

# MAD AS A HATTER!



A LUTON TOWN FANZINE

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Issue 22

Aug 94

STILL ONLY 50p

S M A L L   W O N D E R



David Preece, Mad as a Hatter! player of the year starts his tenth year at Luton.



# MAD AS A HATTER!



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## PREECE'S SHORTS



## Going for a song?

West Ham have got their "Bubbles", Pompey have got their chimes, the Scousers have got "You'll never walk alone", and, for God's sake, Stoke have got "Delilah" and Palace have "Glad all over". But here at Luton we've got nothing. Until now, that is. During the summer we've received several independent suggestions that it's about time we had our own terrace anthem (even if we haven't got a terrace). Now this seems like a good idea to us, and the song in question is a sensible and moving choice. At Luton we've been associated with some real crap and controversial things in recent times, but everyone loved Eric Morecambe and we think that adopting this song would be fitting and that he'd appreciate the way his song would live on. So let's make it our own and give it a rousing chorus.

Bring me sunshine  
in your smile  
Bring me laughter  
all the while

In this world where we live  
there should be more happiness  
So much joy you can give  
to each brand new bright tomorrow

Make me happy  
through the years  
Never bring me  
any tears

Let your arms be as warm  
as the sun from up above  
Bring me fun  
Bring me sunshine  
Bring me love

Kev/lan



## Polls Apart - The Declaration

"I, the undersigned, being the acting returning officer for the said constituency, hereby declare that the number of votes cast....." Oh, all right then, being the Editor, I've counted all the votes, worked out who the winners and also-rans are, and am now in a position to bring you the results. But before I start, I'd like to thank all of you who took the trouble to write in and vote. The response was much better than previous years and if I was not overwhelmed, I at least needed more than one set of fingers to count the votes. Hours were spent poring over what sometimes passes for the written word (yes Fleckney, this means you - and you too, Blakeman!) in order to reveal what a representative cross section of you think about the boys in Orange, Blue and White. So without further ado.....

### Town Player of the Season David Preece

Won by Preecey with a third of the votes, and well deserved "for pure consistency and reliability, and probably his highest ever goal tally", not to mention his testimonial year coming up. Julian James, who doesn't "get the recognition he deserves", took second place ahead of "Uncle Trev" Peake, Harper and Oakes. Altogether enough players were nominated to field a full team complete with one substitute, which must say something about the choice being a bit tricky.

### Young Player of the Season John Hartson

A solid victory for a player who made quite an impact during his first season, and secured this ahead of the promising David Greene and Scott Oakes who tied for second place. Tony Thorpe was close in fourth with Matthew Woolgar, Des Linton, Kelvin Davis and Trevor Peake (!) also mentioned in despatches. We will have to put an age limit or something on this next year.

### Best Town Performance Newcastle Utd (H)

The first sign that you were all overtaken by Cup Fever with the home match against West Ham coming in a close second. Newcastle away, and the home league games against Stoke and Derby also warranted a mention. Some of you just hedged your bets by saying Newcastle and not specifying home or away.

### Worst Town Performance Cambridge Utd (H)

"Perhaps the most abysmal game in over twenty years". This would probably have been a clearer winner if the attendance had been greater, but many of us had the good fortune to miss it. It is rather sad to note that no less than 13 matches (7 at home) were considered worthy of votes in this category.

### Best Goal For Town

Scott Oakes, v Derby Co (H)  
"The goal of the decade, more like", as one voter put it. A very convincing winner and no surprise at all. In the also rans were Oakes (3rd v West Ham, & v Stoke away), Dixon (2nd v Peterborough, & v Shitford at home), Hughes (at Palace) and Julian James (v WBA). But, to be fair, "has there ever been a season with more great goals?"

### Best Goal Against

Bob Taylor, West Brom (H)  
Another convincing winner and well deserved, not least for still managing to finish on the losing side. Nine other nominations, but Des Linton deserves special mention for being amongst them. But "did 90% of our opponents goals come from our own defensive cock-ups?"

### Best Opponents

Newcastle Utd & Nottm Forest  
A result that was half expected, but the Forest half is a bit surprising (to me anyway) as I was a bit disappointed by them. Grimsby Town were edged out into third place ahead of six others, including Crystal Palace ("but I'm buggered if I'd pay to watch them every week") and AC Milan.... errr, some mistake surely?

### Worst Opponents

Watford  
A strong loyalty vote hear in what must be considered a safe seat, with eight of the remaining nine candidates losing their deposits. Oxford, unsurprisingly, took second place.

### Best Referee

Roger Dilkes  
A deserved accolade for the man who allowed 'that goal' at Cardiff, and thus managed to get away with sending off our keeper at Forest. Second place to Brian Hill, but sadly they won't be doing any of our League games this season. These two were ahead of Gurnam Singh and Vic Callow. Also mentioned were Paul Alcock "anyone who sends off two Watford players in the same game can't be all bad", Terry Holbrook, and a man called Jones.

### Worst Referee

Terry Holbrook  
Despite a low turnout in this category, victory was achieved on the strength of just one performance, the Southend game at Kenilworth Road. Those who voted for Terry will be pleased to know that he will not be performing in the Football League this season. "All of them" seemed to be a popular theme, and other votes went to eight different refs including Vic Callow ("anyone who gives a penalty against a Watford player for deliberate handball then lets him stay on the pitch can't be too hot"), and the infamous Karl-Josef Assenmacher.

### Best Opposing Player

Ricky Otto & Peter Beardsley  
Another category in which not many votes were cast. The title split two ways,



with a strong Chelsea contingent bringing up the rear, in the form of Gavin Peacock, Frank Sinclair and Kerry Dixon. Also mentioned was Newcastle's Barry Venison for his valiant efforts at Kenilworth Road. Surprisingly the only Town player mentioned was Martin Williams, for his performance at right back at Barnsley, "he might well have been playing for them!"

### **Worst Opposing Player(s)      Watford**

A deserved second title for the club who brought the words 'you're shit' to the English language. OK, so they didn't win outright until the Editor's casting vote was brought into play, which it had to be as we couldn't fit five different names on one line. At least you saved me having to have two votes to get them there! Second place was shared between Andy Saville "for being a shit striker", David Speedie, Gerry Taggart, and Gordon Marshall (the Stoke keeper). Old favourites Hurlock and Morley also had a share of equal sixth.

### **Idiot of the Season      Rick Wright**

It may only have been a brief encounter, but there's no doubt he made an impact judging by the landslide of votes he won. If only he could get caught up in a real landslide everybody would be happy. Amongst the runners up were the prat who waterlogged the pitch before every game at the end of the season, and David Pleat. Honourable mentions to Kerry Dixon, Julian James (again), and David A. ("does it stand for arsehole?") Kohler. Cardiff supporters and the streaker at Wembley did not rate very highly in your thinking either. More obscure were votes for "me" and for Martin Gabb, who may not know why, but those who stood with him will.

### **Hero of the Season      Scott Oakes**

No great surprise that Scotty should win this seeing as he scored most of the goals that counted in our Cup run, and most of them were absolute crackers as well, but "why can't he do it every week?". Another nominee was Tony Thorpe for "starting the cup run proper, and for making us all go a bit silly in the Hatters Bar!" Also mentioned were Billy Schwer, Alan Harper, Juergen, Julian James (yet again - this man has a cult following), and "the Watford player who hand-balled it", amongst others.

### **Best Ground Visited      Molineux**

Obviously you are objective enough not to be swayed by the result or the quality of the game when deciding where to vote on this. However in a contest that was quite close is it possible that enough of you were swung by the cheap entrance fee? Wolves £7 coming in ahead of Notts County, Wembley (it must be the occasion), and Upton Park. It was a little surprising to find Millwall's New Den lagging behind, alongside the City Ground (Forest) and St James' Park, and, perversely, NOT Wembley.

### **Low Point of the Season      Wembley, 9th April 1994**

This really was an overwhelming choice, although your reasons varied from the overpriced shitty view, to the result and the overall disappointment. However, other occasions were "half time at Watford (19th December)", "August to December", and "after the match at Cardiff", and "Kohler not selling up". More poignantly, "Darren Salton being released", and "last time standing at Kenilworth Road", and "not getting tickets for Newcastle" are obviously there for real disappointment. "Usually every away game at 4.45" is cutting but understandable, but I'm completely beaten by the nomination for "chardonnnet of terracing". Perhaps it's just someone having a whine!

The observant among you will have noticed that the "Things to look forward to" category is missing. This is because there is so much of it that we've made a separate article of it. And finally, congratulations to the winner of the prize draw, Clifford Saunders of Hemel Hempstead, and runner up J.H. Taylor of Welwyn Garden City who will be receiving prizes soon. Once again thanks for all your votes.

K.F.H.

## *Vinyl Revelations*

141 Luton Arndale Market

Vinyl/CDs

Collectors/Bargains/Punk/Indie

Metal/Rock/Dance/Pop/Soul/Rock 'n' Roll

From Nirvana to Sinatra

We also buy and exchange

Mad as a Hatter! on sale here. 10% discount when buying Mad.



## Luton Town Old Boys



Luton Town old boy Iain Dowie, in action against Luton Town 'old boy' Trevor Peake.

## Editorial

Just when you thought it was safe, the editorial turns up, several pages away from its normal home. As it is the start of a new season you would probably expect us to offer some rather depressing predictions about the outcome of the next 42 league games. Curiously enough, you probably won't be disappointed. What we have seen so far suggests that Pleaty still hasn't lost the urge to experiment, when we all want him to do the same as was successful during parts of last season. We also feel that the effects of continual cost cutting will be noticed. To be proved wrong would be a delight, but in the friendlies the team have looked like they will miss the steadying influence of Alan Harper, and although we still have Uncle Trev at the heart of the defence, we may yet miss Tumble. Dwight Marshall, on the other hand, is an unusual player - we payed for him - and we wish him every success at Luton. He did receive a bit of stick at Stirling, but it was because his performance was no better than the rest of a below par team, and as paying spectators we expect a bit better. It is unfair of course that one player takes the brunt of it.

We could hardly miss the opportunity to mention the admin side of our favourite club, who scored two own goals in the PR department last week. First was the farcical situation with the new shirts, which were not on sale on 5th August, but could be ordered, but not if you wanted to do so half an hour before kick off. Second was the lack of seats in the Kenny End (upper tier), which hardly instills confidence in those who've bought season tickets to sit there. Hopefully they'll be in place by the time you read this, or things could turn quite unpleasant. But all in all, it's what we've come to expect, and at least we won't be left feeling like we're anywhere different.

Finally, we'd like to wish all of you a good season, but particularly we send good wishes to David Preece in his testimonial year.



## A Memo to David Kohler

I am writing regarding the new seating in the Kenilworth Road Stand. I have just found out that the new seats only go back as far as the exits in the stand, leaving the majority of the old terracing still intact, and redundant.

Surely the stand is going to look ridiculous, with all the season ticket holders squashed together at the front, with no people or seats at the back. With a drastically reduced number of people allowed in the stand, this is going to take its toll on the atmosphere, with surely far less singing. Perhaps you prefer it that way - then you can't hear the abuse aimed at you.

No wonder the applicants were being told of a 'huge demand' for the new seats, hardly any have been installed at all (*precisely none at the time of writing - Eds*).

It's hardly fair on people who have stood in the Kenilworth End for the last few years, who cannot now afford a season ticket. And no wonder! What a price hike. Because of the reduced accommodation there is a fair chance they will be unable to watch games any more from the back (or middle as it appears now) of the Kenilworth Stand. I feel especially sorry for people at the front of the stand having to pay £180 for their seat this time. Even for us at the back, a rise from £91 to £150 speaks for itself. It's obvious that we also will have to pay £180 (or more) for the 1995/96 season. Does the price doubling in just two years sound fair to you?

Enough about the prices... The fact that you have gone for the cheap option with the fitting of seats, involving a drastically reduced capacity at the ground, down to 10,017, demonstrates on your part, a lack of ambition and a lack of belief in the first team squad. One of the reasons the attendances were so low last season, was because apart from the first couple of months of the new year, we were crap. It looks as though the squad is going to remain more or less unchanged this season. So, what if the team were to excel this season, and be up there with the leaders. Surely attendances would be on the up. You obviously don't believe this will happen. Maybe you don't want to redevelop the ground much as we are allegedly on the move soon - but when? I understand that Pompey, Middlesbrough, Sunderland and Grimsby have been given permission to let their supporters still stand this coming season,

because they have concrete plans for relocation. It's a shame we aren't in that position. We should be by now.

It is not as though the club is short of a few bob after the Cup run, so why not spend a bit more on making the Kenilworth Stand a bit more attractive, a bit more accessible for all Town fans - season ticket holders or not. A larger capacity at that end of the ground would mean the "famous" Kenilworth Roar being retained and heard by the players, rather than just the away fans being heard, as is now likely to be the case. I dread to think how the singing is going to sound when teams like Wolves come to Town. We might just as well hold the game at Molineux.

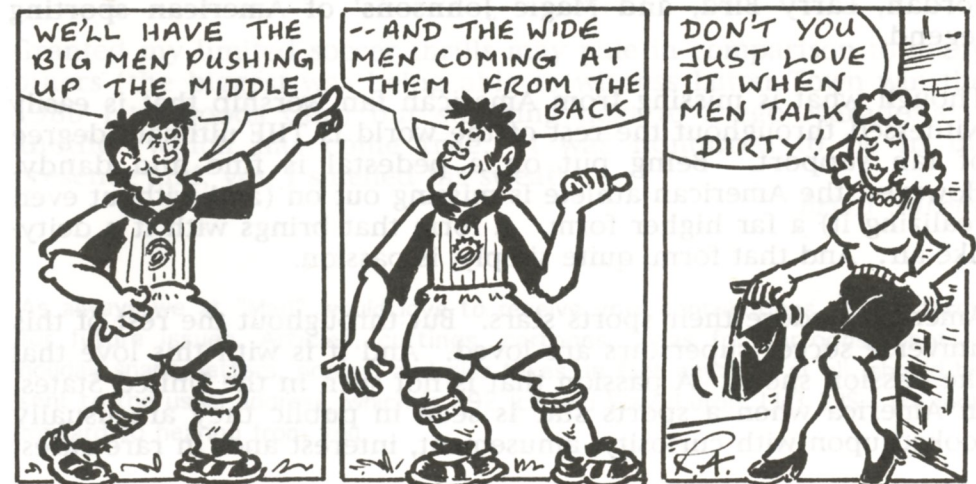
Yours, cramped in the Kenny End,

Objét

**What has Watford's Player of the Year  
vote got in common with the Labour  
Leadership Vote?**

**ONE MEMBER  
ONE VOTE!**

**More Sexist Crap as Bobbin talks tactics!**





## **I SMELLED HIS SWEAT**

Like sports fans throughout the rest of the world, Americans are adept at idolizing their athletic superstars. But on the face of this planet, though, rare is the American sporting superstar who is known far and wide. Michael Jordan of basketball fame would be one exception. Unfortunately, Jordan has retired from the basketball court and has taken to covering the outfield grass for a minor league baseball team. Still, through the wonders of global marketing, Jordan will continue, albeit for the uninformed worldwide masses, to dribble and dunk for the Chicago Bulls.

America has an exceedingly poor tendency to look upon its athletes as much more than idols. Consequently, the human reality of such stars can be devastating. The recent O.J. Simpson story (retired gridiron hall-of-fame superstar turned alleged double murderer) being a classic case in point illustrates the pitfalls of projecting mere mortals as role models for youth.

Fans do, though, have a ceiling as to how high a sports figure may rise. From the bottom of the ladder status of being a professional athlete the next honour is that of becoming a star performer. Once this level has been attained the goal of superstardom is basically the highest level of sporting idolatry.

But on rare occasions an athlete will come along who can transcend even this lofty level of fan adoration and can truly be said to have "...been put on a pedestal". These are the Michael Jordan, Larry Bird, and Magic Johnsons' of American sporting legend.

Though what is missing from American fan worship that is easily witnessed throughout the rest of the world is THE ultimate degree of fan support. Being put on a pedestal is fine and dandy. However, the American athlete is missing out on (and without even realizing it) a far higher form. A form that brings with it a deity-like air. And that form, quite simply, is passion.

Americans adore their sports stars. But throughout the rest of this universe soccer superstars are loved. And it is with this love that the passion shows. A passion that is not seen in the United States. In America when a sports star is seen in public they are usually looked upon with curiosity, amusement, interest and, in rare cases,

excitement - but not with passion. Now, in other parts of the world contrast this with a world class soccer star sighting. Americans can't begin to understand the difference.

I had the good fortune (or, if truth be told, rather very good luck) to stand next to Diego Maradona recently. It occurred at his suburban hotel, prior to the Argentine stars' latest scandal with drugs, after Maradona had returned from a morning practice and he was answering journalist's questions. He and I shared the same air for a few brief seconds. But in that time I was within inches of one of the worlds all-time greatest soccer players. I wasn't just close to Maradona, I WAS CLOSE TO MARADONA!

Being an American soccer fanatic I fully understood the feeling of passion that overtook me. And though this encounter was over in a few heartbeats it is an experience that will forever be burned into my life. This idea of total passionate devotion is one of the reasons why soccer has not and probably never will catch on in America. When asked why he and some friends travelled hundreds of miles just in the hope of seeing the Argentine team practice for the World Cup a New Yorker stated, "We came to see God - Maradona".

The average American fan has never experienced this fire-in-the-belly passion known throughout the rest of the world. No American sporting superstar has ever been compared to God. And, hopefully, none will ever be based on their ego's (even if more than a few do make more money than God). But Maradona, his infamous "Hand of God" goal, substance abuse and frequently unstable temperament notwithstanding, still illicit such devotion.

Granted my limited soccer thrills may pale in comparison to many others (the biggest was being able to witness Luton Town win the 1988 Littlewoods Cup) but standing next to Diego Maradona is another which has come true. I was honoured to be in his presence and, yes, I smelled his sweat!

*Brian Surette*

As always we at "Mad" would love to receive your contributions, in any form, for future issues. Articles, cuttings, cartoons, ideas for cartoons, photos, holiday snaps, letters, poems, and piss takes, in fact anything at all, should be sent to the usual address, which is 292 Icknield Way, Luton, LU3 2JS. We look forward to hearing from you.



## SHORT CUTS

Town players in fitness shock!  
Can it be true, or are they  
just enthusiastic youngsters.

The Cobblers first-team squad yesterday beat Luton Town 2-1 in a behind-closed-doors game of three halves at Raunds Town. On target were forwards Martin Aldridge and Gary Harrison.

**Arsenal found**  
At bottom of new shirt,  
presumably.

A party of Japanese officials were here to see how the Hatters are run following visits to other clubs in Europe.

It's all part of preparations for a Japanese bid for the 2002 World Cup.

How to run a football club,  
Before and after. Which of  
these could it be?

Only a flashing Kerry Dixon  
It don't bare thinking about!

□ Two goals in the last ten minutes finally killed off Cottingham as they lost 5-3 to Luton Town opponents who included four first-team players in their squad.

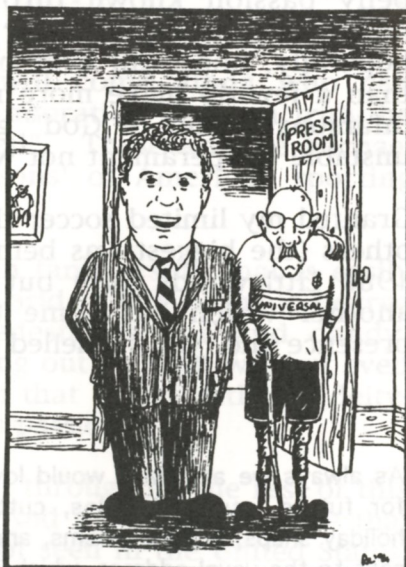
It was a much-improved performance by the Cottingham players, who had lost 9-1 to Kettering Town in their opening pre-season friendly on Monday.

But despite two goals from Robert Muir and a solo Rab Stewart effort keeping the United Counties League side on terms the difference in fitness eventually told.

Town lose to Wobblers, but it  
needs a game of three halves!

## All wrong about Dwight

Let's hope the barrackers at  
Stirling are.



"Reading may have Daley Thompson, but we're not daunted: Gentlemen, I give you Roger Bannister."

## FA CUP GLORY - NOTHING MUCH ELSE

### A review of the 1993/94 season

We kicked off our season against the Julian James' of our league - Watford. An entertaining match which saw two of their thugs sent off and Kerry score a nice second goal. Couldn't have dreamed of a better start. A defeat at Cambridge in the CC Cup was followed by the same reverse at Fratton Park, with Juergen a star performer. What followed was a disappointing game to say the least as we lost 1-0 to Cambridge, and that was our CC Cup for another year. Little did we know what the FA Cup held in store for us.

A home game with Forest followed and saw SuperJohn net his first ever league goal on his debut. However, a hotly disputed Woan goal five minutes from time gave us four defeats on the trot, which 3 days later was followed by the same result in the poofter cup at Shitford. A week later we played once again in the AIC and drew with Southend 1-1, and were consequently out of another cup.

Defeats by Bolton at home (2-0) and Tranmere away (4-1) saw us drop to the basement of our division and calls for Pleat to rethink his future here. Two successive draws away from home made things seem a touch brighter than they were. The first game in October saw us blow away Barnsley who were reduced to 10 men when Taggart clobbered Jules only two minutes into the match. Sadly for us Jules got up and played on. And scored a corker, with Oakes also grabbing a couple.

The following midweek game at home to Bristol City was disappointing - a 2-0 defeat, which was followed by defeat at Derby sending us to the bottom of the division once more. A Paul Dickov goal secured a 1-0 win over Notts County, which was then followed by a 2-0 defeat at Roker Park. We couldn't win 2 games on the trot. Our first away victory at Oxford by a superb Ceri Hughes goal saw us climb up to 19th place, our highest for two months. But a 2-0 defeat at home to Leicester saw us drop once more. Our home form had seen us win only three in eight home games in all competitions. A midweek trip to South West London saw us play leaders Crystal Palace. A narrow 3-2 defeat was a disappointing result, in which Geoff Aunger scored with his very first touch for the club, and Hughes score a wonderfully crafted goal, taking on the whole team and management before scoring.

Our next game was against 2nd placed Charlton, and a Paul Telfer goal in front of the TV cameras gave us a 1-0 victory, pushing us up to 18th. But typically this was followed by a 2-1 defeat at



Southend, which saw Mitchell Thomas making a welcome return. Stoke City were the visitors at the end of November and quickly assembled a 2-0 lead. Dixon struck with a beauty immediately and a free kick by Hughes and a well taken goal by Scottie gave us an unexpected 3-2 half time lead. Three more strikes after half time (two more by Dixon for his first Luton hat-trick, and one by SuperJohn) settled the scoreline 6-2 in our favour. But two 1-0 reverses against Charlton (A) and Tranmere (H) saw us drop back to 19th position. Our last game before Christmas saw us battle back to draw with the scum with a late penalty by Tumble.

Following Xmas, our Boxing Day fixture saw us travel 50 miles up the A1 to Peterborough. A 0-0 draw was not justice in a game which we dominated. This was quickly followed by our last game of 1993 - a 2-1 win over Grimsby. Two late goals by Harper and Hughes turned the game around after an unbelievably poor first half from the lads.

1994 saw our first game against West Brom and a creditable 1-1 draw at the Hawthorns. The following Saturday was FA Cup 3rd round day, but not for us as the pitch was saturated. Seven days later we were off to the Midlands for a fixture with Notts County. Two late goals by Dixon meant we had snatched an unlikely victory, and what proved to be one of only two "doubles" for the season, along with Oxford. Our FA Cup fixture followed in a fairly entertaining match which we succeeded 1-0, with a well worked goal, culminating in Telfer's shot into the top corner. The win gave us a daunting trip to Sky TV's "entertainers" Newcastle.

Four days later was the home match against promotion chasing Derby. 9371 fans witnessed a great game and the best goal seen at Kenilworth Road for years. Scott's sizzler had Cantona grasping for thin air, as well as Taylor in the Derby goal. We were hitting form and Oakes and Hughes down either wing were the first divisions Giggs and Kanchelskis show. Hughes was unlucky to be dismissed in the Derby game, but the victory was well deserved.

A week later was FA Cup 4th round day. An enjoyable day out and a little press spotlight was all we could hope for, but debutant Thorpe scored a stunner that left the whole of St James' Park silenced, Luton fans included. Beardsley's penalty saved them. The replay was to follow 11 days later. An impressive 3-0 victory over struggling Oxford came in between and stretched our unbeaten run to nine games (5 wins and 4 draws). February 9th was the day of the Newcastle replay in which we defied the odds to stop Cole scoring and triumph 2-0. That Cole couldn't score in 180 minutes against James and Co was indeed rare. The 10 match unbeaten run

ended at Leicester with a 2-1 loss, James scoring a rare goal for the Town.

The unhappy scenes at Cardiff followed the next weekend but goals from Oakes and Preece gave us a quarter final tie with West Ham. Torvill and Dean could have joined in for our home game v Portsmouth which we won convincingly 4-1, with Oakes in superb form. Victory over Sunderland followed, and gave us 14th position, the highest since August 14th! Our next four matches saw us go without a win, Forest 0-2, Middlesbrough 1-1 and 0-0 at West Ham in the cup. Bottom placed Birmingham missed some sitters but still went away with a 1-1 draw.

The West Ham replay followed, and was the highlight of my season. Scott's hat-trick put us into the semi final against Chelsea in a top class match played sportingly by both teams, with the exception of the muppet Morley, who whinged and wined at every decision. Cheerio Trev!

A defeat at Barnsley (1-0) preceeded a 2-0 victory over our other 'local' rivals Peterborough, in a game where Dixon scored a superb volley. Easter Monday was a 200 mile round trip to Grimsby in which our reserve side lost 2-0. Five days later was our biggest game of the season. Sadly we did not do ourselves justice, and where comprehensively beaten 2-0 by John Major's lads, Chelsea. Still, it was a good day out.

Wolves at home followed and they won 2-0 with Burke coming back to answer about 8,000 critics of a couple of weeks previous. Top of the table Crystal Palace were less than impressive a few days later when a 1st minute goal was enough to beat us. Two 1-0 defeats against Bristol City and Wolves put us on the slide again and in a slight relegation struggle. We hadn't scored in a staggering 10 hours 19 minutes when Preecey capitalized on an error at home to Millwall. They scored shortly after and so we had to settle for a 1-1 draw.

Another 1-1 draw, against Southend, was followed by an incident packed match in the last home game of the season and the last game for the Kenilworth Road terracing. The 3-2 victory over West Brom securing our 1st Division future.

A Sunday trip to Stoke ended our season with a 2-2 draw, with a superb strike from Scott and a late penalty by Telf earning us a share of the spoils. That was my 1st away match of the season. Amusing it was.

*Tony Allbones*



**L. T. F. C.**  
**PRESENTS**

# ON DEADLY GROUND

**The story of the  
KENILWORTH ROAD PITCH**

**Showing from  
AUGUST 1994**



Brian Surette sent in his snaps from the World Cup where he met footballs most famous cardboard cut-out. Below, he emerges from the souvenir stall, proving that in the States things may be bigger, but can look ludicrous as well





# Whatever happened to Bobbin Dino?

WHAT WE NEED THIS SEASON IS MORE CREATIVITY!

DOES THAT MEAN I CAN BUY A CREATIVE MIDFIELD DYNAMO?

NO! I MEAN CREATIVE ACCOUNTING!!

FOR A START WE'LL DITCH THE DMF KIT CONTRACT

WE'LL GO INTO THE RAG TRADE AND MAKE OUR OWN SHIRTS

HEY BIMBO, GET ME £30 PRONTO!

YO, THIS IS MISTER KOHLER'S OFFICE, HE REQUIRES THREE TENNERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

ALL WE NEED IS THIRTY QUIDS WORTH OF GOOD CLOTH.

WOT NO PC?

AND SO... HERE ARE YOUR THREE TENORS

HI LAK TO BEE HIN YAMERICA!

I AM SURROUNDED BY IDIOTS!

NOW BACK TO THE PLOT!

IN FUTURE HATTER'S SHIRTS WILL BE TAILOR MADE

DO I NOT LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT!

MAKING OUR OWN KIT WILL BE A BIG MONEY EARNER!

BIG JUERGEN KNITS HIS OWN SWEATER..

OH SHIT, ANOTHER DROPPED STITCH!

BAD NEWS, DMF HAVE SLAPPED AN INJUNCTION ON US USING ANYBODY ELSE'S SHIRTS!

THEN WE'LL PLAY WITHOUT!

AND SO ON MATCH DAY WHAT'S THAT?

BODY PAINT!

I'VE HEARD OF PAINTING BY NUMBERS, BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!

MORE BAD NEWS, THE DMF INJUNCTION IS A BAN ON SHORTS AS WELL AS SHIRTS!

THAT'S NO PROBLEM FOR THE HATTERS!

ORANGE, ORANGE, WHITE AND BLUE! HIDE YOUR PRIVATE PARTS FROM VIEW!

LOOK NO HANDS!

MAD ARSE

BUT CAN BOBBIN KEEP IT UP ALL SEASON?

Lay A.



# Raving Mad!!!

Dear "Mad",

I thought you might be interested in our holiday photo taken in Tenerife earlier this year. Perhaps the hostelry in the background might belong to a former Luton Town centre forward, whose other, more local, venture has closed down! Anyway with 2 months to go before the start of the season the same old thoughts spring to mind - how many of our younger talented players will still be with us come August? Which golden oldie will Pleat go for this time round? (Though you have to hand it to him regarding Alan 'Handsome' Harper; perhaps if he had been signed earlier in the season then a play off place might have been on the cards as his steady ball holding was just what we've needed for a couple of seasons). Will the scoreboard be fixed or will our sponsors offer Kohler a tenner for it as scrap? Talking about summer, yet again Luton Town miss yet another marketing opportunity. Remember the third kit fiasco (ready next week, next month, definitely late September, but turned up in November)? Well, I asked the bloke in the (DMF) club shop at the end of April if there would be a new second strip before the start of the season, his reply "perhaps, maybe, who knows?" This from the company who'll make the shirts! (Now you know why he gave you that answer - Eds). I don't know about you but I want to wear my new shirt ("dartplayer size please") on the beach/in the bar/on the Britannia Airways 767 etc now and not hidden under 6 layers of Mr Byrite's best in December as a cruel bitter wind blows around the New Stand.



Anyway, that's enough moaning: let's hope that Kohler opens the biscuit-tin where he keeps our FA Cup run dosh long enough to give Pleaty enough money to buy a quality reserve striker to play alongside Johnny Hartson/Kerry Dixon. One unhappy note to finish on is the release of Darren Salton from the payroll; I know there are good reasons why this has been done (mainly legal ones relating to his claim for damages) but it is very sad nonetheless and for this to happen to such a very promising player is shattering. In my opinion he would, no doubt, have gone on to play for Scotland and perhaps be as good as Alan Hansen - yes, that good. I hope the club organise a Testimonial for him and that everyone reading this turns up to support him.

**Gerry Callaghan (and the rest of the Stevenage crew)**  
Stevenage

*We have to say that the comments about the new kit are 100% valid. It is years since we were able to wear a new kit during the summer months, but what is worse is that we usually don't have it for the start of the season, and most of us will be having that problem as we read this.*

Dear "Mad",

The Thin Blue Line is a Cardiff City fanzine, and you'll no doubt remember that one of the games in your marvellous FA Cup run last season was against us. This letter is more concerned with your game in the previous to that, when you played Newcastle United.

The Thin Blue Line has been running a series focussing on violence at football matches, and Cardiff games in particular. This prompted one reader to write in, remarking how Cardiff had had a lucky escape having to play Luton instead of Newcastle, as according to some Luton fans he had met, the Newcastle 'fans' had caused much trouble and damage in Luton, on the day of the match.

We wondered if you could confirm or deny these reports, and perhaps add some further comment. Cardiff have a pretty poor reputation as regards crowd problems, undeservedly in our opinion, and if we had been playing them instead of Luton, we may have had more trouble, leading to fines deducted points, or even the closure threatened by our glorious leader, Rick Wright. We're looking on this as perhaps a lucky escape. We don't want any great lengthy stuff, just a few lines will do. We'd be very grateful. Cheers, and the best of luck for next season.

**Andrew Turton**

The Thin Blue Line, PO Box 265, Cardiff, CF2 3YH.



We have already replied to this amazing letter, and publish it mainly for its ironic element of humour. However, if you feel you want to put them right on the subject of "undeserved reputations" and "lucky escapes", feel free to write to them - they obviously need educating.

Dear "Mad",  
Please help me. I am having trouble getting to games home and away. I am 16 years old and live near Market Harborough on the Leics/Northants border. My dad takes me to some games, but the train is 15 quid a time, so I am begging for a lift. I will pay petrol money. If anyone can give me a lift from the Market Harborough/Northampton area I would be really grateful. Also I would really like to get hold of video tapes of the Newcastle and West Ham cup replays with all the Sky build up on. I am willing to pay for them.

**James Woodgate**

'Greenleigh' Kelmarsh Road, Clipston, Market Harborough, Leics LE16 9RX

If you can help James, please write to him at the above address, or contact us at "Mad" (see p2 for address/phone no.) and we'll pass it on.

*On the internet?*

*Join WHOSH*

*Worldwide Hatters on the Super Highway*

email request-ltfc@robots.ox.ac.uk



Alternative designs for the new strip.

## WORLD CUP NOTES

Notes from the Boston World Cup venue - Foxboro Stadium; Section 111, Row 22, Seat 15: outside the stadium was all America but once you passed through the entrances you were transported to lively foreign lands.... English football jerseys spotted in the crowd included Manchester United, Manchester City, Liverpool, Everton, Q.P.R., Spurs, Arsenal, Sheffield United, Reading and, of course, one Luton Town.... From Scotland both Celtic and Rangers were represented.... As well as Cardiff City from Wales.... Flags inside of the stadium spoke of Manchester United, Ipswich Town, Bradford and a very poignant "Do I Not Like That?"

Say what you will about the national team from Argentina (they looked unbeatable after their first two matches), Their fans certainly know how to dress the inside of a stadium.... America is probably the only country in which any national team on the face of the planet will find support and this was evidenced by the record attendance for this World Cup.... Taking the soccer train from downtown Boston to Foxboro Stadium for one of the matches this LTFC supporter found himself in the midst of five Cardiff City lads (and lived to tell the tale - Ed). "Knocked us out of the FA Cup last year, you did," one said. "Yeah, under controversial circumstances," added another... The nil-nil match between South Korea and Bolivia was the best scoreless game ever witnessed by these eyes. A goal at the end by either side would have been cruel.... Having watched Italy play four matches in the past two years has provided an interesting enigma. They have played only one decent match, yet won all four and with a goal differential of 7-2 to boot.... For a few hours at least the prospect of a Bulgaria v Romania final match had the footballing Gods at FIFA scrambling for the antacid....

By the quarter final stage even the jaded American sportswriters had stopped their "I hate soccer/soccer is boring" columns. They were not won over but they realized hardly anyone was reading their drivel any more.... My wife has already informed me that for the 1998 World Cup in France we WILL be attending any matches held in the south of France.... And speaking of the French W.C. (pardon?), the only aspect that could possibly be improved upon from this years' would be the food.... Try as they did early on America's cup organizers failed to dampen the fans' spirit and surrounding atmosphere.... FIFA is already predicting that



America will stage the Cup again within the next twenty years - so start saving.... Couldn't Europe replace Greece with Nigeria?.... Drums, horns, chants of "Ole, Ole-Ole, Ole" and the horrid fan inspired wave were constant.... America, being the largest importer of illegal Colombian cocaine, should be held directly responsible for the murder of Colombian defender Andres Escobar, and not the sport of football.... And finally, the worst part of World Cup XV was that the party had to end. Thanks for letting my country borrow your world for thirty wonderful days!

Brian Surette

## *Fantasy Managing Director*

This is your opportunity to be in charge of a football club. The idea of the game is to see your club relegated down the divisions while you make a healthy profit.

You begin with a team capable of competing with the country's best and it is your job to get them into the lower divisions as quickly as possible.

### The scoring system

- 4 points for each game lost
- 4 points deducted for each game won
- 3 points for the sale of star players for ridiculously small amounts
- 3 points deducted for money signings
- 6 points for every law suit you enforce
- 3 points deducted for allowing long serving players a pay rise
- 3 points for pay cuts
- 4 points for money making schemes

If you would like to play Fantasy Managing Director, fill in the coupon:

Name:

Address:

Favourite Club:

and return with a cheque for £1000 to: Luton Town Football Club, Kenilworth Road, Luton, Beds.

*Juergen Sommer's Shoulder Pads*



Darren Bradshaw, trying to catch Pleaty's eye, and at the same time nick a Southampton shirt.

## **FSA London Branch Programme**

Venue: Ebury Arms, Pimlico Road. Victoria, London SW1

September 8, 1994

**The Policing and Stewarding of Football**

October 13, 1994

**A Man's Game? - Women in Football**

(Guest speakers at all events)



## LA PREMIERSHIP: NUMERO DEUX

**Barnsley:** Struggled a little last year, and even more against us when even Julian James scored a corker of a goal, which doesn't come around too often. A very ordinary side more capable of losing games than winning them. Hope to see Gerry Taggart this year after missing him for 89 minutes last year. Play off chances: 3/10.

**Bolton Wanderers:** Surprisingly struggled last season when a mid table place should be their minimum priority. Have class players in McGinlay, McAteer and Stubbs but these may be playing "Premiership - Numero Uno" pretty soon. A good cup run last year (which, like us, coincided with a loss of league form), but don't expect any honours this time around. Play off chances: 6/10.

**Bristol City:** Seem to be a bit of a bogey side to us, two losses at home and two away in the league. Not too classy for us, but just one of those things. Remember when Andy Cole destroyed us a couple of seasons back, but he's gone now (and we destroyed him in the cup - all credit to Tumble). Expect as much from the Robins, as good from Julian James next season, - Jules may just nick it. Play off chances: 4/10.

**Burnley:** So then, the Claret and Blue boys. Two seasons ago, the only chance of playing there would be in the FA Cup. "1st Division Luton Town v 4th Division Burnley". Giants v Minnows. We're now equal. Burnley are (or at least used to be) a big club, but there is definitely more chance of me admiring the "silky skills" of Jules than Burnley winning more than 10 games this year. Play off chances: 1/10.

**Charlton Athletic:** Started off great guns last year, then slowly faded like an Alan Harper run down the wing. Few class players such as Pitcher and Minto, with the giant Curtly Ambrose cloned Leaburn up front. Capable of mounting some kind of promotion push this season, but a lack of depth in their squad (or Andy Petterson in their goal - Ed) may be their ultimate problem. Or could we sell them Jules? Play off chances: 8/10.

**Derby County:** Perhaps now the most talented team in our division now that Forest have gone up. Will never have a better chance of promotion - and the chairman knows this. So much class and with Kitson, Gabbiadini and Johnson up front - this is pace defined. Only poor finishing in their play off

final cost them a place in the Premiership. Just ask Marco Gabbiadini. If Derby are not promoted this year, I'll resign myself to say "well passed, Julian". In other words, Derby will be champions. Play off chances: 10/10.

**Grimsby Town:** Completely outclassed us for 70 mins last December before two class goals from Harper and Hughes settled the issue. Like so many others in the division, rather ordinary team who are one of the teams you rarely look out for on the BBC video printer. Look out for the "old gits" next year complete with Zimmer frames, Futchter and Futchter. Play off chances: 5/10.

**Luton Town:** Aha! So then, what can I say? I could go on for ages, but I don't wanna make all of you piss yourselves with laughter. I reckon we could get on OK this season, because I don't think Oakes, Hughes or Telfer are leaving (as you read this, they may have). Greene looks promising, Oakes is now classy, Hughes has that arrogant Cantona style about him, and Jules is still shite. Still, we may settle for a top ten slot this season, if we are outstanding. Play off chances: 5/10.

**Middlesbrough:** New boss this season in Bryan Robson, (*who curiously wanted Bryan 'Pop' Robson as his assistant - Ed*) who no doubt will whinge at the slightest tackle Hughes may inflict on his lads. I've never liked Mr Robson. As for 'Boro, they were perhaps disappointing last year after their drop from the top flight. Will be hoping for greater things this year, and Robson may just be the motivator to ensure their improvement. Play off chances: 7/10.

**Millwall:** Have the nastiest thugs in football, and their fans aren't too polite either. In Hurlock and Van Den Hauwe have two of the biggest poofters in the game (remember how Telfer dealt with Hurlock at home last season - in fact Telfer is now our team hard guy). Strange team because they are talented, but still have that unwanted too physical approach. May well contest with Derby for the single automatic promotion slot. (*Ooh, that WILL be fun - Ed*) Play off chances: 9/10.

**Notts County:** Surprised most last year with their play off push which just eluded them. I don't think they're any better than us (we did our only double against them), they were just the surprise team in our division. Nice ground, now one of the best in the division. Don't expect the same position come next May. Play off chances: 5/10.



**Oldham Athletic:** Can we expect goals against this lot? Is Andy Ritchie bald? What I'm getting towards is saying "YES" to my first question. With Paul Gerrard in one goal and Juergen in the other we may be tricked into thinking we're watching one day cricket with the entertainment and score which may arise. Oldham may provide the entertainment against most teams, but don't be surprised if they're mounting a promotion push come March.  
Play off chances: 8/10.

**Portsmouth:** Again, like a few other clubs, are capable of play offs, but only a mid table position was achieved last season. We gave them a good thrashing on our ice rink last season when they looked uninterested, as well as poor. Awford, Creaney and Simons are class players, but if they gain a play off place come next May, they will have done remarkably well.  
Play off chances: 6/10.

**Port Vale:** I can't ever remember playing these before (9th Jan 74, a Wednesday afternoon in the winter of discontent, we won 4-2 in a FA Cup 3rd round replay - Ed), so they will bring the unexpected with them. The only expected thing we can expect (is that enough expects? [Expect so!]) is them filling their ground for a local, passionate derby match against Stoke. Don't expect them to be filling our ground. Not much else to say about this bunch, let's just hope they're easy pickings, even Jules could look against the Vale. (Errr, look what..? - Ed)  
Play off chances: 3/10.

**Reading:** Same could be said for Reading as for Port Vale, so expect Julian to have two good games. Well, don't expect him to, just theoretically, he should. Champs of the 2nd division by a canter, and our last meeting with them was not exactly favourable for us - a 4-1 drubbing in the Simod (remember it?) Final. Can only realistically push for a mid table spot and this may be an exaggeration.  
Play off chances: 3/10.

**Sheffield United:** Can we hope for an entertaining match against this lot? Is Alan Harper quick? The answer to both is sadly no, with more chance of Alan speeding up a touch. However, with Spurs having avoided demotion, we'll have to put up with United being in our division. Their brutal tactics, Thor style strategies, swords and all (Swords? Didn't Thor use a Hammer?), and hurtling long ball game may be a match for many in our division.  
Play off chances: 9/10.

**Southend United:** Like Bristol City, are very much our bogey side who we can never beat home or away. However they did provide us with our early springboard for FA Cup glory last season. An ordinary outfit, who, without

the masterly skills of Ricky Otto and his hair mop, would be even more ordinary. Have never provided us with a devastatingly outstanding contest, just turn up for the numbers. Even money for the draw this season.  
Play off chances: 5/10.

**Sunderland:** Disappointing last season, and should be pushing for a play off place this season. Having the piss ripped out of them by Newcastle and will desperately want to improve on last season. Our old boy Phil Gray, became a bit of a folk hero up there, but Alec didn't. This may have been down to him conceding five goals on his debut. Great start Alec. Should improve on last season if Alec does.  
Play off chances: 7/10.

**Swindon Town:** The Premiership whipping boys of last season, which is rather like having 4 Jules in your defence. However with the gap between the Premiership and 1st division apparently widening, both financially and in class, Swindon are likely to be up there somewhere for most of the season. Fjortoft could well send them back up, but keeper Nicky Hammond could well help them avoid that. Their slick passing style should attract the crowds and ensure a play off place.  
Play off chances: 9/10.

**Tranmere Rovers:** Reached the play offs last season before being beaten by Leicester. Rely heavily on Aldridge to score most of their goals but still have other players who contribute to their cause such as Nixon the keeper, and Malkin who shares striking duties with Aldridge. We completely outplayed them at home before Aldridge settled it with Tranmere's first and last strike. Will probably end up there or thereabouts this term.  
Play off chances: 8/10.

**Watford:**

What football team?  
Bye, bye, Watford.

Play off chances: 0/10.

**West Bromwich Albion:** Gave us perhaps our most entertaining game at the end of last season and was historic in the it was the Kenny terraces "Au revoir" to the thousands who have sampled its atmosphere. I'm glad they stayed up because they do want to play football and go at teams, and Bob Taylor is a very good player. However, without the financial backing, may struggle again, unless famous fan Frank Skinner can sell his wit for the Baggies.

Play off chances: 4/10.



**Wolverhampton Wanderers:** Came close to play offs last season with the arrival of Turnip Taylor. Should be pushing for promotion this season, it would be deserving because their ground improvements are superb. With Whittingham and Co. firing on all cylinders, expect Wolves to be competing with Derby and Millwall. And Turnip - you can keep Mark Burke. Play off chances: 8/10.

Tony Allbones

*Eds note: I haven't quite figured out how Derby can be certainties for the play offs and champions at the same time, but perhaps I'm being pedantic. And having typed all this out, I can make a very good case for reducing the number of teams in the division.*



"I've just got a spot of sunstroke: I tell you there's no bug going around."



If what we have seen so far is anything to go by, young Kelvin Davis, another of Luton Town's 'Beech boys', will prove a more than adequate replacement for Petterson. Pity about that shirt though.



## Talking Shop

Well, the new kit is here at last, if you are one of the lucky few. But why do we need another new kit?

1. It's a fashion item (which explains the ludicrous baseball shirt style).
2. It makes the club money.
3. Mr Kohler was pissed off with DMF.

In the throw-away 90s reasons 1 and 2 are just about acceptable, but number three? Although the root of this are a bit difficult to trace it became clear as long ago as February that there were some problems in the relationship between LTFC and DMF. It will be noticed that this was before the cup run had got too far, so the money the club shop made from that was probably not at the bottom of this.

Apparently, LTFC were speaking to other kit manufacturers as long ago as March, but kit manufacturers also talk to each other, and as a result LTFC's original choice turned them down. As a result, the club had to look elsewhere, and by May the club had a sample kit from Bukta, who promptly went out of business. However, the kit is now being manufactured by a firm run by former Bukta employees. This probably explains the likeness to last seasons Derby kit, in spite of claims about it being designed on the PC in Kohler's office. The kit is, however, being marketed as the clubs own, although it is unclear whether there is any real financial benefit in this. After all, other clubs have tried it before, and gone back to the manufacturers after a year or two. As for the idea of it being cheaper, well that is a dubious claim. Shirts £1 less than last year, shorts £1 more, socks same price. Call that a saving?

The second aspect of the "dispute" with DMF revolves around the club shop. Now the Town have not had a well run club shop since the one at the bottom of Oak Road in the 70s. This was an excellent club shop and general sports shop, in the days when the only competition in the Town was Shanks & Turner, but for reasons lost in the mists of time, that was not developed, and instead we got the shop at the top corner of Oak Road. After having to endure Smiler Tiler for years when the shop neither made money nor attracted customers due to the lack of a range of gear and an unfriendly percentage of staff (50% - male). On this basis Mr Kohler probably thought he would be better off franchising the shop off, and having a guaranteed income from it. So what does he get?

1. To start with a few teething problems with the shirts, but soon overcome.
2. Friendly staff who know what the business is about.
3. A good range of leisurewear.

But then the club embark on a cup run, and lo and behold, sales go through the roof, and someone (DMF) is making lots of money. Now you can call us cynical if you like, but this looks just like the reason the club is likely to decide that it can run a club shop itself. We can only speculate on the reasons, unless we are told the same story by both sides, but this does seem the most likely scenario.

It is to be hoped that the club shop, now that it has reverted to the club itself, is run in a similar friendly way to the Hatters shop last season. Please not another "Kev Smiler". Give us a good range of quality products at reasonable prices, that's all we ask. And a wider range than in recent years. DMF did better than we have seen for many years, make sure this isn't a backward step.

Finally, one brief point. What will the third kit be? Last season it was the "kit they never wore" which was rumoured to be due to be worn at Millwall until Mr K ordered it to be taken off the coach before it left, but then was used at the Wembley 5-a-side competition. This season, with only two kits revealed, what will the team wear at West Brom? The orange DMF kit??

Sid Down





## Things to look Forward to:

We asked you as part of the end of season poll, to tell us what you would like to look forward to. Caught completely by surprise at the number of suggestions, we present them here, in no particular order, for your perusal. Thanks to everybody who contributed to this.

Mid table obscurity.... Marvin Johnson leaving on a free transfer.... New grounds and beers.... Lots of Manchester games!.... A new ground?!.... Keeping a balanced side (some hope).... 4 points off Watford again!.... The scoreboard being repaired perhaps.... England beating New Zealand (cricket - not rugby!).... A mid table finish.... 6 points off the scum.... Greene, Thorpe, the return of Richard Harvey.... Several big signings (including Steve Sutton please).... The next edition of Mad (*creep*).... If we can keep star players, a good season to come.... The new season.... Winning a few more away games, better still winning more games, especially those against Watford.... The emergence of new young players....

Good progress in the league and cups.... Crushed legs in the all seater stadium.... Young players coming through.... Sale of Oakes, Hughes, Telfer.... Relegation.... Having to sit.... The youngsters to blossom with less pressure to sell.... Oakes and the rest being here next season.... The club bringing more youngsters on.... Both cup competitions.... Doing the double over 'The Scummy Wankers from up the road'.... If Kohler doesn't do the usual thing and sell all our star players in the summer, we could be pushing for promotion next season.... Next season.... Our young players.... New chairman.... Scott Houghton being transferred.... John Hartson.... Spending money.... Keeping young players.... Keeping David Pleat.... Sommer catching a cross, preferably over his head.... Promotion.... New ground.... Another 4 (or even 6) points against Watford....

Mid table obscurity - well I'd love to know what it feels like.... Getting knocked out of the Coca Cola Cup by another crap lower division side.... Not having to pay in the Anglo-Italian Cup.... Pleaty staying.... Young players emerging.... A new manager! (and chairman).... Buying someone.... finishing in the top half.... Young players maturing.... Kohler selling up.... Sitting down (ha,ha).... A slightly better cup run.... Less goalkeeping errors.... Mid table obscurity.... Scott Oakes wonder goals.... David Pleat's programme notes (if I can afford to buy one).... Visiting Reading

and Port Vale.... Lots of bumper editions of Mad.... Beating Watford again.... Watford being relegated.... Announcement of new stadium.... Resignation of D.K.... Arrival of new rich M.D.... Luton winning Division 1 championship.... Getting beyond Round 1 of the league cup.... More than one appearance on live TV (not pie in the SkyTV).... The reserve team playing at a more sensible time of day.... Keeping a player (players?)....

Possible play-offs.... Mid table obscurity.... Another cup run.... A new stadium (Hic!)?.... Anybody at Mad buying me a beer!! (*Ha!*).... Cardiff and Millwall being expelled from the league.... The close season.... Wembley & Premiership football in 1996.... Finishing higher than 20th.... Preeceys 300th match.... Our 100th league goal of the season.... Our 31st clean sheet of the season.... Our back four representing England.... Keith Hackett retiring.... Taylor saying the Kenilworth seats can go.... Kohler leaving to take over Lapland United Reserves.... Seeing Port Vale again.... but above all playing consistently, attractively and winning regularly and getting 60 points at least (*and so say all of us - Eds*).

**Players wanted for MAAH v Clap Your Hands Stamp Your Feet (Watford fanzine) football match on Monday 29 August. If you want to play write or phone us at Mad. Address and phone no on page 2.**





## USA '94 - The Final Chapter

Now that the World Cup is all over for another four years, it is time to look back on the tournament and decide whether it lived up to expectations.

Overall the answer has to be yes. The tournament produced some of the best football seen at that level for many years, and, if the final was a let down, it was not following the theme that had been set by earlier matches. This was a tournament of entertaining football, without the dissent, and writhing in agony, that in recent tournaments have given football a reputation it could do without. I don't want to go on at great length about the teams and incidents, but it has to be said that the most disappointing team were Greece, who having won their group to qualify, looked what we all thought they were, a third rate side. The African and Asian sides however, proved how much football has advanced in these areas. Nigeria were unlucky to go out, and South Korea, while not winning a game, gave both Spain and Germany serious palpitations.

How would England have done if they had qualified? In truth, they would probably have disappointed, as Graham Taylor would still have been in charge. But with a more thoughtful, creative manager (El Tel) they would probably have done quite well, sufficiently to show the Irish performance as the failure it really was. How one win, one draw and two defeats can be portrayed as success is beyond me, and the win was due to a goal that appeared to owe more to luck than judgement. Incidentally, doesn't Terry Phelan look frightening when he joins in the celebrations? Does he charge extra to smile?

For English supporters there were highlights. First was the cheating Argy Maradona being found guilty (at last) of cheating, and with this being a second drugs offence he ought to be banned for life. The second highlight was seeing the Germans lose, and was all the more amusing for being against the unfancied Bulgarians, who really were expected to lose. We will all have our own individual highlights, possibly the electric carts, or that Saudi Arabian goal, some piece of inept refereeing, or even easier to spot, inept commentating. However, for me the highlight of the tournament was in the Bulgaria v Mexico match. Although the game was completely ruined by the referee, this game featured the use of the substitute goal, carried the entire length of the pitch, after the collapse of a stanchion on the original. This was about as near to the absurd as football can ever get.

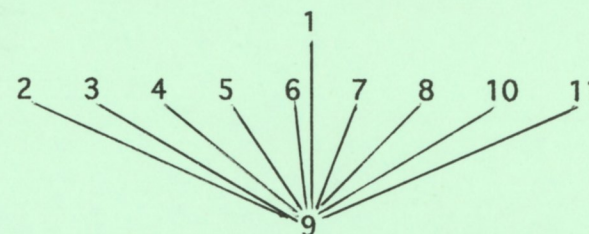
K.F.H.

## News from the Vicarage

Watford boss Glenn Roeder has swooped for a man to harden up his sides battling qualities. Roeder, disappointed at not having a man sent off after Christmas, said: "It's scandalous! We didn't have any injuries either so I had nothing, not even suspensions, to blame our performances on, apart from us being crap!"

Roeder has hired the services of ex-Mafia man George Harden in order to sort his side out and already a large delivery of machine guns is expected at Vicarage Road this week and all the players are having knuckle dusters supplied.

Meanwhile, after its success at Crystal Palace, Glen has revealed his tactics for next season.



The Vicarage Road ticket office has told us of a swift business in season ticket sales. A record two have been so far been sold to A. Sadbloke and G. Roeder. The police are also worried about crowd safety in the new stand and have instructed the club to install a stair gate!

The Hornets groundsman, Percy Thrower, has complained to the manager about twenty donkeys on the pitch. He was unaware that it was the squad training. Mr Roeder also ordered Percy to dig up his potatoes in the centre circle, remove window boxes from the always empty stands (except the Rookery end). Percy was surprised as he thought they were used to seeing Pansies at Vicarage Road. He also asked Percy to get rid of his Turkeys. However, Glenn relented when Percy offered him a chance of stuffing his birds at Christmas (Valerie Singleton watch out), gave him a Blue Peter badge, and made him a good team out of 3 toilet rolls (*used, presumably? - Eds*), a used yoghurt carton and some double sided sticky tape.

Finally, in their last pre season friendly Shitford lost comprehensively to Shiteville of the Devon & Cornwall Durex League Division 8 South. Roeder, however, blamed the temperature for their defeat and confidently predicted relegation this season.

Juergen Sommer's Shoulder Pads  
Chairman of the 'Boring Saturdays in Summer' Association



