture against Millwall on 22nd, with Adcock (2) and Tony Thorpe scoring the goals in a 3-1 win. The following week saw a brace of defeats, at Brighton (1-0) on 27th and by 2-0 at Ipswich Town two days later.

The youth team fared worse, with a 2-1 defeat away to Wimbledon on 4th, the Town goal scored by Chris Willmott. The 11th saw a 2-2 draw at home to Brentford with goals from Sam Turner and Ben Chenery. 3-0 defeats at Bristol City on the 18th and at home to Swindon Town on 25th finished off the month.

Forthcoming fixtures:

Reserves

Wed	Apr 5	BRIGHTON & H.A.	H (ko 2pm)
Mon	Apr 10	Millwall	A (ko 2pm)
Thu	Apr 13	CHARLTON	H (ko 2pm)
Tue	Apr 18	CHELSEA	H (ko 2pm)
Sat	Apr 22	WEST HAM UTD	H (ko 2pm)
Tue	Apr 25	Queens Park Rangers	A (ko 7pm)

Youth

Sat	Apr 1	Bournemouth	A
Sat	Apr 8	Brighton & H.A.	A
Sat	Apr 29	Crystal Palace	A

Home reserve games should be played at Kenilworth Road. Youth games usually kick-off at 11am. Please check with home club for venue of these teams away games.

New Stadium

The local press has recently carried a number of reports to the effect that the club have been looking at possible sites in the Milton Keynes area. These reports are presently unconfirmed. Meanwhile, Wyncote Ltd, the company nominated by Luton Hoo to develop the Junction 10/Stockwood Park site in Luton have said that they will be submitting a planning application to Luton Borough Council within the next two months, and this will include an offer of land and cash to build a new stadium for Luton Town. They have, however, been unwilling to discuss details of their plans.

Contrary to what has been reported in at least one local paper, Football League rules would not prevent the club relocating to Milton Keynes, as this would be subject to Management Committee approval. Different rules are used for existing clubs, than for new members such as Macclesfield.

HATTERS MATTERS

Issue 4 - April 1995
292 Icknield Way, Luton, Beds, LU3 2JS.

Welcome to issue 4. There are now over 45 subscribers to the newsletter, and the annual subscription has now been set at £5, which should be sufficient to cover costs. Existing £2 subscriptions will run until the August issue, at which time reminders will be sent out. Issue 5 will be sent out at on the weekend of the 27/28th May, or during the following week.

Injuries

It may have been a little premature in the last issue of HM to say that Ceri Hughes was back in full training, but he was cleared for light training at the beginning of April, and is awaiting the opinion of a specialist to confirm he can step up the pace.

Dwight Marshall is suffering from shin splints, for which the treatment is rest. Julian James had a torn stomach muscle which restricted his training, and has had a minor operation. He should be completely fit for pre-season training.

Transfers/Loans

Matthew Woolgar has joined Vauxhall Conference side Merthyr Tydfil on a one month loan.

Martin Williams returned to Luton from Colchester at the end of a one month loan, and has now been told he can find a new club, as he is being given a free transfer. The same applies to Jamie Campbell, who has returned from his loan period at Cambridge.

Other News

Four players whose contracts expire this summer are being offered new deals by the club, they are David Preece, Marvin Johnson, Richard Harvey and Juergen Sommer. Trevor Peake's contract also expires at the end of the season, but it has not yet been revealed if he will be offered a new one.

At the Luton Town Supporters Club presentation evening on Sunday 23rd April, the Supporters Player of the Year award went to Trevor Peake, the Players Player of the Year to Marvin Johnson, Young Supporters Player of the Year to Paul Telfer and the Young Player of the Year, which is selected by the manager and coaching staff, went to Kelvin Davis.

David Preece has been awarded a testimonial match after his 10 years at LTFC. The opponents will be Manchester United, on May 22nd (ko 7.30pm), two days after the FA Cup Final. If a replay of the Cup final is required, the testimonial match will then take place on Sunday 28th May (ko 3pm). The United team will be managed by Jimmy Ryan, and should include several star names (Giggs, Sharpe, Cole et al), while the Town side will include appearances by Mick Harford, Brian Stein, Steve Foster, and Mal Donaghy, and possibly others. The match is all ticket, at prices slightly below the norm for league games, and tickets must be bought in advance. Season ticket holders have until 10 May, and members may buy from 12 May.

The pre-season tour in late July and early August looks like being a visit to south Devon, with matches against Plymouth Argyle, Torquay United and Exeter City, with Tiverton Town pencilled in in case Exeter go out of business. Although this has not been finalised, I understand that the Plymouth game at least has been reported in local papers in the West Country. Full details will follow in due course.

A "prestigious" home friendly has been arranged for August 7th, and it is rumoured that the opposition will be Tottenham Hotspur.

Ticket prices for next season are due to be announced in the programme for the Stoke match, and I will include details in the next issue of HM.

Kelvin Davis won another England under-18 cap in the 2-0 defeat by Hungary at Walsall's Bescot Stadium on 25th.

Results

04.04.95 WOLVES

H 3-3

Att: 9,651 (incl 2,000 from Wolves)

Team: Davis, James, Peake, Johnson, Harvey, Waddock, Oakes, Preece, Telfer, Marshall (Woodsford 88 min), Taylor.

Subs not used: Matthews, Sommer.

Ref: Graham Pooley, Bishop's Stortford.

Goals: Telfer 6 min - solo run through and around the keeper from Waddock's pass. Telfer 11 min - low shot at end of six man passing move. David Kelly 48 min - header when corner was knocked back across the face of goal. Taylor 51 min - header to deflect a shot by Johnson. Kelly 59 min - first time shot from pull back by Emblen. Oakes 94 min - own goal, trying to clear as he chased back with Emblen.

Comment: Superb game spoiled by referee unable to tell the time.

08.04.95 NOTTS COUNTY H 2-0 Att: 6,428 (incl 300 from Notts)
 Team: Davis, James (Linton 76 min), Peake, Johnson, Harvey, Telfer, Waddock, Oakes, Preece, Marshall (Matthews 72 min), Taylor. Sub not used: Sommer. Ref: Mike Pierce, Portsmouth.
 Goals: Telfer 3 min - near post side foot shot from low cross from Harvey. Oakes 68 min - penalty, after Marshall was brought down.
 Booked: Shaun Murphy and Michael Johnson, fouls on Marshall and Telfer respectively.
 Comment: County were awful, and Town should have scored more.

11.04.95 BOLTON WANDERERS A 0-0 Att: 13,619 (incl 257 from Luton)
 Team: Davis, James (Linton 72 min), Peake, Johnson, Harvey, Telfer, Waddock, Oakes, Preece, Matthews (Marshall 72 min), Taylor. Sub not used: Sommer. Ref: Uriah Rennie, Sheffield.
 Booked: Peake for a foul, John Taylor for encroaching at a free kick, Stubbs of Bolton for a foul on Telfer, and McAteer of Bolton for dissent.
 Comment: Excellent match, with Town unlucky not to take all three points.

15.04.95 SUNDERLAND A 1-1 Att: 17,292
 Team: Davis, Linton (Greene 79 min), Peake, Johnson, Harvey, Telfer, Waddock, Oakes, Preece, Matthews (Marshall 70 min), Taylor. Sub not used: Sommer. Ref: Peter Richards, Preston.
 Goals: Taylor 9 min - free header from cross by Rob Matthews, Phil Gray 58 min - header after Martin Gray's shot was blocked by Johnson.
 Booked: Peake, for handball.
 Other: Sunderland's substitute keeper was David Preece!

17.04.95 READING H 0-1 Att: 8,717 (incl 2,000 from Reading)
 Team: Davis, James (Linton 79 min), Peake, Johnson, Harvey, Telfer, Waddock (Matthews 61 min), Preece, Oakes, Marshall, Taylor. Sub not used: Sommer. Ref: John Kirkby, Sheffield.
 Goal: John Taylor 43 min - own goal, heading in from a free kick by Osborne, with Ade Williams competing for the ball, and claiming the goal.
 Booked: Reading's Scott Taylor and Andy Bernal, both for fouling Matthews.
 Comment: Good entertainment until half time, but then the Town went to pieces.

22.04.95 CHARLTON ATHLETIC A 0-1 Att: 10,876 (incl 880 from Luton)
 Team: Davis, Johnson, Peake, Greene, Thomas (Marshall 59 min), Telfer, Waddock, Preece, Oakes, Matthews (Harvey 76 min), Taylor. Sub not used: Sommer. Ref: Paul Alcock, Surrey.
 Goal: David Whyte 71 min - crisp shot after Mark Robson broke through Town's left flank.
 Booked: Steve Brown and Colin Walsh of Charlton, for fouls on Matthews. Paul Telfer, for a foul.
 Sent Off: Steve Brown, second bookable offence, after a blundering foul on Preece.
 Comment: A Town performance spoilt by poor finishing and a lack of enthusiasm.

30.04.95 MIDDLESBROUGH A 1-2 Att: 23,903 (incl 443 from Luton)
 Team: Davis, Linton, Johnson, Peake, Harvey, Telfer, Waddock, Preece, Oakes (Thorpe 80 min), Taylor, Marshall. Subs not used: Thomas, Margetson. Ref: Paul Vanes, Warley.
 Goals: Hendrie 45 min - shot deflected over Kelvin Davis, Taylor 63 min - free header from quick free kick by Telfer, Hendrie 72 min - well placed low drive from pull back by Whyte.
 Booked: Peake for a foul and Boro's Clayton Blackmore for a foul on Preece.
 Comment: Party atmosphere for (probably) the last game at Ayresome Park. Good performance by the Town, with Davis outstanding in goal, including saving a penalty.

Forthcoming fixtures

Sun May 7	STOKE CITY	H	Note change of date. This match is not televised.
Mon May 15	Evening Standard 5-a-side. Wembley Arena.		
			Tickets at £12, £15, £20 & £22 available from club ticket office, or from Wembley Box Office, 0181-900-1234.
Mon May 22	MANCHESTER UTD	H	David Preece Testimonial. All ticket match.

Reserves and Youth

The reserves began their month with a 2-2 home draw against Brighton on April 5th, Jamie Woodsford and David Greene scoring the goals. Ben Chenery was sent off in this game for handling the ball on the goal line. On the 10th a 3-2 win was secured away to Millwall, with goals from Martin Williams, Tony Adcock and Gary Simpson. Both goalkeepers were sent off in this game, the Millwall keeper for a foul on Woodsford, and Sommer for a handball outside the area. A 3-0 home defeat by Charlton Athletic followed on 13th, and 18th saw a 1-1 home draw with Chelsea, in which Tony Thorpe scored the Town goal. Whilst the first team were losing at Charlton on Saturday 22nd, the reserves were securing a home win over West Ham, with Thorpe (2) and Des Linton getting the goals in a 3-2 scoreline. This was followed by a

goalless draw away to QPR on 25th, a game in which Jamie Woodsford was sent off. By the time you read this, the reserves will have one fixture remaining, away to Chelsea on 9th May.

The youth team lost 4-2 at Bournemouth on April 1st, with goals scored by Stuart Douglas and Gary Issott. They then scored a 5-1 away victory against Hemel Hempstead youth in the Eastern Counties Plate on 5th. On the 8th they were subjected to a 2-0 defeat away to Brighton. In the next stage of the Eastern Counties Plate, on the 18th, the Town won away to Wisbech Town where the result was 7-0. The last South East Counties League match of the season was away to Crystal Palace on 29th, and this resulted in a 2-0 defeat, which allowed Palace to win the title. The following day the semi final of the Eastern Counties Plate took place, with the Town winning 2-1 away to Wivenhoe. The date, venue and opponents for the final are not yet known. Unfortunately the club were unable to reveal the identities of the goalscorers in this competition.

New Stadium

You will almost certainly have heard some of this at least, but on April 8th an outline planning application was submitted to Luton Borough Council for the proposed Kohlerdome. The project is for a 20,000 seater covered stadium, with a removable grass pitch, and associated leisure facilities. The stadium would be multi purpose, with the ability to be configured to a smaller size for other events (ice hockey or tennis, for example), and could also be used for pop concerts, exhibitions, conferences and many other things. The proposals also include a hotel, pub and restaurants, and include space for parking nearly 4,000 cars. The site for which the planning application has been submitted is the Junction 10/Stockwood Park site on the southern side of Luton.

The land is owned by Luton Hoo, who have an ongoing agreement with another company, Wyncote Developments, to develop the site. This development also includes a football stadium although details are at present sketchy, to say the least. This has led to some discussion over whether plans for the Kohlerdome should have been submitted, although it is not necessary to own a piece of land, or have the consent of the owners, before making a planning application.

Steps are being taken to mobilise support for the scheme from supporters, by way of letters to the Chief Planning Officer at Luton Borough Council, and the MP for Luton South, Sir Graham Bright. The club has also had a stand in the Luton Arndale Centre. At the same time opposition to the scheme is coming from local residents, perhaps predictably. The reasons for their opposition are too complex to detail here, but it is probably sufficient to say that there may be a hint of NIMBY about them.

Mad as a Hatter!

Issue 27 of Mad as a Hatter! goes on sale on Sunday 7th May, and is a bumper 60 page issue, and still costs only 50p.

HATTERS MATTERS

Issue 5 - May 1995
292 Icknield Way, Luton, Beds, LU3 2JS.

Welcome to issue 5 of Hatters Matters. Issue 6 will be out at the end of June, and with a bit of luck will include the 1995/96 fixture list.

Injuries

There still appears to be a question mark over the fitness of Ceri Hughes, and it is not known at present if he will be available at the start of next season, although he is undergoing rehabilitation treatment at Lillleshall.

Transfers/Loans

Tony Adcock and Greg Rioch have joined Martin Williams and Jamie Campbell in being given free transfers. It is reported that both Coventry City and Wimbledon are interested in signing Paul Telfer, with a fee in the region of £2 million mentioned. Ron Atkinson confirmed that Coventry have watched Telfer, but no offers have been received.

Contracts

New contracts have been offered to seven first team players. They are David Preece, Juergen Sommer, Marvin Johnson, Paul Telfer, Gary Waddock, Trevor Peake and Richard Harvey. Preece was reported as saying, after his testimonial, that he is "going away to sit down and see what I am going to do now". Peake and Harvey have apparently reached agreement, and are joined in signing new contracts by reserve player Gary Simpson.

Other News

The Loyal Luton Supporters Club held their presentation evening on Sunday 7th May, when their Player of the Year award was presented to Julian James.

League match attendances at Kenilworth Road were down for the third year in a row, with an average of 7,352, compared with 7,878 and 8,212 in the previous two seasons. The highest was 9,651 (Wolves, April 4) and the lowest 5,839 (Grimsby, November 1). The inclusion of cup matches reduces the overall average to 7,037, and includes the highest (9,938 v Southampton) and lowest (3,287 v Fulham) of the season for first team games.

A Town side were entered in the Evening Standard London Fives, on Monday 15 May. In the first round a convincing 3-0 victory over Watford was secured with goals from Thorpe and a pair by Telfer. The second round match against Barnet finished 2-2 with goals by Johnson and Woodsford, Luton winning the sudden death shoot-out after 5 attempts each, Davis getting the decisive goal for Town. QPR were victims in the semi final, again beaten on a shoot out after a 1-1 draw, Johnson getting the goal and the shoot out winner. The final however was a different story with the match finishing goalless, and defeat in the shoot out after Johnson missed with Town's first attempt. The Town squad was Kelvin Davis, Paul Telfer, Marvin Johnson, David Preece, Tony Thorpe, Aaron Skelton and Jamie Woodsford. They will probably be forgiven for losing after coming away with £6,000 runners up prize money.

Kelvin Davis has been selected for the England under 21 squad for the Toulon international tournament next month. He may not get to play however, as he is the third goalkeeper in the squad.

David Pleat has been linked with several managerial vacancies, including that at Sheffield Wednesday, but David Kohler insists he is staying with Luton.

Forthcoming fixtures

In pre-season friendlies the first public appearance by the first team will be away to Kettering Town on Thursday July 27. The trip to Devon, previewed in HM last month, then follows, with Town playing at Tiverton Town (subject to confirmation) on July 31 (Monday), Torquay United on August 3 (Thursday), and Exeter City on Saturday August 5. The proposed Plymouth match has been cancelled. Finally, on Monday August 7, Tottenham Hotspur are the visitors to Kenilworth Road for the only home pre-season friendly. The League season starts on August 12.

Reserves and Youth

The reserves season came to a close with two matches at the beginning of this month. Away to Bristol City on the 4th, and at Chelsea on 9th. As I haven't yet got round to finding out the scores and scorers (very slack, I know) I'll include them next month.

Results

07.05.95 STOKE CITY

H 2-3

Att: 8,252 (incl nearly 2,000 from Stoke)

Team: Davis, Thomas, Peake, Johnson, Harvey, Waddock, Oakes, Preece, Telfer, Woodsford (Marshall 62 min), Taylor.

Subs not used: McLaren, Sommer.

Ref: Graham Pooley, Bishop's Stortford.

Goals: Harvey 43 min - belting 20 yard left footer after Stoke failed to clear a corner. Toddy Orlygsson 52 min - similar 20 yarder. Paul Peschisolido 79 min - after Orlygsson and Keen opened up the Town defence. Waddock 83 min - from 5 yards after Telfer shot had been blocked. Keith Scott 87 min - header from left wing cross by Nigel Gleghorn.

Comment: Good value for money, but Town failed to turn possession into goals.

DAVID PREECE TESTIMONIAL

22.05.95 MANCHESTER UNITED H 3-3

Att: not disclosed.

Team: Davis (Abbey 64 min), Linton, Peake (Greene h/t), Johnson (Foster h/t, Thomas 67 min), Thomas (Thorpe 50 min), Matthews (Stein h/t), Waddock (Hill h/t), Preece (Matthews h/t), Harvey (Donaghy h/t), Taylor (Harford h/t), Oakes (Harvey 50 min).

Ref: Ian Hemley, Ampthill, Beds.

The Town goals were scored by John Taylor (2) and David Preece, against a young United side. The game lasted 80 minutes, presumably to make things easier for the older Luton guests. The committee running Preece's benefit fund refused to give details of the attendance or gate receipts for the match, but as the game was sold out several days in advance, it is likely that the attendance was about the same as the Southampton cup match, which was 9,938.

New Stadium

The planning process is now under way, with Luton Borough Council organising public meetings in the early part of June to discuss the proposals, and planning committee members will shortly make a site visit. The planning committee will then consider the application on July 5th, after which a decision will be made by the full council, if the decision is positive it will then be referred to the Secretary of State for the Environment for ratification.

Luton South MP Sir Graham Bright received over 6,000 letters of support for the project on Friday 26 May, and then said a few words which confirmed his position as being firmly on top of the fence!

Statistics

Appearances and goals scored for the 1994/95 season are as follows:

<u>Player</u>	<u>Lge</u>	<u>Gls</u>	<u>Cup</u>	<u>Gls</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Lge</u>	<u>Gls</u>	<u>Cup</u>	<u>Gls</u>
Sommer	37	-	6	-	Greene	7 (1)	-	2	
James	42	3	4	-	Allen	4	-	-	
Peake	46	-	6	-	Linton	5 (5)	-	1 (1)	
Johnson	46	1	6	-	Skelton	3 (2)	-	- (1)	
Telfer	45 (1)	9	6	-	Biggins	6 (1)	1	2	1
Preece	42	4	6	-	Harvey	9 (3)	1	-	
Marshall	36 (9)	11	5 (1)	2	Houghton	1	-	1	
Thomas	33 (2)	-	4	-	Woodsford	1 (6)	-	-	
Waddock	39	1	4	-	Adcock	- (2)	-	- (1)	
Oakes	37 (6)	9	5 (1)	1	Thorpe	- (4)	-	- (1)	
Dixon	23 (5)	7	4 (1)	-	Williams	- (2)	-	- (1)	
Hartson	11 (9)	5	1	1	Chenery	-	-	1	
Hughes	8 (1)	2	2	-	Matthews	6 (5)			
Davis	9	-	-	-	own goals		4		
Taylor	9	3	-	-					

There have been 35 bookings and 2 sendings-off. The tally for these is:

Red cards: Hughes and Waddock - 1 each.

Yellow cards: 7 - James; 5 - Telfer; 4 - Peake; 3 - Greene, Johnson and Thomas; 2 - Sommer, Waddock, Preece and Marshall; 1 - Skelton and Allen.

Stop Press

The pre-season friendly at Exeter should definitely go ahead now that their future has been assured.

HATTERS MATTERS

Issue 6 - June 1995
292 Icknield Way, Luton, Beds, LU3 2JS.

Here we are again, and only a month or so away from the start of the pre-season friendlies, and a mere 6 weeks from the League season. Doesn't the summer go quickly? For the benefit of all of you, but particularly those who have asked, you can rest assured that when your subscription is about to expire you will receive a reminder. This applies equally to HM and Mad as a Hatter! With David Pleat having left in the middle of this month, a number of items below may seem irrelevant, whilst some require further confirmation, which I will try and provide next month.

Manager (old)

As you will almost all be aware by now, David Pleat was appointed manager of Sheffield Wednesday on Wednesday 14 June, with Chris Waddle subsequently becoming his assistant. The Luton connection is continued by the presence of coach Richie Barker, physio Dave Galley and secretary Graham Mackrell. Let's hope that we don't see too many players bolstering that connection in coming weeks and months. Compensation for Pleat's departure has been the subject of considerable acrimony, and on 16 June Luton Town obtained a court injunction preventing Pleat taking up his new duties until compensation had been agreed. On 27 June, the day before the case was due to return to the High Court, an agreement was reached between the clubs, which involved Wednesday paying a cash sum, with the balance to be decided by arbitration by the FA.

Manager (new)

Since Brian Horton was appointed manager of Huddersfield Town, the local press has been surprisingly quiet on the subject of who may be appointed to the position. However, I understand that an announcement is imminent, with the unfortunate victim, sorry, lucky candidate likely to be revealed in the next few days. Without the benefit of any inside information (God knows, I tried!) I suspect that it will be someone from the existing coaching staff. This, no doubt, vastly increases the chances of an outsider getting the job!

Transfers and Rumours

David Pleat had two trips to watch a Dutch striker, but wants to see more before making a transfer bid. A price of around £150,000 has been mentioned, but it remains to be seen whether anything more comes of this.

A deal had been arranged to bring Nathan Jones, a 21 year old left sided midfielder or full back, to Luton from Merthyr on a free transfer, but nothing further has been heard. Pleat apparently saw him as an ideal replacement for Jamie Campbell and Greg Rioch, who have been released. (I have now had confirmation that this deal did take place, and a nominal fee may have been involved).

David Pleat's final act as Luton Town manager was to sign Steve Taylor, a 25 year old left footed striker, from Vauxhall Conference side Bromsgrove Rovers. Taylor, who has played for the England non-league XI, scored 20 goals last season. Pleat was quoted as saying "We have watched him for a long time. He's hungry, and I believe he can be successful in the First Division." A transfer fee of £50,000 was agreed between the clubs. However, it eventually became clear that Taylor had not put pen to paper, and he then signed for Crystal Palace in a £90,000 deal on 22 June.

Paul Telfer signed for Coventry City on 23 June, under freedom of contract. No fee has been agreed, and it could go to a tribunal, although with Luton Town asking £2 million and Coventry said to be rating Telfer at £1.5 million an agreement may be possible.

Town have signed midfielder Gavin Johnson from Ipswich Town on a free transfer. The deal was arranged by David Kohler and the clubs coaching staff. Johnson is 24 years old and has been at Ipswich since leaving school, so presumably Terry Westley, also formerly of Ipswich, was instrumental in the deal. He made 160 appearances for Ipswich, including 20 last season, scoring 16 goals.

The *Luton News* of June 28 reports that the Town have had talks with Burnley centre half and skipper Steve Davis, who is expected to sign shortly.

Contracts

Early in the month it was reported that David Preece, Juergen Sommer and Marvin Johnson had all rejected new contracts. Offers were put in writing on May 28, and the players have 28 days in which to accept. Telfer, as reported above, also rejected new terms.

Goalkeeper Kelvin Davis has signed a new 4 year contract with the club, securing his future until 1999.

Ticket Prices

In the April issue of HM I stated that the next issue would supply details of 1995/96 ticket prices, and I apologise for the oversight in failing to provide this information. Matchday tickets prices have been increased across the board by £1, except for restricted view areas and concessions where the increase is 50p. This means that Main Stand (Blocks A-E) and New Stand are now £15.50 with Concessions at £8.00, Main Stand block G, Enclosure and Kenilworth Stand £12.50/£6.00, with restricted views (Main Stand and Enclosure) at £8.00/£5.50. These prices apply for tickets purchased less than 14 days prior to match day, with an additional £1 discount for tickets bought further in advance. Season tickets offer a 10% discount on these prices, with 20% if purchased before 30th June. An installment scheme is also available before 30th June which offers slightly in excess of 10% discount. Contact the club ticket office on 01582 416976 for details.

The club will again be offering their programme subscription service next season, at a cost of Home £33, Away £29 and Home and Away £55. This guarantees receipt of all first team league and cup programmes. To subscribe send a cheque or postal order payable to Luton Town FC to Simon Oxley, Programme Subscription Service, Luton Town FC, 1 Maple Road, Luton, LU4 8AW.

Other News

David Pleat recently mentioned, in his column in the Luton Herald & Post, that too many matches were being played during the season, and went on to point out that Town would have to play in the 1st round of the Coca Cola Cup over two legs. Unfortunately, he failed to mention the exact reason (namely 2 or 3 points) that make this necessary!

At the end of May Juergen Sommer lost his place in the USA squad for the US Cup, being replaced by Kasey Keller of Millwall.

The search for a plot of land for a new training ground for Luton Town has drawn a blank so far, and it is likely that facilities at Electrolux sports ground and Luton RFC will continue to be used next season. Messrs Pleat and Kohler had agreed that some of the John Hartson transfer money should be used to secure a permanent training facility for the club.

Kelvin Davis won his first England Under-21 cap in the match against Angola in the Toulon tournament on 10 June, a match which resulted in a 1-0 win for England.

Forthcoming fixtures

Pre-season friendlies for the reserve and youth teams have been announced. The reserves will play 5 away games, at Leighton Town on July 25, Raunds Town on 29th, Buckingham Town on August 1, Potton on Sunday August 6, and Hendon on 9th. The youth team play at Diss Town on July 22, away to Chelsea on 24th, at home to Watford on 27th, then away to Arsenal (29th), QPR (August 2) and Ipswich (5th), and at home to Spurs on 8th.

Reserves and Youth

The reserve match away to Bristol City on 4th May finished 4-2 in favour of the Town with Martin Williams, Rob Matthews, Mitchell Thomas and Jamie Woodsford scoring the goals. At Chelsea on 9th May they slumped to a 2-1 defeat with Chelsea players scoring all three goals.

The youth team took part in an 8 team international tournament in Lyon in May, with sponsorship from Luton firm Murtagh Demolition. Unfortunately they failed to live up to the sponsors name, and in the group matches suffered defeats at the hands of French sides Montferrand (0-1) and Monaco by 2-1 with Chris Willmott scoring the Town goal, before beating Czech side Banik Ostrava on penalties after a 1-1 draw in which Willmott scored from the spot. This was not, however, enough to stop Town finishing bottom of their group. In a play off for 7th/8th places Roanne were beaten 1-0 with the goal scored by Stuart Douglas. The tournament was won by Monaco, but the Town side were winners of the Fair Play Award. The squad was made up of first year trainees and 15 year old schoolboys, but did not include next seasons intake of trainees as it took place in school term time.

Eight new YTS trainees are being taken on by the club. They are forwards Steve Augustine from Middlesex, Andrew Barr from Leighton Buzzard and Andrew Smith from Lancashire, midfielders Liam George from Luton, Terry Sweeney from Plymouth and Matthew Upson from Diss, Nicholas Webb from Stevenage is a goalkeeper and Ian Jones is a central defender from South Wales. Jones was recommended to the club by Cyril Beech, the man who gave us Pembridge, Hughes and Hartson, to name a few.

New Stadium

The public consultation process has been completed, and the outline planning application will be considered by the Planning committee of Luton Borough Council on July 5th. The matter will then be passed to the full council for a decision on July 11th, and if approval is given at that stage it will then be passed on to the Secretary of State for the Environment for ratification. It is not entirely clear how long this process will take, but we are probably talking about months rather than weeks.

The latest news is that these dates may be changed, as the Chairman of the planning committee wishes to hold a special meeting to consider the 'Dome proposal alone, on July 18th.

1995/96 Fixtures

Aug	12	Sat	NORWICH CITY	H	Jan	1	Mon	SHEFFIELD UTD	H
	15	Tue	AFC Bournemouth	A (CCC)		6	Sat	FA Cup Rnd 3	
	19	Sat	Southend United	A		13	Sat	SOUTHEND UNITED	H
	22	Tue	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	H (CCC)		20	Sat	Norwich City	A
	26	Sat	LEICESTER CITY	H		27	Sat	FA Cup Rnd 4	
	29	Tue	Grimsby Town	A					
Sep	2	Sat	DERBY COUNTY	H	Feb	3	Sat	Leicester City	A
	9	Sat	Reading	A		10	Sat	GRIMSBY TOWN	H
	13	Wed	Millwall	A		17	Sat	MILLWALL	H
	16	Sat	SUNDERLAND	H		21	Wed	Derby County	A
	23	Sat	Wolverhampton W	A		24	Sat	Sunderland	A
	30	Sat	PORTSMOUTH	H		27	Tue	READING	H
Oct	7	Sat	Tranmere Rovers	A	Mar	2	Sat	CRYSTAL PALACE	H
	14	Sat	WEST BROMWICH A	H		9	Sat	Huddersfield Town	A
	21	Sat	Ipswich Town	A		16	Sat	PORT VALE	H
	28	Sat	CHARLTON ATH	H		23	Sat	Sheffield United	A
						30	Sat	IPSWICH TOWN	H
Nov	4	Sat	Stoke City	A	Apr	2	Tue	West Bromwich Albion	A
	11	Sat	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H		6	Sat	Charlton Athletic	A
	18	Sat	BIRMINGHAM CITY	H		8	Mon	STOKE CITY	H
	21	Tue	Watford	A		13	Sat	Birmingham City	A
	25	Sat	Barnsley	A		20	Sat	WATFORD	H
						27	Sat	BARNSELY	H
Dec	2	Sat	TRANMERE ROVERS	H	May	4	Sat	Oldham Athletic	A
	9	Sat	WOLVES	H					
	16	Sat	Portsmouth	A					
	23	Sat	HUDDERSFIELD T	H					
	26	Tue	Crystal Palace	A					
	30	Sat	Port Vale	A					

All dates are subject to confirmation, and change subject to TV requirements. After all, anyone can predict that the last match of the season will be changed to Sunday 5 May!

That's your lot for this month, more to follow at the end of July. Remember the pre season friendlies at Kettering (July 27), Tiverton Town (31), Torquay (August 3) and Exeter City (5).

HATTERS MATTERS

Issue 7 - July 1995

292 Icknield Way, Luton, Beds, LU3 2JS.

Here we are again, (a touch late, for which my apologies) with plenty to talk about, even before a ball has been kicked in anger. The amount of news in the last month has been quite staggering, and insiders at LTFC say there is an air of optimism and excitement about the place, which has not been very noticeable in the recent past. So take a deep breath, and start reading.....

Old Manager

On Friday 21 July, a Football League tribunal ruled that Sheffield Wednesday should pay £150,000 compensation to LTFC, for former manager David Pleat. Wednesday were also ordered to pay the costs of the tribunal, which could total over £50,000. David Kohler was reported to be pleased with the decision, which he felt justified taking a stand for "smaller clubs".

New Manager

The club announced the appointment of Terry Westley as caretaker manager on Monday 3rd July. Westley, aged 35, has been at the club as youth team coach for four years and steps up for his first stab at management. Former Ipswich Town manager Mick McGiven has been appointed as assistant. Westley has been appointed as caretaker until the dispute with Sheffield Wednesday over compensation for David Pleat has been settled, at which time his permanent appointment will presumably be confirmed. Wayne Turner will remain as reserve team coach and is quoted as saying "I love the job", and John Moore reverts to youth team coach, a position which he has held before. Moore is happy with this and said "I love working with young players, helping and encouraging them. And I love Luton Town. I am delighted to be doing any job at this club."

Transfers and Rumours

Terry Westley's first signing as manager was Graham Alexander, a 23 year old right sided midfielder, signed from Scunthorpe United for £100,000 initially, with more to be paid based on appearances. The Coventry born Alexander made over 150 first team appearances for Scunthorpe, and Luton had been watching him for more than 2 years.

The second signing was Burnley central defender Steve Davis, aged 26, who was signed under freedom of contract, and the fee will be decided by a tribunal. Davis had been at Burnley for four seasons and was club captain. It is said that he turned down the best contract ever offered to a player by Burnley, who were his second club. He was previously with Southampton, and had loan spells at Notts County and Burnley.

Next to join the club was David Oldfield, in a deal worth £150,000 from Leicester City. The 27 year old was sold by Luton to Manchester City for £600,000 in 1989 and moved to Leicester City a year later. He made only 9 appearances for Leicester last season, but had a spell on loan at Millwall later in the season.

Also with the club, on trial, is Italian striker Pasquale Bruno, a 32 year old who is available on a free transfer from Fiorentina. He has played over 300 Serie A matches with 5 clubs, including Juventus.

Yet another signing is Bulgarian international striker Bontcho Guentchev, who arrived free of charge after being released by Ipswich. The 31 year old scored 6 goals in 58 games for Ipswich, but Terry Westley said, "We believe he is capable of scoring heavily in Division One." He scored 35 in 113 games in the Bulgarian First division with Lokomotiv and Etar, and 3 in 5 games with Sporting Lisbon in Portugal. No work permit is needed as his wife works at the Bulgarian Embassy in London.

There has been talk of the club signing Kingsley Black from Nottingham Forest, but comments in the press suggest that the Guentchev transfer has now killed off that possibility.

Lots of Other News

Marvin Johnson has signed a new contract, variously reported as being of three or four years. Gary Waddock, meanwhile, has signed a new one year deal.

The first game of the new season, at home to Norwich City, has now been put back approximately 24 hours to Sunday 13th August, and will be televised live by Anglia TV. This has come as a bit of a surprise as in other seasons live TV games have not started until late September.

A new kit supply deal with Pony was announced on July 10, and is said to be worth £250,000 over four years. This is the biggest such deal in the club's history and means that for the second year in succession new home and away kits will

be introduced. The home kit is a white shirt with blue sleeves and colour and a touch of orange in the trim, blue shorts and blue and white hooped socks. Orange and black stripes, black shorts with a broad orange stripe and black shorts with orange tops. Replica shirts are expected to be available from late August and will retail at £36.99. The club have stated that the new kits will be kept for a period of 2 years.

One week after the kit deal was revealed, it was announced that Universal Salvage Auctions will remain the club sponsors for a further two years, which will be worth £175,000 to the club.

David Preece remains in dispute with the club after demanding a free transfer, which has been refused by LTFC and by a tribunal, although Preece is appealing. Terry Westley has instructed Preece to stay at home rather than train with the squad, and insists that if Preece leaves the club it will be for a transfer fee.

All the Town's training will be well away from Kenilworth Road this season. Terry Westley wants to get the players away from the club from Monday to Friday so that when they turn up on match days it is a bit special to them. During the week they will start their days work at Luton Rugby Club, and use a coach to travel to any other training ground they may use. The idea of this is to build team spirit.

As part of the efforts to build team spirit, a cricket match was played against Stopsley CC on July 17. The 20 over match was won by the footballers who scored 119 all out, and then restricted Stopsley to 113 for 8 in reply.

Luton Town have entered the Anglo Italian Cup (groan) and will play Italian clubs Perugia (H, Sept 5), Genoa (A, Oct 11), Cesena (A, Nov 8), and Ancona (H, Dec 13). Also in the same group are Birmingham City, Oldham and Port Vale.

Forthcoming fixtures

Pre-season friendlies:

Mon	Jul	31	Tiverton Town	A
Thu	Aug	3	Torquay United	A KO 7.30
Fri	Aug	4	Exeter City	A KO 7.30
Mon	Aug	7	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	H KO 7.45

League/Cup Matches (please note that the Bournemouth games are home first, then away, and not as shown last month):

Sun	Aug	13	NORWICH CITY	H	Note change of date for TV purposes. Kick-off time may be altered.
Tue	Aug	15	AFC BOURNEMOUTH	H (CCC)	Reduced prices apply for this match!
Sat	Aug	19	Southend United	A	Pay on the day. Seats £10, no concessions.
Tue	Aug	22	AFC Bournemouth	A (CCC)	Pay on the day. Terrace £8.50, no concessions.
Sat	Aug	26	LEICESTER CITY	H	
Tue	Aug	29	Grimsby Town	A	Pay on the day. Seats £12, no concessions.
Sat	Sep	2	DERBY COUNTY	H	

Reserves and Youth

Pre-season friendly fixtures are as follows (check with home clubs for venue of youth games):

Sat	Jul	29	Raunds Town	A (ko 3pm)	Sat	Jul	29	Arsenal	A
Tue	Aug	1	Buckingham Town	A	Wed	Aug	2	Q.P.R.	A
Sun	Aug	6	Potton United	A	Sat	Aug	5	Ipswich Town	A
Wed	Aug	9	Hendon	A	Tue	Aug	8	Tottenham Hotspur	H

No information of Football Combination or South East Counties League fixtures is available yet.

Pre-season matches

A 'strong' Town side won 5-1 at Diss Town on Saturday 22 July, with goals from David Oldfield, Tony Thorpe (2), and John Taylor (2). The game also marked the return to active football of Ceri Hughes, but the seriousness of the game may be judged from the fact that Terry Westley played for around 30 minutes. On Tuesday 25th, a reserve side beat Leighton Town 4-3, with Jamie Woodsford scoring a hat-trick. Dwight Marshall scored the other goal, and Italian triallist Pasquale Bruno played the full 90 minutes. A first team match away to Kettering Town ended in a 2-1 defeat, with Marshall scoring the Town goal. As teams and other information tend to be hard to come by, this is the extent of information I will give on these matches.

New Stadium

The planning committee of Luton Borough Council met to consider the planning application on 18 July. The Chief Planning Officer recommended that the application should be granted, subject to a number of conditions. After discussion, the Planning Committee agreed, and a full council meeting which followed agreed unanimously to submit the application to the Secretary of State for the Environment for a decision with a recommendation that it should be granted. The

minister has, in theory, 21 days to give an indication of his decision, but can ask for more time. He has three options, to grant or refuse the application, or to call for a public enquiry.

Meanwhile, opponents of the scheme pledged to continue their fight, saying they would "go all the way to Europe" if necessary.

And finally

A suggestion has been received that a Hatters Matters Extra should be issued if a big news story breaks shortly after an issue has been despatched. I will look at this, but much would depend on the amount of information available, the quality of coverage in the national media, and whether a special mailing could be justified. It is probably fair to say that you will know if an 'Extra' issue is a worthwhile proposition when it lands on your doormat!

HATTERS MATTERS

Issue 8 - August 1995
292 Icknield Way, Luton, Beds, LU3 2JS.

With a new season underway, results so far have been a little disappointing, but perhaps not as much as the performances. As far as Hatters Matters is concerned, it is now becoming established and has 60 subscribers at present. Greater London, Avon and Cambridgeshire lead the way at present with 4 each.

Transfers and Rumours

Terry Westley continued his spending spree by signing defender Darren Patterson from Crystal Palace for £150,000. The fee could rise to £250,000 based on appearances. Patterson, a Northern Ireland international, is 25 years old and started his career at West Brom as a trainee, but joined Wigan on a free and went on to make 97 appearances and score 6 goals. He joined Palace in July 1992 for £225,000, and played 33 games (all last season). He has 8 international caps to date.

The tribunal for Paul Telfer's move to Coventry set a fee of £1.5 million, which seemed to please Luton more than Coventry. The same tribunal then set a fee of £750,000 for Steve Davis' move from Burnley to Luton, but it now seems likely that the club will be appealing against this decision, suggesting that the fee should have been somewhat lower, following a decision in another hearing on the same day.

Juergen Sommer has signed for Queen's Park Rangers for a fee of £600,000, after failing to agree a new contract at Luton. Sommer had signed for Luton in August 1991, and made his league debut against Watford in August 1993. He made a total of 84 appearances for the Town.

Mike Hooper is the target to replace Sommer, and a fee of £200,000 has been agreed with Newcastle United for their third choice keeper.

Liverpool midfielder Jan Molby is another Town target, with the club looking to sign the player on loan with a view to a permanent move.

Barnet midfielder Robert Codner is to have a three week trial with the Town, in an attempt to win a contract. Also on trial is Slovenian international goalkeeper Bosko Boskovic (no prizes for guessing the potential nickname here!). Pasquale Bruno however, has returned to Italy and will not be joining the club.

Injuries

The first month of the season has been marked by a quite astonishing number of injuries, and to save space I don't propose to detail all of them here. The most significant has been Scott Oakes who has been suffering from a hamstring injury, received in the friendly at Torquay. This has kept him out of action since. John Taylor, Ceri Hughes and Richard Harvey all missed pre-season and early season games through injury, as did Julian James, Dwight Marshall and David Oldfield.

Results

13.08.95 NORWICH CITY H 1-3 Att: 7,848 (incl Around 1,800 from Norwich)

Team: K.Davis, Thomas, Peake, M.Johnson, Alexander, Hughes, Waddock, Harvey, Thorpe (Taylor 57 min), Oldfield, Guentchev. Subs not used: S.Davis, Sommer. Ref: Mike Pierce, Portsmouth.

Goals: Jon Newsome, 14 min - Unmarked header from short corner routine. Guentchev, 53 min - penalty, after Alexander had been pushed. Newsome, 55 min - free header after Davis missed Adams corner. Neil Adams, 69 min - 25 yard belter after Alexander gave ball away on edge of penalty area.

Bookings: Peake and Alexander for kicking ball away, Hughes for a foul, and Eadie and Polston of Norwich for delaying free kicks.

Comment: A poor and disjointed performance by the Town, making it difficult to assess how good Norwich are.

15.08.95 AFC BOURNEMOUTH H 1-1 Att: 2,728

Team: Sommer, Thomas, S. Davis, M. Johnson, Alexander, Hughes, Oldfield, Harvey, Marshall (Thorpe 85 min), Taylor, Guentchev. Subs not used: Waddock, Peake. Ref: Gurnham Singh, Wolverhampton.

Goals: Steve Jones, 16 min - Marshall, 70 min - Header after keeper failed to hold onto long range shot from Davis.

Booking: Davis for a foul.

Entertainment: No.

19.08.95 SOUTHEND UNITED A 0-1 Att: 4,630.

Team: Sommer, James, S. Davis, M. Johnson, Alexander (Thomas 68 min), Hughes, Oldfield, Harvey, Marshall (Thorpe 68 min), Taylor, Guentchev (Waddock h/t). Ref: Graham Pooley, Bishop's Stortford.

Goal: Thorpe, 76 min - Low shot after pass from Taylor, with Town catching Southend on the break.

Sent-off: Hughes for punching Phil Gridelet after a late tackle.

Booked: James for a foul, Gridelet for the foul on Hughes, and Bodley of Southend for a foul.

Comment: Not an attractive match, but hard work and determination won it for the Town.

22.08.95 AFC BOURNEMOUTH A 2-1 (AET) Att: 4,844

Team: Sommer, James, S. Davis, M. Johnson, Alexander, Waddock, Oldfield (Matthews 84 min), Harvey (Thomas 84 min), Marshall, Taylor (Thorpe 84 min), Guentchev. Ref: David Orr, Iver.

Goals: Steve Jones, 12 min - got in behind defence to convert cross, Marvin Johnson, 43 min - diving header from Alexander's free kick, Mark Morris, 97 min - header from right wing cross.

Booked: James and Alexander for fouls, Young of Bournemouth for a foul.

Comment: Great entertainment for the neutral, but a painfully inferior performance from the Town.

26.08.95 LEICESTER CITY H 1-1 Att: 7,612 (incl 2,000 from Leicester)

Team: Sommer, James (Peake 78 min), S. Davis, M. Johnson, Linton, G. Johnson, Hughes, Oldfield (Guentchev 78 min), Harvey, Marshall, Taylor (Thorpe 53 min). Ref: Mike Bailey, Cambridge.

Goals: Hughes, 20 min - strong run from inside his own half finished off with cracking 20 yard right foot shot. Gary Parker, 64 min - free kick, heavily deflected off Thorpe.

No Bookings!

Comment: Town will be difficult to beat this season. However, one local paper described this as a diabolical match between two diabolical teams!

29.08.95 GRIMSBY TOWN A 0-0 Att:

Full details in next issue.

Forthcoming fixtures

Sat	Sep 2	DERBY COUNTY	H	
Tue	Sep 5	PERUGIA	H	Anglo-Italian Cup. Special low ticket prices! (Max £6.00)
Sat	Sep 9	Reading	A	Pay on the day. Seats £10.00 no cons, Terrace £8.00, cons £5.00.
Wed	Sep 13	Millwall	A	Pay on the day. Seats £12.00, concessions £6.00.
Sat	Sep 16	SUNDERLAND	H	
Sat	Sep 23	Wolverhampton Wdrs	A	All ticket match. Seats £10.00, no concessions. No sales on the day.
Sat	Sep 30	PORTSMOUTH	H	

Reserves and Youth

Reserves

Wed	Sep 6	QPR	H (7.30)
Mon	Sep 11	Watford	A (7.30)
Wed	Sep 20	Crystal Palace	H (7.30)
Tue	Sep 26	West Ham United	A (7.00)
Wed	Oct 4	Bristol City	H (7.30)

Youth

Sat	Sep 2	Wycombe Wdrs	A
Sat	Sep 9	Oxford United	H
Sat	Sep 16	Cambridge United	H (Lge Cup 1)
Sat	Sep 23	AFC Bournemouth	A
Sat	Sep 30	Bristol City	H

Combination home matches played at Kenilworth Road "until further notice". Youth home matches played at Luton Rugby Club, Kick-off 11.00 am. Check with home club for venue of away games.

The Town reserves kicked off their season, on Monday 14 August, with a 1-1 draw away to Swindon, thanks to a goal from Gary Issott. This was followed up on Wednesday 23rd with a 3-3 draw at home to Spurs. After being 0-3 down, they pulled back with goals from Thorpe (pen), Linton and Rob Matthews. Then on Tuesday 29th, away to Portsmouth a Matthews goal helped to secure a 1-1 draw.

The youth team opened their campaign with a first minute goal from Stuart Douglas, on Saturday August 12th, before going down to Crystal Palace by 5-2. Douglas also scored the second. The first victory came on the 19th, away to Swindon, with Andrew Fotiadis, Steve Augustine and Sean Evers the scorers in a 3-1 win. At home to Colchester on 26th a 2-0 victory was secured with goals from Chris Willmott (pen) and Fotiadis. On Monday 28th, the youngsters played away to Coventry City in the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup preliminary round, drawing 1-1, Willmott the scorer. The replay took place at Kenilworth Road on 31st, but resulted in a 3-0 away win, with the Town unable to convert any of a host of chances.

Pre-season matches

The first team won 5-1 away to Tiverton Town on Monday 31 July, with a hat-trick from Bontcho Guentchev, and 2 goals for Dwight Marshall. This was followed up with a 4-1 victory over Torquay United on Thursday 3 August with another hat-trick for Guentchev, and a goal for Tony Thorpe. The Devon tour was rounded off on Friday 4 August with a

2-0 win at Exeter City, where Thorpe, with a penalty, and Rob Matthews were the scorers. The final friendly for the first team was on Monday 7 August, at home to a weak Spurs side. The result was a 2-0 win for the visitors.

New Stadium

There has not been any further news on this subject.

And finally

For those of you who subscribed to HM on the initial offer of £2.00, through to August '95, this is the final issue you will receive. To continue receiving HM please send a cheque for £5.00, payable to Hatters Matters, which will buy you a further one year subscription. Please accept my apologies for not sending individual begging letters, but with 40 of you falling into this category, it seems easier this way. And if you are unsure whether this applies to you, there will probably be a subtle hint nearby to leave those concerned in no doubt!

HATTERS MATTERS

Issue 9 - September 1995
292 Icknield Way, Luton, Beds, LU3 2JS.
(01582) 573485.

Since the last issue of HM, manager Terry Westley has come under fire from both supporters and the local press, and his job may now be considered to be under some pressure. How long the board will retain patience if things do not improve remains to be seen.

Transfers and Rumours

Terry Westley had a trip to Denmark on Sunday 3 September to watch a midfielder player. This resulted in the signing, on Tuesday 12 September of Danish midfielder Johnny Vilstrup, for £205,000 from Lyngby. The 28 year old is said to be highly rated in Denmark, and would have cost more but for a clause in his contract at Lyngby which fixed the transfer fee.

Triallists Robert Codner, and Bosko Boskovic have both returned from whence they came. The Town have also decided against bidding for 21 year old Hednesford midfielder Gary Fitzpatrick, who had a brief trial spell, after finding that the fee would be around £100,000.

Rob Matthews has been sold to York City for a fee of £85,000. After 11 league appearances, it seems that his chances of first team football were going to be seriously limited this season under a new manager, so the transfer was allowed to go ahead. The deal includes a sell-on clause for Luton to take a cut of any profit from a future move.

German goalkeeper Alex Ogkinc has been on trial at Luton. He is a 27 year old playing for Stuttgart Kickers, who won 25 Under 21 caps for West Germany.

West Ham third choice goalkeeper Ian Feuer has joined the Town on a one month loan period. The 24 year old American was born in Las Vegas and stands 6ft 7in tall. He did not make any league appearances at Upton Park, but had a loan spell at Peterborough last term.

Terry Westley has failed in attempts to bring former Town strikers John Hartson and Mick Harford back to the club on loan. Arsenal rejected the request for Hartson out of hand, whilst Harford has regained his first team place at Wimbledon. It is said that Westley has a long list of strikers as possible targets, and has already had 15 approaches turned down.

There have been rumours that Arsenal are ready to table a bid of £2.5 million to take Steve Davis and Ceri Hughes to Highbury, but these have been denied by Westley.

Injuries

Scott Oakes has had an operation to untangle muscle fibres and will resume training at the end of September. Darren Patterson has had his ankle put in plaster to immobilise it, and will not be able to resume training until October. John Taylor has been suffering from a back problem, which may need an operation. A decision is due to be made on Friday 29th, but this will not prevent Taylor playing on 30th.

Results

29.08.95 GRIMSBY TOWN A 0-0 Att: 4,289
Team: K. Davis, James, S. Davis, M. Johnson, Linton (Peake 82 min), Aleaxander, G. Johnson, Harvey, Oldfield (Woodsford 72 min), Marshall (Taylor 87 min), Guentchev.
Ref: Bill Burns, Scarborough.
No goals, no bookings and not a lot of entertainment.

02.09.95 DERBY COUNTY H 1-2 Att: 6,427 (incl about 500 from Derby)
Team: K. Davis, James, S. Davis, M. Johnson, Alexander (Peake 80 min), G. Johnson, Oldfield (Thorpe 68 min), Harvey, Marshall, Taylor, Guentchev (Woodsford 71 min).
Ref: John Brandwood, Lichfield.
Goals: Marshall, 31 SECONDS, smart shot from reverse pass by Guentchev at end of sweeping move. Dean Sturridge, 15 min - close range gift after Kelvin Davis failed to collect a high ball under pressure. Sturridge, 63 min - free header from left wing cross.
Bookings: Gavin Johnson for kicking the ball away, and Webster of Derby for a foul on Marshall.
Comment: Awful for Town fans after dream start. Derby keeper had to make only one save between 1st and 85th minutes.

05.09.95 PERUGIA H 1-4 Att: 2,352
Team: K. Davis, James, S. Davis, Skelton, Linton, Hughes, Evers, Harvey, Guentchev (Marshall 68 min), Thorpe (Waddock 68 min), Oldfield (Woodsford 68 min).
Ref: Virginio Quartuccio, Napoli.
Goals: Negri, 35 min, Cornachini, 37 min. Guentchev, 45 min - penalty, Cottini, 46 min, Negri, 59 min - penalty.

Bookings: Errr, someone, but not sure who! Bookings only count for Anglo Italian Cup matches anyway.
 Comment: Reasonable debut for 17 year old YTS trainee Sean Evers, but another hugely disappointing performance by the Town.

09.09.95 READING A 1-3 Att: 8,550

Team: K. Davis, James, S. Davis, M. Johnson, Alexander, Linton (Guentchev 74 min), Waddock, G. Johnson, Harvey, Oldfield, Marshall. Subs unused: Peake, Evers. Ref: Ken Leach, Staffs.

Goals: Marshall, 5 min - keeper Sheppard and centre half Wdowczyk collided 25 yards from goal, allowing Marshall to walk the ball into an empty net. Lee Nogan, 17 min - chasing through ball and shooting home after shrugging off an attempted tackle by James. Stuart Lovell, 60 mins - penalty after Linton was judged to have fouled Gooding. Nogan, 69 min - scored after exchanging passes with Lovell and outpacing Steve Davis.

Bookings: Gavin Johnson, James and Alexander, all for fouls.

Comment: Agonising for Town fans, after the good start, watching a performance lacking in teamwork.

13.09.95 MILLWALL A 0-1 Att: 7,076

Team: Feuer, Peake, S. Davis, M. Johnson (James 5 min), Linton, Waddock, Vilstrup, Harvey, Oldfield, Guentchev, Marshall. Subs unused: G. Johnson, Evers. Ref: Roger Gifford, Glamorgan.

Goal: Chris Malkin, 89 min - put clear by a through ball, with the Town defence going missing.

Bookings: Waddock, and Thatcher and Doyle of Millwall, all for fouls.

Comment: Not very pretty, but perhaps a slightly better performance from the Town. But Millwall did not look like a top of the table side.

16.09.95 SUNDERLAND H 0-2 Att: 6,955

Team: Feuer, James, S. Davis, Peake, Linton (Guentchev h/t), Waddock (Taylor 64 min), Vilstrup, Hughes, Harvey, Oldfield, Marshall. Sub not used: Greene. Ref: Richard Poulain, Huddersfield.

Goals: John Mullin, 51 min - clear and looking slightly offside after through ball. Phil Gray, 81 min - chipped Feuer from angle of penalty area after long ball from defence.

Bookings: Vilstrup for a foul, Taylor for dissent, and Ball of Sunderland for a foul on Peake.

Comment: Worst performance of the season so far, with the Town an utter shambles in the 2nd half. "Westley out" was the call from a substantial minority of the crowd late in the game.

23.09.95 WOLVERHAMPTON WDRS A 0-0 Att: 23,659

Team: Feuer, Peake, S. Davis, M. Johnson, Alexander, Vilstrup (Waddock 80 min), Marshall, Guentchev, Taylor (Oldfield 89 min). Sub unused: James. Ref: Neil Barry, Scunthorpe.

Bookings: Hughes and Davis for fouls, and Don Goodman and Mark Atkins of Wolves for dissent and foul.

Comment: Good result for Town, but Wolves never looked the class side that they are supposed to be.

Forthcoming fixtures

Sat	Oct 7	Tranmere Rovers	A	Seats £8, concessions £5, Pay on the day only.
Wed	Oct 11	Genoa	A	Ticket details unavailable at this time. Places still available on coach, contact editor for details (tel 01582 573485).
Sat	Oct 14	WEST BROMWICH A	H	
Sun	Oct 22	Ipswich Town	A (3.00)	Note change of date for Anglia TV. Seats £14 available on the day only, £11.50 on the day or in advance, concessions £8.50 in advance only.
Sun	Oct 29	CHARLTON ATHLETIC	H (2.55)	Note change of date for TV (London, and possibly Anglia)
Sat	Nov 4	Stoke City	A	Seats £12, cons £6, terrace £8, cons £5. Pay on the day only.

Reserves and Youth

Reserves

Mon	Oct 2	Stotfold	A (7.30)	Beds Premier Cup, round 1.
Wed	Oct 4	Bristol City	H (7.30)	
Wed	Oct 11	Brighton & H. A.	A (2.00)	
Wed	Oct 18	Charlton Athletic	H (7.30)	
Wed	Oct 25	Ipswich Town	A (7.30)	
Wed	Nov 1	Wimbledon	A (2.00)	

Youth

Tue	Oct 3	Brantham & Sutton Utd	A	E. Jnr Cup
Sat	Oct 7	Wimbledon	A	
Sat	Oct 14	Brentford	H	
Sat	Oct 21	Crystal Palace	H	LC2
Sat	Oct 28	Brighton & H. A.	A	
Sat	Nov 4	Barnet	H	

Combination home matches played at Kenilworth Road "until further notice". Youth home matches played at Luton Rugby Club, Newlands Road, Kick-off 11.00 am. Check with home club for venue of away games.

The Town reserves lost 3-1 at home to QPR on 6th September, with Jamie Woodsford netting the consolation goal from the penalty spot. They then drew 0-0 at home to Watford reserves on Monday 11th, in a match where Paul McLaren was

sent off for two bookable offences. On the 20th, Crystal Palace won 1-0 at Kenilworth Road, and the bad run continued at West Ham on the 26th with a 2-1 defeat, Woodsford again the scorer.

The youth team lost 1-0 at home to Wycombe Wanderers on Saturday 2 September. A week later they drew 2-2 at home to Oxford with a brace of goals from Andrew Barr. This was followed on 16th with a 5-0 defeat of Cambridge United at Newlands Road, in the South East Counties League Cup. A hat trick for Stuart Douglas was accompanied by goals for Liam George and Steve Augustine. Their boss, John Moore, was not impressed though; he felt that the team relaxed after going 3-0 up in 20 minutes. The 23rd saw a 4-0 victory away to AFC Bournemouth, with goals for Barr (2), Augustine and George. For those wondering where Brantham & Sutton Utd hail from, it could be somewhere in Norfolk, but don't quote me on that!

New Stadium

There still has not been any further news on this subject.

And finally

Thanks to all of you who have renewed your subscriptions for doing so promptly, and saving me an administrative nightmare. Having started a new job this month, things have been a bit hectic, and October is likely to be even worse. I will try to get the next issue of HM out before the Stoke game, but it may be tricky, so please don't despair if it is a little late.

HATTERS MATTERS

Issue 10 - October 1995
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Kohler to sell?

In a surprise move, David Kohler announced on Monday 16 October that he was prepared to relinquish his control of Luton Town FC if a buyer wished to purchase his majority shareholding. His reasons for this are complex to say the least, but he cited a change of priorities in his personal life as a major reason. In addition his lack of financial resources and the stalled progress on the Kohlerdome proposal, particularly with regard to the executors of the Luton Hoo estate, were also given as major considerations. A prepared statement acknowledged that a new owner may receive more co-operation in this matter. No price has been put on Mr Kohler's shares, and he has stated that until a buyer is found, and if one cannot be found, he will continue to run the club to the best of his ability. Club director Cliff Bassett has ruled out the possibility of buying out Mr Kohler, and at present no other party has declared an interest publicly.

In a TV interview on the day of the Ipswich game Kohler made comments to the effect that if no offers were forthcoming, as he expected, some very unpopular decisions would have to be made next month. Similar comments have been made elsewhere since, and it is generally felt that moving the club out of Luton may now be back on the agenda.

Transfers

The planned arrival of Danish international striker Mark Strudal, at the beginning of the month, failed to happen. It was intended to sign Strudal on a 3 month loan as a replacement for John Taylor, but he felt that he was being asked to prove himself, and didn't need to, and so didn't come. Terry Westley only became aware of the players change of mind when he failed to turn up at Luton.

David Greene has been the subject of transfer speculation recently, and Westley has been reported as saying that he would accept a fee of around £300,000 for the player.

Goalkeeper Ian Feuer is to stay at Kenilworth Road for at least another month after West Ham agreed to extend his loan period.

Terry Westley has completed the signing of 23 year old Norwegian striker Vidar Riseth, for a fee of £100,000. The striker stands over 6ft tall and has just completed the season in Norway with Kongsvinger, scoring 12 goals in 25 games. He was previously with Rosenborg Trondheim, and a desire to play in England led him to sign for Town in preference to Borussia Dortmund.

The search for a loan striker has failed to secure a signing, and the list of names mentioned as targets continues to grow. Latest additions to the list were Paul Wilkinson of Middlesbrough and Keith Scott of Stoke City. Both were offered for sale at prices of £500,000 and £300,000 respectively.

David Pleat has expressed an interest in signing Scott Oakes for Sheffield Wednesday. A valuation of £1.3 million has been talked of, with Wednesday striker Guy Whittingham being offered as bait in a part exchange deal. Town manager Westley admitted that Whittingham had been watched, but said that an acceptable offer for Oakes would be nearer £2.5 million.

Former England striker Clive Allen (once of Bordeaux, Manchester City and most London clubs) has been training with Luton after being released by Millwall. He turned down an offer to join Bristol City, and is looking for a club nearer his Chelmsford home. He turned down the offer of a trial for Town, and has now moved on.

Injuries

John Taylor has had an operation to clear a particle of floating bone near to his spine, and although keyhole surgery techniques were used, he is expected to be out of action until the new year.

Aaron Skelton is out of action until next season after suffering cruciate ligament damage. The youngster has, however, been offered a contract extension by the club.

Darren Patterson has had the plaster removed from his ankle and has now resumed training. He could be in contention for the first team by the middle of November.

During the period under review Johnny Vilstrup has been struggling with a thigh injury, and Scott Oakes has still been feeling a reaction to his calf muscle injury.

Other News

It is understood that the club have released Matthew Woolgar from his contract. Woolgar was thought to be one of the most promising youngsters at the club a couple of years ago, but has made little progress recently, and has failed to break into the reckoning for the first team squad. Late last season he had a loan spell at Conference club Merthyr.

A change of routine led to the first home win of the season. As the manager felt the form has been better away than at home, the Portsmouth game was treated as an away match. The team met at noon at a hotel, and then went through the normal routine; have a light lunch, watch football focus on TV, then talk about the days opponents and tactics. The team then arrived by coach at the ground an hour before kick off, all smartly kitted out in club blazers. This routine, with a coach tour of Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire thrown in for good measure, was tried 20 years earlier by Harry Haslam, who is recalled as having told the team on arrival at Kenilworth Road, "We'll be all right here lads — the ground's as bad as ours!"

The Football League has stepped in to sort out the ongoing row over David Preece's departure from Luton Town. They have ordered Derby County to pay a fee for Preece, and agreement has been reached for a fee of £75,000, with a further £25,000 after 25 appearances, and another £25,000 if Preece is part of a promotion winning side at Derby.

Paul McLaren has signed a new two year contract with the Town.

The Town have taken 18 year old Australian John Carbone on trial. He was vice captain of the Aussie under-17 squad last year and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Sport.

Results

30.09.95 PORTSMOUTH

H 3-1

Att: 7,795

Team: Feuer, Peake, S. Davis, M. Johnson, Alexander (James 78 min), Hughes, Vilstrup (Waddock 48 min), Harvey, Marshall, Guentchev, Taylor. Sub unused: Oldfield.

Ref: Bill Burns, Scarborough.

Goals: Marshall, 7 min - run and shot after long clearance by Feuer was headed on by defender. Steve Davis, 23 min - close range shot from Alexanders cross, after keeper failed to hold Vilstrup shot. Paul Walsh, 43 min - neat finish after looking yards offside from through ball. Guentchev, 53 min - penalty, after Gittens was adjudged to have tripped Marshall.

Bookings: John Gittens for the foul leading to the penalty, and Guy Butters for dissent.

Sent off: John Gittens, in the 61st minute, for a second bookable offence, a foul on John Taylor.

Comment: A welcome and long awaited home win. The overall quality of football was better as well.

07.10.95 TRANMERE ROVERS

A 0-1

Att: 6,680

Team: Feuer, Peake, S. Davis, M. Johnson, Alexander, McLaren, Waddock, Harvey, Oakes, Guentchev (Oldfield 63 min), Marshall. Unused subs: James, G. Johnson.

Ref: Phil Richards, Preston.

Goal: John Aldridge, 4 min - unmarked far post header, meeting cross from overlapping full back after ball was given away by Alexander.

Booked: Guentchev for a foul, and Gary Stevens for fouling Guentchev.

Comment: Good for the neutrals, but Town flattered to deceive, winning the corner count but not looking like making the breakthrough.

11.10.95 SC GENOA

A 0-4

Att: 3,759 (incl 200 from Luton)

Team: K. Davis, James (Alexander 30 min), S. Davis, M. Johnson, Linton, McLaren, Vilstrup, Harvey, Oakes, Guentchev (Woodsford 57 min), Oldfield (Thorpe 73 min). Unused subs: G. Johnson, Chenery, Abbey.

Ref: Jim Rushton, Stoke on Trent.

Goals: Skuhravy, 18 min - Mark Hateley style header. Montella, 24 min - easy shot from Skuhravy's cross. Nicola, 32 min - simple conversion of long ball over Town defence. Montella, 85 min - found open goal after Kelvin Davis made a hash of an attempted clearance.

Booked: James for a foul.

Comment: Town had only 2 shots on target in 90 minutes, and were thoroughly outclassed by the home side.

14.10.95 WEST BROM ALBION

H 1-2

Att: 8,042 (incl over 2,000 from WBA)

Team: Feuer, Peake (James h/t), S. Davis, M. Johnson, Alexander, Hughes, Waddock, Harvey, Oldfield, Woodsford, Marshall. Unused subs: Guentchev, McLaren.

Ref: Graham Barber, Warwick.

Goals: Harvey, 19 min - left foot shot past advancing keeper after long ball through the middle by Steve Davis. Lee Ashcroft, 74 min - header from right wing cross by Donovan. Andy Hunt, 83 min - scrambled effort from cross by Donovan.

Booked: Harvey, Feuer and Alexander for fouls, Steve Davis for dissent. Albion's Cunnington, Taylor and Mardon for fouls and Raven for dissent.

Comment: Town played a lot of good football, and put in plenty of effort, but it all went wrong in the last 20 minutes. It might have helped if Davis had converted a penalty awarded after Marshall was brought down.

21.10.95 IPSWICH TOWN**A 1-0**

Att: 9,133

Team: Feuer, Peake, S. Davis, M. Johnson, Alexander, Hughes, Vilstrup (Waddock 51 min), Harvey, Oakes (G. Johnson 76 min), Oldfield, Marshall (Guentchev 87 min).

Ref: Trevor West, Hull.

Goal: Oldfield, 24 min - a right footed shot inside the near post, after turning Linighan inside out with his dribble.

Booked: Hughes for a foul on Sedgley.

Comment: Not the best game, but a gritty display by the Town to hold on to three points. Westley's celebration at the final whistle was reminiscent of David Pleat's celebration at Maine Road in 1983. Ian Feuer was TV's Man of the Match.

29.10.95 CHARLTON ATHLETIC H 0-1

Att: 6,270

Team: Feuer, Peake, S. Davis, M. Johnson, Alexander (Linton 79 min), Hughes (Riseth h/t), Waddock (Guentchev 79 min), Harvey, Oakes, Oldfield, Marshall.

Ref: John Kirkby, Sheffield.

Goal: Gary Nelson, 16 min - collected an over the top pass, and went round Feuer to score after the keeper hesitated long enough to allow Nelson to control the ball.

Booked: Colin Walsh (Charlton) for time wasting with two minutes to go.

Comment: Town fought hard for the game, but still unable to convert chances into goals.

Forthcoming fixtures

Sat	Nov 4	Stoke City	A	Seats £12, cons £6, terrace £8, cons £5. Pay on the day only.
Wed	Nov 8	Cesena	A	Anglo Italian Cup
Sat	Nov 11	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H	
Sat	Nov 18	BIRMINGHAM CITY	H	
Tues	Nov 21	Watford	A	Seats only, £11, cons £8. Concessions not available on the day.
Sat	Nov 25	Barnsley	A	Seats only, £12, cons £6. Concessions not available on the day.
Sat	Dec 2	TRANMERE ROVERS	H	

Reserves and Youth**Reserves**

Wed	Nov 8	Norwich City	H (7.30)
Wed	Nov 15	Oxford United	A
Wed	Nov 22	Southampton	H (7.30)
Tue	Nov 28	Arsenal	H (7.30)**

Youth

Sat	Nov 4	Barnet	H
Sat	Nov 11	Reading	A
Wed	Nov 15	Kettering Town	A (E. Jnr Cup)
Sat	Nov 18	Southampton	A

** This match is scheduled to be played away, but is likely to be switched. This is not yet confirmed.

Combination home matches played at Kenilworth Road, but from Dec 6 to February will be played at Hitchin Town., Youth home matches played at Luton Rugby Club, Newlands Road, Kick-off 11.00 am. Check with home club for venue of away games.

The first fixture of the month for the reserves was in the Beds Premier Cup on Monday 2nd October, when a 3-2 victory was secured after extra time, away to Stotfold (home ground: Roker Park!). Andrew Fotiadis and Jamie Woodsford helped make it 2-2 after 90 minutes, and Stuart Douglas snatched the winner (The opposition in the second round will be Barton Rovers, although the date of the match has yet to be fixed). Two days later a 2-0 home win over Bristol City was secured with goals by Oldfield and Thorpe. After losing 3-1 at Brighton on 11th with a goal from Andrew Fotiadis, winning ways returned to Kenilworth Road with a 6-2 demolition of Charlton Athletic on 18th. Two goals each were scored by Douglas and Nathan Jones, and one apiece for Gary Simpson and Thorpe. A second 1-0 away win at Ipswich Town on 25th was the result of Des Linton making a rare appearance on the scoresheet, and another defender, Julian James, scored the Town goal in a 2-1 defeat at Wimbledon on November 1st.

The youth team finished September with a third consecutive win on the 30th, at home to Bristol City. A brace of goals from Andrew Fotiadis, after Andrew Smith opened the scoring, secured a 3-2 win. This was followed, on the 3rd October, by a 6-0 away win against Brantham & Sutton United in the Eastern Junior Cup. The goalscorers were Liam George (2), Smith, Terry Sweeney, Andrew Barr and Steve Augustine. After a 2-0 defeat by Wimbledon on 7th, Brentford were beaten 4-1, on 14th, by a Town team including 7 first year trainees and a schoolboy. The goals came from Barr, Smith, Augustine and a Chris Willmott penalty. The 21st saw a 1-1 draw with Crystal Palace in the South East Counties League Cup 2nd round with Fotiadis scoring the goal. Then, in the first round of the FA Youth Cup, the Town side demolished Cambridge City away on the 26th. In the 9-1 victory Barr scored 5 of the goals, and Douglas 3, with Fotiadis making up the numbers. The youngsters will be playing away to Leicester City in the next round, on a date to be decided. Finally, on the 28th, Palace won the replay of the previous Saturdays game 4-1, with Willmott scoring the Town goal.

New Stadium

The planning application for the Kohlerdome has been referred to a public enquiry by the Secretary of State for the Environment, a move which has been suggested as being one of political expediency by David Kohler. This will, if permission is finally granted, put the building of the Dome back by up to 12 months. Meanwhile another planning application for a new stadium for Luton Town FC is in the pipeline. Plans have been submitted by Wyncote Developments for a development at the same site, adjacent to junction 10 of the M1, as the Kohlerdome. The project is for a 15,000 seat stadium, which could be extended to 20,000, and for an 80,000 square foot supermarket, accompanied by an indoor sports hall for the local community. There is also a 150 bed hotel in the scheme, which covers about the same area as the Kohlerdome proposal. Wyncote list a variety of proposed uses for the complex, which, being cynical, sound remarkably similar to those already mentioned for the 'dome. It is likely that the building of the stadium under these proposal would be subject to permission being granted for the retail development. This latter application will be considered at the same public enquiry as the Kohlerdome.

And finally

With renewals now completed, I can report that we have some 65 subscribers to HM, and that Cambridgeshire has now taken the lead with 5. The renewal rate was over 95%, which is rather satisfying, as it means that HM must be about right for you.

The next issue of HM will be coming to you early, that is after the Watford game. This is due to my being sent on a training course for work. You can then expect the December issue to sent out just after Christmas, so that you can get news of the FA Cup 3rd round over a week before it happens.