

## **LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS CLUB**

# TERSNEWS

"VOICE OF THE FANS"

September 1989

Issue No. 3

Three Good buys..



Graham Rodger



Lars Elstrup



**Five Goodbyes** 



Steve Foster



**Ashley Grimes** 



Ricky Hill





Raphael Meade

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### HATTERS NEWS VOICE OF THE FANS

Present LTSC Committee:

President — Mr. Nick Owen Vice-President — Mr. Brian Swain Chairperson — Mrs. P. Gray LTFC Representative — Mr. B. Tomlins Deputy Chairperson — Mr. V. Fussell General Secretary — Mrs P. Dawkins Membership Secretary — Mrs. M. Fussell Treasurer — Mr. M. Chapman Press Officer — Mr. T. Hunt Other Officers — Mrs. B. Briggs, Mr. J. Chapman, Mr. T. Clayden, Mr. N. Cooper, Mr. P. Francis, Mr. S. Goode, Mr. J.A. Pyper, Mr. M. Ayres and Mr. T. Shanley

### Message from the Supporters Club Chairperson

Dear Supporter,

Welcome to the first newsletter of our second season as a supporters club. Many thanks to all those who turned up for our first AGM in July and who showed their confidence in us as a committee by re-electing us back into office.

We did have to say a very big thankyou & goodbye to Jackie our secretary and her husband Peter who decided not to stand for the committee this year as Jackie has given birth to a beautiful daughter and they didn't feel they could devote so much of their time to the Supporters Club.

Congratulations must go to Brian Cole the Football Clubs' new Chairman who I know is very pleased with the direction in which the supporters club is going and has offered his help & support to us.

The close season has seen a few other changes behind the scenes with the new position of Mr Bill Tomlins as the new chief executive taking over from Mr John Smith who held that position for many years. Last but not least we congratulate Danny Wilson on becoming our new Football Club captain who I'm sure will come along to one of our meetings in the near future.

Welcome to all staff who have joined the Football Club whether it be in a playing capacity or behind the scenes, we hope your time at Luton is a very happy one.

We are very pleased with the amount of new members joining the supporters club and thanks must go to the ticket office staff who very kindly put one of our membership forms in all their outgoing mail.

We intend to move forward this season with a wider variety of social get togethers and other activities. At present we are looking into the possibility of starting a couple of football teams one junior & one senior, if you are interested please give our committee member Tom Shanley a ring on Luton 863992 evenings only, who has taken on the role as football coach.

After each first team home match you will have the chance to meet two committee members in the Stewards room behind the main stand where they will be selling tickets for forthcoming events and taking renewals and new memberships or just there for a chat, so rather than just leave after a match pop along for a visit.

I am very pleased to be able to tell you we've got our own space in this season's programme so you'll be able to keep up to date with information on events etc.

Don't forget to make yourself heard when watching the Town on a Saturday afternoon.

Yours in Sport.

Pam Gray. LTSC Chairperson.

### ... SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWSDESK

#### **SOCIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

One of the functions of a successful Supporters club is to provide events of entertainment for its members. With this in mind we have organised a number of social

evenings and have pleasure in providing details of events confirmed and proposed. Remember all are by TICKET ONLY and restricted to supporters club members.

Don't forget to obtain your tickets early to avoid missing out

Tickets for these various events are obtainable via the post or after any first team game from the LTSC Committee representative in the Stewards Room at the rear of the Main Stand.

■ Events already taken place this season (See report below) 31st August — Luton Town S.C. Quiz Evening (Football, Sport & General Knowledge)

#### Our Future Social Calendar:

28th September 1989 — Nostalgia Evening with Brian Swain

(Thursday) 7.30 pm.

Film Show on one of Luton's Great Season's Tickets available from the LTFC Stewards Room,

At LTFC, Joe Payne Lounge, Maple Road, Luton.

or on the evening.

9th October 1989 — Terry Mancini — Luton's New Assistant Coach 7.30 pm. Joe Payne Lounge, Maple Road, Luton.

12th December 1989 — ★ Christmas Quiz Night 7.30 pm. At LTFC, Joe Payne Lounge, Maple Road, Luton.

#### **■** Other Events suggested

Guest Speaker Evenings \* Ron Howard — Luton's Chief Scout — to be confirmed)

\* Junior Supporters Day with the Luton Players. In the week starting the 23rd October. (See them in training, collect autographs, take photographs etc.)

#### YOUR CHANCE TO HELP ...

Would you like to have your chance to contribute to the "Hatters News"? If so, please send your article to the Editor, LTSC Newsletter, c/o LTFC, Kenilworth Stadium, 1 Maple Road, Luton, Beds. Let us hear about your favourite player, first match, and most memorable occasion or occasions etc.

All articles will be considered for possible inclusion in future publications

.. So get writing now!

For our first social function of the new season we decided to hold a quiz evening which had been recommended and arranged by one of our committee members through Barber Sporting Enterprises. With it taking place so soon from the start of the season, unfortunately the event wasn't very well attended. Anyway, those who were there, enjoyed themselves thoroughly. With all participants splitting up into teams of four, a lot of tactical play become evident by certain members, letting other teams hear their answers verbally (which were wrong to fool others seating near by) rather than writing them down.

At the close of the evening, trophies were presented to the outright winning team consisting of Richard Hedges, John Pyper, Lawrence Grumit and, last but not least, Mike Forsyth, with the runners-up also

Eddie Barber, Quizmaster, of Barber Sporting Enterprises, expressed his thanks for being asked to arrange the evening, and in return, we thanked him for a totally enjoyable evening, and hope to arrange another in the near future.\*

\*Which at the time of going to press has been arranged for the 12th December 1989. SEE YOUR LUTON TOWN PROGRAMME, LUTON NEWS or our next edition of the

LTSC NEWSLETTER (due out mid-November) for further details.

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ON TOUR WITH THE HATTERS IN THE EMERALD ISLE

By John Pyper



Having always wanted to visit Ireland, and being a fanatical Luton Town F.C. supporter, when the news that the Hatters were to go on tour for six days to this lovely country I could not turn down the opportunity of combining the two together for a weeks holiday.

So, myself and three just as fanatical supporters, flew out the same day (27th July) as the Luton Team from the Luton International Airport to Dublin. The Hatters had arranged two games over there versus Shamrock Rovers (Premier Division Team) on the 28th July and the other versus Bray Wanderers (First Division Team) on the 31st July.

Arriving in Dublin early evening we decided to venture out from our Hotel in the centre of Dublin, to look for the teams headquarters, which we had been told was based 10-15 mins, walk away. Having had no joy in finding it we went off for a bite to eat, and later in one of the many hundreds of bars in Dublin, we had a Guinness or two with some of the locals, and were shocked to find that we four English lads had walked through one of the worst parts of North Dublin, whilst looking for the LTFC headquarters, and the locals are not the friendliest of people towards the English in those parts.

The following evening we found the opposite at Dalymount Park, as the Shamrock Rovers fans welcomed us and the four other Luton Town supporters, who had also made the trip, in open arms. After the match in their supporters Club bar they were all pleased that they had seen a better game even though they had lost, than some had seen at the same ground where Tottenham Hotspur had played Bohemians F.C. 0-0 six days earlier in a 10,000+ crowd.

Before moving onto Bray from Dublin for the last match on Monday evening, we had time to fit in two further games involving English League Teams — Shelbourne v West Brom — Saturday 29th July, and back to Dalymount Park on Sunday evening for the Shamrock Rovers v Huddersfield Town with the ex-Aston Villa striker, Peter Withe, coming on later in the game.

Prior to the Huddersfield match, though we had a great time at the Gaelic Football match (Co. Dublin v Co. Meath). The locals told us that if you wanted to see something totally different from the every day soccer match in this country, then visit a Gaelic Football Match, and sure they were right! With the local team County Dublin beating County Meath in the final of the Leinster Cup by 2-12 to 1-11, which in points after referring to the rule book was 18pts to 14pts. With a crowd of just under 57,000 crowded into Croke Park, Dublin the atmosphere was electric, with the lead changing hands twice with five minutes to go from the final whistle. Dublin qualfied for the Semi-final of the All-Ireland Gaelic Final





Luton Captain, Danny Wilson, with Captain of Bray before Kick-off.

Players in the Bray Hotel Bar.

On Monday we made our way south to the seaside resort of Bray (12 miles south of Dublin), which is the largest resort on the east coast of Ireland. Considering that it was their peak season the seafront was very quiet. Speaking to the locals the resort had lost its appeal, due to the age of the continental cheap package tour and the ease in which people venture further afield from Dublin for their holidays.

With the small Bray Wanderer's Carlisle ground not having floodlights, kick-off time was at 7.00 pm, so we had time to visit the ground which was a stone's throw from the seafront (one large clearance from the pitch and the ball may have landed in the sea!). Whilst at the ground there was plenty of pre-match preparation going on with the groundsman putting his last minute touches to the pitch, which had not been watered for many weeks due to the lack of rain and the ban on hoses. This part of Ireland had not seen rain since mid-June so they got in the local armed forces to water it. We also met the Bray Wanderers Chairman, who knew straight away that we were Luton Town fans, and shook our hands as he was overjoyed at the visit of the first English First Division team to Bray. And he invited us to come along to the after match reception, being held in Luton Town FC's honour at the main hotel in Bray.

After the match in which Luton won by a whisker 1-0 in front of a crowd of 1,200 (approx) I collected a few autographs of both teams, plus many souvenirs of our visit before going on to the reception, where the players had their after match meal with drinks in the bar, where we were able to have a chat with some of them.

/ After the Luton Town players had left we stayed on until closing, which in Ireland varies from 11.00 to 12.30, and had a talk with officials from Bray W. F.C. with the main subject being the 'Plastic pitch' and the away fans ban.

Thinking that the football had finished until we return on Friday to go on to Notts County on Saturday, we were wrong as we were persuaded to go back up to see a rearranged Shamrock Rovers match versus Brighton & HA. at Dalymount Park on Thursday 3rd August. In between time, we did have time to visit a lot of the lovely countryside before returning

My overall opinion of the tour and holiday was, I can't wait for Luton Town to return there next season and experience the wonderful welcome again from those lovely Irish football supporters and to visit those other bars we didn't get to!

#### STATISTICS OF THE TOUR IN IRELAND

Friday 28th July 1989 v Shamrock Rovers 2-0 to Luton Scorers lan Dowie & (At Dalymount Park, N. Dublin) Kingsley Black

Attendance - 2,600

Monday 31st July 1989 v Bray Wanderers 1-0 to Luton Scorer Danny Wilson (At Carlisle Grounds, Bray) Attendance — 1,300 (approx)

Yours in Sport,

John Pyper, Peter Tullio, Dave & Paul Stanyon.

## HATTERS MASTERMIND No.3

#### \* Your chance to win a Luton Town Souvenir Voucher and a LTFC Autographed Matchball

Identify this team made up of former Luton Town Players by the following clues. Questions are as follows:

Christian names must be given not initials.

- Did this Goalkeeper specialise in short back and sides?
- Could be have been related to a former Wolves and Northern Ireland striker.
- No. 3 Same name as a neighbouring Bedfordshire village?
- A qualified chartered accountant he came in 'andy' on many occasions.
- No.5 This centre half was rarely in a pickle despite his name.
- Wore International shirts more times than any other Town player.
- No. 7 Was he fluent in a neighbouring European language?
- A member of the Royal Family?
- A specialist in fast food?
- Born in Aldershot, he played in the World Cup Finals.
- A rolling stone doesn't gather any.

Send your entries on a postcard or paper to:

LTFC Supporters Club, "Hatters Mastermind" No. 3, c/o LTFC, 1 Maple Road. Luton, Beds. LU4 8AW. MUST be handed in to any LTSC committee member or to be received by first post on 31st october 1989.

Rules of entry - All entries to be limited to LTFCSC members ONLY and in the event of any close result the committee's decision will be final. Also no present

In the event of a tie all correct entries will be put into a hat and one drawn out at our next nearest social event after the closing dates.

#### ★ COMPETITION WINNER OF OUR SECOND★ HATTERS MASTERMIND

With many correct entries to all 10 questions a winner was drawn out from the hat at our Annual General Meeting and that lucky person being: Mr. E. Barker of 61, Wadhurst Avenue, Luton. WELL DONE.

Answers were as follows:

No. 1 Keith Allen. No. 2 Ron Baynham. No. 3 Ken Hawkes. No. 4 George Cummins. No. 5 Mike O'Hara. No. 6 John Bramwell. No. 7 (a) Nottingham Forest (b) Wolverhampton Wanderers (c) Stockport County, No. 8 v Birmingham City at Northampton, v Man City at Old Trafford Man Utd. No. 9 Halifax Town, No. 10 David Brogan

### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATI

At the commencement of our second year, it is the Supporters Club's aim to double last season's membership. Currently new members are outweighing renewals and the supporter of the supporter oand a very warm welcome is extended to our new recruits. Present members please could you prompt old members to re-sign for they were responsible for giving us such a great start to last season.

Membership forms are pouring in from all corners of the globe — from Finland to Barbados, as well as the four home countries. A special mention must be made of the group of new members in Ireland — Friends made on the Town's pre-season Tour.

Our members are drawn from all walks of life, including several family groups and encompass all age groupings. At present our eldest member is Mr. Stanford Tripp of Luton, who was born at the turn of the century. While Master Paul Woolstenholmes of Langford, Beds aged 2 years has the honour of

Finally, a reminder of our current club membership fees:

Existing Members — Adults – £3.00, Child/OAP's – £1.00 New Members - Adults - £5.00, Child/OAP's - £3.00

Don't forget that if you require information about the Supporters Club or you wish to sign-up yourself or a friend, then visit the Luton Town Stewards Room, based at the rear of the Main Stand after any first team game, where you will find two LTSC Committee representatives to assist you.

They will be in attendance there for ½ hour after every match.

Many Thanks, Merilyn Fussell, Membership Secretary,





### FROM OUR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

When asked by Pam Gray if I would like to deal with the Supporters Club mail coming in from overseas, I had a vision of being about as busy as a deck chair attendant in Skegness in January! How wrong I was.

Letters have come in quite steadily, and to date we heard from Hatters Fans in 10 different countries including Bulgaria, Iraq, Poland and Nigeria to name but four.

The most interesting letter to date, however, came from Juhani Leppanen in Turku, Finland, who wrote to tell us of the L.T.F.C. Supporters Club in Finland, which currently boasts a membership of 50, no less. Juhani goes on to say how they produce a joint newsletter with Watford and Ipswich fans. The title is of course WILU! The Committee are presently looking at appointing Juhani and Co. as our official Finnish Branch.

This summer I was lucky enough to visit Barbados on holiday and during my stay got into a lively discussion with a local security guard about cricket. As the conversation came to an end I was asked if I went to Football in England. I said that I did and that I followed a team called Luton Town. The reaction was amazing, here was I expecting the poor innocent to say "who?" when instead he began to list all the players, one by one! When I then produced the Club's Cup History Book, the response was even more incredible. A new friendship was firmly established plus I had recruited our first member in Barbados. Even my wife was impressed!

Are any of you looking for a Luton Town Pen Pal? If so, please write directly to:

1. Mr T. Georgieff, C.L.124 vh.1 ap. 18 Z.K. G. Patleshev Varna Bulgaria

2. Mr P. Ademola, C/o Mr O.F. Adediran Industrial Training Fund P.M.B. 12660 Ikeja Lagos State Nigeria



**Enjoy the Season. NICK COOPER** 



### **FACE IN THE CROWD**



If you are the lucky person boxed or know of this supporter then please contact the LTSC in writing, enclosing a photograph of yourself to claim your Souvenir Prize.

For interest this photograph was taken from the balcony of the Town Hall during the reception the day after the Littlewoods Cup Final defeat v Notts Forest — April 89.

### WHERE ARE THEY NOW? by Brian Swain

WHEN YOU ARE asked to write a series under the umbrella name of the headline above, article number one poses an immediate problem: who to start with out of so many I have watched and admired in my years of following the Town?

I make no apology for choosing a man most of you know is still knocking around Luton, and still playing football at 37: Alan West, bought for the then huge sum and club record fee of £100,000 in the autumn of 1973 to complete the side Harry Haslam was building to win promotion at the end of that season.

And he came to Kenilworth Road because he could touch his toes! The signing was a surprise to football. Three weeks earlier FA Cup holders Sunderland had persuaded Burnley to part with their young midfield star. But at Roker Park his world was shattered when he failed a medical, because of a back problem.

"That was very difficult", he recalls. "I had been up there three days, was delighted at the move, and then everything was turned upside down. The specialist gave the impression I would be in a wheelchair within a couple of weeks.

"Thankfully I am still playing football 16 years later, and while I have an irregularity in my back it has never been a problem. I was disillusioned when I went back to Burnley from Sunderland, but when I look back now I know it was what many would call fate that was ensuring everything turned out for the best. If I had gone to Sunderland I would not have had the happiness and contentment I found at Luton.

"Harry Haslam came in for me three weeks later. Luton knew about the so-called back problem. Harry and Doc Burrows completed all the usual fitness checks, and the doc said: 'Let me see you bend down and touch your toes,' I did. 'You're fit!' he said. And I think I proved him right."

Westie, a right-footer who made the left side of midfield tick, went on to play for the Town for eight years, most of them as skipper. He went on to Millwall after 272 league games for us, and was then a successful player-manager at Hitchin for four years. Baldock was the next stop, for two seasons, and Vauxhall Motors are the latest to harness his instinctive touch and vision.

Alan is a northerner, and still proud of it. He was born in Hyde and started his football career in Burnley. His girl-friend there was Cathy, Lancastrian through and through. They married 15 years ago, and moved into a house at Limbury which is still their home.

But they are changed people from the youngsters I first knew. They became committed Christians, and that is now the major part of their life. Alan is a church minister, and has become a kind of Lutonian by adoption. "We didn't have any roots in Luton when we got here", he recalled. "I didn't even know where it was until I got here — I just knew it was down South, where they talked a bit funny.

"But I really enjoyed playing for Luton. I had chances to leave, but I was enjoying my football too much to go anywhere else. Then, because of my involvement in the church I started to build up a big circle of friends, and now we have hundreds here in Luton. This is our home — we're committed to the place and love it. And our two boys talk a bit funny too!"

Ben, 11, and seven-year-old Josh might not appreciate until they are older just how lucky they have been in having a Mum and Dad like theirs. And yes, if they show promise, Dad will cheerfully encourage them to try to be professional footballers. I'd love to be around when someone comes to write a 'Where are they now?'



Alan West during his playing days with Luton.

Dear Supporters Club,

column about those two!

Many football clubs lose their roots sometimes when success comes their way. That's one reason I was pleased with the formation of the Luton Town Supporters Club. This enables both the supporters and the club to be continually aware of one anothers feelings towards events on the playing side and "off-the-field". The close liaison with other clubs' supporters is also important and we all have to adapt a mature attitude toward followers of rival teams — especially on match days. It's easy to sit back in a public house lounge discussing Soccer with other fans from different clubs, but much, much harder to sit or stand "side by side" on the terraces watching the two chosen clubs "do battle" against one another. As football supporters we must not see the game with "blinkers on", we have to acknowledge all the good things we see in other teams' play and club organisation. It is no good for us to "slate-off" the opposition just because their side are on form and our team are having an "off-day".

When we lost the Littlewoods Cup Final last season to Notts Forest I was most impressed with the "Hatters" fans' attitude. We all took defeat in the right manner — very disappointed for our club and ourselves, but pleased for the opposition.

At Luton the foundation of the supporters club is laid down by hard working, fully involved individuals who spend a lot of their spare time for the love of the game. Other supporters clubs too have their cornerstones to build around, 15 miles from where I live at Millmoor, Rotherham, a gentleman named Deek Dalton runs the Millers Supporters Club, without even being able to sit upright. Because of a crippling disease he cannot watch his beloved team play from a standing or sitting position, but has to lie down to see his side do battle with the opposition!

To me that is devotion to the club. Outside the area there are loyal Luton supporters too. Take Keith Brookbanks of Devonshire Road in Liverpool for instance. Ever since the early 1980's, Keith and his scouser mate Dave, have followed Luton Town F.C. They were born and bred on Mersevside (well, it once was Lancashire), and follows Luton Town

For instance they were there at Notts County for a pre-season game, at Oxford too, and obviously couldn't miss the home game against the team he loves to hate, Liverpool, the other week. What makes Mr. Brookbanks even more of a "character" is his knowledge of Non-league Football. He often goes to watch teams like South Liverpool or Southport play when the Town are not in action, and when I told him Luton Town reserves were playing Berkhamsted Town in a pre-season friendly, he even knew which league they played in! When Eaton Bray United folded and were expelled from the South Midlands League a couple of season ago, Keith even told me he knew that the reason was due to the playing field belonging to the village. and not to the football club. How he gets to know these things I'll never know!! cont .

LETTER SECTION – continued

I like to think I'm a dedicated supporter too, but being a married man with four young children it does have its drawbacks, making it difficult to follow the "Hatters" from such a distance.

My wife doesn't particularly like football, although my eldest children Lisa (11 years of age) and Mark, 10, do enjoy going to matches. They were certainly thrilled last season with Luton's two nil victory against Everton at Goodison Park. Families where mum, dad, gran, grandad and all the kids follow the same team have an advantage over those who don't, as they can all "chip-in" on the travelling expenses, etc.

Last season I was forced to see most Town games by "hitching" lifts on the motorways, although when we played Newcastle United last April, the Bobbers Travel Club were kind enough to give me a lift back to Sheffield on their coach. Generally speaking "thumbing a lift" has been a cheap and efficient way for me getting to see the Hatters play. When we "saved-ourskins" in that dramatic last game against Norwich City back in May, a Luton fan from Harrogate in Yorkshire gave me a lift back within 10 minutes of waiting by the M1 slip road (Junction 11) off Dunstable Road. You meet a great many supporters of other clubs too when you're hitch-hiking, and although there is an element of risk involved, I've had many an interesting journey talking soccer with various fans.

I hope I shall be able to see the majority of games the town play this season, and although this is the first year I've not renewed my season ticket, I can assure you I'll do my utmost to get to see the first team games. When I cannot be there you can bet your life I'll have my "trannie" with me and Radio 2 better have a reporter at Kenilworth Road, otherwise I'll pull what's left of my hair out strand by strand!!

Hope to be at Highfield Road, Coventry the following week though, and I'm sure by then "The Hatters" will be nearer the top of the Division.

Many Thanks Geoff Evans Whitwell, Worksop, Notts.

#### Editor

Try and make it to as many matches as possible, as we'll miss those enlightening posters and banners you display in the Oak Road Stand!

#### STOP PRESS . . . STOP PRESS . . . STOP PRESS

For our next edition, due out by mid-November, we intend to have a Buy 'n Swop section for any supporter wishing to purchase or swop any Luton Souvenir in the way of:

\* Programmes, Old Photos, Player's Autographs, etc.

Interested, if so write in now to the LTSC Editor.

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Anyone who may like to advertise in our next edition please contact the LTSC Newsletter Editor and he will forward you the various rates.

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At the time of going to press we are also forming a LUTON TOWN Supporters Club Under-18 Football Team.

Anyone who feels like becoming a Star overnight please contact our LTSCFC Juniors Coach — Martin Ayres on Luton 26478.

We are at present arranging a match with a lst Div. Supporters Club Team for our Over-18's Team.

#### CHRISTMAS SURPRISE?

For our junior members we are at present looking into running a coach trip to one of this years XMAS/NEW YEAR PANTOMIME's in the local area. Further details of dates and times etc. see our next edition of Hatters News.

#### SPONSOR-A-GOAL

We are about to launch a scheme where you can help the Luton Town Supporters Club and at the same time help yourself or yourself & company.

We are calling it "Sponsor-a-Goal", and its where you can donate so much per goal scored by any one Luton Town player throughout the season. We would then publish in the Hatters News and Luton Town programme on a regular basis a chart listing every person or company who has donated the most as the season progresses.

At the end of the season we would put the top names or companies into a Special Prize Draw.

For more detailed information contact our LTSC Press Officer at the following address:

Sponsor-a-Goal, Luton Town Supporters Club, c/o LTFC, Kenilworth Road Stadium 1, Maple Road, Luton, Beds. LU4 8AW.

The Editor of the newsletter would like to take this opportunity in thanking those who contributed towards this edition.

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