

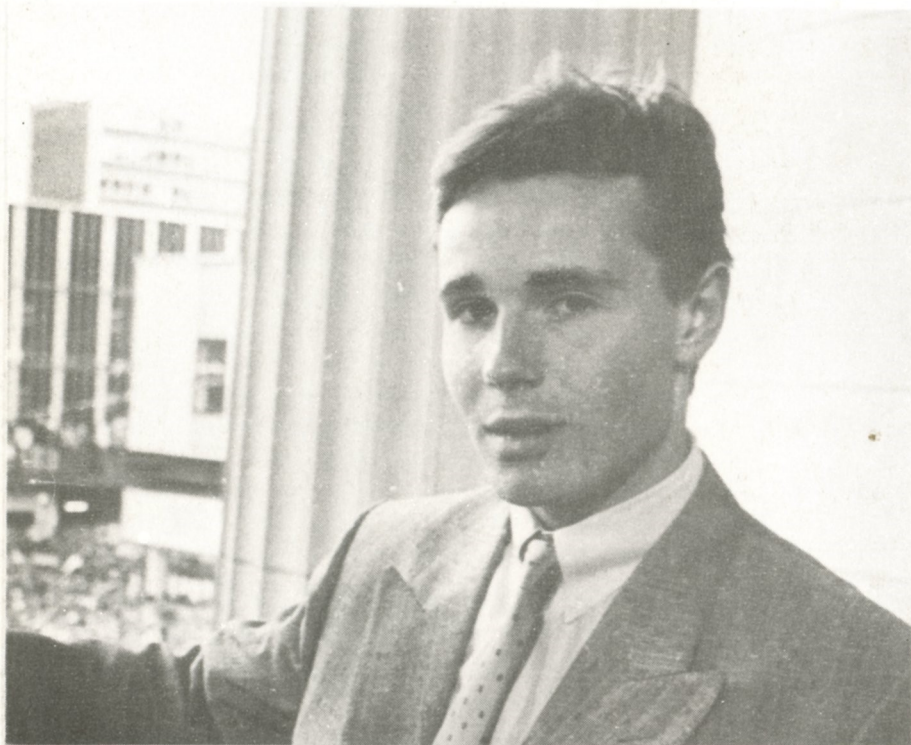
Issue 2

Price 50p

MAD AS A HATTER!



A LUTON TOWN FANZINE



Kingsley –

Towns two goal hero.

MAD AS A HATTER!



30 Linden Road, Dunstable, Beds, LU5 4NZ.

Editorial team: Andy Collon, Keith Hayward, Phil Ivinson, Mark Ivinson, Geoff Smith, Paul Tindle, Dave Kirby. Glory hunter: Nick Gazeley.

All material contained in this publication is copyright of "Mad as a Hatter!" so please don't rip us off. The views expressed herein are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors. Anyone who feels offended, misrepresented or misquoted by material in this publication will be given the right of reply.

In addition to our sellers around the ground, "Mad as a Hatter!" can be obtained from:
Sportspages Bookshop, London.
AFN Distribution, London.
Selectadisc, Nottingham.

It is also available on subscription at 50p per issue (plus SAE) or £3.00 for the next 5 issues including postage. Cheques should be made payable to "Mad as a Hatter!"

Next "Mad" will be out on:

27 October

Editorial

At the time of writing the new season is still a full two weeks away, but the activity of late summer is beginning to resemble what we expect for 8½ months to come. In the case of the Town, the first two friendlies have been played, both resulting in wins against what is politely termed "lesser" opponents. Stirling Albion took on the first team, while Barton Rovers gave the reserves quite a good game. The strangest aspect of these two matches is that while the club is to rely heavily on younger players for the first division season, the most experienced professional on the club's books was playing at Barton, not with the first team in Scotland. Following the sale of Danny Wilson to Sheffield Wednesday we heard that the club had pulled out of negotiations for Israeli Shalom Tikva, which suggests that the chances of signing a class midfield player are even more remote. All the more reason for resolving the differences between club and Williams. The differences must be major as "Willo" was apparently not even considered when the Youth team (or something resembling it) played at Villa last term. If we are to be treated to the "best midfielder in the world" being exclusively a reserve team player, we should be told why. Honesty and truth from club to supporters has been in short supply over the past seasons, let us hope that now that the club is under new management this will change. Perhaps the case of Steve Williams could be a test case, or perhaps the truth is too awful to contemplate. Is he really a Watford fan ?????

We at "Mad as a Hatter!" will be with you throughout the season, looking at all sides of the Town, having a few laughs, criticising, praising and questioning. We would welcome any contributions, letters and comments which should be sent to the address on page 2.

THAT TEAM!

1 Willie Carrick			
2 Wayne Turner	5 David Carr	6 Forbes Phillipson -Masters	3 Richard Money
7 John Collins	4 David Court	11 Ray Daniel	
8 Steve Taylor	9 Steve White	10 Peter Spiring	
Sub: Marc North			

What a team eh!. And how many do you wish you could forget?

Lets look at them more carefully.

No 1. WILLIE CARRICK Little remembered goalkeeper from the early 70's. Was obviously crap though. In 1973 Harry Haslam preferred to play Keith Barber with a broken leg rather than risk Willie at Sunderland in an F.A. Cup quarter final tie.

No 2. WAYNE TURNER Fondly remembered local lad who guested either in defence or midfield. To be honest he eventually became goodish but who can forget those inept early performances. During his 21 appearances in the 82/83 season he only occasionally passed the ball to a Luton player but it was always Richard Money who then kicked the ball into the Bobbers.

No 3. RICHARD MONEY Big money (for Luton at the time) signing from Liverpool so must be good. But he wasn't. He couldn't tackle, in fact he couldn't even mistime a tackle and get booked. Was only able to distribute the ball into the Bobbers Stand, he couldn't even get the ball over it.

No 4. DAVID COURT 1970 and we've reached Division Two; the huge sum of £35,000 is handed to Arsenal for a First Division player and, yes thats right, he's crap. Made Mike Keen look dynamic and two seasons later he's off on a free.

No 5. DAVID CARR Absolutely useless defender who occasionally broke sweat. Fondly remembered for that super diving, glancing header into the roof of the net at West Ham - it was their winner!

No 6. FORBES PHILLIPSON-MASTERS Loan signing from Plymouth, I believe. He probably wasn't really that bad but worth including for his hyphen. Possibly the worst hyphen to appear in a Luton shirt and also, just possibly, the largest number of initials.

No 7. JOHN COLLINS In the late sixties my elder brother took me to Luton and shouted words I'd never heard before at Mr Collins. I've since used them myself to describe the sadly departed David Evans and Brian Cole. I can therefore only conclude that John Collins is a worthy member of 'That Team'.

No 8. STEVE TAYLOR Totally useless forward who came from up north and luckily soon buggered off back up there. Did score that crucial fourth in a 4-1 victory over Burnley - I'm sure the ball accidentally hit him and went in.

No 9. STEVE WHITE Perhaps a surprise choice in view of those goals in the championship season. But we know better, don't we? Known to the Maple as "Squiddly" due to his total lack of ball control - it was reckoned that he would need at least eight legs all flying in different directions, before he could get that damn ball under control. Incredibly he's still playing, and scoring, as I write.

No 10. PETER SPIRING A panic signing and typical piece of Luton business. You know, get rid of the bloke who scores (Barry Butlin) and when no goals are going in, spend most of the cash received on a slow footed pillock (Peter Spiring). Recalled for appearing in an away game programme team line-ups as Peter Spring - interesting, huh!

No 11. RAY DANIEL Robust, tough-tackling midfield strong man. Well, as long as it wasn't windy in which case he blew around the pitch. I fondly recall the quarter final Cup replay at Everton when with the Town 1-0 down he managed to hit the post when the whole goal was gaping. Became a firm favourite after that.

No 12. MARC NORTH Was able to play in almost any position and therefore an ideal sub. The only thing was that whatever position he was chosen to play in he managed to perform like Stacey North - need I say more.

Well thats it, the team that comes back to haunt me during those dark 90 minutes.

Let's hope we never see anything like them again.

Martin, Critics Corner.

JOCKSPOT

Consistency is the key to success in football, why not ask Scotland, after all, no-one can deny Scotland for not being consistent, especially when it comes to playing in the World Cup finals. Disasters in 1974, 78, 82, and 86, and a tremendous build up to Italia 90 with home defeats against those footballing wizards from Egypt and the superb unbeatable East Germans (who didn't even make it to the finals) gave every Scotsman hope for another unsuccessful championship.

They weren't to be disappointed, were they? Costa Rica have undoubtedly some talented individual players, but can hardly be called a force in World football, yet our friends from north of Mr Hadrian's Wall somehow managed to cock it up, when it really mattered. The win over Sweden, as good as it was, was only a delay in the inevitable. Scotland without a doubt played well against Brazil but you always felt that the then favourites would snatch it, and so they did. A good quick shot, the renowned Leighton fumble and good bye Scotland.



Mo Johnston was a rare Scotland success in Italia 90.

After all the excitement of the World Cup, especially in Scotland, we can now settle back and look forward to the domestic League and cup season.

My reliable, unbiased predictions for the coming Premier League season, are for Rangers to win the League title, and Celtic to do well to avoid relegation, and Rangers to win both the Skol and Scottish cup competitions. Any rumours you may hear between now and the next issue of "Mad as a Hatter!" that I am a committed Rangers supporter are completely untrue.

Italia '90

The World Cup began with three favourites from Europe in West Germany, Holland and the hosts Italy, whilst Brazil would provide the main South American threat and Argentina, with players perhaps a little past their best hoping to be the first South American side to win the World Cup in Europe since Brazil's success in Sweden.

The hopes of England, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland told three very different stories. The Republic of Ireland with the inspirational Jack Charlton were tipped for the quarter finals, along with England, although it was clear that they would emerge as heroes to a man no matter what progress was made. The main talk surrounding the Scottish team was that it was one of the weakest squads in recent years and they weren't expected to be away from home too long. Meanwhile the English press were doing their best to destroy the team's chances of success with scandal seeming to follow Bobby Robson wherever he went.

In the first round, Scotland were to provide their fans with an unfortunate early exit. A 1-0 defeat to Costa Rica did their chances no good at all and despite a surprise win over Sweden, the lads were to be on the plane home after the game against Brazil when a Jim Leighton error spoilt a feverish defensive performance ten minutes from time.

England and the Republic of Ireland provided one of the worst games of the tournament whilst in the same group Egypt, in drawing with Holland, proved that their win against Scotland in a pre-tournament friendly was no fluke. In their next game they were again to draw, this time with Eire. Against Holland England played superbly and were rather unfortunate not to take two points. With four teams on two points from two games one began to wonder who would break the deadlock and win a game. The honours eventually went to England with a poor performance providing a 1-0 win over Egypt with the sweeper system that had worked so effectively against Holland being surprisingly dropped. Holland and Eire were to play out a draw to ensure qualification.

Highlights of the other first round group matches were provided by Cameroon beating Argentina in the first game despite finishing with 9 men. They were of course to go on to

win the group. Argentina were to be rather lucky in qualifying in third place with Maradona being helped by the 'hand of god' in his own penalty area against Russia with the ref only yards away. The first round also provided the inevitable progress of Italy and West Germany and other European counterparts. The United Arab Emirates and U.S.A. not surprisingly failed to pick up a point although the American goal against the Czechs was one of the better goals of the tournament. Surprising early exits at this stage were made by Austria, U.S.S.R., and Sweden.

The second round of the tournament was to provide no real shocks except for Brazils disappointing exit. Lady luck was though to appear for both Argentina and England, who were to progress further only after being saved by the woodwork. Cameroon were to progress past Colombia, whose players seemed to favour "Lenny the Lion" haircuts. Roger Miller, at 38, was proving to be something of a supersub although his dancing was quite as convincing as his goalscoring touch.

David O'Leary was to disperse the popular myth of Arsenal fullbacks missing important penalties by putting Eire in the quarter finals. The Holland - West Germany match was marred by two sendings off and quite disgraceful behaviour by Rijkaard in using Voller as target practice.

In the quarter finals, Eires tournament progress was sadly ended by the host country. England came from behind to beat Cameroon with two Gary Lineker penalties. Town centres were demolished throughout England as a consequence! West Germany progressed in an uninspiring game against the Czechs, and Argentinas luck held out in a penalty shoot out against Yugoslavia despite Maradona missing.

The semi final line up was therefore Italy the hosts against Argentina the holders, and West Germany versus England. Both matches went to extra time and penalties with the teams progressing being West Germany and Argentina. Italy and England were extremely unlucky not to progress to the final although the decision of the England lads not to practice penalties did seem rather unfortunate.

The third place play off was to see Englands hopes of a place on the podium dashed by a cruel penalty decision. The final was to prove even less inspiring and was decided by a

solitary penalty with the Germans emerging as winners. Argentina contributed very little to the game except by having two players sent off although West Germanys specialist divers did not help their cause.

Overall the highlights of this World Cup were to be found in many areas. England were to re-establish themselves as a world force with young players such as Platt & Gazza playing superbly. If the sweeper system is maintained they can only go from strength to strength. Eire acquitted themselves well whilst Scotland were to crash out rather too quickly as did Bryan Robson. If you recall, this double was exclusively predicted in the first issue of "Mad as a Hatter!". African football emerged as a force and will inevitably lead to calls for a third place to be made available for African countries in time for the next World Cup in America.

The tournament was however marred by 165 bookings and 16 dismissals which was to invariably affect so many games. England were to win the fair play award with Eire, Scotland and England all doing themselves credit by not becoming involved in the increasing spectacle of play acting.

New costumes were in abundance with many goalkeeping kits seeming little more than colourful beachwear, as endorsed by goalkeepers from Austria, Egypt, Belgium and Argentina. Lets hope goalkeepers in the first division do not follow this craze but maintain their presence in a traditional green jersey. Supporters on the whole seemed to be well behaved with many girls from Brazil showing a particularly lethal strike force.

On the whole the tournament was rather disappointing from a footballing aspect and clearly was not helped by such guidelines to referees from F.I.F.A. such as ensuring players had their shirts tucked in and socks rolled up. One can only hope that America in four years time provides a far better festival of football, and hope that at the end of it all the England lads can make another return visit to Luton, and hopefully bring the trophy with them.

P.I.

A-Z of the Hopeless Hornets

- A... Away Support - something they never brought to Luton
- B... Bassett - my favourite Watford Manager
- C... Callaghan - Kirk Stephen's rabbit
- D... Donkeys - Watford often field 11 of these
- E... England - who'll never pick another Hopeless Hornet
- F... Fourth - where they belong
- G... Grimsby - just 1 of the 91 better sides in the League
- H... Hopeless - sums them up
- I... Invisible - Watford's support
- J... Joker - also known as Steve Sherwood
- K... Kit - their's is bloody awful
- L... Luther - England's worst - ever striker
- M... Marathon - getting to their visitor's section
- N... Nil - as in "I always thought they were called Watford Nil"
- O... Over-the-top - the Herts constabulary
- P... Penalty - frequently the only way they could score against Town
- Q... Quicksilver - like Wilf Rostron
- R... Rugby - a game mere suited to Watford's style
- S... Senior - the goal-machine
- T... Terry - a fine centre-half
- U... Upset - a Watford draw
- V... Victory - a rare event for the Hopeless Hornets
- W... Wembley - only one appearance
- X... X-rated - like Watford v Wimbledon
- Y... Yesterdays - where Watford supporters live
- Z... Zero - the number of goals Watford have scored at Wembley

The Great Escape

In all the best films the condemned man's final day dawns hot, sunny and cloudless. As was Saturday, May 5th 1990, the day on which Luton Town visited the gallows at Derby for the termination of their First Division life. Or so everybody outside Bedfordshire thought

As we drove up the M1 our thoughts were concentrated more on Hillsborough than the Baseball Ground. We were sure the Town would win, one of those unshakeable beliefs that no rational thought, such as our slightly less than stunning away record, would change. Could Forest do the business for us? Surely this was too much to ask, they had nothing to play for, Wednesday were at home, only needing a point; under normal circumstances it would be a near-formality but all we could do was hope against hope. And these were nothing like normal circumstances.

We had expected to see a massive convoy of Town fans making their way up the motorway and were slightly concerned when this didn't materialise. Surely today of all days there'd be a huge travelling support - 5000 was the common estimate the previous night. We needn't have worried, as we approached the ground the streets and pubs were full of singing, dancing, MAD Hatters. Time for a quick pint, distribute a few copies of "Mad" and it was off to the ground.

It dawned on me that this was going to be something special as we approached the ground and heard chorus after chorus of Luton songs - this was 45 minutes before kick-off and barely subsided for the next three hours. The players were each given a rousing reception as they came out to warm up and responded in kind as they were to do all afternoon. At last it was five to three, and the Town emerged to a reception of balloons, streamers and what seemed like the entire free newspaper circulation of Beds.

Alec in goal roused the Town fans into song as the game kicked-off .. please God let's have an early goal! 66 seconds later and a mixture of disbelief and unbelievable delight as Timbo smashes his first goal of the season from 35 yards to send the Town fans wild. Ears were now pressed even more firmly to trannies for news from Hillsborough, and barely had the

celebrations died down when news came through that Forest had scored - euphoria! Surely this was just too good to be true! But no, Luton continued to dominate and Kingsley pounced to put us 2-0 up; at least we were going to win, we wouldn't throw a two goal lead away, not in this situation, no way. Within 25 minutes jubilation turned to utter despair as Luton managed to do exactly that. Never have I seen so many disbelieving faces nor heard such a stunned silence as greeted Derby's equaliser.

Half-time brought a chance to cool down even if some of us had to visit the ladies to find desperately needed water! Few people spoke during that interval, but as news came through that Forest were still in front renewed optimism greeted the start of the second half. Hatters began to dominate more and more - just keep playing football and we'll score. News came through that Forest had scored again - one more goal would be enough not but it was starting to look as though lady luck was turning against us. Then Kingsley cuts in from the right, shoots - blocked, collects the rebound and hits what appears to be a tame right-footed shot. Shilton stands mesmerised and watches as the ball hits the post and willed by 5000 people behind the goal crosses the line almost in slow-motion. It's party time again!

Watches are nervously checked, seemingly every 10 seconds. Some people can hardly bear to watch, particularly when Wright latches on to Julian James' backpass and heads past Chamberlain ... and past the post. Time ticks on and the Town keep possession - not pretty to watch, but nobody cared by then. Injury time ... 1 minute, 2 minutes, 3 minutes ... for Chrissake blow-up ref ... 3½ minutes ... YEESSSS! Total strangers dance and hug as the players come over to celebrate as one with the fans - some donning hats thrown from the terraces.

Meanwhile, whilst all this is occurring at one end of the ground the home fans are staying at the ground, and when the Luton team finally leave the field they are applauded from the field by Derby supporters. When their applause continues it dawns that they are applauding the Town fans - a gesture which we were happy to return, particularly as we recognised that they had allowed us our moment of glory by keeping off the pitch at the end for that, many thanks, you were a credit to your club; as were the local police who adopted a low-key, sensible approach throughout the after-match celebrations, ensuring that the party atmosphere prevailed.

The long journey home flew past as there seemed to be one great celebration proceeding along the M1. Luton fans going south and on the opposite side of the road equally delirious Sheffield United fans returning from Leicester - everybody going south was hooted and waved at, whether they were interested or not!

For those who had also been at Maine Road in 1983, it was as if lightning had struck twice in the same place, Luton Town had achieved the improbable once again, against the odds. For Raddy Antic read Kingsley Black, for Maine Road read Baseball Ground.

Jim Ryan is not believed to be related to Harry Houdini.

Just too late....

Time was slowly running out, but still they forged onwards. The sheeting rain had made the ground treacherous. Muscles strained and the adrenalin flowed. Active hearts sent the blood coursing through their veins. Still they held out hope as again and again they surged through the centre and occasionally tried to go wide. The opposition had them outnumbered and outgunned. Progress was slow but still they didn't give up. Encouragement could be heard coming from the those furthest from the front. Seconds ticked slowly by and the minute hand moved towards the time they all feared. Exactly on time the dreaded signal was heard: "Time at the bar please gentlemen."

And so came the end of another Arsenal morning training session.

A "Mad" Poll – Results

1. Player of the season : JOHN DREYER 45%
2. Most promising young players : JULIAN JAMES - 45% each
JASON REES
3. Best performance : DERBY COUNTY (A) - 53%
4. Worst performance : BRIGHTON (A) - 67%
5. Best goal scored : TIM BREACKER v
DERBY (A) - 48%
6. Best goal against : TONY DALEY - VILLA (A)
- 56%
7. Best opposition player : MARK WRIGHT - 17% each
DES WALKER
8. Worst opposition player : JOHN FASHANU - 46%
9. Best referee : ALLAN GUNN - 25% each
KEITH COOPER
RAY LEWIS
10. Worst referee : KELVIN MORTON - 50%
11. Worst boardroom decision : SELLING ROY WEGERLE - 67%
12. Should away fans be allowed back : YES - 78%
NO - 11%
NO OPINION - 11%
13. Should a grass pitch be installed at Kenilworth Road : YES - 89%
NO - 11%
14. a. Does the membership scheme work : YES - 33%
NO - 67%
- b. and should it be kept in force : YES - 11%
NO - 89%

Poll Winner: Tracey Hansell, Closters Road, Luton.
Well done etc. - Well be in touch shortly.

TOWN TRAVELS

Our guide to the best(?) of British pubs serving traditional beer for the travelling Hatters fan is intended for non drivers, but all supporters should beware as the police take a dim view of over indulgence.

ARSENAL (29-8-90, K.O. 7.45)

ROAD : M1 to Junction 2, follow City signs. After passing Holloway Road tube station, take 3rd turning on left into Drayton Park Road, then second right into Avenall Road for Highbury.

RAIL : Trains leave Luton at 10 and 40 mins past each hour to Kings Cross Thameslink. Change to Piccadilly Line Northbound and Arsenal is 3 stops away. Finsbury Park (10 mins walk from ground) may be a better bet after the game due to congestion at Arsenal. Fare is £6.70 with a One Day Travelcard from Luton.

BEER : Suggested boozers, if you don't have your own favourites, are the FLOUNDER & FIRKIN at 54 Holloway Road, a pub brewery or near to Kings Cross try the MALT & HOPS at 33 Caledonian Road, a free house with a large selection of beers.

SOUTHAMPTON (01-9-90)

ROAD : M1 Southbound, M25 Anti-Clockwise, M3 then A33 into The Avenue, turn right into Northlands Road at the end turn right into Archers Road, ground is on the right.

RAIL : From Luton to London then from Waterloo to Southampton. Fare is £17.30 Cheap Day Return inc. underground. Times: Dept. Luton at 11.10 change at Thameslink for 12.32 train from Waterloo arrives Southampton at 13.38.

BEER : Just outside the rail station is a Hall & Woodhouse pub, we can't remember the name, alternatively the WELLINGTON ARMS, 56 Park Road (off Shirley Road) is a free house with a good range of beers. The BAY TREE at 10 New Road will sell you a decent pint of Draught Bass.

Q.P.R. (15-9-90)

ROAD : M1 Southbound to end, the A406 North Circular Westbound towards Neasden. Turn left after $\frac{3}{4}$ mile following signs for Harlesden then Hammersmith. Turn right after Westway into White City Road then left into South Africa Road for Rangers Stadium.

RAIL : To London (times as per Arsenal) then Metropolitan Line Westbound to Shepherds Bush (10 stops). Fare: as Arsenal.

BEER : The FROG & FIRKIN at 41 Tavistock Crescent close to Westbourne Park LT station is a home brew pub. The CROWN & SCEPTRE at 57 Melina Road is a back street Fullers pub close to Goldhawk Road underground.

NORWICH CITY (29-9-90)

ROAD : A505 to the end then A11 to Norwich and follow signs to Yarmouth round the ring road. Carrow Road is off the ring road.

RAIL : To London Farringdon then to Liverpool Street and BR Inter City service to Norwich. Depart Luton 10.10 to Farringdon then 11.30 service from Liverpool Street arrives Norwich 13.25. Fare: £25.00 SuperSaver.

BEER : In the City Centre the GARDENERS ARMS, 2-4 Timber Hill has a wide range of real ales. Nearer the station the ROSARY TAVERN at 95 Rosary Road is a free house with the locally brewed Woodforde's and Reephams beers available.

SUNDERLAND (20-10-90)

ROAD : A505 to Baldock then A1/A1M to A690 to Sunderland. Head for then town centre then take the A1012 towards Gateshead across Wearmouth Bridge. Keep in right hand lane and follow signs for Roker, Seafront & Whitburn. After approx. one mile the ground is on the left up a side street. There is a large car park close to the ground.

RAIL : Fares are £43.00 via Sheffield and £57.00 via London. The timetable changes in September so for further information contact BR themselves. Go to Seaburn station not Sunderland itself.

BEER : If travelling by train (rich bugger!) a pub crawl in Newcastle is worth making time for. CROWN POSADA, 31 Side, near High Level Bridge, or BRIDGE HOTEL, Castle Square are two of the best. Nearer to the ground the SUNDERLAND FLYING BOAT, Sea Road for a pint of Tetley's or Taylor's, or WOLSELEY and PILOT CUTTER, both Harbour View, Roker (on the coats road). McEwans at the former, Matthew Brown's and Theakstons at the latter.

SPORTSPAGES

THE SPECIALIST SPORTS BOOKSHOP

For the best range of football books and fanzines in London, plus books and videos on all sports, from basketball to boxing, from cricket to canoeing, from golf to greyhound racing, come to the specialists.

Sportspages
Caxton Walk
94-96 Charing Cross Road
London
WC2H 0JG

Open Monday to Saturday — 9.30am
to 7.00pm

All major credit cards accepted

Tel: 071 240 9604

Nearest Tube Stations: Tottenham
Court Road & Leicester Square

Watford-Grams

In those moments when the usual thrills of office life are thin on the ground, and the spectre of ennui rears its ugly head (i.e. the hours between arriving at work, and sloping off down the pub for an early, extended, lunch), a way to kill time whilst awaiting that first pint of Pure Genius is to construct anagrams of our less fortunate footballing chums in the Hertfordshire wilderness, Watford F.C.

It is a pastime which can be both rewarding and revealing. Who could suspect for example, that a deft re arrangement of Paul Wilkinson's moniker would effectively sum up Watfords problem thus: 'UP A WIN? NO SKILL'. Shuffling the letters of their erratic ex goalkeeper, on the other hand, produces a succinct comment on his entertaining style, in broad Scottish brogue. Yes, Anthony Coton is a 'NOT CANNY HOOT'. I'm sure Jim Leighton would agree!

His colleague Nigel Gibbs, meanwhile, offers his manager shrewd tactical advice when revamped, 'BIN BIG LEGS'. Back to the reserves for you then, Nigel. Perhaps best of all is Watfords most famous "star", Roderick Thomas. Did his parents have an inkling of what cruel fate was in store for their offspring when they effectively concealed the legend 'OH, MOST RARE DICK' within his name? I would like to think so.

For a final tour de force, and to sum up our ailing rivals, placing Watford Town Football Club* through the mincer produces 'FAT BLOB OF NOW CALLOW TURD'. Says it all really, doesn't it?

Marc Graham – Hatter with Attitude.

*I have to confess to using artistic licence when adding the word Town to Watfords name – but let's face it, who cares?

Ed's note: After reading this item we worked one out for ourselves. 'NICER GAY REP.' is the answer to the answer. It is rumoured that the player in question is regular scorer for the 'ornets. We'll leave you to work it out.

CRYSTAL BALLS!

As we start another season it is time to look into our crystal ball and see what might occur in the 9 months time. We are talking football here, not what may result from your depraved behaviour last night. In other words, it is time to make a set of rash predictions and make complete fools of ourselves. In order to do a good job of this, the editorial staff got together and with the aid of several pints came up with the following set of carefully considered forecasts.

If money was the root of success then Leeds United would be Likely champions although Arsenal might edge it through having a greater income. The perennial big spenders at Man United, Liverpool and Spurs have apparently discovered holes in their pockets, or can't find anymore worth buying. However now Villa have a new manager there could be a new route for success to be based on the value of their cheques. (Geddit) The (Ex) Everton team at Marine Road will probably have a private duel with the real Everton and ensure success by buying Goodison Park and its players if they are behind. Chelsea and Q.P.R. will be the teams to watch if you live in West London but we doubt if they will worry anyone else. Palace have illusions ready to be shattered particularly if they reserve their best form for Cup runs. Derby, with the Wright influence could be the Midlands main challenge ahead of Forest who annually get lost in the woods and Coventry who are set to be well, just Coventry really. Norwich are still a good draw at home which rules out their chances of anything better than mid-table obscurity. As we descend further, Wimbledon may find the purists satisfied by their appointment of Ray Harford, if it has slightly better results than his last managerial posting. Southampton could struggle unless the Wallace brothers turn their determination to leave into convincing others to buy. Bassetts allsorts are, in style light years from Tony Currie, and hopefully equally far from First Division quality, alongside Sunderland who do not deserve to be there anyway, and do not seem very well equipped for it.

All that above was discussed without mentioning Luton Town because Jim Ryan says we can be champions, and we believe anything of our Jim. However, he did say it might not be this season, which gives us a get-out clause.

So having discussed everybody's chances we got out the blind-fold and the pin and this is what we came up with:

Div. 1	Champions	: TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR.
	Runners Up	: ARSENAL.
	Relegated	: SUNDERLAND, WIMBLEDON, NORWICH CITY.
Div. 2	Champions	: SWINDON TOWN.
	Runners Up	: OLDHAM ATH.
	Relegated	: WATFORD, PORT VALE, BARNLEY.
Div. 3	Champions	: BOURNEMOUTH.
	Runners Up	: TRANMERE ROVERS.
	Relegated	: SOUTHEND UTD., FULHAM, READING, ROTHERHAM UTD.
Div. 4	Champions	: PETERBOROUGH UTD.
	Runners Up	: HARTLEPOOL.
	Relegated	: HALIFAX TOWN.

F.A. Cup: LUTON TOWN.
Rumbelows League Cup: CHELSEA.

10 things we're not expecting to see in '90/91:

1. A visiting team getting a penalty at Anfield
2. Watford's promotion
3. Competent refereeing from Keith Hackett
4. Luton on "The Match"
5. Sheffield Wednesday's latest away kit
6. An England goal from Des Walker
7. A Luton goal from David Beaumont
8. Football from Wimbledon
9. An Irishman playing for Republic of Ireland
10. Steve Williams

WHERE NEXT?

This article was written in its original form in May 1990 when the club was still in the hands of Mr. Evans and friends, and the "only solution" to the problem of finding a new home was Butterfield Green, which is hardly a name for a football ground anyway. Since then Messrs. Nelkin & Kohler have arrived on the scene and the council have rejected plans for Butterfield Green. In addition, the forerunner of this article was scrapped.

One of the major problems has been the lack of direction in the search for a new home. Since 1983 the proposals have been Milton Keynes, a 120,000 seater at the Brache, then Sundon Springs, and finally a 10,000 seater at Butterfield Green. Of these only the Brache seemed to be suited to the requirements of being near to existing transport links, and in the Borough of Luton, but size was still a problem. An excess of ambition was definitely behind most of these ideas.

We must first look at what is wanted. The main object of the new stadium is to be a home for Luton Town F.C., it will be a bonus if it has other uses. To meet with present and future requirements it needs good transport links and lots of car parking facilities. For these reasons an edge-of town site is preferable. The ground will have to be all seater and to suit local needs should accommodate 20-25,000.

With proposals for Sundon Springs and Butterfield Green there was much local opposition on the grounds of marauding bands of hooligans. It is essential that this can be avoided by showing that visiting supporters would be able to get to the ground without the opportunity to maraud. This is where the transport links are so important.

Finally, we come to the problem of the site. A quick look at a map of Luton reveals a pitiful lack of sites in the Town. All of the open spaces of suitable size are public parks, with the exception of two. The Brache, and the land alongside the M1 junction 10 spur road. Both have the problem of being close to the Airport flight path, but the C.A.A. objections are probably based on the size of the ground and should be less likely for a ground of the right size. Also their objections on the Brache must be diluted by the new Retail Park across


Gypsy Lane. The problem with the junction 10 site is simply persuading Nicholas Phillips that it won't spoil the view of visitors to his Capability Green Industrial Estate. The right approach should be able to get round this and it is time he gave something back to the town. The available land is big enough and the writer believes this is the best location. The Brache would be a good second choice, but the site of the "Nicholas Phillips Stadium" perhaps, has the best transport links for both road and rail.

The crunch is that the club must move in 5 years time, but the availability of land in the Luton area is rapidly diminishing, so there is no time to be wasted. Let us hope that our new Chairman and his colleagues have more success in the search than their predecessors.

Wanted: Pre 1960 Luton Town programmes. Will pay. Ring Martin 0734 815277 evenings.


A F N

DISTRIBUTION




FOR A FREE LIST OF FOOTBALL FANZINES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE THROUGH THIS SERVICE PLEASE SEND A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE

Please note — this address is strictly for mail-order purposes only



A.F.N. DISTRIBUTION
127 Langbrook Road,
London SE3 8RA



F.I.F.A. Rules, OK.

On July 28th 1990 in the midst of an uninspiring World Cup a moment of some significance for world football tried very hard to slip by unnoticed. "What was it?" I hear you ask. It was the meeting of the International Board, the body which takes decisions about the laws of the game throughout the world. Earth shattering news, etc. So much so that you probably didn't even notice. Well, just in case we've decided to update you on the changes ready for the start of the new season.

Dress sense is called to notice with a change which requires players to wear shinpads at all times, and then cover them with socks. Rolled down socks are no longer good enough, so pull 'em up, Neville Southall!!

In another change, referees are instructed to use the red card to send off players guilty of the cynical foul preventing an obvious goalscoring opportunity. This is basically what was tried out here in the '82/83 season, and will surely lead to an increase in the number of red cards shown next season.

The change that will probably confuse players the most, although many players will be baffled by the one about the socks, is the change to the offside law. A bit tricky to explain, but here goes. Under the old version, an attacking player who was level with the last but one defender (when the ball was played) was considered offside, but under the new law the same player will be onside. Essentially, this is a shift of emphasis, meaning that it was up to the attacking player to be seen to be onside, it is now up to the defending player to prove him offside. The element of doubt being given to the attacker is a move which F.I.F.A. hope will provide a dramatic increase in the number of goals being scored. We certainly hope so.

The major concern with these changes is that referees will be able to make the changes work. As always there will be mistakes, but we have to accept a certain level of error. The wording does seem to be clear enough, but the one thing that can't be removed is human error, or the chance for us all to hurl abuse at the men in black!

Tim is caught in the act of asking
a particularly tricky question....

