



HATTERS

News

LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS CLUB

Winter 1995

“VOICE OF THE FANS”

Issue No.24



This was Terry Westley's initial comments about the side he had assembled at no inconsiderable cost over the summer period. With over a third of the season gone, the Town are languishing in the bottom three and are showing no signs of pulling clear. The main problems as you must know as a supporter has been the inability to score goals, whilst defensively apart from the result against Stoke City stood up pretty well, however, this has meant five players being used, primarily, three defenders, in Johnson, S. Davis and Trevor Peake with two wide players in Alexander and Harvey with the supposed freedom to attack the flanks. Whilst this works very effectively for some sides, Liverpool and Middlesbrough notably have fullbacks or midfielders who are capable of getting to the bye-line and get good and effective crosses in,

Unfortunately for the Town, too many crosses are thrown in from 25 yards out, where tradition tells you that they have to be for more accurate. The midfield also has been ineffective with too many players employed in a similar role, Waddock, Hughes, G. Johnson and McLaren. Whilst Hughes occasionally shows glimpses of the talent he undoubtedly has, too frequently he gets caught up in skirmishes and a war of words resulting in cards, and selecting the inappropriate pass at the wrong time. Scott Oakes has been very ineffective since his return from injury.

No replacement has yet been found for John Taylor, and unless the supply improves to the forwards, particularly minus Taylor since his back operation has looked very ineffective with Norwegian Vidar Riseth needing to be given more time than we had envisaged.

Douglas did provide some very welcome pace and willingness to try something different on his debut something that has been missing too long.

Hopefully with Patterson recovering from injury that will give a lot more flexibility in defence, but it is chances the Town need to create because without them and the goals they will struggle, and it's very difficult to see a higher place being obtained.

So, the following points need urgent addressing if progress is to be made:

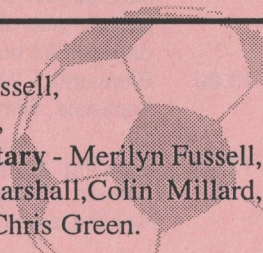
- i) Look at transfer policy, only Davis and Feuer (so far on loan) have proved effective. It's blatantly obvious why Guentchev and G. Johnson were given 'Free Transfer' by Ipswich Town, whilst Alexander and Oldfield still have a long way to go to win over the crowd.
- ii) Examine the defensive system, because whilst the level of goals conceded is not too bad, the number of chances created by these players is minimal.
- iii) Question entry into the Anglo-Italian Trophy Cup which has too frequently left the players looking jaded for the Saturday game after with knocks and injuries and with the results a side lacking confidence.

Yours Mark Chapman. LTSC Treasurer.



The 1995/96 LTSC Committee:

President - Nick Owen, **Vice-President** - Brian Swain **Chairperson** - Vic Fussell,
Deputy Chairperson - Helen Grummitt, **General Secretary** - Nicky Parsons,
Treasurer - Mark Chapman, **Press Officer** - Philip Francis, **Membership Secretary** - Merilyn Fussell,
Other Committee Members - Cathie Crocker, Yvonne Fletcher, Karen Marshall, Colin Millard,
Adrian Shotbolt, David Squires & John Pyper, **LTFC Rep:** (LTFC Director) Chris Green.



HATTERS UP FOR SALE!

A Statement from Luton Town Chairman

David Kohler, October 16th 1995



But even if it is successful can see no prospect of me reaching agreement with the Luton Hoo executors or their chosen developers Wyncote Developments, who have themselves submitted plans which include proposals for the football club.

To date they have not made a serious attempt to reach agreement with the club, and as yet we do not know their proposals. However, I firmly believe a deal is possible, but regrettably not if I am in control at Luton Town FC.

Over the last few years the local authority and the board of Luton Town FC have worked tirelessly to resolve the position.

I have always tried to be realistic and as I now see it, the obstacles now faced appear too great to overcome at this moment in time. A new owner would perhaps be treated more favourably.

I, as chairman, must and do take full responsibility for the running of the club both off and on the pitch. No one can be more upset than me that our performances and results are not what is expected.

To all directors and staff both past and present, I would like to give my sincere thanks for their contribution, however great or small to the progress of the club.

For obvious reasons I hope a purchaser is found soon and I apologise to everyone for the disruption and uncertainty that this course of action will cause.

In the meantime I will run the club to the best of my ability.

David Kohler, LTFC Chairman

HISTORICALLY when one can no longer achieve the desired objectives, the honourable course of action is to resign.

This option is not however available to me as I have a great affinity to Luton Town FC and a significant financial investment in the club.

Therefore it is with great regret that I have decided to offer my controlling interest in Luton Town FC to any person who is prepared to further progress the club, and has the resources to do so.

Five and a half years is a long time to be running a professional club, during which time I have married, started a family, and my circumstances and priorities have changed.

The financing of football clubs has seen a dramatic change over the last five and half years. To compete at the level that Luton Town FC aspires, requires corporate backing or financial wealth which frankly is beyond my current resources.

I have tried to promote a fresh and innovative blueprint for stadia design intended to secure the future of Luton Town FC, on and off the field well into the next century and beyond.

My plans have received full support from Luton Borough Council but regrettably the Department of the Environment has decided to hold a Public Enquiry which has stalled progress. Time will tell if this application will be successful.

* This Statement has been kindly allowed to be printed by permission of Luton Town Football Club.

My Anglo-Italian Diary (Cesena v Luton)

Tuesday 7th November 1995

06.45 Daybreak at Kenilworth Road - a subdued group of players, officials and supporters assemble, on Mick McGiven in chipper mood already handed out fines to late comers seems immune to the dawn start.

08.45 Through the M25 car park, a smooth group check in (supporters first - now that's a first!) and time for breakfast - is McDonald, really on the recommended dietary requirements list for players??

09.50 Take off for Bologna and despite a fairly boisterous card school a few seats away, Scott Oakes is asleep before take-off (with hindsight, obviously the start of dreaded flu bug).

13.00 Bienvenuti! Warm sunshine, blue skies & off to Hotel Imperiale, Rimini.

17.00 Training in nearby Viserba, includes an interesting version of slam dancing (!) Despite virtual darkness, Kelvin Davies's cry of 'where is it' (it, being the ball that

had just flown past him into the net), raises a good laugh.

19.30 Rendez-vous in the bar and off to the best restaurant in Rimini - Osteria de Zorg. Definitely to be recommended - fabulous food, great house wine & good value too. Not too much English spoke so the Italian phrases we learnt on the coach trips to Ipswich and Stoke proved usefull after all.

Later Terry Westley and Mick McGiven gamely field questions in the hotel bar and after much football discussion it's off into the night to sample the local hospitality for a (fool) hardy few!

Wednesday 8th November

09.30 Off to Viserba for an hour's training - good news, Darren Patterson will start his first game for the Town this evening. Squad are all in good form (sensibly they didn't sample the local hospitality last night!)

12.00 A walk along the beach - beautiful provided you don't look at the ugly row of hotels behind you - along the

harbour and into the old town to see the sights, including Roman excavations and, of course, churches galore.

16.00 Siesta - well, when in Rome...

18.30 The Smartest set of Luton fans ever seen! Cesena her we come!

19.15 A neat modern Ground - no chance of any architectural awards though - and mulled wine to greet us. Photos on the pitch, souvenirs bought and it's down to business.

20.30 Luton go 1-0 down to a cracking Maenza shot, equalised through a Dwight Marshall goal in the second half and then, 'l' episodio determinate' - Kelvin Davies moves up for a Luton corner, doesn't get back on his line before Scugua executes a perfect lob into back of the net - 2-1. 'Un error di posizione del portiere del

Luton' (LA Gazzetta dello sport) sums it up and with 2 minutes remaining there's no time to come back. A good team performance, teenage debut Douglas, Upson & Simpson all look excellent prospects but a disappointing result all the same.

???? More local hospitality to make up for the disappointment of losing and a special thanks to the dark haired besuited Luton executive who picked up the tab!!

Thursday 9th November

10.45 Maybe all the hospitality wasn't such a good idea! Feel as though we've been here for days, talking and watching football - it's been a great time.

13.55 Take off London and Ciao Italia!



ANGLO-ITALIAN CUP WITH HATTERS!!

by John Pyper - LTSC Committee member

Having always wanted to see the Hatters play a competitive match on the continent, the opportunity to see them play at one of the best Stadia in Italy was too good a chance to miss.

So, myself and Luton Town Steward Dave Tingey ventured out to Italy on our own Steam, rather than with one of the three organised trips on Tuesday 10th October via London Stansted Airport to Milan-Linate at the unearthly hour of '5.30a.m.' On the scheduled flight which was only 25% full, we met up with four Ipswich Town fans (Love the kit by the way!!) on their way to Brescia (40 mins journey time from Milan). You might well guess, their first comments, when they know we were Luton Supporters - you're guess it How are the two FREE transfers doing mentioning no names, and not to mention their former manager Mick McGiven.

After a lengthy chat to pass the time in our two hour flight, we arranged to meet up later that day at the home of AC Milan & Inter-Meazza Stadium or better known as San Siro Stadium for a tour of the facilities etc. As you can see from the photo we had an enjoyable time.

Having toured around Milan via their Metro system, we got our heads down for the night after visiting a few bars on route. The following day was welcomed by some lovely weather for our journey to Genoa (a 2 1/2 hour Train journey) to the Northern coastline. After a comfortable trip through the northern hills and tunnels, we finally arrived in Genoa at 14.30 hrs. We booked into our hotel, two minutes walk from the Railway Station (Luxury) were we bumped into a few Hatters supporters (who had made their own way over) 'floating' from bar to bar.



With Genoa surrounded by hills we made for the local hill side railway and took a trip to the top for some fantastic scenic views of Genoa harbour (biggest in Italy). After a bite to eat we headed for the

Luggia Ferraris Stadium this being the home of Genoa and Sampdoria with a capacity of 42,500. Having fought our way through the Genoa rush hour at 18.00hrs, we finally arrived at the stadium to be welcomed by a coach load of fans which had travelled overnight for 22 hours and all looking a little worse for wear - did detect a little drinking had taken place - of course not Pat Dunne !!?

We noticed a small bar/shop (the size of Luton Towns Ticket Office) by the ground, which had been invaded by Luton fans. All very good humoured, after their journeys by all forms of transport including a few that had thumbed it all the way. We went for our match tickets which some fans has already paid £20.00 for, and with our LTFC vouchers I paid 26,000 lira (£10.00) for the same area as fans who had paid 20.00 - Crazy! We entered the stadium, which was fantastic but looking a little empty with 45 mins to kick-off, but it soon filled up came 8.30pm (20.30 hrs). With all the Genoa banners and flags covering a good percentage of the stadium, we had alot to compete with but by kick-off there was plenty of Orange, Blue & White to be seen.

The teams run out to loud cheers from the Luton contingent numbering 200-220 maximum. We know that we had a very hard game on our hands with Genoa top of series B, unbeaten at home, and proved right after an early chance from Luton, it was 'backs to the wall' for most of the game with us going three down in the first 27 minutes. The 2nd half was slightly better, in that Genoa eased off the pedal, and allowed us to make a few chances which could be counted on one hand. The highlight of the match as far as Luton was concerned was a spectacular diving save from Kelvin Davies from a scissor kick volley from top striker 'Skuhravy' who scored one of the four goals. The game ended with the usual calls of 'Westley Out!' - and that coming from the hard core of Hatters supporters. After the match most fans headed for home, but a few went back to the small bar where there were Genoa Fans swapping their scarves for Luton one's - Nice gesture. Having drowned our sorrows and talk football in an English bar called Britannia Pub - Original name! in the centre of Genoa. We then made for our hotel in the early hours.

Not having to leave Genoa for Milan for our flight home until after lunch we had a leisurely trip to Nervi (a seaside resort along the coast from Genoa. Very picturesque and with temperatures of 82-86F, it couldn't have been better to forget the activities of the previous day.

We got back to Milan at the height of their rush hour (18,00 hrs) but was surprised how quick we got from thm station to Milan - Linate Airport only to find out that our flight was going to be delayed 3 hours- We finally arrived back at Stansted at 1.00am.

Finally, the trip was an experience but I hope we don't have to come up against a team in the form of Genoa to often!

Yours - John Pyper

BOOK REVIEW OF THE YEAR FOR YOUR FOOTBALL FANS

Stuck for ideas for christmas presents? - already bought the Luton Town Shirt, video, mug, key ring and pen and don't know what to ask Santa for? To help you out, here's the current best-sellers list from Booksellers "Sportspages", the only sports book specialists:

BOOKS

- 1. Non-League club Directory 1996
Tony Williams - £16.95
- 2. The Sky Sports Ultimate Football Guide 1996
Michael Williams £14.95
- 3. An Irrational hatred of Luton - A West Ham Fan's story Robert Banks - £14.95
- 4. Survival of the Fattest - An alternative review of the 1994/95 Football season

- David Jenkins & Judi Holly - £9.99
 - 5. Left Foot Forward
Garry Nelson - £ 12.99
 - 6. The Sporting news Official WBA Guide 1995/96
Craig Carter & Alex Sachare - £11.95
 - 7. Aerofilms Guide to Football Grounds
Dave Twydell
 - 8. One Summer, Every summer An Ashes Journal
Gideon Haig
 - 9. A Good Walk Spoiled - Days and Nights on the PGA Tour
John Feinstein (Little Brown & Co.)
 - 10. The National Hockey League Official Guide and Record Book 1995/96
NHL Publishing (Canada) - £ 16.95
- Our recommendations? If it's facts & figures you

want then the 'Non-League Club Directory 1996' and 'Sky Sports Ultimate Football Guide 1996' should tell you all you want to know. For An insight into the everyday trials & tribulations of earning a living from playing the national game, try 'Left Foot Forward'. Described by author and Charlton stalwart, Garry Nelson, as 'the diary of a journeyman footballer' it is one of six books shortlisted for the William Hill Sports Book of the Year Award 1995 and that's probably a more reliable recommendation than ours!



The above list of Books was compiled by: **Sportspages** - Caxton Walk, 94-96, Charing Cross, Road, London WC2. They are also based in Manchester, St Ann's Square.

So what exactly is the FSA?

The FSA, or Football Supporters Association, is about football. It's about the supporters and lovers of the best game in the world and it's about having ideas, views and opinions on how the game's run .

Not only can you shout for offside on the pitch, you can be on the inside and campaign on important issues that affect all supporters, like a fair deal for away fans, the fight against ID cards, racism and dodgy meat pies. The FSA aims to provide a soap box for all fans to get up on and voice their opinions.

The monthly London Branch meetings are a chance to do just that. Celebrity guest speakers such as Kerry Dixon, Eric 'Monster' Hall, Ken Bates and John Hollins will talk to you, debate with you and listen to what you have to say.

The FSA is a national organisation with 7 regional

branches, the largest of which, London, has an imprint that covers Luton (and favourite neighbours Watford) as well as clubs in the capital. You're as likely to meet a Port Vale, Birmingham or Cambridge fan as you are a devotee of Chelsea, Millwall or West Ham at a London branch meeting and they've all got one thing in common - they love to talk about football.

So next time you see details of the London Branch meetings in the matchday programme, think about going along - after all, it's about people like you.

If you'd like to know more about the FSA, call Yvonne Fletcher (Luton Town fan and FSA committee member) on 0171 239 9515 (work) or 0171 239 3585 (home).

Football Supporters Association

STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS...

Forthcoming Events . . .

December 11th 1995

CHRISTMAS FUN QUIZ with the Players

in the Eric Morecambe Suite,
(formerly Hatters Club)Maple Rd, Luton
7.30pm. for 7.45pm start.

Cost: £2.00 Members *£2.50 Non-Members
* Non-Members can join-on-the-Night.

Prizes for the winners plus a big Raffle on the night.

In the New Year (dates to be confirmed)

L.T.F.C. Players Guest Evening

Late January 1996 to Early February

Date for your diary...

L.T.S.C. PRESENTATION EVENING *Players of the Season*
SUNDAY 28th APRIL 1996

at The Kent Athletic Club, Tenby Drive, Luton.

Price to be confirmed.

L.T.S.C. Football Co-ordinator required:

Our Supporters Club is requiring a new co-ordinator to help run and organise matches normally held prior to LTFC First team games.

This suitable person should be 18 years or over and be reliable.

If you think you fit the bill then please write detailing all your details etc. to: Stuart Phillips, 74, Bloomfield Road, Knapshill, Woking, Surrey.

Please do not telephone him. Also required urgently are NEW PLAYERS and again if you want to play please contact Stuart at the same address.

KOHLERDOME TALKS WITH M.K. COUNCILLORS

It has been reported that David Kohler is to present his proposals for an 20,00 all-seater stadium to the Milton Keynes borough councillors.

He is presenting these proposals solely as a property developer and not as Luton Town chairman. He has quoted that at this moment in time the question of Luton Town playing in the proposed facility is one which will be considered in the future. "This is a proposal which I have discussed with Milton Keynes on my own behalf as a property developer" Watch this space for further developments.

MAD AS A HATTER FANZINE

Being a Luton Town fan you would have not gone unnoticed that of the LUTON'S fanzine - 'Mad as a Hatter' This is a great read and if you require a back issues contact Keith Hayward at 292, Icknield Way, Luton, Beds LU3 2JS. Telephone: 01582 573485.

For the latest issue you can purchase this at the Club Shop, Kenilworth Rd or the Bricklayers Arms, Hightown Road, Luton, or if you are up in London anytime take a visit to: Sportspages, Caxton Walk, 94-96, Charing Cross Rd, London, WC2.