



# LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS CLUB HATTERS NEWS

*"VOICE OF THE FANS"*

March 1990

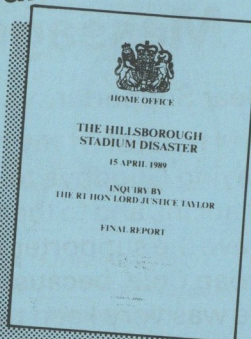
Issue No. 5

Luton Town Player Profile  
starring David Beaumont  
and Marvin Johnson

LTFC  
AGM  
Report

Hatters  
Mastermind  
No. 5

All-Seater Stadiums or not?



Supporters views  
on the Taylor Report

Where are they Now!  
Starring Paul Price & Lil Fuccilo

Just for Fun  
Puzzle!



Who will be the winners of these  
Trophies this season?  
Be there to find out —  
Details **INSIDE!**

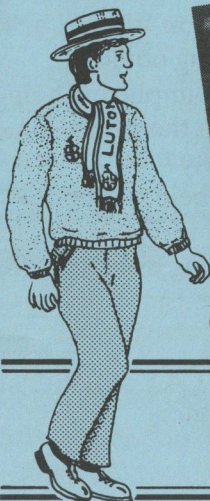
Letters  
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Where was this found?

Relocation  
Debate!

Wembley Arena  
Trip Report



Find out what  
Cherry Newberry is up to?

**MEMBERS HELPLINE  
and MUCH MORE!**



**MAKE CLOSER LINKS WITH THE CLUB**



# 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  
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 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,

I must start my notes in this newsletter by saying Goodbye to Ray Harford and Terry Mancini, and to thank them for all the help they gave the supporters club. Also my thanks go to Brian Cole, because as Chairman of the Board he was very keen to liaise with the supporters club, keeping us in touch with important issues; I am sure that we will enjoy the same kind of relationship with Henry Richardson, the Club director who was recently assigned to work with us.

Goodbye and good luck to Mick Harford and Roy Wegerle. We all hope they will be

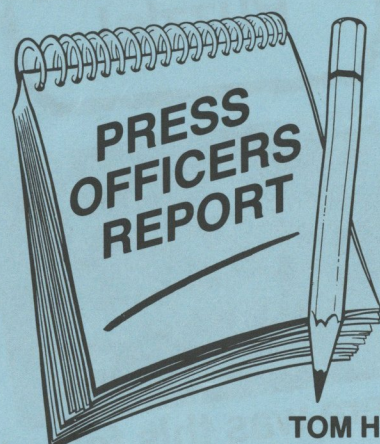
happy at their new clubs.

As the season comes to a close and points are so vital, our vocal support is needed more than ever, don't let the team down — cheer them up the table.

Pam

'Up the Hatters'

Pam Gray — LTSC Chairperson



TOM HUNT

If you are reading this is likely that you are already a member of the fastest growing Supporters Club in the U.K., the Luton Town Supporters Club. If, however, you have borrowed this publication you may be interested in how the Supporters Club was formed.

The seeds were sown in 1987 and flowered in 1988 when the first committee was formed. Our aims were to provide a link between the Football Club and its fans and to provide Social Functions for our members.

Our "Guest Speakers" Evenings have proved a great success with many personalities such as Danny Wilson, Roy Wegerle, Lars Elstrup, John Dreyer, John Faulkner, Ray Harford, Ron Howard, Brian Swain, ITV's Nick Owen, Patrick Barclay and Ian Hemley giving us tales of their experiences and answering questions from the audience.

Our two video nights, with the highlight of Raddy Antic's goal at Maine Road, went down very well as did our Junior members visit to Wembley Stadium and tour around Kenilworth Stadium, and just recently a trip to Wembley Arena to see "Holiday on Ice".

The presentation Evening at "The Coliseum" nightclub where Julian James and Mick Harford, scouped the trophies was enjoyed by all attending and our young fans were not forgotten as a "Meet the Players" Day was arranged.

Quiz evening where the players led the competing teams and showed that their ability is not only in the feet went down very well with our members and we are extremely proud of our quality publication "Hatters News".

Our Supporters Club football team have already completed fixtures against supporters of Aston Villa, Wimbledon and Crystal Palace gaining a notable victory against Aston Villa with double figures being obtained.

Could some of our players help Jim and the lads in their fight for First Division safety?

As you can see being a Supporters Club member brings many advantages including discount off purchases from the Luton Town Souvenir Shops.

SO DON'T DELAY JOIN TODAY!

Forget the rest,  
Join the Best!

## ... SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWSDESK ...

### SOCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Below you will see some of the events we have coming up in the next two months. We will remind you that ALL are by ticket only and restricted to supporters club members ONLY.

**Don't forget to obtain your tickets early to avoid disappointment.**

TICKETS FOR THESE EVENTS ARE OBTAINABLE IN THREE WAYS:

- via the post — to LTSC c/o Luton Town F.C., 1 Maple Road, Kenilworth Stadium, Luton, Beds LU4 8AW.
- from our Supporters Club Kiosk. (To the side of the Main Stand behind the Police Operations Room.)
- and at other events subject to availability on the night.

### Forthcoming Events ...

**19th March 1990**

Guest Speaker Night. "MIKE LANGLEY"

The Outspoken Sports Reporter of the People Newspaper, at the Joe Payne Lounge, LTFC. Ticket Admission £2.00.

**29th April 1990**

The Luton Town Supporters Club 'Player of the Season' Presentation Evening.

Venue — Coliseum Nightclub, Gordon Street, (rear of Town Hall), Luton.

**NOTE:** As the event is taking place in a night club the age limit is for eighteen and over, so we intend to hold a special treat for all our younger members. (SEE YOUR LOCAL PRESS or LTFC PROGRAMME FOR MORE DETAILS.)

DON'T MISS OUT ON THESE EVENTS!

Other events still to be confirmed: (Easter Holidays)  
 Junior Members Open Day with the players  
 plus further Player "Chat Shows".

### Members Outing to "Holiday on Ice" - Wembley

February half term was an ideal time for a family outing. After a great deal of discussion we decided to go and see 'Holiday on Ice' at Wembley Arena. This decision proved to be the right one, as everybody thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Not only was the show good, but the company was excellent. It was so nice to have Cherry Newberry with her family and Jan Bavister (catering) with her family, joining our social outing.



We left Kenilworth Road at 5.30 p.m. — a little early really, but you can never judge the traffic, especially on a Friday night. On arriving at Wembley we had time for a little light refreshment before finding our seats. Nick Cooper spent his time visting the hallowe'd turf for the third year running, although this year no Luton Town to take centre stage — maybe next year. The show was most entertaining, colour and costume was wonderful! The children stayed enthralled throughout. After such a long day wouldn't you think the children would sleep all the way home? No such luck, fun and games were on their menu!! Poor Cherry was

exhausted and to prove it someone took a photo of her — did you know she slept with her mouth open AND snored! Thankyou to everyone who made the trip so enjoyable.

*Yours in sport*  
 Pam Gray, Chairperson

They all had a great time, as you can see!



### LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS CLUB 'Player of the Season' PRESENTATION EVENING

from 7.00 to 11.00 pm Ticket cost — £6.00

This being our main event of the year tickets will be very sought after, so we advise you to obtain them as early as possible, as there is a limited number. All tickets sold on a first come-first served basis.

Last season every member of the first team and youth team squads attended making it an evening to remember for all Luton Town Fans.

The three awards, which were awarded for various categories and sponsored by two local companies LUDLOWS OF LUTON and TEK POWER TOOLS, plus the other by our Milton Keynes Branch.

Winners last season were MICK HARFORD, winning two trophies for Players' Player of the Season and LTSC Player of the Season, with the other awarded to JULIAN JAMES for Young Player of the Season.

### TICKET APPLICATION FORM (\*For two members only)

I enclose a \*Cheque/\*P. Order for £ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets at £6.00 per head. (LTSC Membership No's required for each applicant)

Name .....

Address .....

LTSC Membership No. ....

Name .....

Address .....

LTSC Membership No. ....

Please send your remittance (payable to LTSC) to: LTSC Player of the Season Presentation Evening, LTSC, c/o LTFC, 1 Maple Road, Luton, Beds. LU4 8AW. (Enclose S.A.E. for return of tickets).

### \* LTSC Xmas Quiz Evening Report \*

For our second quiz evening of the season we invited six first-team players along to act as playing captains for each team of four. All supporters club members who filled the Joe Payne Lounge, and wished to take part, had their names put in a hat and three lucky members for each team were pulled out.

Eddie Barber the Quiz Master of Barber Enterprises, who also set the questions of which 60% were on sport (mostly football), spent a lot of the evening picking on Graham Rodger for the time he and his team were taking to answer the questions, but Graham had the last laugh as they finished outright winners, beating the team of Iain Dowies' 25-21 in the final.

Iain's team had the consolation of being the team with the highest number of points on aggregate over the evening.

The other players who attended were: Kingsley Black, Danny Wilson, Alec Chamberlain, and Mick Harford.

Many thanks to Barber Enterprises of Milton Keynes, who we hope to contact again in the near future for another evening.



The winning team with their trophies. (From left to right: Elizabeth Hansell, Ian Bywaters, David Elder & Graham Rodger)



## PLAYER PROFILE

### Dave Beaumont

A series of questions were asked to the players, in which we now relay to the Supporters Club,

**Full Name** DAVID ALAN BEAUMONT

**Age** 26

**Date of Birth** 10-12-63

**Height** 6'

**Weight** 12st 4lbs

**Previous Clubs** DUNDEE UNITED

**Married** YES TO KAY

**Children** DAUGHTER NAMED DAWN

**Likes** PLAYING GOLF

**Dislikes** BIG MOUTHS AND SMOKING

**Favourite other player** MICK HARFORD

**Most memorable match** LITTLEWOODS CUP FINAL  
V NOTTINGHAM FORREST

**If you were not a Footballer, what other job would you do?**  
CIVIL ENGINEER

**Favourite Television Show** ONLY FOOLS AND HORSES

**Hobbies outside Football** PLAYING GOLF

**Favourite Food** LASAGNE

**Favourite Drink** MILK

**Favourite other Sportsmen** SANDY LYLE,  
IAN WOOSNAM



## PLAYER PROFILE

### Marvin Johnson

**Full Name** MARVIN ANTHONY JOHNSON

**Age** 22

**Date of Birth** 29-10-68

**Height** 6'

**Weight** 12st 3lbs

**Previous Clubs** NONE

**Married** NO

**Children** NO

**Likes** FOOD

**Dislikes** SMOKERS

**Favourite other player** ALAN HANSEN

**Most memorable match** VS LIVERPOOL AWAY DREW  
1-1 (SEASON 87-88)

**If you were not a Footballer, what other job would you do?**  
DRAUGHTSMAN

**Favourite Television Show** THE COSBY SHOW

**Hobbies outside Football** TENNIS, SNOOKER

**Favourite Food** RICE AND PASTA

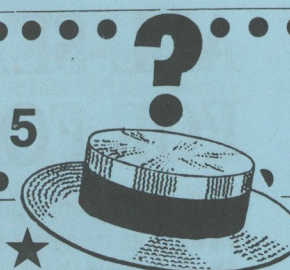
**Favourite Drink** GUINNESS

**Favourite other Sportsmen** JOHN McENROE AND  
JIMMY WHITE

Next issue we feature Kingsley Black and John Dreyer. If any supporters would like any feature on any players past and present please write to:  
Philip Francis, 100 Brendon Avenue, Luton, Beds.



## "HATTERS MASTERMIND" No. 5



### ★ Your chance to win a £10 Luton Town Souvenir Voucher ★

The Hatters Mastermind this time is based on players who have worn the No. 10 shirt in league games for the town during the last decade.

Solve the thirteen clues and then rearrange the letters indicated to form the name of another Town Player who wore the No. 10 shirt during the eighties.

Clues are as follows:

- No. 1** At present I play for a Second Division Club managed by a former Luton Town captain. (Third letter of Surname).
- No. 2** My goal at Maine Road, Manchester is part of Luton's history. (First letter of Surname).
- No. 3** I scored for the Town in an F.A. Cup Quarter final. (First letter of Christian Name).
- No. 4** I am a former "Gunner" and scored twice for the Town against Spurs. (First letter of Christian Name).
- No. 5** I am best known as an attacking full back. (First letter of Christian Name).
- No. 6** I played for Luton Town during the Second Division Championship Season and later on loan. (Last letter of my Surname).
- No. 7** I started my career with the Town and later played during a loan period. Am I a member of a Royal Family? (First letter of my Surname).
- No. 8** Signed for Luton Town from Newport County and made most of my appearances as full back. (First letter of my Christian Name).
- No. 9** Signed from Wigan Athletic I recently received International recognition. (First letter of my Surname).
- No. 10** I left the Town this Season as part of the deal involving Mick Kennedy. (First letter of my Surname).
- No. 11** Born in Australia I am now with David Pleat at Leicester City. (First letter of my Surname).
- No. 12** Played in the Town's Promotion Team from the Second Division 1973/74. I used to appear for Vauxhall Motors F.C. (First letter of my Christian Name).
- No. 13** Signed for the Town from Peterborough Utd. I moved to Molineux in 1983. (First letter of my Christian Name).

Send your list of all fourteen Names on a postcard or paper to:-  
LTFC Supporters Club, "Hatters Mastermind" No. 5, c/o LTFC, 1 Maple Road,  
Luton, Beds. LU4 8AW. MUST be handed to any committee member or to be received  
by first post on 21st April 1990.

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

**In the event of a tie all the correct entries will be put into a hat and the winners  
drawn out at the nearest social event after the closing date.**

### ★ COMPETITION WINNER OF THE OUR FOURTH ★ HATTERS MASTERMIND

Members found this set of questions a little more  
This set of questions tested our members to the limit, so much so that we didn't receive one  
entry which was 100% correct, so the committee came to a decision to award the prize to  
the next best entry, which was 7 out of 8, and that person being:

Mr. M. McConkey of 18 Porlock Drive, Luton Beds.

**WELL DONE MIKE !!**

He receives an LTFC Souvenir Voucher and a fully autographed Matchball

Answers to No. 4 Hatters Mastermind were as follows:

**No. 1** Adrian Alston **No. 2** Royal Antwerp **No. 3** Emeka Nwajobi **No. 4** Roy Lunniss  
**No. 5** Away 2-2 Home 6-2 **No. 6** Alec Stock **No. 7** Bari (H) 4-0, Verona (A) 1-2, Fiorentina  
(H) 1-0, Lazio (A) 2-2 **No. 8** Matt Woods.  
(Number 4 was the question that caught out a lot of people.)

### JUST FOR FUN PUZZLE!

There are 5 Houses, each owned by a different Football Club. Each club's team play in  
different colour shirts. Each club's house is inhabited by one of their own players. The players  
are all of a different nationality. The 5 players all play in a different position to each other for  
their team and each player likes another type of sport. Each player has a different number of  
international caps.

1. The Englishman lives in the house whose team play in red shirts.
2. The Spaniard is a centre forward.
3. Table tennis is liked by the player who plays for the team in the green shirts.
4. The Italian likes snooker.
5. The house of the team with green shirts is immediately to the right of the house of the team  
with the white shirts.
6. The player with 40 caps is a right back.
7. The player with 30 caps plays for the team in orange shirts.
8. Swimming is liked by the player in the middle house.
9. The Danish player lives in the first house on the left.
10. The player with 10 caps lives in the house next to the player who is a centre half.
11. The player with 30 caps lives in the house next to the goalkeeper.
12. The player with 20 caps likes golf.
13. The German has 50 caps.
14. The Danish player lives next to the house whose team play in the blue shirts.

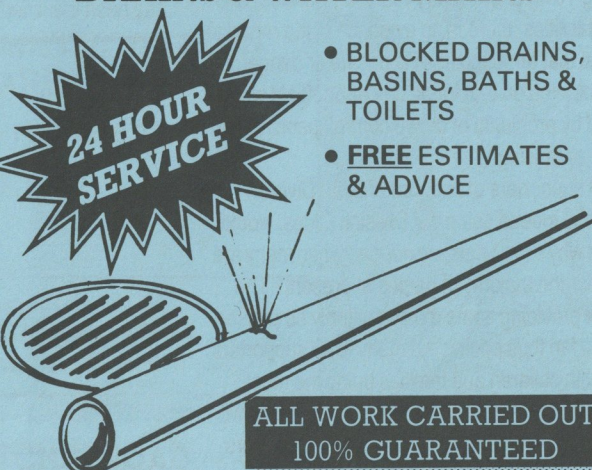
**QUESTION**

- A. WHO LIKES CRICKET?
- B. WHO IS THE LEFT WINGER?

The player who likes cricket is not the left winger.

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# ALL-SEATER STADIUMS NOT THE PANACEA FOR FOOTBALL'S PROBLEMS

The fundamental purpose of a successful supporters club must be to represent the views of its members and this fact is central to the comments behind the Taylor Report. The main theme which runs through the whole report is that there should be greater consultation between clubs and its supporters to ascertain what they want in terms of facilities, especially in improving safety and comfort in grounds. However, it is rather ironic that the major recommendation for all-seater stadiums has been reached without any consultation with fans or any evidence to suggest that this is what most football supporters want, in particular terrace fans, or that this in itself would improve football grounds in terms of safety or comfort. Indeed, the overwhelming evidence put forward by the Sir Norman Chester Centre for Football Research at Leicester University in reports on the Coventry City all-seater experience (1984) and the views of members of the Football Supporters Association (Nov 1989) is that a large proportion of fans do not and would not support this proposal. The whole tenet of the Taylor Report is therefore at odds with its principle recommendation and the need for more consultation with ordinary fans.

I believe the solution of all-seater stadiums is a simplistic approach to a much more complex problem. It suggests that all or most football matches have problems regarding packed and potentially dangerous terrace conditions when this is patently not the case. The answers which may be right for Arsenal, Liverpool or Man. Utd. are not the same for the majority of other League Clubs and **need to be reached having sought the views of the individual clubs supporters, not dictated by outside bodies or authorities who do not have the same level of knowledge or love for their club as the average supporter.**

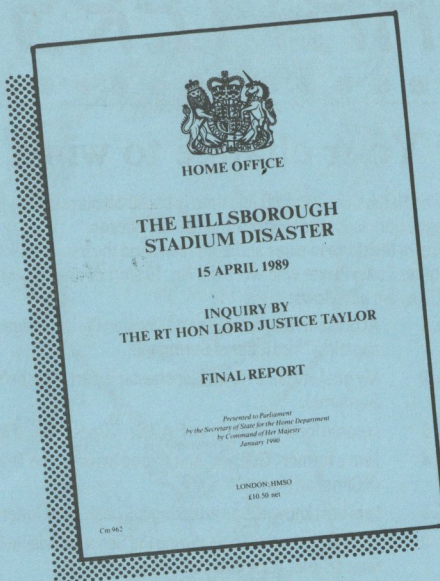
The main argument put forward for introducing all-seater stadia is to improve spectator "safety and comfort". I would argue that whilst welcoming the overall thrust of the Taylor Report and the need for modern stadiums (which has major implications on existing Town and Country Planning Policies) and better facilities, there is no evidence in the report to suggest that terracing itself is unsafe or dangerous. The problems on that tragic day at Sheffield were caused by problems of crowd control, penning and perimeter fencing.

Most supporters of 2nd, 3rd and 4th Division Clubs and indeed some 1st Division Clubs, would wonder why extra seats are needed when many are empty for the majority of games at present? The costs of providing seats must inevitably be passed onto the fan thus pricing out many loyal supporters, those with children and families being the most likely to suffer. However, these are the fans who will provide the next generation of football supporters.

Furthermore, it is assumed that all those who stand would want to sit. However, I believe this to be incorrect and to support this view I would put forward the recent decisions by 3 League Clubs (Q.P.R., Leeds Utd. and Coventry) to remove seats and return to terracing in parts of their grounds.

In the case of Q.P.R. pressure from their own fans to do so was a major contributory factor as was the decision by Coventry City, due to the clubs dwindling support. Leeds Utd. removed seats behind one goal not only having regard to the views of their fans but also at the request of the police, because supporters continued to stand and made no use of their seats. Tottenham Hotspur supporters also complained long and hard about the Shelf being turned into executive boxes but at least these supporters still had the choice to stand!

It is surprising that the Government whose party's philosophy embodies freedom of choice in nearly all aspects of life should deny law-abiding terrace supporters the opportunity to stand at football matches when for the majority of League Clubs the cost and need for extra seating above that which already exists is completely unjustified. In fact, I believe market forces would have meant that extra seats would have already been provided if a need had been identified.



Unfortunately, if all-seater stadiums do become a reality I believe there will be a significant reduction in football attendance figures. However, for the few Clubs who do support large crowds, less people will be able to attend both because of reduced capacity and increased cost. It is my view that the game will thus suffer such irrevocable damage that it will no longer be able to claim the title of being "The National Sport" and thus marginalising its importance in British social culture.

In Luton's case it is held amongst a number of supporters that the lack of atmosphere at home matches is not only because of the away fan ban (which the LTSC Committee believes should be relaxed as outlined in Issue No. 2 of "Hatters News") but also because only one side of the ground is given over to terracing. It has been argued that the Oak Road terracing should have been kept and terracing reintroduced into the Main Stand Enclosure, with seats being put in the Kenilworth Road end, so as to keep two sides standing and



An All-Seater Multi-purpose Stadium as built by a consortium of local companies.

Stadium Galgenwaard, Utrecht.

improve vocal support. It is known that Luton supporters have stopped attending home matches because of the lack of atmosphere, which was part of their enjoyment in watching matches, and the layout of the ground is an important contributory factor.

Luton Town have also announced that implementing an all-seater stadium would reduce capacity to approximately 9,000 thus denying entrance to an average of nearly 1000 supporters who presently attend, and more for the attractive matches. What other business would turn away potential customers. Furthermore, for Cup games up to a quarter of the allocation may have to be given to the away team thus reducing the capacity for Luton supporters further to 6,750 (3,000 down on their present average League gate). Whilst the Supporters Club believe the football club can still look optimistically toward a new ground in the future this won't be available by 1994 and we believe supporters who cannot attend Cup and League games in the intervening period will not continue to support the club, especially for less attractive matches, thus reducing revenue, crowds and vocal support in the interim period.

Finally, to return to the Taylor Report it is argued that seating will improve spectator behaviour. Why is it then that many of Chelsea's less well behaved supporters sit at home and away matches and how does this explain Leeds Utd. fans reaction in Paris during the 1975 European Cup Final? For Luton

fans the over-riding image of the Millwall Cup match is of seats being used in a less than friendly way toward police, showing how well some people may still behave with this "safer" method of crowd control!

In conclusion, it is important that the views of all Luton supporters, especially terrace fans, to the all-seater idea are put forward and we hope that other Supporters Clubs and the F.S.A. will do likewise to gauge supporters reaction and to bring about a more constructive and acceptable solution for all those concerned. In addition, the Football League and the Football Association together with the P.F.A. should try to persuade U.E.F.A. and F.I.F.A. to vary requirements for English Clubs, should they be competing in European or World Cup matches, or am I being too optimistic?

Lord Justice Taylor believes in more consultation with fans rather than confrontation. It is therefore important that as many fans as possible make their opinions known. Surely thousands of fans can influence the Government and the authorities that control the game if their opinion is just and based on logic. At present safety certificates issued to clubs by local authorities will be heavily influenced by the Taylor Report in complying with his edicts, witness the effects on

Wimbledon Tennis Club, which will probably take no account of the individual clubs situation or the fact that no consultation has taken place as the Government promised in introducing the Taylor Report into Parliament. Just think that most young football supporters would have been taken to their first ever match by parents or friends and stood on the terrace (basically because it is extremely difficult to keep a child in a seat and content for up to 2 hours), and they have then gone on to support the game for the rest of their life.

**It is therefore important that terrace fans are active and vocal as to their views since you will be the ones to lose if all-seater stadiums come about!**

**You owe it to yourself and to future generations of football supporters, to change this decision.**

Yours in Sport,  
JOHN CHAPMAN (LTSC Committee Member)

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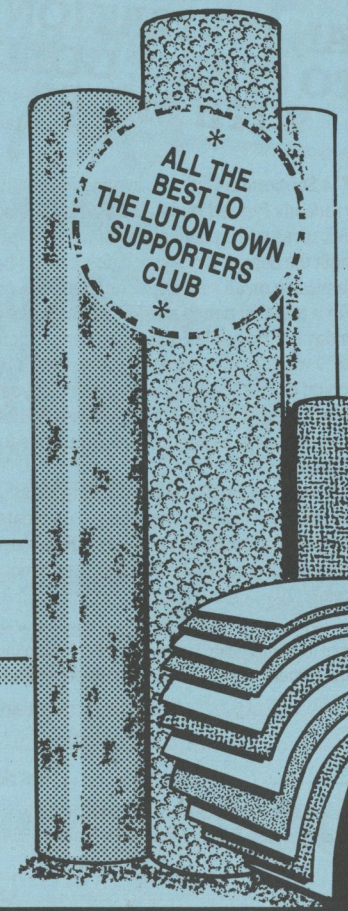
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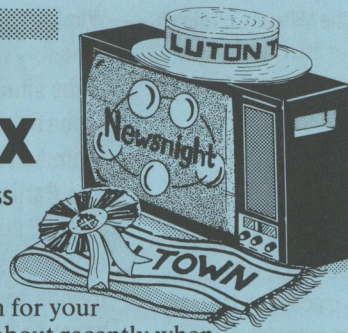
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## HATTER'S ON THE BOX

(Not the Team needless  
to say!)



Further deserved recognition for your official Supporters Club came about recently when Chairperson Pam Gray, Press Officer Tom Hunt and the writer were invited to appear on B.B.C. Televisions key news and current affairs programme, Newsnight.

For those who did not see the programme which went out on Monday, the 29th January our role was to take part in a twenty minute discussion concerning the findings and recommendations contained in Lord Justice Taylors report.

At first it was slightly daunting to find oneself in the company of such important figures in the Football World as Bill Fox, Gordon Taylor, Denis Howell M.P., David Evans M.P. and Rogan Taylor; but afterwards we felt that we did at least make a reasonable contribution to the debate. Pam Gray was highlighted as being the only woman involved in the discussion, but at least our own Supporters Club Committee does have 3 women other than Pam who all carry out important and varied duties.

Sadly after the recording of Newsnight was completed it was unanimously agreed that 20 minutes was totally inadequate to discuss such an important subject, and that a minimum of 45 minutes to 1 hour was needed to even scratch the surface of a report that seems destined to dramatically change the game of Football as we presently know it.

By Nick Cooper

## LETTERS PAGE



### LETTERS FROM ACROSS THE WORLD

Dear Football Friends,

My name is Alexandra Măriusel, I live in Bucharest, I am sixteen years of age and I am a sports fan of English Football.

I have a large collection of football articles from all over the world, and I keep up correspondence with many clubs famous in the football activity.

I want to keep up correspondence with young football collector by exchanging posters, badges and other articles about English football.

Therefore, please give my address to any Luton Town Football Club supporter who may be able to assist me.

Thank you for your time and I await your answer!

Alexandra Măriusel,  
Str. Eirnitei, nr. 4, 6156, s.e.I, t.1, ap. 12,  
Sector 4, Bucharesti, cad 7000. Rumania.

Dear LTSC,

Enclosed is my completed membership form and cheque. I left Luton, and indeed England, around 15 months ago to live in Denmark with my girlfriend. I have written to you on several occasions about the LTFC Supporters Branch! I am pleased to see the Danish Connection is being strengthened with the purchase of Lar Elstrup from F.C. Odense.

Since being away from Luton I have not missed a goal as T.V. coverage of English football is excellent, with a live game every Saturday, and highlights from every 1st Division game.

Many of my workmates all keep a special eye on the Luton Town result and I am confident of increasing the numbers of the Esbjerg Branch from its current position of 1 — ME!

Regards to my friends in the Bobbers Club and Oak Road Stand. I hope I am in time for the Centenary Medal?

Yours in Sport,  
Steven Hermen, Sophievej 7, 6700 Esbjerg, Denmark.

PS — I would like to thank Mick Harford, who was very kind and friendly when he met my Danish guest at the ground just before the season started.

### THE UP'S & DOWN'S OF BEING A LUTON TOWN SUPPORTER

by Keith Brooksbank

Being a Luton fan in Liverpool has many disadvantages. You know the usual ones — "OH THE FANS MUST TRAVEL TO AWAY GAMES IN A TAXI" or "WHO ARE YOU SELLING THIS WEEK?"

Mind, for a few minutes on January 13th I thought I would be having the last laugh. That was when I sat in almost disbelief (in between cheering Kingsley Black and Kurt Nogans goals), as we actually led Liverpool for two minutes! However, in the end a draw was just great for me. I'll guarantee that no Luton fan left Anfield that day happier than me. I could certainly hold my head up high.

I first began following the "HATTERS" in the late 1974, again with a match at Anfield. I felt so sorry for them because at the time they were bottom of the Division. I should have known better, because it lead to me following them for nearly 14 years in over 60 League grounds and Wembley.

As you can tell, I have had quite a few experiences which would make quite interesting tales. So many I could write a book about them, and maybe one day I will! However, one that does spring to mind was having to delay departure for my holiday in the U.S.A. For two days, because of the Simod Cup Final against Reading (I WISHED I'D GONE ON TIME!!) and then coming home a day early for the Wimbledon Cup Semi-Final, and there can't be many who've begun the journey to a Semi-Final from Salt Lake City Airport.

However, for me the best game ever just has to be the Final against Arsenal. Now that's something I wouldn't have missed for anything and made everything worthwhile. Which brings me to the sad part of the article. That day, I bought a scarf which I swore I'd never part with. However, in memory of the fans who died at Hillsborough, I left my scarf at Anfield along with the others. It was the least I felt I could do.

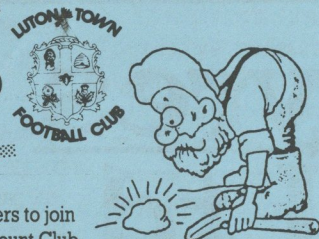
Finally, if any other Northern based Luton fans are reading this, I would be interested in hearing from them with a view to forming a branch of the Supporters Club.

They can contact me at: 5B Sunnyside, Devonshire Road, Liverpool L8 3TD.

P.S. Keith has also informed us that he is to start a sponsored slim for charity. He is hoping to lose 3 stone by the end of April. Contact him on the above address. For further details and form. ALL THE BEST. 'KEITH'



### AN INVITATION TO STRIKE GOLD WITH MIDAS



The Supporters Club are inviting its members to join the recently formed Midas Daily Draw & Discount Club, which gives you a chance of winning cash prizes each day of the week and helps benefit the Supporters Association into the bargain. We receive a healthy 10% commission on all subscriptions, so please give this serious consideration.

For a mere 50 pence a week you have the opportunity of winning £100 every day, Monday to Friday plus daily cash consolation prizes and a holiday for two to the value of £500 which is on offer every 26 weeks. It is not just a draw however, but also a discount club whereby, on production of your Midas Membership card, you will be entitled to super discounts from a wide variety of local retailers. To join straightaway, please complete and return the form at the foot of this column together with your remittance.

Meanwhile John Gornall and Phillip Marsh from the Promotions Office hope to be in attendance at a future meeting to elucidate, and also advise members of the many advantages of becoming a lottery agent, earning commission for yourself plus complimentary match tickets and the chance of a reduction on the cost of season tickets.

Return to Midas Club, Luton Town FC Promotions Dept., FREEPOST 965, 125 Oak Road, Luton. I would like to become a member of The Midas Daily Draw & Discount Club.

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Signed .....

I would also like details of becoming a lottery agent, earning commission and obtaining free match tickets Yes/No

## KEEP OFF THE ROLLER-COASTER

By ERIC NORRIS  
(Luton News)



AS THE ONLY journalist in the Luton Town Press box to make the round trip on soccer's big-dipper from First Division to Fourth Division and back again as a reporter, I more than share the fans fears for Luton Town in their present position.

I joined Eric Pugh, the former Luton news sports editor, who at the time wrote as "Chiltern", at the start of the big slide when we dropped back into the Second Division in 1960 at the end of five magic seasons in the top flight.

Luton born and bred, I was a regular fan on the Kenilworth Road terraces prior to that.

Having lived for football and Luton Town it was the answer to a dream when I actually got paid to attend matches and was able to attend every home game instead of bashing away in the office producing the old Saturday Telegraph 'Green-Un' on Saturday afternoons.

But the dream quickly turned into a nightmare as the rapid plunge towards the league's bargain basement got underway.

Football and footballers have changed since then. In those days the players were not so remote from the fans. They all lived in the town, most of them around the Kenilworth Road area, and they used to walk around the streets instead of speeding away in expensive cars.

People like the late, great, Gordon Turner, Eire international George Cummins, Allan Brown and goalkeepers Bernard Streten and Ron Baynham, were my heroes.

We had been to Wembley, losing to Nottingham Forest, only a year previous. Although that was one of the only Wembley finals I never saw in any shape or form.

Having wangled my way to all the previous rounds, including the two semi-final matches, I was one of the regular fans who didn't get a smell of a ticket. How much fairer the ticket allocation was handled on our more recent trips to Wembley!

To make matters worse, I had to work on the Green-Un on Cup Final day and couldn't even see the game on the box. In those days there was always a re-run of the final on the Sunday. But I missed that one too because I was down outside the town hall for the big reception to welcome the team home.

So when we returned to the Second Division I, like many fans, still viewed the world through rosy spectacles. We will not stay in the lower division long, we thought.

We were sadly right. But it was not a return trip we were destined for, but the long depressing slump which ended in the Fourth Division six seasons later.

That was when the roller-coaster really made us feel sick.

What we had not realised at the time was that all our old favourites, many of whom still live in and around the town, had reached their peak as a team and gone over the hill together.

If we are to draw any consolation from the wholesale departure of our Littlewoods Cup heroes, then perhaps it is that such a mistake will not be made this time.

Jimmy Ryan has shown that he is not frightened to put his faith in the younger players he has nurtured along in the Reserves. And if the big manager in the sky fails to help us with a bit of the luck he regularly bestows on Charlton Athletic, we know we would go down with the basis of a team that is pushing towards maturity rather than going downhill.

As we all know, it was one of my old favourites, Allan Brown, who brought the heady days back to Kenilworth Road when he took Luton to the Fourth Division Championship in 1968. And we were on our way back to the top.

For me the only thing that has changed is that I now have my old pal, Brian Swain, leading the team in the Press Box and on the Luton news sports desk.

I hope and pray that on the last day of the season there will be another change and we will be supping a few beers to Jimmy Ryan and his men and to an extension of our tenancy in the First Division.

### THE HILLSBOROUGH HORROR

I believe that I probably have a closer interest in Lord Justice Taylor's final report than most people in this area, as I was standing on the Leppings Lane terrace, at Hillsborough, on the 15th of April 1989. It seems strange to recall that at 2.45 on that afternoon the most important thing in my life was for Liverpool to avoid defeat! Within 30 minutes, as the full horror of events permeated the ground, my priorities were put firmly in perspective.

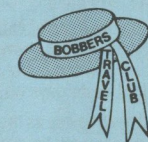
As a result of the sight of bodies being laid on a football pitch, I find that I do have some sympathy with Taylor's most controversial recommendation, that all grounds should become all-seater. At it's most simple level the contention that if Hillsborough had been all-seater, then the disaster would not have happened, is indisputable.

However, the wider question of whether all-seater stadia are safer remains to be considered. I am old enough to remember the damage caused by hooligans at the 1975 European Cup Final in Paris, and we all recall the infamous Luton v Millwall incident. On both of those occasions (and you can probably think of others) the seats became weapons of violence, readily available. Football should also consider the question of escape routes. In the event of fire, rows of immovable plastic seats would seriously hinder an evacuation.

In my opinion, the question of "to seat or not to seat" transcends tradition and preference, and should not be seen as merely another "anti-hooligan" device. Clearly, the safety of the fans must be given the absolute priority, football simply must get it right, this time.



Graham Turvey, Chairman,  
Football Supporters Association,  
Chiltern Area Branch.



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## LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

The Ninety Third A.G.M. of the Luton Town Football & Athletic Co. Ltd. was held at 12 noon on Thursday 22/2/90 and the Supporters Club Committee members Pam Gray, John Chapman, Nick Cooper and Tom Hunt attended as did Brian Swain of the Luton News and Bill Tomlins in the official roles of reporter and football club Secretary/General Manager.

The shareholders approved a proposal that the audited accounts be accepted only after questions were answered by Mr Roger Smith (Football Club Chairman) relating to administration cost, Wages and Valuation of fixed assets.

Mr Smith also replied to a question involving the repayment of Directors Loans and interest on some as there was an implied criticism that such loans should be interest free or, at least, at a lower rate than that charged by the High Street Banks.

Mr C.J. Hudson, Mr R.J. Pinney and Mr H. Richardson were elected to the board and Mr Brian Cole and Mr D.G. Watson-Challis, who retired by rotation, were also re-elected.

The retiring auditors "Ernst & Young" were re-elected to serve another year.

After the formal matters had been concluded the board were questioned regarding the planned relocation of the club, the impact of the Lord Justice Taylor Report on football in this country, the refinancing of the club with the possible return of former Chairman "Denis Mortimer".

Little new information was forthcoming and it appears that the board have confidence that the Luton Council WILL still assist in the plans for a Multi-purpose Leisure Complex in Stopsley (Butterfield Green). The confidence was not shared however by shareholders present.

As far as the Taylor Report was concerned Mr David Evans stated that he could not try and persuade parliament that the All-Seater plan be scraped as football had "Burned its Boats" by defeating the National Membership Scheme although Mr Tomlins pointed out that the implementation of the Taylor Report could bring about trouble outside the grounds.

Mr Smith advised shareholders that further meetings had been arranged with Mr D. Mortimer and if he or other persons joined the board some Directors might leave as this was, he commented, normal business procedure.

Jim Ryan expressed his delight at the form shown by the team since he took over at the helm with the exception of the Charlton Athletic match recently.

The meeting was closed and the Shareholders were invited to joint the board for a drink and informal chat.

Yours TOM HUNT  
(An LTFC Shareholder)



## UNDERGROUND OVERGROUND!

by Lynne Sharpe

1. Upon the 'Bobbies Travel Club'  
Us Loyal Supporters met  
We were on our way to Wimbledon  
To see what we could get.
2. Spirits were high — that's usual  
But — Something was in the air  
A win away? Not allowed!  
As it is "No-one likes us" (We don't care)
3. As we motored along the same old M1  
We began to pick up pace  
Was Ken pretending to be Allan Prost?  
Or were we starting our own title chase?
4. We darted among the traffic jams  
Full of yuppies who hogged the road  
But the police were there to guide us in  
Our coach — with its valuable load!
5. Parked behind the greyhound track  
The roads here were pretty dead  
"Shall we go to the match?" I overheard —  
"Or to the dogs instead!"
6. The match sounded by far the best option  
Though we would get wet — I fear  
So firstly as we had some time  
We went and got some beer!
7. ½ an hour in the pub  
Then up to the "Wombles" we went  
But where have all the home fans gone?  
Had a warning from heaven been sent?
8. Three thousand of them. 500 of us  
For the night and for us not bad  
But for the hosts and their gate receipts  
I thought it to be quite sad.
9. The match began in typical style  
With Luton chasing the ball  
The usual play? No what's this  
An attack?? It's not Luton at all!
10. The ball was played nicely to feet  
For Wimbledon this was a first  
I was getting blooming drenched  
Their invisible roof I did curse!
11. Well, the first half was over now  
And no score divided the teams  
Not another one point please  
We have more draws than Queensway it seems!
12. Time for a cup of coffee I think  
But what's this in my cup?  
It's green and bubbly and tastes like muck  
Ugh! Yesterdays washing-up!
13. I threw it away as the game restarted  
And soon our boys took the lead  
We all went crazy and a carnival began  
This was better than Mandela being freed.
14. We were soon quietened down,  
For we had a reply  
The Wombles had scored to draw  
Who was it? What happened? We asked around  
But nobody was too sure.
15. The towns grip did release  
The heads never went down at all  
"Come on You HATTERS — Attack — Attack"  
Was now our desperate call.
16. Our persistent support paid off well  
When the nights hero Dowie popped up  
When that ball hit the back of the net  
You'd have thought we'd won the F.A. Cup!
17. The final whistle blew loud and clear  
And by now we'd all gone insane  
Yes success is great when your away  
Let's not wait 14 months again!!
18. With celebrations well under way  
We were soaked but happy too  
And all the way to the coach our song rang out  
*"OH LUTON WE LOVE YOU"*

## Luton Town Supporters F.C. Update Report

After a few teething problems earlier in the season, I feel we are now a well organised section of the supporters club. So far the three matches we have played have been very enjoyable even though we have only won one of these games. Lost 1-3 to Wimbledon S.C. and 2-4 to Crystal Palace S.C. and the convincing win of 12-2 to Aston Villa S.C. With over 20 players taking part we have yet to get a settled team, but may at a later date decide to have two teams if there is enough interest.

Goal scorers to date are as follows: Paul Niven 8, Steve Roe 4, Andre Alkins 1, Dave Goring 1, and last but not least, Stuart Phillips 1 goal.

Unfortunately at present Stuart is getting over an accident in which he has broken his leg in two places. "Get Well Soon Stuart."

Our away match against Crystal Palace S.C. was played on Astro-Turf pitch at the National Sports Centre next to the Athletics track. After the match we were invited back to their Supporters Club called the 'Crystals' Supporters & Social Club, where we were treated to a meal, compliments of their S.C. Committee. The whole day was very enjoyable.

Finally, our away match v the Wimbledon S.C. unfortunately had to be postponed due to a waterlogged pitch, but would like to thank all those who turned up for the coach on a fools errand.

## 'Where are they now'



### Paul Price & Lil Fuccillo

Mal Donaghy's testimonial night at Kenilworth Road was a lovely wallow in nostalgia for some of us. You have to pinch yourself sometimes to remember just how long ago it was that men like Brian Horton and David Moss were delighting Kenilworth Road with com-Pleat football.

But did you notice a couple of Harry Haslam's best signings — men who had double tragedy in common?

To break one leg is bad enough for a footballer. To have it happen twice must be truly awful. So how nice to discover that for Paul Price and Lil Fuccillo there is still life after league football, and that both are still playing despite being well into their thirties.

Fair-haired Price, son of a Welshman, was brought up in Welwyn Garden City, and came to Kenilworth Road as a boy. He skippered the youth and reserve teams and was destined for great things, until he broke a leg in a reserve game in March 1974. Harry Haslam's team was on its way to

promotion, and Price battled back to fitness within nine months. But the joy of recovery was short-lived — he broke the same leg again, in training.

It was to be another year — by which time the Town had been relegated back to the Second Division — before Price made his first team debut at York in February 1976. We won 3-2 on a day when Bedford boy Lil Fuccillo also made his first league appearance, and celebrated with a goal.

Fuccillo's tragedy came 18 months later. One of the worst fouls I have seen in the last 800 Town games saw him carried off at Brighton with a broken leg, in December 1978. He, too, battled back to fitness ... until he broke it again in training the following August. Almost inevitably the midfielder scored on his first game back, in a 4-2 home win over Preston.



Paul Price in his Luton playing days.



Lil Fuccillo with that trusty left foot.

Perhaps the Town were hasty in letting both players go. Price went to Spurs — what is it about them and our full-backs? — for £250,000 in the summer of 1981, and went on to win 27 caps for Wales. A brief spell in the USA was followed by a run as skipper of Swansea City and today Price is still in football, playing for Wivenhoe in the Vauxhall League.

And it is probably appropriate that Fuccillo, who made his league debut on the same day as Price, should also now be playing for the Essex club. He left the Town for the States, and later had spells with Southend, Peterborough, Cambridge and Kettering.

I hope they both continue to enjoy their football for a long time to come.

Brian Swain

## The club's official statistician

Twenty five years ago I, like many before and since, decided that it would be rather nice to gather the complete Luton Town playing record since formation. Over the course of the next five years and with countless trips made to Luton library the task was completed with not only the playing record but also the line-ups of every competitive game since 1885.

The fruits of labour lay dormant for several years until the early 1980's when following several historical errors quoted in the match programme I wrote to the late John Wilkinson offering my services.

He declined my offer but mentioned that Tim Collings had been commissioned to write the History of the Club ready for the Centenary, then some four years away and that Tim required assistance on the historical and statistical sections.

Even with four years to play with we still had problems meeting the deadlines, not helped by the fact that I was then living in Colchester and Tim in Hitchin, but the book did come out on time and is now, I understand, quite sought after.

At the same time as the publication of the book, Tim was asked to edit the programme and I was asked to contribute the historical section each fortnight, as well as becoming the club's official statistician.

Over the past five years I estimate to have written around 100,000 words for the programme, answered several hundred letters and taken innumerable telephone enquiries and in turn have met some extremely interesting people with fascinating tales to tell.

I do not pretend to be able to answer every query, and I have had some strange and obscure ones, but I will attempt to find the answer to every genuine question.

In closing please do not blame me for the typesetting errors in the programme, as I am too far away to be able to proof read my article!

You may also be interested to know that the Luton Museum and Art Gallery at Wardown Park now has a permanent display of old memorabilia and information which any Football Fan of Luton would be interested to see.

by Roger Wash

Shown here is a 1919-20 Luton Town team photograph, which is a good example of the type of memorabilia that Roger is looking for. This particular photo was discovered by an elderly lady in Harpenden who was clearing some old books, prior to the arrival of decorators. She was a little surprised when from inside one of the books out popped this little gem. After coming close to being discarded the photo was rescued by one of the decorators and given to a Supporters Club Committee Member, who he knew would be keen to have such an interesting item in his collection of Luton Town artefacts.



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## ... MEMBERS HELPLINE

Dear Supporters Club,

I have been a Luton Town supporter since the age of 15, I used to have a season ticket in the main stand. I am now 33 and at the age of 17 moved down to Swanage.

Not being a LTFC member, I was told by my cousin, who also supports Luton, that I couldn't have one as I must live locally, so he gets me a guest ticket when I come up for home games. That's what I have put on the Supporters Club Membership Form.

It says on the form that you get a poster of the team, I wonder if it would be possible if you could get it autographed by the team. I would be very grateful. Also is there any organised travel to home games from either the Bournemouth or Poole area, as I find it difficult to get to Home games?

*Yours in Sport,*  
Mr. G.R. Barrett

PS — Good luck for the rest of the season!

**Editor** — If you live or know of any Luton Town supporter from the Dorset area, and could help our member Mr. Barrett, please contact us in writing to the MEMBERS HELPLINE, LTSC, c/o 1 Maple Road, Luton, LU4 8AW and we will forward his address on to you.

If you live outside the area of Bedfordshire and have difficulty getting to matches due to transport or disability problems etc., through this column (Helpline) we may be able to put you in contact with a fellow Town fan living in your area.

\* \* \* \* \*

Extra LTSC Enamel Badges are available to purchase at £1.50 each. So, if you have mislaid yours no need to worry.

### ★ SOUVENIR SHOP DISCOUNT ★

We are pleased to announce that all LTSC members are, entitled to a 5% Discount at the Souvenir Shops based in Kenilworth Road or Oak Road, so there is an added incentive to head down there.

This facility is only available to our members who MUST produce their membership cards prior to making a purchase.

STOP PRESS — STOP PRESS — STOP PRESS

### Luton Town Supporters F.C.

Our next match has just been finalised versus CRYSTAL PALACE S.C. on 28th April 1990  
Kick-off — 11.00 am at the Renault Sports Ground, Houghton Regis, Poynters Road.

All players will be notified as usual, but anyone else is welcome to come along and support us.

SEE YOU THERE!

At the time of going to press we are to play Aston Villa S.C. away on 10th March 1990. Look out for score soon!

### ACCEPTANCE TO THE NFFSC

Our committee member Tim Clayden has recently received confirmation that the NFFSC or National Federation of Football Supporters' Clubs have accepted our application to join.

A Membership Certificate was received and Tim or another Committee Member will of course attend all NFFSC Regional and National Meetings. We will, via our Newsletter, keep you informed of our involvement and developments within the NFFSC.

### WINNER OF THE GUESS THE CAPTION COMPETITION

With a good selection of suitable captions to the picture of our Chairperson and Foreign Correspondent as printed in our last issue, it was a hard decision to choose the best. But we finally decided that the winning caption should read:

*"Your wig's come off again"*

The winner being a Mr. P. Huckleby of 91 Graham Gardens, Luton. WELL DONE! YOUR Mystery Prize is on its way to you!

Selection of others we received were:

*"Praying for a Luton win", "Yes I would play, but I don't think your boots would fit me", "Are they really two left feet?", "Let us pray",*

*"The coin wouldn't go missing on a plastic pitch",*

*"Head's it's Harford — tails it's Wegerle".*



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### LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS CLUB

#### THE COMMITTEE'S STATEMENT ON THE RELOCATION DEBATE

The Supporters Club has remained silent whilst negotiations take place between the football club and the council on the relocation of the Football Club. However, it has amused and annoyed the Committee to see how when any site is mentioned there is immediately an outcry from local residents against the scheme, despite any details of what is exactly proposed having been put forward. Likewise, when suggestions are made about the club improving its existing facilities at Kenilworth Road, local opposition is mobilised.

It does make us wonder whether if the football club had been founded 100 years later than it was, whether a football ground would have ever been found on which to play. It is the committee's view, however, that the club and town require modern leisure facilities with associated car parking which cannot be achieved in its present location. This would be something which should and could also include other entertainment and cultural facilities, such as a theatre, concert hall, skating rink etc. which for years Luton has lacked, and which every survey carried out suggests is what the people of Luton also want. Ideally, this facility should be located as far away as possible from any existing housing and with good road links, in order to reduce its impact on neighbouring properties. In this regard, we suggest that the politicians and Council members and officers look at all the sites where development is potentially viable and agree that the best choice would be that which is the furthest away from existing large scale housing. It may be that this site cannot be developed until the Thames-Stevenage link road is built, in order to satisfactorily deal with traffic problems, however, the site could be earmarked for development and a detailed planning application made at a later date. In the meantime the Club should be allowed to continue to play at Kenilworth Road. Luton has 20,000 members who would support this stance, against possibly 2,000+ objectors, who will inevitably sign any petition against an entertainment and leisure complex anywhere near their houses without even knowing details of exactly where it is, what is proposed and the potential alternative uses if it is not developed as a leisure and entertainment complex. To believe that large areas of open areas within Luton can remain without development in the future runs directly against Government and local Planning Policies, and is unrealistic, since these policies encourage the protection of the countryside from development by developing land within existing urban areas ie. within Luton's Borough boundary.

*The LTSC Committee*

Designed, Edited and Produced by: John Pyper — Committee Member.  
If you have any items or suggestions that may improve this publication please contact me through the stated address as printed.  
"Next edition out End of April"