

# HATTERS

LUTON TOWN



SUPPORTERS CLUB

## Dear Members!

As it is approaching the festive season, may I firstly take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I am sure on the Xmas list of many Hatters fans will be a few points to boost the 19 (as I write!) we have already clawed back from the deficit we started the season with. Things have not been easy for the team and injuries have blighted a start to the season which we had all wished would emulate Leeds' response to their points deduction last season. I am still of the opinion that League 2 survival is within our grasp, but we need to start putting some results together and putting some pressure on the teams immediately above us.

While the League displays have been up and down, we have been quietly progressing in the Johnstone Paint Trophy to gain a southern semi-final home tie with Colchester United. A win in this would take us within two games (the area final being a two-legged event) of an appearance at Wembley and the chance of some silverware!

I would not swap survival in the league for cup success, but winning this cup would be a feather in our cap, 21 years since our last cup final win!

I would also like to apologise to our members that LTSC has not at this stage hosted any of our usual events. This has not been for the want of trying but the change in ownership at the football club has also led to a re-structuring of how the club wishes to engage with the supporters' organisations and this has led to a steep learning curve for all involved. It is not until things change that you appreciate how easy things had appeared earlier, when Cherry Newbery facilitated

many of the events for us.

Having said that, by the time this newsletter is distributed we will have held our Annual Xmas Quiz and I thank those of you who supported this event. We have pressed the 2020 board for a commitment to attend a meeting with the fans and we are hopeful that something can be arranged early in the New Year.

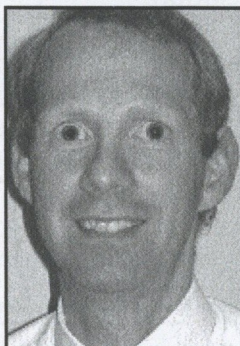
However, we do have agreement from the club to arrange a meeting with the manager Mick Harford, so keep your eyes peeled for details of this in early January.

On November 21st, LTSC Vice-Chairman Mark Chapman and I had a meeting with 2020 Board members Gary Sweet, Stephen Browne and Anthony Brown to iron out some of the communication problems and also to gain an insight how things were progressing inside the club.

The meeting started with Gary and the other board members stating what a mess the club was in when 2020 took over, and that it was taking a lot of their time to try and stabilise things and get the club onto firm foundations, areas on which they were making slow but steady progress. They asked for supporters' patience during this time.

We then raised the potential impact of the 'credit crunch' on the club and 2020's plans. Most people are feeling the pinch and the club and its investors are no different. Having said this, the management are pleased that the club's finances are running close to those budgeted.

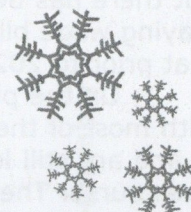
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Kevin  
Barrett

LTSC  
Chairman

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Luton Town SC



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Photography supplied by  
Gareth Owen



# Stabilisation of the club is top priority

## LTSC Chairman's report, continued from Page 1

The main area which is suffering, as would be expected, is commercial income, with many businesses cutting back on expenditure, but there has been good news as well, with the playing wage bill being cut to about a quarter of that prior to 2020's involvement.

On the playing front, the club are pleased with most of the players that have been brought in and are still looking to strengthen the squad in due course. The club is still subject to Football League restrictions on squad size and the overall wage bill, and as a result we should appreciate that all players have a value at which the club cannot refuse to sell if the right offer is made. At the end of the day the club has to consider the long-term future of the club first. Having said this, there is no pressure to sell any particular player.

Another promising improvement has been the youth set-up. It is felt that this is moving forward well and this is very important to the future of the club. You only need to look back a few years to see that when we have had a good youth system pushing players through, Luton have achieved great things.

Another obvious question was the stadium plans. The response was that it was still 2020's intention to undertake a feasibility study, but this is secondary to the stabilisation of the club as a whole. It was also highlighted that in the current economic climate even if a suitable site were found, funding for a stadium would be extremely difficult to come by.

I left the meeting with a positive outlook and still feel that 2020 are moving in the right direction and deserve our continued support. There are bound to be changes with which individual members disapprove and as always I would ask you to communicate these either directly to the club or via myself and my committee.

On another front, during October LTSC had a meeting with the Football Association, together with the chairmen of Trust in Luton and Loyal Luton Supporters' Club (full report by our vice-chairman Mark Chapman on Pages 4 & 5).

It was never the expectation that this meeting should or would result in any change to the punishment meted out to Luton Town, but was intended to put across our members' views and to try and ensure no other club is ever in the same situation.

The meeting went as well as could be expected, and there was some sympathy for the plight of Luton from the FA. However, I do not believe there is any significant culture change at the FA at this time and unfortunately I am still of the opinion that the smaller clubs generally get a much rougher deal from the FA than larger clubs with more money.

All we can now do is hope that 2009 brings some good fortune to both Luton Town Football Club and its long suffering fans. Keep up your great support!

**Best Wishes, KEVIN BARRETT**



**\* GARY SWEET . . . called for patience while 2020 concentrate on stabilising Luton Town and attempt to build a sound future.**

### YOUR NEW 2009 CALENDAR

As we are football fans and tend to run our years with the seasons, we have changed the format of the desk calendar so that it runs with the season and features Luton's fixtures. You will receive your next calendar in August that will run for 12 months. We hope you find it useful!

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# TOWN ON TOUR 2009

Date	Destination	Depart Luton	Adult member	Concession	Non-member
Sat 13 December 2008	Wycombe Wanderers	12:30	£11	£9	£13
Fri 26 December 2008	Chesterfield*	11:00	£15	£13	£17
Sat 3 January 2009	Chester City*	09:00	£18	£16	£20
Sat 17 January 2009	Darlington*	08:30	£23	£21	£25
Tue 27 January 2009	AFC Bournemouth	15:30	£17	£15	£19
Sat 7 February 2009	Accrington Stanley*	09:00	£21	£19	£23
Sat 14 February 2009	Dagenham & Redbridge	12:00	£11	£9	£13
Sat 28 February 2009	Port Vale*	11:00	£16	£14	£18
Tue 10 March 2009	Notts County*	16:00	£16	£14	£18
Sat 14 March 2009	Aldershot Town	11:30	£13	£11	£15
Sat 28 March 2009	Morecambe*	08:00	£23	£21	£25
Sat 11 April 2009	Lincoln City*	10:00	£17	£15	£19
Sat 18 April 2009	Barnet	12:30	£11	£9	£13
Sat 2 May 2009	Brentford	12:00	£11	£9	£13

### ADDITIONAL COACH PICK-UP POINTS:

- (1) **Leighton Buzzard** (Bus stop next to Safeway) 1¼ hour before Luton departure time.
- (2) **Houghton Regis** (Bus stop next to Total Garage) 1 hr before Luton departure time.
- (3) \* denotes **Milton Keynes** Coachway pick-up approx 30 minutes after Luton departure.

Secure parking for passengers' cars is available in Maple Road car park (£4 per vehicle).

Service Station stops will be included on longer journeys

To qualify for membership reductions, a valid Luton Town Supporters Club membership card must be shown at time of payment.

Concession fares are only available to members.

Passengers between the ages of 12 and 16 may only travel unaccompanied on production of a completed Parental Permission form (please ask on booking, or visit the LTSC website's 'Downloads' section). Under NO circumstances will any child under 12 years be permitted to travel unless accompanied by an adult (over-18).

Full terms and conditions of carriage can be obtained on request. Town on Tour reserve the right to refuse travel to any passenger.



# LTSC, Loyal Luton and Trust in Luton meet with the Football Association

## Summary of meeting

**Date:** 28th October 2008

### Attendees:

**Jonathan Hall (JH)** Director of Governance of the Football Association (FA)

**Mark Chapman (MC)** Vice Chair of LTSC

**Kevin Lennon (KL)** Chair of Loyal Luton

**Liam Day (LD)** Chair of Trust in Luton

The meeting kicked off with introductions and thanks from the fans reps to JH for agreeing to the meeting. The meeting covered many areas and whilst at times flirting between one issue and another the below attempts to summarise many of the key areas discussed;

JH explained that the Regulatory Commissions and Appeal Boards were independent of, and separate from, the FA Executive, including the FA Chairman, and that although he would do his best to answer any queries, it was not possible for him to give answers on behalf of the Regulatory Commission or Appeal Board on this case.

### Timing

- The FA became aware of potential problems at LTFC in Jun-06, however, there were no concrete allegations or evidence at that time which could lead to the FA carrying out a thorough and immediate investigation without arousing the suspicions of potential guilty parties or threatening the position of certain employees at the Club. The FA were sensitive to both of these issues.
- However, the FA maintained a close eye on matters at the Club although only started to get concrete evidence from around Feb-07. It should be noted that with Jayten being a separate Limited company, they were outside the jurisdiction of the FA and this also hindered this monitoring process and any investigation.
- The investigation involved a lot of people (directors, ex-directors, officials, agents, players, clubs etc.) and was extremely complex in nature hence why it took until the end of Nov-07 before the initial charges were issued.
- For clarification purposes the charges issued against the Club were as follows (all are breaches of FA Rules);
  - 2 charges relating to the use of an unlicensed agent
  - 9 charges relating to separate instances of payments made to agents not via FA
  - 3 charges relating to non-disclosure of representation by agent
  - 2 charges relating to dealing with an unlicensed agent
  - 1 charge relating to paying a benefit in kind to a player not disclosed on contract
- An independent QC (Peter Griffiths) was then appointed to head up the independent Regulatory Commission looking into the charges. There were a number of pre-hearings dealing with issues raised by legal and other representatives on behalf of various parties and the sheer number of parties involved (all with their own legal representation) complicated the timing.
- Given these factors, JH did not believe there was any delay either in bringing the charges or in the hearings.

- LD questioned JH on why the FA couldn't just accept the Club's guilty plea. JH explained that the plea was accepted as it had to be - it was the club's choice; however, given the complex nature of the charges and the fact that there was a large number of parties involved, the Commission presumably felt they had to hear all the evidence before reaching any decisions. JH felt this seems entirely reasonable in the circumstances.

- With the final decision being conveyed at the start of Jun-08 JH believed that, given the complexity and depth of this case and the underlying circumstances then it was conducted in a reasonably quick period.

- The Appeal Board was made up of one person from the FA Council and 2 appointed by the Sports Dispute Resolution Panel (an arm of UK sport). One of the two appointed by SDRP was another independent QC who chaired the Appeal Board. Again JH felt that they acted and responded as quickly as could have been expected in the circumstances. JH did not know whether certain supporting statements, such as those from Graham Kelly, Andy Williamson etc. were taken into account by the Appeal Board. He explained that it was up to the club to put whatever arguments and evidence they wished before the Appeal Board and presumably the club had considered the points made in any supporting statements and decided which if any to put to the Appeal Board.

- JH also talked through changes the FA has undertaken following the Burns Report on the Structural Review of the FA in the summer of 2005 in dealing with regulatory cases. In particular, changes have been made in relation to the appointment of Regulatory Commissions/ Appeal Boards/ post-decision bodies to review decisions, charges levied etc. JH believes that post the Burns Report the FA has improved procedures for the better although KL stated the game could be better served if there was greater supporter participation in such matters. KL suggested a role for FSF which received unanimous agreement. JH pointed out that both the FSF and Supporters Direct organisations already had representation within the new FA structure.

### Precedent

- JH stated that the Regulatory Commission decided that none of the previous disciplinary decisions put before them provided relevant precedent prior to the LTFC case from which to base the sanctions against the Club.

- KL argued that this wasn't the case as initially Spurs under new ownership of Alan Sugar managed to get a points penalty for financial irregularities overturned on the basis the relevant offences had been committed by the previous regime. On the basis of not knowing the detail of the specific facts JH was unable to offer a view. In any event, he explained his view was not relevant as the club had the opportunity to raise any cases that they thought acted as a precedent, and it's possible they did just that - it was then up to the Regulatory Commission to decide if any such cases did form a precedent.

- LD also strongly argued that the HMRC cases (VAT Tribunals) against both Newcastle and Birmingham, whilst different offences (albeit still related to transfer irregularities), still ultimately amounted to dishonesty, the respective clubs showing a flagrant disregard for the rules and as such for consistency purposes any punishment incurred by LTFC should have been based on sanctions passed on these two clubs (or lack of as appeared the case). MC also pointed at that in the Boston case where a clear on-the-pitch advantage had been proven due to bungs being paid, the punishment was minor by comparison (4 points). JH stated that the VAT Tribunal decisions were entirely different as they involved statutory tax matters. The FA had not been involved in these matters but was monitoring them closely. The VAT Tribunals had not approached the FA regarding an understanding of the FA's own Regulations and presumably felt they did not need to do so. JH also believes that one of the 2 cases is subject to appeal and the other may therefore be awaiting the outcome of such an appeal. The FA will continue to monitor any outcome.

### The Punishment

- LD, KL and MC then questioned the validity of a points penalty when no on-field advantage was gained, however, JH confirmed that the penalty levied on the Club did not appear to be due to an on-the-pitch advantage gained, but the Regulatory Commission felt the severity of the punishment was the right thing to do to act as a deterrent and send out a very strong message.

- In fact the final punishment was reduced for a variety of mitigating circumstances.

- JH believed that the issue of sanctioning a club with new ownership/ post-administration was the same as the Football League imposing points post a club coming out of administration. We replied that this doesn't necessarily make it right and we debated our views on the principle of punish in a club in new ownership.

- JH could not recall whether any other clubs had made payments routed outside the FA (a la Jayten), although other clubs such as Arsenal and Preston amongst others had been punished for using unlicensed agents. LD stated that payments to unlicensed agents should be considered a greater offence than payments to authorised agents that have just been paid from the wrong bank account.

- In discussing whether a retrospective sanction would have been appropriate, JH stated that in his opinion a retrospective sanction would not have been right. A sanction ought to have an actual or potential effect (e.g. be suspended for a period of time) in order to be meaningful.

- Strong representation was made from KL and then followed up by both LD and MC as to the severity of the punishment and in particular;

- With the perpetrators now departed the only people suffering and picking up the pieces are the new owners and the fans (again);

- LTFC fans had no issues with an infinite suspended sentence overhanging the club with strict financial surveillance by both the FA and FL as we certainly don't want any repeat of what we have recently suffered. Also if there was such a repeat of blatantly and intentionally operating outside the regulations then there could be no arguments as to any subsequent heavy punishment.

- It was our opinion and that of the Luton fan-base that a suspended sentence given the circumstances of the administration and subsequent new ownership would be equally viewed as a strong message/ deterrent to the whole of football. We also confirmed that this was a general message we had been hearing from football fans all over the country and was not just a case for us feeling sorry for ourselves

- The ex-directors of Jayten have received relatively small punishments compared to the Club despite actually committing the crimes and as such this doesn't actually act as much of a deterrent for individuals looking to commit similar offences. It was felt that these individuals should have felt the full brunt of any penalty/ punishment and also been banned from involvement in football for life.

- We could not understand why the agents who effectively committed the same offences and also broke the then same rules escaped with mere slaps on the wrists.

- If this was meant to be severe to act as a deterrent then the Regulatory Commission has completely misjudged the situation and not in any way served justice. Indeed it could act against football clubs in that it could deter future investors to the game.

- It was felt that the severity of the punishment certainly didn't fit the crime - in fact there was nothing illegal with the actual payments, more a technical offence - and that the points deduction came completely out of the blue for all concerned at Luton.

- Lessons could be learned from the financial services industry where greed and soft regulation has led to current global market turmoil and by replicating this the FA is going to preside over something similar unless they take a strong lead, i.e. have regulation that not only tightens/monitors finances but also deters club directors/officials from acting irregularly/illegally.

- If similar offences had been committed by a large Premiership Club then there was no way they would have been hit by such a penalty and in reality this amounts to nothing less than bullying.

- For the reasons stated at the outset, JH could not provide answers to all our questions as to why the Regulatory Commission reached their final decision in punishing the Club in the manner they have. KL replied that it was his duty as Director of Governance and that of the Chairman of the FA to both fully understand all the details and reasoning here as the Regulatory Commission was effectively working and reporting to

them and as such the buck ultimately stopped with them. JH disagreed and reiterated that the Regulatory Commission was independent of the FA Executive including himself and the FA Chairman. His responsibility lay with bringing the charges and he was comfortable with the charges that had been brought.

### FA Policy

- The FA is currently restricted in their ability to investigate Holding Companies that fall outside the FA's jurisdiction (such as Jayten) and it is an area that the game is looking into although this could be a legal minefield given the complexity involved especially where any such companies were located overseas.

- The FA want the game to be more financially transparent both in terms of (1) ownership; and (2) the level and actual nature of debt. This was warmly welcomed although we said this means nothing if these strong words aren't followed up by actions.

- The FA wants to work closely with all the various leagues to find the best possible solution to the above point and are already trialing a monitoring initiative with the Conference.

- JH stated that the FA is always willing to listen to reasoned and rational debate from all voices on an equal basis and not just any one part of the game.

- The FA would like the appointed Regulatory Commissions/Appeal Boards to publicly issue reasoning behind their decisions to give greater clarity. JH explained that The FA recognised the need to be more transparent and were endeavouring to improve in that area; some steps had in fact already been made, but there was room for improvement. This was also warmly welcomed as it was recognised this lack of transparency has clouded the whole issue for Luton fans and whilst opinions on verdicts may still differ at least we would have been able to see what exactly we had been charged with and the basis for the punishment handed out.

- JH said that he sympathised with Luton fans and our current predicament and did not necessarily expect us to agree with all the decisions that had been made.

- Following the Quest review led by Lord Stevens the FA has introduced new regulations for agents and also installed a bigger monitoring team.

- JH talked us through the FA's 4-year strategic review and various initiatives being undertaken.

- Whilst JH felt that the FA was very conscious as to the voice of supporters KL finished by stating in his usual long-winded manner (!!) that football fans all over the country were feeling even more detached from the game and the FA than ever before, which had grave consequences for football all the way through to grass routes level

### Comment from Mark Chapman

This was a great example of how Town fans are currently working together in their attempts to get the FA to explain the inequalities and understand the frustrations surrounding the decisions made during the summer. It also helps to push for better governance in the game, particularly efforts to restrict the blatant mismanagement which occurs in football. My thanks go to Liam Day of Trust in Luton and Kevin Lennon of Loyal Luton Supporters Club.

Jonathon Hall, the Football Association's Director of Governance, agreed to have a meeting with Luton's supporter groups which, during the 2.5 hours' of discussion, included a frank exchange of views on the issues surrounding the points penalty incurred by the club. The FA are in no way considering reviewing this penalty, a fact we understood prior to the meeting, but it did bring out some important information on the reasoning behind the decisions taken. I believe it also helped the FA to understand the strength of feeling amongst all football supporters about the penalties we received and that in future penalties must be directed towards those responsible for the offences.

As has been highlighted, we were never going to agree on all the issues surrounding the football club. All of the fans groups are unanimous that our club has been treated harshly and, I do not believe personally, equitably particularly when compared with the punishments dished out to various other clubs. Events involving Spurs, Boston, Birmingham and Newcastle and West Ham come to mind.

As ever, the proof of the pudding will be in the eating and I will await with interest the next punishment dished out to a Premier League club who have the financial muscle to fight long legal campaigns something that is well beyond the means of lower league clubs.

Indeed I believe the anticipated Triesman report will be a stepping stone toward the better governance of the game. Unless, again, the larger clubs are allowed to water down the content, in particular with regard to future financial management, and the control and regulation of clubs. We believe these changes also need to include enhanced roles for supporters and their representative bodies, such as the FSF. We would also want to see far greater financial controls, better financial reporting and the adoption of measures to limit salaries, such as the current League Two salary cap, in order to try and minimise the number of clubs using the non-payment of HM Revenue & Customs to bolster their finances.

With so many clubs failing to keep up to date with payments to the Revenue (up to 60 were recently reported to be in arrears) this is a major issue for all clubs and certainly for the Treasury as they can ill afford for the level of monies owed to be written off, particularly in the current economic climate.

Fans should still make the FA aware of their feelings on this matter and I would urge as many people as possible to put their views forward.



# Man of influence

DAVID Evans, who died in October, was one of the most influential figures in Luton Town history.

A self-made man, his sporting career began brightly when he won six England Youth caps, earning him the opportunity to sign for Aston Villa in 1951. But in the three years he was on their books he never progressed further than Villa's reserves. In the summer he played cricket for Gloucestershire and Warwickshire, but again failed to make a first class appearance, although he went on to achieve some Minor Counties success as an opening batsman for Hertfordshire.

In 1960 he started his own business, cleaning factories and offices, eventually employing 30,000 people. He ultimately sold the business for £32 million, investing a sizeable proportion in the development of cricket and brokering the deal to bring Cornhill Insurance into the first class game.

## Difficult times

Evans' involvement with Luton Town began when the then-chairman Denis Mortimer invited him to join the board in 1976. Eight years later in November 1984 he succeeded Mortimer as chairman. He took over at a difficult time: Town were second from bottom in the First Division; Luton Borough Council had refused permission to develop a new ground at Lewsey Farm; Bedfordshire County Council had told the club they wanted to take away part of the car park and executive suites. The projected loss of revenue and lack of a suitable new site in Luton had Evans and his directors looking to relocate the club to Milton Keynes. This in turn brought about a boycott from angry fans, forcing a financial crisis as Luton's gates fell from an average of 13,452 in 1982-83 to 11,938 the following season.

In his first programme notes as chairman, Evans described what he had done in his first few days in office. It comprised reorganising the club's overdraft with Barclay's Bank, persuading Wallspace chairman Terry Bailey to join as a director, and issuing a promise of money being made available to sign new players. Evans then went on to set out the club's position on the loss of ground facilities and the issue of relocation to MK. Within weeks three very influential players arrived, Steve Foster, Mick Harford and David Preece, and gradually results began to improve, particularly in the FA Cup.

## Pivotal year

1985-86 was a pivotal year off the pitch. The centenary celebrations had been a success as the synthetic surface was launched with claims that it would bring in revenue every day with football, hockey, boxing and religious gatherings staged in the ground. The football played was of the highest quality, starting



**David Evans was a Luton Town director between 1976 and 1990 and chairman of the club 1984-1989.**

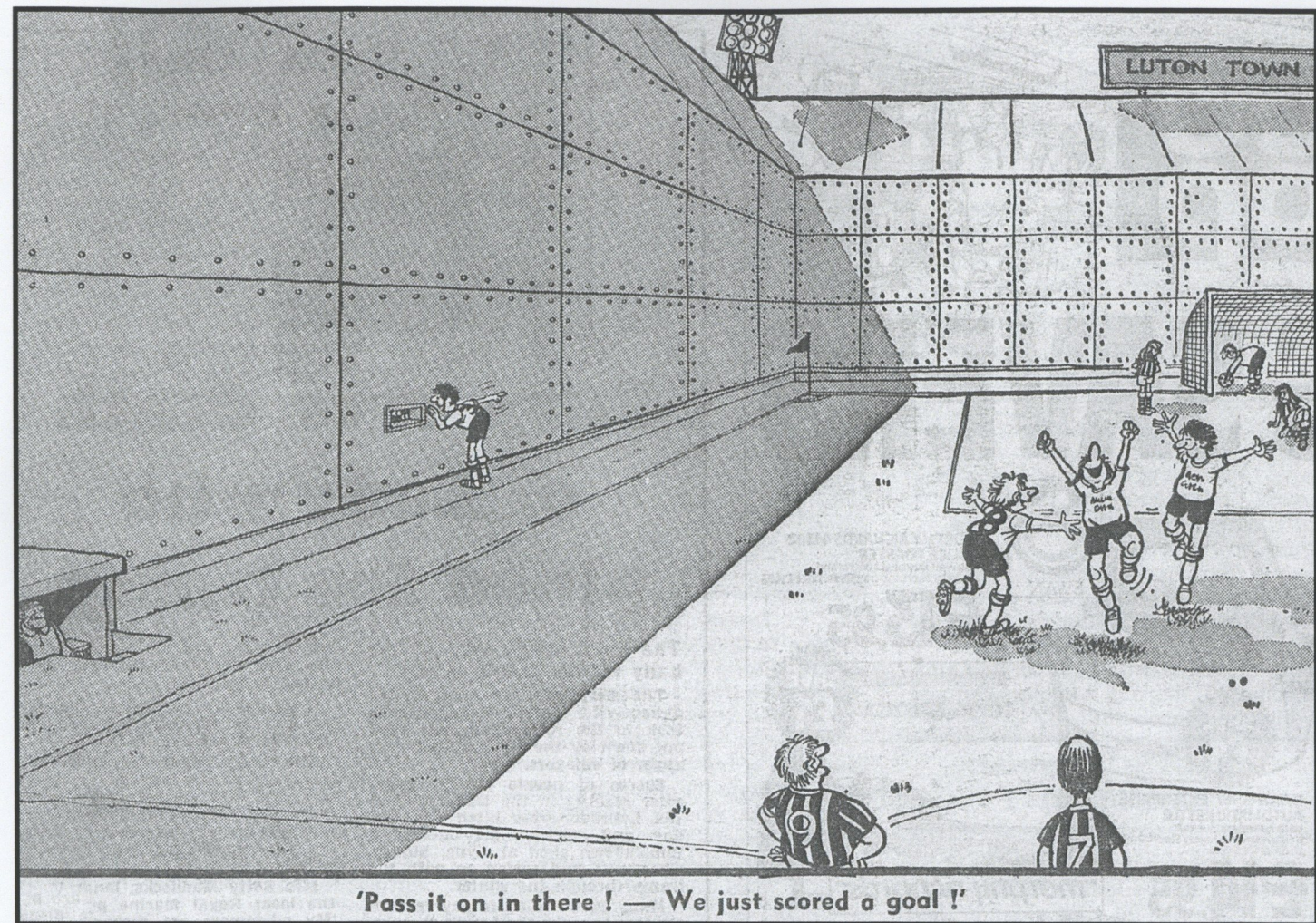
with a 1-1 draw against Nottingham Forest; the sixth round was reached in the FA Cup. Norwich City became the first visitors to triumph on the new surface when they won 2-0 in the third round of the League Cup, although few others could emulate the Canaries' success. Luton ended the season in a very respectable ninth place and there was an increase in the average home attendance.

Off the field, the club and Bedfordshire County Council opened negotiations over compensation for their relief road. Around £1.7 million was eventually agreed upon in February 1986 and the spectre of a move to Milton Keynes was finally shelved.

## ID card scheme

Around the same time, Evans and the Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher were working on an identity card scheme for football supporters. Pretty much the entire footballing community were against the scheme and it never became law. Determined that the dreadful events of March 1985 against Millwall would never be repeated, the Luton board voted for an away fan ban. The whole of the football world soon turned against Luton, highly critical of the club's synthetic surface, the executive boxes on one side of the ground and the away fan ban.

A price was paid when the League objected to arrangements for Luton's second round Littewood's



**\* David Evans' ban on away fans at Luton provided the inspiration for this cartoon by 'Mac' of the Daily Mail in April 1985.**

Cup home game against Cardiff City, resulting in the club being kicked out. In the FA Cup, the FA sanctioned the go-ahead of a third round tie against Liverpool without their supporters, for not one but two games, culminating in a famous 3-0 second replay win. QPR put Luton out in a fourth round replay, but form on the field remained good with a seventh place final finish (the highest placing in the club's history). However, average home attendances were again slightly down. During the close season John Moore resigned, Ray Harford became manager and there were no expensive signings, although a crop of good young players came through.

1987-88 would prove the finest season in the club's history. The board relented for the League Cup and a small group of Wigan Athletic supporters were allowed in, but when Coventry were the opponents for the third round, the tie was moved to neutral Leicester City. A win away at Ipswich Town earned a fifth round game with Third Division Bradford City and away fans were allowed in, paving the way for Stoke City fans to attend the Simod Cup quarter-final. Results in all competitions brought about two further semi-finals, two Wembley finals and the club's only major honour. The following season Evans allowed Ray Harford to spend heavily as part of his rebuilding. The good league results of the previous three seasons could not be maintained and only in the League Cup were results of the previous season replicated, as once again away fans were allowed in. In the

Wembley final a poor performance against Forest ended Luton's hold on the cup, leaving a relegation battle to be won on the final day at home to Norwich.

The workload of being an MP (for Welwyn-Hatfield) and a Parliamentary under Secretary, the resignation of John Smith who had run Luton Town, and a wage bill of £1.4 million (with only £600,000 coming through the turnstiles) probably contributed to Evans' resignation as chairman. He spent another year as a director, negotiating the sale of the Kenilworth Road ground to Luton Borough Council as a means of getting back what he had invested.

This sale, in many minds, cancelled out the good Evans did for the club, which had been to transform the ground and bring about success on the field. Mind you, even the sale of the ground could be seen as protecting the club from the type of speculators who turned many a non-League ground into housing developments. Whatever your view of his time with the club, Mr Evans certainly left his mark.

## by Brian Ellis (LTSC member)

*\* David Evans was born in North London on April 23, 1935. He died on October 22, 2008, aged 73, of lung fibrosis, while in the USA with his family. He is survived by wife Janice and three children.*



# 94 goals from winger Moss

THE names of Gordon Turner, Andy Rennie, Brian Stein, Ernie Simms and Steve Howard will be well known to devotees of Luton Town as the five highest scorers in the Hatters' history.

A pen portrait of each of these players has been included in previous newsletters. The next three in this roll of honour are Bert Moody from the early 1900s, with 97 goals, followed by Jimmy Yardley from the 1930s and more recently, David Moss, both of whom scored 94.

Bert Moody, sixth in the roll of honour, was a local lad who played for Town between 1902 and 1913, but as Brian Ellis has already written a comprehensive article concerning him in Issue 75, there is nothing I can add to his fine contribution.

**By LTSC member  
FRANK BATT**

Seventh equal in the list of top marksmen comes Jimmy Yardley and David Moss with 94 apiece during their Luton Town careers. Yardley, who was born in Wishaw in 1907, came to Kenilworth Road from Clapton Orient in 1926 and although he appeared only six times in his first season, and never in a winning team, was still a youngster at only 19-years-old.

The following season, however, after missing the two opening games, he scored four goals in his first three appearances and promptly established himself as an indispensable member of the Town team. He didn't miss another league or cup game all season and at the end of 1927-28 finished as the club's top marksman with 28 goals.

Of all the matches he played that year the one that probably stuck in his memory was the Northampton game on Boxing Day when Luton managed to snatch a 6-5 defeat from the jaws of victory after leading 5-1!



During the next three years Jimmy Yardley played 116 games for Luton, hitting the net 50 times and seemed to be a permanent fixture.

In 1931, though, while still only 24, he was crowded out by a plethora of tall goalscoring forwards, and although he still managed to score 16 he was considered to be surplus to requirements and moved to Charlton in the league above.

This thick-set inside forward, with his hair slicked back in the style of the day, rather like Dixie Dean, was a true hero of the late 1920s although he tended to be overshadowed somewhat by the prolific Andy Rennie in his latter years. However, Yardley's record of 78 goals in the league and an amazing 16 in the FA Cup meant that in 188 games he had achieved exactly a goal every other game in Luton colours and few players in the club's history can claim a better record than that.

Another of the glory boys with an outstanding contribution to Luton Town was David Moss, a player who, even today, is still fondly regarded by large sections of the crowd as one of the finest ever seen at Kenilworth Road, and most certainly one of our best wingers. He is remembered as a fast raiding

outside-left from those joyous days of the David Pleat era who was bought from Swindon aged 26.

He was a little taller than regulation height for a winger and a section of the crowd did not take to him very readily, because he would often hang about on, or near, the halfway line waiting for a decent pass. There was little tracking back in defence in those days and no doubt he was playing to orders, but the moment he received the ball he was off like a steam train to cause havoc to the opposing defence almost every time he got the ball.

He was fleet of foot and could centre most accurately, either by banging the ball hard across the goalmouth, or by the most delightful of delicate chips to the far post. In the opinion of many he was the last of the breed of good, old fashioned wingers that had graced Kenilworth Road over the years.

Names like, Aston, French, Bingham, Stephenson, Hoar and Bookman were very good players, but Moss was outstanding. He was also quite unique, for Moss was a genuine front line goal-scorer who operated from the left touchline with devastating effect. It was a tactic of Pleat's that was as original as both Alf Ramsey's use of wingers and Dally Duncan's use of Pye or Morton as deep-lying centre-forwards. David Moss was top scorer in 1980 with 24 goals and joint top scorer the following year as well. He was certainly a major force in getting the Hatters into the top division in the talented, free-flowing team of 1982.

It was a great pity injury restricted him at top level and maybe prevented international recognition. In the eyes of many, Moss will always be remembered for his thrilling speed along the wing and some scintillating strikes in a total of 94 goals.

Some record for an outside-left!

## LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS CLUB COMMITTEE • 2008/09



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We are always on the lookout for members to assist us with our 'Town on Tour' away travel service. If you have been a LTSC member for over a year and are interested in helping, visit our kiosk on first team games speak to one of our committee members. Alternatively, call Town on Tour's mobile: 07960 567465.

**If you have any queries regarding membership, or would like to make a change to any of your membership details, like change of address, please call Vic Fussell on 01908 569339.**

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