

MAD AS A FLATTER!

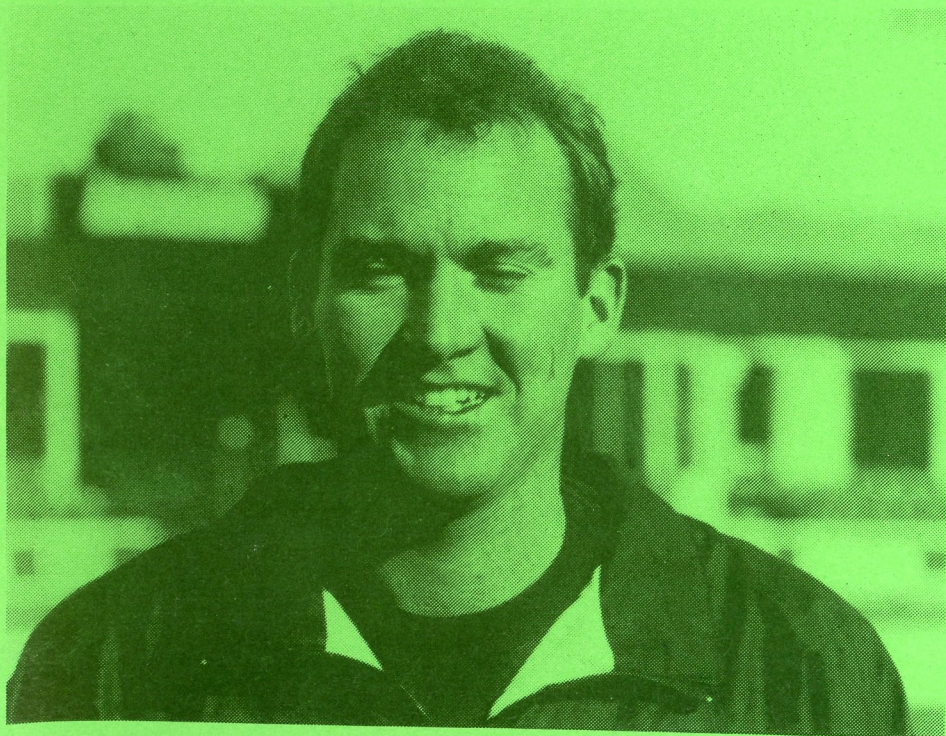
THE LUTON TOWN FANZINE



Issue 26

Mar 95

**YOU GOT US INTO THIS DIVISION,
NOW GET US OUT OF IT!!**



Rob Matthews shuts his eyes and dreams of future glories, now he's signed for a really big club (well, Luton Town). At least, we hope he's dreaming, and not reliving the goals that he scored to get us relegated.

MAD AS A HATTER!

292 Icknield Way, Luton, LU3 2JS.
(01582) 573485

- Editor:** Keith 'Resting' Hayward.
- Backroom Boys:** Phil Ivinson, Mark Ivinson, Andy Collon.
- Executives:** Jerry Darr, Mark Wilson, Andy Overall, Mark Araci, Nick Gazeley, Geoff Smith, Steve Folliot, Dave Kirkby.
- Contributors:** Our thanks to Graham Wright, Chris Lennon, Anthony Reid, Graham Johnson, John Hegley, Tim Kingston, Steve Bailey, Pete Armitage, Clifford Saunders, Steve Tyler and Tony Allbones.
- Cartoons:** Brilliantly drawn by Ray Aspden, Adam Lloyd, B 'Dave' B, Kev and Pat Flood.
- Action Photos:** Gareth Owen

All material contained in this publication is copyright of "Mad as a Hatter!" and may not be reproduced without prior permission. The views expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor. Anyone who feels offended, misrepresented or misquoted will be given the right of reply.

Mad As A Hatter! is also available from:

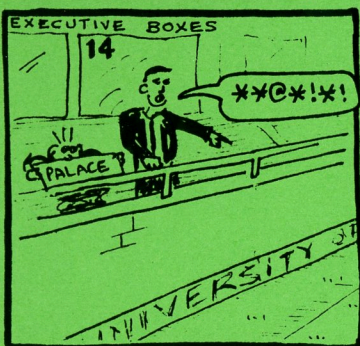
SPORTSPAGES: Caxton Walk, 94-96 Charing Cross Road, London WC2.

BRICKLAYERS ARMS: High Town Road, Luton.

VINYL REVELATIONS: 141 Luton Arndale Market, Luton.

THE CLUB SHOP: Luton Town FC, Kenilworth Road, Luton.

PREECE'S SHORTS



..PREECE'S
ATTEMPT AT
SECURING A
MAN UNITED
CONTRACT
FALLS WELL
SHORT OF THE
MARK.

EDITORIAL

So, the club find themselves £2 million better off, with another half million to follow in due course, and what happens? In the space of six weeks David Pleat manages to spend a whole £80,000. According to published comments, this should leave him with nearly £700,000 in the transfer kitty, so at the current rate we should have a new, bargain priced team, in about a years time. We all realise that other clubs will overprice their players believing that LTFC have money to burn, but we also expected a little more progress to be made by now in signing new players. With the transfer deadline approaching, we would expect to see some movement if we are to secure a play-off place.

That play-off place, if it is achieved, could be a mixed blessing. Whilst we would love to see it happen, we all know that we would face a desperate struggle to survive if we were to make it into the Premiership. It could be the most lucrative disaster ever to befall the club. Perhaps the best option would be to get into, and lose, the play-off final (probably on penalties), thus getting some extra cash in the kitty, and maintaining a status we can cope with.

The fact that we are still in contention speaks volumes for the quality of this seasons First Division. On form, we should have no chance, but we're still in there, and so amazingly are W***ford, but there form seems to be taking a downturn, and we should apply another nail to there play-off coffin on March 26th. It has not been a very good couple of months for Hatters fans having to look up the league table to find where the Hornets are. Let's get things back to normal, and keep them there. Let's also hope that the TV cameras get a better game than they did on their last visit.

We welcome Rob Matthews to Luton Town, and hope that his impressive 45 minutes against Port Vale are a sign of what we have to look forward to. Notts County fans seem to feel we have got a bargain, and we hope they are right. Rob will surely wish to eradicate thoughts of May 1992 from our memories.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who have sent in contributions for this issue. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to use everything in spite of producing 52 pages, and some items have been held back for the next issue, which will be the last of this season. That will be on sale at the last game of the season, against Stoke City (unless we get to the play-offs...??!!), on May 6th, so the deadline for contributions will be two weeks earlier. Please keep sending items in, and making my job more difficult. (Oh yes, would you please get in touch B 'Dave' B, I need to speak to you....)

More Questions than Answers

Clifford Saunders was privileged, if that's the right word, to get a meeting with David Kohler, Cherry Newbery, Kathy Leather and Geoff Lovell (the LTFC safety officer), after writing to the club with a list of complaints. The answers given by the club are as Clifford reported to us, the questions are paraphrased from his original letter to the club.

Q How can a £5 increase in minimum entrance price be justified?

CN It is not: you can buy early at £10.50 and restricted view at £7.50.

My response: Some may argue that 80% of seats at Luton are restricted view, but if you do not compare like with like then any argument falls flat. It is a plain fact that a Kenilworth ticket on the day last year cost £6.50, this year a Kenilworth ticket on the day costs £11.50.

DK Why should I subsidise your football? If the wage bill is £2 million and gate receipts are £1.2 million, how do I make it up? (*We've often wondered- Ed*)

My response: The deficit is made up through commercial activity and, if need be, players sales. Most Luton fans would like to have kept John Hartson, but if one sale can not only pay debts for a couple of years but also buy players for weaker positions then it is good business. In the current climate Hartson's price was not an excellent one but a good one — in view of past transfer 'donations' it is incredible.

Q The membership scheme is still in operation, still costly and still unwanted.....?

GL A police condition for the reintroduction of away fans, was that the scheme remained.

CN Club would rather not.

My response: I thought our taxes paid the police.....

Q Why are tickets not available to away fans and casual supporters on match days?

CN Police say no sales to away fans on the day. LTFC only have 3,300 to sell on the day to home fans (*4700 season ticket holders?*). However, if people want an extra guest ticket (3+) then we will do it.

My response: Police again! I cannot see how this justifies all ticket games — first come, first served at the turnstiles is fair. On the last point, it is ironic

that a friend of mine told me that exact story the day before, with one amendment — he did not get 4 tickets.

CN We have a few hundred tickets available for non members (eg casual supporters) on the day.

My response: Surprise and delight. However, later I pondered that surely this did not fit well with the previous comments on the membership scheme. If it is not compulsory, then why do regular fans have to use it?

Q Why are concessions not available on match days?

CN This only applies to students. *I have given up trying to please everyone* (My italics). Before it was older fans moaning about students.

My response: The argument for student discounts is as obvious as the one for child discounts. While LTFC are one of the few clubs which offer student discounts, I find it hard to see how accepting them on a match day is harder than on any other, as Mrs Newbery claims.

Q Why were so few seats installed on the Kenilworth terrace?

DK Average gate less than 8,000 — not worth the money.

My response: The lack of atmosphere is obvious to everyone. Now, the lack of ambition similarly so. With a break even figure of 10,500 (Kohler's figures) I fail to grasp the financial sense in having 10,052 seats (*some of which aren't sold even for a sell out match*). We cannot fill them if they are not there. Of course it's Thatcher, Lord Justice Taylor, Kelly, Moynihan, the South Yorks Police, Liverpool ticket forgers/sellers and the 'big club' chairmen who are really to blame.

Crowds are down 500 when we are doing well, they should be up by 500. Kohler does not think like a football fan.

DK I **am** a Luton supporter: I go to all the games. What is your definition of a football supporter?

My response: A football supporter pays to watch football. A Luton supporter pays to watch Luton, even when the football is missing. Kohler goes because he is chairman, if he wasn't he would be back at Old Trafford. He is chairman to make money (his words..... eventually), All football directors obtain free entry, free food, free beer and free travel — some hardship.

Q Why was Jim Ryan sacked?

DK, CN & KL (chorus) We do not believe that it would be right to discuss

My response: The fans pay all the wages at the club (especially as this one has a chairman who will not donate) so we deserve the truth. Bill Shankly said a football club is a partnership between the board and the supporters — I wish he could be our chairman.

Kohler can only expect animosity from supporters if he refuses to tell them anything. I appreciated the chance to talk to these people face to face but I wish they had not merely been looking for a confrontation. Geoff Lovell was informative (Luton fan for 35 years) and maintained a diplomatic silence when matters of policy arose.

Kohlerdome was also discussed. I was shown the patent for the moveable pitch (under the name of Luton Town Football and Athletic Company, Inventor: David Kohler). I was told that a £30 million multi stadium was easier to finance than a £16 million football stadium (agreed). I was also told that the investors in a multi stadium would let us play for nothing ad infinitum and give us 10% of all profits!

If it all comes off then I will applaud the man — but I can't see it. I also have major reservations about samey indoor football. Kohler says it is inevitable and why should Luton not be the first? Like all good politicians he answers most questions with another question. My response to this one is merely to point out that we were first with a compulsory membership scheme; QPR were first with an artificial pitch, and Coventry City were first with an all seater stadium, many years ago. All were installed and removed voluntarily. Other pitches were removed under orders — how do you remove a domed roof, Mr Kohler?

It was interesting to read in the last issue of Mad that League Rules forbid ground sharing outside a club's own conurbation. Does this apply to relocation too?

It was also interesting to read about LTFC's new market research initiative. I applaud this move. Let's all tell Kohler what he can do with Milton Keynes. *(And this from a resident of that glorious city - Ed)*

DK If I can't go to Luton and I can't go to Milton Keynes, where can I go?

My response: "Do not ask me to do **your** job." Kohler proclaims himself to be a property developer, he draws a very large salary (awarded by whom?), and his job, six days a week, is Luton Town FC. If Kohler cannot find us a site, we are in trouble. Any bright ideas?

One final point: The players away bonuses have been doubled this season. For every away game won after the fifth, they receive a bonus of £750 each. I have seen the sheet but was not allowed a copy to keep. This includes the substitutes, physiotherapist and the tea lady!

A Weekend With John Hartson

Friday the 13th

Get in from work on Friday afternoon. Put the sport on, on BBC2, the picture clears to reveal two faces for a split second, one wonder boy John Hartson, the other I did not recognise in the split second. "And both are included in the squad for tomorrow's game against Everton" said the presenter. Press teletext, feeling numb. "Arsenal sign Hartson and Kiwomya, Hartson for £2.5 Million." I'm aghast, I start shouting and swearing at the television. I could ring Helen Rollerson's pretty neck.

F--- Arsenal, anyone but F--- Arsenal. Arsenal the only club I truly hate, I can't get worked up about Watford, but F--- Arsenal — it's like being told your son has joined the Moonies.

Then I feel angry with Luton, why do they sell anyone half-decent? The only player I was looking forward to watching, looking forward to watching him flatten a few gnarled old centre halves, and frightening the daylights out of timid keepers like Alec Chamberlain.

I sit there in a stew muttering about not going to Luton again. My eight year old son, an avid Luton fan, comes in from school. I give him the news, he takes it far better than his father until he realises that the now cup-tied Hartson is excluded from his "Fantasy Cup" team (in Today newspaper) along with his main hope, Andy Cole.

Go to bed still feeling sick about the deal — Friday the 13th indeed.

Saturday 14th

Wake up to find my resentment is mellowing a little. Maybe Luton had to accept that sort of money, after all Hartson had only played some 30 matches. He may be at his peak now and may not improve, didn't Luton regret not selling Oakes to Blackburn last year (if a deal was ever in the offing), Blackburn wouldn't bid for him this season.

Everybody I meet in the morning seems delighted with the move, they all reckon Arsenal are mad to offer that money, obviously they don't rate Hartson as high as me and George Graham. They all seem to think it's "good business". "He is a Welsh under 21 international" I protest. Maybe they're right, if Luton spend it on three or four decent players to improve the squad.

In the afternoon put on the radio, hoping Arsenal are losing 5-2 but John has scored them both. 1-1. Luton are 1-0 up at Barnsley, gloom starts to lift. Final score 3-1 to Barnsley, gloom descends, Arsenal remain 1-1.

Sunday 15th

Most Sunday papers say Hartson played well and was denied a goal by a big Neville wondersave. Luton look marooned in mid table, we have even started losing away.

Sunday evening, put son to bed, he wishes he had bought a different signed photo in the club shop at the last home match. Yes, he bought a John Hartson. I say it could ave been worse and tell him about the Geordie with the Andy Cole tattoo. Shut his bedroom door, and look poignantly at the picture on the door of the startled looking Hartson being hugged by Preece and Campbell, after scoring against Newcastle ten months ago, with the headline above — S-HATTERED.

Went to bed and dreamed of, yes, John Hartson, not walking in marble halls but sitting next to me in the back row of the main stand watching the Hatters. He didn't seem to interested in the match, but kept looking round symbolically at the exit points. I found myself chatting to him, indeed I asked him so many questions it was like an interview. He was polite and affable, and asked me if I wanted a drink after the match. In the pub he met a few mates of his, young lads of 17-18 and I felt an intruder, drank my beer and left. "See you John, good luck!" I called, but he did not hear.

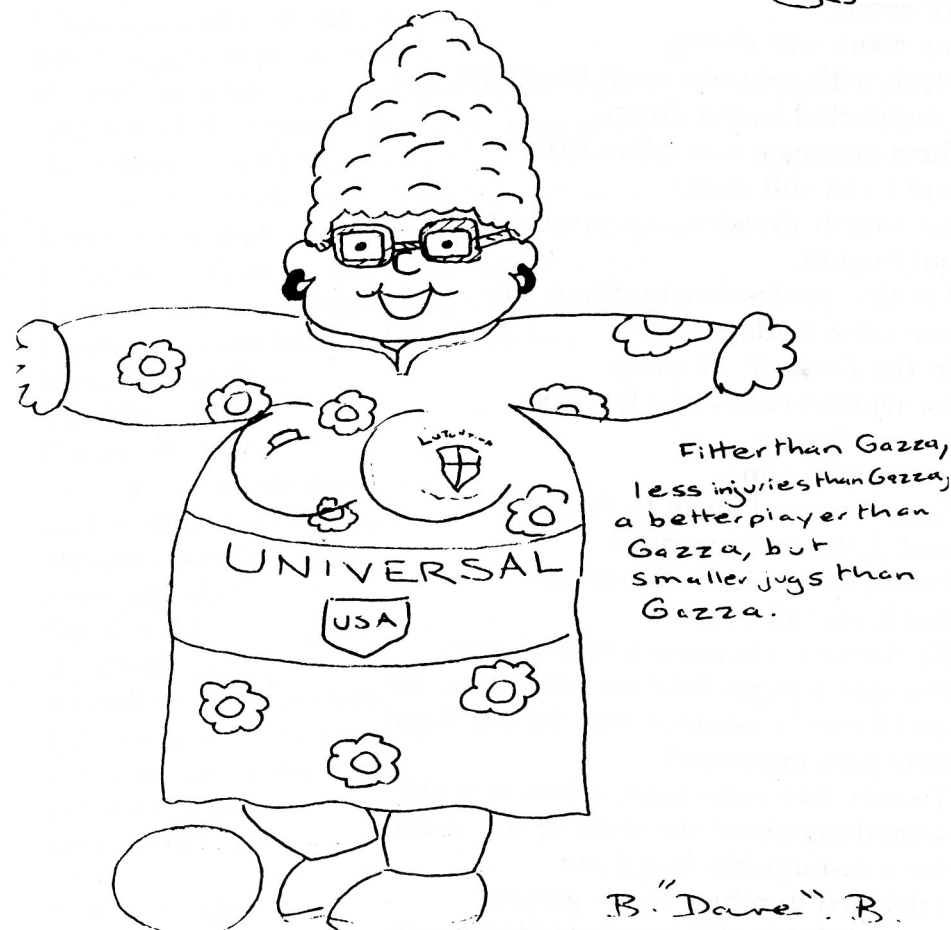
I awoke startled at 3.50 am, Monday 16th, sat bolt upright, looked at the clock and lay back down thinking "Bugger Hartson, why can't I dream of Kim Bassinger, or even Helen Rollerson's seductive neck".

Graham Wright



Pleat finally gets his man as Biggins signs

In a surprise transfer mix-up Luton's promotion hopes are pinned on pantomime dame and former "Surprise - Surprise" presenter Christopher Biggins.





The return match

In my early teens
I used to go off my rocker
for soccer;
my room was chocca
block with spin offs from the game.
I supported Luton Town,
their manager was Allan Brown
and I can still name
his fourth division cup-winning line-up
but I won't.
My first professional writing job
was for a readers section
in the *Football Monthly*
for which I received a few bob
to corroborate
my team's fame.
Then I moved away to Bristol
and distance triumphed.
I tried to become a Rovers fan
but it was all over.
By the time I became a man of sorts
the sports pages held no interest for me
and Luton's entrance into the top flight
flew past unnoticed.
Twenty-five years later, asked to write
something about the team of my youth
for a fashionable magazine
I decided to return to the ground
to see if I was still Luton passion-proof.

It was January, they were playing Derby,
I had comps for the Directors' box and I felt like Jimmy Tarby.
Derby were the favourites,
and the match began slowly
and slowly turned into a contest
and a suitable test of my attachment.
I was absorbed but not partisan.
Gradually the stars of the home side shone
and just before the interval Luton found the net.
I was appreciative but no more.
I didn't get out of my seat,
my only emotion was sadness that the gladness was really gone
and with half a heart I had my complimentary half-time coffee.
And then — ten minutes or so from the end Luton's number
eight collects the ball on the half-way line.
I remember that this was the number my hero wore
in Division Four — Ian Buxton it was then.
I look at my team sheet. Scott Oakes it is now.
I look up to see him beat three blokes.
Incredible skill
indelible skill
I'm on my feet
he's past a couple more
and within shooting distance — just.
He can't possibly score,
a soaring shot
Great Scott
it's there
a small prayer's answer
the tears come, the years go
and I'm one of the whole
I'm part of the roar
once more.

© John Hegley.

From the book "These Were Your Father's", published by Methuen.

The Great Penalty Mystery

What's wrong with us this season? Why can't we score bloody penalties? Already we've had 5, and we've only scored one of them. After the shambles at Fulham, where Oakes, Telfer and Marshall all missed in the shoot-out, we got our first real penalty away at Stoke. Preecey stepped up, slotted it to his left, but Muggleton saved it. Next was home to Sheffield United. Marvin blasted it to his left and scored. After that was the cup tie against Bristol Rovers. Marvin, feeling confident, stepped up and chipped it to his left and the keeper saved it. Then, in the 4th round against Southampton, Telfer hit it to his left and cheating Grob saved it. After thinking that we couldn't miss any more, we get one against Swindon. Guess what happened? Oakesy hit it to his left and smacked the post.

Hatters Roll of Honour 94/5

3/12/94 Sheff Utd (H) Marvin - Goal

Hatters Roll of Shame 94/5

8/10/94 Stoke (A) Preece - saved

7/1/95 Bristol R (H) Marvin - saved

28/1/95 So'ton (H) Telfer - saved

18/2/95 Swindon (H) Oakes - hit post

Looking back, three main things are noticed; (1) Every penalty taker has hit it to their left, (2) All of our penalties at home have been at the Kenny End (surely jinxed), (3) Every game in which we've missed a penalty, we haven't lost. All very bloody well, but if we had scored the two in the cup matches, we would have still been in the competition, and without the need for any poxy replays (one of those being very embarrassing).

Can a special law be made which says that we get an automatic goal if we get a penalty. It would save a lot of bother and supporter frustration. Or better still, hands up those who think Juergen should take them! (Although not a bad idea as he'd probably score).

Beatie

PS: This was written after the Swindon game so we have probably missed a couple more by the time this is printed.

NURSERY RHYMES FOR JUNIOR HATTERS!



NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Charlton did it with Crystal Palace and West Ham, and Wimbledon still do it with Palace. Ground sharing is the last thing that a club wants to do, but sometimes it just isn't possible to carry on at the stadium which you currently play in.

Not many people realise it, but this is a very real option for Luton Town Football Club unless the council agree to extend our lease on Kenilworth Road. The likelihood of this is relatively unknown because the council are keen to develop the land, but at the same time there would be uproar should the club have to leave the town (remember Milton Keynes?).

If the council decide to extend the lease on Kenilworth Road until a new stadium has been built there will be no problem. Let's take a look however, at what would happen should the council terminate the lease on its expiry date and evict Luton Town Football Club from its rightful home.

The only thing the club could do to remain in the Football League, would be to play its games at a ground which meets the requirements and standards laid down. What's the nearest League ground to Luton? ~~W~~***ford (15 miles, closely followed by Barnet (18 miles). Does anyone reading this fanzine relish the idea of having to travel to that hovel of a place every other weekend, or having to play our home games in a Third Division ground? The answer, of course, is a most resounding NO. The only other groundshare possibilities are Leicester (70 miles), the scene of our victory over Coventry in the Littlewoods cup, or one of the London clubs (or Northampton at around 40 miles? - Ed).

Of course what all Luton fans would like to see is a new stadium. If the team which finished bottom of the Third Division can do it, why can't we? The folk of Northampton can visit their stadium, watch a game of football, go to the cinema, have a game of Ten Pin Bowling, and enjoy a drink all in the same complex. So why can't we? There are a number of reasons why not. Firstly, the council doesn't like the idea and won't give planning permission. Secondly, raising the cash is easier said than done. Lastly, and most annoying, is groups of snobs living in large houses on private roads telling us they don't want a football ground near them. And what reason do they give for their objection? The extra traffic and noise would be too disturbing. Well, I question these peoples sanity. They live directly underneath the flightpath of Luton Airport, and directly opposite the busiest stretch of motorway in the country, but they think the extra traffic and noise created 30 times a year on a Saturday afternoon will be too much (I take it they don't mind being woken up in the small hours of the morning by planes flying overhead!!). I would have thought that the noise created by a Boeing 737, and the traffic created by junction 10 of the M1 would swallow up the traffic and noise

The council should give us planning permission to build a leisure complex, local businesses should help finance the venture and the locals should shut up and enjoy the club which brings a lot of satisfaction to a lot of the town, before we end up playing our home games in W***ford.

Steve Tyler

PS: If we do end up playing in W***ford, Barnet, London or Leicester, make sure you sound your horn at every opportunity when driving along London Road on your way to the M1. This will ensure that the residents in the area have to endure lots of our noise, despite the fact that we are not even playing in the town!

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. We've found some more back issues, so none are sold out at present (Yes, even issues 4, 10, 22 & 24).

GLEN'S FRUSTRATION!!

While reading the Daily Telegraph one Wednesday morning, Glen Roeder noticed that W*****d had won a game. Only then did he realise that he was reading the Fantasy Football section.

On the internet?

Join WHOSH

Worldwide Hatters

on the Super Highway

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

Kohler's 100% pay rise



Second Among Equals

When I first heard talk of a 'Premier League Second Division' I thought 'this stinks', but the more I look at it the more logical it seems, but there are some caveats. The only two valid reasons for change are money and/or improving the standard of our football. Either way the absurd suggestion of no relegation from, or promotion into, the new PL 2nd doesn't add up.

Firstly, money — well, we at Luton are only too well aware of the need for lots of this commodity, but how can effectively freezing the current top two divisions forever help? If there was no relegation the last half of the season would be full of meaningless game after meaningless game for many clubs, leading to a corresponding drop in gates and hence less money to go round. This leaves aside the other reasonable, although rather emotive, reason of leaving clubs out who are quite capable of returning to the big time but are currently 'down below' whilst leaving clubs temporarily ensconced in Endsleigh Div 1 where they are. It's not long ago that Wolves were in the old Division 4 and a club with the history of Burnley nearly went into the Conference. Also there is the removal of the dream of clubs like newcomers Wycombe or old stagers like Crewe that they might one day make the top. OK, so some clubs never have made it out of the bottom two divisions (eg, Hartlepool, Chester) but why deny them the dream that one day they just might. If you keep the door open to the top then there's no need to expect clubs to fold and, if you have regional leagues beneath the PL 1 and 2, the travel costs will be decreased, for both clubs and travelling supporters, so it could actually benefit the smaller teams.

The other idea swanning about is that the composition of the PL 2nd will be based on 'status' — what the hell does that mean? If it's performance, then if 3 FA Cup semis, 2 League Cup Finals (winners once) and 10 seasons in the old First Division, and all during the last 12 years, means anything then we're straight in! No, I'm afraid the term 'status' is meaningless and anyway I don't think there's enough clubs around with this nebulous quality to vote it in. And nor are there enough clubs with grounds to meet the 'standards.'

I have no problem at all with radical restructuring but it must be far reaching and complete, not just another tinkering around the edges to botch up the crumbling edifice. If we are serious about improving the standard of our game to that of the Italian and German leagues let's look to their example — they have promotion and relegation at all levels, the Italians even have four up/down to Serie A. There are certain standards (financial mainly) that clubs have to meet to go up but if, say, the top club can't go up the next one that can meet the standards goes up instead. Anyway, here's my 'blueprint':

- A Premier League of 18 clubs and a PL second tier of 24 clubs — 3 up/3 down between these and no play offs!
- Three regional leagues of 24 clubs, North, Midlands and South with clubs drawn from the existing 2nd and 3rd divisions plus most of the Conference.
- Each of the three clubs top of each regional league would play off against the team in the bottom three (of PL2) closest (geographically) to themselves — a one off match at the nearest suitable large ground.
- The regional leagues would have to interface to the three feeder leagues which currently feed the Conference.
- The FA Cup would stay as it is, open to all, but there would be two 'League Cups', one for the top two divisions and another for the regional Leagues (a bit like the current Autoglass). These League Cups would be one match only, with sudden death extra time for a maximum of thirty minutes, ie. the first team to score in extra time wins, the game ending immediately on the goal being scored, but if no goals are scored after 30 minutes there'd be a penalty shoot out as now.

And no midwinter break thanks very much (Jan and Feb are depressing enough as it is without removing the only thing that makes them bearable!) but one simple improvement is requested — modify the computer programme that does the fixtures so that no bank holiday game is played between clubs that are more than 50 miles apart and that teams never have to play games on successive days. It can't be that difficult to do — in fact, show me the computer and I'll do it for them (for a small fee, of course).

The Expatriate

HATTERS MATTERS

Hatters Matters is the name of a monthly newsletter being produced for exiled Luton Town supporters. Designed to inform those out of reach of local newspapers of what's going on at the club.

If you would like a sample copy, or to subscribe (currently £2 through to August) write to: Hatters Matters, 292 Icknield Way, Luton LU3 2JS.

"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!

"Quality garment..."

- Luton News

Please send me a 1974 shirt. I Enclose a cheque/PO for £26.95.

Name:..... Size:.....L/XL

Address:.....

.....

.....

Cheques Payable to Mad as a Hatter!
Send orders to 292 Icknield Way, Luton, LU3 2JS.

KENILWORTH ROAD - Aerial Photo

Kenilworth Road

10"x8" Aerial Colour Photograph

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

Only £3.50



Please make cheques payable to; **Mad As A Hatter**

With your address on reverse, send to;

292 Icknield Way, Luton, Beds, LU3 2JS

Postage & Packing FREE in the UK. Please add £1 for Europe.



Above: Jamie Woodsford in action at Grimsby, where he was the only thing in a Town shirt to cause any problems for the home defence. Below: Dwight Marshall terrorises the Swindon defence a week later.



The Promotion of Luton Town

We believe that David Pleat might build a side on tight resources good enough to win promotion and become an established top flight team again, involved in an annual battle to maintain mid table obscurity. It is conceivable that we might one day win the FA Cup and embark on the subsequent European campaign. We might even hear some good news one day about cash flow and stadium plans.

By this stage, of course, we're entering the realms of fantasy. But even when wearing rose tinted spectacles we never imagine we could ever compete with the likes of Man United and Blackburn Rovers, we're resigned to the fact that the most we can hope to do is trip them up now and again in the future. Luton Town are never going to win the European Cup.....

We've accepted that our team, on an off day perhaps, isn't the greatest "the world has ever seen" but we've also given up the ideal that LTFC is the top team in Luton. It's colours are sometimes seen in the town centre on the backs and round the necks of it's supporters. They are outnumbered by people wearing Man United, Arsenal and Tottenham shirts and scarves bought at Town centre sports shops whose windows are full of the new blue Man United kit. If you want Luton Town merchandise in Luton town centre, then you go to Pete Sports and see if there's anything from 1990 in the bargain bucket. If you're really keen you'll make the trek to the club shop in Bury Park, where you may find something from 1985 in the bargain bucket.

It's a sorry state of affairs — especially if you consider that football for the younger generations is no longer a spectator sport. Children dressed in Man United colours may never go to a match (until their teens when they might get to visit Selhurst Park) but get all the football action they want on videos in which the reds always win and Giggsy always scores a spectacular goal. The price of a shirt and a few videos is a small amount against the price that encouraging a taste in live football (in time and money) might entail, so parents are unlikely to dissuade their children too harshly.

If there was some sort of Luton Town shop in the Arndale centre then, no doubt, these kids would laugh and sneer at it — but at least it would grab their attention. Propaganda preaching the "ever been to a football ground (glory hunting brat)?" sentiments might be employed along with videos of football games they might not be able to help themselves watching..... Buses (advertising on) are a step in the right direction (*or would be if the 'next home fixture' slot was updated*) — but the club really does seem to need an outlet in Luton town centre just to be seen.

I'm not saying the club needs a shop either — merely a kiosk at which merchandise and tickets can be bought. Quite apart from distracting non supporters, a kiosk would be a major advantage for fans for whom the trek to Bury Park is an inconvenience (even before the 'charming' service provided in the ticket office). To set this up LTFC need only to move an existing member of the ticket office staff (preferably someone civil), a position in a new or existing kiosk and an update of the computer system. Dunstable too could do with a ticket office, and the now defunct take away kiosk smack in the centre seems an excellent place.

Wherever LTFC end up, as far as a new stadium goes, the need to be represented in the town centre will remain. Computer technology means that an update of the club's equipment to deal with more than one ticket office will not be overly expensive. The advantages are incalculable whilst, in the school of false economy, the unopposed marketing of Premiership merchandise in Luton town centre remains a prime example.

Tim Kingston

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.



Mini injured again whilst shopping.

**LIVE
FROM
KENILWORTH ROAD**

*SINCE THE START OF THE NATIONAL
LOTTERY WE HAVE BEEN LOOKING
FOR A PLACE THAT TRULY SHOWS THE
MEANING OF A LOTTERY.*

*THE HOME OF LUTON TOWN
FOOTBALL CLUB SEEMS LIKE A GOOD
PLACE AS THE CLUBS HOME RECORD
TRULY REFLECTS THE UNCERTAINTY OF
THE LOTTERY.*

**DRAW EVERY LUTON TOWN HOME
MATCH AT THE SLIGHTLY EARLIER
TIME OF 4.45PM**

Team Reports - Part deux

Juergen Sommer After match winning performances against Burnley and Bolton (!), he has proceeded to lose his influence over results for (or against) Luton this season. His overall shotstopping has never been in doubt, but for a big American weighing in at two Adrian Heaths, he still fails to control his defence, with the usual shout of "Away Trev, away Jules", when the ball comes anywhere near him. One of the finest examples of foreign imported keepers in the game today — excellent shotstopper, shit at everything else.

Effort: 75%

Attainment: C+

Julian James Along with Peakey, still a very consistent defender after a sticky patch in his career 3-4 years ago, when he produced performances that made Des Lynam's BBC show "How Do They Do That?"

A brilliant tackler, and has also improved with his distribution and overall skill level. Still no Rob Jones, but a tad better than Vinny Jones, Jules needs to maintain his recently good form, with the likes of Linton and Chenery knocking on the door.

Effort: 100%

Attainment: B+

Mitchell Thomas Spider is playing well for us, never shines out as being the best player on the pitch, but just gets on with his job.

Can be torn apart by any good winger, but has played generally well in his Xmas performances, and grown some hair too. If only Captain Peakey was listening....

Effort: 80%

Attainment: B

Marvin Johnson I don't think anyone believes that his best position is centre back, not even himself. His mid season form has been particularly pleasing, with only an uncharacteristic poor match against Bristol Rovers in the home FA Cup tie. Otherwise he has given his all, and never looks like producing that cock up that he could always pull out of the hat — the days when Marv was a pure arsehole to this clubs cause, without realising it. That part has left us.

Effort: 90%

Attainment: A-

Trevor Peake Lightning pace, flowing locks and a goalscorers instinct are not the types of phrase commonly associated with our leader. However, dedication, consistency and a bald head are features which Trev can boast about. Keeps defying nature and playing well every game, and wins most aerial duels. Rumours that special help from Vidal Sassoon is improving Trev's game are purely speculative.

Effort: 100%

Attainment: A

Scott Oakes If one mentioned that Martin Keown is more popular at Arsenal than Scott is at Luton at the moment, many would laugh at the suggestion. However, Keown's ability to hit a corner flag from five yards out in front of goal perhaps is more plausible than Oakes attempts at tackling, running back or taking on a defender. Oh, and Keown gets a laugh too.
Effort: 50% Attainment: C-

Gary Waddock Some fine performances from Gary have belied his free transfer value. Playing the old Harper role, and with no disrespect to Harper who did a fine job for us, Waddock does put himself around a bit more. Fiercer in the tackle, and quicker (who's slower than Harper?), Gary is becoming a prominent asset for us. Bristol Rovers must be rueing their decision to let him go, after it was Waddock's fine battling display in the replay which earned us the chance to see if Sommer is indeed taking bribes from Grobelaar.
Effort: 100% Attainment: A-

Paul Telfer Another battler, but whose consistency has fluctuated little this campaign. His ability to get in good positions with the ball and then fail to produce something telling is frustrating at times. His overall effort has never been in question, and he appears to be the fittest player with his enormous lastability for the whole game. Still needs to work on distribution to match the standard he achieved last season.
Effort: 85% Attainment: B

David Preece Has been linked with Derby County recently, but I can't see him moving at all. One of the most consistent players not only in our division, but in British football. One bad game against Burnley was his last. His touch and passing range are not dissimilar to Cantona, but unlike the French pig, Mini doesn't face a lengthy ban. In fact, I must stop abusing Cantona before I get a Nike logo and ten studs embedded in my chest. Back to Preece, I hear through the grapevine (and this is true) that his testimonial will be against Manchester United in April. And Cantona thought he got a hard time at Selhurst?
Effort: 100% Attainment: A

Dwight Marshall His winner at Bath was his first goal since Wolves away in early November, a barren spell indeed. I hope his confidence has now been restored, and he starts playing to his potential, that is, using his pace to actually get past opposing players. A lot of his runs go completely unnoticed, but I sometimes get the distinct impression that he would be better partnering Brian Lara in the Red Stripe Cup than Kerry Dixon in the FA Cup.
Effort: 80% Attainment: C

Kerry Dixon Has only played half of the season through injuries and Hartson's emergence into the starting line up. Recent games against Barnsley and Bristol Rovers have seen Kerry put himself about a bit and impress a few Town supporters. I just get the feeling that Kerry is just winding down his career nicely, and seeing it out with a nice salary as well (*not many do that at Luton —Ed*). However, with no competition for the central number 9 shirt, Kerry will now be a regular and prove to Luton fans that he is worth much more than I have just suggested.
Effort: 80% Attainment: C

Tony Allbones

Kohler's 100% pay rise

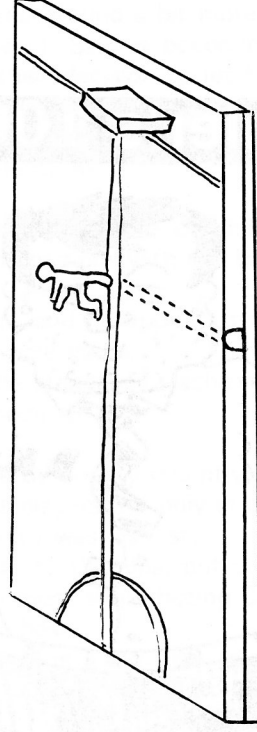


Mad As A Hatter proudly presents..... your very own.....

"Staying Up" David Pleat

Yes, now you can recreate David Pleat's famous Maine Road jig in the comfort of your own home, colour-in his hideous suit and sample the tension and relief of winning your last game of the season.

26



To make your "Staying Up" David Pleat, you need the following:

One shoe box lid

Green and white paint

One inner of a large box of matches

A packet of felt tip pens

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)
- 7)

Cut a slit along one side and top of lid.

Cut a long strip of rigid card, 2 inches longer than half the width of the box.

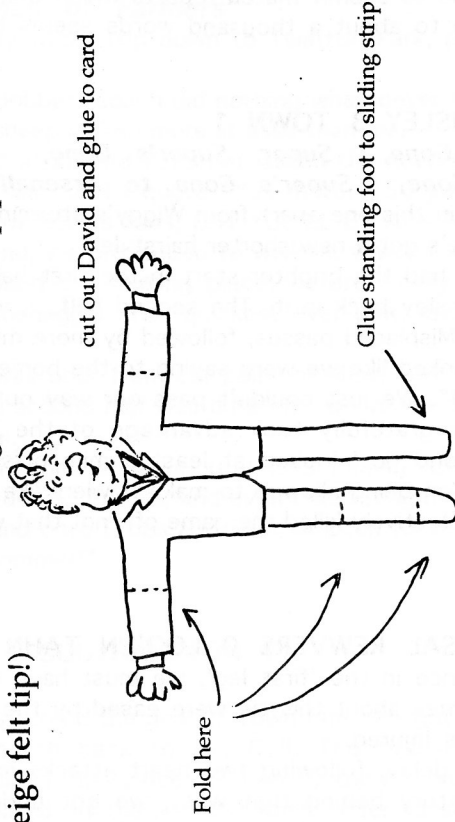
Cut out David, Glue to piece of card for rigidity and fold where marked.

Insert strip through side slit, fold two ends 1 inch from end.

Glue David's standing foot to strip in middle of lid.

Glue dug-out to end of lid

Paint pitch and colour-in David and dug-out with felt tip pens. (Make sure you have a beige felt tip!)



27

Next issue: *Cut out Raddy Antic to stick to your already impressive scene.*

THE MISMATCH REPORTS

(OR, WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE MAJOR OAK)

Readers are welcome to submit match reports which will, wherever possible, be used. As a rule, up to about a thousand words seems to work well, but we'll accept less.

14.01.95 BARNSELY 3 TOWN 1

*"Super, Super's Gone, Super, Super's Gone,
Super, Super's Gone, Super's Gone to Arsenal!!"*

Not much to cheer in this one apart from Wiggy's storming goal. We can't really call him that now he's got a new shorter hairstyle.

Although the Town had the brighter start in the first half, we soon ran out of steam, and let Barnsley back in it. The second half..... well after we'd scored, that simply was it. Misplaced passes, followed by more misplaced passes. It was so bad, it almost looked like we were saying to the home players "here you are mate, have the ball". We just couldn't pass our way out of our own half, and eventually Barnsley gratefully took advantage of the Town players' incompetence. Their second goal looked at least a mile offside, but their third..... Sommer can't keep on being allowed to make howlers like this, which once again got punished, and effectively killed the game off, not that we looked like bouncing back anyway.

Objét

18.01.95 BRESSAL REWVERS 0 LOO'UN TAHN 1

After the performance in the 'first leg', we must have started this game the underdogs. Our worries about this tie were eased by the news that the prolific Marcus Stewart was injured.

After a 10 minute delay, following two heart attacks in the main Cowshed (I wonder what the story behind that was), we got under way, with Rewvers coming straight at us, as we had done to them at home. By half time we considered ourselves lucky to still be at 0-0. Most of the Rewvers supporters forcibly interviewed on the touchline — what a crap idea — agreed that their lot should have been three up. The second half started in a similar vein, except that Rewvers gradually deteriorated as time went on, as they ran out of ideas, and passes began to go astray (where have I seen that before?). The Town clawed their way back into the frame with one or two threatening moves, before 'Bitty' put us ahead. somehow we clung onto the lead, and with more determination than was shown at Barnsley, a bit of luck, and a brave display by Juergen, at last beat a team beginning with the letter 'B'.

One of the Rewvers songs after we'd scored was one I haven't heard for a good few years. It certainly brought back memories, and almost a tear to the eye. You

know the one, it goes "You're gonna get your f**ing heads kicked in." Truly a classic, I'm sure you'll agree.

Objét

"You're just a bunch of Farmers"

What looked a decidedly tricky trip down to Twerton Park, produced..... well, a tricky tie.

A five hour trip on the Bobbers coach did nothing whatsoever to calm any nerves. In fact, three thousand sheep looked more at ease than me.

On arrival at the ground at around 7.15 pm, asked the nearest steward the way to a pub, whereby he said, and I quote "Yes mate, 150 yards down the High Street. It's packed full of Rovers fans, BUT YOU'LL BE ALRIGHT IN THERE!" So, with sound advice in mind, we proceeded to walk in, where I immediately had my hat nicked, thrown around the f**ing place, before finally apologising about calling his mum a sheepshagger. The quickest ever pint, and it was off to the ground.

Anyway, the first half was poor from our point of view, with Rovers unlucky not to be two goals up. The second half was different, where we dominated the game and scored the vital goal.

Top performances from Sommer (yes, that is Sommer), Chenery (particularly second half), Peake, Waddock, Preece, and even Dixon fought hard.

A well earned victory, and onto Grobs and Southampton for Round 4, "The Bribes Match — Grobelaar v Sommer!"

Tony Allbones

28.01.95 TOWN 1 SOUTHAMPTON 1

Saint Wayne.....

Debutant Wayne Biggins scored the goal us Town fans thought was never going to come, to take this match back to the Dell. The first half was sufficient entertainment and we should have been 3-0 up by the interval. Dixon shot wide, Spider had a header cleared off the line and when Telfer hassled Bruce 'I haven't got a clue outside the area' Grobesomethingorother, Biggins was inches away from scoring after getting to a fierce cross by Marshall. Southampton scored with probably their first serious attempt at goal. A pathetic Town free kick, Telfer cleared it like a W*ford defender, Heaney took it past two, crossed and Neil Shipperley was on the end of it to put it in. Sommer then denied Shipperley at least a hat trick with Magnificent saves (but then we couldn't have a scum reject scoring that many, could we). Sommer then showed Brucie how to come out and tackle two people on the halfway line without making a complete tit of himself. After some heavy Luton pressure, Marshall got the ball on the right, crossed it, it got handled and we were awarded a penalty. Now, you would have put money on Telfer of all players to score, but Brucie saved it (Telfer couldn't have offered him enough money to let it in!). Biggins then poked the ball home from yet more

good work from Marshall to send us fans wild (well, almost). Telfer tried to throw our cup dream by handling the ball in our area in injury time, but the usual inconsistently crap refereeing meant that Ashby failed to see it, thank God! So, see you at the Dell and then we're all off to Yiddoland for two simple cup victories.

Beatle

PS: Who's this Le Tissier player? Was he actually playing against us?

04.02.95 TOWN 2 OLDHAM ATHLETIC 1

The Master Predictor.....

After 25 seconds I said that this match would finish nil-nil. 7 seconds later I was celebrating our first goal after Marshall was sent through the middle by Biggins. Scotty would have easily made it 2-0 in the second minute, but his shot was tipped over by Gerrard. Banger then made the miss of the season when, with an open goal, he could only pass it back to the stranded Sommer. At half time, my second prediction was that if Oldham equalised, we wouldn't score again. So what happened? Ex scum player/reject Holden equalised and Marshall again was brilliantly put through by Biggins and scored. A welcome and much needed 3 home points (I had forgotten what a home win was). Thomas and Waddock were both crap, as were the linesman and referee, what was the point of booking Juergen when it was obvious that his placing of the ball would not affect the outcome of the match?

Beatle

PS: A great appearance by Billy at half time. Keep up the good work mate!

PPS: What the hell's wrong with the Kenny End? The atmosphere was shite at this match. Come on guys, "Sing your hearts out for the lads."

08.02.95 SOUTHAMPTON 6 TOWN 0

Part Two — The Replay.....

Southampton were helped in this match by having the referee and linesmen on their side, and our (dis)ability to defend. How Southampton can say they aren't a one man team is beyond me. They would be in the 2nd Division if it wasn't for Le Tissier. He scored two and set up two here. There was only one team in the game for the first five minutes, but Le Tissier scored from So'ton's first attack. After Magilton made it 2-0, Thomas gave them the match when he handled for a penalty, and by half time we were 4-0 down and shell shocked. It was soon 5-0 due to crap defending, and was finished by Hughes scoring a sixth. Gerald Ashby and the linesmen must have been trying to get Southampton to score more as the only two offside decisions the lino gave, the referee ignored, and nearly to our disadvantage. Mr Linesman, where's your guide dog? You missed numerous offsides, you blind twat. Our whole team performance was crap, with Telfer and Thomas being the worst. We couldn't even score to shut Grobelaar up, the cheating (*allegedly, nothing yet proven*) mouthy so and so. Great singing lads to

keep the atmosphere up, even when we were 6-0 down. "Southampton — do you know where Wembley is?"

Beatle

PS: Oakesy, if you don't want to play with any heart for us, you can piss off back to Leicester. If you reckon you're worth £2 million, you'd better start showing it, at the moment you're not even worth a free transfer.

11.02.95 GRIMSBY TOWN 5 TOWN 0

Battered!!

Well! What can you say? It's not every week that you see eleven goals in four days..... and all in the wrong net. As they say: It can only get better — let's hope so or we'll be sucked into the relegation quagmire yet again before we know it. We must be completely MAD catching a train from Leagrave at 0632 just to arrive in Cleethorpes before the trawlers have returned to shore with their catch. However, it must be said that Sommer kept the Mariners score down to single figures and, in the three seasons since our fall from the top flight, Grimsby have been the most impressive in terms of opposition — having seen all six games, Grimsby have been unlucky to have won only five of them! Pity the population of South Humberside don't share my enthusiasm for their team!

S.A.F.

18.02.95 TOWN 3 SWINDON TOWN 0

What the hell is happening? 2 home wins in a row, it's been unheard of this season. This game belonged to Dwight Marshall. He should have buried the first, but kind Kevin Horlock insisted on scoring it for him. It should have been 2-0 on the stroke of half time, but Horlock pulled Marshall back, Marshall scored, and a free kick was given for Marshall pushing Horlock! 2 minutes after the break, Marvin falls over and gets a penalty. Now 99% of us Town fans knew that we wouldn't score it, and Scotty didn't fail to disappoint us as he hit the post. I know that I, like many have slagged off Scotty this season (and deservedly so!) but after that miss, he played like he did in the cup last season. Great runs, confident passes and shots which deserved more, but even his performance couldn't take anything away from our Dwight. He scored with the best move of the match, as an Oakesy pass found Biggins on the wing, who crossed in for Marshall to finish. Marvin was then pole-axed in the area but, as I knew we wouldn't score the penalty, I wasn't complaining when the ref failed to see it, but let Marvin suffer for 5 minutes before he could get treatment. Marshall then got his second from a flicked on corner, to put the game beyond the shite opposition. With Pleat away, Westley and Moore were able to get the lads involved in a poncey warm-up, which proved great pre-match entertainment, but it must have worked though. And what happened to the large shake up Pleat promised? The team was the same as our joke performance against Southampton.

Beatle

PS: Can you hurry up and get fit please Linton, so we can get you back in defence and get rid of our joke at left back. But as Mitchell used to play for Tottenham, Venables will probably call him up for the England squad, no matter how crap he is.

21.02.95 PORTSMOUTH 3 TOWN 2

Good results away from home seem to have ended. When Julian James restored our lead with 20 minutes left, no-one could have envisaged what was to come. A mistake by Johnson and a dubious penalty and three points soon became none. Highlight of the evening was a certain Luton fan still shouting about Kerry Dixon despite the fact that the players had been in the changing room at half time for 10 minutes. You ought to drink less Dave, your liver will thank you one day.

P.I.

25.02.95 BRISTOL CITY 2 TOWN 2

Donkeys for courses.....

After a superb first goal by Scotty, a brilliant (first) spot-kick save by Juergen, and a crap bit of goalkeeping for Scotty's second, we were apparently cruising towards that elusive away win No 8. Enter David Pleat.....

The game completely changed with one incident, and no, I don't mean City's 'offside' first goal, Mr Pleat. The substitution of the knackered Preecey had far more to do with the result. It meant Oakes being moved over to left midfield, and introduced Martin Williams into the frame. Within minutes it was clear that :

- (a) Oakes wasn't happy being on the left, and
- (b) Williams wasn't happy being on the field.

It was like we had been reduced to ten men.

Why was Williams even on the bench? Apart from great performances at Orient in that friendly, and at home to West Ham, every other time he's ventured onto the park, he's been **crap**. Why wasn't Dixon subbed for Biggins with half an hour left — come to think of it, why was Biggins even on the bench? It's high time Dixon was put out to grass. Another player who it amazes me to see keep his place is that lolloping, arm/leg flailing, foul throwing, god-awful passer of the ball — Spider Thomas. Pleaty — please spend that money on a defence, and make sure you bring in players fit enough to run for 90 minutes.

Objét

04.03.95 TOWN 1 MILLWALL 1

Apart from a well taken goal by Bitty Marshall, and a typical cock-up by Juergen, this was a game for which the word uneventful was created. Overall, Millwall were the better side, but neither team deserved three points. The referee was a great advert for not allowing former players to take up the whistle as many have advocated. In one Sunday paper, David Pleat was quoted as suggesting that Alex Rae "might just have done something very clever for that

goal". Unfortunately, to most of us, it looked like he did something most Sunday League players could manage — simply heading the ball across the goalmouth in front of a statuesque goalkeeper. This of course simply maintains DP's record of not blaming Sommer for his mistakes. It's fair enough that you should avoid destroying his confidence, David, but at this rate you'll be out of excuses before long. And while we're about it, what's the point of buying an alleged striker (Rob "Bernard" Matthews), if he's only going to get 10 minutes in midfield?

K.F.H.

07.03.95 TOWN 2 PORT VALE 1

The relief of a Town victory after three near misses, was made even more enjoyable by the news of a defeat for the old enemy and going above them in the table. The first half of this game seemed to be a continuation of previous games, with the side doing not quite enough to justify optimism. The second half, however, was a different story. The difference was made by 'Bernard' Matthews, whose wing play was always positive, and seemed to transmit something to the rest of the team. The first goal came from Telfer, who worked hard to win the ball and put it into the net, when on another occasion he may have accepted losing it. The second came after the Vale keeper fumbled a shot from Matthews and Dixon narrowly beat Marshall to the rebound. With the Town on top, the remaining period should have been comfortable for us, but the usual woeful defending allowed Vale to pull one back so that the last six minutes were quite tense. But we hung on, and took that important step up the table.

As for Matthews, this was an encouraging start, and more positive football from him will see those two goals in May 1992 quickly forgiven, if not forgotten. All it needs is for the rest of the team to be persuaded to pass to him.

K.F.H.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK BY THE REV EXPATRIATUS

There's been much talk of the lack of atmosphere at Kenilworth Road these days and it's generally blamed on the seats put in on the terrace area. There's all sorts of compelling reasons put forward about why this is the case but none of them are really very convincing. I have one simple answer — if those who complain about the lack of atmosphere put as much effort into singing as they do into whinging about the lack of it, the players would be unable to hear themselves think!



Above: Julian James in action against Swindon, in a game which featured a rare clean sheet for our defence. Below: Martin Williams, surprised to find himself on the pitch at Bristol City, checks the grass to make sure he's not dreaming. Sadly for us, he wasn't.



HOW MUCH "MOORE" CAN WE TAKE?

The excellent footie mag 'FourFourTwo' recently questioned Brian Moore's competence; a man who was once head (albeit bald) and shoulders above all other commentators, simply the best. I've noticed him struggle lately too, with obvious refereeing decisions, as well as players names, and it's clear that the great man is not nearly as 'on the ball' as he was a few years back.

But who have ITV/Carlton/LWT got to replace the great 'Mooro'? No obvious successors to his throne spring to mind. The only youngster coming through the ITV ranks appears to be Gabriel Clarke, who although he comes across as someone very knowledgeable of the game, has too wimpy a voice to make it as a commentator. The pick of the current bunch at BBC or ITV at the moment, is, in my view, Barry 'Outspoken' Davies. The fact that he always says what he thinks, particularly about dirty players, makes him my number one. A typical quote he made recently was about this seasons third Man Utd kit, and that it's creation could "only be for commercial reasons". Well said mate. (Personally though, I think he should have said "It serves all those glory hunters right. HAAA!")

What other commentators are there out there to take over from our Brian? Martin Tyler..... well he won't take a drop in wages. Gerry Harrison..... Wouldn't sound interested unless Norwich were playing. Gerald Sinstadt..... the boys on the park are too (we can't say that about him—Ed). Archie MacPherson..... can't understand what the bloke's saying.

I wonder if Mooro has a son. If he has, it's high time he started going to football cliché school. Otherwise, my personal suggestion would be, step forward..... STUART HALL, the Poet Laureate of Football. A man who could even make a Watford v Charlton match sound remotely interesting. And he could use his famous chuckle to good effect every time a Watford player cocked up..... even the most boring game could sound as exciting as an edition of 'Jeux Sans Frontieres' (or however it's spelt!).

FSA London Branch Programme

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

April 13th, 1995
Football In The Community

May 11th, 1995
The Season Reviewed

Guest speakers at most events.

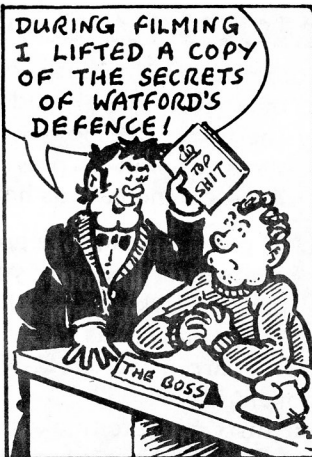
Objét



BOBBIN IS



James Bond



DURING FILMING I LIFTED A COPY OF THE SECRETS OF WATFORD'S DEFENCE!

TOP SECRET

THE BOSS



BUT NOBODY IS INTERESTED IN THEIR SECRET PLANS!

YUK, YUK! I CERTAINLY DON'T WANT 'EM!



IT'S GET SERIOUS TIME BOND. I NEED YOU TO FOIL A DASTARDLY PLOT TO DESTROY LUTON TOWN

OK BOSS!



AND SO LATER

LEGOVERS! NITE CLUB

THIS IS THE PLACE TO MEET LTFC CONTACTS



HELLO MISTER BOND, I'M FANNY OVERKILL, DO YOU KNOW SOMEWHERE WE COULD GO?

HOW ABOUT WHIPSNADE ZOO?



KIT OFF TIME FOR DOUBLE O SEVEN

IT WILL BE A NEW EXPERIENCE FOR YOU TO SCORE AT HOME!



CRASH!

WAS THAT THE SOUND OF THE EARTH MOVING?



NO. JUERGEN SOMMER COULDN'T SETTLE HIS BILL, SO THE MANAGER FOOLISHLY GAVE HIM THE WASHING UP TO DO.

GOSH!

HALF TIME: AND FOR THE SAKE OF THE PLOT AND PUBLIC DECENCY, BOND LOST CONSCIOUSNESS



WHEN BOBBIN AWOKE HE WAS A PRISONER..

W-WHERE AM I?

YOU ARE IN NOVA LUTON MR. BOND!



NOVA LUTON, OR AS TIS ALSO KNOWN - MILTONIA KEYNES!

GOSH, IT'S DAVROS KOHFELD!

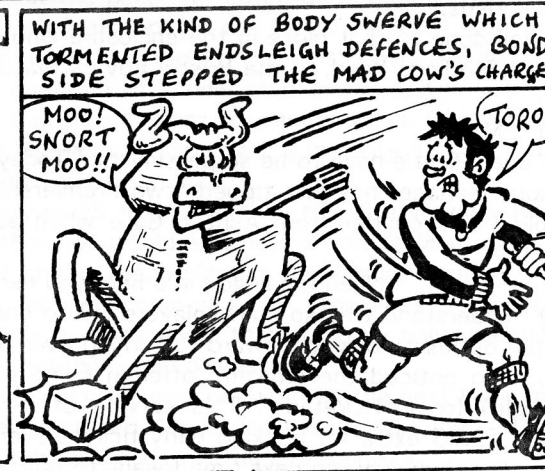


ALAS MISTER BOND, YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO WARN THE FANS OF THE LOCATION OF MY SECRET NEW KOHLER DOME

BECAUSE MY MAD CONCRETE COW WILL PROVE THE DEATH OF YOU.



IN KOHFELD'S ARENA OF DEATH THE BRUTE LOOKS TO HAVE THE KICK OF A CANTONA!



WITH THE KIND OF BODY SWERVE WHICH TORMENTED ENDSLEIGH DEFENCES, BOND SIDE STEPPED THE MAD COW'S CHARGE

MOO! SNORT MOO!!

TORO!

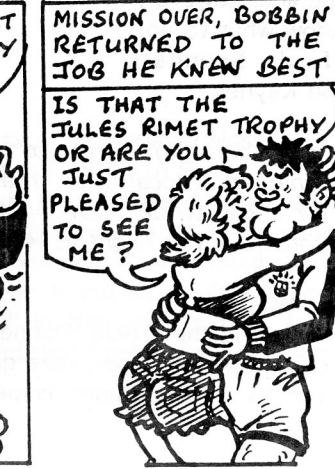


ALAS, THE CONCRETE COW WAS NOT BUILT FOR CORNERING, AND..

CRASH!



ARRGH! THE IMPACT HAS SHATTERED MY SECRET STADIUM INTO RUINOUS RUBBLE!



MISSION OVER, BOBBIN RETURNED TO THE JOB HE KNEW BEST

IS THAT THE JULES RIMET TROPHY OR ARE YOU JUST PLEASED TO SEE ME?

Dear "Mad",

I write in regard to Stuart Hogg's letter in issue 24, in which he condemns associating the word 'scum' with Watford Football Club, and somehow relating it to the situation in Nazi Germany. He then goes on to say "Please try to see my point of view before you make some smart alex reply which you may feel entitled to".

Well, I have tried to see his point of view, and I will still refer to Watford as scum. My brother and I, having had the living daylight's beaten out of us by ten Watford fans whilst walking outside Vicarage Road on derby day, both feel we are perfectly entitled to.

All the best.

An irritated Silsoe Hatter

Silsoe, Beds.

PS: Well done to that bloke in the enclosure who chucked the ball at the back of Worrell Sterlings head, in the Bristol Rovers match.

Dear "Mad",

Why does Pleatie have to be so pessimistic? Today is fourth round Sunday and our glorious manager has just tipped "two Premiership teams" for the final. He also supplied this pearler from Ashton Gate when asked for his comments on the match:

"When it's a slog in a bog, you need a good clog."

Now I understand why so many players fail to understand his tactics. Personally, I'm the optimist; looking forward to turning over Spurs at White Hart Lane.

Also, who noticed the amazing offer in some early programmes (v Bolton for example) from 'Ticketline'. This service offers you the dubious privilege of paying £2.75 extra for booking early tickets over the telephone! It is a 24 hour phone line, however, so next time I want to buy a ticket at three in the morning, I'll know what to do.

Clifford Saunders

Milton Keynes.

The most amazing feature of the Ticketline service is that the phone calls are only charged at local rates. You'd have thought that they would have ripped you off for a call to an 0898 number as well. After all, if you're going to charge ludicrous fees you might as well do it properly. Ed.

Dear "Mad",

After reading the article 'Planned Grounds and Grounded Plans' in issue 25, I felt like putting pen to paper. Here goes:

As far as the stadium issue goes my own preference would be for a

redevelopment of Kenilworth Road. I will even put up with the current car parking situation (I know I'm not the only one to have had their car stolen while at a game!).

I would like to see a new 'Bobbers', giving us a four sided stadium once again. The main/new stand could make way for a new two tier structure and a new roof on the Oak Road would give visitors a pillar free view (The Oak's capacity is plenty big enough for most visiting teams, including the Premiership, where we obviously hope to one day be). This would give us a tidy new stadium with a capacity of around 16,000 (including the extra seats in the Kenilworth — hint, hint, Mr Chairman). If you really want to go the whole hog, why not put an extra tier on the Kenilworth?

Anyway, this is just dreaming. Even if the money were available, the council would never allow planning permission even though they now own the stadium (*How do we know? - Ed*).

This brings me on to the real issue. As a lifelong Town supporter and non-resident of Luton itself, it seems to me that the people of Luton do not want the football club. Apart from the obvious issue of support (of our 6,000 hardcore, how many actually live in Luton? I would guess half at most), the most obvious sign of the council's/town's apathy is the question of a new stadium. Over the years we have seen quite a few schemes, models and plans for new grounds. All have fallen by the wayside. No matter what or where is proposed, a minority action group is always more important than Luton Town FC.

In the 1980s I was personally very much against a move to Milton Keynes. Now, I am not so sure. Had we moved then, we would now have a new stadium, probably a stronger financial standing and who knows, a place in the Premier League.

If a move to Milton Keynes does seriously come up again, I for one will not oppose it. Luton does not want us, so let's go somewhere that does. My only reservation is that we must retain our name, entirely — no discussion!

Anyway, I hope that you can find space for my comments in the next issue as all Luton Town supporters must be concerned this issue. It cannot be ignored. I for one want to taking my son to watch the Hatters in the 21st century.

Nick Albone

Potton, Beds.

Dear "Mad",

I am a lifetime member of the Bob Hatton/Mike Saxby (not)/David Moss fan club, since moved from shores closer to the mecca that is Kenilworth Road.

Living near, and working in, the City of Nottingham I do not get much access to quality football, as you will appreciate, so a publication no doubt reminiscing on the exploits of Paddy Grealish and Brian Horton's bearded armies would go down a treat. Despite the fact that Watford made the last 16 and we didn't, this season is proving most surprising in that we're not still in the bottom four. I firmly believe that promotion is on the cards this year and that Cantona will go down for a considerable term — like Notts County.

I look forward to receiving your brown papered package and to the likely interrogation from the missus as to its contents. I'm sure it will be a most exciting experience to flick through its pages although obviously not as exciting as living in the same area as the God that is Kingsley Black. The thrill is intense. Signing off, I feel I must get this off my chest..... I once sent off for, and received, a signed photo of Mark Aizlewood but, before you ask, no you can't have it. I'm keeping it until it's valuable. I'll swap it for one of Mike Saxby, though.

Simon Holden (Oak Road/Maple 1980-87)
Sutton-on-Trent, Notts.

Dear "Mad",
Life as an exile is not always easy. As you might imagine I have had to take a bit of stick this last week (*after Southampton and Grimsby - Ed*). Add to this that we have failed to even score in five league meetings with Bristol City since relegation, and the landlord of my regular pub is a City fan (*and a very fine pub it is too — Ed*)..... please don't lose again on the 25th lads.

This letter is descending into self pity. Sorry.

Putting pen to paper prompted me to get out the old programme box from the attic (I had to shift a pile of old anoraks to find it). The oldest is v Plymouth Argyle, 27 September 1947. The 'Lillywhites' advert was in place inside the front cover. This advert lasted until 1958 when the style changed. Only D.Ores and F.Lorings from the 1947 team remained. Among other favourites down the years were C.Offinbords, P.Rompters, and of course the famous referee/linesman partnership of Tim Bertradeoftheunitedkingdom and D.Liveryquick.

By September 1964 we were in the Div 3. The programme had doubled in price (to 6d) and halved in size. But on 12 September, a Message from the manager, Bill Harvey:

'.....delighted with support..... other clubs have theme songs..... I have put these words to the chorus of 'Roll out the Barrel'..... I will get the Luton Band to assist..... So let us be proud of our 'little Luton' and throughout the game let voices ring:

"Play up the Hatters,
You're noted everywhere,
Play up the Hatters,
There's not a team that we fear.
Let's bang the goals in,
Give us all something to cheer,
Hoist the flag high for Luton,
'Cause the gangs all here"

Luton Town 1 Exeter City 2

Mr Harvey resigned in November 1964.

I remember, vividly, standing in the enclosure and watching a reluctant and embarrassed band.

Lower points were to follow. The 5-2 home defeat by Notts County in Div 4 in October 1966; the Lincoln debacle was six weeks away. The side that lost 8-1 to the league's bottom club included Tony Read, John Moore, David Pleat, Alan Slough, Bruce Rioch and, of course, the legendary Gordon Riddick. Perhaps things weren't so bad at Southampton last week, after all.

Talking of songs, do you know anyone who has a copy of the 1974 classic 'Hatters Song' who might be prepared to tape it for me? Failing that, how about a transcript of the words in the fanzine?

I ramble on too much. Bit of a boring old fart really, I suppose. That's what 25 years of exile does to you.

John Clark
Bristol.

If anyone has a copy of the 1974 record, we would be glad to put you in touch with John. Just drop us a line here at Mad.

Dear "Mad",
Flicking through a copy of Shoot! magazine, I was interested in an article about the Division One play-offs. Luton were given an 80-1 chance of reaching them (although probably right as we're not going to make it), but I was distressed to see W****d were given a 33-1 chance. Shoot! had also given a top five prediction for the division and placed the scum fifth.

Now, after being at the magazine for a week last year, I know there are one and a half Luton followers who work there (the other half being loyal Preston). I would have thought that they were loyal enough not to put the scum as fifth, as everyone knows that they're not going to finish that high, even if they haven't conceded a goal for a poxy nine games. That isn't enough to put them down as play-off contenders.

Beatie
Luton.

Dear "Mad",
Thanks for the replica shirt which arrived earlier this week. It's truly horrible — I love it! Showing my age here — the first Luton shirt I owned was in this style. I remember Harry Haslam explaining that he wanted the Town to play like Holland, hence the orange shirts. Nice idea. Didn't work for me, playing after school..... I also remember trying to paint a Subbuteo team to match, which included a brown Ricky Hill although I couldn't duplicate his hairstyle. Happy days!

Steven Whitehead
Wingrave, Bucks.

Dear fanzine reader,
As you may be aware Gillingham FC recently went into Receivership. As fellow football fans I would hope that you would all support any fund raising efforts that

will help the Gills survive. To this end I am appealing to you to send donations (no matter how small) to the Save the Gills Campaign currently being run by one of our local papers, The Medway News, in conjunction with the Kent Reliance Building Society. Clearly, Gillingham's main hope of survival is for someone to buy the club, but in the meantime we need all the cash we can get just to keep going. Donations should be sent to The Medway News, 12 New Road Avenue, Chatham, Kent, ME4 6AT. Cheques should be made payable to 'Save the Gills Campaign'.

Thanking you in advance,
Simon Baker
 Co-Editor, Brian Moore's Head.

We can think of two good reasons for helping the Gills, firstly as the nearest League club to Luton (the other Luton, that is), and, secondly, because without a football club, there would be no Brian Moore's Head, and that would be a sad loss to the fanzine world.



Where are they Now?

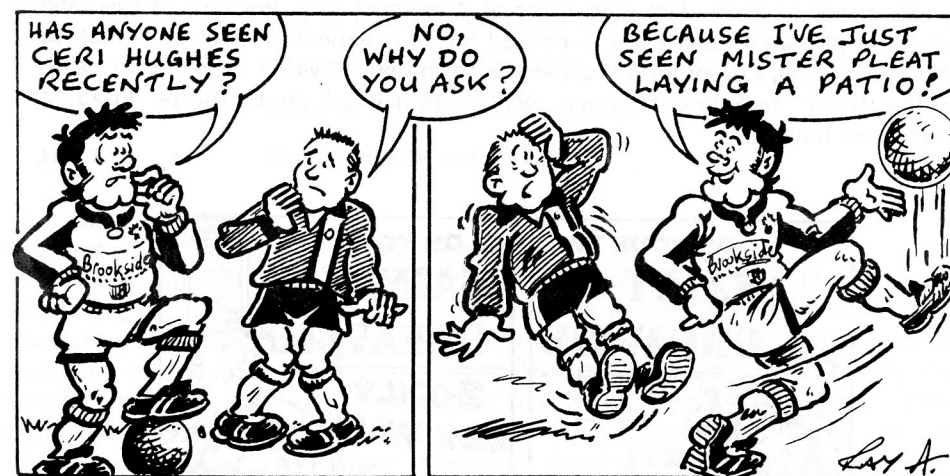
1. Lars Elstrup.

There have been numerous stories of what happened to Lars since he jumped ship, having near bankrupted the club first. He was in the Danish squad for the '92 European Championship, and was then reported to have retired through injury. But around the middle of January the truth emerged (which is more than can be said for the transfer deal), and it turns out that our Lars, or should it be Darando, has given up real life to join a religious cult, as the attached cutting from *When Saturday Comes* says, and this was repeated in several Sunday newspapers.

2. Graham French.

Star winger and hot shot (!) of the late sixties, and, according to BBC Radio Five, scorer of the best goal ever scored (really — tapes available on request), and the BBC couldn't trace him at that time. We are reliably informed that he is now living in a council flat in Sandwell, West Midlands. Graham was one of the few footballers to actually play league football under two different names, having played a couple of games for Southport under the name Graham Lafitte in 1976.

Lars Elstrup, formerly of Luton Town, has the weirdest story. Shortly after the Championships, he dropped out of football altogether and joined a semi-religious sect, the 'Wild Goose' movement, run by an English guru, Michael Barnett. In a recent TV documentary, we saw Barnett, who look like a mass murderer, reduce his devotees to gibbering jellies just by staring at them and transmitting his 'energy'. Elstrup, who has been given a new name, 'Darando', admits he has been brainwashed, but with "positive energy" and although he has broken contact with his family and is not interested in football anymore, says he is now happy with his life.



TOWN TRAVELS

A busy time for away matches, and quite a test of enthusiasm with mostly long distance trips. We start with a midweek visit to Turf Moor on 21 March, to play relegation strugglers **Burnley**. Away supporters are given a choice of seating or standing, all under cover. I expect that we will not be there in great numbers. The natives are not said to be overly friendly to visitors, so the best bet for a beer is probably elsewhere. The brave may like to try the Sparrow Hawk Hotel in Church Street, which offers a selection of beers.

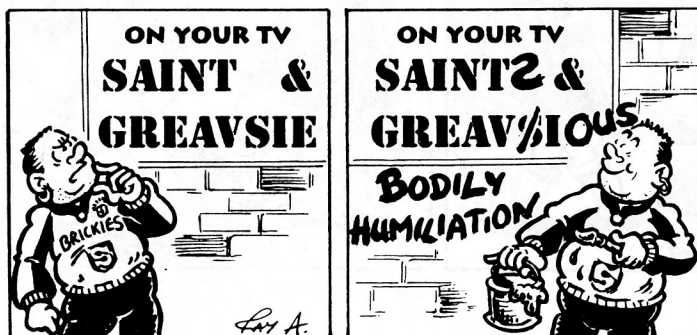
Sometime during the period under review we are due to play at **Bolton**, but it won't be on April 1. Another midweek trip to the north-west to look forward to. According to the Bolton fanzine "Come On Feel The Wanderers" the pubs near the ground all operate a strict no away fans policy, and they advise drinking on the outskirts of the town, or in the centre where "safety cannot be guaranteed". Looks like keeping a low profile is the order of the day. For the intrepid rail traveller, Central Manchester is probably the best bet.

April 15 sees us at **Sunderland**, and on the basis of experience, the Harbour View is recommended. Always packed on match days, it's quite friendly and has good beer (Bass and guest ales). Also it is only five minutes walk from the ground, and there's a good chip shop between the two.

Charlton come next on April 22, and as usual I have to suggest drinking in London on the way to the match. We all have our own favourites, but mine is the Wheatsheaf at Borough Market, a few minutes walk from London Bridge station, where you have to change trains anyway.

Our final away match of the season is at **Middlesbrough**, for what will be (play-offs permitting) the last ever game at Ayresome Park. Because of this, and Boro's likely promotion challenge, a packed house is expected. Best pubs look to be the Malt Shovel, Corporation Road in the town centre with a selection of beers from the North Yorkshire brewery, or the Hogshead on Linthorpe Road, a Whitbread ale house.

K.F.H.



Which Way to the Future?

The only thing certain is that we will get to the future — the question is what will we do when we get there and will we be ready to cope with it? There are some ideas on football that generate an immediate emotive, knee jerk reaction but in any decision about whether or not to move and, where to, we must be careful not to allow our emotions to take over and cloud us to what is best for the club and football as a whole. Not an easy thing to do when the whole experience of football supporting is based solely on subjective and irrational emotions in the first place.

Should we stay or should we go?

Like many clubs with cramped grounds, hemmed in by houses and railways, there have been rumours of moving for as long as most of us can remember, coupled with the occasional abortive attempts to do something about it. The most recent was the Evans inspired move to MK in the 80's with an indoor stadium and an artificial pitch. Well, we got the pitch but the move to MK never came off for a variety of reasons, including the inevitable fan protests against leaving the town of Luton. And now, 10 years on, here we are again, Kohler's bid for land by the M1 scuppered, the dream of his Kohlerdome on hold and he looking around for alternatives, including that glorious Buckinghamshire city of Milton Keynes.

As I write this the new ground saga has all gone quiet again and by the time you read this much of it may have been overtaken by events but..... what are the options? I can see four:

- Stay at K Road with redevelopment
- Groundshare with another club
- Move to a site in or near Luton
- Move to a site out of Luton

So, taking each in turn:

Stay at K Road with redevelopment

It is surely impossible for any Luton fan not to feel a slight pang of sadness at leaving the old ground. The very sight of the ground brings back all those memories of great cup victories, promotion chases, relegation struggles, mind numbing mid season bores and beating W****d. Although the Bobbers and Kenilworth Road end are different now than when I started, the sight of the stepped roofs over the Oak Road are the same and still give me a sense of excitement whenever I see them, a sense of timelessness as well. The tangle of pillars to peer through if you're in the most expensive seats and the web of corridors and steps to get out again. The tiny lane by the back of the

Executive Boxes, yes, all this and more make the ground what it is. This is all the emotional stuff — all football fans feel the same way about *their* ground, but let's step back and look at it as if it was someone else's place. Poor views everywhere, cramped and downright dangerous to get in and out of, three sided, impossible to modernise (no room, planning permission unlikely anyway) and then of course would the council even let us stay? I'm sure they will for a while but not indefinitely. And if we really have designs on getting back into the top division a cramped ground with a capacity of about 10,000 is just no use at all. No, we have no choice, we must move on. But to where?

Groundshare with another club

But who with? As said in Mad 25, the FA rules make this an impossibility anyway but, even though it's an emotional response, is there any among us who could bear the thought of sharing with our nearest football league club? If so give him/her a good talking too and recommend some therapy (like watching old interviews with Graham Taylor). So it's not really on, although I've heard Creasey Park's vacant at the moment.

Move to a site in or near Luton

Nice idea but will we get planning permission? There have been a spate of refusals recently (Southampton, Portsmouth for example) so it's not guaranteed by any means. The use of the bit of land by the M1 seems ideal as it's hardly a nature reserve but the DoE are against out of town shopping centres so I can understand Kohler's concern. If we can move there then OK but if we can't we must think the unthinkable.

Move to a site out of Luton

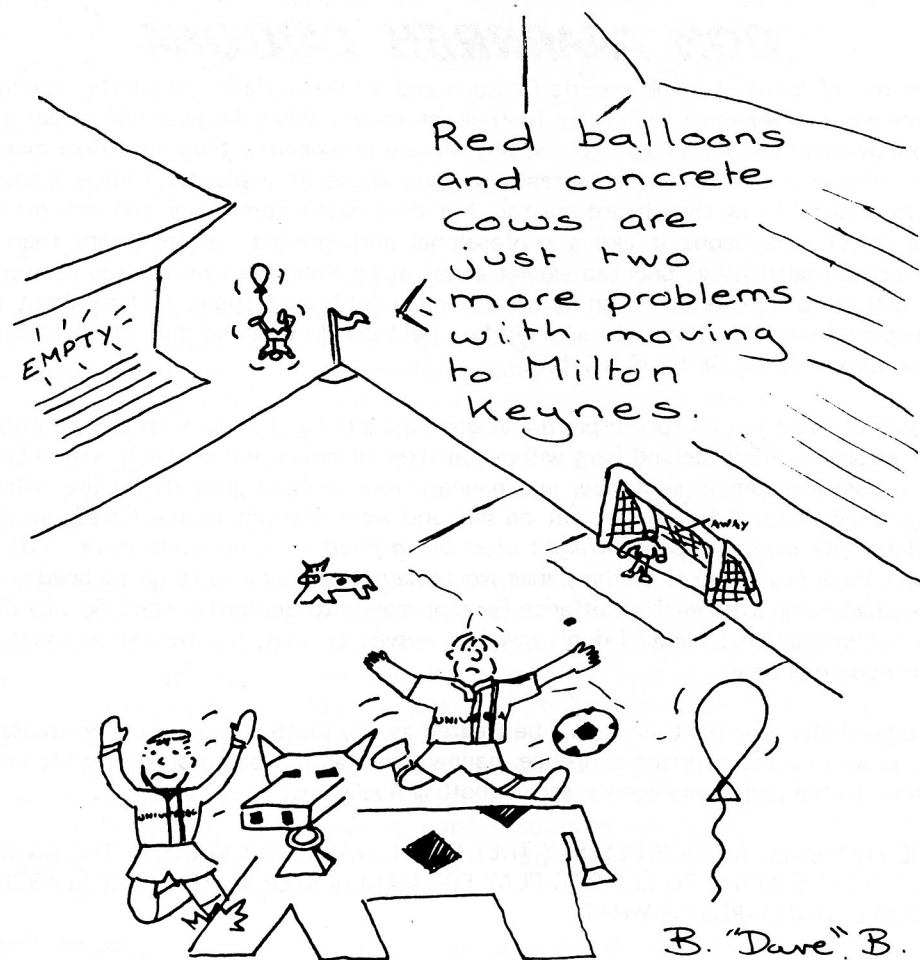
Like Milton Keynes for example? "Unthinkable! Heresy!" I hear you scream, but why? It goes against the grain of all emotional responses to move out of Luton but I'm coming round to it bit by bit — some could argue that the fact I live 100 miles away may have something to do with my perspective as moving to MK isn't going to affect my journey time too much but, honestly, it's not that. No, I really do feel that the time has come to seriously reconsider this option, especially if the alternative is stagnating where we are while waiting for someone to come up with a site in Luton that might just be acceptable. We might wait till the next century for that and we just can't afford to. The club would have to put on subsidised transport from Luton but we could be opening up a whole untapped body of support. I mean, we're hardly that well supported now so surely it can only get better.

But indoors?

But there is one further little problem — Kohler's dream of an indoor stadium. It'd be like playing football in a gymnasium, all echoey and hollow.

And it would remove the game from the elements. That peculiar pleasure of watching the season start in hot sun, pass through damp autumn days and into frosty evenings — is not the sight of floodlights on a glistening frost pitch, with the cold biting your face, one of the most beautiful and moving experiences in life? And it's the team that copes best with all this that makes it to the top — how can we envisage such a thing as a football ground with a roof on it? But hang on, this is just another emotional response isn't it? Oh, to hell with it, let's leave the past behind and go positively into the future, after all there's nowhere else to go, is there?

The Expatriate



Payment by Results

The club's annual accounts recently revealed a 100% pay rise for David Kohler, no doubt remuneration for a job well done. It must be difficult coping with a position paying an annual salary of £73,000, not forgetting pension and Range Rover.

All this for a chairman who has done nothing to stop the club losing money and selling players. We must not forget the players released on free transfers to cut the wage bill at the club.

Not a bad list of achievements, which no doubt justify such a pay rise.

P.I.

OOH AAARRRGH CANTONA

The recent incident involving Eric Cantona and a Crystal Palace supporter cannot have escaped anyone's attention, football fan or not. What did you think about it? Nobody can condone Eric's actions, but was he provoked? I think not. How many times have you shouted some really serious abuse at a player? I know I have before, and I know they heard me too, but they didn't come over and kick me in the chest, they took it like a professional and ignored me (no more than I deserved really!!). I've shouted similar abuse at Mr Kohler but he ignored me too, in fact he asked us all to sit down around a table and speak to him about it (respect to him for that). So why did Eric Cantona do what he did? There is only one reason. BECAUSE HE IS A THUG.

If you or I had run on to the pitch and done a Kung-Fu style kick on Eric Cantona we would be firmly behind bars within a matter of hours and probably sentenced to a custodial prison sentence, and banned from football grounds for life. What happened to Eric? He got let out on bail and went straight to the Caribbean on holiday (*All expenses paid, straight after being fined — some punishment - Ed*). I don't think any member of the public would have been allowed to go on holiday if they had committed such an offence (except maybe to Bedford prison). So why did he get special treatment? I don't have an answer to that, but we can all make a few good guesses!!

I suggest that Eric Cantona should be treated as any football thug would be treated — given a custodial prison sentence, banned from all football grounds for life and added to the police intelligence list of football hooligans.

THE FOOTBALL AUTHORITIES SAY THEY DON'T WANT HOOLIGANS IN THE GAME, BUT THEY'RE GOING TO LET ERIC PLAY FOR MANCHESTER UNITED NEXT SEASON. DOUBLE STANDARDS OR WHAT?

Steve Tyler

Not Very Clever....

First of all I have a confession to make. This report will be extraordinarily biased because I feel a hatred for Notts County usually reserved for the likes of Saddam Hussein, Jeremy Beadle and, of course, Watford. This is something genetic, enhanced by the utterly selfish way they condemned us to relegation in 1992! So any sad, mindless individual who happens to have a misguided affection for the black and white donkeys would be well advised to stop reading now....

If there is any team we should be able to beat comfortably, it is this bunch of misfits. As they amply demonstrated, they possess all the class and elegance of a drunken pantomime horse. Unfortunately, they outplayed us for most of a forgettable first half, which speaks volumes for the Town's inept performance. Indeed, we could easily have been 2-0 down early on were it not for some desperate defending and, gasp, good work by Sommer. Luckily for us, County appear to have been taking goalscoring lessons from John Jensen and Crystal Palace, so we survived the first half.

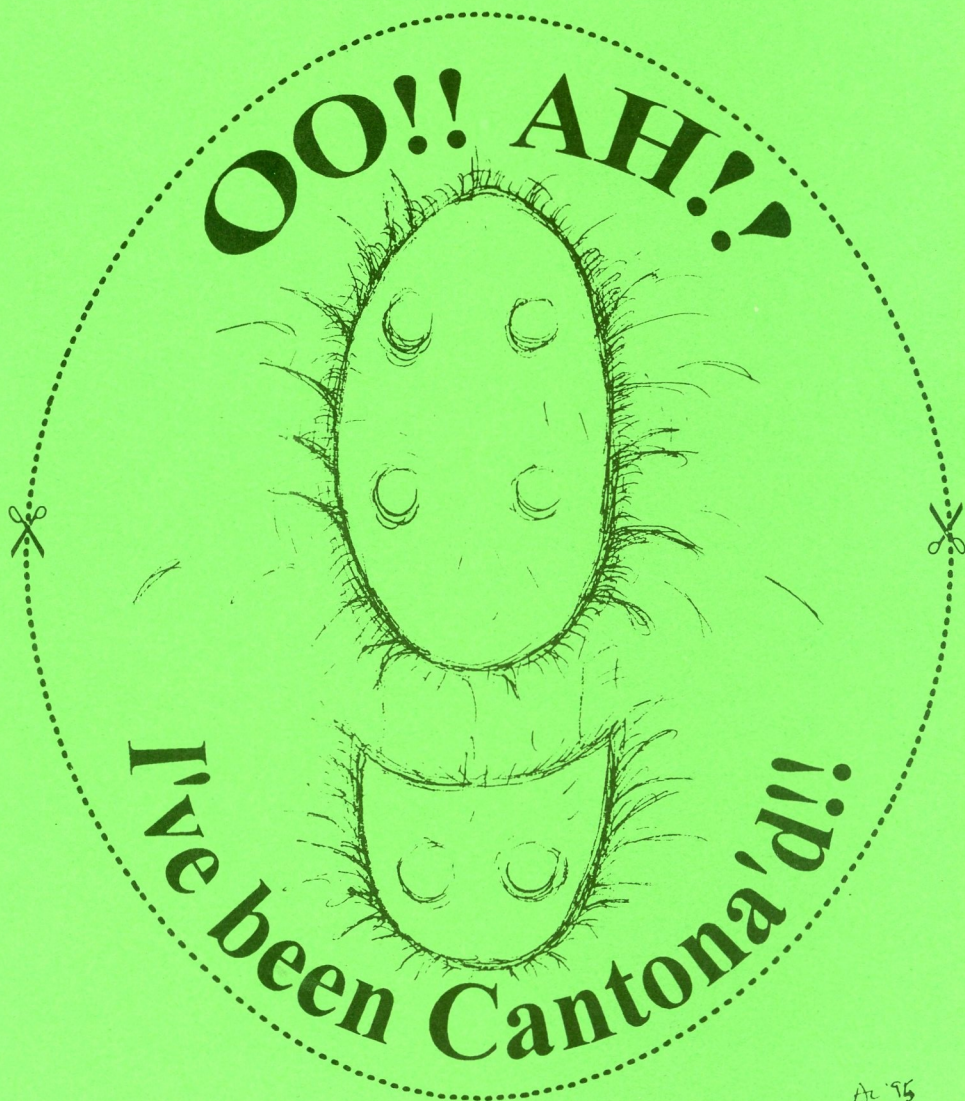
In all fairness, we did put together a few decent passing moves, but none of them came to anything. I suppose Hartson tried hard, and his marker's defending techniques would not have looked out of place on the rugby field. Marshall was again used on the right wing, and posed little threat. Telfer was good in patches, but too often his passing let him down. On the whole we looked bored and uninspired — not surprising given the quality of the opposition. Despite a couple of efforts from Oakes (a disappointment), it was stuff that made you wonder why you were sitting here freezing your rocks off when you could have been sat at home doing something more exciting, like washing the dishes.

The second half was a vast improvement. County had sent on the git (*a certain Rob Matthews - Ed*) who scored those fateful goals on that nightmare day, and for the first time we had a match on our hands. Suddenly we woke up, and remembered what we were here for. Jules managed to miss a chance that my grandmother could have put away, before Sommer decided to liven things up even more. For some reason, probably a free kick, he decided to have a wander towards the centre of the field and watched us lose the ball. Enter Paul Devlin, who attempted to score what would have been one of the goals of the season from about 40 yards. Sommer was so impressed that he stood and watched it, before deciding to run back. Too late, of course, but luckily the shot was just wide.

We started attacking a bit more, then on came the man from Railway Cuttings, East Cheam himself, replacing Dwight Marshmallow. Straight away we scored,

Free with this issue!

**Your very own "I've been Eric'd"
Badge!**



AL '95