# MADAS A HATTER!

A LUTON TOWN FANZINE

Issue 16 Apr/May 93 Still Only 50p

Draw Near??



The victory over Watford was one of the more memorable events of this season. Most of the others are best forgotten.

# MADAS A HATTER!

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Once again the end of the season approaches and we are involved in the battle to avoid relegation, at the end of a season that has been lacking any kind of success other than the occasional away win. None of this is unusual as it has been the case since we started writing these editorials three years ago. However, this year, for a change, we feel confident that relegation will be avoided. We hope that there will be an improvement next season but with the imminent departure of Phil Gray, and David Pleat already talking about "defending the club at transfer tribunals" we expect that next season will see an even younger and less experienced side than this. The successful introduction of Martin Williams has again proved that Mr Pleat can profit from other peoples cast offs, but this season has been less productive from his forays into the transfer market, with Claridge returning from whence he came and Benjamin falling into the reserves. In fact some people have questioned wether Mr Pleats judgement is as good as it once was, quoting the faith he showed in Linton and Petterson at an early stage of the season. Whatever the answer may be we have to say that with such limited resources Mr Pleat has done well to avoid relegation.

Turning to the players we should probably take this opportunity to say good bye to Phil Gray, but in view of his comments to the local press recently, which were ill-timed and very ill-advised, good riddance would probably be more appropriate. It is difficult to remember any case of a player who has done such a good job on the field and such a bad one off the field......apart from Lars Elstrup that is. Inevitably others will also be leaving during the summer months, and to them we would like to say all the best.

Turning our attention away from the field of play it is sad to record that Kohler is still the man at the helm of the club. Things have been very quiet lately but we suspect that the club is in deeper financial difficulty than he would have us believe, although the solution is bound to be the sale of Phil Gray at a bargain price. It appears that the Haslam deal has faded away, and the "open all hours" selling policy will continue. It has not gone unnoticed that the shareholders still await their A.G.M. and accounts for 1991/92. These will no doubt make interesting reading when they are published. More than two years after an announcement was first promised we still await news of a new ground, and with the recently disclosed problems at Luton Hoo we wonder how any negotiations may be affected. And finally, should you leave during the summer Mr Kohler, we'd like you to know we'll be glad to see the back of you.

**KOHLER OUT** 

# The Cola Family A story of everyday folk

Mummy Cola: Hello Darling, dinner's nearly ready. Did you have a good day at work?

Daddy Cola: Not bad love. I had to be a complete bastard at the office today and you know how much I enjoy that.

Mummy Cola: Well I've done us a nice roast chicken for dinner.

Daddy Cola: Chicken!

Mummy Cola: Yes, it looks very good.

Daddy Cola: Good! Good! If it's that good I want you to sell it right away.

Mummy Cola: But what about our dinner?

Daddy Cola: You idiot. You're just thinking short term, we might need that money one day.

Mummy Cola: But if I take it back to the butcher he won't give me anything like what I paid for it.

Daddy Cola: I don't care. I want it sold and I want it sold now.

Cola Junior enters the room.

Cola Jun .: Hello Daddy.

Daddy Cola: Hello Junior. What's that you've got there?

Cola Jun.: It's my homework, we had to write a story. Will you have a look and see what you think of it?

Daddy Cola: Of course I will. Let's have a look. Hmm, not bad.

Cola Jun.: It's good isn't it Daddy?

Daddy Cola: It is good Junior. It's very good indeed. In fact it's so good here's what I want you to do. When you get to school tomorrow, find a kid who hasn't done their homework and sell them yours.

Cola Jun .: But Daddy.

Daddy Cola: No buts. What you've got here is worth something so cash in.

Cola Jun.: But if I don't hand my homework in I'll get moved down to a lower class and I'll be a laughing stock.

Daddy Cola: Now you listen to me, it doesn't matter what level you end up at as long as you keep the money rolling in. You never know when you might need it. Now leave me alone, I've got a busy day tomorrow. I've got to go into the Club and sort a few things out there.

Next Day At The Football Club.

Secretary: Morning Mr. Chairman.

Daddy Cola: Morning Miss. Jones. By the way, how much do we pay you?

Secretary: £8,000 a year Sir.

Daddy Cola: Good God woman you're sacked. Before you go find me a youngster who'll do your job for half that money. What's first to be dealt with today?

Secretary: The Manager should be here to see you any minute. Daddy Cola: Right send him straight in when he gets here, and

stop crying woman it was only a job.

Manager walks in mumbling to himself.

Manager: Must be careful what I say. Must be careful what I say. Must be careful.

Daddy Cola: Ah Morning. Come right in, sit down.

Manager: Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Daddy Cola: Well now, tell me how it's all going?

Manager: Ah, not too bad.

Daddy Cola: Not too bad! What do you mean?

Manager: Well I've just come from the training ground and it went O.K.

Daddy Cola: O.K.! What do you mean O.K.?

Manager: Ah, it went pretty well.

Daddy Cola: Pretty Well! What do you mean "Pretty Well"?
Manager: A couple of the players looked really good.

Daddy Cola: Ah Ha. Just as I thought. What are their names?

Manager: Oh Shit.

STIG

This is of course pure fiction, and any similarity to any living person is entirely coincidental.

# A LOOK AT SIGMA OLOMOUC

My first look at Sigma Olomouc was at the Moravian "derby" match with FC BOBY Brno. We set off for Olomouc at 9.30 am for the fifty mile journey, in the buses kindly provided at a subsidised price by the Club Chairman. Who from previous articles you will know is the opposite to Mr. Kohler.

The beer bottles were opened and the supporters on my bus (no. 8 of 18) were soon swilling "Staro Brno" by the half litre. It was too early for an Englishman, but I flew the flag and joined in. I'm glad I'd had breakfast. We arrived at Sigma's stadium and bought our tickets, in case of a lockout! Then we adjourned to the pub for a few more beers to keep us warm. It had started snowing by the time we left for the ground. The police in true Czech style had already brought out the dogs and we were penned in at the open end behind the goal.

Kick-off time came at 1.30 pm and the teams came out. The first half was a scrappy affair, and the wanker in black did a marvellous job. The fireworks and explosives were a pyromaniac's dream. But no score! Both teams seemed too inept today. Perhaps the snow was too much for them! The 'rowdies' started to get impatient and there was a scuffle with the local police and a few arrests were made. One of the police alsations bit another of the dogs and to taunts of "woof woof woof" (to the tune of "Ole ole ole") and other jeers, the dog fight was broken up.

0-0 at half time seemed fair enough. Then in the 55th minute disaster for BOBY. A free kick from the left and Alex Chamberlainov in BOBY's goal was beaten by the wankiest of headers. 1-0.

BOBY never recovered and the game just began to drift away in the murky conditions. If Olomouc had had floodlights it might have been better! It's amazing that club's have to have lights to play in the FA Cup, yet Sigma can play in the UEFA Cup without.

The journey back to Brno was awful. No beer. It was at this time that the Luton Town Supporters Club (Czechoslovakia) was formed. It was my scarf that did it! We number seven! Almost as many supporters as at home in dear old Luton.

The second opportunity to watch Sigma, was live on Czech TV, on the F1 Federal channel courtesy of Italian TV, in their second leg UEFA Cup match with mighty wops Juventus. As a former employee of FIAT in UK, I began to hate Juventus back in 1978! Juventus are the factory team! I naturally supported Sigma!

Things looked to be going okay until £12m 'slaphead' Vialli picked up a loose ball on the edge of the box and slammed the ball into the back of the Sigma net. Six minutes gone and 0-1.

The game was pretty even for the next twenty minutes with Juve trying to find a way through the Sigma defence. Of course, Il Wapo are used to breaking down defences. In the 28th minute they were rewarded with their second. A slip by a defender and the ball broke to the number 11, didn't get the name as it was quickly on and off the screen, Vialli looked about two yards offside, but the French referee seemed not to notice. Neither did the blinker with the flag. 0-2.

The remainder of the half was entirely Juve. Sigma had the occasional break, but nothing to cause much alarm, although a free kick outside the Juve box was well saved by the keeper. 0-2 at half time seemed about right.

The second half was only a minute old when Vialli sent Mieller free he beat his marker, slipped past the keeper and side footed home. A good goal by anybody's standards. Vialli the slaphead was certainly the man of the match. Worth £12m?

Vialli himself got number four after 55 minutes. A dodgy free kick in the usual set piece position and Vialli rose 'like a salmon' and headed home from around the spot. 0-4. I say it was a dodgy free kick merely because tackling an Italian player is very difficult. They can fall over if touched with a feather! And do.

Vialli was obviously tired and went off letting Juve bring on an old grey haired player called Ravanelli. In the 80th minute he made it 0-5 with a goal that was pure farce. A back pass was collected by the keeper, he side stepped a tackle inside the six yard box, went left and was caught. The punt upfield was returned by a Juve midfielder and cleared off the line, the clearance fell to Ravanelli on the edge of the box and he slammed it back, this time it went in!

The last ten minutes Sigma just cleared their lines and Juve seemed happy to see time run out. In fact, the Frog referee blew up with nearly a minute still on the TV clock.

Sigma didn't play well, but faced with a multi-billion lira team they were simply out-classed.

The match did highlight the need for FIFA to make more rule changes before the 1994 World Cup. One must be the use of video replays like they are using in American Football and in Test Cricket. So often the offender, 90% certain to be an Italian, would take a dive in a potential scoring position. Rather than play on and perhaps lose any opportunity. This is not football, it is bloody cheating. After the last World Cup Final fiasco with Klinsman falling over all the time, something has to change. This aspect of the game is getting all too common with our Latin cousins.

How long ago was the tackle from behind outlawed? Tell the French Refereeing panel. The standard of Italian tackling is without a doubt the worst I've seen in many a year both on the terrace and as a player!

The Czech season is over now for its winter break and will restart in February after the worst weather is over. What a sensible idea. Of course it helps with only 16 teams in the divisions.

Paul Devall aka 'Dr. BIG'

# 4-0, We beat the scum 4-0!

Its not quite Boxing Day, but local derbies and bank holidays mix rather well, and Good Friday is becoming the regular date for the fanzine "derby" between ourselves and \*\*\*fords "Clap Your Hands Stamp Your Feet". This year, with our clubs having met 3 times and the Horns (oo-er!) yet to score, the match had a touch more meaning about it. It was our turn to play away from home and, continuing the search for a decent venue for football in \*\*\*ford, CYHSYF had booked a pitch at the Queens school, which also turned out to be the venue for a kids tournament of some sort, so we ended up playing on the pitch nobody else wanted! With the game set to kick off at 11.00 Mad's team selection was left late in order to have the strongest team on at the start, an astute tactic by the manager. The toss was won by CYHSYF who then elected to kick-off, allowing us the choice of ends, which is what we would have gone for anyway!

During the first half the Mad goal was only threatened a couple of times and on those occasions Steve "Ferret" Tyler saved confidently. All the action however, was at the other end where the Mad strikeforce came close to scoring on numerous occasions, and when the deadlock was broken, by Steve Witchard five minutes before the break, it seemed scant reward for such domination. Changes were made at half-time to enable all the available players to have a run out, and rest some of those players short of match fitness. In fact the second half was more of a stroll than the first and Mad added another 3 goals without reply. There were scored by Witchard, and a pair for John Paul Brooker, on his debut. No serious threat was offered by CYHSYF and what attacks they did manage were ably dealt with by Man of the Match, Dave West, the rock of the Mad defence. Also worthy of mention are Mark Araci, whose style of play makes any game worth watching, and those stalwarts of

the MAAH team, the Bobs. The full line up was as follows:

- Steve Tyler
- John Bradshaw
- Keith Hayward
- Dave West
- Geoff "Bob" Ramshaw
- John "Bob" Parr
- Angus "Bob" Kinnear
- Steve Witchard
- Mark "Ormondroyd" Wilson
- John Paul Brooker
- 11 Mark Araci

Subs: Nick Gazeley, Robert Pullen, P.J.,

Simon "Bob" Warren.

After the game CYHSYF had arranged a buffet lunch at a local hostelry, and very good it was too. Just a pity half our team got lost on the way, but that is what we get for winning! Altogether now -4-0, we beat the scum ......

Our thanks to Matthew and all at CYHSYF for their hospitality.

Dave Idpleat

At Last, why Graham Failure was too busy to pick Chris Waddle.

# Round trip that was Taylor-made

RAIL enthusiast Graham Taylor certainly put the Rail Rover to the test when he attempted a record-breaking round Britain rail tour.

an eight-year-old was an avid Graham had ridden on a comtrain spotter, managed to com- muter train. plete the tour in six days, seven hours and 42 minutes - thanks people could travel so far to the tremendous support and together and not sav anything to

Amazingly Graham, who, as of his journey was the first time

"I never realised so many

# TO SUB OR NOT TO SUB?

Dear David Pleat

As a loyal, patient and understanding of rather more years than I would care to mention, could you please explain to us all as to your reasoning behind making substitutions towards the end of a match, when it is blatantly obvious that not performing certain players who are particularly well (i.e. Ceri Hughes for most of the season), should have been taken off at least twenty minutes beforehand.

This is not something recent either as this was also the case in your first spell at Luton. Putting a sub on with only minutes to go is practically a waste of time, but to have two players of the calibre of Oakes and Williams on the bench at the same time and not play them is criminal. (Before members of the Scott Oakes fan club collapse with shock, yes, I really do think he's a good player despite all his faults).

We all admire your faith in sticking with the starting line up, but as was the case at Swindon we needed a fresh pair of legs badly long before they scored. By the time the sub was brought on I'm afraid the damage was already done.

Please, please, please David, you've nothing to lose and everything to gain by bringing on a sub. Who knows, it may become an inspired substitution by yourself (think of the headlines).

Yours hopefully

### Bungle Bonce

P.S. I am not suggesting for one minute that Ceri has had a poor season, but every time I think of a player who has not been very consistent of late, it's Ceri's name which crops up. Surely a case of pure coincidence!

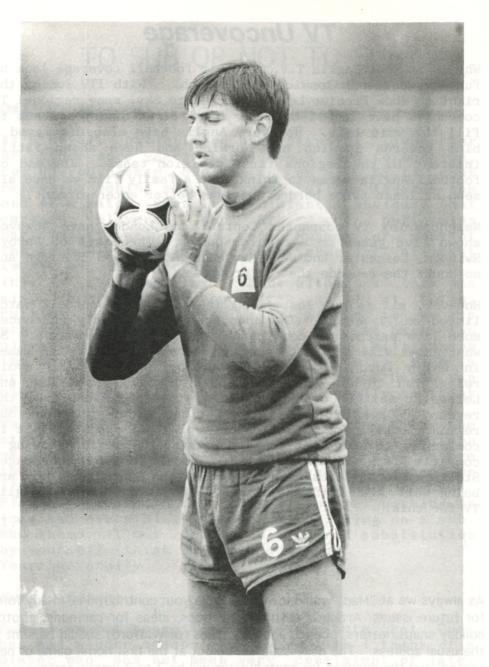
## TV Uncoverage

Why is it that Anglia T.V. in their football coverage look no further west than Ipswich and Norwich. With ITV losing the right to show Premier League matches to Sky, many regional TV companies have looked to their local first division teams to fill the void left. However, Anglia have also displayed a bias towards Ipswich and Norwich and have shown little interest in the regions first division teams. Instead of football Anglia seems to think that a family film we have all seen at least twice before provides better entertainment.

Neighbouring TV companies Central and London have however shown live games on a regular basis. The likes of Derby, Swindon, Leicester and West Ham have all enjoyed coverage and no doubt the revenue that it provides.

However, all is not lost. Anglia has a live football match listed on 11 April. The announcer also proudly announces more live matches to come before the end of the season. So what games will Anglia be showing. One would think the games in which Luton, Cambridge and Southend hope to avoid relegation. Not so. 11 April involved West Ham and Leicester neither of whom could claim to be sides from the region. Games to come also include sides not from our region, looking for promotion or a play off place. Isn't it comforting to know that we live within a TV region showing a complete lack of commitment to local football coverage. Still, at least sides from the London and Central regions are being well looked after and are no doubt grateful to Anglia TV for this.

As always we at "Mad" would love to receive your contributions, in any form, for future issues. Articles, cuttings, cartoons, ideas for cartoons, photos. holiday snaps, letters, poems, and piss takes (of Watford) should be sent to the usual address. The next issue will be out at the first home game of next season, and the deadline for contributions will be 2 to 3 weeks earlier.



Alec gets a grip, but looks to be dreaming of better things. But then aren't we all?

# **Raving Mad!!!**

Dear "Mad"

I must congratulate you on your excellent fanzine, which at 50p is a give away! I have recently read the other main LTFC fanzine and I must say I was disappointed with it to say the least. It is nowhere near as good as MAAH. Due to the fact I am a northerner living up north, it is not easy to get to home games so I'm more of an away fan (Barnsley, Grimsby, etc.) but I was wondering if any of your readers would be interested in exchanging letters, programmes, etc.

I watch Doncaster R. when I can, but I'm a bit pissed off with the performances, and if they don't get a couple of victories soon, they could be visiting grounds like Dagenham and Witton!

Enclosed is the answers to the last compo, all correct I hope!

Many thanks.
Graham Roe
45 Laurel Road
Armthorpe
Doncaster
South Yorkshire DN3 2ES

Dear "Mad"

Living in Derbyshire, I thought, was going to be uncomfortable this season considering the waste of £10 million plus Arthur Cox has spent on (don't laugh) "players" and that we, instead of investing for promotion decide to sell, yet again. Mr. Harford to Chelsea - now at Sunderland - (we all know the reasons why). However, to my delight and sheer annoyance of all my friends who follow D.C.F.C. it has proved that money doesn't necessarily buy success. Hence I thought a trip to Kenilworth Road on 17th October (courtesy of a Free Train Ticket from Boots) could be rather interesting. A Derby fan came with me. After the game we met up and walked to the station - I tried to say as little as possible about the game. There I was on the train - still proudly wearing my Town away shirt (Who are D.M.F. and why did we lose our contract with Umbro - last seasons home strip was the best for years and that really great, loud, orange

shirt - even though we could never win in it.) but one or two hundred Derby fans laughing, joking and generally rip taking were thoroughly annoying. I had tertiary college on Monday... How could I face it - little did I know of what was to happen in January.

Yes, again I was there but this time with my own family - all 6 of us. The point is that for those outside Bedfordshire living close to other football teams, especially in the same division, it can be devasting when results go against us - it

can totally wreck your week.

Now look how far Sheep (Derby) got in the F.A. Cup - this could/should have been us but we seek revenge on my dad's birthday (24th April) as their home form is worse than ours. Also we have happy memories of 24th April - I'm sure we all remember 5 years ago.
Yours faithfully,

Tim - a member of Derbyshire Hatters

Derbyshire... where else?

P.S. I've read a Derby County fanzine called "We'll be back in '81" - its crap. Well done all at Mad.

Dear "Mad"

Your last issue had 3 good teams of former Town players, and I've found a couple of extras for the subs bench. It may be a bit uneven but two spare keepers in Mark Walton of Norwich and Andy Beesley of Mansfield. Also available for selection are Richard Cadette (Falkirk) and Trevor Aylott (Gillingham). There must be others who are just injured at present, and by the start of next season we'll be able to include Phillip Gray amongst others!

Ken Ross Luton was of conveyed which and and word if ew

Dear "Mad" sasoous and will have been been been been been been

I hope this letter is aired in line with your right-to-reply policy. Dear 'Boring Old Fart'

Re: Letter in 'MAD 15'

We were disappointed by your pathetic complaint about the 'unacceptable behaviour' of Town fans on the train back from Bristol City - we didn't think we had anyone so sad accompanying us!

We travel to most away games by train and never at any time go looking for trouble. All that occurred that evening was a spot of boyish enthusiasm.

There was no vandalism to the train. Televal 19979 as well as

There was no dancing on tables.

The banging on loo doors was whilst they were occupied by our friends!

None of the other passengers were abused - hence they didn't complain to the guard, who in fact, when he came through the train, far from requesting us to turn the volume down, asked if he could join in the card school!

If 'Boring Old Fart' doesn't want to enjoy himself on awaydays, might we suggest he follows \*\*\*ford instead...

As for signing your piece 'Name and Address Supplied', I refer you to the comment on page 6 of the same edition of 'MAD' about people who haven't got the front to reveal their identity.

To you and anyone else who were upset with us that evening -GET A LIFE!

signed

THE LUTON TOWN FORMATION-BEER-DRINKING-TEAM and other train regulars

P.S. As we now know who you are - people in glass houses shouldn't throw stones - just because you had a headache that day - you know what I mean...

What a good few weeks we've had at Luton. I've been waiting anxiously to get my copy of the Luton News that my girlfriend is sending on to me. The sending of the send of the se

Can anyone help me? What is an assist? Sounds like ice-hockey talk to me! Is there some renumeration for assisting a goal? The same the first water was a specific and best

I came home for half term but was unable to get the extra few miles to Tranmere, but reading the report on the text on the TV was enough. Again, I missed the Charlton match as my bus from London back to Brno was 4pm from Euston. And I'm still waiting for the paper to arrive!

Best wishes to all the players for pulling their fingers out and actually climbing off the bottom. With all the tales of woe I was getting I had really thought the worst. Of course, a run of good results might inspire Kohler to stay.

I haven't a lot of respect for the man's ability to manage at the Club, but after the incident reported in the Guardian about the report of anti-semitism in the Jewish Chronicle, my estimation was even lower.

We have to be careful what we say about people like Kohler. As non-Jews we are open to all kinds of attacks. I've worked for and with many Jewish people over my twenty years of working life, and the 'Cry Yid' person was not very well liked by their fellow Jews. It completely changes the whole face of a disagreement, from the truth to anti-semitism.

The fact that David Kohler is a poor director is the argument, he'd be a poor director if he was a German, French or Pakistani. His being Jewish is nothing at all to do with it. He's made himself look even more of a prat by not having the guts to admit that he was crying 'yid' to the Jewish Chronicle.

So, Luton Action, be very careful, there's more at stake than just getting rid off a useless parasite.

Paul Devall a.k.a. Kaptain Kettle Czech Republic

# A Thirteen Man Game

What is it about Luton managers. Do they have a clause in their contracts prohibiting the use of substitutes. In far too many games this season David Pleat has either failed to use his substitutes or used them so late on in the game that they have had little chance to make an impact. After the home game against Wolves many outside the ground could not believe that Jason Rees had not been taken off earlier. He had been poor to say the least. At Swindon away, taking off Ceri Hughes caused the team to lose its shape and the winning goal came from Swindon right hand side where Hughes had been. After two recent blunders it was therefore nice to see David Pleat get it right against West Ham. Williams and Oakes coming on was obviously borne out of desperation but did pay dividends. Hopefully we might see more of the same in future.

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### 08.05.93 SOUTHEND UNITED

This could be the most crucial match of the season for both clubs, although it would be nice not to have to worry about the result too much. After all, too much stress is bad for the heart. match has already been made all ticket (in anticipation of its importance, probably) with our allocation being under 4000, which is presumably a ploy to ensure that the home supporters are not outnumbered. Roots Hall is in the Prittlewell area of Southend, just off the A127 Victoria Conveniently on the aforementioned Avenue. Victoria Avenue is the SPREAD EAGLE, a Bass pub recommended for its guest beers. definitely the best bet for a pre match drink as most of the other pubs in town are crap. With this being the last game of the season some may wish to continue the festivities after the game with a crawl of the seafront pubs. If so, one decent pub may be found in the shape of the LIBERTY BELLE, a Courage pub with guest beers.

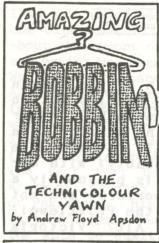
### 10.05.93 WEMBLEY!

OK, so not quite the real thing, but Wembley Arena for the London Evening Standard 5-a-side. Featuring all the London league clubs except Arsenal and Wycombe (well, if we're a London club...), the event starts at 6.30 pm, but we're not on until the seventh match when we play Q.P.R. If we win that we get to play the winners of \*\*\*ford v Millwall in round two. Tickets are priced between £12.00 and £20.00 and available only from Wembley box office (081-900 1234).

As for drinking, Wembley itself has expensive crap beer on sale, and anyone looking for a decent pub should stay in Luton.

Still this should be a fun evening and some light relief after the season we've been through, and may even be a final appearance in Town colours for one or two players.

17



















SOD IT, I'LL JUST DO

MY ELVIS

# The Competition Page

We are pleased, delighted and perhaps slightly stunned after the competition in issue 15 attracted a new record of 8 entries. Of those 8, none were completely correct but 5 scored 31 out of 32, so we actually had to draw a winner. The lucky entrant was (again) Steve Smithers of Letchworth who will receive a prize.

The answers :- LUTON, WOLVES, DONCASTER, CRYSTAL PALACE, MANSFIELD, OXFORD, BLACKPOOL, CHESTERFIELD, PRESTON, MAN. UNITED, SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY, EVERTON, CHELSEA, WEST HAM, WATFORD, SUNDERLAND, WIMBLEDON, GRIMSBY, LEEDS, CHARLTON, CARLISLE, BRIGHTON, MILLWALL, CAMBRIDGE, BOLTON, QPR, HUDDERSFIELD, WREXHAM. HALIFAX, LEYTON ORIENT, SPURS, ARESENAL.

Now, we can't be accused of ignoring a winning formula when we see so this issues competition follows an identical format, of identifying the clubs from the cryptic clues provided. The closing date for entries is 30th June, with Mr. Gazeley again doing the judging. And this time could we please see some entries from Luton? Or if not Luton, anywhere in Bedfordshire. Please.

Clues are as follows:-

- LATEST FORT
- FAMOUS JOCKEY
- KEEP THE FIRE BURNING
- WHERE YOU SEND AN ENEMY
- NOT THE BOXING AUTHORITY 5.
- ONE OF THE BATTERY FOLK
- NOT A NORTH/SOUTH COUNTRY
- WHAT BROTHERS MIGHT SAY AFTER PARENTS ILLNESS
- 9. UNDERGROUND
- 10. POPULAR HAIRCUT OF YESTERDAY
- 11. FAMOUS AMERICAN PRESIDENT
- 12. FOUND BETWEEN REAR WHEELS
- COMPLETE BACON JOINT
- DILLONS SIDEKICK
- 15. LARGER THAN A DUCK POND
- 16. BONNIES VICIOUS PARTNER
- 17. ROYAL LEISURE AREA
- HAWAIIAN GREETING
- WE NEED THIS TO LIVE
- 20. LACK OF MOISTURE IN ATMOSPHERE
- SAFARI PARK ATTENDANTS
- 22. OIL CAPITAL OF THE NORTH
- FAMOUS AS ECCLES
- SECRET AGENT DICK KNOWS NOTHING
- WHAT BURGLARS DO
- 26. NAKED CANDLES LIGHT
- 27. NELSONS LADY
- 28. ORGAN, SMALL LAKE
- GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN AND FALKLANDS IS IN WOOD
- WHAT SCARGILL AND MIKE PARKINSON HAVE IN COMMON
- CERTAIN CAR PARKED OUTSIDE SPANISH HOUSE

### Poll to Poll

While we've got some of you into the idea of writing to us, we would ask your indulgence for votes in our annual awards. From the nominations we will have a prize draw for something from the Club Shop. The new away shirt perhaps? We would like your nominations for the following categories:

Player of the Season Young Player of the Season Best Match Best Performance Best Goal For Best Referee Best Opposition Best Opposing Player Idiot of the Season Hero of the Season Things to Look Forward to? Any Other Comments

Worst Match Worst Performance Worst Goal Against Worst Referee Worst Opposition Worst Opposing Player

And a couple of simple questions about changes:

- 1. Is the new backpass rule a good thing?
- Should kick-ins replace throw-ins?
- Should the Football League have substitute goalkeepers?



Errr.... Blackburn in Linton swoop shock?

# Staying Up!

# 13.02.93 TRANMERE 0 TOWN 2 !!

I must admit to entering Prenton Park having already conceded that our recent good defensive record was going to come to an end here, especially with "Aldo" back from his stomach op', doubtless hungry for some goals. But what a performance by the lads.

There was a distinct family feel about the place (unusual for that part of the country). It probably had something to do with standing next to the family enclosure — in which most of the occupants seemed to be wearing either Liverpool or Everton attire. Singing-wise though, it was the same old Merseyside — i.e. virtually no singing, except for the occasional "Tran-mee-air, Tran-mee-air, Tran

But against all the odds, what a performance; the defence catching them offside umpteen times—thank God the linesman was keen. Aldo hardly getting a touch all afternoon. Phil Gray causing endless problems up front and scoring another deserved goal, even Oakes came good in the second

half - silencing his "Mad" critics.

Then there was the best bit - Marvin's goal - even though it didn't look that good on TV, it had us gibbering "WHAT A GOAL" all the way back in the minibus down the M6/M1. Curling it round the keeper with his supposed wrong foot - WHAT A GOAL! Dare I say it, having slagged the man off many a time for his inconsistency, if we get short of a forward ... Kohler selling Gray ... heaven forbid ... blah.blah.blah ... how about giving Marvellous Marvin a run up front. Or was it just a fluke? ... WHAT A GOAL!

Objet

The wind won this one, not giving us much in the way of entertainment on the park. Charlton didn't seemed to fancy playing much, offered the Town little resistance, and were to counter-attacking what Mother Theresa is to prostitution...

We were kept awake however in the second half by a great PG goal, which was completely overshadowed by an even better display by the Luton Action Group in the boxes. Despicable behaviour...

Obje

# 27.02.93 TOWN 2 BARNSLEY 2 NO RECORD

The lads were hoping to create a new club record today - but against a team who had scored four at The Den the previous week? I thought it unlikely...

It should have been about 4-0 after 15 minutes, but all we had to show was Dixon's first Town goal, as Barnsley started to come into it.

Things took a sour turn in the second half, and as the Town seemed unable to even win possession, Barnsley scored twice. Luckily our expletives seemed to spur the lads into action, and we promptly levelled through PG's penalty. Had there been enough more time, we might well have stolen it.

Objet

### 06.03.93 POMPEY 2 TOWN 1

Surely our run had to end here - and surely (sorry Brian) it did, although we left the ground feeling a little cheated of at least a point.

After a reasonable start, PG put us in front with a superb curling header, but while we were still celebrating - and arguing with the police about what was a throwing-out

offence, the Town fell asleep, and Whittingham strolled through from his own half to score.

From then on, it was one way traffic and by half time, but for some good stops by Alec, it should have been 4-1, not still all level. The second of the country and benefits down to wall

The second half began similarly, and before long, they got their dubious penalty which we couldn't see too well up our end. The only thing is - if it was a foul, why wasn't Captain Peakey sent off?

After that excitement, Pompey seemed to die a death, and I wouldn't be exaggerating to say we were all over them. But alas, it was back to the impotent Town of last season - doing too much around the area, and not enough in. Still, fair play by the lads, and they were worth the applause at the end.

Objet

### 09.03.93 TOWN 3 OXFORD 1

I had a good feeling this evening was going to go well, with six of Division One's basement teams in action; all the other five having (on paper) difficult games. However, with twenty minutes left, things looked ominous.

A non-eventful first half - except for Mini's HEADER-bloody hell! Came to an end with Oxford looking increasingly good, and snatching a last gasp goal.

Things got worse in the second half, and but for piss-poor finishing by Oxford, and desperate defending by the Town, we should have been beaten. But one speculative long-ball later toward their none-too-confident keeper, who tried to retreat at the last moment, PG's shot taking a deflection off a defender, and we were undeservedly ahead again. Our players then upped a gear at last, and Scotty's half volley was next. killing Oxford's challenge off.

I got home to find all the other five teams had lost.. "Up the Football League we go..."

Objet

Having travelled north with such high hopes, this result came as a severe disappointment, as we capitulated to a competent, but no better. Grimsby side. Yet again, we started promisingly with David Greene coming close from a corner, but failed to turn possession into chances with Preece in particular way off form. As Grimsby's pressure increased, it came as no surprise when Ford put them in front with his first goal for a year, a tally which he doubled midway through a second half in which Town enjoyed a lot of possession without ever looking threatening. afterwards, James was sent off for a second "bookable offence", when the referee, Mr Winter (very poor throughout) fell for Dave "short-arsed cheat" Gilbert's blatant dive - funny how quickly he got up when he saw that James was going to go. Grimsby scored again soon afterwards, taking advantage of their extra man, before Town put together their one decent move of the game to enable Gray to score for the sixth successive game.

### 17.03.93 TOWN O SWINDON O Cambridges they were due ones, and memoricas of stast

If anyone knows why a crap team like Swindon are at the top of the table please send us a postcard at the usual address. Hoddles god squad looked one of the poorest teams to have played at Luton this season. Despite Luton dominating the game the visiting team again left with a point. The reason, plenty of possession but not many chances being created. When they were we failed to put them in. .I.qet passing move. As with most of the lown's

### 20.03.93 TOWN 1 BRISTOL ROVERS 1

When you can't beat utter crap like Bristol Rovers at home, then you have got problems. This was a complete non-event, memorable only for the spectacular volley that put us in front, thanks very much Lee Maddison, and the sheer awfulness of the visitors' yellow and green quartered shirts. And if their equaliser was legitimate, then so was the "goal" Gray scored near the end. Is it really too much to expect referees to be consistent?

A.C.

### 24.03.93 MILLWALL 1 TOWN 0

Our last visit to the Den (hardly intimidating, any more) proved as fruitful as we'd expected. On the positive (or rather, less negative) side, at least we escaped without the hammering handed out to so many sides there this season. Unfortunately, damage limitation seemed to be the name of game, as we rarely threatened at the other end, although the half-time introduction of Dixon did at least provide a bit more threat without producing any reward. Not one to give a great deal of optimism.

A.C.

### 27.03.93 TOWN 2 CAMBRIDGE 0

The omens for this were hardly good — no Phil Gray, the thought that have not lost in 9 games to Cambridge they were "due one" and memories of that horrific 15 minutes at Stalag Abbey in November. Despite all of this, Town turned in one of their best performances for some time, highlighted by two goals of the highest quality — a delightful piece of control followed by a blistering volley from Dixon, who had his best game yet, and a powerful diving header from Oakes to round off a sweet passing move. As with most of the Town's better moments, Martin Williams was heavily involved, and could count himself unlucky not to have scored himself.

Bearing in mind the earlier clash, and the Town's capacity for self-destruction, a two goal lead early in the second half was by no means safe, but

Cambridge's predictable attacks were easily dealt with, and the only disappointment at the end was that we hadn't won by more goals.

A couple of individual plaudits - Chris Kamara won the crowd back with a committed display, more of the same please, and Roger Milford (I must be going soft, this is the second ref I've praised this year!) who kept the game moving, the crowd entertained and seemed to thoroughly enjoy himself.

Lastly, to remind us it was only a game, a sight that many of us feared we might never again see — Darren Salton — an emotional moment and it might be opportune to praise the Cambridge supporters who in the spirit of the occasion rose as one to pay tribute to a very courageous young man.

so many pinyana, in the pendit frame A.C.

### 03.04.93 WATFORD 0 TOWN 0

After all the build-up, this turned out to be the worst local derby match I can remember. For all the excuses we heard — a dry, bumpy pitch, a strong wind, and some poor (not biased, just plain poor) refereeing — the game simply seemed to lack passion. Chances were few and far between, although both keepers made good saves when called upon, and a scoreless draw was a fair result as both sides were as bad as each other. Poor reward for the excellent travelling support (4000+), although it was noticeable how the volume level dropped throughout the second half as the game got progressively worse.

A.C.

### 07.04.93 TOWN 1 WOLVES 1

How many more points are we going to throw away at home this season? Yet another game when we were dominant in terms of possession, failed to make the points safe, and got caught by the sucker punch near the end.
Unfortunately, we also came up against a

goalkeeper, Mike Stowell, in top form - one save from Gray early in the second half being particularly outstanding. Just when it seemed that we wouldn't score, Gray, who had an excellent game, buried a shot in the bottom of the net. This stung Wolves into action and twice within the space of a couple of minutes shots hit the underside of the bar and bounced to safety. Having weathered this storm, it appeared that the three vital points would be ours, but out of Wolves equalised through Bull. question marks over the legitimacy of the must be set against the fact that, once again, we failed to make the most of our territorial advantage. Indeed, Wolves nearly stole the points at the death, but Chamberlain did just enough to force Bull to shoot over.

A.C.

# 10.04.93 SWINDON 1 TOWN 0 DAYLIGHT ROBINRY!

Enough was done for the draw before Bodin gratefully accepted the winner, but with a little more goal scoring potential in the side this could have been an away win. As it was, Kamara looked the greatest threat to the Swindon goal, and once they scored there was no doubt we had lost. A result that even Swindon supporters felt guilty about.

K.F.H.

# 13.04.93 TOWN 2 WEST HAM UTD 0 HAMMERS HAMMERED!

I had had visions of writing about hammers, nails and coffins, but for a change pessimism was misplaced. It must have been the shirt I bought before the game. This turned out to be one of the most entertaining games of the season with a superb display of passing football from both sides, and excellent goalkeeping, spoiled only by Speedie being stupid and Dicks getting a yellow

card instead of the red he deserved. Gray's penalty and Williams first goal may be just be enough to avoid relegation. Let's hope they don't need to be.

K.F.H.

### 17.04.93 SUNDERLAND 2 TOWN 2

Before the game most Luton fans would have settled for this result. However when Goodman scored his second for Sunderland things looked bleak. Sunderland had the best of the first half playing with the wind behind them. However, in the second half Town equalised firstly through a quick thinking David Preece lobbing a keeper caught off his line with a direct free kick. Paul Telfer again equalised late into injury. With so many players in the penalty area, many of us were unsure who had scored, though little did we care.

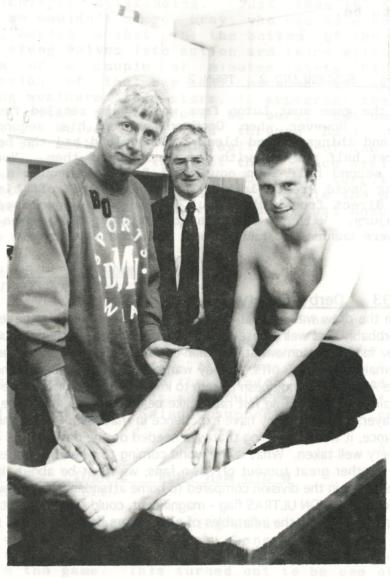
P.I.

### 24.04.93 Derby County 1 Town 1

Although the draw was a great disappointment after being in the lead, we should probably feel well pleased with this result. There was no doubt that the Derby fans were somewhat less than chuffed as we took away there last hope of making the play offs. If they wanted to blame someone though it should be Arthur Cox who doesn't seem to know what kind of team he wants. The equaliser when it came felt rather like being mugged, and some of the Derby players play as if they have experience in that field. As for the Town performance, it was everything that was needed on the day and the goal by Preece very well taken. What is the world coming to when he scores 2 in 2 weeks! Another great turnout of Town fans, we must be about the best supported away in the division compared to home attandances. And we have to mention the LUTON ULTRAS flag - magnificent, could this be the start of a new craze to follow up the inflatables of a few years back?

K.F.H.

# Going Down?



With a bit of luck these two will be going down, leaving us in the safety of Division 1.

# What price for Gray?

This summer will no doubt lead to the inevitable sale of Philip Gray. The only thing that needs deciding is to what club and for how much. After a poor season and the need to replace Gray and hopefully buy 1 or 2 other players a good price is needed. Sadly, half of any profit has to be paid to Spurs. I for one was surprised and relieved to see Gray still at Luton after the transfer deadline. David Pleat can only be applauded for taking a stance that made this possible.

With the likes of Andrew Cole and Stan Collymore rated at around £1 3/4 million Luton should be able to secure a similar price for Gray. However our recent record in selling players on the cheap and David Kohler's recent acceptance of £1/2 million plus Mick Harford for Philip Gray casts doubt upon this.

This season, Philip Gray has proved a relevation. Perhaps if he had not been injured last season we would have still been in the Premier League. Although a recent interview with the Herald explaining his reasons for wanting a move was both unfortunate and ill timed, Philip Gray has never made any secret of the fact that he saw Luton as a stepping stone to a bigger club. One can understand his point of view on this and hopefully this stepping stone will prove to be worth at least £2 million.

P.I.



# View from the Backside

Anti-climax of the century, well, maybe that's a slight exaggeration, but a day which promised so much in terms of renewed local rivalry, proved just what a let down football can be. At 2.30 I could hardly keep secret how much a win over the old enemy, with thousands of Lutonians celebrating, meant to me. By 4.40 I was so pissed off I'd fallen asleep.

The atmosphere was virtually non-existent, not helped by the swirling wind, and the empty spaces on Watford's renowned Vicarage Road terrace only went to prove how little this fixture means to

most Watford fans now.

4,000 Luton followers tried their hardest to lift the game, but with the opposition's vocal followers numbering (surely you mean aged? - Eds) twelve and a half, the prospect of singing against one another seems rather daft.

The players obviously felt the same way — apart from Kamara's header in the second half and two or three other moments of good play, there was very little to get excited about.

A draw, albeit goalless, was about right. Let's hope next season can muster some of the old Derby magic.

On a brighter note, I can only assume that Scott Oakes is a MAAH reader. Since an article in our last issue was written he has shown just what a good player he really is. Amazing what a little bit of constructive criticism can do isn't it!

G.S.

# Shop Front

How many of you have been to the "new" club shop? What do you think of it? Personally, I am not impressed. Not with the building, but with the quality of the products.

When I visited the shop I expected to find a nice modern set of goods — not stuff going back to the centenary year, or those "smart" red tank tops, or crap that Des Lynam models on Sportsnight.

I mean, do the club have a contract with the BBC to sell crap shell suits and naff polo shirts with the "Ariel" insignia? AND why are they still selling those out of date Umbro shell suits?

The club should do the following:

- Lease a shop in the Arndale not just to sell kits, etc. but to have an accessible ticket outlet.
- Approach "Arkwright" about the possibility of manufacturing Luton's 60's/70's tops - there must be a market at every club as fans will never have to buy a new design every two years.
- 3. Scrap those horrible peaked Ski hats and replace them with the trendy 'beanie' hats. Coach jackets should be available with the Club's crest and name printed on them. Why not produce the all-over print T shirts. If Watford have them, then why don't we?

4. Eventually the club should consider making their own kits a-la Leicester and Wolves.

If Kohler should ever read this article, I hope he would put at least some of the above points into action. But then again... would Kohler listen to a magazine written by the fans?

M.A.



Exclusive to MAAH is the photo the local papers wouldn't show, the Luton Action protest at the Charlton game. We all know what followed, but contrary to what the M.D. told the Herald (below) the decision to eject the protestors was a club decision, and not one taken by the police.

# Protesters ejected from match

FANS of Luton Town Action were evicted from group, led by chairman a match.

at managing director Luton's 1-0 win over hill, were ejected. David Kohler's running Charlton on Saturday.

Football Club protesting an executive box during Steve Gray, from Ampt- they were inciting the

Later Mr Kohler said: of the club were forced to They waved placards "If it had been left up to leave the ground during demanding "Kohler me I would have let them Out". Stewards and stay - but they were Members of Luton police moved in and the breaking ground regula-

tions and the police felt crowd."

Long-time Luton fan Malcolm Ginsberg hit out at the demonstration and called for "real fans" to unite behind Mr Kohler.

# **Lutonesque Performance Continues**

No sooner do I return from a weeks holiday back in Blighty. arriving too late to get to Tranmere and leaving too early to see the Charlton game, than the season starts again here in the Czech Republic.

First match of the second half of the season is against Sigma Olomouc. The Czech system is quite clever. The first half of the season each team plays all the opposition once. In the second half the whole lot is reversed! Hence Olomouc away was the last game of the first half, and the first of the second half - but at home! Simple!

The snow here is about three feet deep and the piles alongside the pitch (scraped off the covers) are about five feet high. A natural boundary. It continues to snow on and off all the way to the ground. By the time we arrive we are almost totally frozen, but my new hat, bought at Westoning Nursery, keeps my baldbits warm. The snow on the pitch makes things very difficult, but Sigma manage to get the upper hand and score in the fifth minute. More pathetic defending from Dreyerskeho and BOBY's answer to Linton. BOBY push forward and the back is almost in front of the midfield in an urgent attempt to score. Boy, is it dire stuff!

In the end, Wagner takes a pass from Svoboda and beats the keeper from fairly close in. It's 1-1 and neither side seems to have any idea what should happen next. The midfields take over and the ball, rarely involved in the game, spends most of its time stuck in the quagmire in the middle. The referee finally blows for full time and we traipse back across town for the train home, via the beer hall, of course.

This weekend, it's away to Presov. Presov (Tatran) lies in the new foreign country of Slovakia. We actually need passports to go there, and if we wanted to, change money. Luckily, both new countries are sharing the coinage until later in the year, so we go well stocked with them. It's a long journey and there are a few coaches. At least they are subsidised due to the draw last week. A BOBY defeat means no coaches let alone a subsidised one!

Presov is a horrible place. A town full of factories and smoking chimneys and the depressing blocks of flats that make my modest hovel look like Buck House. However, the pitch is in excellent condition. No doubt a few thousand starving Slovak gypsies had been forced to lick the pitch clean. There were plenty in evidence begging for money. They'd get none from the BOBY Czechs.

The match started well, BOBY pushing forward. A break against the run of play saw Presov go 1-0 up. A swift break, a perfect cross and an equally perfect piece of shooting from the number 9. I'll call him Devet (nine is devet in Czech). Devet seemed to be on song and added a second just before half time. At half time we partook of the excellent Slovak sausages on sale in the one snack bar open to visitors. In fact, the queue was so long the game had restarted when we got back to our space. If you remember I said before - if you go to the bog, your space is waiting for you, no clown has taken it so that you have to hunt around.

BOBY continued to try to get back into the match, but it was all to no avail. Pushing forward in the vain attempt that they might (if very lucky) come close, Devet got away again, beat the full back and his cross cum shot stuck in the mud allowing the follow up player to get it, chip it over Chamberlainski into an empty net. Well, when I say empty, it obviously had the ball in it, otherwise it wouldn't have been a goal would it.

The referee decided that it was time we all went home and did us a favour by blowing at least two minutes early by my imitation bought in Taiwan Rolex. Good job too, as Devet and Desat looked like getting another. Desat = ten!

The third match of the season will be the return with Inter Bratislava (at home) who today pasted Sigma 4-1. From a high of third place (on goal difference) BOBY have now slumped to 10th, only a few places more and it will be good morning Div. 2.

Well, that's all for now from the Czech Republic. More as the season continues.

Kaptain Kettle

Between 3 July and 1 August 1993 Hitchin Museum will be playing host to 'The Homes of Football'. This is a national touring exhibition put together by Stuart Clarke, the Football Trust photographer, consisting of large colour photographs of scenes at football grounds in this country and abroad. The exhibition presents Stuart Clarke's personal view of the current state of the game and records some of the changes which have taken place in the early 1990s. At the same time, it emphasizes the wealth implicit in our national game in terms of the everyday things — the crowds, and above all, the grounds themselves, as the title of the exhibition implies. Clubs featured in the photographs include Watford, Luton Town, Arsenal and Spurs.

Alongside the photographs, there will be displays of football artefacts and memorabilia from the collection of Hitchin Museum. These will include medals and badges, cigarette cards, football annuals, international caps, pennants and flags and souvenirs dating back to the turn of the century. In addition there will be video showings of both vintage and modern material featuring clubs from the area.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a programme of associated events and activities. These will include a table football tournament, a football 'talk-in', and coaching sessions and competitions for children. Further details of these will be available from the Museum nearer the time.

'The Homes of Football' will be on display from 3 July to 1 August at Hitchin Museum, Paynes Park, Hitchin, Herts., tel.(0462) 434476. Opening times are 10am to 5pm Mondays to Saturdays, and 2pm to 4.30pm Sundays. Admission is free.

# FULHAM 2000

# **CRAVEN COTTAGE**

WE NEED YOUR HELP FOR A HOME RESULT

The bad news is that this is just a stay of execution unless an enormous sum of money is raised in the next three years. Country-wide support for our cause has been instrumental in getting us this far, and we thank everyone for their encouragement and good wishes. Now, however, fan power must help to win back Craven Cottage for football for good.

T'S CLEAR that all football supporters are united in their opposition to any ground falling into the hands of property sharks. Many of you also enjoy occasional trips to the Cottage and wish to continue to do so, if only because we're often a soft touch. Now you can assist us in a practical way by joining FULHAM 2000, a supporters' organisation formed solely to raise money to save our ground. Membership costs just £10. We know it's essentially down to Fulham fans, but we can only succeed with your help and your tenners.

A 'super-fanzine', which will include any comments you'd like to make on the coupon below. So please, help us to keep Fulham alive and kicking at the Cottage; getting into bed with Ken Bates just doesn't bear thinking about.

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PLEASE SEND TO: FULHAM 2000, FREEPOST, LONDON W14 0BR CHEQUES/POSTAL ORDERS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO 'FULHAM 2000'. THANK YOU!





The soon to depart Phil Gray, seen here evading the attentions of the West Ham armpit inspectors.