

MAD AS A HATTER!



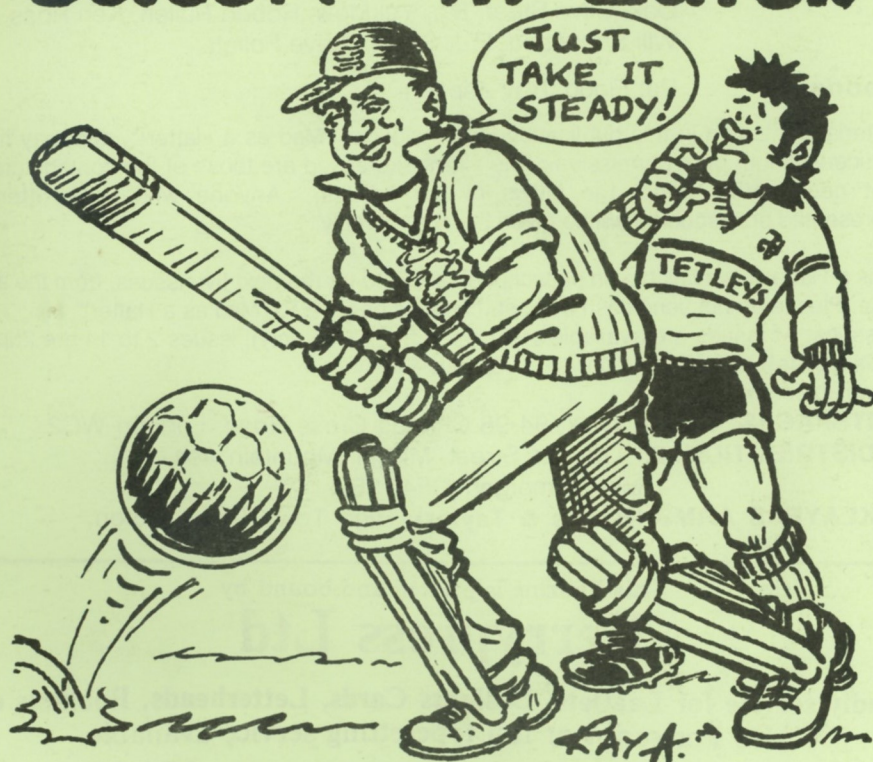
A LUTON TOWN FANZINE

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BOYCOTT AT LUTON



MAD AS A HATTER!



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Editorial

"I have a dream" seems to be the motto of our Chairman henceforth to be known as Martin Luther Kohler, if the media is anything to go by. Oddly, the timing of these pronouncements coincides with anything put out by Luton Action that might show him in a bad light. As a boycott is announced, MLK dreams of a new stadium based not on something functional and suited to Luton Town, but on something he liked the look of whilst on holiday! And on top of that he announces the site for the ground, after telling us for three years that, to prevent opposition getting a head start, it should not be announced until plans have been submitted to the council.

As the boycott takes place, we have news of past directors being sued (for the benefit of Sizematch not Luton Town) for, allegedly, being daft enough to guarantee the clubs profitability. Think about it - who would guarantee profits after selling to someone with no experience in the business? Another dream perhaps?

As it happens I have a dream as well. It is that Kohler will, one day, dismiss our club as too big for the level of finance he can manage, and piss off somewhere else.

As for the boycott, it worked. Whether it was right or wrong is irrelevant, but it gained publicity which it was designed to do, and almost had Kohler arrested, which it wasn't but would have been very amusing. As for its impact on LTFC there were more away fans than the Barnsley game (hence the gate being up), so the home gate would have been down by about 150. The members of Luton Action who organised the protest should not be condemned, for it shows the depth of their feelings for the club that they feel they must do something rather than just walk away. Those who did not agree with them could simply walk through the turnstiles. We do after all, live in a democracy.

Finally, as ever, we turn to the team, who are beginning to look as if wins may not be quite so rare as we have become used to. John Hartson has already shown immense promise, Ceri Hughes is now fulfilling his, and in Alan Harper we seem to have found someone who can influence what happens around him. There will incidentally be no comment here on the manager who comes in for a fair bit of stick elsewhere in this issue, something which reflects what we've received here at Mad.

A Lady Hatter

My wife is a late comer to the wacky and, more often, woeful world of Luton Town soccer (soccer; as we here in the colonies must call it). For prior to approximately five years ago she had not the faintest idea of the difference between a football and a volleyball. Well, that is not the case anymore.

In those intervening years her knowledge of and interest in the game has grown by leaps and bounds. And while she will readily admit that soccer is not her favourite spectator sport (the Sunday morning Italian and afternoon Spanish language broadcasts we receive through the magic of cable TV tend to push her over the edge) she is not a fish out of water when it comes to personally taking in a match.

Usually on visits to the British Isles she will take in at least one match. That means in her four trips she has sat through and enjoyed five matches. And not just any old matches either.

My wife believes in the premise of "only the best" (Luton?). Her very first match in England was on our honeymoon in 1989. Unfortunately, Forest ruined her debut that afternoon at Wembley. And more than a few of my football knowledgeable friends were envious of a Wembley cup final for her first match outside of the United States. Still, from then on she was hooked.

For those who may feel inclined to lay a bit of blame at her feet for that afternoon's result it should be pointed out that her third match was on September 14, 1991 - the return of Mick Harford and an exciting come-from-behind, last minute, 2-1 win over Oldham Athletic (probably the last time any sort of loud and raucous noise was heard to emit from Kenilworth Road). Her second match was a 1-1 draw with Coventry.

Back home (in the U.S. of A.) she has seen the likes of Vittoria Setubal (Portugal), Pisa (Italy), Dnepr (Ukraine), as well as the national teams of England and Brazil. Our just completed UK visit added the names of Glasgow Rangers, Hibernian, Manchester United and Honved to her supporters resume.

Yes, it can be said she likes to pick her spots. And, in the end, who am I to argue, I'm only the husband. Still, with a list of venues that includes Foxbro Stadium, Robert F. Kennedy (RFK) Stadium, Wembley, Old Trafford, Ibrox and *(last but not least? - Eds)* Kenilworth Road she is quick to point out that quality is better than quantity. Though sadly, that list of venues which reads like one of those "pick the odd one out" quiz questions.

Brian Surette

Where are the goals?

Having just stood through another game in which we failed to capitalise on our large amount of possession (Cambridge (A) Coca Cola Cup 17/08/93) I seriously wonder if someone should tell Pleaty and his side that to win games and progress you need to score goals?!

Apart from Jason Rees (should have had a hat trick), Scotty Oakes, Preecey, Dixon or Dreyer, our players seem to be scared of having a shot at goal! As for our non existant forward line tonight it seriously worries me. OK, you may argue that we scored two against ***ford but even Pat Flood could score against the ***kers from up the road!

So we may not be able to replace Phil Gray's 21 goals but I wonder why Scott Houghton was signed, Pleat said to help replace Gray, but in 2 games so far he has featured in about 40 minutes of action (I hope by the time you read this his Luton Town career has exploded!).

I also wonder that unless we can buy Dixon how can we cope without him. He may well play for 80 minutes a game like a prat, not running after balls or heading into space, but at least he is able to produce a spectacular goal out of nothing. (Remember ***ford (H) 14/08/93 and Cambridge (H) 27/03/93). Without him this evening as he was cup tied, we looked unable to produce one of those sizzling moments. Will he leave as we can't afford him and, like Steve Sutton, come back to haunt us?

I also wonder why Ian Benjamin signed after his first touch seriously let him down here tonight. He looked well past it and I wonder if our reserves are too good for him?! The only highlight of his injury hit Luton Town career was that superb header against the SCUM! I remember thinking what an inspired signing he was on that night, when I watched the game I had video taped.

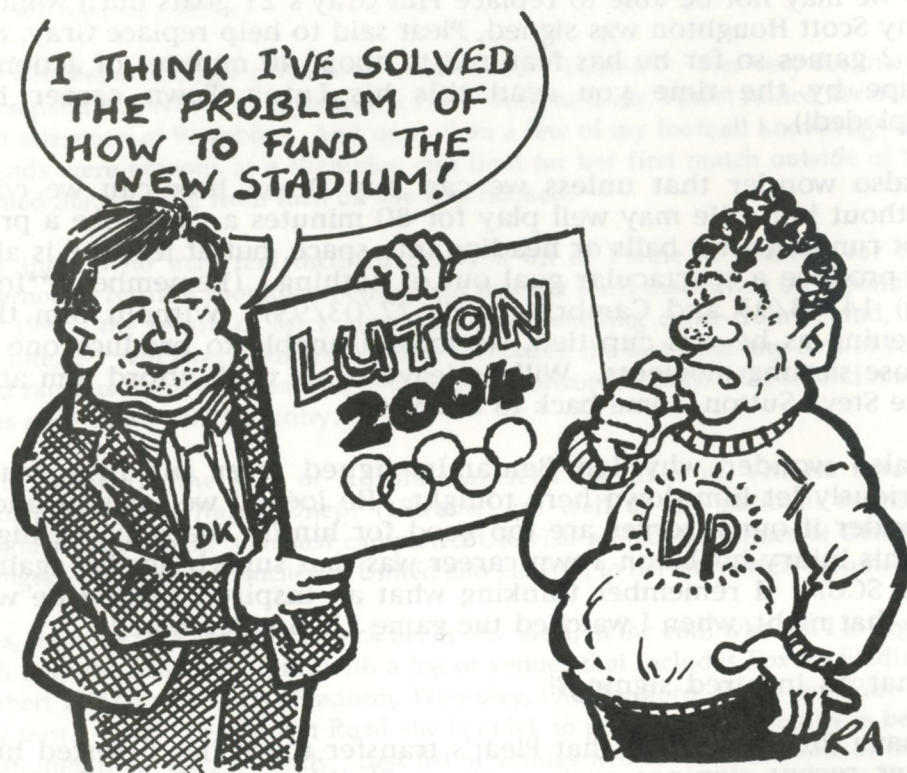
What an inspired signing?!

I have finally decided that Pleat's transfer touch has deserted him after recent signings such as Steve Claridge and Benjamin (who would pay for our much travelled striker now? Perhaps someone ought to fax Vicarage Road!). Pleat continually tells us about

having no money, but if you were a board member would you trust this man after his recent failings with any money the club may have?

When I saw he wanted to sign Steve Moran I thought how good is this man if Exeter City were letting him go on a free transfer? I'm sure he would have been worth his wage in goals in the first division? I only hope that Scott Houghton is another Phil Gray rather than another Ian Benjamin!

B.J. "Goal" Yeldoow
Chairman and Founder of the
Des Linton for England Campaign



Playing Away

Sunday 29 August marked Mad FC's first footballing venture of the new season with an entry in the TPE Trophy 5-a-side in Peterborough. The competition was international featuring fanzine and supporters sides from as far afield as Motherwell and Cardiff.

The first of our players to take the field was Tony Tindle who, somewhat appropriately, was loaned to Sunderland for their opening game. However, the mobility of the north eastern defence was cruelly exposed in an 11-1 defeat. Tony marked his appearance in the red and white stripes by scoring the goal! If only we had had a camera, Tony would now be the victim of a blackmail plot, with his father being a Newcastle supporter.

The rest of us had to wait to make our debut, which resulted in a 3-1 victory over Saddlesore 'B' from Walsall, the goals coming from Angus 'Bob' Kinnear, and Tony Tindle. It was in our second game that we peaked (too early) however, with a crushing 7-2 defeat of our hosts The Peterborough Effect 'B'. It was in this game that Angus revealed not only a penchant for scoring with 5 goals, but also an impressive mastery of the "goalscorers pose" (again, if only we'd had a camera). The other goals came from Tony, and (at the third attempt) the player manager, who would be named here but for modesty on my part.

Undefeated after 2 games our confidence was high, but took a knock in a defeat by Leyton Orientear, with Angus' inevitable goal being our only reply to their 3. This meant that our last group game would decide who went through with a good result needed against the group leaders. Our opponents, "O Bluebird of Happiness A" were from Cardiff, and this was the least enjoyable game due to the physical Welsh approach to the game. It ended 7-4 to the Welsh gits with Angus getting all four, of course! This was enough to see us into the quarter finals on goal difference.

Our opponents were Hull Coasters who, after a thoroughly enjoyable match, emerged victors by a score of 7-4, the killer blow being delivered by Tony Tindle with a headed own goal. Our goals were scored by John 'Bob' Parr and a hat trick for Angus. Thus was ended our involvement in the competition which was eventually

won by the Cardiff side beating Saddlesore 'A' in the final, after Tony 'Loaner' Tindle had made a fleeting appearance for Leyton Orientear in another quarter final. Some pride was salvaged when we achieved 3rd place in the sports quiz following the main event. Thanks for their participation go to all those mentioned before but also to Geoff 'Bob' Ramshaw (goalkeeper) and Simon Keens, a late recruit to our injury hit side, whose presence allowed us the luxuries of substitutions and rest!

Final note: Mad as a Hatter! has a couple more games arranged for later in the season, so if you fancy playing drop us a line at the usual address. Same applies if you are a fanzine or supporters team who fancy being our opposition.

K.F.H.

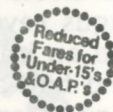
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TUE NOV 2	CRYSTAL PALACE	4.80	3.80	3.30 pm	4.30 pm
SAT NOV 13	SOUTHEND UNITED	6.50	5.20	10.30 am	11.30 am
SAT DEC 4	CHARLTON ATHLETIC	4.80	3.80	10.30 am	11.30 am
SAT DEC 18	WATFORD	4.50	3.60	11.45 am	12.45 pm
MON DEC 27	PETERBOROUGH UNITED	5.50	4.40	11.15 am	12.15 pm
SAT JAN 1	WEST BROMWICH ALBION	6.00	5.00	10.30 am	11.30 am

*Child rate is for a youth under 16 years of age.
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- 2 On the return journey from the previous away game.
- 3 Telephone Paul Deason on Bedford (0234) 750996



Above, Paul Dickov impersonates the hunchback of Notre Dame playing blow football, but Hartson (below) under pressure, has no time for such frivolities.



Without a Paddle?

As Shakespeare might have written if he were a follower of football instead of mad Danish princes;

"Something is rotten in the state of Luton"

After a hugely encouraging start, the season has begun to follow its usual gloomy road which invariably ends in a relegation battle. Four straight league defeats, two early cup exits, 23rd in the league - it hardly makes for a season of optimism and happiness. It may be early days yet, but as we know only too well, once the rot sets in it takes more than a coat of paint to put the damage right.

Which is precisely why I am more than puzzled, saddened, indeed angered by David Pleat's recent dabblings in the transfer market. Admittedly the board has hardly been throwing money in his direction of late, but surely he should have held out for more than £775,000 for Phil Gray.

Two recent events show that Pleat's judgement is not what it was. Firstly, the Ian Benjamin farce. Either he paid too much for Benji or sold him for far too little. Whichever is the case, there is no justification for selling a player for less than a quarter of his original price less than 11 months after signing him, especially when you are in serious financial trouble. If Brentford really wanted Benji, surely a figure like, say, £80,000 would not be unreasonable. In order to stay alive Luton must start charging realistic fees for their players.

The second point is incoming players - or rather the lack of them. Plenty of quality players are available at bargain prices or on free transfers, such as, in the past few months, Gary Bull, Kevin Sheedy, even Forest's Terry Wilson, if you're desperate! But David Pleat has been totally oblivious to this. The other week my father told me that Luton had signed a player, when I regained consciousness he said it was Alan Harper. Now any Everton supporter will tell you that Harper is to skill what Cyril Smith is to ballet. Having seen him on occasions I have to agree. Not only that, but Luton have had problems in the goalscoring department this season, so why sign someone who scores even less often than Cliff Richard? I think we should be told.

Strange events at Luton: anatomy of a transfer

THE transfer of Lars Elstrup to Luton from Odense, of Denmark, is almost a case study of what is wrong with the English game, and goes to the heart of the current financial scandals involving football.

The story starts in August 1989, Luton Town, then in the old First Division, were buying Elstrup from Odense. Luton were managed by Ray Harford and one of the directors was David Evans, the Conservative MP for Welwyn Hatfield. Neither is now connected with the club.

Straa Sports Management, a Hertfordshire-based company, were used by Odense as the agents for the deal and, according to a letter Thomas Lawrence of Straa Sports

wrote to Luton, the club were to pay £730,000 for Elstrup. In addition to this Raphael Meade (worth £250,000) was to be transferred to Odense. In

effect the deal cost Luton nearly £1m.

Elstrup - apart from rent-free accommodation, removal expenses from Denmark, eight return tickets a year, a car and a salary of £50,000 per annum - was also to receive a signing-on fee. This is the area of controversy.

How much was Elstrup's fee? In the letter Lawrence wrote to Luton it was given as £20,000. However, on the same day Lawrence sent the letter to Luton, Elstrup signed a document entitled: "Terms for a two-year contract between Lars Elstrup and Luton Town." This specified that the signing-on fee would be £170,000.

So how much did Elstrup actually get? The Inland Revenue's special office in Solihull, which has been investigating football clubs, took great interest in this. They

Milhir Bose

brought to Luton's attention the fact that Elstrup had paid tax in this country of £79,637.

This meant that Elstrup must have received a fee of £199,092.50. The Elstrup transfer was one of the deals that provoked an Inland Revenue investigation of Luton and this led to the club having to make a payment of £217,000 in back taxes and national insurance contributions.

Assuming Elstrup received this money come from? Could it have come from the £730,000 that Luton Town paid Straa? If so, how much did Odense receive? Apparently, Odense received only £400,000.

Jorn Bonnesen, the then president of Odense, said: "I haven't got any comments on that. I can neither deny nor

confirm the story. I have no interest in talking about it. It was five years ago. I am not interested in talking about it."

When Bonnesen was told that the English Football authorities might be investigating the deal, he expressed unconcern. "I am a Danish lawyer. I am not in the habit of discussing cases with other people," he said.

But even assuming Odense received £400,000, and Elstrup received £200,000, there is still the mystery of the remaining £130,000. Who got it? Where did it go? Not even the accountants called in by Luton have been able to provide the answer. Lawrence refused to discuss the deal.

The transfer had one other curious feature. The contract specified that Luton could receive a maximum of £1.25m if they sold Elstrup. A similar clause existed in Des Walker's

contract at Nottingham Forest, and it seems strange that a club should limit the amount of money it might receive for a player in such a way.

In the event Elstrup fetched Luton nothing like that amount. He was sold back to Odense for £200,000 in 1991, a meagre return on a player who in the previous season had scored a modest 17 goals in the First Division.

What is worse is that before Luton bought Elstrup, their then chief scout had told them that Elstrup was probably not worth more than about £300,000. So a player who might have been bought for £300,000 cost Luton £1m and had to be sold for £200,000.

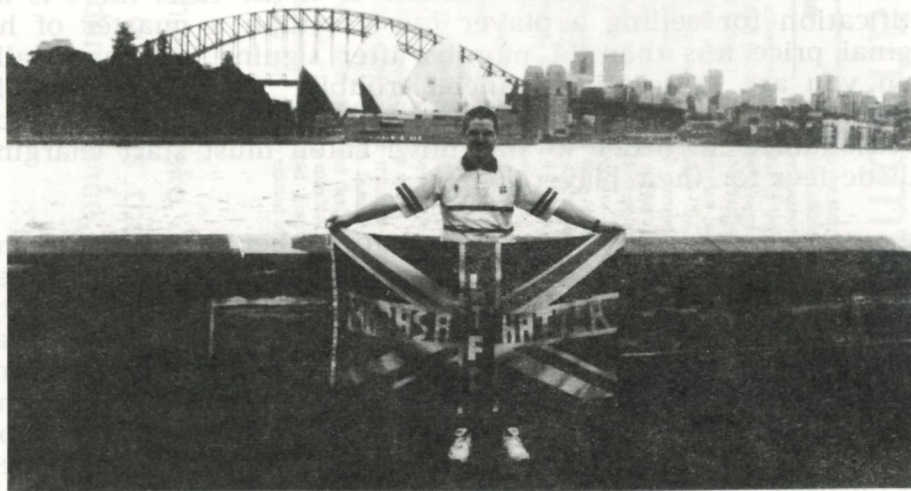
Why did Luton make such a deal? The whole affair shows how clubs can be short-changed in the peculiar way modern football transfers are arranged.

Whilst we are not really sure what to make of this article, in that it probably leaves more questions than it answers, we felt that it deserved a wider audience, and without further comment from us.

What David Pleat has to start doing is to get rid of excess baggage such as Linton, James and the like, and use the money to buy a decent, but not excessively expensive striker like Nigel Jemson for example. I would have said Gary McSwegan but dear old Notts County (don't you just love 'em?!) beat us to it. Otherwise we'll be, as Angus Deayton put it, up a certain creek without a certain instrument.

Graham Johnson

HATTERS ABROAD



Graham Sheridan flies the flag down under.

Tragic?

This is dedicated to those of you who wear T-shirts depicting Marvin Johnson. I assume they are now gathering dust in the bottom of cupboards after performances in recent weeks. Still, giving away four goals against Bolton, Bristol City, and Derby isn't bad for a defender who can't defend. Not that we should be surprised when we are, after all, talking of the worst left back Luton have fielded in recent times, and one of the worst players in that position in the Football League.

Mistakes in recent seasons are too numerous to mention, but a favourite of mine is the own goal he scored for Villa consisting of lobbing Les Sealey from well outside the area. This though was nowhere near as bad as the mistake made by David Pleat in offering him a new contract.

At least there appears to be light at the end of the tunnel. With Richard Harvey unfortunately injured, Kenny Sansom has joined Luton and will hopefully be in the first team in a matter of weeks (*is this the Kenny Sansom who didn't sign for Barnet? - Eds*). With Greg Rioch also making progress Marvin will soon be banished to the reserves and, fingers crossed, join Watford on a free transfer at the end of the season.

P.I.

Sunday Mornings

Since the return of David Pleat, the Sunday newspapers seem to tell stories of Luton defeat after defeat. As if this isn't bad enough we now have to read of Pleat continually bemoaning the fact that he has too many young players and too many old players. This seems a very strange attitude from a manager responsible for signing the older players at the club, such as Peake, Dixon and Harper. After all, no one forced him to sign these players.

Perhaps instead of continually moaning, he could in future try to encourage these players. After all, no player can take confidence from a manager who tells the press how inadequate they are. If this proves too difficult not talking to the press at all might be the solution.

P.I.

WHY PLEAT SHOULD GO

Much has been said or written about the turmoil within the club over the last year or two, maybe too much. As ever, there are two sides to every argument, but in the case of D.P. it would appear there is only one, or is there? All we ever hear is how hard up poor old David is, or how badly treated he is by Kohler. no-one, least of all myself is denying that the above is true but I do honestly believe that some of his problems are self inflicted. If David Pleat didn't spend so much time commentating for TV and radio then maybe, just maybe, he could spend a little more time with the team he supposedly manages, and hopefully get a little more effort from certain players.

I have never really thought of Pleaty as being a great motivator, if anything John Moore is the one that does the talking in the dressing room. Be honest, could you imagine D.P. giving someone a bollocking at half time, and in any case, who listens to him even if he did. It is widely rumoured that D.P. has fallen out with various members of his playing staff. Is it any surprise that he does not get the best from his players?

Of course, we are all well aware and thankful of his achievements first time round but did we really expect things to improve on his return? Yet again the answer to the question is NO. All things said and done, and despite all the odds being against him I do not believe that David Pleat MARK 2 is such a good idea. All I can hope is that the Lou Macari (Stoke to Celtic) and David Pleat (Luton to Stoke) rumour is true.

G.S.



TOWN TRAVELS

02.11.93 CRYSTAL PALACE

Our last visit to Selhurst saw a point salvaged thanks to Stein falling out of his bath chair and winning a penalty. This time our hopes probably rest on Kery falling over a divot or something similar. Pre match drinking, for those who have time, is best conducted in central London, with the WHEATSHEAF at Borough market, near London Bridge station, an old favourite. Nearest BR stations to the ground are Selhurst and West Norwood.

13.11.93 SOUTHEND UNITED

The Shrimpers have one of the daftest looking mascots in Britain, and on occasions have a team to match. At the time of writing they are still the only team to lose to Barnet this season so there is hope for us. They didn't look anything special in the Anglo Italian, but then nor did we, so neither team will need much improvement to get a win. Rail travellers can get the beers in at Hamilton Hall, the pub at Liverpool Street station in London, rather than waste time in Sarfend trying to find a decent pub like the rarely open SPREAD EAGLE. For road travellers a diversion to the GOLDEN LION at Rochford may be the best bet.

04.12.93 CHARLTON ATHLETIC

It must be a quirk of the much loved fixture computer that allows us to play the Addicks twice in the space of one month. This will of course be our first visit to The Valley since the 82-83 season and it will probably look a bit different to those who visited in the old days (ahh, when I was a lad.....). The nearest station is, not surprisingly, Charlton. The nearest pub is however a complete mystery to me, so it looks like I'll be recommending the WHEATSHEAF at Borough Market, near London Bridge again (imaginative, eh?).

18.12.93 WATFORD

Our fourth meeting with 'them' this year, with results in our favour so far. This could make for a very happy Xmas. We may have to sing a little bit louder than usual as they've now got a roof on their end to help direct what little noise they do make. A repeat of last seasons crowd for this fixture would be welcome, although the home support will probably be out shopping, but the match itself needs to be a huge improvement. With the pubs in that part of the world being so welcoming (sic) it is not really worth making recommendations.

27.12.93 PETERBOROUGH UNITED

The scene of a rare away win last season so a repeat would be jolly nice. Not that we should feel any ill will toward either their manager or chairman normally but

for two days a year it is OK to look at things differently. So let's hope that Posh are in the Xmas spirit and still have some prezzies to give away. Best place for drinking is BOGARTS in North Street, across the city centre, with excellent food to complement the range of beers. Nearer the ground the WAG & BONE, London Road (the only thatched pub in Peterborough) may be worth a try. Look out for the excellent home fanzine "The Peterborough Effect" on sale outside the home turnstiles. There, that must be worth a pint Andy!


01.01.94 WEST BROMWICH ALBION



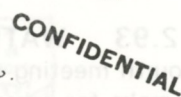
A happy new year, probably will come to an abrupt end or, preferably, receive an unexpected extension here. This is another easy journey up the motorways (junction 1 of the M5 is nearest) to a club we haven't visited for several years. Although its New Years day kick off is at 3 o'clock as it falls on a Saturday. The nearest BR station is Smethwick Rolfe Street, 20 minutes walk away and on route is the WAGGON & HORSES, Halfords Lane, an M & B pub a couple of minutes walk from the away end of the Hawthorns, while the OLD NAVIGATION, Downing Street is a couple of minutes walk down Lewisham Road from the Waggon & Horses. The WOODMAN and THE HAWTHORNS either side of the home end of the ground will probably be closed to the likes of us.

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SHORT CUTS

Longtime in stadium.
Friend and colleague Trevor Peake, scout leader of the 40-member 1st Eaton Bray and Edlesborough Scouts, said Ian was both popular and hard-working and

Uncle Trev, a leader of men - and boy scouts!

WATFORD old boy Phil Gray was sent off for throwing a punch at Hestenthaler right in front of the referee.

But his old pals failed to cash in after chucking away a dream start for the second week in a row.

Now we know why Phil was so keen to get away!

Brian Swain in identity crisis.



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DUNDEE	23	1
BARNET	21	2
GILLINGHAM	21	1
BOURNEMOUTH	21	1
BRISTOL CITY	21	1
BARNLEY	16	5
HEARTS	19	2
HUDDERSFIELD	20	0

Top of the league - in the only way they know how.

From the Watford Observer.

We start with Oliver Phillips view of the sendings-off. Or, in the case of the second, no view!

reached for a red one. Ashby's challenge was irresponsible but its roots lay in inexperience rather than malice. As for Jason Drysdale's offence later in the game, I could not comment for his challenge was obscured by one of the many posts that impinge on the view. Claims of a head-butt, an errant elbow, etc were unsubstantiated by the television coverage. Certainly it seemed a head-butt.

And now to Glen Roeder, who won't talk about Luton.

He complains that you don't get a free kick for what he admits is accidental.

And tops it all by talking about Luton, which of course, he isn't going to do!

Naturally Barry Ashby's challenge, which in my view left the referee little alternative but to send him off, was the unacceptable face of commitment, but the general tempo and approach of this Watford side was refreshingly combative.

When it was suggested that David Pleat had described the offences as "indiscipline" and Roeder was asked if he was annoyed with his players for their transgressions, the Watford boss replied: "They didn't mean to get sent off and I don't think David Pleat should make comments about my team. I'm not making comments about Luton."

"Even at nine men I thought we

"Bazeley is out for weeks as a result of the challenge which we did not even receive a free kick for. Dixon tripped and leant on him. It was his body-weight which brought Darren to the ground and twisted his knee."

"Then there was the challenge

Roeder also had a word to say about David Pleat. "I have been bought up to believe that he was all about passing and good movement so I was disappointed to hear him calling from the dug-out for his players to hit the ball over the top and try to turn us."

"If he denies saying that, then he has got a very good impersonator in the dug-out and is wasting his time. He should be on television. I was surprised to hear such instructions from a man who is supposed to be about movement, passing and flowing football

TOWN IN CUP WIN SHOCK!

Once again Mad as a Hatter! has hit the trail in the increasingly desperate search for success and silverware. As holders of the Beds Premier Cup and the county's only league side it shouldn't be too difficult, but with the Town fielding sides which make the most avid supporter say "who?", anything can happen.

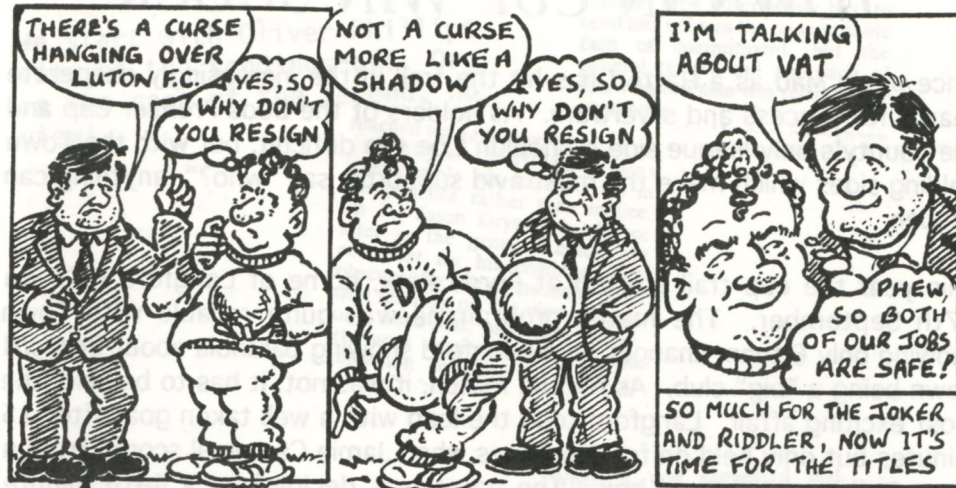
This year the cup trail started at Forde Park, home of Langford F.C., on 27th September. The match programme was quite reliable with Town showing only 6 team changes, and Langford showing paranoia about Bedford Town being a "big" club. As for the match, it was not, it has to be said, the most exciting affair. Langford took the lead with a well taken goal after 15 minutes but only held on for 8 minutes when Jamie Campbell scored from a loose ball in the 6 yard box. The game was decided by a 44th minute penalty, awarded for handball and calmly slotted home by the said Campbell. In the 2nd half Langford fought back strongly and hit the crossbar and both posts, and in the end were unlucky to lose. Or, to put it another way, on chances created Town scarcely deserved to win, and the few Town fans present were mightily relieved when the final whistle blew.

A couple of thoughts from the match. First, why doesn't Petterson catch the ball more often, especially when not under pressure. And second, why did Wayne Turner play Scott Houghton down the right? Surely not to avoid embarrassment to the Langford right back, one Steve Turner (relation)?

K.F.H.

As a result of winning this game Luton have now been drawn away to Stotfold in the 2nd round (quarter final) and this match will be played at Roker Park, Stotfold on a date to be decided, but prior to 31st December. What is it about this competition and east Bedfordshire? All the matches in the last couple of years seem to have been over that way - Potton, Biggleswade, Arlesey, Langford, Stotfold - I can't remember going to the north of the county once. Anyway, look out for the date of the game, and get over there to give our boys some support, OK?

Whatever Happened to Bobbin Dino?



VAT-MAN and BOBBIN



BOBBIN
The Boy Wonder



Raving Mad!!!

Dear "Mad",

Just back after a great weekend in Southsea, except, as usual, for the game, Pompey 1 Us 0. What our players lack already this season is a WANT to win, except goalie Sommer - magic start.

Main reason for writing: We waited for the L.T. printed T-shirt and got it, all nice and pleasant but, THE PRIDE OF BEDFORD. Oh no, BEDFORDSHIRE, surely as Bedford wants nowt to do with us.

Cheers,
Wayne
Farley Hill, Luton.

Rumour has it that there will be an official T-shirt of this type soon, hopefully not repeating this error - Eds.

Dear "Mad",

For those of you who feel suicidal every time the Town slip to another defeat, just remember it could be worse!

My days on the terraces are divided between Kenilworth Road and the County Ground, Swindon, so every weekend my suffering is doubled. Are both my teams to remain rooted to the foot of their respective tables for the entire season?

Being brought up in North Wiltshire, Swindon were always going to be my first love; however after the sale of my boyhood hero, David Moss, to Luton I regularly persuaded my father to make the two hundred mile round trip to Kenilworth Road. As I currently live in Surrey the Hatters are now the nearest of my clubs so last season I saw them 27 times and Swindon, despite it being their promotion campaign, on just 8 occasions. Luton are thus now well established as my first love.

Now I know Swindon were terrible both times they played Luton last season, but they did deserve to go up - honest! And yes, I was supporting Luton on both occasions they met as their need for points was somewhat greater! Both teams, however, at least play the game in the right fashion and need to be encouraged as they chase success against both the odds and the fatter cheque books of their opponents.

So next time you muse on another catastrophic defensive mix up by Captain Peakey and Co, or a missed sitter by any one of our so called attackers (or Ceri Hughes? - Eds), cast a quick glance up at the Premiership and ponder Swindon's fate. And remember, as you drown your sorrows, it could be worse!

Will Sherwood,
Egham, Surrey.

Dear "Mad",

What a good day today (14th August) was. Although we beat the old enemy, 2-1 against nine men wasn't too much to dance in the streets about. Would David Pleat have used any of the subs if Jason Rees hadn't been animalled? For much of the latter stages Martin Williams looked to be struggling. Time to play Hartson? No, we stuck to a tactical game that means subs are used for injuries only.

All of you that voted in the end of season poll against the sub goalkeeper rule. Have you changed your minds? Perhaps we could have continued with an outfield player when Jurgen went off?

Then whilst relaxing with a nice pizza from Pizza Paradise (0525 717010) and a small tot of Boddingtons Draught I saw my name in lights. Mad issue 17, page 14. I agreed with Colin Payne's first point. "Honey I shrunk the Yids" was a big mistake and I'm glad you apologised later. However, Mr Payne's attack on myself and the Czech Republic cannot go unanswered.

The word "Yid" is used by Jews to describe themselves. The phrase "Cry Yid" is a phrase used by a large number of modern Jews to describe the more "sensitive" members of their own race and religion. By complaining that any injustice, however real or assumed, is because they are Jews is actually creating a smoke-screen to hide real injustice and anti-semitism.

Whilst in the Czech Republic I was sent a cutting from "The Guardian" on the subject of Mr Kohler's comments in the "Jewish Chronicle". The cutting was sent byan anti-semite? No, a Jewish friend of mine. The accompanying letter referred to people that "Cry Yid" to get public opinion on their side. My friend used the phrase and so I felt suitably qualified to use it myself in a letter opposing Mr Kohler for bringing racism into the case against his management of Luton Town F.C. Anyone familiar with the tale of "The Boy That Cried Wolf" will not fail to understand where the phrase came from.

I resent being represented as a racist and anti-semite by Colin Payne and I look forward to receiving an apology from him in the next edition of "Mad as a Hatter!". Mr Payne, it's easy to jump to conclusions without knowing all the facts.

As for "perhaps Mr Devall has been living in the Post Communist Europe for a bit too long". What was that all about? Mr Payne do you have any first hand experience of living in the Czech Republic? Perhaps you could enlighten me if you do. The sentence is a slur on the fine people that have worked hard so that they can live in a new society with the freedoms that you enjoy. The comment by Mr Payne insinuates that there is something wrong with their basic society. Perhaps the next time a child is molested or a young woman is attacked or cars are stolen and burned out or youths are mugged for their expensive trainers or yobs spray paint graffiti on the walls in the fine streets of Leighton Buzzard, Mr Payne will reflect that this doesn't happen AT ALL in the CR.

Thanks for the right to reply.

Paul Devall

Flitwick.

Dear "Mad",

Much to my horror there are rumours going around that the pre-match entertainment committee are considering buying a second L.P. to amuse us before games. How dare they presume to know what we want!!

Over the years we've come to know and love the existing L.P., "BBC Sporting Theme Tunes", and greet each tune like an old friend. In fact we thrill to the sheer excitement of "Ski Sunday", link arms to hum along with "Rugby Special" and that jolly little snooker theme never fails to bring a smile to our lips.

I hope that the rumours prove to be unfounded and that we can go on listening to these great melodies for many years to come.

Smiff,

Stevenage.

Never fear. BUYING a second LP? It has to be a rumour. - Eds.

Dear "Mad",

As you can see by my address I have entered into the dark world of the student. Apart from other things, this means my once regular trips to the dear old Ken will now be cut to once a month if I'm lucky. Apart from the 5-0 win against Barnsley this is probably a good thing. Have Bristol City become our bogey side or what? (along with most other First Division clubs come to think of it). This also means my news of comings and goings at Luton are limited. I gather we've signed Dixon - I don't know whether to laugh or cry, but if you ever need convincing about the man, watch Chelsea's 89-90 season video, which also includes a certain Alan Harper conceding a penalty for Sheffield Wednesday and scoring an own goal which incredibly didn't make it o to Danny Bakers vid. Can't wait to see the new kit in action, it looks a real cracker. Talking of kits, in the programme v. Forest old John 'Smiling' Smiley said to look out for a feature on Lutons kit in Standing Room Only (crap this year). It must have been a flamin' short feature.

Being in Swansea gives me the dubious privilege of being able to watch 'The Swans'. The Vetch is an absolutely hilarious ground, worse than the Ken, its stands have been chopped in half, unfinished, forgotten and unpainted. By a stroke of genius on someones behalf the prison is situated right next door, a certain way of keeping the inmates interested in a breakout. Still, I pray to Sir Bert Millichips mysterious 'split ping pong ball' eyes that Luton get drawn away to Swansea in the 3rd round of the F.A. Cup, or Swansea get promoted, hey! or Luton get releg..... no perhaps not. Anyway, I'll be making an emotional return to the Ken, v. Leicester, and those daft buggers in the white better had pulled their fingers out by then (I always was a dreamer).

Hedd ap Sion,

U.C. of Swansea

P.S. Where the bloody hell is Ricky Harvey? Injured, out for the season. - Eds

Dear "Mad",

By a stroke of luck, I have managed to discover the reasons behind our illustrious left back playing to an even lower standard than we saw from him at the start of his first team career.

He is, and the proof is attached (see below), an ageing American songster whose hits dried up almost fifteen years ago. (Err, wasn't 1969 almost 25 years ago? Eds) Please pass this information on to the relevant authorities within the club. (Isn't there a danger that they may see this as an opportunity to make another club record? - Eds).

Finally, may I ask you to suggest to your readers that we unite together in stopping the "Marvin for England" chants. Sadly, I think the tongue in cheek nature of said outbursts are lost on the player in question - he's clearly taken them as serious and feels he no longer needs to prove himself.

Where's Steve Buckley when we need him most?

Yours

Julian O'Dell

Eaton Socon, Cambs.

Marv JOHNSON US, male vocalist

12 Feb 60	● YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES	London HLT 9013.....
5 May 60	I LOVE THE WAY YOU LOVE	London HLT 9109.....
11 Aug 60	AIN'T GONNA BE THAT WAY	London HLT 9156.....
22 Jan 69	● I'LL PICK A ROSE FOR MY ROSE	Tamla Motown TMG 680.....
25 Oct 69	I MISS YOU BABY	Tamla Motown TMG 713.....

Dear "Mad",

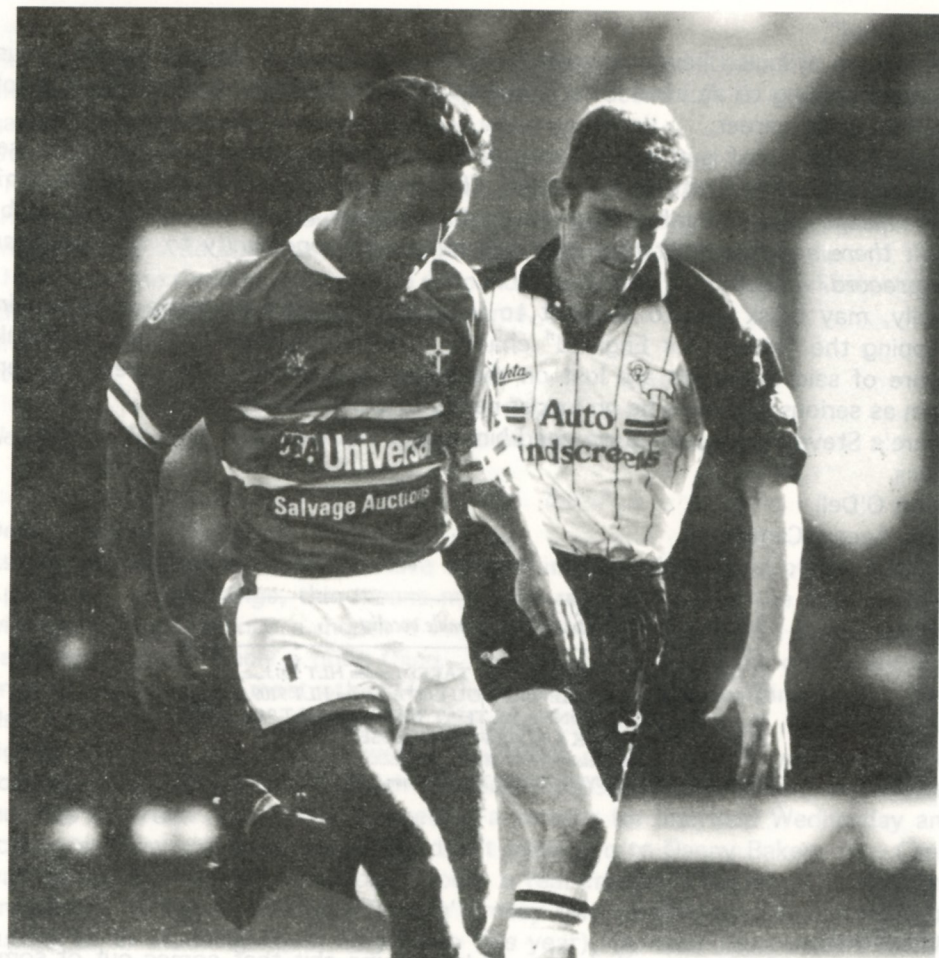
As I stand on the Kenilworth terraces I hear some shit that comes out of some peoples mouths. I attended the first game of the season against W*****d, he makes a mistake and loses the ball and people call him every name under the sun. He scores a goal (a brilliant one) and he is, all of a sudden, God. I'm talking about Kerry Dixon, before and after he scored against W*****d.

People like this really piss me off. For Gods sake every man on the pitch wants to win for their team and we have a young team who I think will do well this year. Get behind the team, give them support and we'll be up where we belong, the Premier League.

A faithful and loyal fan.

J.M. Block

Marston Moretaine, Beds.



One of these is a crap winger. Guess Who? (Clue: The crap one cost over £1 million).

THE MATCH REPORTS (PART 1)

14.08.93 TOWN 2 WATFORD 1 *IS THAT ALL THEY TAKE AWAY..?*

This was without a doubt one of the more exciting derby games in recent years and there could have been more goals but for two of the goalkeepers (were it not for the third there may have been less). The Horns (oo-er) had already used both subs when Ashby received a thoroughly deserved red card for his assault on Preece. We all cheered but some of us remembered that Pleat reckons its more difficult to play against 10 men. Early in the second half Shepherd was finally beaten as Telfer easily slotted home Oakes' cross. As pressure on their defence mounted Drysdale took out his frustration on Jason Rees and got another well deserved red card. With the opposition down to nine men we should have walked it, but this is Luton we're talking about. As Town struggled to look like they had a numeric advantage Dixon scored a superb goal that will be one of the best of the season and probably enough to warrant a contract to next May. The final twist of fate came when Sommer was injured and we all saw a substitute keeper used for the first time. Some wag suggested it was Pleats way of evening up the sides, and may have been right as Petterson dived in the wrong place and let the scum get one back.

Overall this was the most incident packed derby match for a long while and made up for the bore draw last April. As for Ashby and Drysdale my advice is; Next time pick on somebody your own size.

Ken Ross

17.08.93 CAMBRIDGE UNITED 1 TOWN 0

Luton have developed a strange gameplan for cup matches and played it perfectly here. Ian Benjamin, allegedly, did everything the great leader asked of him, which can't have been very much. But to be fair there were 10 others who did sod all as well.

K.F.H.

21.08.93 POMPEY 1 TOWN 0 *NO NEED TO PANIC!*

Throwing away points is damned frustrating, but it HAPPENS. We should have taken a point, as we had four good chances. Good performances came from Sommer, Dreyer, James (YES!), and Hughes (just). We failed to deal with the constant threat from the Pompey right wing, and Marvin should have been given a man marking role, but otherwise - no need to panic!

The Major Oak

24.08.93 TOWN 0 CAMBRIDGE UNITED 1

Another cup run ends. John Dreyer told Anglia TV the performance was abysmal. Who am I to disagree?

P.J. Smith

28.08.93 TOWN 1 FOREST 2

GRACE UNDER PRESSURE...

Well, it seems we've shaken off the 'draw syndrome', only to be replaced by the 'we wuz robbed' one. I can't believe the manager took off Ceri Hughes 'cos he was tired, as we looked half a team without him. John Hartson MUST now be a regular starter, and Kerry Dixon should be bought - we still have a long way to go. Martin Williams should be out wide, and given the service to terrorise defenders with his pace - given this we'll be OK.

The Major Oak

31.08.93 WATFORD 2 TOWN 1

What would be nicer than beating Watford twice in the matter of a month? During the 90 minutes of play we created numerous chances, including a handful of one on ones against the goalkeeper. Preece scored with a shot from outside the Watford box which equalised a rather scrappy goal we had conceded earlier. As the chances continued to go begging I'm sure most Luton fans thought we would at least take away a draw from this match. A late goal brought us all down to earth. Hopefully we will see some better finishing on December 18th.

M.I.

07.09.93 TOWN 1 SOUTHEND UNITED 1

Absolutely dire stuff. Two inept sides plumbing new depths of ineptness. The goals did nothing to rescue the game and the "crowd" went home sorely displeased.

K.F.H.

11.09.93 HAPLESS HATTERS 0 BONZER BOLTON 2

BRAVADO!

The gulf between these two teams was embarrassing. I don't know about you, but I'm fed up and it's time jobs were put on the line. Fact of the matter is that we did not compete enough, and our fate will be sealed by Christmas if it continues. Tough times demand tough talk, and it's time to look at the example of others, notably Southend, and stop the ROT! How quickly things change.....

The Major Oak

14.08.93 TRANMERE ROVERS 4 TOWN 1

Although the end result was disappointing, the overall team performance was a considerable improvement compared with recent weeks. The game also marked the best game Ian Benjamin played for Luton. A goal and hitting the crossbar in a performance that could with a little more luck have ended in a hat trick. Strange then that the same player should be sold soon after especially when considering the shortage of forwards currently at the club. *(Benjamin playing well? Is this a wind up? Just because my car only lasted the first 15 miles of the journey you think I'll believe anything. - Ed)*

P.I.

18.09.93 MIDDLESBROUGH 0 TOWN 0

A well earned point away from home with a number of impressive performances and a little assistance from Lady Luck for good measure. Jason Rees missed Lutons best chance when through on goal but overall a point was gained rather than two lost.

P.I.

25.09.93 BRUMMIES 1 TOWN 1

YYEEAARRGGHH!

The saying "sick as a parrot" springs to mind, when 3 minutes from time Ceri Hughes contrives not to nick us all three points. Having done the hard bit by brilliantly beating two defenders, Ceri misses 8 yards of goalmouth. Even the Blues supporters were amazed! Otherwise, for the first 20 and last 10 minutes we looked good. Good performances came from Sommer (even though he missed the corner they scored from), Hughes (forgive him - what else can we do?), Oakes, Ol' J.J. (just!), and yes Hartson had 3 efforts cleared or saved on the line - don't knock it.

The Major Oak

02.10.93 HATTERS 5 BARNSELY 0

YIPPEEE.....AT LAST!

Luton were NAILS and destroyed ten men Barnsley at a canter. It was on the cards from the moment ol' J.J. single handedly took apart the Barnsley defence, and was cruelly, no viciously razed. He had his revenge with the goal of the game later on - good stuff. Hartson started the rout with a well taken goal, and was unfortunate to have another disallowed. Scotty Oakes smashed in two and sub Houghton got the other, in a game in which Sommer had little to do but applaud the goals. Man of the match - Ceri Hughes.....

The Major Oak

05.10.93 TOWN 0 BRISTOL CITY 2

This game had 0-0 written all over it, which went hand in hand with a damp and dreary Tuesday night. The match turned round in 2 minutes after half time when Marvin Johnson proceeded to present the City fans with an early Xmas gift. Marvin tried to head back a long ball down field but played it only into the path of a City player who he promptly shoved in the back. Penalty, and we were one-nil down. Just to make his evening complete he was promptly caught out of position a couple of minutes later, two-nil. We could have played all night and wouldn't have got any nearer to scoring than Paul Telfers header against the bar.

M.I.

09.10.93 DERBY COUNTY 2 TOWN 1 RICH AND POOR

If Derby was the only available evidence, the transfer market would collapse tomorrow. Never before can such an expensive load of crap have been assembled. Their supporters seemed to think we were crap, but at least we were cheap, which means we've got better excuses, like butterfingers Sommer gifting the first goal. Overall a fairly poor game.

K.F.H.

16.10.93 TOWN 1 NOTTS COUNTY 0 HEADS WE WIN....

The biggest mystery of this game was how we only got one goal when we had enough chances to have scored 4 or 5. Still I'll forgive John Hartson as he's only young, and there will be plenty of goals in years to come, hopefully plenty of them for Luton. The next biggest mystery was how the referee, John Brandwood, managed to make the game last so long. This was refereeing that could be classified as bizarre, and made a good case for the introduction of official timekeepers. Dickov's header was a gem and this boy will go far. One day he'll get sent off and the headline writers will be clamouring to use "DICK-OFF" but now I'll be able to say they ripped me off.

K.F.H.

20.10.93 SUNDERLAND 2 TOWN 0 A PYRRHIC VICTORY?

From 2-0 up in 20 minutes, it looked for all the world like being a rout. But Town got their act together and became the stronger side as the game went on. On a seriously col night we (us on the terrace, that is) could have done without the 20 minute half time break while Jurgen was being sewn up, and it may have been that rest that enabled Sunderland to do the same with the result. A good day out

(3 GBG listed pubs) but a bad first 20 minutes and a bad result. Ho hum!
Luton Man of the Match - Marvin, he played well when you consider he was up against an ex-con all night.

KFH/NJG

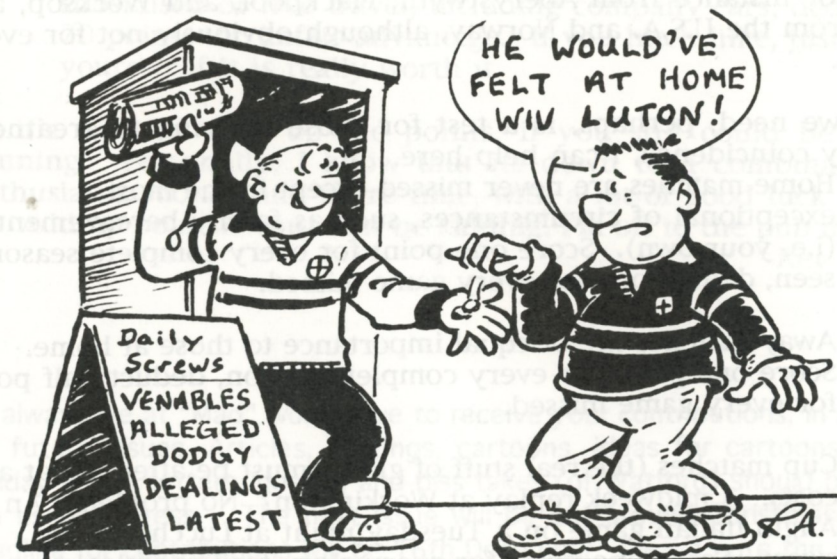
23.10.93 OXFORD UNITED 2 LUTON TOWN 5 OR SHOULD THAT BE 0-1?

Relief: An away win at last for Luton Ultras, I mean Luton Town. Thank goodness none of our players made more than on foul otherwise we would not have had 11 men on the pitch at the end. Super goal by Ceri but the surprise was that the ref didn't book him for scoring.

When was the last time the numbers on the backs of the 3 most forward players in a team added up to 77?

Weren't Oxford terrible though? Even we shouldn't finish below them this season.....I hope.

Wheels



Luton's Number One

The local press particularly the Luton News, have recently managed to get a lot of mileage out of the subject of Luton's (allegedly) number one fan. Quite why the media get this urge to name some hapless individual as such, whilst making the victim appear some kind of certifiable nutcase is difficult to see, but it is probably linked to the supposed British love of eccentrics.

Qualification for the title has been based on being name checked in a best selling book, receiving a get well card from the team, and owning one of the heaviest scarves in all Christendom. All these and more are good reasons to be considered, but then you can go over the top. Had I missed a sisters wedding for a football match, forgiveness would still be somewhere beyond the horizon. Don't get me wrong, I have the greatest of admiration for all these people, and as much as them spend almost every waking hour considering the Hatters Plight/success/prospects (delete as appropriate). Overall the standards for judging this position vary enormously with one persons 'part-timer' being another persons 'lunatic'. Also some people travel vast distances to see the Town play, for instance from Aberystwyth, Blackpool, and Worksop, and even from the U.S.A. and Norway, although obviously not for every match.

What we need, perhaps, is a test for those aspiring to greatness, and, by coincidence, I can help here.

- ◆ Home matches are never missed except in the most exceptional of circumstances, such as family bereavement (i.e. your own). Score one point for every complete season seen, deduct one for every game missed.
- ◆ Away matches are of equal importance to those at home. Score one point for every complete season, deduct half point for every game missed.
- ◆ Cup matches (the real stuff of glory) must be attended at all costs. A midweek replay at Workington? No problem. An Anglo Italian game on a Tuesday night at Lucchese? No sweat. Score one point for every glory trail completed, max 3 per season, 3 bonus points for every cup game in 87-88, 5 for every cup game in 1959.

- ◆ Reserve/Youth games. I've been generous here as some people seem to have to work for a living (it's a hard life)! As a dedicated fan deduct 5 points if you can't recognise at least 9 members of the reserve team and 5 of the youth team without the aid of the programme.
- ◆ Souvenirs. Are you the type who must wear something every day to show your loyalty? A club tie at Weddings, a replica shirt to the pub, a scarf and bobble hat on the way to work. Does your tea break come complete with Luton Town mug? Yes? Does nothing embarrass you? Score 10 points for dedication.
- ◆ Family. Do you have a child under the age of two enrolled as a Junior Hatter? If so, score 5 points. (Nephews and Nieces may be included). No points for other children, and no points for wives, girlfriends or mistresses, unless you bring any two to matches together, in which case score 5 points for sheer guts! (That's husbands, boyfriends and lovers for our lady readers).
- ◆ On the other hand if you travel to away games by virtue of subsidised or free travel, including company cars, deduct 20 points for unfair advantage. If you hitch hike, just ask yourself if it is really worth it.

So it's time to tally up the points, if you still could be in the running. Personally, I know that its down to a combination of enthusiasm, money and spare time, with a lot of good luck thrown in. Add up points? You must be kidding, I'm off to the pub instead.

Kev Smyler

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 around Christmas, and the deadline for contributions will be 16th December. Please note the change of editorial address.

BOOK REVIEW

Aerofilms Guide: Football Grounds

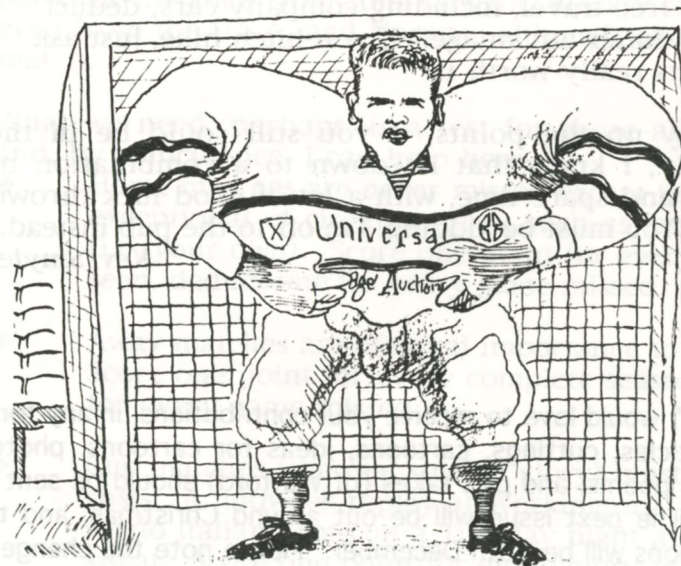
This book will probably appeal to most football fans, but at the same time it suffers from this, in that the book seems to lack a real identity. It is attempting to be, on the one hand a pictorial essay of the league grounds, and on the other hand a travelling supporters guide. In the case of the former its only fault lies in trying to be the latter, and in the case of the latter it is as good as any other example on the market. In my humble opinion it could have been better at both, and hopefully will be in future editions. With a smaller typeface for the text, and line drawings to indicate away supporters entrances, club shops etc and the addition of names of stands and 'ends', and this should become a valued addition to every supporters bookshelf. As it is it is one most groundhoppers will not want to be without.

(Aerofilms Guide: Football Grounds, Dial Press, £9.99)

K.F.H.



Ceri Hughes (above) prepares to put the ball into row Z, while (below) No 19 flounders in the wake of a Ram.



I DON'T THINK THERE'S AN FA RULING TO SAY HE MUST WEAR TRADITIONAL KEEPERS OUTFIT. ANYHOW JUERGEN IS AMERICAN AND IT MIGHT JUST STOP THE GOALS GOING IN.



Pat Food

READ MAD AS A HATTER

AWAYDAY IN WILTSHIRE

12.10.93 Swindon Town Res v Luton Town Res

After the first teams disappointing results on their travels over the first weeks of the season I concluded that the only chance of seeing a Town victory away from Kenilworth Road was to watch the reserve team who were comfortably nestled at the top of the Neville Ovenden Combination. So it was, that I set off to see them in action at Swindon, where I was born and raised, on the 12th October.

The Town team included six players with recent first team experience, as opposed to only three from Swindon. Is this a new tactical ploy? Has Mr Kohler declared that Luton's objective for the 1993-94 season is to be best at being second best? Anyway in driving rain Town started well despite Marvellous Marvin doing his best to gift Swindon an early lead. Aunger and Gentle played some neat stuff moving forward and Scott Houghton ran at Swindon powerfully. Jason Rees exerted his influence on the midfield as Luton continued to look the most likely side to score. Ex-Hatter Steve White, now nearing OAP-land and continuing to pull his shorts up to chin level, bundled Rees over in an off the ball incident on the half hour and was cautioned as a result.

Three corners in as many minutes at the end of the half led to Luton securing a deserved lead. A corner from the left was flicked on at the near post and Martin Williams found the space in the six yard box to nod home.

Swindon started brightly after the interval and full back Kevin Horlock came close to equalising. Neil Ryan meanwhile was looking composed and fired narrowly over from twenty yards after a long run. Marvin, after being largely anonymous since his early blunder, was booked after an hour for a reckless challenge but turned saviour moments later by heading off the line with Andy Petterson well beaten.

The final quarter of an hour, with conditions worsening considerably, saw a flurry of activity. Ryan and Houghton both went close before the Town lead was extended. Good work by substitute Tony Thorpe released Williams on the right and Houghton it was who smashed the cross home at the far post after it had eluded the home defence. This was the signal for a Swindon revival with Petterson producing the best save of the game to keep out a delicate chip by Marcus Phillips. Conceding late goals is obviously something well rehearsed on the playing fields of Luton and the reserves duly obliged. White it was who found acres of space in the box to narrow the deficit in the last minute. Injury time saw Swindon seek an unlikely draw but despite two corners Town held on for a victory, which other results permitting, could see them go top of the table.

Financial matters aside, Luton are still producing the talent to give hope for the future. All we need is a sound basis from which to develop, something Mr Kohler is obviously not prepared to give - Ryan, Rees and Aunger all stood out, as did Thorpe after coming on for the last half hour.

One final note: the only other guy there sporting a Luton scarf proceeded to watch most of the game from the rain soaked open terrace, while us more sane creatures sat in the warmth and dry of the main stand: further evidence that us Luton devotees truly are as mad as hatters!

TOWN TEAM: Petterson, Ryan, Sansom, Rees, Philp, Johnson, Houghton, Campbell, Williams, Aunger, Gentle, SUBS: Thorpe, Woolgar.

SCORERS: Williams (41 mins) 0-1, Houghton (81 mins) 0-2, White (90 mins) 1-2.

Will Sherwood



SHOP TALK

D.M.F. Sportswear would probably be the first to admit that they are some way short of the reputation and recognition level of Umbro and Adidas, after all these things take time to build up, but credit where it's due. Since they took over the club shop at Kenilworth Road the range of goods has improved markedly in terms of choice, and is now based on clothing worn by football supporters rather than TV presenters. There is still room for improvement (the very tacky embroidered badge on the Mk2 polo shirt, for instance) but at least a genuine effort is being made. And what's more the service now comes with a smile and a friendly word instead of a scowl and a grunt (no names necessary). Things could be looking up.

P.J. Smith

SAXBY'S SHORTS

Luton Manager David Pleat appeared in court this week on a charge of driving a football team without due care and attention. After being found guilty he said "I'm not too upset at the £300 fine but I've asked for the six points I was given to go straight to the team".

The judge involved in the case has ordered psychiatric reports on anyone seen leaving Kenilworth Road after home games.

The judge is 72 years old.



Confirmation has been received that Marvin Johnson will appear as the beanstalk in this years pantomime at the Luton Palladium.

Unfortunately, the director was unable to secure the Bolton winger David Lee so all those who like to shout "BEHIND YOU" will be disappointed.

Marvin Johnson is over 6 feet tall.



Legal wrangles persist over Luton Town's recent tax return. The clubs claim to have spent over £9.00 on records for pre match entertainment, in the last 3 years, have been described by the Inland Revenue as "a piss poor exaggeration".

Club entertainment manager Ted Hovis said "we did spend that much, but I can't prove it as they didn't give receipts at the car boot sale where I got the records".

A club spokesman later said "We are very unhappy with Mr Hovis. The last time we sent him out to buy a long player he returned with Ian Benjamin, quite possibly from the same car boot sale."

Ted is 64 and (now) unemployed.

Stig

COMPETITIONS

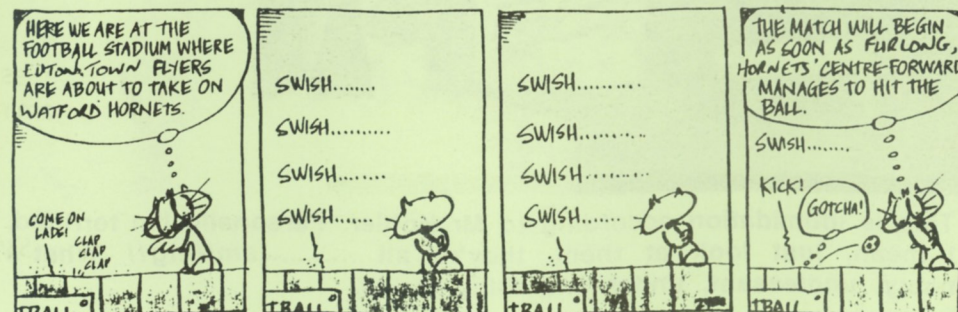
The competition in issue 16 was obviously far too tough judging by the number of entries received, none of which was correct. Winner, with two wrong answers, was Peter Holmes of Nottingham who will be receiving something from the exciting range of Luton Town leisure wear. If we've got our act together (if....) he may already have received it. Andrew Collins of Bedford gets a consolation prize having lost on a technicality.

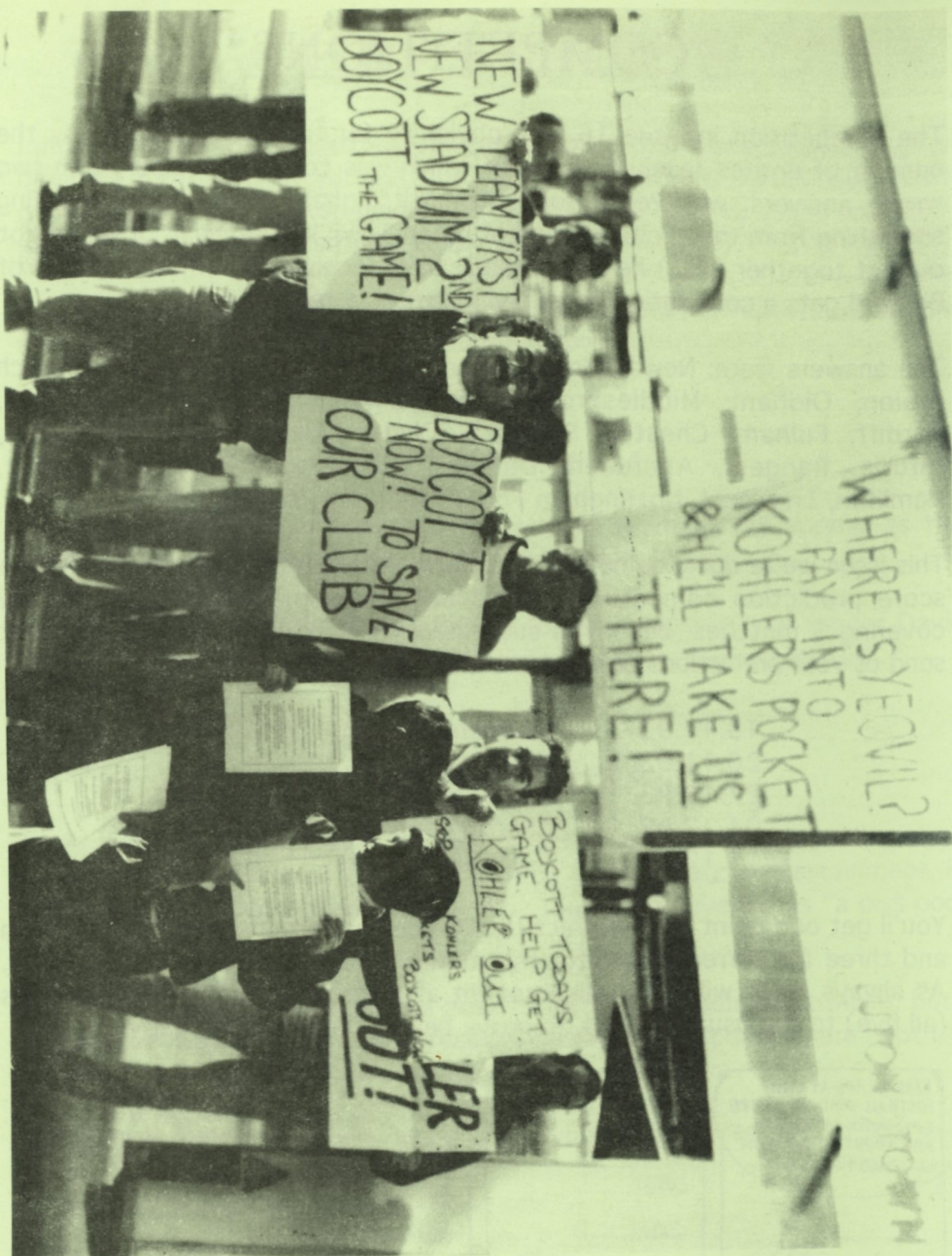
The answers were: Newcastle, Leicester, Stoke, Coventry, West Bromwich Albion, Oldham, Middlesbrough, Motherwell, Bury, Crewe, Lincoln, Cardiff, Fulham, Chester, Swansea, Clyde, Queens Park, Alloa, Ayr, Airdrie, Rangers, Aberdeen, Dundee, Dumbarton, Brechin, Berwick, Hamilton, Liverpool, Nottingham Forest, Barnsley, Aston Villa.

This issue we're doing something different. Instead of the quiz format, it's a score prediction competition. This one, experimental as it is, is only covering 5 matches, but if it's successful we'll extend it next time. Just send us your predictions of the scores at the following matches:

13.11.93	Southend United	A
20.11.93	Wolves	H
27.11.93	Stoke City	H
04.12.93	Charlton Athletic	A
11.12.93	Tranmere Rovers	H

You'll get one point for a correct result, one for correct goals for one team and three for correct score for the match. We'll give results in issue 19. As always there will be a much sought after prize. Send your predictions (all five) to the usual address, to arrive before the Southend game.





This is intimidation according to Mr Kohler. Personally I'm terrified, I mean, just look at them, they're all*smiling!!* What a nasty, unpleasant, underhand thing to do.