

# MAD AS A HATTER!



**A LUTON TOWN FANZINE**

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## **Frayed Nerves**

At the time of writing the Towns destiny is still far from certain. Two wins may be enough to ensure another season of first division football, but equally may not be enough to avoid the big drop. Scarcely believable for Town fans is the fact that if points and goal difference are equal at the end of the season we would stay above Wednesday through having scored more goals. The unsatisfactory aspect of this is having to rely on another teams results to settle the future. Charlton Athletic and Nottingham Forest are not, on current form, the teams you would put your last pound on, and Sheffield Wednesday were, according to the pundits, out of danger a month ago. However, the late charge to safety is nothing new in the first division. In recent seasons both Coventry City and Charlton Athletic have confounded the odds to climb to safety at the eleventh hour, or even later. Luton Towns hopes are far from over, and if the residents of Selhurst Park can turn in the right set of results today, then it will all rest on the final match of the season. If so we can only speculate on the possibility of Mick Harford nodding one in at the wrong end, or who the Town hero will be this time. Perhaps Raddy Antic should be called up out of retirement.

A week of frayed nerves ahead for Town supporters ?  
We certainly hope so.



# About 'Mad'

Welcome to the first edition of "Mad as a Hatter", not quite as was intended, but look upon it as a free sample! We'll be appearing at regular intervals, starting early next season, hopefully providing a forum for supporters to air their views about the Town, and other football topics.

We'll welcome any contributions from you for publication - please send them to us at the address below.

"Mad as a Hatter" is an independent publication, and has no connection with Luton Town FC, Luton Town Supporters Club, or any other supporters organisation.

The views expressed in this publication are those of the individual contributors concerned and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial team.

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## Next Issue

The first full scale issue of "Mad as a Hatter" will be on sale at the first home game next season, but we're afraid you'll have to pay for it!  
We'll be on sale around the ground on matchdays, and hopefully in local newsagents, etc.

If anyone knows of any outlet that would be willing to stock "Mad as a Hatter" please let us know, at the above address.

# About Town

It's all too easy to blame the current board of directors for our plight this season. However, it must be said that they have to take the majority of the blame if, as looks likely, Town are relegated - after all they were happy enough to share in the limelight after the 1988 Littlewoods Cup win. Too many of the present board seem to be lacking in the necessary commitment and in all honesty they have let the fans down. Not a single penny of the £1.5m received from the sales of Wegerle and Harford has been made available to Jim Ryan for new players which seems to be contrary to promises made at the time. Whether Ronnie Rosenthal would have made any difference we will never know, but it is particularly galling to see how well he has done so far at Liverpool.

This is not to belittle the efforts of the present players, whose effort and commitment has, in general, been outstanding since Jim took over. If only they had played like that before Christmas..... Having said that, it is obvious that some reshuffling will be necessary in the close season if next season is to be successful no matter what division we're in. Hopefully by then we'll have some directors prepared to make a financial commitment, no matter whether they be new to the club or existing board members having had a change of heart. Otherwise, it is difficult to see any immediate prospect of better times ahead.

Being cynical is easy of course, but the recent injection of £1.2m by the directors does not really mean any good news for Town fans. It is all money which will have to be repaid, with interest, and by the end of the summer will be equivalent to another £1.5m. This takes into account the loss of £6000 per week, most of which will be eliminated by trimming down the playing staff. That these debts exist is due to ground improvements, and membership schemes. We have been told the truth now, but it is too late. It is difficult for any dedicated Town fan to be able to trust the directors now, and in the future with the care of what we all regard as our club.



# A 'Mad' Poll

Not too taxing, we hope, but a chance for you, the ordinary supporter, to tell us what you really think about the 1989/90 season, with a couple of questions on the wider issues concerning the club thrown in for good measure.

1. Player of the season for the Town.
2. Most promising young player.
3. Best Town performance this season.
4. Worst Town performance this season.
5. Best goal scored for the Town.
6. Best goal scored against Town.
7. Best opposition player.
8. Worst opposition player.
9. Best referee (Ha!)
10. Worst referee.
11. Worst boardroom decision.
12. Should away fans be allowed back next season ?
13. Should a grass pitch be installed at Kenilworth Rd ?
14. Does the membership scheme work, and should it be kept in force ?

Replies to 30 Linden Road, Dunstable, Beds, LU5 4NZ please.

As a bribe an incentive to answer, we intend to draw one or two entries out of a Wembley '88 straw boater (of course) to win a prezzie - although we've no idea yet what it will be.

In the next issue of "Mad as a Hatter!"

- THAT TEAM** - Possibly the worst ever Luton Town eleven.
- WHERE NEXT** - A look at the relocation problems facing both the club and the town.
- ITALIA '90** - A World Cup review - Scotlands glorious failure, Eire's success and Charltons Sainthood, Robsons injury and Englands shame - and much more.

All this and more in "Mad as a Hatter!" available around the ground at next seasons first home game.