

MAD AS A HATTER!

A LUTON TOWN FANZINE



Issue 17 Aug 93 STILL ONLY 50P

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MAD AS A HATTER!



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Editorial

Firm news is something which rarely seems to emerge from Kenilworth Road these days and so we are left to guess what is going on, such that the only things we can be certain of are results on the field. Pre-season friendlies however are an exception to this rule and the results so far mean no more than the line ups in those games. Few of us have any real idea who will be in the starting line up against the old enemy, or who will be the hero of the match after scoring the Towns inevitable winning goal. We do know however that it won't be Chamberlain or Gray, who have left in the name of the quest to maximise income and minimise expenditure, no matter what the cost in terms of league status. Should the same principles apply at the end of this season it is likely that Dreyer and Preece will be going in the same way and others will then have to be sold to balance the books. Those sold will no doubt be this seasons heroes.

This is the fourth year that the season has started under the management of David Kohler, and the prospects have looked bleaker with each year. Talk of changes in the boardroom does little to brighten the outlook with the likely outcome being the tightening of Kohlers stranglehold on the club, and no new money coming in. Perhaps this will be the season when we become net buyers in the transfer market and see positive steps taken towards securing a new ground? Returning to being serious, in a recent interview Kohler said he most despises "moaning minnies" but that he would like to be remembered with fondness and respect. He probably does not need us to tell him that most Town supporters (by definition moaning minnies) would prefer to forget him as soon as possible.

Finally, a few brief points. Why can't Luton Town get new (away) shirts out for the start of the season, instead of the end of September, is it to go for the Xmas market? Will the club shop be more cheerful now that Bev Tiler has left? Why are pre-season friendlies all ticket at Luton and cash only anywhere else?

Poll to Poll

The annual end of season voting jamboree is over and the votes are counted. Here are the results of the survey. We make no claims about it being comprehensive or representative, although we obviously hope it is.

PLAYER OF THE SEASON

JOHN DREYER

Also featured in the voting were David Preece and Alec Chamberlain, but not, curiously, Phil Gray.

YOUNG PLAYER OF THE SEASON

MARTIN WILLIAMS

Among the other nominations were John Hartson, and Marvin Johnson, although in the context of the present Town side he probably isn't young any more.

BEST MATCH

WEST HAM UTD (H)

BEST PERFORMANCE

WEST HAM UTD (H)

BEST REFEREE

G. SINGH (WEST HAM H)

One of the highlights of last season this was the outright winner on best match and edged out Tranmere away for best performance. Mr. Singh was the only ref to receive more than one vote.

WORST MATCH

There was obviously too many to choose from with everyone voting differently. A result which speaks volumes about last season.

WORST PERFORMANCE

V OXFORD UTD (A)

Or, as one wag put it, Desmonds last stand! Edged out several other dismal days to take the award.

BEST GOAL FOR

SCOTT OAKES V CAMBRIDGE (H)

Ahead of two other Oakes goals which must say something about the sort of goals he scores. Also receiving votes was Martin Williams goal against West Ham.

BEST OPPONENTS

GRIMSBY + DERBY

The biggest surprise here is the total lack of votes for Portsmouth, although some will say that Derby is a bit of a surprise choice.

WORST OPPONENTS

WATFORD

A bit of a "loyalty" vote here surely, to help take the title off of the toes of Bristol Rovers.

BEST OPPOSING PLAYER

MARK PEMBRIDGE

Ironically some Derby fans think Pembo was a waste of money, but clearly we think they got a bargain. Guy Whittingham got one vote because "I couldn't say Malcolm Allen" and Julian James also received a nomination.

WORST OPPOSING PLAYER

DAVID SPEEDIE

Among the runners up were Julian James, Swindon (all 11 of them) and David Kohler.

HERO OF THE SEASON

MARVIN JOHNSON

Nominated on the grounds of a couple of superbly timed tackles and the fact that he "never gives up," Marv took this from Darren Salton and Phil Gray.

IDIOT OF THE SEASON

D. KOHLER

No surprise in this winner, only that he took a year longer than expected to win it. At last we had suggestions that made interesting reading: "Haslam - for getting our hopes up falsely", David Kohlers fiancée, Julian James (again!) and "the bloke at Sunderland who nearly got thrown out after 20 seconds for telling the Geordie Colliery band what to do with their trumpets!"

WORST GOAL AGAINST

STEVE BULL FOR WOLVES

The only one to get two votes. "All five for Derby" and "Too many to mention" show what a difficult category this was.

WORST REFEREE

J. CARTER (SOUTHEND - 'A')

This category is always keenly contested, and could it be that the winner is just the one freshest in the mind?

THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

"Pardon?" as one correspondent put it. Well, yes, there has to be something otherwise we wouldn't keep coming back. The difference with Town fans is that that something is based in our imagination (a long way in, in some cases) rather than in reality. A selection of the answers:

"Kohler resigns - goes into Politics!"

"Luton sign a player"

"Winning more games at home"

"Keeping our squad together"

"Mid table mediocrity i.e. not going in to the last game of the season in the relegation zone."

"David Pleat leaving L.T."

"Getting off to a good start with 3 points against W*****d."

OTHER COMMENTS

"I suggest a free quickly" - James Skidmore on Chris Kamara. "Some new signings for our weak midfield and attack should bring hope for next season" - blind bloody optimism from Robin Hales. "Phil Gray can piss off" - anon. "Why do so many offensive chairmen have stupid beards? (Kohler, Bates, Sugar)." - Peter Holmes.

Finally, the rule changes. The majority answer was Yes, No, No, which means I've got to dig up the question. (Long pause) Ah! So you like the back pass law although with some minor modifications in mind. Kick-ins should not replace throw-ins over your dead body. And you really can't see the point of paying a guy to sit on the bench for 45½ games a year and then spoil the fun when the keeper gets sent/carried off. You said no to substitute goalkeepers. The voting was not quite unanimous as we had one No, Yes, Yes!

Thanks to everybody for taking the time and trouble to answer our stupid questions, look how much space you've helped us fill! G. Armatruda of Waltham Cross, who will be receiving something shortly.

K.F.H.

ON TOUR

A report, of sorts, on a pre-season tour of Scotland, the purpose of which is, for the players at least, the attainment of full fitness and good health. Thank God they don't live like this.

Monday

On arrival at Perth find B&B, then Burger King, and finally the pub to get half (OK, three quarters) ratted before the game. Free entry to the ground can't be bad, can it? Well, yes it bloody can as Luton score while I'm buying a hot dog! Shit! Of the rest of the game that I recall we played uncontrolled crap, but St. Johnstone scored two cracking goals. So back to the pub.

Tuesday

The toilet was very popular in the morning. But its off to Inverness - why? Dunno really, rather boring but helps pass the time. Anyway its Burger King, pub, chip shop and then back to Perth for more beer and more chips. Rather sad, really.

Wednesday

Arrive at Kirkcaldy, which looks a tip. So we take the long way (2 miles to do 800 yards) to a B&B, before going to the pub. Then gloom - a notorious Luton fan/sad person/***** walks in, so we leave! A couple of pubs later we're at the ground. £5 to get in (getting a bit steep these friendlies). The locals don't like a team who hoof balls out of the ground, who handle the ball in the area (Peake) or concede a goal only for the ref to say play on. But it is getting better. And so to the pub!

Thursday

A late start due to a train breakdown. Then beer, Burger King, chips, Falkirk 1 West Ham 1, beer, Burger King, Drunk, B&B.

Friday

An early start and after a fight with left luggage its off to the hole in the wall to reload the wallet. After beer and a Burger King, meet mates off train and retire for more beer, and (change of diet) some pub grub! Oh, and more beer! We enter the Hibs ground at the home end and politely ask to be moved to where the throng of away fans are. But we're refused so we sit down and watch as Andy does a terrace/bench dive full length and collects a yellow card, then gets another for "encouraging" Dixon to make more of an effort. (Perhaps the copper was a ref, dishing out two yellows and forgetting the red) Anyway Andy was right about Dixon - make an effort! You could do a damn sight better. So the game drifted on, yawn, yawn, boring. Game over, more beer and yet another Burger King!

All in all, the results didn't matter (apart from me travelling 500 miles to miss the only Luton goal!). The performances, apart from Williams, Oakes and Rees, were on reflection crap, just like the tactics, team selection and position changes every game. Campbell playing midfield - I thought he was a forward. Dessie Linton on a football field? - Should be on a race course. And Hartson and Dixon should be playing alongside each other, not on their Jack Jones.

D.K.

Crystal Balls 2

You may remember that this time last year I attempted to predict the events of the current season. Well, these predictions turned out to be as accurate as David Preece in front of goal. However, as my old crystal ball was bought from Robert Maxwell I have decided to replace it with a new one. By the way, I did get one thing right: John Barnes playing like a man with no legs against a third-rate international side! Anyway, here goes.

AUGUST: Rangers unveil their latest signing a 12 year old Scot who cost £12 million from Dundee United. "He's got bags of potential", said Walter Smith, "even though he seems to prefer playing with Action Men at the moment." Watford lose the local Derby against Luton by 8-0. Watford fans stage a pitch invasion but they were both arrested and are now being held in a top security mental hospital.

SEPTEMBER: Mick Harford joins Ipswich Town for £250,000. Jack Walker offers David Kohler £5 million for Luton Town F.C. Kohler refuses, saying that Walker only wants to buy success. "We can't have that here at Luton," he said. Wimbledon knock Watford out of the F.A. Cup in front of their biggest crowd of the season, 16 men, 2 women and a dog.

OCTOBER: Barnet F.C.'s ground is blown up by Football League officials posing as men from the Inland Revenue. "We had to take action," said Graham Kelly. "Putting all their players on free transfers, freezing the club's assets and hanging the entire board was not enough - justice must be done." Jack Walker threatens to shoot David Kohler if he turns down his renewed offer to buy Luton Town for £12 million.

NOVEMBER: David Kohler's body is discovered at his home. His dog is named chairman of Luton Town in accordance with his will. Mick Harford moves to Grimsby Town for £200,000. Graham Taylor responds to calls for several members of the England team to be dropped by naming 6 players in the squad for next month's match against San Marino reserves. "This is one possibility that we haven't tried yet," said Taylor.

DECEMBER: Graham Taylor relents and selects a full squad for the San Marino match. John Major praises the squad as "a shining example of my classless society." England lose 1-0. The Sun has a typically restrained headline, "TAYLOR IS A SCUMBAG: HANG HIM NOW!" Luton win their 22nd consecutive match. Bryan Robson makes his 3rd come back of the season for Manchester United and is carried off injured after 5 minutes.

JANUARY: Graham Taylor resigns as England manager and is replaced by Cilla Black. Graham "Mr. Happy" Kelly says, "We wanted someone with Taylor's knowledge of football, plus someone with good PR skills and an impressive set of teeth. Miss Black fits the bill completely." Mick Harford signs for Wimbledon for £180,000. Paul Gascoigne returns to the North East for a brief holiday and is arrested for not causing a disturbance in a night-club. "There was no trouble, so we got very suspicious and arrested him before anything nasty happened," says a local policeman.

FEBRUARY: Ipswich draw their 28th consecutive game. Kevin Keegan signs Ivan Unpronouncebleovich from Sparta Prague for £3 million, taking his total spending to £196 million. Newcastle remain bottom of the Premier League.

MARCH: Manchester United are fined by the Football Association after a complaint from Age Concern. The latter's representative, Mrs. Agnes Cardigan, says, "We feel disgusted that people of Bryan Robson's age are being forced to play football. It is immoral." Luton are rumoured to be interested in Robson, but David Pleat rules out a move. "He is far too young for us," he says.

APRIL: Peter Beardsley's face is banned for 3 weeks for bringing the game into disrepute. Southampton's Terry Hurlock is set for a move to Cagliari in Sicily. "He's a hopeless footballer, but we like his mugging style" said a mysterious Italian with dark glasses.

MAY: Oldham Athletic win the Premier League, boosted by the deadline signing of Mick Harford. Newcastle are relegated, Luton win Division 1 and the F.A. Cup and Watford create a new record by scoring no points at all.

Well, it looks like being a superb season for the Hatters - let's hope so anyway. If we stop drawing so many matches we could be up there with the best of them. A bit of misplaced optimism never did anyone any harm!

Graham Johnson

Staying Up (Just)!

24.04.93 BAA BAA'S 1 TOWN 1

Sitting on the grass outside the Baseball Ground, eating my chips, I wondered why the heck Derby Co. wanted to move - surely this is the life? Must be silly as sheep...

Anyway, a flag-happy linesman made sure we had plenty to moan about, until Preecey finally got through to score. I still think Pleaty should put on his subs 10-15 minutes from time, it might have stopped the cross which scored the equaliser. Any how, I was proud to be a Town supporter, we out sung the (BAAAH!) RAMS, and the boys fought for everything - this is what we want!

THE MAJOR OAK

08.05.93 SOUTHEND 2 TOWN 1

Cap'n Peakey picked the last game of the season, to play (possibly) his worst of the season, and we looked jittery! A completely CRAP referee didn't help, by giving "loaded" decisions and awful bookings. Oh well, at least we did survive... they do say, that great oaks from little acorns do grow, and it's time for our young players to stand up and be counted next season. I feel we can now go forward to more success, (only losing 15 games is success), and mount a credible challenge for the play-offs. Just one thing, lets see those 4-5,000 "supporters", at more away games - I'm certain the youngsters will raise their game...

THE MAJOR OAK

SHORT CUTS

1955: After a long break caused by the Second World War, the club resumes life in the Second Division and wins promotion to the First Division by finishing second.

1959: Luton Town plays Nottingham Forest in their first and only FA Cup final appearance. An injury to Roy Dwight means Town were reduced to ten men for much of the match, losing 2-1.

Marvin. He plays both the killer after schoolma'am Jane Fonda's father and the drunken gunman she hires to protect him. Uneven but sometimes very funny — especially marvellous Marvin in red long-johns.

Tax con Marvin is jailed

The rewriting of history:

1. We start ten years after everyone else. That is a long break!
2. We all know this is not quite right, but at least it sounds better than the real story, or would if he hadn't been Eltons uncle.



LOOKING FOR PROMOTION?

So are we

LUTON TOWN
FOOTBALL CLUB

Kenilworth Road Stadium, 1 Maple Road,
Luton, Bedfordshire LU4 8AW.
Fax: 0582 405070 Tel: 0582 411622

Winterburn is certainly due a memorable Coca-Cola Cup final because he's only just buried a five-year nightmare.

The last time he appeared in a final, in 1988, he missed a crucial penalty — and Arsenal crashed 3-2 to Luton.

"That miss changed the game," he says. "We'd got

back into the match after losing an early goal and had scored twice and hit the woodwork. If I'd scored it would have been 3-1 and that would have killed the game off.

"But Alec Chamberlain pulled off a great save and that lifted Luton. They scored two late goals and we were dead.

"That was the lowest point of my career. It's difficult to describe that feeling — just emptiness. I sat in the dressing room afterwards, blaming myself.

"The rest of the lads told me not to worry, that somebody had to take the

Nigel Winterburn: Crap penalties, and an even worse memory.

Wat, Wat

★ WHAT A JOKE club Watford are. Just a few days ago they were screeching from the rooftops that no way would manager Steve Perryman be leaving for Spurs. But when he went this week, there wasn't a whimper of protest out of them. - J. Bulgalo, Carpenters Park, Herts.

Wat a sad story.

We have to agree, but then the first sentence says it all, doesn't it.

Does anyone really believe a statement like this?

Raving Mad!!!

Dear "Mad",

It was interesting to read David Kohler's comments in the Daily Mirror recently about selling the club - apparently he doesn't care if someone called Maxwell buys it. Apart from the fact that Maxwell is a bit dead at the moment, it is very heartening to see that Kohler has the best interests of the club at heart. Now I wonder what would happen if a certain S. Hussein came along...?

I look forward to the next issue.

Yours,

Graham Johnson
Nottinghamshire

Dear "Mad",

Though not a Luton supporter (is this an understatement?), I enjoy reading your fanzine, I must admit you produce a very good read, and your cartoon's in particular impress, BUT do you lot really expect to shift Kohler whilst your writers persist in resorting to anti-semitic slurs?

'Honey I Shrunk the Yids' - complete with a cartoon Kohler wearing the Star of David on his jacket, how amusing. Come on Pat Flood, do us a favour, surely you can do better than that.

Then there was your correspondent Paul Devall, perhap's Mr. Devall has been living in Post-Communist Europe for a bit too long, I'm not sure if the Jewish race would like Mr. Kohler or not, but I am sure they would find a term such as 'Cry Yid' very offensive indeed.

There are a numerous reasons, I am sure, to oust Kohler from your Club, but his race is not, and should not, be one of them.

Yours,

Colin Payne
Leighton Buzzard

Wow, I can get off my high horse now, before I fall off!
Enjoy the summer...

ILLICIT LUST

In America we have a saying that when a sporting event ends on level terms no satisfaction is garnered by either side. A match in which both competing participants share in the spoils, while in the long run partially beneficial, for the immediate moment offers neither cheer.

But when the entire season is taken into account drawn, levelled, tied (or whatever word one chooses to use) matches can go quite a ways in determining either success or failure. So much so, in fact, that the rational ends up sounding something like; the club should have won X-number of said matches but, than again, it was lucky not to have lost an equal number of matches, either.

In other words, a tie is like kissing your sister. For other than practice there is no real excitement in the end result. There is an empty realisation and the feeling that something is sorely missing.

Now, add this to the 1992-93 Luton Town season and what is the result? Yes, the team's 21 draws were extremely helpful in avoiding relegation. But even two less ties turned into wins would have provided even quicker relegation relief. Still, should the Town and its supporters be grateful for those 21 level matches? No!

Especially when the schedule is put under a microscope and one realises that with 21 draws and 10 wins the Town secured points in 31 out of 46 matches. And only in the last match of the season did they avoid relegation and then they did not register a point in that match.

How many other clubs, do you suppose, could accumulate points in that many matches and finish in such a poor position? Unfortunately, Luton Town supporters have grown accustomed to seasons such as these. Whatever happened to the Town teams that attacked? It would only stand to reason that for every match lost due to over zealous attacking an equal number could be won on little more than perseverance alone. And two

less ties turned into one win and one loss still puts the team one point up on those two ties, correct?

Last season it was those 21 drawn matches which saved the club from relegation. Will this be the year the Town finally is able to win more than 10 matches and is therefore able to save its own skin and not have to rely on the late season help of others? Only time will tell.

Still, another season akin to that of last year's 21 level matches and the Luton constabulary should be alerted. For the Luton Town squad will be spending far too much time in their sister's bedroom and the team should be charged with incest.

Brian Surette

AN APOLOGY

During the summer months it has become clear that a number of readers were upset and offended by the "Honey I Shrunk..." cartoon in issue 16. We accept that publishing the cartoon was a serious miscalculation on our part, and we plead innocence only of understanding the offence which would be caused. We sincerely hope to avoid any such problems in future.

We believe that our writers have in general been very reasonable on this matter, stressing that Mr. Kohler's race/religion is not an issue and only came into focus due to the publicity given to comments heard by Mr. Kohler and a couple of friends and absolutely no-one else including the police. Mr. Kohler's race is not an issue and as such will only be referred to in this publication whilst it remains necessary to deny wild accusations from the chairman.

What price the all seater?

So next season we will have no choice but to sit down on our beloved terrace behind the goal (providing we stay up of course). All the arguments about the "lack of atmosphere", and "the right to stand up", have already been dismissed. But what about the prices??

For the last two seasons we have been fortunate enough to pay only £91 for our terrace season tickets. People who wish to sit in the Kenilworth end have to pay £149. Does this mean that we will be forced to pay more next season or not?? After all I'd rather stand up and pay less. It wasn't my idea to make our ground all seater.

The answer to this has to be YES. You will have to pay more to watch Luton next year, even though you will be watching them from the same part of the ground. The reason I say this is not because I have some inside information, and I'm most certainly not a close personal friend of Mr. Kohler, but how can Luton charge people less to sit at the back of the Kennie, than at the front?? If they did, all the people who currently sit at the front will suddenly be buying season tickets for the back. Simple eh?? Well maybe not. I think I may have found a solution.

Next season, all the people who have a £91 pound season ticket should have the right to renew it at the same price next season (subject to price rises). That, my friends, is the simple solution to the whole argument of paying more to be forced to sit down. Well we'll just have to wait and see. My guess is that we'll have to pay more, but there you go. For once we can't really blame our M.D. for the inevitable price increase, after all, he would like to see terraces remain (or is he just trying to be on the same side as the fans?).

I have a theory for this. Maybe Mr. Kohler is trying to get Luton in to the Second Division so we don't have to install seats for another couple of years!! (perish the thought).

Steve "Terrace" Tyler

Whatever Happened to Bobbin Dino?

ANOTHER CONTENDER FOR SPOT THE BALLS UP!



LAY A

LAST SEASON "MAD AS" REVIVED EL BOBBINO FROM THE GOLDEN AGE, WHICH GAVE THE HATTER'S MANAGEMENT A BIG IDEA!



THINKS: HEY, MAYBE THERE'S A SORT OF REVIVAL THAT WILL GET ME A TEAM ON THE CHEAP!



YOUR TROUBLES ARE OVER; I'M GOING TO RECREATE HARFORD, KINGSLEY BLACK, PAUL WALSH AND THE FUTCHER TWINS FROM D.N.A!



AND SO THE SEARCH WAS ON FOR DNA MOLECULES BELONGING TO PAST LUTON TOWN PLAYERS.



LAY A '93

TOWN TRAVELS

18.08.93 CAMBRIDGE UNITED

Enough of a local derby for Anglia TV to take an interest, this is our annual opportunity to go out of the cup to inferior opposition. In normal circumstances the shabby stadium shouldn't hold many fears but after last years debacle....

Pre match drinking is normally precluded by the need to park, but afterwards it should be possible to reach a pub in the Baldock/Hitchin area in time to see the highlights on Anglia news.

21.08.93 PORTSMOUTH

An away match that coincides with the local beer festival should be one of the happiest occasions possible. Sadly it is all ticket (the Pompey beer festival, not the match). So we will have to stick to the pubs in the Fratton area. The FLORIST, 324 Fratton Road (Wadworths) joins those we recommended last year, but the RED WHITE & BLUE turns out to be in Southsea, not Fratton.

31.08.93 WATFORD

He is rare indeed for us to get the opportunity to beat W*****d twice in one month, so lets hope the chance is taken. Drinking is awful at the best of times, let alone midweek with its travel problems.

04.09.93 SUNDERLAND

A chance to renew old acquaintances which will leave most Town fans pissed off rather than pissed. As for the pubs, the selection in the area doesn't improve. The HOWARD ARMS, 183 Roker Avenue (Vaux) is probably the best bet but will be very busy.

14.09.93 TRANMERE ROVERS

Hardly the sort of trip you'd choose for a midweek match, but thats the fixture computer for you, a byword for kindness and compassion! A repeat of last years result (what a goal!) would compensate for the journey. As would a decent pint before the game, so try the SHREWSBURY ARMS, 38 Claughton Firs, Oxton (Free House) or the OLD HOUSE AT HOME, 30 Queen Street, Tranmere (Banks's).

18.09.93 MIDDLESBROUGH

After two of the longest journeys of the season what do we get? Yep, another one, to another mecca of good football and good beer! Some of the latter may be found at the TAP & BARREL, 86 Newport Road (by the bus station) a free house near the rail station. The STAR & GARTER, Southfield Road, is another free house that may be worth a look.

25.09.93 BIRMINGHAM CITY

By the standards of September this comes close to being a local derby. After an easy road journey the best placed pub is probably the GARRISON ARMS, Garrison Road, a Banks's pub with its own surveillance systems over the street parking, and a decent curry to go with the beer.

09.10.93 DERBY COUNTY

Another opportunity to show Pickerings finest that money can't buy success. What it can buy however is beer and the BRUNSWICK INN, 1 Railway Terrace, with its own brewery and a beer festival in "early October" sounds like just the place!

Roy Wegerle

One of the more pleasant surprises for the United States Soccer Federation occurred when former Luton Town striker Roy Wegerle announced his decision to join the national side. Being in a rather unique situation Wegerle had the opportunity to choose from five countries for his national footballing duty, though the prospect of playing for the home nation in next year's World Cup, no doubt, was a major consideration in his decision.

I had a chance to sit down and briefly talk with Wegerle, at the United States' team's hotel prior to the U.S.-England, U.S. Cup '93 match at Foxboro Stadium, about his time at Luton Town. Actually, the fact that the subject concerned a topic other than that of the U.S. Cup seemed to put him at ease. That plus the shock of meeting an American who supported Luton Town.

He has very fond memories of his short stay at Luton. "Of all the smaller clubs I've played for Luton were the best club," he reflects. And he is, also, quick to point out, "It has a good training system and a good reputation among players." Obviously, these opinions concern only those matters which occur on the pitch and not in the front or back office board rooms.

He credits Luton with giving him the foothold to launch his career in the English League's old first division. "I started my career for real with Luton Town. I started scoring goals and got noticed."

When asked about which players at Luton he most remembers Wegerle says that former-Hatter Mick Harford was the best player he played with. Adding, "I was surprised Mick didn't get more England caps." While another ex-Hatter he used to enjoy watching was Ricky Hill.

When the topic of conversation turned to more recent times Wegerle was open and honest about his brief spell at

Blackburn. He readily admits that last season's late transfer from Rovers to Coventry City was precipitated because he, "...didn't get along with manager Kenny Dalglish.

"I lasted one year and one week with Blackburn," he sadly says. "I knew after one week of arriving at Blackburn it wouldn't work out. I was surprised I lasted as long as I did." Still, he perks up in anticipation of a new and full season at Coventry.

Asked if he had a last statement Wegerle smiled and voiced, "Send my regards to Luton Town."

Brian Surette



Computerised Football (The Sky's the limit?)

Rumour is spreading like wildfire around footballing circles about a revolutionary idea to computerise the Premier League. Computer giants Nuntindo have come up with a complicated system of computerised live football to be screened on Skie T.V.

The system, scheduled for operation in the 1995/6 season, is based upon the hand held games at the moment. The teams will take the field as they normally do at the moment on a Monday night. Fans who have Skie T.V. will have a key pad in the living room and will control their team. The players will receive messages via an earpiece, and will be told what to do.

I was fortunate enough to be the Mad As A Hatter representative who was sent along to the private demo of the system. During the show I raised a number of questions:-

1. Q. Isn't it likely that the teams with the most fans will win the game?
A. It is very probable, yes.
2. Q. Isn't that a bit unfair on the lesser supported teams in the Premier League, i.e. Wimbledon and Coventry?
A. That's not our problem.
3. Q. Who do you support?
A. Liverpool.
4. Q. Are the key pads going to be installed in pubs?
A. No. We do not consider it to be a good idea to install the key pads in pubs.
5. Q. Isn't this going to keep the fans away from the ground, because they will all want to stay at home to play the Nuntindo?
A. We are looking at putting key pads in the stands once they are all seater.

The idea, as far as I am concerned, is a total farce. It's very complicated and will definitely benefit the clubs with the most supporters. But then again, that's the way the football hierarchy want it, isn't it?

Steve "Game Boy" Tyler

IF YOU'RE MAD ON THE HATTERS WHY NOT JOIN THE LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS CLUB

*** MEMBERSHIP FORM**
Season - 1993/94

*** FOR NEW AND EXISTING MEMBERS**

Please complete in BLOCK LETTERS:-

I hereby apply to join the LTSC for the 1993/94 Season, and in doing so agree to abide by the rules laid down by the club.

NAME (Mr./Mrs./Miss) _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

TEL. No. _____
HOME _____ BUSINESS _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ / _____ / _____

Please forward a crossed Cheque/Postal Order, or complete the Standing Order Mandate below for the appropriate amount.

Cheque payable to Luton Town Supporters Club

NEW MEMBERS (Tick the appropriate box)

Adult £7.00 ☐ * Child/OAP £5.00 ☐

RENEWALS

Adult £5.00 ☐ * Child/OAP £3.00 ☐

* Children under the age of 16 years of age.

Existing Supporters Club No. _____

RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS TO:

Luton Town Supporters Club (Membership),
c/o Luton Town Football Club,
Kenilworth Stadium,
1 Maple Road, Luton, Beds. LU4 8AW

Blueadder plays Football

SCENE: A comfortable town house in Elizabethan England.

There is a rap at the door.

Mr. Blueadder: "Yes?"

Applicant: "I've come about the job sir."

Mr. B: "Ah yes, enter please. So you would like to manage Brumingham City Football Club then? What experience do you have?"

A: "I like naked women sir."

Mr. B: "Don't we all. I meant what relevant sports experience do you have?"

A: "Absolutely none sir; unless you count the 'Weekly Sport'."

Mr. B: "No, that's perfect; we can't have anyone who knows something about football in charge, can we. You've got the job. Now, what did you say your name was?"

A: "Karren, sir."

Mr. B: "Karren? That's a funny name for a managing director."

A: "Er, yes, it's um short for... Bob!"

Mr. B: "Okay then... Bob, you can start Monday."

NEXT SCENE: An Elizabethan quack's surgery.

As is customary, a rap at the door.

Doctor: "Yes, yes, come in, come in. Sit down will you Mr. um Blueadder; now then what seems to be the problem?"

Mr. B: "Well it's a bit delicate you see, actually, to be honest: I fancy the pants off my managing director."

Doctor: "Perfectly natural for a man of your age. What does she manage? Clothing store, brothel, ticket office?"

Mr. B: "None of those, actually, he manages my football club, his name is... Bob."

Doctor: "I see; you do have a problem, disgraceful chap. I think the best thing for you is a course of leeches!"

Mr. B: "Oh no! Anything but that. What about the fans?"

Doctor: "Who cares about them? We will start you right away with a fat Tory, let him suck on you for a few years; then we'll move you on to a fat Eastern type, closely followed by a Gooner, and finally, after about five years with a bearded Manc you won't have a club left to manage. Job done."

Mr. B: "Thanks for nothing doc."

THE END

Any resemblance to an alternative satirical sitcom of the mid-eighties is purely gratuitous. No similarity to any existing or defunct Division One football clubs is intended or should be inferred. (Much)

*Clifford Saunders -
Chairman of the "Bring
Back Richard Harvey"
pressure group.*

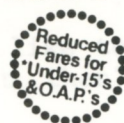
Advice to referees:

If you can keep your head while all about you are losing theirs, then you've probably missed the most blatant foul of the match.

Follow the *HATTERS* with the **BOBBERS TRAVEL CLUB**

TRAVEL IN COMFORT BY COACH TO ANY AWAY MATCH

Coach Pick-up Points Throughout the Area!



To obtain a travel price list & membership form

send a S.A.E. to: Mr. P. Deason, (New Member Administrator),
5, Millards Close, Cranfield, Beds. MK43 0HL.



Coach Travel Price List

Date	Destination	Fare		Departure time	
		Adult	Child OAP	Cranfld	Luton
Sat Aug 21	Portsmouth	6.50	5.20	09.30	10.30
Sat Sep 4	Sunderland	13.50	11.00	07.30	08.30
Tue Sep 14	Tranmere Rovers	9.80	8.00	13.15	14.15
Sat Sep 18	Middlesbrough	13.00	10.50	08.00	09.00
Sat Sep 25	Birmingham City	6.00	5.00	10.30	11.30
Sat Oct 9	Derby County	6.50	5.20	10.30	11.30

Child Rate for under 16 years.
Above details subject to change.

BOOK IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

1. From our ticket kiosk at the Kenilworth Road turnstiles.
See any BTC Committee member between 2.15 and 2.45 pm
before any Saturday 1st team home match.
2. On the return journey from a previous away game.
3. Telephone Paul Deason on Bedford (0234) 750996.

UPS & DOWNS

As far as I am concerned, Portsmouth are the most unfortunate team in the country at the moment. I think that having a play off is the most unfair way of deciding promotion. There are many arguments for and against them, but I think the arguments against far outweigh the arguments for. I have compiled a list of the arguments below, and I would be most interested in hearing what other fans think, but before you argue for the play offs imagine how you would feel if Luton were in Pompey's shoes!

For

1. They provide an entertaining way of finishing the season.
2. They provide extra revenue for the teams who have done well throughout the season.
3. They provide an incentive to play better even if you are only half way in the league with 10 weeks left in the season.

Against

1. A team could finish 12 points below the third place team (who have been in first or second place for most of the season) and still go up above them.
2. The team who goes up will probably not be as good as the team in third place.
3. It just adds more games on to the season when English clubs play too many anyway.
4. There is a lot at stake and the fans are more wound up than usual, therefore there is more chance of hooliganism i.e. Chelsea v Sunderland, when the stewards let the Chelsea "fans" on the pitch so that

they could go over and kick shit out of the opposition supporters. (I wouldn't have minded so much, but it's a bit inconsiderate halting their celebrations.)

5. The team who plays consistently well throughout the season will finish in third place and will deserve to go up. Why should they have to prove themselves all over again?
6. If they have play offs for promotion, why don't they have them for relegation as well? Teams can play well enough to stay in the division they are in, but still go down on the last day of the season even though they were 6 points ahead of the team below with one game left.

In my opinion (and a very opinionated opinion it is too!), play offs are just one of the things that should be changed in football. What things do you think should be changed in football? Why not write in to the usual address with your opinion.

Steve "Three go up, three go down" Tyler

Raving Mad!!!

Dear "Mad",

Thanks for the game on Good Friday. We were only trying to emulate our team, honest. If you like we can do you a copy of the video of the game, a couple of your goals are on it! (Sounds like Anglia TV - only a couple of goals out of 4 - Eds)

See you all next season.

Matthew

Editor, Clap Your Hands Stamp Your Feet!

TOWN SIGN CHIMPANZEE

Mad Hatters in Monkey Business Shock!

Luton Town made history yesterday by becoming the first ever club to sign a chimpanzee. Cheeky Charlie was signed from Twycross Zoo Rovers for the price of £36.50 and an undisclosed sum of bananas. Town Chairman David Kohler said; "We have been looking for a new striker for some time now, and Charlie has been top scorer in the PG Tips Premier League for the past 3 seasons. He cost a bit more than I wanted to pay, but quality chimpanzees, especially strikers, are hard to come by these days."

Charlie, 16, was born in Dagenham and had a trial with Crystal Palace 2 seasons ago. However, he walked out in disgust when well-known black rights activist Ron Noades almost sold him to Arsenal instead of Ian Wright. When asked about the incident, Noades said it was "a case of mistaken identity - anyway, we could have got much more money for the Chimp." A year later there was speculation linking him with Watford, but he turned them down, allegedly because he is frightened of donkeys.

David Kohler was inspired to make the signing after watching a Sheffield United match when certain sections of the crowd threw bananas at Brian Deane.

"It suddenly struck me that the fans were onto something. They obviously thought Deane played like an ape - if Deane is worth £3 million, just think what we can get for Charlie! This is a sound investment for the future."

Graham Taylor has already expressed interest in Luton's new acquisition.

"I think he could fit into the current England set-up very nicely indeed. He's just the right sort of player to partner David Batty in the midfield. We've never tried a gorilla before. You've got to experiment as much as possible."

When questioned about his new career with Luton, Charlie said; "Didn't anyone ever teach you that chimps can't speak, you great fool?"

Ian Benjamin's place at Luton is now in grave doubt. It is widely acknowledged that Charlie has superior goalscoring ability to the former Southend star, and he sees Charlie's arrival as signalling the end of his career with the Hatters.

David Pleat was asked to comment on the deal, but he had no idea what we were talking about.

"I have no idea what you are talking about," he said, continuing the recent trend of managers being ignored by their chairmen.

The move has opened the possibility of more animals entering football, especially as players' wages carry on rising. Wimbledon have made enquiries about one of London Zoo's giraffes, but Joe Kinnear is having trouble finding one tall enough. Southampton are on the verge of signing the Beast of Exmoor to fill the gap left by Neil Ruddock and Manchester United are negotiating the transfer of one of the Jurassic Park stars so that Bryan Robson has someone to reminiscence with in the dressing room. Rumour has it that Arthur Cox of Derby County wants to sign a sheep, but his wife is said not to be too keen on the idea. Allegedly!"

Graham Johnson



NOTES, QUIPS & QUOTES

A few notes, quips and quotes on U.S. Cup '93 from a bowl, a stadium, another stadium and a dome. Or to be more precise; Yale Bowl, Foxboro Stadium, RFK Stadium and the Pontiac Silverdome.

This year's guests (Germany, Brazil and England) drew more attention than last year's visitors (Italy, Portugal and the Republic of Ireland) ... Brazilian supporters have a way of making their countries chant, "Bra-zil, Bra-zil," seem unbelievably lustful... Yale Bowl is more suited to the 1890s than the 1990s... Security was so tight at England's practice prior to their U.S. match (multiple entry checks, guard dogs and helicopters) that at any moment it was expected the surrounding woods would be defoliated... U.S. keeper Tony Meola had the match of a lifetime against England... And the royal representatives have not won a pitched battle (sorry for that pun) in the Boston area for over 218 years... Karl-Heinz Rumenigge and Rainer Bonhof were spotted in the Foxboro press box... When asked about his players' stamina for the three upcoming matches, so soon on the heels of two World Cup qualifiers Graham Taylor stated, "When you pull on an England shirt it is impossible to be tired."... The aqua-blue sport coats worn by the FIFA delegates were the height of ugly... Has there ever been a better name for a defender than Germany's Guido Buchwald?... On a down note, Brazilians' Julio Cesar, Careca, Valber and "a couple of players" from Germany had cash and valuables stolen from their Washington D.C. hotel rooms... A "Luton Whites" flag was seen behind and high above one of the goals at the Silverdome... On hearing that this columnist is a fanatic supporter of Luton Town noted soccer writer Brian Glanville offered a chair stating, "Sit down, please, this has got to be an interesting story."... As good as the game (and the grass) inside the Pontiac Silverdome was it still "felt" strange... And Mother Nature showed her displeasure with severe downpours outside... It was strange to hear the hot weathered Brazilians' complain of wilting in the sun of Washington during their 3-3 draw with Germany... Before their game with Brazil the English players threw caps into

the stands for lucky fans... Another indoor grass note, Jurgen Klinsmann proclaimed, "The field of grass was perfect."... So perfect, in fact, that if you didn't know the truth you would have assumed that it was fake... Klinsmann was voted U.S. Cup '93 Most Valuable Player and was awarded the Adidas golden boot as top scorer (4)... Some other Graham Taylor ditties: "England (the team) is surrounded by negatives. England are expected to win and win well. You need mental toughness," and "1994 (the World Cup) is going to be, obviously, a great success. It will be absolutely first-class. The facilities and hospitality shown us have been second to none."... The 13th June Sunday Times of London had the England-Germany match in Detroit, Illinois and not where it truly was in Michigan... On hearing that this column supported Luton Town one very pleased Plymouth fan recounted his sides cup victory over the Hatters last season (the bloody sod)... The six U.S. Cup matches averaged over 47,000 spectators though only one (England-Brazil) actually sold-out... England-Germany was the best overall match.

Though for sheer thrill the U.S.-England encounter, at least from America's standpoint, was the highlight...

Congratulations, lads, English chants were in full bloom adding to the atmosphere and were well appreciated... If you're planning a visit for next year's World Cup try to avoid the City of Detroit... Anyone willing to place a bet that there will be a U.S. Cup '95?... And, finally, if the future of the game is to be indoors then let's keep remembering the past.

Brian Surette

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 in mid October, and the deadline for contributions will be 2 to 3 weeks earlier. Please note the change of editorial address.



Coming Soon: Watford & Cambridge TWICE each!

Without warning, a particularly frightening creature reared its ugly head from the Tory backbenches and roared: "That lot opposite, they're a bunch of 'ooligans." You would have sworn it was a Stegosaurus — body weighing in at two tonnes, but brain the size of a walnut — if Dod's Parliamentary Companion did not insist it was actually David Evans, the Conservative MP for Welwyn and Hatfield.

Where are they now?
In some cases anywhere they
can find an audience!

New signings? Surely we're not that desperate.



● THE DUBLINERS: asked to come back to Luton.

Screen Two: Enchanted April. (BBC 2, 9.40pm) Repeated on the strength of its astonishing success (two Golden Globe awards, three Oscar nominations, 12 million bucks already at the US box office), Mike Newell's gentle, genteel twenties-set comedy, adapted from Elizabeth Von Arnim's novel by Peter Barnes. With Josie Lawrence, Miranda Richardson, Joan Plowright and Polly Walker as the four women who escape from a cold London spring to a rented

INTO THE WEST

Director: Mike Newell
Starring: Gabriel Byrne, Ellen Barkin, Ciaran Fitzgerald, Ruaidhri Conroy, David Kelly (Entertainment)



" Oh yes, that striker of theirs is a bad egg all right ... Even the goal he got was scrambled.

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