



# LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS CLUB HATTERS NEWS

"VOICE OF THE FANS"

June 1991

Issue No. 10

FROM THIS ...

## STAYING UP

Harford's lifeline  
for houdini Hatters



... TO THIS

## THANKS YOU'RE FIRED!

LUTON last night sacrificed manager Jim Ryan in a bid to bring back David Pleat.

Chairman Peter Nelkin "rewarded" Ryan for saving the Hatters from the dreaded drop into the Second Division by announcing his sacking — while Pleat waited in the wings.

Nelkin blamed a "personality clash" for his decision to axe Ryan.

Pleat, Luton's king in exile, is the name fans are calling for all

**Luton axe Ryan  
for Pleat return**

By MATT DRISCOLL

Pleat was being tapped up for his job. Last night Nelkin confessed: "I am expecting some flak."

The season has come to an end and I feel I am doing nothing for

firm offer of a coaching job from Nelkin. Bristol Rovers boss Gerry Francis also became a candidate last night after quitting his job. But he's on Chelsea and QPR's wanted list.

Francis insisted: "It's the big League from now on. It has been a very emotional couple of days and it is a

**Hero Ryan  
rewarded  
by Luton  
with sack**

SACKED Luton by MIKE WALTERS

## Sad Faulkner leaves Hatters

JOHN Faulkner left Luton Town this week after 12 years service as player and coach.

New manager David Pleat has appointed Colin Murphy as his assistant, and as expected that meant the sack for Faulkner.

The former first-team coach has yet to reach



JOHN Faulkner

of my time at Luton is seeing 70 per cent of the first team squad having come through the youth side.

"It takes some doing to bring lads through to be first team players in the first division," he added.

"And it is a regret that I won't be part of a team that, if handled properly, will go places."



INNOCENT PLEASURE: Jim Ryan and coach John Faulkner

**FROM DELIGHT  
TO DESPAIR!**



'There was a clash of personalities'

— CHAIRMAN PETER NELKIN

SERVER SUNDAY 19 MAY 1991

SPORT 2

## Bad deal for a man who cared

Patrick Barclay finds tears, anger and resentment after the blood-letting at Luton

IST Monday, after losing a job as manager of Luton, a Ryan was asked how he felt. "Elated," he said. He explained that there had been enormous satisfaction in

at Kenilworth Road and managers were told: "The cult job and, in the circumstances, done it well."

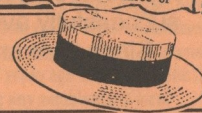
Ryan's dismissal. "We believe a club like Luton needs a higher-profile manager," he said on Friday. "I had a long meeting with David Pleat this morning and explained how I see the club being run. He is going on holiday on Tuesday and will phone with his response while he is away. We have thought about three or



SACKED: Boss Jim Ryan



— FANS VIEWS INSIDE! —





# HATTERS NEWS *VOICE OF THE FANS*

## Message from the Supporters Club Chairperson

Dear Supporters Club Members,

This must be the hardest letter I've had to write since the Supporters Club was formed back in September 1988.

It's with great sorrow we have to say goodbye to Jimmy Ryan, he was a much admired manager by players and supporters alike. We wish him well in his new job at Manchester United, where he will go from strength to strength. He has promised to keep in touch with us and has also asked me to pass his sincere thanks onto everyone for their letters and good wishes.

As he is away at the moment we haven't been able to pass on his gifts brought with your donations, and the Bobbers Travel Club, who joined forces with us and added a donation to the value of £50 to our collection.

At the time of going to press the football club have been unable to agree upon compensation for Jim's first team coach, John Faulkner. It must be a most unsettling time for him and his family, but whatever road he decides to go down from here, we wish John (Max) all the best. John has been a great help to the supporters club and he will be sorely missed.

I've had a great number of letters from S.C. members voicing their disgust and concern for the future of the football club; I hope we will be able to have a meeting before the beginning of the season where members will be able to air their views.

As always at the end of the season I must say a big thank you to Bill Tomlins for the support, encouragement and help he has given us during this unsettling time at the club. Keep up the good work!!

In finishing I must congratulate our team captain, John Dreyer, who tied the knot in Dunstable on the 8th June to Kingsley Blacks' sister Julie, best wishes for the future.

There will be another little "Preecey" on the way before the start of next season and our good wishes go to David, Louise and Tabitha.

To the players, I hope you had a good break, we'll all be back at Kenilworth Road in August to cheer you on.

Don't forget we have our AGM coming up on the 15th July 1991

*Pam*

Pam Gray — LTSC Chairperson

## STATEMENT FROM THE L.T.S.C. COMMITTEE

The committee of the Luton Town Supporters Club feel that their position over the 'Jimmy Ryan Affair' should be established.

We totally condemn the way in which a promising, honest and hard-working manager was sacked, only hours after his team had retained their First Division status and he had justly received the plaudits of the Luton fans.

Since he took over from Ray Harford, Jim had four players, Wilson, Kennedy, Breaker and Dowie sold from his first team squad, and was given a paltry £25,000 to spend in the transfer market. Even managers in the lower reaches of the Fourth Division are given better financial support than he was offered.

The reason given by Mr. Nelkin for his dismissal, 'A clash of personalities' is ridiculous in the extreme. Could the real position be that the Board hoped that 'The Hatters' had failed rather than succeeded in the relegation fight? Far easier to dispose of your manager if you have been relegated rather than one who successfully avoided the 'Big Drop'.

Since their arrival, Messrs. Nelkin and Kohler have



talked a good game, but their actions do not match their words. They profess to want to improve Luton's image, but their actions in sacking Jim Ryan will have the opposite effect, alienating local support both moral and financial, and nationally where the event has rightly been greeted with unanimous criticism.

Former Acting Chairman, Roger Smith, must bear a great deal of responsibility for the present unhappy position. As he

stated prior to the sale of a controlling interest of the club to Messrs. Nelkin and Kohler that a deal would only be done 'In the best interests of Luton Town Football Club'. Does he now believe that he achieved his aims? If he does, he is in a tiny majority, as most Luton fans regard the present regime as nothing short of a disaster.

Finally, we wish Jim all the best for his future in football as some club will inherit one of the 'rising stars of football management' and will, hopefully, give him the support and loyalty so lacking from Messrs. Nelkin and Kohler.

*The L.T.S.C. Committee*

**KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK 'JIM'**

## ...SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWSDESK...SUPPORTERS CLUB

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Below you will see confirmed and unconfirmed events that we have coming up. We will keep you fully informed of dates and venues as and when they are confirmed through this newsletter, local press and Luton Soccerline.

#### 7th July 1991 – Sunday

LTSC Members trip to Thames T.V. Studios to see recording. See Stop Press for further details.

#### 15th July 1991 – Monday

(Tickets not required for this) Our Third LTSC A.G.M. at the Joe Payne Lounge, Luton T.F.C., Maple Road Entrance. 7.00 for 7.30 p.m.

#### To be confirmed

- Guest Speaker Evening with former Hatter player Ricky Hill,
- Supporters Club Members Discussion Evening, and finally, David Pleat and Colin Murphy Evening.

Hopefully to take place August to early Sept.

### SCORE FORECAST COMPETITION

For predicting the correct score of games it seems you need to live in Harpenden with Gregg Cooper coming in 6th place with 47 points (4 totally correct results), 5th Jonathan Deas 49 points (3 correct results), joint second Nick Cooper with 52 points (5 correct results), and the winner KEVIN WEBB, all coming from the same area.

Only second placed Phillip Putman with 52 points (5 correct results) and Fourth placed Tom Hunt with 50 points, were members that lived outside the village.

Congratulations to KEVIN whose prize will be forwarded to him as soon as possible.

**Look out for the next Forecast Competition coming up in the next edition**

### 5% DISCOUNT ... 5% DISCOUNT ...

Don't forget that when you visit the Luton Town Souvenir Shop next for those new season items you can get 5% discount off all items.

### LTSC SOUVENIRS FOR SALE

Don't forget we still have a few T-Shirts available for sale emblazed with the LTSC crest. Good quality cotton, size Large only, but suitable to fit the fashion-conscious supporter.

£6.50 plus P&P

We also have available: LTSC Badges — £1.50 and LTSC ballpoint pens at 30p each.

### Advertising in the Hatters News

With the ever increasing cost of producing this publication it is our aim to increase the advertisement content.

If you would like to advertise the rates are as follows, which considering this is issued to all LTSC members and business people within the football club, it covers a large section of the public.

Rates: (All based on an A4 page)  
 Whole page 1/2-page 1/4-page  
 £60.00 £35.00 £20.00

If you are interested please contact the Editor, c/o LTSC at the stated address.

## MEMBERS VIEWS OVER JIM RYAN & JOHN FAULKNER SACKINGS!

I am shocked at the disgraceful decision of chairman Peter Nelkin to sack Jim Ryan as manager of Luton Town Football Club, perhaps in order to replace him with David Pleat. Pleat was once on the verge of taking Luton into Division Two until David Evans saved the situation with a massive injection of cash to buy Steve Foster, Mick Harford, David Preece and Peter Nicholas.

He also chose to leave the club in 1986 despite great inducements to stay.

And Pleat achieved nothing of significance in his years at Leicester City.

Jim Ryan never enjoyed an Evans-style injection of cash into the club, quite the reverse. He inherited a playing staff already decimated by the loss of Foster, Roy Wegerle, Brian and Mark Stein, Ricky Hill and Andy Dibble. As if that were not enough, he has been forced to sell Harford, Danny Wilson, Mick Kennedy, Tim Breacker and Iain Dowie.

Yet miraculously he has managed twice, despite this, to keep the club in Division One.

I am sure that I speak for the vast majority of Luton Town fans in saying that Jimmy Ryan is immensely popular here and his sacking is an outrage.

P Edler, Belkham Close, Luton

I am writing to express my disgust and outrage at the astonishing actions of Peter Nelkin, chairman of Luton Town Football Club.

Eighteen months ago two property developers, Messrs Nelkin and Kohler, purchased Luton Town.

They informed supporters they had always wanted to try and run a football club, and were committed to the success of Luton Town.

Jim Ryan has worked miracles to keep Luton Town in the First Division for the last two seasons.

Nelkin sanctioned the selling of four senior professionals in Wilson, Kennedy, Breaker and Dowie.

Nelkin sold Dowie with only eight games remaining and with Luton on the verge of relegation.

Against all the odds, Ryan succeeded in maintaining Luton's First Division status.

His reward was to be sacked.

All Luton Town supporters must join forces to oust Messrs Nelkin and Kohler from Luton for the good of the football club.

Stephen Gray, Cherry Tree Way, Ampthill

### Joke excuse

As a family we would like to say how disgusted we are with the sacking of Jim Ryan, a manager whose belief in football has kept Luton Town in the First Division for the last two seasons. And what a joke the excuse from our beloved chairman, that he was not doing things his way.

We would like to thank Jim for keeping us in the First Division, and for his honesty and openness at supporters club meetings. Perhaps as a gesture of loyalty to Jim, all season ticket holders and members should think seriously before renewing.

**The Skinner Family, Elvington Gardens, Luton**

A member of Luton Town Supporters Club, R.D. PARSONS of Ninesprings Way, Hitchin, says: "If the team believe in a manager, and our team obviously did in Jim Ryan, should not the chairman put the club first and not his own self interest so that he can have cosy chats with a so-called high profile manager?"

### Loyal manager

*Copy of letter to Mr Nelkin:*

I am writing to you on behalf of my family, who are season ticket holders in the Oak Road stand.

We were most disturbed to read a report in the newspaper yesterday that our Jimmy Ryan may be replaced by David Pleat. It took away most of our delight (and relief) at Saturday's victory on the field.

Jimmy Ryan has EARNED his right to manage our football team. Two seasons running, under the most adverse conditions, he kept in the First Division, a young, inexperienced, and depleted team. He has our total confidence and support.

If David Pleat had been offered the post of Manager when Ray Harford left, we would have been pleased, but not now! Jimmy Ryan has been a most loyal employee in very difficult times, and this loyalty should now be rewarded with the Directors showing their confidence in his ability to build a good team. We hope and trust that this will be so.

Mrs. Maureen Ingram, 48 Links Way, Luton

### Shabby

I am writing to express my absolute disgust at the way Jim Ryan has been treated.

I have supported Luton Town for 30 years and have never known such shabby treatment dealt out to a man who has served Luton Town admirably during his time as manager.

Jim Ryan reinstated the football style which Luton was well known for, and kept the Town in the First Division despite repeated sales of experienced players, without any suitable replacements.

Since the arrival of the new chairman Luton has declined from being a friendly club which had the respect of the supporters who appreciated the club's limitations owing to its financial restrictions, to the depths of the gutter.

The Board and the chairman deserve what they will get from the supporters — nothing. And as for Jim Ryan, may I take this opportunity to thank him for all he has done for Luton Town. He deserved better, and I am sure will go from strength to strength with another club who will appreciate his obvious abilities.

As for the Board — RESIGN.

R. Hare, Hampden Close, Flitwick

### Count me out

*Copy of letter to Mr Nelkin:*

As a supporter of Luton Town for the last 20 years, I am writing to express my anger and absolute disgust at the treatment of Jim Ryan.

I have followed Luton through the good and through the not so good times, and have supported the decisions regarding the use of an artificial pitch and the ban on away supporters.

However, following the sacking of Jim Ryan I will never attend another fixture at Kenilworth Road while you are chairman of the club, unless your decision is reversed.

During Jim Ryan's brief reign, he has performed an excellent job in the most difficult circumstances pertaining to any First Division manager, without any financial support, and required to sell first team players.

I am dubious as to your ability to attract a 'higher profile' manager to a club like Luton.

David Pleat would certainly have a pretty high profile as far as the Luton crowd are concerned. I would suggest any decision to replace a man who has shown total commitment to the Luton cause, with one who was the subject of intense ill-feeling when he left several years ago would be idiotic if you are interested in retaining any semblance of local credibility.

N.F. Simpson, Grasmere Way, Linslade



# SUPPORTERS CLUB FUN DAY

## AN AFTERNOON OF FUN, FESTIVITIES AND FROLICS!



The activity afternoon for the young section of the Supporters Club was held on May Bank Holiday (6th May) — with things swinging into action, at about 2 p.m. on the plastic surface at Kenilworth Road Stadium.

Players, children, parents and club management all intermingled to make the 2nd Supporters Club Fun Day a resounding success. Despite disappointing weather, with leaden skies plus a chill wind, the warmth of the participants laughter soon broke through to accompany the sunshine of their smiles. The committee were worried we wouldn't match the quality of precedent set at the Players Presentation Evening the previous night, but our anxieties were ill-founded — for the young Supporters Club members really showed us all how to enjoy ourselves.

The format of the afternoon took a slightly different approach to the 1990 Fun Day. The formula consisted of two relays in which the teams competed, followed by an activity session in which we all participated.

Relay events included: Skipping, Sack Race, Football Dribbling, Piggy-back rides, Bowling-a-Hoop, Three legged races.

Interspersed amongst the relays were the activity sessions when the contestants skills were put to the test. These sections quickly became the more serious parts of the afternoon. Dribbling in and out of cones using a



Kids with their families awaiting their trophies



**Winning Team No. 3**  
with John Dreyer and Richard Harvey.  
Gary Dawkins,  
John Dawkins,  
Simon Wright, Ben Wright,  
Gregg Cooper, Sarah Meers,  
Alison Parrin, Cheryl and finally, Lee.

Well Done!



Hockey stick and ball, plus bowling at a cricket wicket against the clock with points galore to be picked up by not just more athletic team members, but aimed at the level headed triers amongst us.

Our mini football tournament was in the capable hands of Mick McConkey — Thank you Mick! Whilst the eight-a-side was taking place, other youngsters tested their skills at the penalty — shootouts against well-known keepers such as John Dreyer and Dave Beaumont to name but a few.

A vital ingredient to the success of the whole afternoon was the manning of the P.A. System. A big thank you must be extended to John Faulkner, the Town's First Team coach, for the superb job he did, as Master of Ceremonies on the old microphone! He gently chivvied all of us along so adding essential continuity to the whole proceedings. John was also ably supported in the task by the adults who volunteered to be team leaders.

Sincere thanks to all those involved with the afternoon for making it such an enjoyable occasion. The sense of unity and 'Oneness' amongst players, management, staff and supporters was the warm feeling taken away in the hearts of us all who were present.

Yours faithfully, Marilyn Fussell

## ••••• LUTON TOWN S.C.F.C. REPORTS •••••



LUTON TOWN SUPPORTER CLUB 1990/91 TEAM

Due to the previous team manager having to stand down (he didn't get the sack like someone I know!), we didn't organise our next match until the beginning of March.

LTSC member Stuart Phillips offered to take over the running of the team and we thank him for this. Having kept 90% of the original team together that had played against Leeds United S.C., there wasn't many changes to make.

Our first match under Stuart's control was away to Aston Villa S.C. (Sutton Coldfield branch) on the 9th March. At first the scoreline of 7-1 to them seems a little disappointing. However, it must be noted that this wasn't the same Aston Villa team we played last season and beat 12-3. In fact they haven't been beaten for twenty or so games.

All the players gave a good account of themselves even when the goals were going in the opponents net. David Stoner in goal and Paul Nicholson, our captain and M.O.M., had good games, Toni Ingram ran hard all game and with a bit more service up front may achieve better rewards.

Score 1-7 Scorer — Own Goal (sorry)

Our second game under Stuart was at home v Sunderland S.C. (London Branch) on the 20th April 1991.

Compared to our last match this result was very disappointing and frustrating. Even the referee, and some of the Sunderland players said to us the score did not reflect the course of the game.

With the score at half-time 2-1 to S.S.C. we felt we had a chance to force ourselves into the game more second half. But with the Sunderland team being physically stronger and taller in most departments, were able to take advantage of this at corners and set pieces from which they scored most of their goals.

As the game progressed it proved that the lack of fitness was beginning to show and would have to be worked on during the close season, as we have players that were feeling the pace of the game in the latter stages.

Score 1-6 LTSC Scorer — Tony Greenage

With the final match of the season v Derby County S.C. we had to get **one** over them before the more important match to be played hours later at Kenilworth Road.

As it worked out they beat us 2-1, but this had been the most encouraging game to date with the luck not falling for us.



## THE GREAT ESCAPE — PART III

Final match reports of the season from  
2nd March to 11th May 1991

BY MARK CHAPMAN



### Sat. 2/3/91 Nottingham Forest HOME

The Town were looking to continue the recent good home form shown against Liverpool, they had the bulk of the game, but despite a large amount of possession it was the familiar story, with very few clear cut openings, until late on when Dowie scored the winner.

Result 1-0. Scorer: Dowie  
Attendance 9,577

M.O.M. — Preece

### Tues. 5/3/91 Manchester City AWAY

A chance for Luton to build further on recent results, but they never looked like achieving anything after conceding 3 goals in the first half, with Chamberlain preventing far more as the Town could not force themselves into the game.

Result 0-3.

Attendance 20,404

M.O.M. — Chamberlain

### Sat. 9/3/91 Aston Villa AWAY

After the drubbing inflicted at Maine Road 4-days earlier, we feared the worst, however Villa were also in trouble. The first half produced some of the best Town play away from home since Christmas, with Preece and Pembridge both doing well in midfield. Confidence was helped when Mountfield conceded an own goal from a low hard cross by Kingsley Black. Further chances were then created until just before half time when Pembridge volleyed in from the edge of the penalty area after the ball was played back to him from a corner. Villa started the second half, more stronger and pulled a goal back from a very dubious looking penalty. However, we survived with the aid of some good work by our defence and keeper Chamberlain.

Result 2-1. Scorers: Mountfield (OG), Pembridge.  
Attendance 20,587

M.O.M. — Pembridge

### Wed. 13/3/91 Coventry City AWAY

Luton returned to the Midlands, to try and earn further points against another struggling side. In another game of two different halves the Town played well in the first half, but only had the one goal to show, ironically scored by Rodger on his return to the club he left. But Coventry hit back, scoring two second half goals and whilst Luton probably deserved a point, it was these defensive frailties which were costing us too many points.

Result 1-2. Scorer: Rodger

Attendance 9,521.

M.O.M. — Rodger

### Sat. 16/3/91 Norwich City HOME

Again Luton dominated long periods but created only two clear cut chances, both of which were wasted. Then Sherwood (ex-Watford Player) hit a good low shot past Chamberlain at the end of the first half to secure the points. The inability to score hindered by the consistent problem of conceding at least once per game, frequently from defensive lapses, was driving the Town rapidly down the table.

Result 0-1.

Attendance 8,604

M.O.M. — Preece

### Sat. 23/3/91 Manchester United AWAY

Luton played in front of the biggest gate to watch them so far as if they were overawed by the occasion. United with the European Cup-Winners-Cup match on their minds, strode through the game and the Town's defence scoring 4 times with Chamberlain outstanding again to the Town's one

reply, when they equalised just before half time from a Preece shot, which took a wicked deflection of a divit in the turf. (Hopefully we'll have some of these to contend with next season at Kenilworth Road.)

Result 1-4. Scorer: Preece.

Attendance 41,762

M.O.M. — Chamberlain

### Sat. 30/3/91 Sheffield United AWAY

With the relegation looking more a distinct possibility, Luton started well with Elstrup putting them in front. However, it was again the same old story of failing to hold onto a lead.

Result 1-2. Scorer: Lars Elstrup

Attendance 18,487

M.O.M. — Chamberlain

### Mon.. 1/4/91 Tottenham Hotspur HOME

Spurs came to Kenilworth Road with no Paul Gascoigne and the F.A. Cup on their minds. They did create a few chances with Gary Lineker missing the best chance for the visitors. Luton prompted by Preece again had the better possession with Farrell trying hard, but as yet no replacement for Dowie. The Luton crowd evermore questioning this decision to sell him before having an adequate replacement recruited and points in the bag.

Result 0-0.

Attendance 11,322

M.O.M. — Preece

### Sat. 6/4/91 Chelsea AWAY

What a start with three goals in the first 25 minutes, Luton cut through the Chelsea defence, Elstrup and then Farrell scoring with Black adding the third with the help of Farrell's cross after breaking free of the Chelsea defence.

Luton did then go on to create further chances before Le Saux was sent off for allegedly elbowing Graham Rodger, after the defender had fouled him. This proved to be the turning point, shortly afterwards Rodger failed to clear properly, which enabled Chelsea to pull one back. Farrell was replaced by Nogan at half time, which only highlighted the decision to continually sell players without replacements, as in the second half the Town could only back-pedal, and the Town following was pleased in the end with the point saved rather than the points we had thrown away again.

Result 3-3. Scorers: Elstrup, Farrell & Black.

Attendance 12,603

M.O.M. — Elstrup

### Sat. 13/4/91 Wimbledon HOME

Another game in which Luton failed to score after dominating greater percentage of the match. A controversial incident being highlighted by the media was another dreadful Fashanau challenge, this time on Dave Beaumont, for which he should have been dismissed, but like last season's incident on Mick Kennedy, he got away with it. However, with Ray Harford on the bench it lifted the crowd, but to no avail.

Result 0-1.

Attendance 8,219.

M.O.M. — Beaumont

### Sat. 20/4/91 Sunderland HOME

The day had arrived, a real 'SIX POINTER', victory for Hatters would have resulted in safety. It was a case of two teams with Sunderland having the greater hunger for the game, taking the lead halfway through the first half, and whilst Rodger pulled one back from an Elstrup cross, it was



Sunderland who scored the winner in the second half, leaving Luton crowd on tenterhooks for the other results played that day, and their remaining two matches at Everton and home to Derby.

Result 1-2. Scorer: Rodger

Attendance 11,157

M.O.M. — Harvey

### Sat. 4/5/91 Everton AWAY

Luton never looked like securing three points, with only Alec Chamberlain keeping the score line as low as possible, and thus the goal difference on a level with Sunderland, who later that day failed to beat Arsenal in a match that kicking-off later because Television wanted the match shown live.

Result 0-1.

Attendance 19,809

M.O.M. — Chamberlain

### Sat. 11/5/91 Derby County HOME

The result is now history, backed by the largest home attendance of the season. Luton pressed forward, creating two good clear cut chances early-on, unfortunately neither were taken.

However just before the break Rees took a free kick which skidded off the head of Derby County's and former Luton player, Mick Harford, to hit the back of the net to the joy of all Luton fans. (Half time 1-0.) Shortly after the break Elstrup headed in from close range. However, with Luton then deciding to sit on their lead rather than pressing home their advantage, the home crowd were given several heart-stopping moments with Chamberlain producing a very good double stop to prevent Wright scoring.

With the news filtering through from Maine Road, Manchester that Sunderland had gone down the crowd were in raptures and invaded the plastic pitch for the last time to congratulate all the Luton Town Players and Coaching Staff, with a special ovation for manager JIM RYAN, without a single hint of what was to follow less than 48 hours later.

Result 2-0. Scorers: Harford (OG), Elstrup  
Attendance 12,889

M.O.M. — The LTFC

team and especially Jim Ryan!

### Summary

A difficult season where Luton failed to score on too many occasions after their approach work had justified more. However, the close season debate will be dominated by the dismissal of Jimmy Ryan, after keeping us in the First Division after being forced to sell three of his better players, he was turned out onto the dole queue. Justice?

Whilst he would no doubt be the first to acknowledge mistakes were made, the board had little justification for the course they took, especially as they made NO MONEY available for the purchase of replacement players.

**Keep writing in to us or the Football Club with your feelings on the situation.**





# SEASON'S TO SAVOUR

PART IV · SEASON 1954/55 · BY MICK McCONKEY

The previous three seasons had seen the Town emerge from their post-war struggles. A final position of eighth and reaching the sixth round of the FA Cup was achieved in the 1951/52 season, followed by third in 1952/53 and sixth in 1953/54.

Over this period, Gordon Turner (who would become the Town's highest all-time goalscorer) had come into the side, and he had been well supported by veteran England international Jesse Pye, who had joined the Town from Wolverhampton Wanderers in 1952. It could be said that Pye had done for Turner what Bob Hatton would do for Brian Stein while he was learning the art of goalscoring.

There were no major signings during the closed season, so the Town went into the 1954/55 season relying on the backbone of the team that had done well over the past couple of seasons.

The Town got off to a flying start when the season opened on August 21st, when Nottingham Forest were the visitors. Goals by Pye after thirteen minutes and Turner after thirty-two minutes gave the Town a 2-0 half-time lead. South African Roy Davies wrapped things up with the Town's third in the second half. The game was watched by an attendance of 19,832, which despite the Town being in contention for promotion right through the season, was only bettered three times, all in the month of April.

Two away defeats followed at Bury and Ipswich. For Ipswich it was their first season ever in Division 2, it would also be their last for a few years, as they were relegated.

September would see the Town win six consecutive matches. First on September 1st, Bury were beaten 3-2 after the Town had led 3-0 at half-time. Among the Town's scorers that evening was ace penalty taker Bert Mitchell, this would prove to be his last goal for the Town, as he was transferred to Middlesbrough the following week.

Another home match followed, a scrappy affair by all accounts against Birmingham City. Jimmy Adam scored the only goal six minutes from time. The referee was Arthur Ellis, who would later team up with Stuart Hall and Eddie Waring on BBC TV's "It's a Knockout".

The Town then won two away matches. At Lincoln 2-1 Jesse Pye scoring twice, the winner coming late in the game. Then the Town faced Middlesbrough and their old colleague Bert Mitchell, but goals by Davies and Turner secured the Town's 2-0 victory. Two goals by Turner were enough to see off Lincoln in the return match, but the Town were rocked by Jesse Pye's transfer request that week, reluctantly he was placed on the transfer list.

A 3-1 home win over Stoke City with goals by Adam (two) and Charlie Watkins on September 18th put Town top of the league, a position they would lose a week later when they lost 0-2 at Rotherham.

The top of the table at the end of September was as follows:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Rotherham Utd.	10	7	1	2	26	15	15
Stoke City	11	6	2	3	13	8	14
<b>LUTON TOWN</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>
Hull City	10	5	3	2	12	6	13
Blackburn Rov.	10	6	1	3	31	23	13

October would see mixed fortunes for the Town and the departure of Jesse Pye. On October 2nd Derby County were the visitors. A 2-0 win for the Town was the result, with two goals scored early in the second half by Turner and Pye. Pye's goal was described as "a glorious effort".

The Derby management must have liked what they saw because they signed Pye just a few days later. He had been a good servant for the Town, having scored thirty-two goals in sixty-one league appearances, not bad for someone who was thirty-three and over-the-hill when the Town first signed him. He could not help prevent a struggling Derby from avoiding relegation that season, but he would play a big part in their promotion attempt the following season.

Who would replace Pye? On October 9th the Town travelled to Bristol Rovers and a young reserve called Terry Kelly was the man given the job. He scored too, but he spent most of the game playing at centre half due to injury to Syd Owen. The Town playing with ten men for some eighty minutes or so lost 2-3. As for Kelly, that would be his only goal for the Club, but he would go on to give the Club loyal service, playing well over one hundred games for the Town at centre half.

The rest of October saw the Town beat Plymouth 3-1 at home before suffering two defeats, 1-3 at Fulham and then Swansea won at Kenilworth Road 1-2. That was the Town's only home defeat of the season. The centre forward position was still causing the Town a problem. Kelly had been tried, so had a young South African, Peter MacEwan, but neither had solved the problem.

Bob Morton  
Right-half

Second highest scorer with 14 league goals and went on to play for the Hatters until 1964 totalling 495 league appearances and 48 goals.



On November 6th the Town travelled to Notts County with Bob Morton, who usually played at right half, given the job of filling the centre forward spot with quite dramatic results, in what turned out to be a dramatic match.

After two minutes Morton put the Town 1-0 in front. He scored again after twenty minutes. By half-time County had reduced the arrears. The Town still led by



Gordon Turner  
Inside-right

Top scorer with 32 league goals and 5 F.A. Cup goals and went on to become Luton's highest all-time scorer.

their half-time 2-1 lead until ten minutes from time, when Adam made it 3-1 and seemingly the Town were home and dry. But County scored twice in the last eight minutes and the match finished 3-3, the Town's first draw of the season.

The following week the Cardiac Kids were at it again. Once again Morton scored twice to give the Town a 2-0 lead, this time against Liverpool. But once again a two goal lead was allowed to slip away, however, Adam restored the Town's lead and the Town ran out winners 3-2. The Town then lost 1-2 at West Ham, Morton the scorer once again.

League leaders Blackburn Rovers arrived at Kenilworth Road on November 27th and what a match that turned out to be. It would be the start of the Town's best spell of the season, an eleven match unbeaten run.

Against Blackburn the Town were 3-0 up in ten minutes, with goals by Turner on four and seven minutes. Davies scored the third on ten minutes before Briggs pulled one back for Rovers on fourteen minutes. By half-time the score was 5-1 with further goals by Adam on twenty-six and Davies on twenty-eight minutes, and with some better finishing the score would have easily been 8-1.

In the second half Turner made the score 6-1 after forty-nine minutes before Pemberton scored number seven on seventy minutes. Late goals for Rovers by Langton and Quigley were academic. This had been a superb performance by the Town.

Into December and on the fourth, the Town drew 1-1 at Port Vale. The following week Doncaster were beaten 3-0 at Kenilworth Road before the Town ran riot again on the Saturday before Christmas. The Town won 5-1 at Nottingham Forest.

Goals by Pemberton and Groves gave the Town a 2-0 half time lead. Davies made the score 3-0 early in the

second half, before Forest pulled a goal back. Two goals by Turner in the last ten minutes summed up the Town's superiority.

The top of the table now read as follows:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Leeds Utd.	22	11	3	6	41	35	29
Blackburn Rov.	22	13	2	7	67	41	28
<b>LUTON TOWN</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>28</b>
Stoke City	22	11	5	6	52	38	27
Rotherham Utd.	22	12	3	7	52	38	27
Fulham	22	11	5	6	31	43	27

As at the end of September? The top of the table was extremely close, as it would remain right through the season.

On Christmas Day the Town were held 1-1 at Kenilworth Road by Hull City. (This marking the last occasion the Town played at home on Christmas Day.) Two days later however, the Town's goal machine was in action again winning the return match at Hull 4-0, with two goals by Morton and one each by Turner and Cullen. The attendance of 39,843 was the highest to watch a Town match that season.

Off the football scene what else was happening? Vauxhall had just launched a new luxury saloon "The Cresta". A car with a real American look, typical of this era. The price? £844 including purchase tax. Looking for a new house? Well, Connell's were advertising a typical three-bedroom semi-detached in the Luton area at £2,450.

Showing at the Gaumont that Christmas was "The Cruel Sea", starring Jack Hawkins and Donald Sinden. The George Hotel (which stood in George Street where Littlewoods is now) announced that they were banning "Teddy Boys" from their dance hall. "Other clients find them objectionable", a spokesman said.

Finally a typhoon called Tyson was ripping the heart out of Australia. This was not anything to do with high winds however. Frank Tyson was the English fast bowler who was making history as England were winning the test series down under that winter. (Oh, those were the days I hear you say!)

Sid Owen  
Centre-half

Important player in Luton's promotion to Division One and was made Club coach at the end of the season. He went on to manage the Town 1959/60.



Back to the football and two home wins over Ipswich and Middlesbrough were the only league action in January. February saw only two league matches as well, a 0-0 draw at Stoke and a very vital 4-0 win over promotion rivals Rotherham, two goals for Turner in that one.

Rotherham must have been sick of the sight of Gordon Turner as he had scored a hat-trick when the Town won 5-1 at Rotherham in the fourth round of the FA Cup on January 29th. This had followed a 5-0 home win over Workington in round three. The Town's cup run came to an end in round five when Manchester City won 2-0 on a snowbound Kenilworth Road.

Into March and on the second the Town drew 0-0 at Derby on a quagmire of a pitch. A week later the Town's unbeaten run, which had stretched back to November, came to an end at Plymouth when they lost 1-2. There was a most bizarre incident which led to Plymouth's first goal. Les Jones, the Town's reserve centre half (deputising for the injured Syd Owen), headed a back pass to Ron Baynam whilst under pressure from Plymouth's Davis. Baynam heard a whistle and assumed the referee had blown for a free kick against Davis. He rolled the ball back out towards Jones, but Davis shot the ball back into the goal and the referee awarded a goal. Baynam protested vigorously but the referee was adamant he did not blow his whistle.

The whistle one assumed must have come from one of the park pitches which surround Plymouth's home park ground. The Town then beat Fulham 3-0 at home before Swansea completed the double over the Town, winning 2-1 at Vetch Field.

As April arrived the Town had nine matches still to play, but were well placed at the top of the table on the morning of April 2nd.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
<b>LUTON TOWN</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>43</b>
Blackburn Rov.	35	20	3	12	104	70	43
Leeds Utd.	35	18	5	12	56	50	41
West Ham	33	16	8	9	65	56	40
Rotherham Utd.	32	17	4	11	71	54	38
Notts County	33	17	4	12	60	57	38

That afternoon the Town were involved in an eight goal thriller at Anfield against Liverpool. Five goals in the first twenty nine minutes left the Town trailing 2-3, Turner having scored twice for the Town. There was a flurry of goals late in the game when Morton scored twice in three minutes to give the Town a 4-3 lead, but Liverpool equalised five minutes from time.

The following weekend was Easter, the three matches provided a mixed bag of results. On Good Friday the Town drew 0-0 with Leeds at Kenilworth Road in front of 25,775 spectators. The following day saw the highest crowd of the season at Kenilworth Road when 27,111 were packed in to see the Town beat West Ham 2-0, with goals by Turner after sixty nine minutes and Cummins four minutes from time. Easter Monday was to see the Town's heaviest defeat of the season 0-4 at Leeds. The following Saturday the Town drew 0-0 at Blackburn. The top of the table now looked like this:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Blackburn Rov.	40	22	5	13	113	76	49
Leeds Utd.	40	21	7	12	65	52	49
<b>LUTON TOWN</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>48</b>
Stoke City	37	19	9	9	64	41	47
Birmingham	37	19	8	10	79	42	46
Rotherham	37	21	4	12	82	61	46

Wednesday April 20th saw two vital matches, none more so than the Town's visit to Birmingham. A win would see the Town a step closer to promotion. It was also a must win situation for Birmingham. In front of some 36,000 spectators Birmingham it was who won 2-1, Turner scoring for the Town. In the other match Rotherham beat Stoke 2-1 at home.

Saturday April 23rd, the penultimate weekend of the season. A disappointing crowd of 16,700 turned up at Kenilworth Road to see the Town play Port Vale in a match which saw the Town give their followers heart failure. Goals by Davies and MacEwan gave the Town a two goal lead. But then the Town must have had a touch of the jitters, as they allowed Port Vale to score twice to level the score 2-2. However, with fifteen minutes left MacEwan restored the Town's lead and three minutes later Turner calmed the nerves to make the score 4-2. Elsewhere Leeds won 2-0 at Blackburn, Stoke beat Bristol Rovers 2-0, Rotherham beat Plymouth by a similar score, while Birmingham drew 1-1 with Notts County. The table now read as follows:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Leeds Utd.	41	22	7	12	67	52	51
<b>LUTON TOWN</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>50</b>
Stoke City	40	20	10	10	68	54	50
Rotherham Utd.	39	23	4	12	86	52	50
Birmingham	39	20	9	10	82	44	49
Blackburn Rov.	41	22	5	14	113	78	49



Jim Adam  
Outside-left

Scored 9 league goals this season in 25 league appearances.

The Town entertained Bristol Rovers the following Wednesday and in front of a crowd of 20,994 won 2-0. Charlie Watkins playing in his last home game before his retirement bid farewell in style by scoring both goals. Other midweek matches saw Rotherham beat Swansea 2-0. Stoke won 1-0 at Port Vale and Birmingham won 3-0 at Hull. The top of the table was now as complicated as ever.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	Max Pts
<b>LUTON TOWN</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>54</b>
Stoke City	41	21	10	10	69	54	52	54
Rotherham Utd	40	24	4	12	88	52	52	56
Birmingham	40	21	9	10	85	44	51	55
Leeds Utd	41	22	7	12	67	52	51	53
Blackburn Rov.	41	22	5	14	113	78	49	51

Although the Town were top of the table a win on the last Saturday would not necessarily assure promotion.

The Town travelled to Doncaster, not having won away since Christmas. MacEwan gave the Town a perfect start by opening the scoring in the first minute. He added a second after 14 minutes. After Pemberton added the third after twenty eight minutes the result was never in doubt and the Town won 3-0. What happened elsewhere? Birmingham drew 2-2 at Liverpool, Leeds won 3-1 at Fulham, Stoke lost 0-2 at Plymouth and most important of all, Rotherham lost 0-1 at Port Vale, they also missed a penalty. The Town were up providing Rotherham did not beat Liverpool by some ten clear goals, but Birmingham would pip the Town to the championship if they won at Doncaster in their last game.



Front cover of Doncaster R v Luton Programme

The top of the table now read as follows:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
<b>LUTON TOWN</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>54</b>
Leeds Utd	42	23	7	12	70	53	53
Birmingham	41	21	10	10	87	46	52
Stoke City	42	21	10	11	69	46	52
Rotherham	41	24	4	13	88	63	52
Blackburn Rov.	42	22	6	14	114	79	50

Though the Town's season was over the drama was not yet over. Birmingham won their last match 5-1 at Doncaster, which gave them the championship on goal average while Rotherham won their last match beating Liverpool 6-1, but it was not enough and the Town beat them into second place on goal average.

This is the last article for this season. In the first "Hatters News" of next season we will look at the Town's first season in Division One. They did not win any cups but they did earn themselves a good reputation with some really stirring displays.

I would like to thank the people who have written to me saying how much they have enjoyed reading these articles. It makes it all the work worthwhile, thank you once again.



Front cover of the Luton News Luton T.F.C. Promotion Souvenir.

(All pictorials & memorabilia kindly lent by John Pyper & Roger Wash)



## PLAYER PROFILE

### Richard Harvey

A series of questions were asked to the Luton Town players, answers to which we now relay to you:

**Full Name** RICHARD GEORGE HARVEY

**Age** 22

**Date of Birth** 17-4-69

**Height** 5' 10"

**Weight** 11st 10lbs

**Married** NO

**Who would you like to meet and why?** GRAHAM RODGER. HE IS IN HIS SECOND SEASON WITH US NOW AND IS AT LAST WINNING HIS BATTLE AGAINST INJURY. IT IS TIME WE PLAYED TOGETHER AND TIME HIS LUCK CHANGED.

**What are your hobbies?** GOLF AND WATCHING TV

**Who are your favourite pop stars?** LUTHER VAN DROSS, PHIL COLLINS, ALEXANDER O'NEAL, AND OF COURSE, JASON DONOVAN

**Your favourite Ground to play in** HIGHBURY, ARSENAL F.C. THE PLAYING SURFACE AND ALL THE FACILITIES ARE EXCELLENT.

**Who is your most difficult opponent and why?**

NO-ONE IN PARTICULAR

**Who is your favourite other player** STEVE WILLIAMS

**Have you got a nickname at Luton?** YES, TRICKY DICKY

**What is your idea of relaxation?** GOING OUT FOR THE EVENING WITH MY GIRLFRIEND AND ENJOYING HER COMPANY.



## PLAYER PROFILE

### Mark Pembridge

**Full Name** MARK PEMBRIDGE

**Age** 20

**Date of Birth** 29-11-70

**Height** 5' 7"

**Weight** 11st 2lbs

**Married** NO

**Who would you like to meet and why?** MIKE TYSON, A PHENOMENAL BOXER, AND PRINCESS DIANA, WHO IS TERRIFIC

**What are your hobbies?** SNOOKER, GOLF AND TENNIS

**Your favourite Ground to play in** HIGHBURY, ARSENAL F.C.

**Who is your most difficult opponent and why?**

JASON REES — WHEN HE IS KEEPING QUIET

**Who is your favourite other player** STEVE NICOL OF LIVERPOOL AND SCOTLAND. HE CAN PLAY IN ANY POSITION AND HIS OVERALL ABILITY TO COVER FOR OTHER PLAYERS

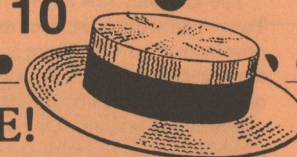
**Have you got a nickname at Luton?** BUDDY!

**What is your idea of relaxation?** GOING OUT FOR A DRINK AFTER A MATCH

Next issue we feature Sean Farrell and Darren McDonough. If you would like a feature on any players, past or present, or require just general information on any former Luton player, please write to:

Philip Francis, c/o LTSC, 1 Maple Road, Luton, Beds.

## "HATTERS MASTERMIND" No. 10



### ★ Your chance to win a LUTON TOWN SOUVENIR PRIZE!

As the last Mastermind, based on the Town's Division Four Championship Season received a record entry we have decided to base this quiz on the Promotion Year from the Third Division (1969/70).

- No. 1** Which players kept goal during the season?
- No. 2** Which clubs did Luton sign the following players from during the campaign?  
(a) Chris Nicholl (b) Viv Busby (c) Matt Tees
- No. 3** Against which Club did Malcolm MacDonald open his account that season?
- No. 4** The Town suffered a shock exit from the F.A. Cup against which team?
- No. 5** On which ground was promotion gained and what was the score?
- No. 6** Which future Luton manager played for the Town that season?
- No. 7** Which forward made two appearances in the league team before leaving for Oxford United?
- No. 8** Which University graduate made five appearances including playing substitute that season?
- No. 9** Which ex-Luton player scored for Tranmere in a 3-2 victory over the Hatters?
- No. 10** Which team or teams were the victims of the Town's largest league win and who inflicted our worst defeat? Please give the scorers and teams.

Send your list of all ten answers, or as many as you can answer, on a postcard or paper to: LTFC Supporters Club, "Hatters Mastermind" No. 10, c/o LTFC, 1 Maple Road, Luton, Beds.

LU4 8AW. If you don't want to post your entry to us then you can hand it in to any LTSC committee member. All entries to be in by first post 17th August 1991.

Rules of entry — All entries to be limited to LTSC members ONLY and in the event of any close results 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 winner drawn out at the nearest social event after the closing date.

### ★ COMPETITION WINNER OF THE NINTH ★ HATTERS MASTERMIND

We again received many 100% correct entries for our last Hatters Mastermind competition and due to this, as stated in the rules, we put the correct entries into a hat with the lucky winner being picked out, who is:

Mr. David Elder, 28 Spinney Road, Sundon Park, Luton, Beds.

CONGRATULATIONS ... Your prize will be with you soon!

Answers to Hatters Mastermind No. 9 were as follows:

**No. 1** Tony Read, Bill Taylor and Colin Tinsley. **No. 2** Terry Branston — Northampton. **No. 3** Bruce Rioch. **No. 4** Ian Buxton — Derbyshire C.C. **No. 5** Exeter City, Doncaster Rovers. **No. 6** Rodney Green scored, and Graham French sent off. **No. 7** Allan Brown. **No. 8** John Ryan — Wigan, Peter Denton — Coventry City. **No. 9** The Shay Ground, Halifax. **No. 10** Darlington.

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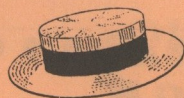
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SEASON  
L.T.S.C. \*





# 1985-91 THE END OF AN ERA 1985-91

The 11th May saw an end of an era for Luton Town. The artificial surface as you all know has now been removed. There is no doubt that on the purely financial front, this became a source of much needed income to the club.

But on the playing side has it really helped the team: When the surface was first used Luton managed 12 victories, 6 draws and only 3 defeats, a quite satisfactory season. The following season, an even better points tally, 14 wins, 5 draws, 2 defeats, one of those being the last game of the season, but over the last two seasons victories have been harder to come by, 34 league games have only seen 15 victories. It has been a gradual decline in fortunes.

## On the Cup Tie Front

Luton played 24 games in all competitions, the first cup game on plastic gave Luton their only cup defeat, that being against Norwich City.

As you have all heard on numerous occasions, Away Managers whinge about the synthetic surface. If it is that bad surely it does not suit Luton. After all visiting sides only play on it once a season, Luton have to play on it every other week.

I would be very interested in hearing other people's views on this subject.

## Statistics with the plastic pitch:

LEAGUE	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	CUP	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
1985/86	21	12	6	3	37	15	42	1985/86	5	2	2	1	11	6	—
1986/87	21	14	5	2	29	13	47	1986/87	3	1	2	0	4	1	—
1987/88	20	11	6	3	40	21	39	1987/88	8	8	0	0	20	6	—
1988/89	19	8	6	5	32	21	30	1988/89	4	2	2	0	7	3	—
1989/90	19	8	8	3	24	18	32	1989/90	1	1	0	0	7	2	—
1990/91	19	7	5	7	22	18	26	1990/91	3	1	2	0	7	3	—

Statistics by Phillip Francis

## Total Summary of matches played on the plastic pitch:

Played **143** Won **75** Drawn **44** Lost **24** Goals for **240** Goals against **127**.

## Cup matches played at Kenilworth Road are as follows:

Played **24** Won **15** Drawn **8** Lost **1** Goals for **56** Goals against **21**.



1991 — Kenilworth Road Stadium as we will remember it or for some supporters try and forget!



1991 — Rubber and tarmac as the pitch is dug up. ▼

## COMMITTEE MEMBER EXPLAINS HIS RESIGNATION ON "MATTER OF PRINCIPLE"



Dear Sir,

I did not agree with Jimmy Ryan's sacking believing that no other Manager could have achieved better results over the last 16 months on the limited resources which were made available to him. However, whilst writing to Jimmy on a personal level I did not publically air my criticisms of the Club's action. Over the last two to three weeks I have, therefore, tried to come to terms with a decision with which I did not agree and to bring some rationale to this action. Thus, having finally overcome my initial disgust I formed the view that since it is in the long term interests of the Club for the Chairman, Directors and Manager to be able to work harmoniously for the overall good, perhaps the decision was inevitable, if unjust. Once the decision had been made neither Mr Nelkin nor Jimmy Ryan would have been able to work together again, and since the Chairman was unlikely to resign, despite the unprecedented furore caused by his decision, there was little likelihood of events changing in this regard.

This decision having been made due to an alleged "clash of personalities" I naively felt that perhaps John Faulkner, who helped create much of the success as No 2 at the Club, might be consulted over who he may be able to work with in continuing in this capacity. When it became apparent that David Pleat was to be the likely Manager, this view was strengthened as I believed he at least would appreciate John Faulkner's loyalty, having been responsible for bringing him to the Club, would be aware of his ability and the success he created over recent years, and would recognise that he was a 'supporter' like himself. I, therefore, confidently expected that he would be confirmed in the position of No 2 alongside Dave Pleat, and this would provide some continuity within the Club given his close connection with many of the senior pros who have worked their way up from the youth and reserve teams. However, I was mistaken, and despite all that John Faulkner has achieved working alongside Jimmy Ryan, and his obvious affinity for the Club, it has counted for nothing in the final analysis and he too has been rewarded with the sack. Thus in quick succession two true 'Luton men' have been lost whose allegiance to the Club was beyond question.

To me this latest sacking is the final straw, showing a disloyalty which I find hard to fathom. What's the excuse this time? I don't believe a valid one could be put forward. Thus, whilst I wish David Pleat success and hold no animosity toward Colin Murphy, I remain utterly astonished by this decision. In the case of John Faulkner "a clash of personalities" or other implausible excuse cannot even be put forward, since David Pleat appointed him, worked with him, knew of his undoubted ability and recent success and must have realised the distress and hurt his actions would cause to both John Faulkner and his family, knowing his love of the Club and himself having suffered a similar fate at both Spurs and more recently, Leicester.

In conclusion, to John Faulkner I would like to place on record my thanks for your efforts both as a player and coach and trust that you will appreciate the respect which genuine Luton supporters had for that which you achieved at the Club. As my own personal protest at the recent decisions I have decided to resign as a Committee Member of the Supporters Club, as I feel unable to continue to work, albeit on a voluntary basis, for a Club which shows such a basic lack of compassion, understanding, integrity or loyalty to employees who deserve the Club's and supporters wholehearted thanks.

I still await the pathetic excuse as to why John Faulkner was sacked in order to provide me with one brief moment in which to smile in an otherwise sorry and unhappy catalogue of events, which do little for football's reputation in general and Luton Town FC in particular. Perhaps players might consider what loyalty has meant to John Faulkner and Jimmy Ryan, when they come to renew their contracts or am I again being naive?

Yours faithfully, John Chapman



● Happier times — Ryan salutes fans



## LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS CLUB PRESENTATION EVENING

Coliseum Nightclub, Luton — Sunday May 5th

With this being the event of our season the whole playing squad and staff were invited — where they were able to relax in the week leading up to the all important game at home to Derby County.

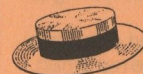
All our members and friends who attended fully enjoyed themselves and were able to mingle with their favourites to have a chat and collect autographs. The whole night was a total success with the highlight being the presentation ceremony compéred by our president and Luton town supporter — ITV's Nick Owen.

All three trophies were presented by Luton Town manager, Jim Ryan, who also looked relaxed from the stressful weeks leading up to and the end of a hard season. As you may know there were three categories — Young Player, Players Player and the main award LTSC Player of the Season.



There is talent in the valleys  
Ceri Hughes & Mark Pembridge with their Young Player Awards

**NUMBER 1**  
Alec Chamberlain  
with his  
winning Trophies



Awards went to the following players:

**LTSC Player of the Season**

— Alec Chamberlain

**Players Player**

— also Alec Chamberlain

**Young Player of the Season**

— Shared by Welsh lads

Mark Pembridge and Ceri Hughes

*Well done to you all!*

For interest the second and third places for Player of the Season were: 2nd David Preece and 3rd Lars Elstrup.

After the main presentation ceremony Luton Town captain, John Dreyer, made a special presentation to our chairperson, Pam Gray, as a memento of her hard work for the supporters club.



Our Chairperson being presented with  
her signed team photo and bouquet of flowers by John Dreyer

During the evening we made the Draw for the grand Presentation Raffle, and the following names were drawn for:

**1st PRIZE £150.00** PICKFORDS  
TRAVEL HOLIDAY VOUCHER  
TICKET NO. 06555  
JIMMY MAGUIRE,  
THE OLD DOLPHINS,  
258 THE STREET, BOUGHTON,  
KENT ME13 9AD.

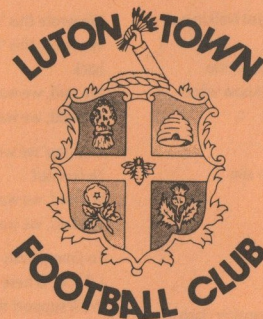
**2nd PRIZE** ELECTROLUX MODEL  
1800 CYLINDER CLEANER  
TICKET NO. 14174  
MURRAY STEELE  
0234 266543

**3rd PRIZE £25.00** BEEFEATER  
STEAK HOUSE VOUCHER  
TICKET NO. 00770  
PETER TURNER  
18 LANCING ROAD, LUTON

**4th PRIZE** AUTOGRAPHED LUTON  
TOWN F.C. FOOTBALL  
(Redonated & auctioned for £90 —  
Thank you to Mrs. Sue Carway)  
TIM CLAYDEN  
8 ROCK LANE, LINSLADE, BEDS.

**5th PRIZE** 'MORPHY RICHARDS'  
TRAVELLING ALARM CLOCK/RADIO  
ALAN STEVENS,  
187 WAVELL CLOSE, STEWARTBY,  
BEDFORD MK43 9LW

**6th PRIZE** A BOTTLE OF  
CHAMPAGNE  
MRS. WRIGHT  
26 REDWOOD GLADE,  
LEIGHTON BUZZARD, BEDS. LU7 7JT



# LUTON TOWN FC

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on Luton Town F.C.**

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# LETTERS PAGE



## OPEN LETTER TO APPLY FOR THE LUTON TOWN MANAGER'S JOB

Dear Sir(s)/Wide-boys,

I believe I am the man you are looking for to manage the team. Although I'm not yet "high-profile" (I've spent the last twenty years working as a public lavatory ball-cock), this could be easily changed. For example, I could wear dark glasses and a panama hat, smoke big cigars, pose with Page Three Girls, and talk loudly in restaurants and to the Press (a bit like "Big Mal"). Additionally I could keep telling everybody that we're going to win everything (a bit like ex-tartan army boss Ally MacLeod).

Oh, I do realise that both "Big Mal" and Mr. MacLeod didn't win very much — but they definitely weren't working with the right men. I could let Mr. Kohler appoint himself as my chief coach, and either he or Mr. Nelkin could pick the team. Actually Mrs. Nelkin could do that, depending on which players she'd prefer her daughter to kiss before kick-off.

Anyway, with my high-profile, the footballing expertise of the Chairman and his partner (etc.), I couldn't go wrong and must be the man for the job. Of course there would be no personality clash as I'd agree with everything Mr. Nelkin and Mr. Kohler said. For example, I would implement the complicated free-kick ideas of Mr. Kohler even if two of our players (at each corner-flag) were automatically off-side. Similarly, if I were Jim Ryan I would have totally accepted the Chairman's castigation of the decision to bring on Julian James for Jason Rees in the second half of our home win against Derby — even though we were winning 2-0 and Rees had "run himself into the ground".

In anticipation of being offered the manager's job,

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Richard (Dick) Head

(honestly — not related to Nelkin or Kohler)



## NEEDS YOUR HELP!

- We organised the World Cup Advice Centre in Italy
- We are presenting evidence to Parliament's Committee on Policing Football
- We are assisting the Rimini Deportees' legal action
- We are campaigning for safe and comfortable seating and standing areas at football grounds

### Membership of the FSA gives you:

- A bi-monthly magazine packed with football news, posted direct to your door.
- The chance to hear big names in football speak at your local branch.
- Local newsletters keeping you informed.
- Developing discount and fringe benefit schemes plus available to FSA members only. Button badges — T-shirts — car stickers.

Why not join us and help us "Reclaim the Game" to YOU the Supporter.

Send for an application form to:  
FSA, PO Box 11, LIVERPOOL L26 1XP, England

## STOP PRESS — STOP PRESS

### Visit to T.V. Studios

We have organised a coach to take a group to the Teddington Lock Thames T.V. studios to watch the recording of the T.V. comedy 'French Fields', starring Julia McKenzie and Anton Rogers.

The date is Sunday the 7th July 1991, leaving from Kenilworth Road at approximately 5.30 p.m., and arriving back home around 10.00 p.m. Nobody under the age of 15 years will be allowed to join us, because of studio regulations.

The cost is £3.50 each, which covers the cost for the coach. PLEASE DROP ME A LINE OR WRITE TO THE LTSC IF YOU WISH TO JOIN US. It's on a first-come first-served basis.

### LUTON TOWN F.C. PRE-SEASON TOUR — 1991/92

At the time of going to press the club have informed us that they intend to visit Scotland once again as last season.

No dates have been confirmed yet but they hope to arrange three matches, two of which will be versus Hamilton A. and Alloa.

Other matches being considered in this country are at Cambridge, Peterborough and Wycombe Wanderers.

### SALE & WANT'S

If you have any Football items for sale or require wants (i.e. old programmes, etc.) send in your requirements and we will publish these FREE of charge. Where space is available.

Send your list to: Sale & Want's, LTSC, c/o LTFC, 1 Maple Road, Kenilworth Road Stadium, Luton LU4 8AW.

### Calling all footballers

If you think you fit the bill, we are looking for one or two players in the region of 5'10" to 6'2" and can play in a forward and goal scoring role.

Interested, if so write to our Supporters Club Team Manager, Stuart Phillips LTSC c/o LTFC.

### from the Chairperson

I have sent a letter of welcome to David Pleat and invited him to come along to an S.C. meeting, bringing with him his assistant, Colin Murphy. They have accepted our invitation with a date to be arranged nearer the new season.

## ☆☆☆ The Jim Ryan Rap ☆☆☆

We're all Luton fans and we want Nelkin out  
He is the man that sold us out  
He sold Mike Kennedy and Wilson too  
Breaker soon followed by you know who?

J.R. is his name  
Football is his game  
To keep Luton up was his main aim

The fans all loved him  
The players did too  
Nelkin gave him the sack  
The man hasn't a clue!

The reason he gave was a personality clash  
All the media say "that's a load of trash"

Dear Jimmy Ryan we want you to know  
We think it is a disgrace Nelkin made you go

We wrote this 'rap' because Jimmy was sacked  
We wrote this 'rap' because we want Jimmy back

We said, we want Jimmy back  
We said, we want Jimmy back

This 'rap' we wrote and we must shout to get  
Nelkin out

We said, we want Nelkin out  
We said, we want Nelkin out

To Jimmy Ryan we must say  
L.T.F.C. is here to stay

We'll support through thick and thin  
All we need to do is get a new board in.

From a Kenilworth Road Season  
Ticket Holder

## FUN DAY EXTRA ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

21 Elvington Gardens, Broomfield Park, Luton, Bedfordshire LU3 4ET  
7th May 1991

Dear Pam,

This is just a note to thank you for a wonderful time that we had on Monday. I think the players enjoyed it as much as we did! It was great fun to see the players turn up and we were thrilled to bits when we found that Kingsley was on our team.

My best event, or should I say, the event that I enjoyed most, was the Skipping, Football and Sack Races.

Out of all, the thing that was the best was when I had a kiss off Kingsley, that really made my day! If you see him thank him and tell him that all my friends at school are jealous!

Anyway this letter would not be finished and the Funday would not have gone ahead if it had not been for yourself and the rest of the committee members, so I thank you a lot for making this day out at the football club so enjoyable.

All the best for the summer and see you soon if not next season.

Yours sincerely,  
Lesley Skinner

33 Ninesprings Way, Hitchin, Herts. SG4 9NR

To Dear Pam,

Thank you very much for the Fun Day, I enjoyed a lot, I was in team 4 and we came 3rd. I collected lots of Autographs for my pen pal in Australia called Gusti Lashluck. We had different players in our team called Darren McDonough, Jamie Campbell and one other I did not know. In our football match we won 7-2. In our penalties I scored 1/3. We did well in the races as well, we came 4th, 3rd, 8th and 1st. My sister, dad and mum were also in my team. Please if you can, can you thank the players for coming and I bet no other team would do that. Thank you.

From James Parsons, Age 10