

# MAD AS A HATTER!



A LUTON TOWN FANZINE

Issue 25

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STILL ONLY 50p



*A New Horizon.....*



# MAD AS A HATTER!

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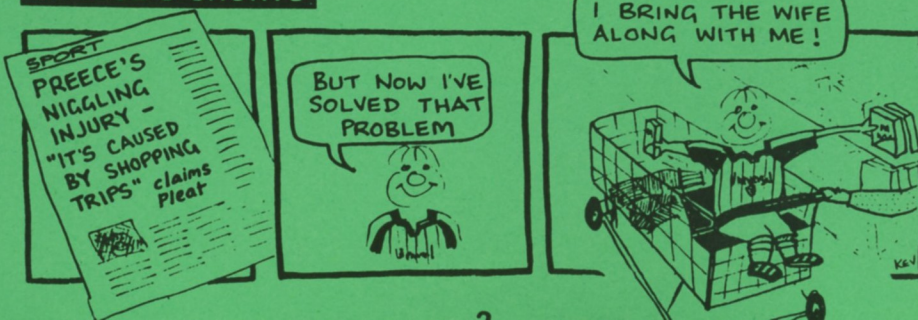
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## PREECE'S SHORTS



## EDITORIAL

In the time since issue 24 of "Mad" went on sale, we have received a little criticism, to the effect that we have gone soft, particularly with regard to David Kohler. This may appear to be the case, but it has been difficult to find much to complain about. However, we would not wish to give the impression that we think the man is perfect. He isn't. The seating of the Kenilworth Road Stand, for example, is a case of a poor decision (insufficient seats) causing problems due to the limited capacity. It is ludicrous that Town fans can be locked out of the ground, when there is room for additional seating.

On the other hand, of course, is the recent news that the club made a profit in the 1993-94 financial year. Although it needed a long cup run, and a couple of transfers, it is not the sort of news that we have heard at Luton for too many years. This is countered by the news that the club is failing to break even this year, and with home draws a long cup run may not be on the cards.

Why can't we win at home? Just about every superstition in the book has been tried and all have failed. We can win with both white and blue shorts, we can lose to teams who don't have a B in their name, or nickname (Charlton Athletic, The 'Addicks apparently). It has been suggested that the away form is due to the players getting an away win bonus, but surely they get some sort of bonus for winning at home. Lack of atmosphere is unlikely to be the problem, so maybe the players just don't like the place. A feeble excuse I admit, but who can think of anything better.

As I type this, the news has come over on the radio that John Hartson has been sold to Arsenal for around £2.5 million. Much as I hate to see him go, that is not a bad fee for a 19 year old, and represents a huge improvement on the fee offered by Southampton. Let's hope that the deal included a sell on clause,

(continued on p.36)



## Planned Grounds and Grounded Plans

In the editorial for issue 24, I commented on the good news that was starting to emerge about the Town's prospective new home. This was based mainly on the fact that the subject had become one for open discussion and it really looked like some action was at last going to take place. It now seems that someone, and not just me, may have been counting their chickens a touch too soon.

On December 14th the Luton News revealed that the site earmarked for the new stadium had been sold - but not to the consortium involving the football club. It is clear that this came as a shock to David Kohler, who believed he was still negotiating with Luton Hoo to buy the land.

The land has instead been sold, subject to planning permission, to a Sussex based company, Wyncote Developments plc. A press release from Wyncote Group plc that proposals for the site "include a new stadium for Luton Town Football Club" which will "also provide facilities for other sports and activities which will benefit the Town as a whole." This is described as a "regional sports and leisure complex", but does not come without a price. This is the catch; additional enabling development is what it is called, and it would seem that this could mean several large retail units (as many as seven or eight have been mentioned). As Wyncote have already told the press that no planning application is likely to be submitted to the council for several months, and it is almost certain that a public inquiry would follow, then it is obvious that the issue of this new stadium may not be settled for another 18 months or more.

The chances of these proposals succeeding are surely slim on more than one count. The government have recently changed their planning guidelines on out of town shopping, so to announce that permission is being sought for such a development does not inspire confidence. The other reason is that if the enabling development does not happen, then nor will the stadium. In addition, it is unclear how the stadium fits in to the plans, with Wyncote apparently prepared to give the club the cash to build the stadium. This of course could be a cheap option, avoiding the possibility of construction costs increasing during building, and also does not clarify who is deciding the design and capacity of the stadium. Indeed, would planning permission for the stadium be included in

the main development, or have to be sought separately, further delaying the project?

It should be clear to any Town fan that this is not a desirable situation, and it can do the club no good at all. Some have welcomed the fact that David Kohler has not been successful in obtaining the land, but the reality is that the club's future is now less clear, if that is possible. David Kohler's reaction was to talk about looking at other sites, and to mention words like groundshare, and even go so far as to talk about Milton Keynes. As far as other sites are concerned, it is to be hoped that one can be found, in order that the club's future can be secured. The groundshare option simply does not exist, as League rules state that clubs can only groundshare in the same conurbation, and seeing as the conurbation does not have another suitable ground..... Milton Keynes was the subject of proposals in 1983-84 and met with opposition fuelled with a passion rarely credited to Luton Town supporters. The same sort of opposition should be expected if this idea rears its ugly head once more.

Of course, Luton Borough Council is supposedly committed to helping the club find a site for a new ground, but it seems that they do little other than watch from the sidelines and say "that looks a nice spot" when a site is mentioned. It may now be the case that a new ground will not even be in Luton, meaning that the only help to come from the council will be to drive the club out of town. And these people will be after our votes next May.

The part of Luton Hoo in this is also important. The cynical, like me, would suggest that Luton Hoo have got what they, or at least the late Nicholas Phillips, wanted; the land has been sold with no real prospect of development taking place, and so the approaches to their Capability Green industrial estate will not be spoiled. More significantly, it is now clear that the Luton Hoo estate does not have any feelings for the town from which it takes its name. A consortium of Luton's largest employers and the football club were inevitably going to build something better for the town than an outsider, and would also be better able to finance it. In addition, it seems that they (the Hoo) continued to negotiate with Kohler's consortium after selecting Wyncote as their preferred developers. Entirely legal, of course, but many may question whether it is really ethical, when the future of the football club is at stake.



The final question revolves around the words "subject to planning permission". Should this be refused, by the council, and by the Department of the Environment after a public enquiry, will the land then be offered to the Kohler led consortium? If so, it will probably be the last hope for a new ground, if one has not been found by then, but by having to endure another two years of uncertainty at Kenilworth Road the club's future may have been seriously damaged.

What the future holds is entirely out of our hands as supporters. All we can do is look on and hope, and our best hope at the moment seems to be another site being found, even if it is only the second best.

K.F.H.



## Limericks at Luton

Our No. 1 keeper's a yank.  
Some fans argue that he's wank.  
When a cross comes his way.  
We all hope and pray  
That he catches the bugger, to be frank.

Waddock (the loaner) is still here.  
He really has nothing to fear.  
'Cos if his leg breaks again,  
He can relax and watch it mend.  
With Ceri in the pub, and a beer!

Our blonde bombshell at right back is James.  
He seems to play for Luton most games.  
His nickname is Jules.  
He belongs with the fools,  
'Cos his cock-ups are always the same.

"Mini" as he's affectionately known.  
Has been a great servant to the Town.  
His enterprising play.  
Has edged many games our way.  
And prevented us in May going down.

Stylish, sophisticated and suave.  
He always gives us a laugh,  
When his own goals go in,  
We can't call it a sin,  
'Cos that's what we expect from our Marv.

Out on the right is our Paul.  
Defend, attack, he does it all.  
But when it comes down to style.  
He ain't looked in the mirror for a while  
'Cos his afro drives me up the wall.

Our other defender is old.  
He's our captain, so we are told.  
We know he's our Trevor.  
His pace isn't too clever.  
But thankfully, he ain't no Steve Bould.

Super Scott is our wonderful winger.  
Though his dad made it as a singer.  
Scotty is our son of god.  
Venables should give him the nod.  
Over Ince and Wise, the whingers!

Ceri Hughes, he belongs to this club.  
Though some think he should start off as sub.  
His skills, they are oozing,  
That's if he ain't been boozing.  
With all his mates down the pub.

He's big, he's strong, he's bold.  
A nice lad, so we are told.  
He's our elbow John.  
Soon he'll be gone.  
To Wimbledon, stamped, sealed and sold.

Along with Marv on the left flank.  
Is Mitchell, we have Pleaty to thank.  
Though his effort is there.  
He ain't got no hair.  
But who gives a shit - his bank?

Our little Jamaican is Dwight.  
When Pleat bought him, he got it right.  
His pace on the ball.  
Stuns you, me, and all.  
'Cos quick players at Luton ain't right.

His best days, we knew, were at Chelsea.  
Dixon's his surname, but not Lee.  
When his goals go in.  
We always seem to win.  
But sell him - you're joking, a fee?

Tony Allbones

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. Issue 26 is due to be on sale early in March, so the deadline for contributions will be Monday 20th February.



## A New Second Division

Recent speculation in the press has surrounded a possible second division to the Premier League (the so called Premiership Two). It is clear that the Premiership has proved to be a huge success for those lucky enough to be involved. Whilst the bigger clubs in the Premiership have gained most, smaller clubs like Wimbledon have also benefitted through not being forced to sell players.

So why the proposed second division? The answer to this is two fold. A lot of clubs in the Premiership seem to have realised that promotion straight back into the top flight if you are relegated is no longer a certainty. Clubs have also over committed themselves financially in the top flight and therefore cannot afford to be relegated.

At present the Football League includes a number of so called sleeping giants. There are a considerable number of large clubs with good support, nice grounds and rich chairmen. However, many of these have been unable to secure promotion despite spending large amounts of money on players.

With the Premiership to reduce in size and other large clubs keen to increase their revenue, it is increasingly clear that the Premiership in its present form cannot meet the requirements of all those who wish to benefit from it. A second division is therefore seen as the answer to both clubs being relegated and clubs who have sought promotion and failed. This would lead to the top forty clubs in the country being supported by the Premiership whilst the rest of the clubs in effect fall by the wayside. Again TV coverage and advertising would provide increased revenue.

If these proposals became reality, where would we find Luton Town. David Kohler has made it clear in the press that he strongly opposes any second division to the Premiership. This seems a strange position for Luton to take considering that we signed the original agreement to form the Premiership.

The main difficulty that Luton face is that the provisions with regard to all seater stadia have badly affected the club. We are now left with one of the worst grounds in our division with some of the poorest facilities. You only have to look at Notts County's ground and the improvements made to realise how far behind we have fallen.

Unfortunately, the new ground seems as far away as ever and it seems unlikely that anything will happen on this front in the next five years. Most worrying of all is talk of sites outside Luton being considered. Whilst the condition of our ground has diminished along with our league position, we have been a very successful club in the last ten years. This however came in the days of larger crowds and the sale of players to finance loans from previous chairmen.

It is clear that a second division to the Premiership would be bad for football in this country. A number of small clubs would undoubtedly be forced out of business. However, a number of clubs would benefit through increased income. This would enable these clubs to hold on to their better players.

Whilst no-one wants to see clubs going out of business, I would rather see Luton in a second division of the Premiership than stuck in a third division with no chance of promotion. Gates would drop even further, players would leave and the future of the club as a whole would be placed in doubt.

If the second division of the Premiership comes into being, which I believe it will, then Luton's current position does not bode well. No doubt certain criteria with regard to grounds will be imposed which we will not be able to meet.

It is important that the site for a new ground is agreed, and soon. This would hopefully lead to an increase in crowds and revenue alike. Also from David Kohler, we need a commitment that should this league come about then he will do everything possible to ensure that we are a part of it. If we miss out this time around, the future looks very bleak indeed.

P.I.

### Subscriptions / Back Issues

"Mad as a Hatter!" is available on subscription at £3.50 (£4.75 outside the UK) for the next five issues, from the usual address. Please do not send cash by post, cheques payable to "Mad as a Hatter!"

Back issues: Issue 1 is free (SAE only), issues 2 to 16 are 25p plus SAE (Sale price!) and issue 17 onwards 50p plus SAE. Issues 4, 10, 22 & 24 are sold out.





At last, the proof that Tony Adcock really does exist! Making his first home appearance, against Charlton, it's the injury... sorry, it's the lad himself.



Town v Bristol Rovers. 8th minute and Brian Parkin, the Rovers keeper is outside his area, handling the ball. Should he have been sent off? Or booked? Or was this just an "accident"?

## The Hatters Hall of Fame

Welcome to the Hatters Hall of Fame, a celebration of the great (and some of the not-so-great) names in the history of the greatest football club in the world. This is not a subjective list based on ability, but based on the achievement dearest to all our hearts - entry is restricted to those who have scored against the Devil's disciples, the scum, the shit, the saddoes call them what you will but we all know who we're talking about. All competitive matches, ie League, FA Cup and League Cup, are included but NOT the Anglo Italian Cup (because it's crap) or the Rigby Taylor Cup. This was a cup awarded to the winner of an annual friendly match at the Pigsty between 1953 and 1962, when both clubs were in their rightful places, ie we were in the 1st division and they were in the 4th. Sadly, of course, this excludes from the Hall of Fame membership some of the great players of the 40s and 50s, such as Gordon Turner and Jesse Pye. Here goes then, the names being listed in chronological order, with the figure in brackets being the total numbers of goals scored against 'them', and the date given is the players date of entry into the Hall of Fame (ie first local derby goal).

DOW, James	29.10.1898	FACup	(1)	REID, Sidney	1.04.1922	(3)
DURRANT, Jack	29.10.1898	FACup	(3)	CLARKSON, William	18.11.1922	(1)
GALBRAITH, Hugh	2.11.1898	FACup	(1)	AGNEW, William	23.01.1926	(3)
BROWN, William "Roland"	18.11.1899	FACup	(2)	DENNIS, George	23.01.1926	(2)
BROCK, John	18.11.1899	FACup	(1)	THOMSON, Norman	30.10.1926	(1)
FAIRGREAVE, Walter	18.11.1899	FACup	(1)	THOMPSON, James	19.03.1927	(1)
SAXTON, Arthur	29.09.1900		(1)	BLACK, John	19.03.1927	(1)
BLESSINGTON, James	7.12.1901		(4)	RENNIE, Andy	4.02.1928	(5)
MOODY, Herbert	7.03.1903		(7)	YARDLEY, James	4.02.1928	(6)
DAVIDSON, Jack	7.03.1903		(1)	POINTON, Joe	4.02.1928	(1)
TURNER, Ted	14.11.1903	FACup	(2)	BEDFORD, Lewis	2.10.1928	(2)
MCKEE, James	14.11.1903	FACup	(1)	VAUGHAN, William	2.03.1929	(1)
ALLSOP, Thomas	14.11.1903	FACup	(1)	BIRCH, Wallace	18.01.1930	(1)
ROSS, David	17.09.1904		(2)	M McNESTRY, George	24.01.1931	(1)
WHITE, Fred	26.12.1905		(1)	BRYCE, Robert	24.01.1931	(2)
HAWKES, Bob	26.12.1905		(2)	HUTCHISON, David	22.10.1932	(2)
BROWN, Sandy	13.04.1906		(2)	ROWE, Douglas	26.04.1933	(2)
WARNER, Alf	25.12.1906		(1)	ANDERSON, Sam	21.10.1933	(1)
PICKERING, John	25.12.1906		(1)	MARTIN, George	21.10.1933	(1)
HAWKES, Fred	29.03.1907		(2)	PEASE, William	3.03.1934	(1)
WALDERS, John	25.12.1907		(1)	STEPHENSON, George	10.11.1934	(3)
RANKIN, Bruce	17.04.1908		(1)	BALL, Jack	10.11.1934	(5)
MENZIES, Alexander	9.04.1909		(2)	CROMPTON, Wilfred	9.11.1935	(1)
SMITH, John	15.09.1909		(1)	ROBERTS, Fred	9.11.1935	(2)
STANSFIELD, Harold	15.09.1909		(1)	PAYNE, Joe	17.10.1936	(4)
MOORE, Thomas	15.09.1909		(2)	DAWES, Albert	20.02.1937	(1)
SIMMS, Ernest	2.04.1915		(2)	O'ROURKE, John	1.04.1964	(2)
ROBERTS, Harold	2.04.1915		(1)	RIDDICK, Gordon	26.12.1964	(1)
HOAR, Sidney	2.04.1915		(1)	WHITTAKER, Ray	26.12.1964	(1)
RUTHERFORD, John	2.04.1920		(1)	HARRISON, Mike	14.08.1968	FLCup (2)
HILL, Frank	2.04.1920		(1)	LEWIS, Brian	14.08.1968	FLCup (1)
ELVEY, Jack	2.04.1920		(1)	BUXTON, Ian	30.04.1969	(1)
MATHIESON, Allan	28.03.1921		(1)	ALLEN, Keith	30.04.1969	(1)



KEEN, Mike	12.12.1970	(1)	ELLIOTT, Steve	20.10.1984	(1)
MACDONALD, Malcolm	13.02.1971	(1)	HILL, Ricky	4.03.1985 FACup	(1)
HALOM, Vic	13.11.1971	(1)	TURNER, Wayne	9.03.1985	(1)
STEPHENS, Kirk	26.12.1979	(1)	THOMAS, Mitchell	23.11.1985	(1)
HATTON, Bob	5.04.1980	(1)	HARFORD, Mick	26.04.1986	(3)
WHITE, Steve	19.08.1980	(2)	FOSTER, Steve	12.12.1987	(1)
MOSS, David	26.09.1981	(2)	OLDFIELD, David	2.05.1988	(1)
STEIN, Brian	26.09.1981	(5)	WILSON, Danny	2.05.1988	(1)
GOODYEAR, Clive	27.12.1982	(1)	BENJAMIN, Ian	29.11.1992	(1)
AYLOTT, Trevor	4.04.1983	(1)	OAKES, Scott	29.11.1992	(2)
HORTON, Brian	4.04.1983	(1)	TELFER, Paul	14.08.1993	(3)
BUNN, Frank	26.11.1983	(3)	DIXON, Kerry	14.08.1993	(2)
NWAJIOBI, Emeka	7.01.1984 FACup	(2)	PREECE, David	19.12.1993	(1)
DONAGHY, Mal	10.01.1984 FACup	(1)	DREYER, John	19.12.1993	(1)
WALSH, Paul	10.01.1984 FACup	(3)			

Up to and including the glorious massacre on 17th September 1994.

## Those shirts

The new home shirts seem to have a number of faults. Firstly, we don't win wearing them, and secondly the design is a joke. Whilst the colour scheme of the shirt is not ideal and the sponsors logo is naff, there's no excuse for that collar. It looks like a tacky baseball shirt.

Solution: Kit the team out in 70's style orange tops as available exclusively through Mad as a Hatter! Who knows, the home form may then even improve!

P.I.



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## BUT.... WOULD YOU GO TO WATFORD IF YOU WANTED TO GO TO THE TOP OF THE LEAGUE???

ARAZ



## Indoor Football - An Assessment

Kohlerdome? Kohlerdome. KOHLERDOME!

Be truthful, does this word conjure up images of Mel Gibson, Tina Turner and a post apocalyptic Australian landscape? Or, rather, is the word "Kohlerdome" the metaphorical key to the future of Luton Town Football Club?

Either way it is a word that could become linked to the Bedfordshire football eleven in the second half of this decade in much the same way as the words "artificial pitch" were synonymous with Luton Town in the late 1980s.

An article by David Kohler, Luton Town chairman, entitled "The New Stadium - A Moving Story", in the October 29th, 1994 Luton Town v Barnsley program, put forth the dream of a domed stadium and indoor football using modern technology, whereby the natural grass surface is rotated in and out of the stadium depending on the event to be staged, for his club's foreseeable future.

In a recent telephone interview Kohler laid out his intent. "The financial realities (of a one event stadium) is that there is not enough revenue from football. What I would like is to have a pop concert on a Friday night, a football match on Saturday, and another pop concert on Sunday." on the subject of a moveable field Kohler further stated, "The pitch lives outside (of the stadium) and will come inside for the game. It only comes in for a short time. A few hours."

When questioned as to why a team the size of Luton Town and not another of Britain or continental Europe's larger clubs should be the spearhead for such an undertaking Kohler sharply replied, "The size of the club should not matter." And when pressed if this venture could ultimately lead to a ground sharing plan between Luton Town and a second club, Kohler was equally adamant that this possibility was, "not for us."

In a land populated by sporting domes, many American spectators would tend to view Mr Kohler's dream with mixed thoughts. One of which, that domed stadiums come with either a "love me or hate me" philosophy, should be dispelled quickly. Covered sporting fields are not the ultimate future nor are they the abomination purists make them out to be. Instead these grounded space ships

suffer for a lack of their own common identity. And, in all honesty, America has yet to correctly build a domed stadium which is both sporting as well as spectator friendly.

The Houston Astrodome was America's first experiment with covered grass. Opened in 1965, it provided Texans with air conditioned relief from oppressive heat and humidity. Unfortunately, the clear panels in the roof, while good for the natural playing surface, obstructed the baseball game. Players complained that the glare from the outside sun, reflected in the glass panels, made it virtually impossible to pick out the flight of the ball.

Consequently, midway through the 1966 season the glass panels were painted over. According to a media relations spokesperson for the Astrodome the baseball team was able to finish the season with the grass field, albeit a rather sad looking field, but the 1967 season opened with a switch to its present artificial playing surface.

It was to be almost thirty years before America would hold another major sporting event on natural grass in a domed stadium. And it took a World Cup to facilitate its occurrence.

The man primarily responsible for the grass surface of the Pontiac Silverdome, outside of Detroit, Michigan, is Dr George "Trey" Rogers Jr., Associate Professor, Department of Crop and Soil Sciences located at Michigan State University. Considered by many to be America's foremost authority (he is referred to as the Guru of Grass, or the Sultan of Sod) on growing grass for indoor sporting fields, Dr Rogers was enthusiastic about the Luton Town project.

"It is feasible", he remarked. Adding, "Rotating grass fields are the future and portability of the field makes a lot of sense." Having total control of the interior climate and weather conditions is the key to indoor grass according to Dr Rogers. Under strict controls an indoor natural grass surface can be far superior to its outdoor equivalent.

Though, concerning the Luton project, he warns, "Nobody's ever done it and they will constantly be ironing the bugs out." The only aspect Dr Rogers would change is in the grass sections themselves. He prefers, instead, somewhat smaller grass sections totalling a bit



more than the nine under Kohler's plan. "I would want at least three or four goalmouth sections to rotate," he concluded.

David Kohler, responding to the Silverdome design, stated that in the make-up, set-up, and break-down time frames the organizers "got it all wrong." The Silverdome's World Cup surface contained 1,826 trays of grass.

Still, Dr Rogers admires Kohler for having the vision to listen to scientists in designing a stadium for the future.

Less enthusiastic was Roger Faulkner, chairman of both the Detroit World Cup Bid and Host Committees. "You've got to be kidding," was his only response.

As of yet, David Kohler's immortality has no final resting place. A football pitch takes up approximately two acres of land. A 20,000 seat stadium with parking, and storage facilities for rotating grass sectional trays would require a minimum of thirty five acres according to Kohler. A daunting problem to say the least.

Though, with the opening of the Channel Tunnel linking England with France, in the event of a worst case scenario and suitable acreage is not found within the Home Counties, Mr Kohler need not worry. There is a large parcel of land just to the north of Paris that would, no doubt, love any type of potential money making venture. It's called EuroDisney.

Brian Surette



# "Mad" Merchandise



Not quite as new as last time, but still in stock at "Mad as a Hatter!" we are pleased to announce the 1974 shirt. In glorious Orange, Blue and White, 100% Cotton and made in England, with an excellent embroidered L.T.F.C. "football" badge, in fact just as modelled here by Jimmy Ryan. Currently available in two sizes - L and XL - this fine piece of quality leisurewear can be yours for only £26.95 (incl p & p). If you are a high flyer, you'll need one. And no, we don't sell the wigs to go with them!

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# KENILWORTH ROAD - Aerial Photo

## Kenilworth Road 10"x8" Aerial Photograph

A visual reminder of the ground's character before the days of the Taylor Report

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## HATTIE'S PROBLEM PAGE

Dear Hattie,

I've noticed a lot of publicity lately surrounding a new drink that's been announced, namely Virgin Cola. Now much has been made of this product and various tests have been conducted by the press comparing it with existing famous brands of Cola. My problem is that for the last few years I've been brought up on a diet of local Cola which I believe you will be familiar with. Can you help me tell the difference between all these Cola's?

**Confused of Luton.**

*Hattie replies: It's understandable that with all these different varieties around you should be confused. Personally I don't touch any of them. However, I'm told that not all of them are the same, although many have similar characteristics. Generally, the internationally known Cola's are sweet and fizzy and can sometimes give you wind. I'm also told too much of the local version could make you nauseous and leave a nasty taste in your mouth. Try to avoid it if at all possible.*

Dear Hattie,

My wife left me last year and took the children with her. A few months later the divorce court completely cleaned me out, awarding her the house and its contents, custody of the kids, the family car, the dog, and most of my future earnings. Soon after this my mother was admitted to the local asylum on account of her funny turns and this left me looking after the rest of the family. My elder brother is of little help with this because of his HIV problem and my younger brother is too busy glue sniffing and joy riding. My sister is unable to help as she's currently detained at Her Majesty's pleasure after being convicted of soliciting for the 14th time and my father is a complete couch potato who spends virtually all of his time in front of the TV set, apart from his fortnightly trips to watch his favourite team in action. On top of this I have now lost my job, despite the allegations of child molesting not having got to court yet.

However, things are beginning to look up as I've now fallen head over heels in love with my penfriend who I recently met on her release from prison where she had been since smothering her illegitimate child several years ago.

My dilemma is whether I should tell her about my father supporting Watford. What do you think?

**Muddled of Bedford**

*Hattie replies: Definitely not. You have quite enough problems already.*



## Whatever Happened to Bobbin Dino?





## RAVING MAD!!!

Dear "Mad",

I am afraid that what I have to say will be, I know, controversial. Basically it is everything to do with Ceri Hughes. OK, yes he is a very skilful and talented young player, but he's not God you know!

If I were Pleaty, then I too would not be one to stand in his way when he decides to leave. And why? Well, because he lacks consistency (like so many of our alleged heroes), because he's more concerned about having a pose rather than the nitty gritty of 90 minutes hard work, because he insists on getting sent off - unable to control himself and show discipline, and because he reckons he won't get a look in for Wales while at Kenilworth Road. For goodness sake Ceri, if you can't consistently impress at the Town, then you will really shine at a Premiership club, and for Mike Smith! Take a look at Kingsley Black and Mark Pembridge, have their moves been successful in attaining regular international call-ups?

I seriously don't hold anything against Ceri, but it is very frustrating to hear of, and see our skilful players shipped off (obviously Mr K has something to do with this!) when we've proven in last seasons FA Cup that when we play well and as a team we can compete with the best in the land. That's the ambition the players should have.

Thank you for letting me get that off my chest. All the best in your recovery Ceri, and hopefully you'll take heed for next season.

Yours sincerely,

**An Aberystwyth Hatter**

Aberystwyth, Wales.

Dear "Mad",

Being an exiled Hatter, and seeing as the Town are on course for a winning season, I thought I'd drop you a line from sunny Florida.

The last occasion I managed to attend some Town matches was for every match in February '94. To say I was pleased is an understatement. Only 1 defeat, attractive football and goals aplenty. The FA Cup win over Newcastle particularly, was sublime entertainment.

However, the match that stayed in my mind, was the league clash at Filbert Street, Leicester, only a few days after the Newcastle victory. The players appearing in Luton colours that day were fairly impressive; Sommer, Linton, Telfer, Hughes, Hartson and Oakes (the last three players mentioned are pure class), really showed me we're heading in the right direction.

I survived the hospitality at Cardiff, which left me stunned, although the

jumping on the fence by David Preece, immediately after scoring was a nice touch. Also the team performance against Portsmouth at a snow filled Kenilworth Road was a great bonus.

Kohler? The man lives on exaggerated dreams and Mr Pleat is awaiting a second chance at the big time.

This season looks fairly promising, Marvin apparently has been outstanding this campaign, fair play to the lad for scoring the penalty against Sheffield United. I believe John Hartson will be the first £2 million Luton player, and Preece is a real play-maker so let's tie him down with a nice contract, which he's more than earned (a friend passed on the fact that 'Mini' had a rumble with Andy Hessenthaler in the victory over Watford).

Incidentally, if anybody reading this thinks I'm going over the top, my previous visit for Town matches revolved around two chronic contests versus Grimsby, 1-4 and Oxford, 0-4, so the progress is remarkable.

See you at the play-offs in the summer.

**Rain**

PS: This isn't meant as a jibe, but what did happen to D.Pleated, the fanzine?

*Eds - As far as we know D.Pleated ceased publication due to it's editors suffering what we in the business call a loss of interest.*

Dear "Mad",

I want to thank you for your generous coverage, in issue 24, of our book, *Football and the Commons People*. I especially enjoyed your reviewer's line about Michael Howard, whose 'support' of three teams has attracted lots of comment, if no credible explanation. Perhaps he just feels insecure - like your average British prison. And it was interesting to learn that some of David Evans's blunt revelations about his policies at Kenilworth Road came as a surprise to you, too.

If I may say so, I was in turn surprised by the nation-wide origins of your most impressive postbag. But can Stuart Hogg of Queensferry be serious in his objection to the word 'SCUM'? Whatever would he make of us at the Dell, where any Pompey 'reject' is automatically greeted as a 'Scummer'? Purists tell me that this language is lazy, since that's what they call us: 'Skate' is the 'proper' word for a neighbour from Fratton. So our vocabulary may be sloppy, but nobody, to my knowledge, has ever taken umbrage at it.

On the subject of 'rejects', I wonder how your correspondent, Paul Palmer, would feel if Luton had had to pay anything for Kerry Dixon? Recall that in July 1992, Ian Branfoot spent over half-a-million on Dixon, whose 1991-92 strike rate of five league goals in 35 games might have indicated



to more prudent judges that he had passed his sell-by date. A consequence of that money-burning policy is that Alan Ball has had little to spend. Unable, so we're told, to find the asking price for John Hartson (always supposing that he had one), the Saints' manager had to persevere with another former Luton striker, Iain Dowie (5 for 39 last season), until Chelsea found they could spare a rather younger No 9 than the one they had released to replace Dowie.

The Southampton *Pink* heralded Hartson as 'the next Alan Shearer', an instructive parallel for any Luton fans who may be wondering whether Hartson is scoring often enough. We should not apply the standards I have used for Dixon and Dowie to judge young, developing strikers. Having scored a hat-trick on his debut, Shearer played another 76 league games before his 21st birthday, in which he managed only 7 goals.

So here's wishing a prosperous development to both Hartson and Shipperley. May they both become as prolific as the former Luton striker (1962-63, 21 goals in 32 games) who came to the Dell in 1966. Having scored 134 league goals in 240 games, Ron Davies moved next door, to become a Scummer - or do I mean a Skate?

Thanks again.

**David Bull**

Child Poverty Action Group  
Bristol

*Eds - The book Football and the Commons People is now available, and full details can be found in the advert elsewhere in this issue.*

## FSA London Branch Programme

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

February 9, 1995

**Who Needs A Super League?**

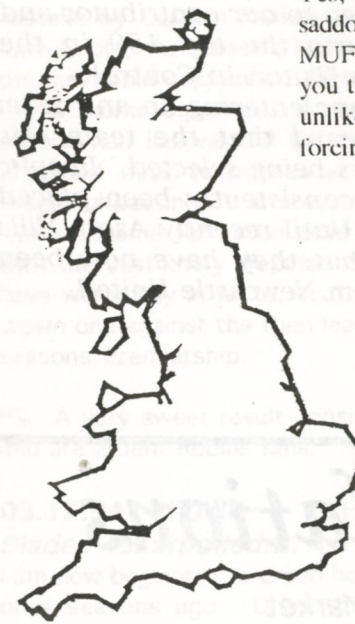
March 9, 1995

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Yes, this is your big chance to join the ever growing army of saddoes who can be seen around Bedfordshire in the colours of MUFC. To join the newly formed club, place a cross where you think the city of Manchester is on the map (left). In the unlikely event of there being two correct entries and thus forcing a tie, fill in the tie-break question.

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**First Prize:** Brand new 'M' reg Ford Bandwagon for you and the others to jump on. This prestige vehicle comes with many features, such as: stereo radio (pre set to come on every Saturday at 4.45, as of course you won't be at the game.

**Second Prize:** One year's supply of Manchester United shirts. These will be despatched to you weekly.

**Third Prize:** A complete supply of Manchester United programmes from the games that you have attended. Both will be sent in the same envelope.

Tie-breaker (in no more than twelve words):

The one thing that turned me into such a sad bastard that I feel it necessary to follow a football team that I have absolutely no connection with is

Name.....

Address.....

Age..... Mental Age.....



## Fantasy Football

It seems to be the 'in thing' at the moment to take the piss out of people who get any sort of enjoyment out of playing fantasy football games. Quite why is beyond me, as anything that promotes a genuine interest in football must surely be a good thing. It is, after all, one way in which supporters can pit their wits against those involved in the game as professionals. As editor, I am not ashamed in any way of my involvement in the Telegraph Fantasy League, especially as, at the last count, I was 39 points ahead of David Pleat. However, pride of place must go to our contributor and salesman Objét, who actually made it into the top 150 in the Telegraph several weeks ago with his team "Luton in Control". We did report in an earlier issue of someone entering an anti team for the benefit of Watford, but have heard that the team was rejected due to an excess of Everton players being selected. In spite of this minor setback, Luton Town have consistently been placed above Watford in the Supporters League. Until recently Aston Villa were holding grimly on to 92nd place, but they have now been displaced by those knowledgeable fans from Newcastle United.

## Vinyl Revelations

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

## HOME (DAMMIT) & AWAY (YIPPEE!)

We always welcome match reports from readers, and will endeavour to use any that are sent in, but sometimes we cannot do so which is especially unfortunate when that eliminates words like paragon, oxymoron and peroration (look them up like I had to). None the less, we will still welcome any unsolicited reports.

### 26.11.94 SWINDON TOWN 1 HATTERS 2

#### *Robbin' the Robins*

These away games are in danger of becoming too predictable. Despite a rare mistake by Captain Peakey gifting the Robins an early lead, courtesy of the in form Scott, the sizeable Hatters following continued to shout their hosts and the inevitable happened. After near misses by Oakes and Preecey, Dixon headed the welcome equaliser. At half time we all thought that if we played the the second half like we did the first we would walk it. When Oakes atoned for his first half miss to put us ahead, we then took complete control with some delightful passing, "a la scouse"!! The seasonal jingle bells chants (could this be a new nickname for Luton after our away exploits this season) were not received with the customary trepidation. Three notable points: no Juergen cock-ups, we have won away in white, and in our last four away games we have won three and drawn one against the then league leaders and the three teams relegated from last seasons Premiership.

*Peake Army*

PS. A very sweet result considering my Dad and Grandad are both from Swindon and are ardent Robins fans.

### 03.12.94 TOWN 3 SHEFFIELD UNITED 6

#### *Blades sharpened....*

I am now beginning to dread home games in the same way I dreaded away games 3 or 4 seasons ago. Does this match count as a 'B' match? After all, their nickname is the Blades. Again we had a crap referee, and this time we had a linesman to match, as he was more concerned with Pleaty on the bench than giving offside decisions.

After going a goal down, we lost Preecey due to injury and after Dixon hit the post, Scotty somehow, put the rebound wide from 2 yards out with one of his rare headers. Sommer then let in ANOTHER soft goal, when Gage shot through him. Waddock got sent off for barging Scott off the ball and Linton went off injured, all this in the first half! After Veart made it 3-0 in the second half, we looked dead and buried. But, a Jules cross to Hartson gave us hope before Hodges restored the Blades 3 goal lead. Brian Gayle gloriously rose to head into the top corner past his own keeper, 4-2 (two goals in two games for us, better than some of our forwards). A minute later, we got a penalty. Personally, I wouldn't



give it to Marv, but thankfully he scored it (*Hands up all those who shut their eyes - Ed*). Dixon then missed when one on one with the keeper, before our keeper again made a mistake after a mix up with James, and Veart finished us off with a diving header.

An all sorts performance this but we did at least show a spirited comeback to make it 4-3. After thinking we had no more 'B' teams to play here the cup draw proved us wrong. And I thought we would do well in the cup this year.

*Beatle*

PS: Why does our twat of a PA announcer insist on getting team names wrong? Since when were Hitchin playing Woking in this years FA Cup? Does he not know anything about football?

### 10.12.94 TOWN 0 DERBY COUNTY 0

A half speed Town easily should have won this game, against a clueless Derby. A lack of bodies getting into the box, had good crosses being wasted. Sutton also kept Derby in the game, with some fine saves, but another three points escapes us at home.

*The Major Oak*

### 17.12.94 WEST BROM 1 TOWN 0

#### **Another B defeat**

Well, the most interesting thing about this game was that we were the last 'privileged' fans to ever stand at The Hawthorns. A very ordinary game punctuated by an Albion goal from a poorly defended set piece. Town only woke up in the last 20 minutes, coinciding with Hartson's appearance as sub. SuperJohn hit the bar with a header from the edge of the box and we really deserved a point.

*Peake Army*

### 26.12.94 READING 0 HATTERS 0

Although not a classic by any means, a much improved performance on last week. Reading were very disappointing. A case of after the Lord Mayor's Show, following their previous games win over Wolves or maybe they were concentrating on their defence as most of the first choice were missing. Waddock was the Town man that caught the eye. The only two real chances fell in the dying minutes, first Reading should have scored but shot narrowly wide, then Marshall burst through only for Hislop to deflect his effort just wide. Good Town following who responded to the Royal's taunts of "4-1, 4-1", with "Mickey Mouse, Mickey Mouse...."

*Peake Army*

### 27.12.94 TOWN 3 SUNDERLAND 0

#### **Saturation points**

This was the game we all expected to be called off. That much rain had fallen that

it would have been no surprise, but instead we had a game on a pitch perfectly suited to the Town. For some reason, since the pitch has improved in terms of drainage, Pleat's teams seem to prefer a wet surface. This was a very good performance, and a well deserved victory, with two good goals from the recalled Scott Oakes, and a superb header from SuperJohn Hartson. Organised defence kept Phil Gray quiet, and the (home) jinx over North Eastern teams continued. A bloody good start to the Christmas games.

*K.F.H.*

### 31.12.94 NOTTS COUNTY 0 TOWN 1

#### **Notts untied.**

A horrendously cold day out involving drinking extremely heavily, stealing beer glasses in Leicester (yes, you Dave!) and three points.

That'll teach the bastards for relegating us from the old First division.

*The Stropky Scotsman*

Well, we did all we could to lose this one..... no matter how much we passed the ball to County, they just didn't have a clue what to do with it. Especially Paul Telfer, although he scored the winner, although he worked hard, he was still shit, virtually every time he got the ball his pass went astray. On balance though we were clearly a better side, and with a less lethargic looking performance we could have buried County. Apart from the goal, the other obvious highlight was Captain Peakey's second half run..... reaches the halfway line, looks up, who wants it? Sod it, no-one. Oh well, here goes. It took him about ten minutes to recover afterwards!

Other comments (Pleaty matchday programme style)..... Peakey and Sommer(?!?!!) both had absolute stormers..... County enter the field of play to 'Smells Like Teen Spirit'..... if there was a song called 'All Huff and Puff' it would be more appropriate..... they leave the field to 'Another One Bites The Dust'..... presumably referring to three points biting the dust..... it was bloody cold up there..... Tony Adcock really does exist..... the pies are still the most edible around..... nice ground, no fans..... I can't think of anything else.....

*Objét*

### 02.01.95 TOWN 0 CHARLTON ATHLETIC 1

Just when we thought we'd kissed this pathetic home form goodbye..... 7 away wins, 7 home defeats. This smacks of Derby's home form of a couple of years back. Although I seem to remember that their run of home defeats coincided with the visit of Luton Town.

The gameplan for away teams seems so easy from where we watch: sit back and let Luton play sideways football and gradually run out of ideas, then go forward and score a soft goal. Brilliant. Obviously Sunderland didn't bother doing their homework on us.

Without Preece, the Town just didn't have a clue. One cannot contemplate a Town



game without both Preece and Captain Peakey, who luckily for us was again superb. With the gap left by Preece, and realising that Paul Allen is shit, the Town spent most of the game bunched up on the right side of midfield. When they did go down the left, 'Spider' Thomas's crossing..... well, he put in that brilliant cross for our third against Sunderland, so obviously that's yer lot for the next 100 games..... crap. Paul Telfer, working hard as ever on the right, was so crap at passing and crossing again that Pleat quite rightly relegated him to right back position when Jules went off.

*Objét*

# 07.01.95 TOWN 1 BRISTOL ROVERS 1

We all knew it, and we were proved right. We can't win at home, especially when the team is a B team. And when we are given the chances we don't take them. Yes, Marvin did score a good penalty against Sheffield United, but Preecey wasn't on the field at the time. He was this time, so why didn't he take it? If we'd have got that one in the fifth minute we'd probably have got a hatful. Then the Rovers keeper was incredibly lucky to stay on the field after handling the ball outside the box - I have no doubt he should have gone for that - and played well enough to keep us out afterwards. The Rovers goal was well taken and placed beyond Juergens reach, and our equaliser from SuperJohn was only ever going to be enough for a replay. After the game we thought we could have lost, whilst at least some of the Rovers fans felt they were lucky to get the draw.

*K.F.H.*

*On the internet?*

*Join WHOSH*

*Worldwide Hatters on the Super Highway*

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

## WANTED

Luton Town programmes (home, away, reserves) and memorabilia. Anything considered, but the older the better. Also thousands of programmes for sale. Please contact: Nick Albone, 4 Jacobs Close, Potton, Sandy, Beds SG19 2SG.



David Preece goes off early to rest his injuries in readiness for another shopping trip.



Is this what's meant by the term "he ballooned the shot?"



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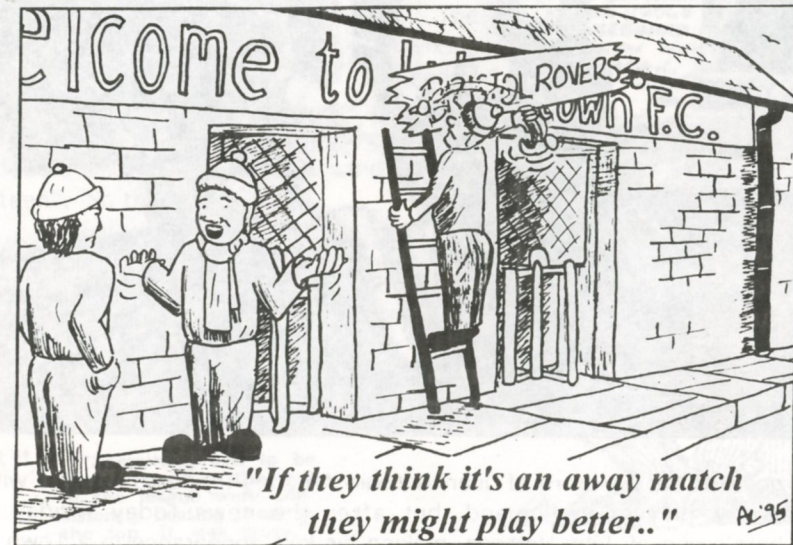
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## Oh, when the Saints....

Just how many Town fans breathed a sigh of relief when Southampton signed Neil Shipperley from Chelsea? The obvious reason was that it ended their interest in buying John Hartson, but that won't stop others trying to sign our boy wonder. And for a lot of Town fans the blow would have been softened slightly by getting Ian Dowie back in part exchange. But the reasoning is even more strange. When the Saints sold Alan Shearer to Blackburn, Ian Branfoot, their manager at the time, went and spent £500,000 on a replacement, a certain Kerry Dixon - also from Chelsea, who seem to be doing rather well out of all this. Our Kerry was not much of a success, and eventually arrived here on a free after only a handful of games for the South Coast club. It is ironic then that his replacement at Luton, SuperJohn, was effectively viewed as his "replacement" at The Dell. The other makeweight in the proposed Hartson deal was Paul Allen, who is already here on loan, and it seems that David Pleat is quite pleased with him. This does not seem to be a view shared by many fans, most of whom have been disappointed with his performances so far, and will not be upset to see him return to The Dell. Most of these people would not regard a free transfer for Allen as a good deal. Still if relations between Messrs Pleat and Ball are that good, he has got one midfielder we could probably use on loan. Le Tissier in a Luton shirt?? Oh well, perhaps not!

*Ken Ross*



*"If they think it's an away match  
they might play better.."*



# Lockout row: not guilty, say police

THE liaison officer most concerned with safety at football matches has hit back at suggestions, reported on this page last week, that the police played a major part in local fans being locked out of Kenilworth Road for the Sheffield United match.

Luton Town blamed safety requirements stipulated by the police for a large part of the away end being empty and remaining unused when the rest of the ground was full.

But Pc Peter Palmer said: "The requirements were laid down by the safety committee, which includes rep-

resentatives of the county council, the police, ambulance service and the football club.

"When Luton Town FC wanted to bring back away fans they made promises to enforce complete segregation of visiting supporters. And that means fans of the away team must be the only ones allowed into the Oak Road end.

"There were two reasons why 20 Luton fans were locked out for the Sheffield match. Season ticket holders brought in an extra 500 people, who got in for nothing. And the club

decided last summer not to put seats all the way up the Kenilworth Road terrace. The original plan was to have another 1,000 seats there.

"If those seats had been put in, there would have been room for all the Luton fans. And if Luton Town want to change the segregation arrangements, they must go to the safety committee.

"It's not a matter for the police. And the eventual decision will be made by the county council, which issues the safety certificate for the ground."

Peter Palmer: A bobby on the same wavelength as some of this fanzine's writers (re: A Memo to David Kohler, issue 22). Mr Kohler: what is the point of all these freebie promotions to encourage more much-needed support for the club, when there's nowhere to put the extra fans. It's still not too late to get those seats put in, being as, no matter how hard you try to relocate the club, we don't appear to be going anywhere.....



This was going to be a picture of Juan Antonio Anrades trying to impress with his credentials for playing in England, but after the news today (Friday 13th January) here's one of John Hartson, making his last appearance in a Town shirt. A case of here today, Gooner tomorrow?

## Radio Rivals

The scene is a studio at Three Counties Radio, with the Luton Town and Watford managers being interviewed by Ken Wilson, pre-season, about their respective teams prospects.....

Wilson: So Glenn, what are your hopes for the forthcoming season?

Roeder: Well Ken, I suppose that we'll just be happy to survive relegation.

Wilson: And what about you David, what are you hoping for next season?

Pleat: Well, I think we'll finish off the season in the Play-off positions, reach the finals of both the domestic cup competitions, and sign our first million pound player.

Wilson: Don't you feel that you're being a touch over optimistic there, David?

Pleat: Not really, it was Glenn that started it!

## SHORT CUTS

Tony Allbones

Not much in the cuttings this issue, just this one from the *New Musical Express* and their Christmas quiz, question 42 in particular. The answer is obviously Pavement, a band whose curious support for Luton Town was featured in our pages a couple of years ago. However, although the NME probably wouldn't know it, the answer could also have been local band "Poison The Poteen". So there.

- 41 Who were Blessed Chloroform?
- 42 Who were going to record a special single if Luton reached the FA Cup Final? (This is a serious question!)
- 43 Who was arrested for driving with a licence that had been suspended 43 times?

And from *The Sun* a comment on the Malaysian bribery scandal. Sounds strangely familiar, doesn't it.

"Something had to be done. Teams at the foot of the league were consistently beating those at the top. It was crazy."





## EDITORIAL (continued from p.3)

whereby Luton would get a percentage of the profit on any future transfer. For a player described as the next Alan Shearer (p 24 this issue) this would seem to be prudent in a week when Andy Cole moved for £7 million, and Bristol City missed out on £1.3 million by not having such a clause.

It should be a matter of grave concern to us, however, that in talking about Hartson's transfer, David Pleat suggested that he could not buy a replacement. If this is the case, we have to ask where the hell that amount of money is suddenly disappearing to. If the manager cannot spend anything from that amount, then when is he ever going to be allowed to dip into the transfer market? Of course, this could be a deliberate ploy, by the chairman, to ensure that we don't keep winning and there are no more problems fitting the crowds into Kenilworth Road. A small amount of the money would be better used putting more seats in the Kenny End (£100,000 for 1,000 seats) and the rest in buying a couple of players to make sure we fill them.

It is a simple message Mr Kohler. After a transfer worth that much, there are simply no excuses. We do not expect all of the money to be made available to the manager, that would be too much to hope for. But, at the very least, half of it should be, preferably more. And with the rest? Get those extra seats in the Kenilworth Road end now you can afford to, and give David Preece the new contract he so richly deserves.

### Attention Female Footy Fans!

Have you any interesting views, stories, or experiences on the beautiful game? Tell me your tales for forthcoming book.

Write to: Jo Parry, 'Saturday Girls', 33 Christopher Crescent, Poole, Dorset, BH15 3HQ.

## Available soon in the club shop.....

### Video

#### The Fall and Rise of David Pleat (series one and two)

In this classic black comedy fiction we see what happens to the man who takes a small family firm to the brink of greatness before deciding to move to a larger company. He rapidly gets bored there and decides to plot an elaborate escape plan which succeeds in creating the impression that he no longer exists. Series two follows our hero as he turns up in darkest Leicestershire before returning to his original employment. A third series is in the making, the plot of which is shrouded in secrecy.

### Book

#### Genius. The Ceri Hughes Story.

*"The crowd were silent for a moment, aghast at what they had just witnessed from the young Welsh maestro - a player destined for greater things, a boy blessed by the Lord with the gift to play football as few even dream of playing. The silence was soon broken by the baying of "Hughesy, Hughesy, Hughesy". The noise from the small crowd reverberated down the tunnel as I trudged off - it was my first sending off of the season".* Ceri Hughes autobiography is now out, available at £9.99 (special limited edition autographed copies £2000 each), free copies for all Premiership managers.

## Now in stock.....

### T-Shirts

#### The "Nutty Group" T-shirts for children.

Kit your child up with our new "Nutty Group" range of T-shirts - the designs of which feature characters we feel sure your youngster will identify with. The under 9's T-shirts feature a bunny rabbit cartoon character (on loan from Tesco own brand cereal boxes), for the purposes of our design "Harry the Hatter's Hare". Harry is dressed in a Luton away top and is featured having fun aplenty.



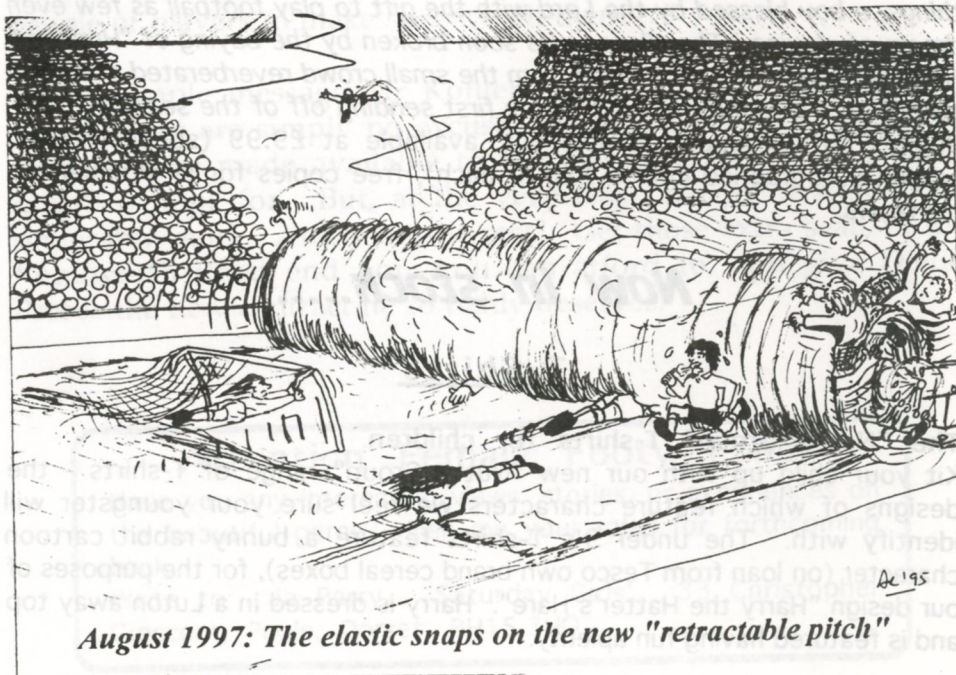
The second T-shirt for 9 - 12 year olds features a crazy looking kid "Harry the Hairbrained Hatter" - also wearing a Luton away top - who has an eye for graffiti (LTFC on walls etc) but steers clear of drug abuse by being totally football crazy. He may look inane but he's totally sane. His heart's in the right place and in this day and age that's a blessing - don't you agree Mums and Dads?

We hope soon to have a T-shirt that the teenager can identify with featuring "Harry the Hopeless Hatter" who will be illustrated (wearing a Luton away top, of course) amidst a world of acne cream, rock music and mucky books.

### Mugs

**Top quality ceramics.** We at Luton Town won't be taken for mugs! That's why, whilst our ceramic products are well made, we don't go overboard on the painting. To this end all our mugs come with a wishy washy colour guarantee!

*Tim Kingston*



*August 1997: The elastic snaps on the new "retractable pitch"*

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# AS SEEN IN THE ZINES



Whether your footballing zine scene consists of the club fanzine or the matchday magazine (the 'programme' as we used to call it), you're unlikely to have seen *all* the things they're saying about **FOOTBALL AND THE COMMONS PEOPLE**, a collection of new football writing by 30 MPs. Here's a flavour...

One book I would hugely recommend for its originality of concept and interest... contains thirty fascinating chapters by some well known politicians - including Michael Foot on Plymouth and Kenneth Clarke on Nottingham Forest - and some not-so-well-known Commons people.

- **The Pirate** (Bristol Rovers programme)

Dozens of football books will be published this season. Histories, biographies, annuals, yearbooks: the list is endless. But undoubtedly the most unusual offering you are likely to come across is *Football and the Commons People*... an unusual and interesting new angle in football literature.

- **United Review** (Man. Utd. programme)

... a quite exquisite chapter by Roy Hattersley - the most eloquent 50-year potted history you are likely to read... This book comprises over 300 pages, unfolding in a lively and colourful fashion... a continuous feast of loves and loyalties.

- **Red Stripe** (Southampton)

The book contains many excellent chapters - high-quality writing by dedicated supporters who simply happen to be MPs. Apart from a very interesting chapter on County, my particular favourites are the Conservative, Alistair Burt, writing on Bury, and Labour's Alan Simpson on Everton.

- **The Tea Party** (Stockport Co.)

Hearts diehard George Foulkes has a witty and eye-opening chapter. This thoroughly entertaining new book is a right riveting read.

- **Hearts** programme

...a first class publication... shows that MPs are just like the rest of us who go through the turnstiles every Saturday. What comes through is the way MPs see their football club as part of the local community... an excellent buy.

- **Southampton** programme

A very good book... scores highly for its presentation, which is excellent... It doesn't just consist of pages of writing. Photos, programme covers, cigarette cards and other memorabilia are reprinted to good effect... is worth a read if you are only interested in football and not politics. If you like both, then it is an essential purchase.

- **Forest Forever** (Nottingham Forest)

This book dispels the notion that MPs and football fans are always at odds. They are, in many cases, the same animal.

- **The Hanging Sheep** (Leeds Utd.)

A well balanced mix of contributors, covering both sides of the House - although the left is slightly more penetrative than the right... Peter Snape's 'Stockport' and Alex Carlie's 'Burnley and Llanidloes Town' are among the more vivid...

There's something to interest everybody... But, then, football is probably one of the few subjects where you can trust an MP's sincerity.

- **Winger**

**FOOTBALL AND THE COMMONS PEOPLE** is published by Juma at £9.95 with proceeds to the Child Poverty Action Group.

Don't forget that the proceeds from this book will go to a very good cause - **United Review** ...entertaining and informative... for the sake of child poverty, **BUY IT - The Pie** (Notts County) ...a snip at £9.95 Do yourself and CPAG a favour. **BUY A COPY - King Of The Kippax** (Man. City) Available in the shops, but you can contribute more to the charity by sending a cheque/PO (payable to **FANS v POVERTY**) to Gibson, 8 Cote Lea Park, Bristol BS9 4AQ - especially if you add something towards the cost (about £1.50) of p&p.