

MAD AS A HATTER!



A LUTON TOWN FANZINE

Issue 20

Feb/Mar 94

STILL ONLY 50p

What great value!

♪ BYE BYE
BLUEBIRDS? ♪



LAY A.

MAD AS A HATTER!



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Editorial

Progress in the FA Cup is supposed to be fraught with difficulties for all except the best teams, and it appears that this seasons competition is following that pattern, with Manchester United and Bolton Wanderers being the exceptions. However, our beloved Hatters are also making it look less difficult than in some previous years, and for this we must be grateful. Glory beckons, and the lads look confident enough to take it. However, the competition so far has been fraught with difficulties for those of us who want cheer the team on, to such an extent that you could almost feel like giving up.

The 3rd round gave us postponement and a midweek game, promptly followed by the ticket farce that was the 4th round (of which more elsewhere) and an accompanying change of date. The 5th round offered no shortage of tickets, but offered also the sort of scenes we haven't witnessed since March 1985. The sixth round has only just been drawn, but already promises to be another case of not enough tickets, with West Ham said to be offering a paltry 3800. Frankly, it just isn't good enough, and it looks like the FA have given up on their own rules about ticket allocations. Given what has gone before, we can probably expect a Semi final at Stockport against Man Utd and a Wembley appearance against Bolton with us getting 5000 tickets while they get 60000.

Going back to the fifth round, events at Cardiff seemed to take everyone by surprise, including the South Wales Police who expected trouble, but not of that ferocity. It is scenes like those that cause many people to stay away from football matches, but have been largely combated by other clubs such as Millwall, who do not choose to bury their heads in the sand like Cardiff City. To quote their chairman, Rick Wright, "Anyone who comes here to cause trouble can expect to be severely dealt with". Oh yeah? What about the bloke who walked, yes walked, to the centre circle to accost Preecey after he had scored? Severely dealt with? He wasn't even stopped.

At least the police are taking things seriously, and an incident room has been set up in Cardiff to investigate the events. If you have evidence, get in touch with PC Peter Palmer at Luton nick. Remember, if you decide you don't want to get involved, you are helping the nutters get away with it. As investigations continue, and we get more information in the coming weeks, we will give an update on these matters in our next issue.

The Takeover Trail

At the time of issue 19 being put together, it looked likely that Luton Town was going to be under control of new owners within a matter of weeks. Even though at that time the takeover had been under way for something like six or seven weeks, and there appeared to be a growing number of obstacles to its completion, it was still possible to be optimistic. Sadly any optimism was misplaced and in spite of any public pronouncements it still appears that David Kohler never really wanted to sell, and he was saved from that by Cliff Bassett putting his money in. This is not to suggest that this is why Mr Bassett made his investment, his motives are, as far as we can tell, simply those of a dedicated and wealthy supporter who wants to help keep the team together. Regardless of this it was the Bassett money that secured Kohler's future.

As far as the failure of the bid is concerned it seems that both sides are quite content to blame the other for the failure. The consortium suggesting that Kohler continually moved the goalposts, and Kohler suggesting that the consortium failed to act promptly and push the deal through. It is likely that the truth contains elements of both, but now that it has fallen through it is not really important why.

David Kohler now, as ever, says that he does not wish to sell the club, and given that his position has been consolidated by Cliff Bassett's money and his acquisition of Peter Nelkin's shares, it is certain that he will be more difficult to shift, and it will take considerably more money.

So with the takeover having failed, where does the club go? The major consolation is that Bassett's money is available to the club under the condition that players are not sold to balance the books. The first evidence of this was that at the same time as the takeover being officially killed off, a number of staff were made redundant at Kenilworth Road. Whilst we at Mad would not wish unemployment on anyone, it is in the administration area that cost savings must be made, and if these actions keep a player at Luton, they can't be all bad. At the same time it is important that those who remain are experts at their jobs, rather than simply enthusiasts, as they will be more cost effective in the long run.

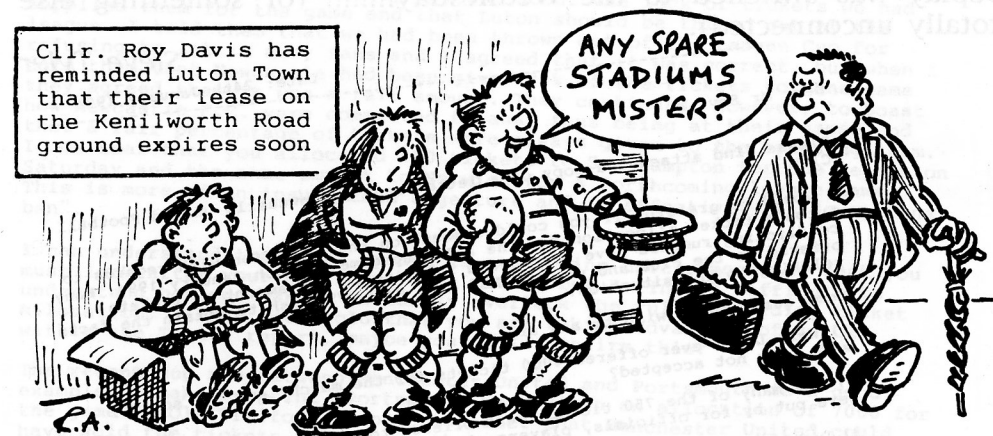
Given that it was so important for money to be put into the club, we have to wonder when the club will finally be breaking even financially. Crowds are not that far short of the break even figure, and the cup run and TV money will more than make up for any

shortfall, so why should any extra money be needed?

As for the future, the club still needs a new ground and we still wait for some sort of announcement, other than warnings about homelessness from the council. What we want is a football ground ideally to hold about 20,000, and presumably either a wealthy investor or some creative accountancy to finance it. What we do not need is something that is as much an ego trip as a useful project, and anything that is new to the UK and new to football which will be viewed with deep suspicion by the rest of football. Our club has already suffered from being the subject of two experiments in recent years, and we do not need any more. It is also worth remembering that when it comes to applying for planning permission, the amount of opposition will be affected by the amount of greenery that disappears under the planned concrete.

Overall, the future of the club does not appear to be entirely secure, and if the recent past is anything to go by, it will be some time before it is. Whichever way you look at it, and regardless of your position on David Kohler, there is a long way to go before we can be entirely happy with things. At least the team are doing their part.

K.F.H.



THE PLIGHT OF THE HOMELESS HATTERS!

F***** Newcastle United and F***** Luton Town

I don't have to start this article by telling everyone what it's about, the title says it all!! In my quest to find out exactly why we (the fans) were all shit on so badly, I wrote to the secretaries of Luton and Newcastle. The replies I received are attached and are both very interesting.

The reply from Newcastle says it all. They offered Luton 750 or 3200 tickets. Luton turned down 3200 (why?) and then changed their minds when it was too late.

The reply from Luton's secretary, Mr Smylie, is a total farce and I take it as an insult. Trying to make an excuse for turning down 3200 tickets must be a difficult job, and it shows. You will all note that in the last paragraph Mr Smylie apologises for the fact that I never received a ticket. If Mr Smylie had read the letter I sent to him (which he obviously didn't) he would have known that I wasn't complaining that I had not received a ticket because my letter quite clearly states that I did. So I will take this opportunity to thank Mr Smylie for sending me a bog standard letter that he sent to anyone else who wrote to him (*how many people have to write, before you have a bog standard letter?* - Eds). I would also like to thank him for taking the time to reply to me personally. I would of course write to thank him but I fear he would not read the letter and would send me a replay apologising for the fact that the replay was switched to the Wednesday!!!!!!! (or something else totally unconnected).

Steve Tyler

Date: 24th January 1994

Dear Mr Smylie,

Please find attached a copy of a letter sent to Newcastle United Football Club.

I would be grateful if you could comment on the situation with regards to Luton's ticket allocation for the F.A. Cup game on 29th January 1994. Many conflicting rumours have been heard relating to the amount of tickets offered to the club and we, at "Mad As A Hatter", wish to obtain the facts relating to the situation.

Some questions I wish to ask are:-

- 1) Were Luton ever offered 4000 tickets for the match? And, if so, why were they not accepted?
- 2) How many of the 750 tickets were offered to supporters and how many were put by for officials, players etc.?
- 3) Did you ask Newcastle United for more tickets after the original allocation had sold out in 48 hours? And, if so, what was their reply?

As you probably know, this matter is on everyone's minds at the moment and your prompt reply would be very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

[The Secretary
Newcastle United Football Club
Newcastle
Tyne & Wear]

O/R: MAAH/ST1

Date: 24th January 1994

Dear Sir/Madam,

With reference to the forthcoming F.A. Cup fourth round tie between Newcastle United and Luton Town.

As an avid Luton supporter I was delighted when the draw for the fourth round of the cup was made and we drew your club. This is, by far, our biggest F.A. Cup game we've had since reaching the semi-final in 1988. It was, therefore, very distressing to be told that we had only been allocated 750 terraced tickets and no seating tickets for the match. These tickets were made available to season ticket holders only and were sold in 48 hours after our game with Southend United in the third round.

As a general rule, I thought every club was under obligation to provide the opposing team with a certain percentage of the tickets available for an F.A. Cup tie. This has obviously not happened, therefore depriving genuine supporters of a good small club, the opportunity of seeing their biggest game for years.

My mind immediately springs back to the league fixture last season between the two clubs. After lifting the away fans ban (and rightly so) the club gave Newcastle 2200 tickets for the game and the opportunity for the fans of Newcastle to buy tickets for the only part of the ground which non members and guests can get in. The total amount of Newcastle fans there that evening was in excess of 2500. That is 20% of the ground capacity and 25% of the attendance that night. Before that game I was chatting to some Geordies who were persistently moaning about the lack of tickets we had supplied them for the game and that Luton should be thrown out of the league. I told them that we had been thrown out of the League Cup for refusing to let in away fans and I agreed that it was correct, but when I told them that Newcastle had been given 20% of the tickets for the game they agreed that it was a fair amount. They continued, however, to boast how Newcastle F.C. were committed to away fans being at their games and that a fair percentage of tickets were always given to the opposing team. I now hear that you allocated 100 tickets to Southampton for the league on Saturday and the same amount to Norwich for a forthcoming league game. This is more of an insult than a gesture and is effectively an "away fans ban".

I can understand that your ground is undergoing development and that you must look after your own loyal fans first, but I find it difficult to understand how you can so blatantly overlook the rules regarding ticket allocation. I have been told that you are taking advantage of a rule within the Taylor report, maybe you could confirm this?

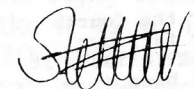
The recent cup tie between Manchester United and Portsmouth is a good example to make my point. Portsmouth were given an allocation of 7000 for the game at Old Trafford despite the fact that Manchester United could have sold the tickets twice over themselves. Portsmouth have, in return, allocated Manchester United 6000 tickets for the replay, denying some of their fans a chance to see the game.

Luton Town have said that they hope to beam the game on Saturday live by satellite at Kenilworth road. I hope you will be making the gesture of offering financial help towards the cost of this exercise so that the disappointed fans can see the game.

I will be writing to the Secretary of Luton Town asking him to consider your ticket allocation in the (unlikely!) event of a replay. I will ask him to take into consideration the fact that you have given us 2.34% of your ground capacity (32000 I believe) and ask him to offer you the same percentage, thus giving 304.2 of your fans the opportunity to see the game (I feel sorry for the person who gets 0.2 of a seat!!!) I fear, however, that he would not consider my views and would probably give you as many tickets as you liked.

May I finally wish your team best wishes for the rest of the season (except in the F.A. Cup of course!) and I look forward to seeing the game on Saturday unlike many of my friends who will not be able to make the journey despite being season ticket holders and going to all away games. I also look forward to your reply.

Yours faithfully,



Steve Tyler

For and on behalf of "Mad As A Hatter" a Luton Town Fanzine.



Newcastle United Football Co. Ltd.

REGISTERED OFFICE: ST. JAMES' PARK · NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE · NE1 4ST · TELEPHONE: (091) 232 8361 · FACSIMILE: (091) 232 9875
REGISTERED IN ENGLAND No. 31014

25 January 1994
RC/SMJ

Dear Mr Tyler

Thank you for your fax of 24th January.

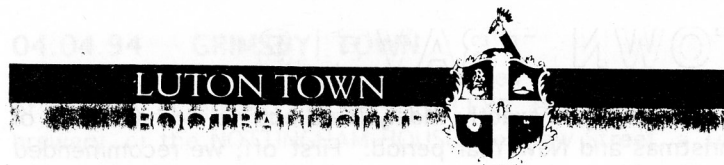
You are correct that as a general rule clubs are under an obligation to provide the opposing team with a certain percentage of tickets for cup ties. However, due to lack of segregation we received a dispensation from the FA this year not to provide seats to visiting fans in FA cup ties. We subsequently offered Luton 3,200 standing tickets for the game. They had an option to take a smaller number if they felt this was appropriate and this they decided to do and although there were representations to alter this request we regret that it was too late to change the arrangements that we had made to sell the large block of tickets to our standing season ticket holders. If it had been possible to assist Luton Town and its supporters by altering our arrangements then we would have done so and the situation that now exists is regrettable.

It was our suggestion to relieve matters that Luton beam the game live to Kemilworth Road and we hope that this will take place.

Yours sincerely



R Cushing
General Manager & Secretary



Kemilworth Road Stadium
1 Maple Road
Luton
Bedfordshire
LU4 8AW

Fax No. 0582 405070
Tel No. 0582 411622

Dear Mr Tyler,

Further to your letter dated 24th January 1994 on the subject of ticket allocation for the Newcastle United FA Cup 4th Round Tie on Saturday next 29th January.

As you are probably aware, the Gallowgate end of the stadium at Newcastle is being redeveloped and in the absence of adequate segregation in existing seating areas and until the new Gallowgate Stand has been built, the Northumbria Police would not agree to an allocation of seats for visiting fans in existing seated areas of the ground. This position will not be resolved until next season when the Gallowgate End of the stadium is completed.

In view of their difficulties, the Football Association have given Newcastle United dispensation for this season to offer visiting clubs an allocation of standing tickets in two areas of the Gallowgate End of the stadium that can be segregated. These separate areas allow an allocation of either 750 or 3142 standing.

Following consultation and information received from the local Police, it was our understanding that the average travelling support is considerably lower than 3,142 although perhaps a little higher than 750.

Taking into account that our average home support excluding visitors is around 5,500 to 6,000 this season, the Club felt it could not possibly accept an allocation of 3,142 knowing that a large proportion of these would be returned and in view of the segregation problems, would remain unsold.

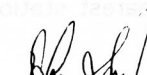
By creating such a situation, it would have been grossly unfair on the Newcastle Club, hence our decision to only accept the 750 allocation of standing tickets.

In accepting this option, we have upset a number of supporters, but regrettably once we had made the commitment on 750, it could not then be changed as Newcastle by then had started to sell from the block of 3,142.

Of the 750 tickets received, there were allocated to SEASON TICKET HOLDERS Executive Box, Century Club and Club 83 Members. No tickets for officials were taken from the allocation as the directors receive a separate allocation for the Newcastle Directors Box.

I can only apologise to you that we have on this occasion not been able to provide you with any tickets but the above explanation outlines our reasoning for the decision taken.

Yours sincerely,


JOHN SMYLIE
Secretary

Now we know that this column is not exactly widely read, but we did have a bit of a disaster over the Christmas and New Year period. First off, we recommended the closed Bogarts in Peterborough, and then to follow up in West Brom, it seemed every pub for miles was closed to anyone who couldn't speak in the right tune. Is this a conspiracy, or can luck really get that bad?

So on to a new list of recommendations, and we take you through to Easter this time, although if the quality of this column has dropped, it's because, as ever, I'm writing it at the last minute, so make allowances please.

05.03.94 NOTTINGHAM FOREST

Our second trip of the season to the city of dreaming football grounds? Well, actually not as the Forest ground is technically in West Bridgford rather than Nottingham itself. As per issue 19, we recommend strongly the TOM HOSKINS, Queens Bridge Drive, almost two minutes walk from the station, with a good selection of Hoskins and guest beers. Otherwise its the old favourites like the NORFOLK HOTEL, London Road or the RIVERWAY, Arkwright Walk. But on the whole the Tom Hoskins is by far the most sociable of the three.

15.03.94 BOLTON WANDERERS

If this match is still on this date with FA Cup commitments making inroads into the league programme, then most of you won't have huge amounts of drinking time, by the time you've travelled. If you do however, try the CLIFTON ARMS, Newport Street, opposite the railway station, a free house, or the WAGGON & HORSES, Manchester Road, which is near to the football ground.

26.03.94 BARNSELY

A chance to see if Gerry Taggart has calmed down since his brief appearance at Kenilworth Road, and an opportunity for one of the editorial team to celebrate an imminent birthday, no doubt by buying an enormous round of drinks. (probably a good time to start campaigning against ageism, as well). About the only place worth drinking is the OLD WHITE BEAR, 150 Pontefract Road (the A628), three quarters of a mile from the town centre, and "handy for the football ground". It is a free house with several guest beers.

30.04.94 MILLWALL

For those who count such things, a new ground, and an interesting experience for those who don't. Millwall fans complain that the atmosphere isn't the same, which might be disappointing for them, but is a relief for us. Drinking is best done, as ever, in central London, our favourite being the WHEATSHEAF, Stoney Street, just down the road from London Bridge station. The nearest station for the New Den is, incidentally, South Bermondsey.

04.04.94 GRIMSBY TOWN

Easter Monday at the seaside, but the idea loses some of its gloss when the name of Grimsby is added. Drink at WILLYS, High Cliff Road, a pub with its own brewery, or the NOTTINGHAM HOUSE, Seaview Street, a Tetleys house.

23.04.94 WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS

Doesn't April seem a long time away? By then this game could be taking place on a Sunday to accommodate TV coverage of a team bidding for promotion or the play offs, and on current form it could, just could, be either team! This will also be an interesting ground to visit, now that the redevelopment is completed. But be warned, the stewards at Molineux can be a bit funny, earlier in the season a Palace supporter was ejected for "shouting loudly". Pre match beverages should be taken at the very highly recommended GREAT WESTERN, on Sun Street, adjacent to the old Low Level station, with Holdens beers. Also try the POSADA, Lichfield Street, a Holt, Plant & Deakin pub in the town centre.

In issue 21 we will deal with where to drink in Stoke-on-Trent on a Sunday!

K.F.H.

BLANK HOLIDAY

So Christmas comes and goes, with the usual excitement of Bank Holiday fixtures, the rare chance of getting plastered all day, and watching your beloved team on an extra day instead of just Saturday. UNLESS YOU HAPPEN TO BLOODY SUPPORT LUTON TOWN!

Just what is the clubs problem with playing on a Bank Holiday Monday? Call me Thicky (*Err, OK Thicky - Eds*), but surely there's more revenue to be had, than if you play on a Tuesday (*or even Wednesday? - Eds*) night, with most people having to go to work the next morning. You're especially likely to have far more away fans for a 3pm Monday (*or Tuesday - Eds*) kick off. Look how many Grimsby brought. Oh, silly me, I almost forgot, away fans aren't welcome at Luton.

I think we should be told, because I for one am pissed off with hearing reports from about 50 other league games on the radio, whilst sitting at home BORED SHITLESS. I nearly went to a Premier League game last time, but settled for descaling the kettle!

Objét



Welsh wizards: Ceri Hughes and "Jack" Hartson in action at Ninian Park.



Getting it right

For the past two and a half years I have been one of David Pleats most severe critics. Never a huge fan of the man during his first spell, I always felt that it was a mistake for him to return, to try and restore past glories. On the principle of lightning never striking twice in the same place, he would not be able to repeat what he had achieved previously. Like many others, the all too regular appearances on radio and television commentaries did little to endear him to me. His signings policy seemed (and still seems) to be "if they've played for me before...."

Now whilst it may be a bit premature to say I was completely wrong, I have to admit that the man does seem to be getting things right just lately, in a quite spectacular fashion. All of a sudden the younger players have found their best form and confidence all at the same time. The likes of Becksy, Telfer and Oakes have been outstanding, and the old heads of Harper and Peake look as though the ageing process has passed them by (Harper, incidentally, looks as though the shaver has passed him by as well). Up front Dixon is showing the sort of form that makes Chelsea wonder why they let him go for a paltry half million quid.

However, the point is that no matter how well the players are playing, and justifying the man's faith in them, it is the tactics that have made the difference. The 4-5-1 formation which so many of us are suspicious of, is now working and, what's more, looks a damn sight more attacking than playing 2 or 3 up front. If confirmation was needed that the man has got it right, it came in the Sky TV programme 'The Boot Room' shown the day after the Newcastle game. The first half of the programme had been recorded only hours before that game, and consisted of DP telling Andy Gray how Newcastle would be beaten. It was quite uncanny how accurate it was, and it left me in no doubt that our victory in that game was largely due to the tactical advantage inspired by David Pleat. Of course the players carry out the instructions of the manager, and it is to their credit that they did so so well.

Anyway, I'd better stop saying nice things about DP now, before I totally destroy my own reputation as a cynic. But before I finish I have to say that the week in question was bound to have some influence one way or another on my opinion as DP was on TV so

have stolen from the jaws of the death? They obviously have never heard Brian Clough's adage on the length of time required to score a goal or they'd stay and watch the impending goal feast. No, they have strange secret plans for those three minutes at which we ordinary mortals can but guess - after all it's only just time to boil an egg! The only cure for these sufferers is to wish them well as they pass on their way. Cheerily shout after them: "enjoy your three minutes, mate!"

Is it fear of being silly? What makes a person pay good money to sit and watch a match that will only occupy them from three till about quarter to five, only to decide, as the end approaches, that perhaps they'd have been better off somewhere else? This can only be explained by the sudden realisation that their friends and family are right after all, and they really are half-left to spend their time watching 22 men kick a ball around. They come to their senses, gaze around and think: "what am I doing here?" and off they go, hoping no-one they know spots them on the way out and they can escape before they are branded as a 'football fan'. They live in perpetual fear of being approached with the words "what did you think of the game on Saturday then?" The cure? There is none but you could always try turning their TVs off three minutes before the end of a film just for a laugh.

Or is it just losing 6-0? This perhaps at once the more understandable and yet most contemptible of possible psychological disorders. The only cure is to yell at them as they go: "fair weather supporters!" There is no hope for anyone who is so easily disillusioned. Lost to them is the poignancy of the final whistle at the end of another stupefying defeat, all the more worse if it is a home defeat, the collective dejection as you gaze at the floor, look out once more on the pitch and then turn with an incredulous shake of the head, knowing full well you'll be back next week for more.

So there we have it, but this treatise would not be complete without a confession. Yes I, even I, once left a match early. It was a Saturday early in the 80/81 season and we were losing, in an utterly dreadful game, 1-0 to Wrexham. I had taken a non footballing friend along to introduce him to the delights of the game and, as 89 minutes had passed felt so sorry for him that I suggested going - at this suggestion he moved so quick that you

could have mistaken him for David Moss. And I expect you can guess what happened next - yes, that is right, no sooner had my feet passed the exit gate than did a huge roar ensue, as we (Frank Bunn of all people) equalised in injury time. Served me right - I have never left early again - and do you know what? I never will.

The Expatriate

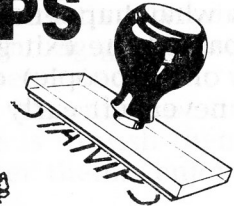
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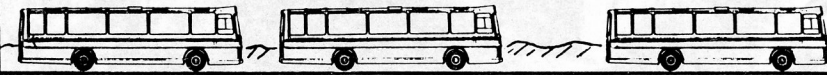
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5, Millards Close, Cranfield, Beds. MK43 0HL.



SAT MAR 5	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	6.50	5.20	10.30 am	11.30 am
TUE MAR 15	BOLTON WANDERERS	9.80	8.00	1.15 pm	2.15 pm
SAT MAR 26	BARNLEY	9.00	7.20	9.30 am	10.30 am
WED MAR 30	MILLWALL	4.80	3.80	3.45 pm	4.45 pm
MON APR 4	GRIMSBY TOWN	9.00	7.20	9.00 am	10.00 am
SAT APR 23	WOLVERHAMPTON WAND.	6.50	5.20	10.30 am	11.30 am
SAT MAY 7	STOKE CITY	7.50	6.00	10.00 am	11.00 am

BOOK FOR COACHES IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

- 1 From our ticket kiosk in the Kenilworth Road turnstiles. See Paul Deason or any BTC Committee member before any Saturday 1st team home match between 2.15 and 2.45 pm (NO BOOKINGS TAKEN AT MIDWEEK MATCHES)
- 2 On the return journey from the previous away game.
- 3 Telephone Paul Deason on Bedford (0234) 750996



Whatever Happened to . . . ?

THE STORY SO FAR..

AFTER SEEING ON "FANTASY FOOTBALL" THAT POVERTY STRICKEN DAVID PLEAT HAD NOT BOUGHT A NEW SUIT SINCE WE BEAT MAN. CITY IN MAY 1983, SCOTTY OAKES TAKES PITY ON HIM AND GIVES THE BOSS ONE OF HIS DADS OLD OUTFITS!

NOW READ ON...

WELLA WELLA
DONNA YA KNOW



LAY A. thanks to A.T.

COMPETITION CORNER

Well, the competition in issue 19 attracted a huge number of entries, but also a runaway winner, in the shape of Les Miller of Kempston. Such was the standard of answers supplied by Les that we are inclined to believe him rather than our own set of answers!

As a result Les will be receiving something from the exciting range of Luton Town leisurewear now on sale at the club shop. Well done!

The answers are as follows:

1. Luton's first ever loan player was John Sims, signed from Derby on 13/11/73.
2. George Martin and Fred Roberts scored the other goals while Joe Payne was notching up his 10 against the hapless Bristol Rovers.
3. Mike Cullen, against Austria in 1956, was our last, and only, Scottish international.
4. The last Town player to score twice at Old Trafford was Gary Heale, in a League Cup 3rd round 2nd replay v Man City in 1977.
5. Graham Lafite was a pseudonym used by Graham French when he joined Southport in March 1976.
6. The player who had two separate loan spells at Luton, was David Geddis, in Feb 1977 (from Ipswich) and Dec 1983 (from Aston Villa).
7. The last non league club to knock us out of the cup was Hillingdon Borough, 2-1 on 6/12/69, and 8. Matt Tees scored the goal in that match.
9. Grimsby v Sunderland was abandoned after 6 minutes, beating (?) Luton v Darlington in 1967/68 which lasted a whole 7 minutes, and becoming the earliest ever abandonment in the process.
10. Town wore their away strip at home to Sheffield Wednesday on 1/3/86, to avoid a colour clash with the piles of snow around the pitch.
11. There was a hold up in play after a shot by Malcolm Macdonald hit a post causing the goal to collapse.
12. Oxford City were drawn at home, but after a postponement switched the game to Luton due to their lack of floodlights. They then bought a set with their share of the gate money.
13. The last seven Town players to represent Northern Ireland were Phil Gray, Iain Dowie, Kingsley Black, Danny Wilson, Mal Donaghy, Billy Bingham and Bud Aherne. We actually had in mind Paul Gray, who appeared for the under-21s, and would have accepted that if it had made any difference.
14. Warren Neil of QPR scored a brace of own goals for the Town in November 86 and February 88.
15. Billy Jennings, in April 1982, was the last ex-Watford player to play for Luton.

Finally, although not too close to winning the competition we have to mention N E Barnes of Wheathampstead, if only for the fact that we don't get many entries from people who've supported the club for over 50 years. Long may you go on, Mr Barnes.

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1. Name three unlikely Luton 'goalies' from the 1970's and 1980's. ie outfield players going in goal following injury or expulsion.
2. Which ex-Hatter managed the worst club in Scotland last season?
3. Paul Telfer is the nephew of which ex-Scottish international?
4. With which 'pop' group did Luton cut a disc to celebrate promotion in 1973/74?
5. Name the four most recent 'glamorous' opponents in international friendlies that Luton have played at Kenilworth Road.
6. In what year did Luton switch from Black and White to Orange, Blue and White?
7. From which club did Luton sign Dixie Deans, and to which club did they sell him?
8. Name the last five Hatters to score on their league debuts.
9. To which clubs were the following 70's "greats" transferred - David Carr, Graham Jones, Steve Sherlock, Terry Hayes?
10. Who were the opponents in the testimonial matches for Alan Slough, Ricky Hill, Brian Stein, Mal Donaghy?
11. Name two Luton 'goalies' who have also played at centre forward for the club.
12. Ex-Luton manager Neil McBain holds what Football League record?

Entries to the usual address, by the end of March, with yet another high quality prize at stake. If you feel you can set a competition for our readers, or even devise a method of getting the number of entries into double figures, please drop us a line. We'd love to hear from you.



COMPETITION CORNER

Well, the competition in issue 19 attracted a huge number of entries, but also a runaway winner, in the shape of Les Miller of Kempston. Such was the standard of answers supplied by Les that we are inclined to believe him rather than our own set of answers!

As a result Les will be receiving something from the exciting range of Luton Town leisurewear now on sale at the club shop. Well done!

The answers are as follows:

1. Luton's first ever loan player was John Sims, signed from Derby on 13/11/73.
2. George Martin and Fred Roberts scored the other goals while Joe Payne was notching up his 10 against the hapless Bristol Rovers.
3. Mike Cullen, against Austria in 1956, was our last, and only, Scottish international.
4. The last Town player to score twice at Old Trafford was Gary Heale, in a League Cup 3rd round 2nd replay v Man City in 1977.
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THE SEASON SO FAR.....

After a rather dodgy (shit may be the preferred verb) start to our campaign, the whole season has taken on a complete turn, with a 10 match unbeaten run stretching 2 months, and the demolition of second favourites Newcastle in the cup. What has happened, and just what has Pleat put in his teams half time cups of tea to change things around?

Juergen Sommer: Without a shadow of a doubt, the big guy should be impressing Barry Davies and Brian Moore and company with a string of games in the USA '94 Cup in 5 months time. Coming on leaps and bounds with every game played, he is tremendously agile and athletic. My only concern is when a cross comes his way though, a rather large brown stain appears on my seat. Still, better than most in the division.
Effort: A-, Attainment: 8/10

Des Linton: "You'll never beat Des....Linton" now appropriately rings around the terraces and so's fair. Described by Andy Gray on Sky Sports as "athletic", Linford Christie wouldn't disagree. Bit of a dodgy start to the season, but after Andy Gray (him again) said (after his neat pass set up Oakes for the 2nd goal against Newcastle) "Any player in the Premiership would have shot in the heat of the moment - but not Des Linton!", Des is becoming as popular as his brother-in-law, Orchid.
Effort: A-, Attainment: 8/10

Marv: Ruled out by injury since the beginning of November, it may be tough for Suave to regain his place after the new Linton, Peake, Dreyer, James partnership. The problem with Marv is - he can't defend! If he was a left winger, the Premiership would be paying silly money for him. Always willing to go forward, Magic never fails to give us all a laugh in the course of 90 minutes.
Effort: B, Attainment: 7/10

Julian James: Also missed much of the season through injury, has impressed in recent weeks. Capable of playing right or left, but also capable of making a cock up that costs dear. Perhaps a little slow some think, but is strong and does tackle hard. Making it hard for our "Black Magic" Marv to reappear.
Effort: B+, Attainment: 7/10

John Dreyer: Impressing us all (I think) with his rearguard performances, "Tumble" is one solid nugget at the back. Outplayed Andy Cole in two matches (which Premiership defenders hold that claim?), is surprisingly quickening with pace too, after initial impressions that he may be a cloned Tony Adams. Keep it going Tumble.

Effort: A, Attainment: 9/10

Trevor Peake: Much the same can be said about Peaky as with Tumble, basically a pillar of strength at the present time, and playing out of his skin. Despite being 37, still going strong, leading by example, and who knows, could be playing in his second FA Cup Final come mid May.
Effort: A, Attainment: 9/10

Alan Harper: Played a little inconsistently when he first arrived and put together some terribly sloppy passes, Alan has been improving very much recently and appears to be holding the midfield and taking some pressure off Preecey, enabling him to play his own game. Sitting in front of the back four, did two good jobs on Beardsley in the Cup, and scored against Grimsby with a corking free kick, his recent form must continue.
Effort: B+, Attainment: 8/10

Paul Telfer: Another of our youngsters rapidly improving, Paul's workrate is his biggest asset. Up and down all match, he works tirelessly. Also scores some good goals (Southend, FA Cup 3rd round), Paul will surely make it to the Scottish national squad within the next year.
Effort: A-, Attainment: 9/10

Ceri Hughes: Accused at times of being lazy, the fact is, the guy possesses incredible talent, skill and commitment to the cause. Hugs the touchline and plays very much like Giggs (if not better), has the definitive left foot in the division. Ghosts past defenders as though they're not there, Ceri certainly has me on the edge of my seat. Still has a temperament problem, but with Hughes on the left wing and Oakes on the right, things must be looking up for the Town, until we sell them that is.
Effort: A-, Attainment: 9.5/10

David Preece: Mr Consistency is still himself, ie; consistent. Missed half of the season through injury, but since his return has been back to his busy best. Works 100% and knows how to pass a

ball - perhaps Arsenal need him! - sssshhh! we don't want to sell him, especially after his brilliant performance against Newcastle back here.

Effort: A, Attainment: 9/10

Scott Oakes: Always producing glimpses of what he is capable of, he has been incredibly frustrating. However, since Christmas, Scott has been outstanding. Working much harder, he has the pace factor (all important) and now actually goes round defences. Can't end without remarking on his superb stunning run and finish a month back against Derby. Goal of the season - decade just about.

Effort: B+, Attainment: 8.5/10

Kerry Dixon: Considering we got him on a free transfer, the guy is doing great for our cause. Of course not the striker he used to be, but he doesn't need to be at Luton, just a threat will do. Scored some nice goals, and wins much in the air. Sad thing is he doesn't work with Hartson - they play exactly the same game.

Effort: B+, Attainment: 8/10

John Hartson: As explained, identical in style as Kerry, this kid is one for the future. Appears to be lazy and slow at times, but is strong and is only 18. Scored in front of millions(?) of Sky viewers a couple of weeks back, and now has Liverpool, Sheffield Wednesday, and Swindon (is he a defender?) after his signature. A recent article in the Sunday Express stated that Pleat would only sell Hartson if "silly money" was offered. Does Kohler have the same view?

Effort: B, Attainment: 7.75/10

Other players who have made appearances, brief or otherwise, include Mitchell Thomas, who played well and knew how to defend better than Marv. Scott Houghton, who runs all over the place for the minute he gets at the end of each match. Jamie Campbell appears to be one of Pleats favourites, but is too inexperienced and a little slow at times. Paul Dickov was busy and workmanlike and took a hell of a hammering from the opposition. He did his job. Jason Rees appears to have disappeared - I liked him, he was a terrier but must have had a personality clash with Pleat. Geoff Aunger - where is he? Reserves obviously, and Tony Thorpe looks promising.

Let's hope next year we're pushing for promotion. The players may just deserve it.

WHITE SUITS AND LUTON

Supporting Luton is often like wearing a white suit to a nightclub. Some people will laugh at you, others will show sympathy and all will question your judgement.

The ending of the away fans ban and plastic pitch seemed to have condemned the white suit to the back of the wardrobe or better still, the local charity shop. How wrong we were.

The well documented fiasco over the sale of tickets for the Newcastle game again sent the clubs credibility and that of its supporters tumbling. Those responsible for making decisions with no regard for the wishes of supporters have no place at this club. They must be replaced without delay so that the clubs supporters have some level of confidence in the people in charge of the clubs everyday business.

If changes are made then we may finally lose the image of the white suit for good. With credibility restored, the question of supporting Luton may no longer lead to the adverse comments we have all endured in the recent past.

P.I.

Where are they now?

Brian Stein: We all know about Mark Stein, now scoring goals freely for Chelsea, and Eddie Stein, whose arrival at Birmingham City cost the Blues a hefty fine. But what of our Brian? Faithful servant of the Hatters, and cheapest of the brothers, having never been the subject of a transfer fee. Well, just over a week ago the lad signed for Stevenage Borough, after spending much of the season training with Northampton Town. Stevenage were justifiably pleased with making a big name signing in time for an important match against St Albans, but it was rather unfortunate that the news of Brians signing was hotly followed by the news that the match was no longer all ticket. Could these facts possibly be connected?

K.F.H.

South African ANC Political Prisoners Sports Equipment Appeal

Last May, 21 ANC political prisoners in Leeuwkop maximum security prison in Johannesburg went on hunger strike for 14 days to protest at the lack of progress in winning an amnesty for them. Because of the hunger strike, and subsequent campaign, some prisoners have now been given release dates. The Professional Footballers' Association made a donation to the campaign.

The "crimes" these prisoners were convicted for were either committed in the struggle to bring down apartheid, or in defence of their communities from armed attacks. We are now continuing the campaign for an amnesty for all of them.

The prison conditions they face are very harsh. However, they are allowed to receive gifts, including football equipment and videos. Football is the number one sport for black South Africans. We are therefore asking football supporters in Britain for donations to a fund to buy football and other sports equipment and videos for these prisoners.

Please send donations to: Nkululeko/Freedom, P.O.Box 524, London E9 5QX (Make cheques payable to Nkululeko/Freedom).

A cheap football in South Africa costs £7, so every donation, however large or small, will be gratefully received.

Thank you for your support

Sharon Ekambaram

Secretary, Leeuwkop Political Prisoners Support Committee

PLENTY OF PROMISE, BUT LEADERSHIP SADLY LACKING

On the evidence of the latest offering to be served up to the Kenilworth faithful, namely the narrow victory over Grimsby, it appears that Hatters fans should keep May 7th free in their diaries for a nail biting trip to the Potteries.

The truth is that despite the unquestionable promise of the younger members of our squad, the Town don't appear to have the motivation to secure the points needed to sustain a push up the table. Now we all know about the financial chaos that accompanied relegation: Luton are destined never to be a 'buying' club, but what we can, and indeed must have is full-blooded determination from the eleven players out on the park. Against the Mariners the team appeared aimless, without a clue of how to overcome even modest opponents. The blame for this must clearly lie at the door of Mr Pleat. Our manager needs our backing now more than ever, and I am not about to join the growing murmur calling for his head, but in return I expect to see a Luton side with more fighters (*this is your cue, Ceri - Eds*). I respect the way Mr Pleat wishes to see the game played, and his resolution to do so even in adversity, but lately the team have been playing without conviction. Our money pays Mr Pleat to instil this, and it is time he delivered.

Only when Paul Dickov came on midway through the second half did Luton gain the belief that Grimsby were a side that could, and should, be beaten: and he, as we all know, was a player nearing the end of a three month loan spell from far more glamorous surroundings. It is a sorry state of affairs when such a spark is needed to give the players confidence.

Mr Pleat should grill those players who played against Grimsby and then think long and hard about his role in those miserable first seventy minutes. It is time that he, and our captain Trevor Peake, delivered. The contrast between the home and away benches was plain to see. Only after our fortuitous second goal did Mr Pleat begin to make a noise; by then against a better side than Grimsby, it would have been too late.

Without doubt we have the potential to emerge as a force in this division over the next eighteen months, but only if the players have purpose. In 1994 I don't expect to see Luton win every week, but I do want to watch a team determined to succeed and with the belief to do so. Mr Pleat please take note.

Will Sherwood

Available soon at the club shop.....

The Luton Town Story (2nd edition) 1885-1994, Timothy Collings

Updated version of the centenary year blockbuster. The gist of the story is just about the same but there have been a few updates and alterations. The Messiah who was David Evans in the original book has been re-written as a nasty piece of work, the new hero is David Kohler, of whom seven pages of all new colour pictures have been taken (David with dog, David without dog but with scarf, David gets excited at a LTFC match etc.). No mention is made in the new edition of Ray Harford, Jimmy Ryan, Peter Nelkin or David Pleat's move to Tottenham in 1986.

The Luton Town Cup History (2nd edition), Timothy Collings

Not many changes here although the book is brought bang up to date with cup results and information since 1988 included on a scrap of A5 stapled on the back cover.

Also on video.....

Chris Kamara - The Pride and the Passion

In this video of his time at Kenilworth Road we see the power and the aggression that was Chris Kamara. From his warrior like "clenched fist" salute to the fans before the match to the hard man relaxing at the bar after the match. We also see the other side of Chris Kamara away from the pressures of professional football, a genial man with seemingly not a care in the world as he strolls around the park - previously seen by the Town fans between 3 and 4.45 pm on a Saturday afternoon.

Kenny and Ray's Laughter Show

When Kenny Dalglish and Ray Harford, two of football's best loved funny men, got together there was bound to be hilarity aplenty. Laugh yourself sick as the zany duo from Blackburn delight you with such side splitting anecdotes as "The day Ray put sugar in my tea, and I don't take sugar in my tea", "the day Kenny thought a man he saw in Argos was Alan Shearer and said hello to him - only it wasn't Alan Shearer at all" and "the day at training when Bobby Mimms tripped up on a five-a-side net". Turning serious for just a minute, Kenny aims to instruct prospective managers how to build a side on a budget of just £30 million.

Tim Kingston



Oh dear, Venison is about to get beaten again (above). Below, Tumble expresses his revulsion at that awful shirt. Harper, meanwhile, sees an opportunity to nutmeg his team-mate.



SAXBY'S SHORTS

Another breakthrough is announced by that cuddly and caring club Watford. To do their bit for the environment the club has said that no chemicals or unnatural fertilisers will be used on their pitch.

Club spokesman Harry Horner said, "At Watford we feel the use of these substances is harmful to the planet and that a more organic approach is needed. Therefore we will continue our policy of putting a load of shit on the pitch every other Saturday."



Current Premiership side and supposed sleeping giant Everton have denied allegations of a racist approach to buying players. At a press conference called to explain why no coloured players have played for the team, club spokesman Barry De Klerk said "We judge players on their skills and not by the colour of their skin. I do not believe that there have been any coloured players in the last thirty years who have been better than any players we have signed."

When a reporter shouted the names "Pele and Mike Newell", Mr De Klerk ran from the room claiming he had to get home to watch 'Desmonds'.



More news from that lovable club Watford where the local council has turned down planning permission for a new main stand. The stand was to have been the first ever built entirely from recycled unsold programmes, but was rejected on the grounds of safety.

Council official Mr O.M. Budsman said "The plan was just too risky. We estimated that if the stand were to collapse during a home game up to ten people could have been injured. However, on the plus side, the chances are that they would have been Watford fans".

Stig

Fantasy Football? 10 games undefeated!

19.12.93 ALSO RANS 2 TOWN 2

Luton entered that nuclear free zone and nuked Watford in a stirring second half revival. The Town didn't know which way they were kicking in the first half, caused by a crazy decision to put 5 in midfield and one up front. Not until Dixon supplied Preecey to get the first did we really look interested. After that we were unfortunate not to bury Watfootballteam, denied by several fine saves from the keeper. Well done all you Hatters supporters who (I believe) outnumbered the other teams followers, and I nearly fell over laughing when I saw the handball replay on the TV - WAT A WOOSIE!! HA! HA! couldn't happen to a nicer team.....

On a sadder note, my companions and I would like to dedicate this match to KEVIN CHAPMAN, a fellow supporter who died so suddenly at the age of 22 years. His presence will be truly missed.....

The Major Oak

27.12.93 PETERBOROUGH UNITED 0 TOWN 0

This report is dedicated to my co-editor Andy, who missed the game whilst spending the day with his intended. Those of us who know him have noticed him going down this season even quicker than Swindon.

A one sided match saw Luton create countless chances but never manage to score. Many Town fans left cursing our bad luck and the two points dropped.

Enough of football and back to the question of Swindon and Andy. At the time of writing, the former show signs of improvement and may escape the drop. For the latter, there is little hope, and a summer wedding beckons.

P.I.

29.12.93 TOWN 2 GRIMSBY TOWN 1

Well, well, well, those 5 magic words worked again - "What a load of rubbish" - followed by an unlikely comeback.

Even with the end result, surely nobody could argue that this was probably the performance that invented the phrase 'The dog's bollocks'. Poor old Grimsby, having played us off the park in the first half, had suffered the same impotence that we had shown at Peterborough. - how could they lose to a team, sorry rabble, that had played so godawfully? All we seemed to do all evening was hoof the ball in the air towards their area, for them to clear with ease. When we did try to play football, passes consistently went astray, and none of our lot seemed to have a clue about how to run off the ball, and make any space.

Luckily for us, Grimsby simply ran out of steam after the break, and we were out of jail (again). At the end Dessie shook hands with Mendonkey, and exchanged

saddles with Dobbin! (sorry Des, you were actually one of the best of a bad bunch on the night, but I just couldn't resist the sad jibe!)

Objét

01.01.94 W.B.A. 1 TOWN 1

When Preece opened the scoring the term 'against the run of play' sprung to mind. Fortunately, Sommer had a much better start than in the previous few games, otherwise it would have been all over by 3.15. Albion started the better team and got worse, while the Town did the reverse, with the second half including some excellent passing moves. The best of these started with some Keystone cops defending - 5 of our back four (?) trying to wrest the ball from one striker, and when this was achieved on the 18 yard line, the following 9 or 10 passes resulted in a corner at the other end. Their equaliser was a route one special, but then so was ours, except we can't play that way and had to rely on a defensive error. As a confirmed pessimist with a long memory, I knew they would equalise when they brought on Fereday as a sub, although I expected him to score it rather than just be on the field - or should I say "Mellon" patch?

Ken Ross

04.01.94 TOWN v MILLWALL - Postponed

"No water drainage problems, not even a pitch inspection" said the 'official voice of Luton Town Football Clobber' (sorry Peakey). As this had put me in a good frame of mind, I terminated the call prior to the David Pleat pre match bullsh..., sorry, interview.

A train home and a flick onto Ceefax later, and I wanted to throttle that cocky shit on the Clubcall. Bastard!

The referee was Bodenham of Looe, Cornwall. Surely a local ref for a game which was at best touch and go, would have done, rather than a 600 mile all-expenses-paid round trip to inspect a pitch, then sod off home, leaving Luton lumbered with hundreds of pissed-off Sarf London scum.

Objét

08.01.94 TOWN v SARFEND - Postponed

At least the Town had a local official in the day before to call this one off, rather than one from Cornwall.....

Just one thought to ponder over - after hundreds turned up to clear the pitch of snow at St Andrews before the Birmingham - West Brom game, one wonders how many would have bothered, had the Town issued a similar cry for help? Not many I suspect!

Objét

15.01.94 NOTTS COUNTY 1 TOWN 2

Following some excellent pre-match entertainment; namely a Hoskins pub near the station, we took the seats of our choice in the ground. What a superb job

Notts County have done modernising Meadow Lane: seats with a great view and refreshment and toilet facilities which are a credit to the club. Events on the pitch were very disappointing with neither team performing, particularly the Town, for most of the first half. Given County's record of 22 wins in their previous 29 home games you would have forgiven the fact that Tony Agana's goal left even the most optimistic Town fans doubting our ability to snatch even a point from the game, let alone three. However, we kept pressing forward and despite County not being penalised for a most blatant 'back-pass' Kerry notched a brace of goals including a cleverly placed shot against a defender deflecting the ball into the net. Are things really beginning to improve? 5 league games without defeat! And how refreshing it is to see the Town scoring from set-pieces, and late on, rather than the opposition.

Peake Army

18.01.94 TOWN 1 SOUTHEND UNITED 0

Fortunately Sarfend didn't take their first half chances, which meant a well taken goal by Telfer early in the second half was enough to seal a Town win. Makes a change for us to win a cup game, but dare we be confident about the fourth round?

K.F.H.

22.01.94 TOWN TERRIERS 2 DERBY RAMS 1

A battling display earned the Town the points in this fine footballing match-up. The Hughes through ball and great timing set up Telfer for the first, just on half time. Town stormed out for the second half, and only two great saves stopped the Hatters extending their lead. A rush of blood cost Luton dear, as Juergen gave himself no chance from a corner and Derby equalised. Heat of the moment (curse of the young), on 51 minutes and Hughes was walking - let's face it; it's been on the cards (!) all season. The strength of character of the whole back four shone through, and when the crowd lifted Scotty Oakes to run 70 yards and smash in from 20 yards - an impossible dream appeared. *[And what a goal. Oakes reckons it's the best he's ever scored, (for me as good as Graham French in 1968), and it's probably the best he ever will score unless he is very, very lucky and very special - Eds].*

Now about those cup tickets - we deserve better treatment! What's the point of buying a season ticket, if we can't use it? MR KOHLER HAS MY LETTER.....

The Major Oak

29.01.94 NEWCASTLE UTD 1 LUTON TOWN 1

A Game of Two Views (part one)

Well, it wasn't exactly St James's Park, but the Brengreen Suite does have a bar - oh well, NO, please, not ANOTHER drink - oh, if I must.....

David Pleat pulled off a shock, by giving Tony Thorpe his full debut. He took his chance to score a great goal, but otherwise was pretty ineffective. Consequently

Scott Oakes was given no service, and had one of those obscure games - which are far too frequent considering his skills. John Dreyer was in a class of his own, and was VERY harshly judged to have fouled Beardsley for THAT penalty. Go for it LUTON!

The Major Oak

A Game of Two Views (part two)

Not a bad result for a side that was given absolutely no chance by Alan "I know bugger all about football except where Liverpool are concerned" Hansen. It was a great score line, but for those of us fortunate to attend, the result could and possibly should have been a win.

To battle and scrap as well as Town did without Ceri, shows how much character the side has these days. To do well in the cup you need a bit of luck, and well, we certainly had our own fair share, but then again, luck is not something we've had a great deal of in recent years.

Tony Thorpe will probably never score a better goal, but it was certainly a stunner. Never have I heard a crowd go so quiet..... Can you hear the Geordies sing?

Now for the replay!

G.S.

05.02.94 TOWN 3 OXFORD UNITED 0

The recent change in the clubs fortunes on the pitch has been remarkable. A run of games without defeat leaves us all confident and explains people after the match bemoaning chances missed rather than goals scored.

With both sides facing important cup replays no result could safely be predicted. However, two goals in quick succession before half time and a further goal by Tony Thorpe settled a rather one sided affair. At the end of the game, Oxford had been made to look a very poor side and were no doubt grateful to have escaped so lightly.

P.I.

09.02.94 TOWN 2 NEWCASTLE UTD 0.....WEY-HEY!!

Wasn't it lovely.....all that media attention.....Scott Oakes and father singing 'Blue Moon' on the box.....Kevin Keegan gracious in defeat, smiling as he referred to Luton as a 'smashing little club'.....compliments from Alan Hansen (blimey!).....all that gloating at work.....just being proud to be a Luton fan for once!

After the first match I thought that a win was a foregone conclusion, but as the night approached, with the knowledge that Dixon was crooked, my nerve had gone and I thought the opposite. Thank God the players kept their nerve.

The first goal after an even start, played at 100mph, was a great finish by Hartson, albeit aided by the inept Hooper (why the hell did they buy him?). The

last 10 minutes of the first half (turned into 15 by the ref) was an onslaught by the Geordies, and I thought we'd crack.

The start of the second half was similar, but we still held on, then gradually pulled things round, catching them on the break. What a brilliant save by Sommer at Cole's feet! The determination of our defence and midfield, constantly biting at Newcastle's heels was a joy. Preece, who I thought was below par in the first half, started to buzz, and suddenly all the attacks were ours, culminating in our deserved second goal. What a run by Linton from the halfway line to follow up Oakes's shot. As for Oakes.....I think the press have said it all - superb.

I can't remember the last time I left Kenilworth Road feeling THAT good!

Objét

12.02.94 LEICESTER CITY 2 TOWN 1

After so many games without a defeat, it was bound to come, and although it was never going to be welcomed it was probably better to come in spite of a good team performance than because of a bad one. Most of us would prefer the defeat now rather than at Cardiff in the cup.

The difference between the teams was very little, and the result probably rested on the goal by Coatsworth, which to the untrained eye looked like a hit and hope effort that went to the right place. Thoughts of offside for their second goal were disproved by the TV replays, and the consolation goal for James was no less than the Town deserved. With a bit more luck we might even have had a draw, but hey, what the hell, one defeat in eleven? When was the last time we were that happy after losing?

K.F.H.

15.02.94 TOWN v MILLWALL - Postponed

Match called off due to a frozen pitch! As with the first attempt, called off by referee Bodenham from Looe, who must be getting sorely pissed off with driving to Luton. As for the pitch being frozen, I thought the club had bought a pitch cover to get over that problem. What happened - did someone forget to use it? Or did someone watch the weather forecast and decide that overnight snow would protect the pitch on its own?

K.F.H.

20.02.94 CARDIFF CITY 1 TOWN 2 INTIMIDATION?

Fortunately playing in a hostile atmosphere does not seem to unduly disturb our players, young or experienced, and some of them even rise to the occasion, such as "You Jack B++++d" Hartson. This was, in the main, a good team performance, although at times we seemed to allow Cardiff a little too much possession. Well taken goals by the ever more impressive Oakes, and Preece, who seems so

confident in those one-on-one situations this season. The result may have rested in part on refereeing decisions, but for the Cardiff manager to suggest that the linesman was responsible for upsetting their fans was absolutely ludicrous. To me they didn't look like they needed any help. One final comment; was it the atmosphere that caused Preecey to celebrate like that after scoring? I don't think I've ever seen him quite so ecstatic.

Ken Ross

As this issue is going to the printers in a great rush after the Cardiff game, there is very little coverage of the subject in this issue. In view of the events in South Wales, we expect to devote some space to this in the next issue, and would be pleased to receive your observations. We would also point out that the club (Luton Town) are taking action to see that Cardiff receive appropriate punishment, and would like information on the events of the afternoon. If you were a witness to the 'gas' attack incident, or the earlier incident involving stewards, after the game and have evidence (as opposed to opinions), Peter Palmer, PC699, would also be interested to hear from you. He can be contacted at Luton Police Station, ☎ Luton 401212.



Raving Mad!!!

Dear "Mad",

It was interesting to see the article in issue 19 regarding the football management computer game "Premier Manager". I've dabbled with a similar game called "Championship Manager '93" which has just recently had an update disk which gives you this seasons transfers (as of around October '93). The Luton team data is quite accurate, except that Perry Digweed has mysteriously appeared in the squad! (I guess whoever compiled the data read the cutting you showed in the last issue). It's quite interesting as you can look up every players playing career, including loans. I've played it for a few seasons and got Luton promoted to Division 1, but since then results have plummeted somewhat (sounds familiar?). Anyone want to buy Scott Houghton for £1.8 million? (Hmmm..... maybe it isn't that accurate after all!).

There are plenty of arcade football games out there for the Amiga, IBM PC, and the console machines (Sega and Nintendo). As far as I know only the PC version of "Sensible Soccer" contains a ready made Luton squad. If you load in the custom teams you will find a Luton Town XI. Modesty prevents me from saying who compiled the squad data, but all the best Luton players from the last decade or so are included. There are a couple of typing mistakes that make our forward line up sound more like a breakfast cereal (Bran Stein for example!) but other than that it will save loyal Hatters fans from having to create their own. (Actually, I bet Bran Stein will make more runs than Brian did when he returned the other year!).

Richard Hewison
Luton

Dear "Mad",

After getting the latest Luton result, The Twats 2 Luton 2, I thought I must have a moan, I have not had a moan since the Bristol City game, the last game I was at, unfortunately I am stuck here in Norway and I am really homesick, the only news on Luton I get is always days old and the occasional "Mad" finds its way to me! It's not the same without good old Luton, the smell of the rotten hot dogs, the Kohler out chants (is he still there?), the Dreyer you're crap, and I especially miss my old mates in the Main Stand, Block D, row M or was it L, anyway I really miss the moaning, are they still as crap? Who cares if they are crap, you should be here, NORWAY, NORWAY, NORWAY, WE'RE ALL GOING TO THE USA, YOU'RE NOT!, everyday

on bloody BORWAY TV the same old thing. TAYLOR SHOULD BE SHOT FOR THIS, even Norway's women's team won the Ladies European Cup, it is awful being an Englishman in Norway at the moment. Eddie the Eagle is pretty popular at the moment though, another loser.

Could anybody tell me who Gary Ford is? He's some 'has-been' playing for Tromsø. Talking of has-beens', how many have we got at Luton now!! or should I say 'never-beens', Pleat seems to have a habit of getting any old crap for nothing, or paying the odd hundred thousand or so on ex-Exeter City freebees. MOANING AGAIN!

Still I suppose I'd better get back to some skiing, YAWN, I would still rather be at Kenilworth Road on a wet, cold January evening, perhaps playing Manchester United in a cup replay, Hartson gets a hat-trick, 4-1 to the Hatters, DREAM ON.

Anyway, keep up the good work "Mad", and all the best Luton for 94, and a Happy New Year to Block D, row M or was it L, in the Main Stand.

Charlie Farnes Barnes
Narvik, Norway.

Dear "Mad",

I look forward to reading about the Newcastle match in the next issue. I thought about going but when I heard about the ticket situation on 6.06 I decided against it. Instead I spent the second half pacing up and down in my flat like an expectant father. I haven't seen the goals myself but they were shown on Dutch TV. People here are raving about the goal by Thorpe and that's saying something as they are brought up on a diet of long shots from the likes of Koeman etc. Cheers,

John Ball
Den Haag
Netherlands

Dear "Mad",

I didn't believe what everyone was saying, how we were bound to bounce back after the Southampton result by crucifying Luton, how the bookies were only giving 6/1 for a Cole hat-trick or a 5-0 home win. I knew it was going to be hard. I'm not trying to find excuses, but the pitch was so bumpy that any real passing team (err, like Newcastle or, err, Luton? - Eds) was going to struggle and I'm just old enough to remember 1973, when we last played you in the cup (sic) and you won 2-0 up here.

Last season we'd beaten you 2-0 up here and it could have been 7, as we came up against your keeper, not sure which one, in inspired form. Down there it was 0-0 and work prevented me from going, same as it will to the

replay. You seemed a nice passing side, but then Pleat's teams always are. It's just a lack of confidence in front of goal. I'm surprised Phil Gray left you to go to such a small and unambitious club as the goons at Roker Park, and make sure you beat them next time you play them, but that's the nature of the Wandering Ulster blood in him I suppose.

Kerry Dixon's past it isn't he? He whinges a lot as well, but I suppose he always did. That boy Thorpe hit a stunner of a shot, but we'd been farting around so much in defence, it was ridiculous he was even given the ball in the first place. As you may have gathered, Mike Hooper is not our most popular player. Neither is Scott Sellars after that miss in the first half. It was a penalty, even if Beardsley did go down like the sack of proverbial spuds. I can't understand why Harper had to kick at him though.

I know we don't give many tickets to away fans, but at least we're not at fault about this game. I suppose Kohler is just providing you with more reasons to despise him. As for your former chairman, I heartily sympathise with the denizens of Welwyn and Hatfield for having such a fat, full of shit, rent-a-mouth for an MP. Keep reading "Private Eye" for exposés of his hypocritical stance on Family Values, compared to his behaviour in private or with his Tory chums.

Lastly, why are half your team still in nappies and the other half reaching their dotage? Is money really that tight for you?

Incidentally, if any Luton fans who were in the Trent Bridge Inn, the day you went down at Notts County in 1992, remember a bunch of Geordies on their way to Leicester to win to stay up, hello again.

May the best team win the replay, as long as it's us!

Ian Cusack
Newcastle.

Well Ian, sorry you couldn't make it down here for the replay, but hope you managed to see it on Sky, so you can be sure that the best team DID win. We can see why Hooper isn't that popular up there, as he does a passable interpretation of the proverbial "hapless custodian", but to be fair your defence on the replay would have looked poor if it hadn't been for Barry Venison. It's no wonder he needed a drink before the Wimbledon game! Best of luck for the rest of the season, we'll try and make it up by beating the Mackems for you. - Eds

GREAT SCOTT!!



In great form at the moment, Scott Oakes takes on the Newcastle defence at St James' Park. At least he didn't have to take on the crowd as well.