

Issue 10
March 92

Price 50p

MAD AS A HATTER!



A LUTON TOWN FANZINE

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MAD AS A HATTER!



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Editorial

Printing deadlines mean that this column has been written before the Palace game (sounds like the last issue?) so by the time you read this we may have had an away win to celebrate (or are we being silly?). Yet again we enter the final third of the season with a relegation battle on our hands - how close this will be remains to be seen, although if nothing else we've got the advantage of familiarity on our side, so hopefully the experience of previous seasons will hold us in good stead in the weeks ahead. At least we are now beginning to pick up a few wins, despite not playing well at times, and there is a lot more to be optimistic about than there was at Xmas.

Off the pitch things don't seem to be getting any better. There still seems to be no willingness to invest in the clubs first division future, with the "signing" of Niklas Nylen beginning to echo the Ronnie Rosenthal fiasco a couple of years back, and the fuss made over raising the transfer fee for Steve Sutton. We still await news of the new ground, and we hear disturbing rumours about a hefty increase in season ticket prices (50% plus?) and the Kenilworth end going all seater this summer. If this is a test of the fans loyalty then the results will be catastrophic if they are coupled with relegation, the inevitable sales of star players and the departure of others not prepared to tolerate second division football.

Hopefully Steve Sutton has now joined us, and if so, we would wish him a warm welcome. (If not we know who to blame) It was particularly encouraging to hear his comments on Anglia TV a couple of weeks ago saying how much he wanted to play for Luton and praising the fans for their passion. Lets hope that he can help us to stay in the top flight.

Elsewhere in this issue the question of all seater stadia raises its ugly head once more. It is to be hoped that all concerned with the introduction and enforcement of this legislation change the habits of a lifetime, and listen to the fans. Hillsborough inevitably meant that football would

never again be the same, but the weight of opinion both from within and without football is slowly but surely shifting.

Finally, an apology. In our last issue we said that our fixture on 11th January was at Liverpool. This should of course have read "Injury-Hit Liverpool" and we apologise for any confusion this may have caused.

A Night to Remember

One September night in 1968, the newly promoted Hatters had a home match against Mansfield Town. The euphoria of being 4th division champions had not yet worn off, and the nucleus of the previous seasons side was still there. Names that trip off the tongue for those old enough like Jardine, Slough, Moore and Rioch. Brian Lewis had arrived to bolster the attack and the momentum was going on. Little did we, in the 19,000 crowd, know this was going to be a night to remember. Firstly, for the sending off of golden boy Bruce Rioch, early in the game, for allegedly striking another player. Even the referee, the only person in the ground to see this incident, couldn't say who Bruce had struck! The crowd were in uproar at this incident. The game was an exciting one ending 4-2 and it was Lutons 4th goal that people remember. I will admit to having a bad memory, but even I remember this one. I could never do justice to it in words, so I'll quote Roger Duckworth in the old Evening Post. *"French took over the Rioch role to score the most fantastic goal of a fantastic evening. Collecting the ball in his own penalty area he loped the length of the field, showing the ball to three defenders, and then beating them all, before beating Welsh international (keeper) Hollins with a low shot. Lutons fans went wild".* The Luton News Reporter Chiltern, clearly a restrained character, simply said *"He ran from deep in his own half, pushing past three defenders before rounding Hollins and planting the ball firmly into the back of the net".*

Over twenty years later I have not seen a goal to match it, and I doubt I ever will. But then time blurs the memory and maybe I've seen some as good since. But that night in September 1968 was certainly one I won't forget for many more years.

Ashley Grimes Fan Club

Taylor Made ?

With the England team progressing towards the European Championships next year in Sweden it may seem inappropriate to question who picks the England team and who determines the tactics they employ on the field of play. Most people would assume that it is the job of the manager and his staff. Going on the players currently being picked and the current style of play, the previous statement must be questioned.

The public expect the best player in each position to be included within each England team, after taking into account any injuries. It must be the managers job to ensure that this happens. Looking at some of the players picked this does not seem to be the case. Evidence can be seen in the names of Wise, Batty, Dixon, Gray, Thomas and Mabbutt. So why were these players picked. Two reasons came to mind, "the press" and the fact they play for fashionable teams. It is impossible for Mr. Taylor to see each game these players play in so he must rely on other information to help namely match reports. These reports are usually compiled by reporters who have seen the team so many times they could be called supporters or in the opposite scenario, where they don't even know the players names. Which ever is the case the report is a complete load of fiction with star players being hyped up or great pieces of skill being credited to these players just because the reporter doesn't know the name of anybody else.

I'm sure Mr. Taylor partly takes this into consideration but then falls back on the fact these players must be good because they play for the best teams. This of course contradicts with the fact that the fashionable teams do have shit players, ask any supporter.

Everybody I'm sure can remember the great game against Turkey that was played a couple of months ago, sarcasm was always one of my best points. Many people will say this was a special situation but other games played recently do question the players and tactics used.

Mr. Taylor is well known as a lover of the long ball game and many would say that he has had some success with it. (This must be true because Watford aren't in the GM Vauxhall League where they belong.) His coaching style is the long ball game but he is forced to resort to a skilful approach because the public wouldn't stand for the long ball approach.

Why should we have an England manager who doesn't pick the best 11 players and is not suited to coaching in the skilful approach to football. The reason we have such a manager is because he has a clean cut image, even though he was a manager of Watford. Most supporters would prefer a winner rather than a man with a good image. Maybe its time the people in power recognise this and employ somebody else who will give us the results we all want.

P. SMILEY

Strange but True

NUMBER 3 - THE MUD GOAL

I think it was against Bolton in either 1980 or 1981. Either way it was a wet wet day, the pitch was a muddy morass, the game should have been abandoned but the teams struggled on. Players fell over, the ball stopped after rolling a few feet on the mud - in short a lottery. There was a scramble for the ball 5 yards outside the area, more likely a rugby scrum then real football, when suddenly Brian Stein burst free from the pack with the ball on his foot, dribbled past three defenders, round the goalkeeper and into the net went the ball. He did it with such ease that I can only assume the ball was stuck to his foot by a lump of mud! It was the only moment of skill in an otherwise chaotic game. Now we've got grass back perhaps we can look forward to more moments like this!

The Expatriate

1994 and all that.

American country singer Tammy Wynette croons that, "Sometimes it's hard to be a woman...", in her hit song "Stand by your man." And while this may be true, for an American minority, the songs opening could, in fact, be changed to, "Sometimes it's hard to be an American soccer fan..." And this is because for every step soccer takes in the right direction in the United States inevitably it is followed by an even larger and more noticeable step backwards. (And before this goes any further it should be pointed out that the term "American soccer fan" is meant to portray an American supporter of world soccer and not just a home country rooter.)

American sports fans have an unusual way of showing their disgust if the local team is not having a particularly banner season. They wear paper bags over their heads (with appropriate eye, nose and mouth holes) when attending games. This has the dual effect of conveying displeasure to management while the wearer retains anonymity from his friends who would otherwise chide his paying good money to sit and watch rubbish.

At times this bag-over-the-head mentality would not be out of order for American soccer fans when confronted with the efforts of Corporate America in representing soccer to the uninitiated masses.

Recently a cable television channel which shows English first division matches (on tape and one to two weeks old) offered Manchester United v West Hamiltons and Aston Village v Manchester City on consecutive Saturdays. As previously stated that one step forward - the showing of taped matches - is followed by that giant step backwards - the incorrect naming of the participants. An understandable blunder if the matches were translated from Bulgarian but it has long been assumed that Great Britain and the United States spoke a, somewhat, common language.

For it is just such a small point as this which infuriates and embarrasses the knowledgeable American soccer fan.

Ignorance has no place in teaching. Therefore, if Corporate America is to take the lead and instruct the uninitiated majority of the public in the "world's game" then the correct information, no matter how small the detail, must be accurate.

World Cup '94 is on schedule. And make no mistake about the fact that the outcome of the competition, at least from the offices of the sponsors, will be a huge success. America loves staging, as well as going to, events. Unfortunately, for the true American soccer fan the realisation is that when the champion has been crowned and is back home revelling in deserved glory "soccer" will have become just another one of yesterday's buzz-words.

But for right now, though, Aston Village and West Hamiltons are "in". Yes, most of the time it's hard to be an American soccer fan.

Brian Surette

Back in Europe

As a result of their unexpectedly good form this season(!) Watford have received an invitation to go back into Europe next season. This however is not for one of the major cup competitions, but an opportunity to be involved in the launch of a major new leisure complex. The organisers of this event have admitted that the 'ornets were not the first choice, but said that after thorough research into the club they were found to be ideal candidates. Although dates have yet to be confirmed, we have it on good authority that the 'ornets Euro campaign will start later this year, near Paris, when they stand in for Mickey Mouse at Euro Disney.

K.F.H.



Bruno knocks one into the net after a wait of 30 games. Afterwards he said "I was beginning to think I'd never score again." Hate to say so, but the thought had also crossed our minds.

Pride & Predjudice

What on earth have Luton Town done to get into their present state? Is it the kit? Is it being so close to Watford? Is David Pleat really John Bond in disguise? Or are we just a bit unlucky? Well, to be honest, I don't know. But what I do know is that things are about to improve. Brian Stein has got to score sometime, and recent team performances have been rather less abysmal than before, so all is not as gloomy as it may seem. Mind you, speaking as someone who said we would hammer Leeds at home, I am not the most accurate of forecasters, being a graduate of the David Icke school of prediction.

As Luton are currently bottom of the table I thought, somewhat naively, that people would become more sympathetic, but sadly people are just as heartless as before. For example, in a Nottinghamshire bank the other day the cashier saw my scarf and said, "I don't think I should serve you because of that". This sort of attitude is increasingly widespread, and quite distressing, especially as I live nowhere near Luton. The Hatters are either hated, ridiculed or unheard of where I live, and there 3 different reactions when people discover that I support them:

i) Laughter, ii) Amazement, iii) A punch in the face.

Their reaction cannot be due to the fact that I have no connection with Luton whatsoever, as I know several non-indigenous Liverpool and Manchester United supporters. So there must be some other persecuted Hatters fans out there. Why not write in? Perhaps we could form a charity for victims of football prejudice. Or join a mental hospital!

Anyway, whatever happens, don't give up; success is just around the corner!

Graham Johnson (The Hatter from afar)

A Local Affair (1)

Local derbies these days are few and far between, owing to the incompetence of our beloved neighbours, and despite our own best efforts (so far) to join them. However, with both reserve sides playing in the Football Combination, there are at least a couple of derby games a season, albeit low-key, and not wishing to miss such an auspicious occasion, the evening of February 3rd saw me join a reasonable size crowd at Kenilworth Road to witness the first Luton-Watford reserve derby of the year. So, on to the game.

Despite their relative edge in experience (11 of the 13 had played in the first team), it was the visitors who had the better of the dull, scrappy, early exchanges and might have picked up an early lead but for the sheer ineptness of their striker Butler, who looked the latest in a long line of Donkey No. 9s in yellow and red. Gradually the Town's infinitely greater skill began to dictate the game, especially in midfield where Mick O'Brien looked anything but a player whose last competitive match was almost 2 1/2 years ago and it was no surprise when they took the lead. Philip Gray (welcome back!) picked up the ball near halfway, holding off all challengers and firing home under the keeper, who atoned for his earlier mistake saving brilliantly from a 25 yard shot which emerged from the other side of the stand support to where I was sitting!

The second half continued much in the same vein with the more cultured Town attacks always posing more of a threat than the visitors tactic of aiming for the beanpole Butler. This was marginally the least irritating of their two tactics, the other being the occasional use of the offside trap - is this really necessary in reserve football? O'Brien and Gray departed, to be replaced by Oakes and Holtham and this, if anything, increased Town's domination, and the second goal which had looked inevitable duly arrived courtesy of a blistering drive from Ceri Hughes, who once again looked a class above just about everyone else. It was certainly interesting to see him play as a striker - one can't help feeling he offers more than some of the other forwards used this season.

Luton poured forward after this, and were unfortunate not to have increased the lead, particularly Darren Salton's header which hit the bar and bounced on the line but, inevitably, Watford scored in the last minute. Despite the fact that the scorer was at least 5 yards offside, it's a bit worrying that the malaise seems to be spreading even if it didn't cost any points. So, a successful evening - yet another derby victory, some impressive individual performances and, best of all, the return of two good players from injury.

Graeme Hick's Batting Average

P.S. The return match, is on March 10th - presumably this is at Wealdstone's ground, Vicarage Road!

A Local Affair (2)

In keeping with the time honoured tradition of Luton teams winning Bank Holiday derby matches, "Mad" will be taking on the Watford fanzine "Clap Your Hands, Stamp Your Feet" on Good Friday. This football match will be played on plastic(!) at the Brache Arena, and following our team strengthening we expect to improve on last years 5-3 victory. Also we hope to raise some cash for the Football Against M.S. charity through sponsorship of the match. Please contact us for further details.

BEFORE imposing a fine on anyone they convict, magistrates are obliged to find out the convicted person's financial position and their ability to pay. The beak in Leeds was painstakingly going through all the usual questions.

"Are you employed?" — "No," the man replied.

"What income do you have?" — "Just the dole."

"Do you have any outgoings?" — "Rent."

"And who do you support?" — "Leeds United."



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1 2 Xmas

Before Christmas an article was drawn up over Luton's somewhat inconsistent performances over the Yule-tide period. Overall our record is probably no better or worse than most clubs although it seems like it. Everyone likes to indulge in the odd drink or ten and no-one is suggesting that football players should not enjoy themselves, but certain players who shall remain nameless look somewhat intoxicated to put it mildly.

It was decided that such was our faith in the Town we would wait and see how things went over the Christmas/New Year period. As it turned out it was our best sequence of results for some time. None the less it would still be interesting to compare all results since First Division football resumed in 1982.

Season	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st	1st
1982/83		H WATFORD WON 1-0	A NORWICH LOST 0-1				H COVENTRY LOST 1-2
1983/84	A NOTTS CTY WON 3-0	H WEST HAM LOST 0-1				A SUNDERLAND LOST 0-2	
1984/85	H COVENTRY WON 2-0			A LIVERPOOL LOST 0-1			A EVERTON LOST 1-2
1985/86	A WEST BROM WON 2-1		A IPSWICH DREW 1-1				H LEICESTER WON 3-1
1986/87	H WATFORD LOST 0-2		A FOREST DREW 2-2				A COVENTRY WON 1-0
1987/88	A EVERTON LOST 0-2		H CHARLTON WON 1-0				H CHELSEA WON 3-0
1988/89	A SPURS DREW 0-0					A WIMBLEDON LOST 0-4	H SOUTHAMPTON WON 6-1
1989/90	H FOREST DREW 1-1				H CHELSEA LOST 0-3		A EVERTON LOST 1-2
1990/91	H SHEFF UTD LOST 0-1			H CHELSEA WON 2-0			A WIMBLEDON LOST 0-2
1991/92	H ARSENAL WON 1-0		H CHELSEA WON 2-0				A FOREST DREW 1-1

The memories come flooding back don't they. Sheffield Utd., a team without an away league win all season promptly beat the Town 1-0 in a dismal excuse of a football match. Crap

would be an understatement as far as Luton's performance was concerned. Who could forget Peter Nicholas and his successful rugby conversion versus Watford in 1986. However, without wishing to be too gloomy our last really memorable result on Boxing Day was a 3-0 success of Notts County in 1983. It put the Town in 3rd position in the table. Our highest ever position, four months later we were fifth from bottom and literally struggling for our First Division lives, how times change. As things stand, results can only improve, but at least we proved we are able to get a string of decent results together. Only time will tell.

WHEN Manchester United played Barcelona in the Cup Winners' Cup it slowly began to dawn upon them that the Spaniards weren't all that good. That's why they won.

The Labour party has now had the same realisation about John Major and his Cabinet. They simply aren't very good. In footballing terms, about the equal of Watford.

Written by the Daily Mirror's Joe Haines - a man who really knows his football. But are the Tories really that bad?

STOP PRESS

It has been announced that Watford are to release their own video.

The collection of their finest moments will be compiled and called "The Glory Minute". The video will last 58 seconds and will be available from all bad video stores.

A Spoilt View

For one recent match I decided to try a seat in the New Stand, instead of my usual seat in the Kenilworth End. It was curiosity mainly, fuelled by the clubs claims of an unobstructed view, said to be the best in the ground. Because I also brought a guest my choice of seats was restricted, but I still expected Block E, Row B to be quite acceptable. What I found however was quite unexpected. The seats we had paid £13.50 each for, did not afford a clear view of either goalmouth. The Oak Road goal was obstructed by the large metal pillar holding up the corner of the main stand roof, whilst the Kenilworth goal area was obstructed by that damn floodlight pylon. I felt ripped off, but worse, my "guest" vowed not to come back to Luton Town until he could expect a decent view of the action for his money. I had suggested the New Stand as the only other tickets available were the £7.50 "restricted view" seats in the Wing Stand. So the end result for LTFC is the loss of one potential supporter, and further disillusionment for one committed supporter.

More pertinent, perhaps, is to ask why the floodlight pylon is still there. I am sure that it was going to be moved after a few weeks of this seasons start. So why is it still there? Well, I've heard (from a reliable source) that our beloved MD Mr. Kohler felt that £20,000 to move the pylon was too much. Instead he has chosen to spend £17,500 refurbishing shop premises on Dunstable Road to relocate the club shop in the hope of attracting some passing trade (in Bury Park!).

So it appears dear friends that the possibility of selling a few extra tracksuits, and given the clubs commercial acumen so far even that seems unlikely, has been given priority over the needs of the paying (and in many cases already payed) customer. The end result - another broken promise, more money down the drain, more lost goodwill. Will they ever learn?

P.J. Smith

Des-troyed Hopes

I hate Des Walker. The merest mention of his name is enough to send me into a fit of violent rage and anger. Oh, don't get me wrong, I think he's a marvellous defender, but how can you possibly forgive anyone who decides to score their first ever goal against Luton Town in injury time? Until that point, New Years Day 1992 had been perfect: an afternoon out with some friends, a stunning goal from Pembridge after just 32 seconds, a good performance from the Hatters. Then Dessie has to go and ruin it!

Admittedly, I felt a slight feeling of relief as the chap driving us home said to me before the game, "If Luton win, you're walking home", so I suppose I should be grateful to Des for saving me a long 10 mile homeward trek. Even so, the timing and scorer of the goal made it so galling. Perhaps he heard those fateful words uttered quietly and carefully to my fellow Luton fan in the Bridgford End:

"I think we've won this one". Kiss of death. I might have known the consequences of this dreadful mistake!

Encouragingly Luton were playing some excellent football, fully exploiting Forest's inability to pass accurately. Pembridge in particular tried hard and played out of his skin. How much longer has he got with us, I wonder? Trevor Peake was outstanding (until injury time!) and Suttty made Brian Clough look a complete fool by denying Forest whenever they managed to get a shot in. All in all a superb all-round display, well worth the wait. If Phil Gray (when he returns - will it ever happen?) can keep up the form he showed before his injury we can stay up.

By the way, I have a suggestion for our defence: wear a watch when you're playing and set it 5 minutes slow. Then perhaps we might win a few games! You see, it is more than a little galling when you reach heights of indescribable optimism (4:38pm), and end up thoroughly annoyed and with murderous tendencies (4:41pm)! Never mind: carry on regardless - it can only improve!

Graham Johnson (The Hatter from afar)

Which Referee?

The Nearly Man:

The substitute referee/linesman who sits by the tunnel for 90 minutes a week, throughout the season. He gets on the pitch once every ten years but will never achieve fame. One example of this breed is now a season ticket holder at Luton. In the late seventies, he took over as linesman for a friendly match (against Coventry) and promptly awarded a penalty to the Sky Blues. I suppose we should name the guilty here, but we're not vindictive, are we Bill?

The Lunatic Fringe:

When you see their names in the programme you know that a boring nil all draw is out of the question. Bookies take bets on who will be first to see the red card. Penalties are almost guaranteed. Always carries a spare pencil and a spare notebook in case of shortage of space for name taking. Kelvin Morton and Jim Parker are award winners in this category.

The Little Hitler:

As its name suggests, invariably under 5'6" tall and, for some reason, also has a receding hairline (who said David Preece?). Easily spotted by their fussy manner, insisting free kicks and throw-ins must be taken from the exact blade of grass. Frequently dish out schoolmaster-type lectures to players. Will ignore chest high lunges, and enjoy booking players for dissent. Also fond of reporting managers to the FA. Guaranteed to ruin a game. Remember Alan Seville?

The Comic:

A lover of the big occasion, wears a perpetual grin, and jokes with anyone prepared to be an audience. Has a name to

suit the task (Ray Lewis of Great Bookham) or the appearance of a clown. The crowd will love them, or at least hate them less than usual. The real characters of refereeing. For older readers an example would be Roger Kirkpatrick.

The Poser:

May be seen doing a poor imitation of the Comic. Methods learnt from the FA are honed in their local discos. Fouls that look like attempted murder are greeted with a grin, yet free kicks are given for no apparent reason, and players booked for intent to commit a foul. Often flamboyant in appearance, and yes we are thinking about Roger Milford.

The Controversial:

Also known as top class referees, they amend the rules to suit the occasion, ignoring some and creating new ones as they go on. Never popular, probably due to their tendency to book players for farting and managers for wearing the wrong colour coat. Clive Thomas started it all, but the mantle passed on to Courtney, Hackett, Shapter, Martin (need we go on?).

Hard But Fair:

Rarely makes bad decisions, and doesn't bottle out of good ones. A stiff talking to is preferred to the yellow card. Unfortunately a type now becoming extinct. Jack Taylor was an excellent example. Alf Buksh perhaps?

The Perfect Referee:

Perfect? Don't be ridiculous.

A.G.F.C.

GENESIS

In the beginning, God created the world, and on the sixth day he divided the worlds population into two. He created normal human beings and then he created football referees.



And speaking of referees, here's one about to get it right (makes a change - Eds). But is Kamara protesting Boyds guilt or innocence? Answers on a postcard.....

Scott transfer deal frozen

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Should these things worry us or is it paranoia?

How can he accuse the team of bad concentration when he sees Blackburns assistant manager playing?

By DAVID FAIRCLOUGH
Sheffield Wed 3 Luton Town 2

Pembridge and Ray Harford went close for Luton as the visitors went for the kill but it was not to be as Francis and bad concentration scuppered them again.



YOUNG 29th

JAMIE CAMPBELL
19, LUTON TOWN

This six-foot powerhouse had played only 11 reserve games when he was thrown in at the deep end against Sheffield United in November.

"I never expected to get into the first-team so quickly," he admits. "I had set myself a target of playing a year in the reserves and then pushing for a place in the first-team squad."

"But having experienced players like Chris Kamara and Trevor Peake has helped. They often pull me to one side after a game and tell me what I've been doing right and wrong. I couldn't be in better hands!"

HELP! LOCKED up Metalhead, seeks Satan-loving Death freak! Female, 16+. Photo would be nice. Steve Foster, WP3927 4/6, H.M.Prison, New Road, Oxford OX1 1LZ.

And all the time we that was Paul Telfer playing!

4

CHRIS KAMARA
Much-travelled midfielder enjoying his second spell with The Hatters.

From the Palace programme. Kamara in his second spell? and who is this chap Pearce? Perhaps Minis recent goals made them think he's related to Stuart, of Forest!



DAVID PEARCE
Ex Walsall and England '8' winger.

Nothing to do with football we have to admit, but we thought you may be interested to know what else Mr Kohler is up to. You may draw your own conclusion.

Kohler ties up Chertsey sales

A curious - and possibly unreliable - barometer of the property market emerged this week when David Kohler, the chartered surveyor who owns Luton Town Football Club, proudly announced the sale 'off plan' of two apartments in the modernistic block he is building on the banks of the River Thames at Chertsey.

Dockett Moorings includes 10 two- and three-bedroom apartments on a 1.5-acre site with a 200-ft frontage on the river.

Construction began in September 1991, and the development's first two buyers were hooked by the signboard at the entrance to the development.

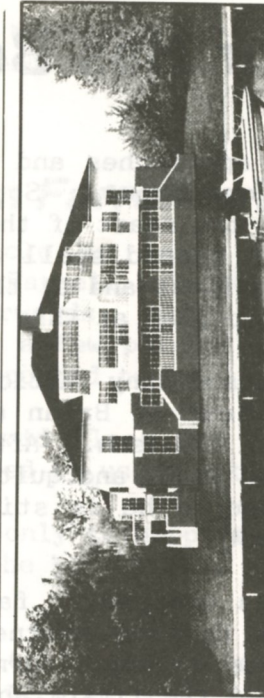
Kohler, whose career includes estate agency in Blackpool and stints with Donaldsons in Leeds,

and Smith Melzack in the West End of London, formed London and Lancashire Securities seven years ago.

He bought the Chertsey site in November 1988 for £350 000 - having seen it advertised as a derelict house in the pages of *Country Life*.

Even when the market is weak, Kohler reasons that there is always a demand from owners trading down from large family houses to apartments with large rooms and excellent views.

Runnymede council planners limited him to 10 flats - and his specification includes an eight-person passenger lift serving only six flats, garage doors large enough to accommodate a Rolls-Royce, garden lighting and facilities for coal or gas fires.



Dockett Moorings: Kohler goes it alone on the scheme's marketing

With prices from £300 000 to £450 000, Kohler claims that two contracts exchanged at the asking price is 'fairly unusual'. 'The fact is,' he says, 'that if you want a large apartment on the Thames, there is very little choice after Docklands and Chelsea Harbour.'

No estate agent is yet sharing in the success of Dockett Moorings because the enigmatic developer - despite it being his first job in life - was distinctly unimpressed by their terms.

'When agents advised me to spend £2 000 on the signboard, £30 000 on the show flat, £30 000 on advertising, £20 000 on the brochure, £35 000 to keep a sales lady in the show flat for a year, and then 2 per cent commission on top to the agent, I decided to do the job myself,' he says. 'The signboard is up, and I will arrange viewings by appointment,' he concludes.

Hero or Has Been?

So, the end of February approaches and Brian Stein finally gets his name on the score sheet. So much for the 10-15 goals we were promised at the start of the season. There can be no doubt that Brian's second spell at the club has not been as successful as his first and at the end of the day he simply isn't good enough to play at this level any more.

Since the start of the season many factions in the crowd have become increasingly critical of Brian and his lack of any real contribution towards the team. Afterall, as a striker he is in the team to score goals and quite simply hasn't done so. However, to many people he is still a firm favourite whether he's scoring or not.

Against Norwich Brian was dropped in favour of Ceri Hughes and although the Hughes Harford partnership up front was unsuccessful, talk by some of Stein turning the game for us was a joke. Preece scored the first, ably assisted by Oakes and Pembridge and Harford combined well for the second. No mention of Brian. Well thats because he simply wasn't involved in either. So much for changing the game.

The away match at Man. City saw another awful Stein performance and even led to police intervening when arguments of his contribution towards the game became a little heated. Although the same people who have never said a bad word about Brian are now sticking the fingers up at the likes of me the fact still remains that he has played a large number of games this season and scored only once. Realistically, he can count himself lucky not to have been dropped a long time ago. Although Kurt Nogan has not been particularly outstanding he has scored twice this season and not played half of the games Stein has played. Nogan will never set the First Division alight but lets face facts he couldn't have done much worse than Stein in recent games.

I personally hope that Brian's goal against United will lead to a few more by the end of the season. After all we certainly could do with them. However, unless things improve, Brian may just be remembered as a player who

couldn't score in a team that was relegated. Rather than the goalscorer and tremendous servant he has been to the club in the past.

Sean Farrell – The Truth

Following the article in issue 9 of "Mad" on the true allegiances of Sean Farrell he made a sudden exit on loan and was, shortly afterwards, sold to Fulham for a fee of £100,000. Here are a few points relating to the sale which we feel should be reported to you.

1. Sean asked David Pleat for a move after he heard he would be exposed by us as a true W**ford supporter.
2. Mr. Pleat was only too happy to oblige when he heard the news, in fact he had already planned to give him a free transfer.
3. All new recruits to the Luton Town staff are now to be screened to determine their origins and allegiances.
4. The hundred thousand pounds that the Town received for Sean has already disappeared into thin air.

S.T.

Hopping Mad

Readers may have noticed in issue 9, a certain tendency among match reporters to arrive 10 minutes late. As if to prove that worse can be achieved, two of our team recently travelled to deepest Essex for a Diadora League match at Wivenhoe Town. Slightly bemused at the lack of floodlighting 10 minutes prior to kick off on a January Wednesday evening, our heroes discovered that the match had been played the previous evening. To avoid ridicule the two individuals concerned shall remain nameless, but regular rail travellers will probably not be surprised to learn that both are train drivers!

K.F.H.



One of our own Young Eagles, Des Linton, being carried off after incurring his injury. A couple of days after this he had to pay to get in to watch the reserves at Creasey Park. Bet that never happened at Leicester.

Young Eagles ?

Dwight Yorke is a fine young player, and probably deserved to win the December "Young Eagle" award. Being a cynical old sod, though, I couldn't help but notice that the winner is decided by the England manager who selects from a number of recommendations by respected football folk who each cover a particular region. Well, to cut a long story short (*I wish you would - Ed*) I did a bit of research on young Mr. Yorke and guess who signed him for Villa - why, none other than Graham Failure himself! Are these events by any chance connected? I think we should be told, because I can think of a very promising young Welsh midfielder (not to mention a very promising Scottish midfielder, English winger, etc.) equally, if not more, deserving of the award.

A.C.

We were saddened to note the loss of the Citizen from the range of local papers recently, and with it the loss of one version of events at the Town. We must extend our thanks to Simon Oxley for his help and assistance in the production of "Mad", and, on one occasion, in getting a member of our editorial team to hospital following his untimely collapse (shock after buying a round apparently!). Simon will still be reporting on Luton Town for Radio Bedfordshire, so we've not totally lost him. And we happen to think he's been pretty fair for a Leeds supporter.

Telford 1 (Langford 70) Wycombe 0 (att 1520), Witton 6 (Alford 7 Joe Connor 14 20 88 Thomas pen 33 Lutkevitch 80) Stafford 0 (att 902), Yeovil 3 (Spencer 7 McDermott 24 84) Welling 0 (att 2127), K'minster 2 (Davies 4 Humphreys 22) C'chester 2 (Bennett 60 Smith 61) (att 0).

Evidence of the recession affecting attendances in the Conference.

Englands Manager Writes

Those of you who read our rather waspish criticism of the England manager in Mad 9 will no doubt be expecting us to be lavishing praise upon him after the France game. No chance

....

I am one of Graham Taylor's greatest critics - according to Brian Clough, I should be shot! - and I have to admit that England did play well against France. But that was not due to the boy failure, oh, dear me, no, - rather humbly I must take the credit for the improvement. Refer, if you will, to Mad 9 and I will present the evidence:

I SUGGESTED using a sweeper system, to enable the full backs to attack.

I SUGGESTED a two-man strike force with a free man "in the hole".

The more pedantic amongst you will agree that the side differed considerably from my selection - agreed, but I suggested that while the individuals may differ due to injuries and vagaries of form, the basic pattern should remain the same. Therefore, for Merson read Clough, Parker read Jones, Wright read Shearer and Gascoigne/Platt read Webb. Hopefully, the style has been established now with a good squad of players able to express themselves within the structure.

However, not all was sweetness and right. Somewhat predictably, Geoff Thomas was abysmal and by some distance the worst player on the pitch - summed up by that atrocious attempt at, I think, goal. (Contrast this with the Welsh goal scored on the same day by a much less experienced player hardly renowned for his goalscoring - a cool, calm finish - now what was his name!!) Also, Keown looked as much out of his depth as it is possible to be alongside world-class players such as Walker, Pearce and Wright. At the risk of sounding boring and repetitive, could somebody explain to me why Paul Elliott now can't even make a 30-man squad - perhaps it's just that he had left Villa before the failure arrived!

So, now you know. In the unlikely event of anyone at the Know FA About Football reading this, I'm available to start whenever you want (subject, of course, to giving my month's notice). Trust me, you know it makes sense.

A.C.

Wanted Lucky Mascot

A vacancy has arisen for a mascot responsible for bringing the team good luck and participating in the pre-match warm up.

Applicants should have an unlimited supply of good luck, be no more than 3ft tall (so as to make Preecy look bigger) and possess a shot which will struggle to reach the goal from the penalty spot, as we wouldn't want anyone embarrassed. An ability to bribe referees would be an advantage.

Hours: 4 to 5 minutes per week.

Salary: How much can you afford to pay us?

Please complete the following aptitude test in not more than 12 words:

"I want to be seen with Captain Peaky because

and send with CV to:

Luton Town F.C.
Maple Road
Luton.

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The Good, Bad & Awful

TOWN 1 COVENTRY 0

Is it me or do we never seem to play Coventry on a Saturday. Friday nights should be spent down the pub instead of watching a piss awful match like this. Still Harford scored the all important goal after inept defending by City. This was one of those games where gaining three points was of paramount importance and the display didn't really matter.

TOWN 1 ARSENAL 0

Confidence, they say, is a major factor in football. And so it proved - the win over Coventry sparked the Town into probably their best performance of the season so far. OK, the Arse were poor but Luton never allowed them to settle, keeping the dangermen Rocastle and Merson quiet whilst always threatening up front with the Big Man outstanding again revelling in the service provided by Telfer and Pembo. The goal, when it came, was simple enough but well worth the wait - a delightful pass from Scotty to an unmarked GOD who made no mistake. The only disappointment was that Town didn't win more conclusively in the last few minutes when Scotty and Pembo tore what remained of Arsenal's defence to shreds. Still, can't grumble - a great Xmas pressie - the Great Escape starts early!

TOWN 2 CHELSEA 0

After the successive home wins even John Major was drawn to Kenilworth Road to see if Luton's chances of staying up were better than his of being re-elected. Who are we to disappoint him. A free kick from Richard Harvey similar to his goal against Southampton and a John Dreyer penalty provided the points. We could even afford the luxury of missing a penalty in the second half when Dreyer was told to step down in favour of Mick Harford who duly obliged by missing. The moans from Chelsea defied belief. How Beasant stayed on after the first penalty is a mystery. Perhaps the referee had heard how well Vinnie Jones had played in goal earlier in the season and felt that Luton's biggest advantage

would come by Beasant staying on. Boyd was sent off for conceding the second penalty, got the sulks and went back to Scotland to play for Celtic.

FOREST 1 TOWN 1

With five minutes left, Forest got a free kick on the edge of the area. This is it, me thinks - a bit early maybe, but the usual late goal. When I took my hands away from my eyes, somewhat surprised not to have heard a roar, to see Forest taking a corner I offered up a silent prayer (fat lot of good that did!) and decided that THIS WAS IT. Of course, it was too good to be true - but why did Des Walker have to pick on us - he's waited long enough so a few more games wouldn't have made any difference. So it was head banging on wall time again. And it was a real sickener for the lads (not to mention the large and noisy Town following) having scored so early and soaked up so much pressure so well - unfortunately we rarely looked like getting the second goal to kill the game and, more importantly, calm my (by now) extremely shredded nerves. But, if nothing else, I knew we wouldn't lose. Why? Because, as all football fans know, Luton Town never lose a game in which Mark (worth £2 million and increasing all the time) Pembroke scores. Then, to round off a day of, ahem, novel goalscoring feats I get back to the car to be greeted with the news of Fazza's hat-trick! Surreal....

SHEFFIELD UNITED 4 TOWN 0

Drank some lovely beer in the Royal Standard before the game, which was a good start, but unfortunately there was nothing else good about the day. (*Apart from the Arse losing at Wrexham - Eds.*) I think we all knew a win was out of the question when we realised GOD was missing from the side. Stein lacks the pace to spearhead a 4-5-1 formation, and Chambers' return seemed to affect the confidence of the defence, not to mention the fans. Town were in trouble when the first goal went in, out of it with the second. The third and fourth were inevitable. A thoroughly dismal day for Town fans after the superb Xmas.

LIVERPOOL 2 TOWN 1

The trip to Liverpool followed its usual pattern. A long drive with little chance of a result at the end of the day, paying some scouse git to look after your car and then wondering why every house has a burglar alarm. Well, I think we all know the answer to that anyway. Without Mick Harford up front there seemed little chance of winning or even scoring for that manner. However, Dave introduced a new lad called Tanner who ran onto a pass from Nogan to beat Brucie with ease. I actually thought that we might win at Anfield for once but as usual the second half pressure prove too much and we lost to two late goals. Still, Tanner looks a good prospect for the future.

SHEFFIELD WEDS. 3 TOWN 2

As if to prove that the Liverpool result was no fluke we again led until late on but ended up with nothing. David Preece and Scott Oakes scored for Luton and we really should have gone in at half-time with a comfortable lead. Anyway the introduction of grandad Trevor changed the game as Julian James seemed to struggle without Paul Telfer playing in front of him. By the way, does anyone know why northern chip shops offer gravy, grated carrot or a combination of the two on bags of chips? Answers on a postcard to the usual address.

TOWN 0 WEST HAM 1

After three successive home wins I'd have settled for a draw in this one. When things are so tight at the bottom you certainly can't afford to lose to teams down at the bottom with you. However that didn't stop us losing to the likes of Sunderland, Sheff. Utd and QPR last season. So yet again we decided not to disappoint the away supporters and gave West Ham three points they hardly deserved.

TOWN 2 NORWICH 0

This according to Anglia TV is a local derby. Strange when you think Villa Park is nearer to Luton than Carrow Road. In any event it probably is a local derby if you live in the back and beyond and crunch carrots of an evening. The support from Norwich was pathetic with no more than a couple

of hundred fans. Luton must have taken 2-3 times as many fans at least to Norwich earlier in the season. Anyway, Brian Stein was dropped in favour of Ceri Hughes, which proved to be an ineffective move. Two goals in the second half gave us victory with the ever improving Scott Oakes setting David Preece up for a goal, who was ably assisted by Jim Bowen. Smashing goal, lovely, super. A head down by Mick for Pembo to run onto and return for Harford to tap in sealed the points in the closing minutes.

P.S. Congratulations to Anglia for providing unbiased coverage on Goals Galore. Makes a change.

MAN. CITY 4 TOWN 0

This scoreline was an even bigger joke than the 4-1 scoreline at Spurs earlier in the season. You've no doubt read the reports and seen the TV coverage to draw your own conclusions. All I wonder is what would have happened if Les Sealey had still been playing in goal for us.

TOWN 2 SHEFFIELD UNITED 1

Very few people would of thought that it would have taken Brian Stein 20+ games to score his first goal of the season. It was rumoured that local bookmakers were taking odds on him not scoring this season. Anyway the goal finally arrived thanks to "Dick" Tracey. Just to make Mr. Tracey not feel so bad Sutton decided to lay on a goal for Utd which they gratefully took. It was left to God to score the deciding goal in what could be called an end to end match. One final comment must be made, does Tumble ever think of placing the ball to the right, Everybody in the stadium knew where the ball was going and that includes the previously mentioned "Dick".

CRYSTAL PALACE 1 TOWN 1

Not a great match by any means, but points are more important at the moment. Our goal came from something original - a Pembridge penalty - after Steins bath chair lost a wheel. The last ten minutes were nerve racking but Town could perhaps have taken all the points if they had the confidence to try. And as for Ceri Hughes, what sort of player is it who forgets to put a shirt on?

Raving Mad!!!

Dear "Mad"

Can you print these clippings from "Shoot"? or will it infringe the Copyright Act? Anyway, who the hell does Dave Bassett think he is and who is the "WE" that he's talking about? Does he mean Sheffield Utd? football managers? Short people that were Crap at Watford? I suppose though that he is entitled to criticise Luton as everybody had admired Bassett's teams (Wimbledon, Watford, Sheffield Utd.) for their attractive style of play. Perhaps, he now views football from a "premier league" point of view - i.e.: we've got a big stadium so we deserve success - You've got a small stadium so bugger off! Anyway, I could go on for ages but I won't.

Thanks for listening.

Brian Phillips

Telford

Shrops.

P.S. Roll on February 22nd!

**As for the clippings from Shoot, here they are:*

With the FA Premier League just around the corner, the prize for a place in the Top 22 has never been greater. That means the fight for First Division survival this season will be more desperate than ever before. Sheffield United boss Dave Bassett reckons there's a mini-league of eight teams slugging it out to avoid the three relegation places. And he should know. He masterminded United's Great Escape last season. Can he do it again? Read on....

LUTON

The team everyone wants to see relegated, it looked as though we were finally going to get our wish as they into trudged into December well adrift at the foot of the table. But a storming Christmas has lifted The Hatters out of the bottom three and set them up for their traditional last day escape at Notts County. They've still scored less than any other First Division team, though. Key Player: Mick Harford Odds For The Drop: 5-4

Dear "Mad"

I have much enjoyed all the editions to date. I've read all the Luton fanzines, but find "Mad" to be the best. It strikes just the right balance, and never fails to make me laugh. The wit and humour is excellent, and so many of the comments, articles, and observations are 'spot on', and I agree with nearly everything - particularly the anti-feeling

of our local friends? and rivals, the Hopeless Hornets. Whilst on the subject of the Vicarage Road outfit have you noticed the similarities between WFC and traffic wardens? There are loads, like:-

1. They both wear the same colours.
2. They're unpopular.
3. Both issue tickets, and then upset and annoy.
4. Both traffic wardens and Watford F.C. are slow and pedestrian!
5. You neither want to see a traffic warden or Watford.
6. If you have a bad defence (like Watford's), you will get "booked" for parking illegally.
7. When either are "on the pitch", you move away as fast as you can!
8. Both are looking to take your money, without offering any entertainment.
9. Traffic Wardens and Hornets should BUZZ OFF!
10. Many think both are "pointless", and the World would be a better place without them!

Finally, I must ask who the gorgeous stunner is on the front cover of No. 9, and I'm not referring to Chamberlain or Rodger. All must be revealed, and the sooner the better! Seriously though, who is she? She could make a happy man very old!

Best Wishes
Neil Slater
Aylesbury
Bucks.

Dear "Mad"

Whilst travelling up to Nottingham for the game on New Years Day, I had plenty of time to reflect on the article entitled "Too many games?" in the December 1991 "Mad".

Following the game I reflected a bit more! Another last minute equaliser by the opposition. Coupled with the draws with Notts County, and the two Sheffields, eight points have been squandered! Where would we be if the lads had managed to hold themselves a few seconds longer? 14th that's where!! No pissing around the bottom three, but respectably mid-table.

You get plenty of time to reflect on the match on away trips when you travel by motor-cycle. If you see the big red Suzuki DR800 in the bike park at the end of Kenilworth Road, it's me!!

If you see some guy in bike gear who looks frozen stiff at away matches, buy me a coffee. It's bloody cold being a winter biker - perhaps I'll be lucky enough to see an away win this year to warm me up!!!

The misery of the return trips from Old Trafford and White Hart Lane after huge defeats can't be put into words! How many biking Hatters are there?

As for "Mad"? Of the three (is it still 3) fanzines I consider it the best quality and the best read! Enough of the adulation!!

What about the chances of a new stadium? Where can we try this time? Perhaps we should take a leaf out of Maidstones book: (A) Let the Council sell the ground for a nice DIY and Supermarket complex. (B) Work closely with planning officials. (C) Submit plans to Council. (D) Get them turned over by the Council!! Repeat steps B,C,D as often as required until club is on brink of closing down!!!! There's no doubt the club needs a new ground, but how are we to finance it? The people of Luton don't deserve a First Division ground or team. Perhaps they'll be happy to see us relegated. With the size of the ground there should be lockouts every home game as the 'supporters' fill the stadium, but all too often the gate fails to make 10,000!! Should we try Sunday matches instead? No yellow lines? There must be something Mr. Kohler and the people of Luton can do. But do they give a toss?

DOCTOR BIG

The DR Man!

Flitwick,

Beds.

Dear "Mad"

Does anyone know who had the stupid idea of playing "We are the Champions" as Luton take the pitch? I'd love to see us fulfil the sentiment.

Did you hear us mentioned on "Six-O-Six" after the West Ham fiasco? What an awful afternoon. Who was responsible for the half-time show with those poor girls kicking air? Whoever it was should be sacked straight-away.

At least we know that Steve Sutton wants to stay now and we cannot afford to let him go. Sorry Alec but we all have more confidence in Steve so perhaps we could organise a fund. There must be something left to sell. Perhaps we could get a few hundred for the scoreboards.

Do we have to have police-horses about? Kenilworth Road is only a small place and we don't get many away fans - so surely a couple of alsatian dogs would suffice.

What about the backroom staff? What do all these managers do? Commercial, Ticket Office, Catering, Retail, Development and now Andy King is on the payroll.

We've given "No-guns" several chances now but he really doesn't look like a Premier Division striker does he? Still I don't suppose we'd get much for him.

Yours faithfully

David Fleckney

Great Houghton

Northampton.

An open letter to the Luton Town board

Well, the impossible has finally happened. After several years of hard effort, Luton Town's directors have eventually succeeded in their arduous task to put the Hatters at the bottom of the First Division, Congratulations, gentlemen! You managed to sell every decent player we ever had over the last 4 years, and, even better, you gave none of the money to the manager to buy replacements. Then you sacked him for having the wrong personality. If that is success, then you deserve a medal. Why, you even stick to your principles: you are obviously against the ideas of an elitist Super League, so you have done everything possible to stop the team from entering it. Indeed, you have made but one mistake. You thought the fans would accept your measures.

But, gentlemen, you are gravely mistaken. We have sat and silently suffered with our team far too long. Defeat has become far too common for our liking. Let me remind you: you are in charge of a football club, just in case you have forgotten. Could I humbly make a suggestion, gentlemen? Either hire a yacht in the Canary Islands or take over Watford. You'll find that Watford share your honourable ideals.

Yours,
Graham Johnson

GLYN FORD



MEMBER

OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

We are all either season ticket holders or regular attenders at Football League matches in England. We recognise that it was necessary through the Taylor Report to deal with many of the problems facing Football, including the problem of hooliganism. We believe that a mix of improved co-ordination between all the authorities and other measures plus a more positive attitude from the supporters has largely solved this problem. What remains is a commitment to all-seater stadia on grounds of safety. This we believe is a nonsense. If it is safe to stand to watch Rugby League and Rugby Union matches, then in appropriate circumstances it must be safe to stand at Football matches.

The requirement for all-seater stadia threatens to destroy the game as we know it, both socially and financially with the unpopular bond schemes and the proposal to double the cost of getting into a match at a whole series of clubs.

We do need some all-seater stadia to bid for the European Championship, but this provision does not have to be universal. Let the clubs and supporters who wish to take this option. We look forward to an incoming Labour Government urgently reviewing the Taylor Report.

Kate Hoey MP -Arsenal Glyn Ford MEP -Manchester City

Tony Banks MP	-Chelsea
John Battye	-Leader of Oldham M.B. Council
John Bird MEP	-Wolves
Alan Burnett	-Leader of Portsmouth Council
John Fraser MP	-Crystal Palace
Lyndon Harrison MEP	-Oxford
Alan Meale MP	-Mansfield Town
George Stevenson MEP	-Stoke
Graham Stringer	-Leader of Manchester City Council (Utd)

TOWN TRAVELS

14.3.92 EVERTON

It gets more and more difficult to look forward to away games this season. A trip to Goodison Park is rarely a highlight of the year and last years even lacked entertainment value. On bright spot for the drinkers is that Cains Bitter, brewed at the old Higsons brewery is now sold in some Greenalls pubs. If you can't find one then try the ROSCOE HEAD, 24 Roscoe Street for Tetleys and, perhaps, Jennings.

21.31.92 SOUTHAMPTON

Another 6 pointer? If we can't beat this lot This is one town where both the dedicated drinker and (away) football supporter would prefer to be somewhere else. The only pub we know worth recommending is the WELLINGTON ARMS, 56 Park Road, Freemantle, a back street free house.

11.4.92 OLDHAM ATHLETIC

At last, a new ground to visit. Not an easy team to play against but their style usually produces goals at both ends. The town is a bit lacking in decent beer since the local brewery closed so its probably better to have a beer in Manchester City centre on route.

20.4.92 Q.P.R.

The visit to Loftus Road can't possibly be as embarrassing as last year, can it? The last visit to London of the season, and the big city has no shortage of pubs, so we'll leave the choice to you.

Consumer News Update

We have been receiving reports recently of a disturbing experiment in the soft drinks trade. A members-only club in Luton, Bedfordshire, attempted to revive its fortunes by launching its own version of an internationally famed fizzy drink.

Known as Luton Cola, the exercise has been a disaster from the start. The product, after more than 9 months, has failed to create any enthusiasm and has not lived up to its promises. Said to be priced at something in excess of £35,000 (which is clearly extortionate) its massive sales have done nothing to turn the losses around, and may have, somehow, exacerbated the losses.

One of the problems is the old fashioned container, a can lacking the essential ring pull, which has meant that it is impossible to get Cola out. This has led to anger and frustration, which has driven groups of those feeling ripped off to gather and chant "Cola Out" repeatedly, all other methods of achieving this having failed.

Suggestions that the Cola would be successful enough to enable the club to move to new premises have proved to be unfounded and some observers believe the Cola is leading the club to the verge of bankruptcy. If this should happen it is likely that the official receiver would have to remove the product from the clubs inventory before the club could be sold to any buyer as a going concern.

It is understood that a number of businessmen are waiting in the wings to takeover the club, and invest in its future, but are not prepared to do so while the Cola is still to be found on the premises.

For the consumer, and particularly those who provide the club with its income, the message is all too clear. Have nothing to do with this Cola - the bitter taste it leaves could be bad for your health, and there is no doubt that it is bad for your club.



Mad as a Hatter! has exclusively obtained this rare photograph of Watfords scouting staff in action, presumably searching for a replacement for Luther Miss-hit.