

# MAD AS A HATTER!

THE LUTON TOWN FANZINE



Issue 27

May 95

HATTERS MOVE —  
LUTON HOO TO BE NEIGHBOURS?



Can we have our ball  
back, Mister...

Ar. 95.

60 PAGE BUMPER ISSUE



# MAD AS A HATTER!

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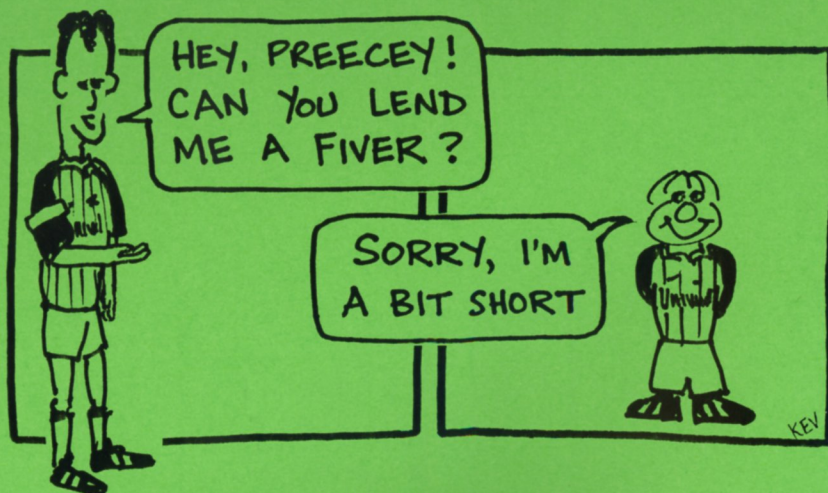
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PREECE'S SHORTS



## EDITORIAL

It doesn't seem like it, but this is the sixth time since we decided to start this fanzine that an end of season editorial has been needed. And for the first time, it can be written in the safe knowledge that we will be in the same division next season, and confident (well, fairly confident) that we will be challenging at the upper end of it. Last summer, many of us expressed a desire that we should see some mid table obscurity this season, and that is what we have got. It actually doesn't feel too bad, but we all know that with a few better results at home in the first half of the season, and away in the second we might well be in the play-offs. I, for one, will not be complaining that we missed out, as a couple of good results then would have seen us doing an Ipswich next season.

We certainly seem to have the raw materials for a stronger campaign next season, with Marshall, Taylor and Matthews all looking good signings. David Pleat still has money to spend and we have some good youngsters coming through, particularly in McLaren and Woodsford. With careful spending by Pleat we will have a strong squad to look forward to. Kelvin Davis has played superbly since he broke into the first team, and if we have to worry about hanging on to any player, he is the one. Feelings we had about John Hartson a year ago now apply to Kelvin, in that he is a player we must hang on to.

The future also looks brighter with some movement on the subject of a new stadium. This is covered in depth on the following pages, and we would hope that by the start of next season this will have moved on, and the question of land ownership will be resolved. Mad as a Hatter! is in favour of the Kohlerdome proposal, because it shows some ambition, and because it would be foolish to oppose the only option on the table for keeping the club in Luton. The alternative is to say we will wait and see what else is proposed, but we have already been waiting for far too many years. However, we do not like the name and hope and pray the Kohlerdome is only a working title.

By the time you read this there may be some solid news of a testimonial match for David Preece, and if there is we would encourage everybody to support this event. Preecey has been a great servant to the club and deserves the reward for his ten years service.

A couple of weeks ago, at a supporters club meeting, director Chris Green outlined some ideas for improving the clubs financial position, and it's promotion to the people of Luton. Chris is full of ideas and enthusiasm, which we welcome, but so as not to jump the gun, his response to many questions was "Watch this space". For this reason we dedicate any blank spaces in this issue to Chris Green.

This issue is the sixth this season and is another bumper issue of 60 pages, and all at only 50p. If the level of contributions is maintained we will have to do more issues next season. We don't mind, so we just say to all of you, keep up the good work. Have a good summer, and we'll see you next season.



## THIS WAY TO THE FUTURE?

On 8th April, at long last, a planning application for a new stadium for Luton Town was lodged with Luton Borough Council. As we all know by now, this is, at this stage at least, called the Kohlerdome. The proposal is for a 20,000 seat covered stadium, with a removable pitch, which could be used for a variety of events. By the time you read this, it will already have been before the council's planning committee for an initial decision, prior to going before the full council. Even assuming that there are no problems with planning permission, it is likely to be a year before detailed plans are completed, and another two years before construction is finished. So we can look forward to another two or three years at Kenilworth Road.

It is fair to say that the plans are revolutionary, bringing the first indoor stadium in Europe, and the first truly multi purpose stadium of this size to Luton. The involvement of Whitbread in the plans is for reasons that are clear to see, with a Hotel, pub and restaurants included. These are the mainstays of Whitbread's business, and they would obviously want to be involved in what would be a flagship development. Also included in the plan are facilities for the University of Luton, which is of increasing importance to the town. The amount of car parking allows for use for a park and ride facility, which will help keep traffic out of the centre of the town.

The pitch system is a completely new concept to all of us, but it has to be said that from the presentations seen so far it has been well thought out, and will have another couple of years to be developed, before it is brought into use. Co-operation from companies involved in the pitch moving system can be expected as they too will want to be associated with its anticipated success.

Much has been made of the fact that Kohler does not own the site, but given the reluctance of Luton Hoo to do business with him so far, the planning application can be seen as an attempt to force their hand. It is quite acceptable to make planning applications on land you do not own, as this will affect the prospects of a sale, and can affect the value of the land. It is said that Luton Hoo are looking to raise £10 million from the sale of the land, which seems an utterly ludicrous figure, without planning permission. It seems to me to be rather high even then, but that is for the experts to sort out.

Support for the scheme has been sought, and successfully received, from fans at the last two home matches, and although some of us may have reservations, it is important that something gets moving on finding the club a new home. Milton Keynes is still on the agenda and, with a rumoured offer of 80 acres of

land at no cost from that area, cannot be ignored. It is imperative that the clubs remains in Luton, and we all know that redevelopment of Kenilworth Road is not far short of impossible. By the time you read this we will have a new council in Luton, after the local elections, and we must start to pressurise the members of the council to support the scheme if it is to be successful. The local MPs seems to think that keeping their mouths shut is the best policy, although given their precarious positions under boundary changes, this may not be so clever. It is clear though that most of the opposition to the plan comes from the Tories, so perhaps they think they are protecting their own interests, even if it does seem strange to see them failing to support a private enterprise.

Speaking of opposition, the local residents in the Stockwood Park area seem to have been caught slightly off guard, and have claimed that the site should remain as parkland, which it isn't, and should not have any retail development, which it won't. They have also used the old chestnut about drunken football hooligans to gain support for their views. Opposition also is coming from the villages of Slip End and Caddington, and the Farley Hill area of Luton. At a protest meeting a while back, it was claimed that 98% of Slip End residents were opposed to the development, and were worried about traffic, and the villages two pubs being full on Saturdays. Presumably the 2% in favour were the landlords of the pubs! Quite why Caddington should be against is questionable, as it is no nearer to the site than Ludlow Avenue is to Kenilworth Road, where the Ludlow Avenue residents want the club to stay.

The matter of the airport flight path has little validity, as this is defined by distance from the runway, and as far as traffic problems are concerned the site is the best possible for distribution of traffic away from the stadium, and by routes that would take most away from residential areas.

The financing of the stadium development is a matter that is yet to be resolved, but David Kohler clearly feels that this would not be a problem, and we have to assume he is right about this. Talk of public funding seems to be a misreading of his comments, which actually revolved around obtaining finance from the National Lottery (presumably the Millenium Fund) and the Football Trust. These would obviously not cover anything like the whole cost of the project, but would make a dent in the amount to be raised, which has been mentioned as £30 million. What has been made clear is that the football club itself would not be used to raise this money, so 'stock clearance' sales of players for the next couple of years should not be needed.

One of the main concerns to some supporters is that David Kohler may make a lot of money out of this project if it succeeds, and it is to his credit that he



does not deny this. He has put his own money into getting the plans this far, and for most of us, if he can get the new stadium without putting the club in jeopardy along the way, and then give the club a secure future, then we can accept him making money from it. And if he does become a multi millionaire, we can then have a go at him for not putting enough of his own money into the club! The one legacy that most, if not all, supporters do not want is to be stuck with the name "Kohlerdome", so lets hope that in the fullness of time this turns out to be no more than a working title.

What happens to the club if and when the project is completed? What David Kohler has said is that the club would have free use of the stadium for all time, and would be able to retain all of their gate monies, as well as receiving a percentage of the profits on other events held there. This would give the club a valuable extra source of income in the future.

From the supporters point of view, of course, there are other concerns. We want our club to have a modern stadium that will hold a decent sized crowd, with everybody getting a decent view of the proceedings. We want this without the prices we pay going through the roof (pun intended), and most of all we want a successful team to go with all this. We can play our part in making sure that the stadium comes about, and must hope that we get the rest to go with it.

K.F.H.

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## THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN

While all the publicity has surrounded the Kohlerdome, the occasional mention has been made of a company called Wyncote. You may well ask who the hell they are and what their part is in the story. Well, Wyncote Developments plc are a Sussex based firm, who in 1994 were chosen by the trustees of Luton Hoo to develop the Junction 10 site. Their original plans were said to have included as many as eight large retail units, although this is no longer the case. As we understand it the latest version of the plans Wyncote have for the site allows for a large supermarket and petrol station as the major part of their development, although this has not been finalised. If they achieved this they would make 40 acres of land, and some finance (amount subject to negotiation), available to Luton Town FC for the building of a new stadium. However, Wyncote do not envisage a planning application being made for at least 3 months, and have made it clear that they want a full process of public consultation, and would be happy if this included a public inquiry. We understand that their planning application would include the new football stadium, which would be designed to a capacity of between 15,000 and 20,000. This would at least mean that it would not be necessary to go through the planning process again, but would appear to mean that the club would be getting a stadium that it has had little chance to influence in terms of design or capacity. It is also unclear how much finance would be made available, and in this scenario it is possible that the club would be in a position of having to finance the major part of a development which would bring it little return outside of gate money, and thus jeopardise the future of the club. On the other hand, it could be that the finance offered would be enough to build the complete stadium, giving the club a new home for nothing, as in David Kohler's plan, but this seems a tad unlikely as Luton Hoo will not have entered into this arrangement if it did not involve them making a lot of money. But while plans are only vague outlines, we will have to wait and see.

K.F.H.

## EXILED HATTERS FAN?

If you are an exile, you'll want to keep up to date with what's going on at Kenilworth Road, and Hatters Matters will enable you to do just that. Hatters Matters is a monthly newsletter designed specifically for the exiled fan, and provides all the news that you won't find on teletext.

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## THE COUNCILLORS VIEW

What do the councillors think of the Kohlerdome proposal? This is the question which will effectively seal its fate. We asked all of the outgoing councillors prior to the local elections, and although they did not all respond to our questions, we feel that some of their comments may make interesting reading. Apart from the questionnaires, the Labour and Liberal Democrat groups both made it clear that relocation at Junction 10 is their official policy, and it is also the official policy of Luton Borough Council, and has been since 1991.

We asked the councillors a number of questions, starting off with a general one on the importance of the club to the town's community. Most felt that the club is very important, with some notice being taken of the fact that more people take an interest than attend matches. However, Betty Dodd (Con, Challney) told us "some people are very anti, particularly now soccer violence by players and fans has reared its ugly head". Ah, Luton Town linked with Cantona, at last.

Next we asked how important it is that the club remains in the town, and on this there was almost (but not quite) unanimity, with "very important" being the most popular answer. The point was also made that the club's mere existence helps promote the town's identity.

Looks a promising start, doesn't it? For the third question we wanted to know if they thought the Junction 10 site was suitable and preferable for a new stadium, and again the majority felt that it is, of those who thought not, one wanted to see it sited on Luton Hoo land nearer the airport, while Kathleen Scott (Con, Limbury) asked if "Mr Kohler would like someone to put in a planning application for his back garden?", clearly pertaining to the fact that he does not own the land. It is worth mentioning that Conservative party opinion was mixed, and not totally opposed as we are sometimes led to believe.

We then asked if the council should consult the views and preferences of the public over different stadium proposals. The council have a duty to carry out consultation of sorts on the planning application anyway, but the answers summed up a wish to see some consultation, but not all were convinced this was a job for the council, and consultation should certainly not stretch to a referendum.

Question 5 asked if they would be in favour of David Kohler's plan for J10, and if they liked the idea of an indoor stadium on the outskirts of town. A surprising number were in favour, or at least liked the idea, albeit with



some reservations concerning traffic and other planning matters. And those members of the planning committee who responded made it abundantly clear that they could not prejudge the issue. But, going against the trend, let's hear it for Michael Garrett (Con, Leagrave) who thinks that the present site (Kenilworth Road) should be redeveloped as an indoor stadium (!)

Mr Garrett also thinks the council should be flexible about the clubs lease on the ground, which runs out in May next year. This was in response to question 6, in which we asked how strict the council should be in terms of the clubs lease on Kenilworth Road. It was this very question which provided the strangest array of answers, with some agreeing the council should be flexible, providing the club is moving within the town, some felt that if this happened it should be at a commercial rent, while Mick Guha (Lab, Biscot) feels that the contract was entered into freely by both sides, and should be honoured. And then there was David Taylor (Lab, Dallow) who informed us that the council have a policy to rehouse the homeless! A perverse answer, but we know what he means.

Asked what should happen if the club is not relocated in Luton, and whether the club should stay at Kenilworth Road or move to Milton Keynes, most said yes, stay at KR, but many also said that the move must happen. None wanted the club to go to MK.

Finally, we asked for any other comments, giving the councillors the chance to express their feelings, and we can only pick out a few highlights here. Several expressed their support for the club, and one expressed a wish that the finished article would not be called the Kohlerdome. There was clear support for the idea of a multi purpose venue and it's benefits for the town, and an understanding of the worries of local residents. Jenny Davies (LibDem, Stopsley) worried about the football authorities accepting the closed roof, and summed up saying "Don't trust them!". the same sentiments were expressed by Betty Dodd, but were directed at David Kohler. Kathy Scott felt that Luton "is not a footballing town" and admitted that she may not have given the answers we wanted. Full marks for honesty. Joyce Felmingham (LibDem, Crawley) suggested that the new stadium could attract events such as "show jumping, Crufts dog show", which is where we end, thinking, for some inexplicable reason, that these would be better of at Vicarage Road!

We would like to thank all those who took the time and trouble to reply, especially as we only gave them a very short space of time, and it was in the middle of campaigning for the local elections.

KFH/TK



Paul Telfer scored a few goals in late March and early April. Above, he starts the celebratory dash after scoring against Notts County. Below, Dwight Marshall in action in the same match.





# END OF SEASON REPORTS

**Juergen Sommer:** Safe, commanding and crowd adoring are the types of things you look for in good goalkeepers. Sadly our Juergen looks severely lacking in each of the above departments. Also lacks much in confidence, and this has shown throughout the season. Shot stopping has never been in doubt, but many believe that the other Juergen - Klinsmann - could dive around between the posts and do a job. May well be Kelvin's understudy next season, if Kelvin isn't sold. Best games: Bristol Rovers (A), Grimsby (A). Worst: The rest, particularly Southend.

**Julian James:** Perhaps the most improved player this season, Jules is ever dependable. His tackles are superbly timed, his attitude is tremendous and is solid. Makes up in effort for what he lacks in pace. Also scores important goals from time to time. Never looks like producing the cock-up that he did with ease a couple of years ago. Possible future captain. Best game: Tranmere (H). Worst: Not seen one.

**Trevor Peake:** Another outstanding season for us, obviously the older he gets, the better he plays. Comes out on top in all aerial duels, and reads the game like Mystic Meg. Trev still reckons he has another season left for us — I won't stop him. And what about those runs he went on against Notts County both away and at home — when he dribbled forward and just stayed there — superb play Trev! £5 million for Ferdinand? I'd have £2 million on Peakey. Best game: Wolves (A) and most others. Worst: Southampton (A).

**Marv:** Superb season from Marv, many fans player of the season. His new role patrolling the central area of defence has been a godsend. Has given 100%, and the only game I remember him playing badly was the Bristol Rovers cup tie at home, when he couldn't do a thing right. Amazingly, has now been at the club for 10 years, since he was 16. Doesn't look like repeating the Sealey incident of '89. Best game: All but one (*sic*). Worst: Bristol Rovers (H), Southampton (A).

**Mitchell Thomas:** A steady season from Mitchell, but his place looks under threat from the more stylish Harvey. Has been the weak link in defence this season, and has also been weak on top - his head. Surely a cold Tuesday night up at Burnley deserves more than a little quiff on top, though I can't really imagine Spider in Ricky Hill dreadlocks. Best game: Bolton (H). Worst: Charlton (H).

**Gary Waddock:** More ginger than a Crunchie bar, Gary's performances have been pleasing this season. Has fitted in well with the pattern of the team. He only seems to have two weaknesses; 1. Obviously he'll never score for us — Peakey

threatens more — and, 2. His sideways passing is reminiscent of one of those great London sides — Arsenal. Morrow, Jensen and Parlour look creative compared to our Gazza. However, apart from these two moans, Gary has been influential, and I hope he will continue to perform in our championship winning side next season.....

Best games: Bristol Rovers (A), Barnsley (H). Worst: Sheff Utd (H) (Sent Off!).

**Paul Telfer:** Rather a mixed season for Luton this season, Paul's richer vein of form has come towards the end of the season, with a few goals to boot. Very patchy after Christmas, and was dropped for the Grimsby trip for the 1st time in his career (*really?*). Only our lack of a decent right sided player who can work a bit kept Telfer back in the side. More recent form, particularly v Wolves, has seen the Telf of old. Tackling, running back and looking more menacing. Less bookings than of old.

Best games: Watford (A), Wolyes (H), Swindon (H). Worst: Southampton (A).

**David Preece:** Still continues to influence the way we play, and has always looked so composed on the ball, even when surrounded by hordes of opposition. A much deserved testimonial will obviously follow next season — perhaps Hessenthaler and his scummy mates could make up the opposition — what a party night! Imagine the tabloid headlines, "PREECE TESTIMONIAL ABANDONED BEFORE BALL KICKED". On a more serious note, Preece has only had one bad game this season, the home match with Reading where his superb passing movements and crosses — to their keeper Boom Shaka-Laka — meant we lost with ease. Other games superb.

Best games: Wolves (A). Worst: Burnley (H), Reading (H).

**Scott Oakes:** Perhaps the most disappointing of all Town players this season, Scott appears to have lost it a little this campaign. Whether his continued injury problem of shin splints has been a factor, many of us know Scottie can do better. The idea of running at defenders seems to have escaped him, but I believe his new central role hasn't helped. Pleat believes it to be his best position, but now Scott finds himself up against harder players, battlers, and Oakesy ain't no battler. Stick him on the wing, or behind Taylor, Pleaty, that's where he'll win games for us.

Best game: Swindon (H). Worst: Bristol Rovers (H), Reading (H).

**Dwight Marshall:** Top scorer for the Town this season, Dwight knows that with more composed finishing he could have had more goals than Shearer, Fowler and Collymore put together. Still, for a fee of £150,000, nobody is going to moan, and it is nice to see somebody pacy up front for us. Had a little spell around February when he couldn't stop scoring at home, since then, he can't stop missing. Needs a left foot. The big question is why he doesn't stay up for corners



when we are defending. Obviously Pleat reckons 5'5" is able to outjump most defenders. That's the Pleat philosophy for you folks.

**John Taylor:** When I first heard that Pleaty was interested in signing him, I cast my mind back to a couple of seasons ago, when his equaliser for Bristol Rovers cost us 3 points. Visually, a tall lanky player who would look only ordinary in most sides, such as Cambridge United. Whether through time on the training ground or indeed drugs in large doses, John has proved to be an excellent signing for us so far — well done, David Pleat. His overall effort has been there, he holds the play up superbly and nicked a couple of goals too. In other words better than Kerry Dixon. Could prove interesting with Marshall next season. Best games: Wolves (H), Bolton (A).

**Others:** Kelvin Davis looks tops. Make sure you get at least £1 million for him Pleat. Richard Harvey looks back to his best. Super left foot. Linton will prove ample cover for James in defence. Hughes season has been ruined by injury; can't wait until he's back. Matthews looks fairly impressive, he does run at defenders, which they hate. Paul Allen was as effective as Kerry Dixon. Adcock looked good — in hospital. Biggins did a good job for us and Thorpe and Woodsford remain the two youngsters most likely to break into the team if our attackers fail next season. Overall, a satisfying campaign for many of our players.

*Tony Allbones*

**COCA KOHLER**

**YOU CAN'T BEAT THE  
FEELING**

*Actually, here in Luton.....*



Earlier this season Juan Antonio Anrades came to Luton for a trial, and probably became the first player in history to grace the turf at Madrid's Bernabeu Stadium and Hitchin's Top Field in the space of three days. The Spaniard was pictured trying to prove his credentials to play for an English club, by pretending to read the Hatters News. The attempt failed.



## Peake in goalscoring shock!

Good Friday, 14th April, saw the Mad as a Hatter! football team setting off once again in search of the traditional bank holiday victory over the local rivals in West Hertfordshire. On this occasion we were also seeking revenge for an unjustified defeat at the hands of the forces of evil, back in August. Inexplicably we were trying to do this with the bare minimum of 12 players, which hampered our task, fatally as it turned out. Without going into the gory details, we were beaten by 4-2, allowing the Clap Your Hands Stamp Your Feet side to record the first double by a Watford team against Luton for many a long year. Credit is due to their goalkeeper who played an absolute blinder, allowing the inferior side to emerge victorious. In order to protect the innocent, we will not be naming the members of our side here, for fear of retribution by those of a more extreme nature.

By the kindness of Luton Town FC, we were able to look the part for this fixture, as we were kindly loaned a full set of kit. This comprised last seasons home shirts, complete with squad numbers and names. Fielding a weakened side, including the likes of Williams, Campbell and Benjamin, did not help our cause, and we were forced to play Peake at centre forward. He did, however, get on the scoresheet for the first time in his Luton career, and owes a debt of thanks to Angus Kinnear for this. Sommer, in goal, looked suspiciously at fault for at least one goal, so no change there! The midfield oozed class with Preece, Hughes and Thorpe, but Rees seemed to be the weak link, and won't be used again.

In spite of the result, we had a good time, and if only things like this got the publicity instead of hooliganism, football fans would have a far better reputation.



## "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).

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## NICK LEESON – THE TRUTH (allegedly)

Today in a world exclusive "Mad as a Hatter!" can reveal the naked truth behind Nick Leeson, Barings Bank and Watford FC.

This sordid story started when a Nicholas Leeson was born 28 years ago in \*\*ford. Nick had an unhappy childhood, and finally hit rock bottom with the purchase of a \*\*ford season ticket for the 1978/79 season. After seeing his beloved \*\*ford thrashed by a dominant Luton (Basher Stevens' last minute goal), Leeson vowed revenge!

His plot was simple, if crude, and Britain's foremost merchant bank was to become the unlikely scapegoat. Leeson believed that if he caused economic collapse then the imminent local derby with super Luton would be cancelled. But Leeson had forgotten the financial strength of one man. David Kohler!

Mr Kohler, we can reveal, received a tip off from a source in Singapore and, using all his well known financial power, poured money in to stabilise the Yen, and scupper nasty Nick's game.

The rest of the case has been well documented in national newspapers. Leeson took his failure so badly he has asked friends to destroy his favourite \*\*ford hat and scarf, and has even gone to the lengths of claiming to support Manchester City (a welcome relief from claiming to be a Manchester United fan), a sobering thought for all \*\*ford fans.

*Dave Chapman*

**101** uses for a Kohlerdome



**No. 1**

**MULTI-PURPOSE SHELL  
FOR ESPECIALLY OVERWEIGHT  
TORTOISE.**





John Taylor flies high against Notts County. Let's see the whole team flying high next season.

## **THE KOHLERDOME; NAME THAT STAND IN ONE!**

Seeing that in a few years time we should have one of the most innovative stadia in Europe, I can't help but think that the Kohlerdome should have interesting and historical names to its various facilities and to the stands in the stadium, so allow me to enlighten you with some of my ideas for naming parts of the complex. If you're going to have an indoor stadium you can't consider calling the stands boring names like the North, East, West and South stands, can you?

1 The ramp from the car park leading to the stadium should be named after the '88 Littlewoods Cup win, along the lines of THE BRIAN STEIN WAY, or "2-1 DOWN, 3-2 UP, THAT'S HOW LUTON WON THE CUP" WAY, as it is reminiscent of Wembley Way.

2 The toilets should be known as W\*\*\*\*\*d, as we always shit on them anyway.

3 The pub should be known as the STEVE FOSTER MEMORIAL BAR as he was always in the pub when he played for us and you could get Mick Harford to run it as he has vast experience of running pubs and clubs (Michael's, Legends, Rumours).

4 When I came to name the sides of the stadium, four names came to mind instantly. For the North end THE MARVIN JOHNSON OWN GOAL FROM 35 YARDS V ASTON VILLA STAND. For the east stand THE RADDY ANTIC GOAL AND PLEAT'S SKIP AND HOP STAND. For the south stand, (where the away supporters will be) YOU'RE SHIT AND YOU KNOW YOU ARE STAND. And finally, the west stand should be known as WE'VE GOT A BETTER GROUND THAN YOU HAVE STAND, as I guess this is where the visiting chairmen of other clubs will sit.

5 If there is going to be a creche or playground for the children you could call it MINI'S FUN PARK, and allow only children in if they are under David Preece's height.

6 You could name the car park the W\*\*\*\*\*D SPACE as they always give us acres of space in their penalty area when we play them.

7 Any facilities for the OAPs could be known as the TREVOR PEAKE AREA, which I think is self explanatory.



Well, that's all the names I could come up with. Why not write in with your ideas. Hey, this could become a competition run by the club, the winner(s) get his/her ideas used for the Kohlerdome, or maybe not.

Mark Araci

I suppose if the facilities were to include a rifle/pistol shooting range, it would have to be called the GRAHAM FRENCH RANGE. There must be hundreds of other possibilities, so get writing and send them in to us at the usual address. Ed



Wolves match  
abandoned  
because referee  
was busy doing  
commercial for  
Legal & General

B. "Dave". B.

## 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 only issue 22 is sold out at present.

## SAINTS OR DEVILS?

*Caution: This article contains material which some may find disturbing.*

I'll never forget the night of the Eighth of February 1995. In a strange and sinister place I found myself ready to support Luton against a team which, with our superb away record, we should beat, but little did I suspect the forces of darkness at work.

On my way to the ground the shadows seemed to leap out and engulf the light. I asked a seemingly friendly looking local if I was on the right road to the stadium. Her expression changed from a comforting glow to a crazed gunman stare. "You're doomed, you're doomed. Flee now while you still can you poor unsuspecting fool." she shrielled. I noted that people in this area were much friendlier than Scousers and Brummies, and continued.

As I approached the ground (known as The Hell) high pitched shrieks and screams filled the air. I got nearer and was relieved to discover that it was only Alan Ball's voice squeaking instructions to his players. I commented that one of his players looked ill, drained of all blood in fact. Before the former England terrier could reply the player vomited, but not as a normal human being would, it was exorcist vomit. "It's the flu", I was told as a steward ushered me to my seat.

The game started and the players seemed terrified. They were tormented as the 'Saints' wove a spell of misery. The fans also were cruelly teased by the wanted criminal Bruce the Grobber (some whispered he was the descendant of Jack the Ripper).

The evening progressed and it was then, as the cloud revealed the full moon, the scoreboard reflected onto the Southampton child prodigy Damien Le Tissier's head. "666" it stated. I fled, leaving only the stupid and the brave to face the terror.

As I returned to Luton, the moonlight revealed the truth of that night. That Wednesday's Luton News back page headline of "The omens look good for the trip to The Dell" were reduced on a discarded copy I saw. It read "The Omen at The Dell".

B. Dave B.

PS: Cheers Spurs for shutting those cocky Saints fans up in the next round. ("It's 87-1 and Luton have finally scored" was one such comment on the long train ride home.) Ronny Rosenthal, all is forgiven.



## PROS and CONS

Milton Keynes is the next name in the new stadium saga, after Kohlerdome and M1 Junction 10, David Kohler seems to be disappointed with the assistance given by Luton Borough Council. Milton Keynes Development Corporation has apparently given an encouraging response to the development of a new stadium in the city. IF/WHEN the Town move it must be thought over carefully. The obvious pro to moving slightly north is that the club will have a brand spanking new stadium and should in theory be in a better financial position. A major con to moving is basically how will you get Luton fans for the near 40 mile round trip every other Saturday to Milton Keynes, transport must be subsidised by the club, and maybe if the club can attract fans from Milton Keynes an increase in average gates may occur.

If the club do move to Milton Keynes, I for one am not against the idea, then another consideration is the name of the club. IT MUST STAY. If Grimsby can play in Cleethorpes and still call themselves Grimsby, then we can play at Milton Keynes and call ourselves Luton Town.

However, I am concerned that the decision of the club rests on the shoulders of one VERY dubious man, David Kohler.

Anthony Reid

## Hartson in drug problem rumour!



B. "Dave" B.

## RAVING MAD!!!

Dear "Mad",

I have been a Luton supporter for many years, and I must say I find your fanzine humorous and an excellent read for 50p. However, could any of your readers say why Luton fans don't sing at home matches. At a recent match, I was shouting my views at Juergen "I couldn't catch a cold" Sommer and being stared at in disgust by other Town supporters. So come on Luton, sing up, let the players know we're there. It comes to something when you're out chanted by "Wankford" fans in front of the TV cameras.

Steve

Luton supporter from Middlesex.

Dear "Mad",

Who let Glenn Roeder 'doctor' the tea in the Town dressing room at half time on March 26th? We should have been on for another four goal trouncing of the scum after their hopeless display in the first forty-five minutes, but instead of that I came away relieved not to have been beaten!

P.W. Sherwood

Malmesbury, Wiltshire.

Dear "Mad",

I'm a member of WHOSH (Worldwide Hatters on the SuperHighway) which provides a way for Hatters fans round the globe to chat, via computers, about their beloved football team. There has been a lot of discussion lately about the barracking that some of our players took at Southend, and most WHOSH members feel that enough is enough — we all get frustrated with players from time to time, but the abuse is now going to far. Here's my personal views on the matter.

There is a new way for Luton Town supporters (and I use supporters as a very loose term) to waste money. You pay £200 odd (maybe more) for a season ticket or around £12 a game (though in a few away games you could quite easily squander another £100). Once you are in the ground you give stick to the referee, the away team, oh of course, and the Luton team!! What a wonderful way to support your team. The abuse hurled of course is so eloquent, "Oakes, you're a w\*\*\*\*r", "Dixon you're f\*\*\*\*\* rubbish". No doubt at this point some of the readers of this will be thinking those payers are s\*\*\*. Naturally, the perpetrators of this abuse could have been good footballers, but they had better things to do, or they were just unlucky that they weren't spotted as a youth. Well, I'm sorry, the height that the abusers could reach is a below average Sunday parks football player. The reason that people like Dixon got caps, Oakes plays football, Telfer was allegedly being watched by Rangers, is because they have got talent. The people paying the money at the gate have neither the talent and/or the drive to become professional footballers. The reason we sit down and



watch is because we wished we were footballers, the people on the pitch are living out our dreams. By abusing those players you are abusing your own dreams.

Imagine if you were suddenly plucked from obscurity to play for Luton Town. In that game you miss the goal, you miss a cross. Then some so called Luton supporters started calling you a w\*\*\*\*\*, would you want to play again, would you give it your best shot? Maybe for one more game, but you would probably not enjoy it. If you don't enjoy something then you do not give it your best.

One answer is that 'footballers get paid enough, they should be better than that'. Well no, they get money to play football, not to be verbal punch bags for scum. Is the reason that people throw abuse because footballers cannot answer back? Do these people feel safe in a large crowd? I think people hurl abuse because of those reasons. Do those same people go to their managers at work "You're a f\*\*\*\*\* w\*\*\*\*\*"? Doubt it. Their manager can answer back.

Another answer is "We pay our money, we say what we want". No issues there. However, there is a huge gulf between constructive criticism and verbal abuse. When your child tries to do something, and it doesn't work, do you hurl abuse? No, you offer encouragement. This is what we should offer the team, encouragement.

Frankly the people who are w\*\*\*\*\*, the people who are s\*\*\*, are the people hurling abuse and running down the Luton team and players.

If you support Luton Town, presumably you support the players, and the other supporters? If you don't then will you just please not bother coming to the game. The club, team, and true supporters are better off without you.

Martin Parsons

g10957@email.mot.com

Dear "Mad",

On reading my copy of issue 26, I come to the conclusion that I am the only Scott Oakes fan left. Surely we have to accept that skill has its place. Does Le Tissier run for 90 minutes? Does Giggs tackle back? Is Chris Waddle known for his fighting qualities?

Do we really want a midfield full of 100% men, but no skill, ie: Scott Houghton, Robert Wilson, Darren McDonough, Chris Kamara, Mick Kennedy or Jason Rees? Surely the sight of a piece of skill can lift a poor match into something worthwhile. The goal against Derby, the hat-trick against West Ham will live longer in the memory than any match effort put in by any of the above.

I have no reason to believe that Scott is not putting in 100%. Please remember that the difference between a brilliant pass and a poor one is often only a matter of inches or an ounce in weight.

Leave him alone and support the whole team. Enjoy him for what he is, the most skilful player on our books.

Ian Smith

Amphill, Beds.

Dear "Mad",

I can't see us making the play-offs now after the debacles at Southend and Burnley. How can we beat the top team, then next game lose to the bottom one? It's beyond belief.

Hopefully John Taylor will be a good buy, I know nothing about him really but did he used to play for Cambridge? (Yes, between 1988 and March 92 with 46 goals in 160 appearances — Ed)

I'm glad Kelvin's getting a chance in goal, he deserves it and can't be worse than Juergen, but why sign Martyn Margetson on loan as well?

James Woodgate

Clipston, Leics.

Dear "Mad",

Given the four options of Kenilworth Road/Groundsharing/new stadium in Luton/new stadium outside Luton, I'd go for a new stadium in Luton. Sure I'd miss the old ground with all its memories and associations. I can still remember the 27,000 crowd against Arsenal in a League Cup match from about '71, but a 10,000 capacity is ridiculous. As for groundsharing, or Milton Keynes, or indoor stadia, forget it. If Northampton and Huddersfield can have a new football stadium, why can't we?

The John Hegley poem really brought back memories for me. The 67/8 season when we won the 4th Division was the first season I attended regularly, went to all the home matches etc. I can still name that team, but usually only do it if I'm at a particularly boring party.

You mentioned Graham French and he was a marvellous player if a bit temperamental (incidentally, which was the "best goal ever scored"). Might be worth doing a piece on him. I've thought about him after all this Cantona stuff. Didn't he go to prison in the early 70s after some sort of incident involving a gun in a pub car park (I think it was the Unicorn in Lewsey Farm), he did play for us again after he came out, but he wasn't quite the same player.

How about starting some regular features like *When Saturday Comes* who used to do a series on great own goals. Most Exciting Match — my choice would be an FA Cup replay from around 1971 when we lost 4-3 to Forest, (in the first match, a 1-1 draw, a shot from Malcolm MacDonald had knocked down one of the crossbars) — or Great Comebacks, I think it was a home match against Carlisle, we were 2-0 down at half time and they scored again just after. With 17 minutes to go it was still 3-0, then we got 2 goals in 2 minutes. Constant Luton pressure and we equalize in the last minute. 3-3, crowd goes mad. I think the scorers were Slough, Busby and MacDonald.

About the Orange shirts offer, I remember thinking how awful it was when they were introduced. Why can't we go back to the plain white shirts and black shorts of the late 60s/early 70s. Is it possible to buy them anywhere?

Sad to hear about people wearing Man Utd/Spurs/Arsenal shirts in Luton. That's one of the things I really hate about football, when people support a team



hundreds of miles away from where they live, just because they're big/successful/glamorous/rich etc. Football teams are like parents, you don't get to choose them, it's just unlucky if you happen to come from Torquay or Gillingham. I really admire people who follow their local team week in, week out even though they know they'll never win the league or play in Europe (ie Rochdale, Doncaster, Northampton etc.). There is nothing more sickening than listening to something like 6.06 and having someone announced as a Man United fan, and hearing they're actually from Bristol or Hartlepool. It's OK if you moved from there as a child, or your parents supported them, but otherwise no way.

About a proposed Premiership second division. I'm totally opposed to any system except promotion/relegation on the basis of playing ability and results. Any talk about using other criteria such as financial viability, state of ground, number of supporters is scandalous. If you're a crap team you should go down, even if you're a rich club with a great stadium and crowds of 40,000. As for the regionalization argument, I'm not convinced, I think that travel costs are less of a problem than players salaries.

One criticism of issue 26 — page 30 "Yiddoland" — what's next, Pakis/Niggers/Queers?? Isn't racism just as unacceptable in fanzines as it is on the terrace? And one other thing — looking at your list of contributors, they seem to be all male. Do you encourage women to contribute? Compared to 10 or 15 years ago there are many more women going to matches now and I'd like to hear what they think.

Mark Nelson  
Leeds

*Quite a lot to answer there Mark, so forgive me for skipping some points. The best goal was against Mansfield in 1968, detailed in issue 15?*

*As for regular features, and female contributors, both will happen if somebody will write them. We'll publish almost anything. How about you starting the ball rolling on the regular articles?*

*As far as the use of the term Yiddoland is concerned, I do not regard this as racist in this context, as it is a derogatory term for White Hart Lane, where home supporters, regardless of race, are mostly happy to be referred to as Yiddoes. If it offended anyone, I am sorry, as that is not what I set out to do. Ed.*

Dear "Mad",

As A Luton fan in Walsall, perhaps 'the' Luton fan in Walsall, I have spent most of the season trying to convert locals into Luton fans (like a missionary!). In fact, so far this year I have managed to create three new fans, my wife (a free transfer from Aston Villa), my son (despite him being tempted by the local Walsall apprentices who train him at school), and a 17 year-old Japanese girl who is living with us for a year and who was told Luton were a top class famous English

team (which I reinforced by dragging out the old Littlewoods Cup Final video and pretending it was current!). Wouldn't it be a good idea if all Luton fans converted three people a year? Just think, by 1997, The Hatters would be the most popular team in Britain! My plans for next season include my daughter (who hates football), my mother and the cat next door.

Russell Bulkeley  
Walsall, West Midlands.

Dear "Mad",

Being a keen Hatters supporter, as are other members of my family, our concern over the new stadium is not where it should be built, more so who will have ultimate control.

David Kohler arrived with nothing, put little or nothing into the club, asset stripped the place by selling players, gave himself a salary increase, was hated by the fans. Now he asks us to sign petitions asking us to put him in control of a new super stadium.

Using the disguise of a new home for the Town as a front for a nice little earner for Kohler, we all sign petitions and make a lot of noise on his behalf.

We must consider what will happen if the team struggle, if the new additional shops and hotel struggle, will Kohler sell more players to subsidise these losses? Maybe in printing this letter you could ask for the views of others. I for one am very concerned about this new 'messiah' impression Kohler is giving us, when once again it's for his own gain.

Richard Forsey  
Amphill, Beds.

Dear "Mad",

Good news on the transfer front with Pleat reluctant to "overspend", that must leave about £550,000 in the transfer kitty for summer spending. Speaking to a Bradford fan, he seems to think that we have got a very good player in Taylor.

Went to see the Tranmere game on 18th March, and I hope to go to the Stoke game. I have done very well this year at Kenilworth Road, one 3-0 win over Swindon, and one 2-0 win over Tranmere. That's five goals scored and none conceded.

Anthony Reid  
King's Lynn, Norfolk

*That shows the benefit of being choosy, whereas most of us have had to put up with a lot of dross in order to see the good games.*



# L.T.F.C. Century 21

During the week it was a bunker on a municipal golf course, but when Saturday (or whatever day the media moguls dictate) comes - it is transformed by the power of the Kohlerons into the Stadium of the Future...



IT'S PREECE 'N OAKES THE HATTERPOT FOLKS



SLOBBLE OBBLE OBBLE ORFF!



MEANWHILE ON CLOUD CUCKOO BASE ONE



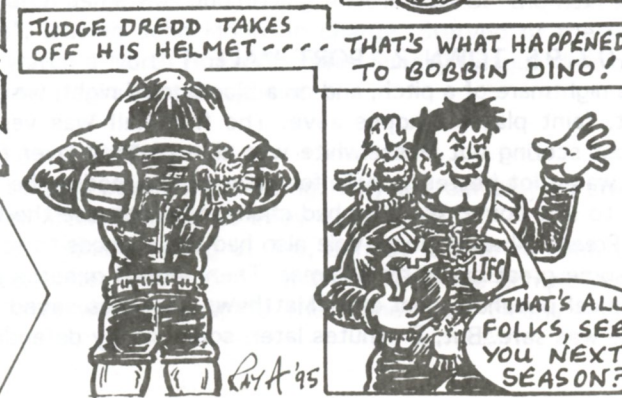
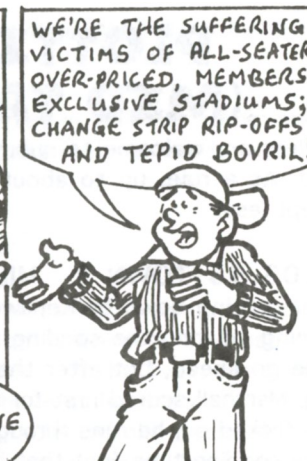
ENTER AGENT KELVIN



WE NEED TO SAVE OUR GAME FROM THE SHAME OF BUNGS, BACKHANDERS, KUNG FU KICKS AND ASSAULTS



THERE'S ONLY ONE MAN WHO CAN BRING BACK LAW 'N ORDER TO OUR NATIONAL GAME IN THE YEAR 2000.



And now the moment everyone in comic fandom has been waiting for...



## PLOTTING A ROUTE TO (MID TABLE) OBSCURITY

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.

### 04.03.95 TOWN 1 MILLWALL 1

After getting down to Kenilworth Road at 8am, and spending the whole of the morning clearing the sodding snow off the pitch, I was quite pleased to see the game go ahead, but after the performance and the result I felt like a complete mug. Marshall scored first for the Town, with yet another *deja vu* goal — the ball gets flicked on, he runs through the middle and slots the ball home. It's the same every sodding time (not that I'm complaining — he still scores). Then a complete defensive cock-up saw Millwall equalise. Thatcher crossed, Sommer failed to come out and claim it (as usual), the defence failed to pick up Rae who nodded it across goal for the unmarked Mitchell to score. Marshall could have clinched the game for us with yet another *deja vu* move, but he hit it straight at the keeper. Not many other highlights in this dire performance apart from James and Rae involved in a punch up, and the not too great first appearance by Rob Matthews (who many will remember as the bastard who relegated us). The referee was once again crap, but as he's on the FIFA list, what more did you expect? He made numerous mistakes, missed two obvious penalties and wouldn't even book anyone until the last 5 minutes, even though there had been some worse fouls before that.

And about this snow clearing — if it snows again, don't bother going down to help. All we got was a burger and a scalding hot cup of tea. Not much for 4 hours hard work. We might just as well let the game be postponed. *(Let's hope that someone at the club will be reading this and taking notice. Volunteer labour it may be, but it does not have to be taken for granted. - Ed)*

Beatle

### 07.03.95 TOWN 2 PORT VALE 1

On a nightmare of a pitch, and on a bloody cold night, we got the win that kept our faint, faint play-off hopes alive. The first half was very scrappy, with Biggins almost scoring but Musselwhite was able to tip it over for a corner. The second half was a lot better, and Telfer gave us the lead as he beat the defence on his own to slot home. We then had chances to increase the lead as Oakes, Matthews and Preece all went close. Vale also had the chances to score and should have, but for some great saves by Sommer. Then, with 8 minutes left, Dixon pounced with a typical poachers goal after Matthews shot was saved, and we all thought the game was safe. But, 2 minutes later, some sloppy defending and a good attacking

move let in Porter to score. A few hairy moments after that, but we hung on to the lead for 3 valuable points.

Beatle

PS: Can someone tell our joke at left-back that we play in white at home, and no other colour. Or, better still, tell him to piss off completely unless he improves drastically.

### 11.03.95 SOUTHEND UNITED 3 TOWN 0

#### Dodgy Keeper

This was a game which we dominated, but still got thrashed. It was a tale of two keepers. Theirs got all the stick in the first half from Hatters fans — especially for his inability to kick a football — but it was ours who cost his team the game. Not entirely Juergen's fault this result, we should have at least scored a couple of goals with all that possession, but he seems unable to take decisive action when faced with a dilemma, eg. whether to stay on the line or go for a cross. His ability as a shot-stopper cannot be questioned — the amount of times he has come out on top when a striker has been clean through is evidence enough. But these instances are overclouded by his "customary" (quote from a local rag) clangers. For a man his height, the inability to command his box is inexplicable. Give Kelvin Davies a run out Pleat.

Objét

### 18.03.95 TOWN 2 TERRIBLE TRANMERE 0

Was it just me, or were Tranny lucky to get zero? I've never seen a top of the table side just lay down and not try, like Rovers did. Stil, Luton were terriers and didn't give anything away. Ol' J.J. opened the scoring with a 20 yard dipping shot (YYAAAYY!!), but Nixon and the woodwork kept us at bay. In the second half Oakesy ran riot, and a great through ball from Telfer got Preecey clear to cross for Biggins to score. After that Town could have scored more, but seemed content not to totally embarrass another league leader.

The Major Oak

David Pleat missed the match as he was auditioning for the part of the next killer bug victim in "Brookside", leaving John Moore in charge. Starved of the usual rubbish, Moore opted to watch a North Home Counties Sunday League division 7 match the following morning. He was not disappointed.

Ed

### 21.03.95 BURNLEY 2 TOWN 1

Once again, the Town's staying power was lacking. Why are our players always absolutely cream crackered after 70 minutes away from home?

There we were, 65 minutes gone, cruising at 1-0, Burnley unable to even take the ball off us. Ten minutes later, and it's 1-1 and the Town are completely on the rack, with the inevitable winning goal for the home team clearly not far away.



We've seen it all before since January, at Barnsley, Portsmouth and Bristol City. During the first half of the season, the lack of stamina was there, but at least we seemed to just get away with it: examples being at Port Vale, Wolves, Oldham and Swindon. I honestly can't see where we are going to get that eighth away league win from; I can see where we'll be leading with 18 minutes to go though.....

Objét

#### 25.03.95 TOWN 1 SCUM 1

##### *Is that all you take away?*

OK. Even I have to admit it now. There is definitely something going wrong at Luton if we can't even beat this pile of scum. W\*\*ford were crap all match, but then what's new (sorry, they did play reasonably well for 10 minutes of the second half). I was feeling very confident going into this game, and joined in the pre match atmosphere with songs which began with 4-2 (yes, you all know the one), and something about a poor little Hornet. The game started brilliantly, and I hardly had a chance to rest my vocal chords when Harvey (Yes! Back in place of a tragically injured Mitchell) skinned Ramage (what more did you expect) and crossed the ball for Telfer to head upwards, lose the ball, find it again and thump a volley into the back of the net — magic! Joyous celebrations at the expense of the "is that all you take away?" Horns (oo-er) followers. We should have thumped the scum right out of the match in the first half with Harvey having a thunderous drive tipped over and Marshall going close. Half time came and the entertainment was provided by the Junior Hatters and Junior Saddoes in a gladiator style inflatable joust match. Obviously we won, but that wasn't in any doubt (*unlike the fixed penalty shoot out at the pig-sty last September - Ed*), as the Horns (oo-er) are crap at whatever they do.

The second half brought a huge shock, scum actually played half decent for 10 minutes. They equalised through Philips (the one playing for Baldock a month ago) when he beat the offside trap to slot home. 3 minutes later, the referee gave a penalty when Beadle blatantly dived when challenged by Davis. With the unthinkable only a kick away, (W\*\*ford beating us) Davis brilliantly saved Porter's kick (it was worse than one of our penalties!). Davis then earned a first team place against Wolves when he denied W\*\*ford twice more with some brilliant goalkeeping. Telfer could easily have won us the match in injury time but his fierce shot was saved by Miller. The shame of not beating the scum was only too great and every neutral seemed to think that 1-1 was the right result. Why? Apart from between 60 - 70 minutes scum were as crap as their mascot, Benny the Bee, who I presumed was supposed to represent a Hornet in a sad scum shirt, but looked nothing like one.

Beatle

PS: What the hell did Hessenthaler do to earn Man of the Match. I didn't even know he was playing! Were the TV commentators, not including goalkeeping displays, as my choice was Kelvin Davis, and that's not being biased.

#### 04.04.95 TOWN 3 WOLVES 3

##### *Football is a game of 95 minutes.....*

To say that "we wuz robbed" in this match is the understatement of the season. We were all over Wolves but they still managed to grab a point. The game got off to a great start, with Telfer putting us 2-0 up inside 11 minutes, the first after rounding Stowell and the second fired low into the net. With chants of "Who are you?" and "Turnip, what's the score?", Wolves went from bad to worse, with their best shot by Bull finishing nearer to the corner than the goal. As for Stowell at the other end, he was the dodgiest keeper at Kenny Road since the days of Les Silly. His kick-outs were crap and he almost cost Wolves 2 goals when he dropped the ball right into Marshall's path and then when he tried to take the ball round John Taylor.

The second half was slightly different, after the introduction of David Kelly at half time. He scored with virtually his first touch from a corner that Davis came for and missed. We got the perfect answer 3 minutes later to restore our two goal cushion, after a Marvin shot was headed in past Stowell by 'Super Johnny' Taylor. Wolves had a chance to pull one back straight away but Kelvin saved brilliantly when Bull was one-on-one with him. It didn't take too long for Wolves to score again though, when Emblen pulled it back to Kelly, who gave Davis no chance. After that, we were too good by far for the Premiership chasers and deserved all three points, which I thought were in the bag. Telfer had a glorious chance to clinch it in what we thought was the last minute, but tried to square it to Marshall who was nowhere near collecting the pass. As the clock ticked away, the nearer we got until, in the 95th minute of play, Emblen broke away. Oakes, chasing back, managed to poke it past Davis and scored in off the post (but even if it had stayed out, Bull was there to tap it in if needed) to send the Wolves fans wild and put us into disbelief, and all because of the stupid ref. Whatever possessed him to play 5 minutes of injury time is beyond me, especially as the trainers were only on the field for 2 minutes maximum (the Stowell/Taylor incident). He must have thought that it was all right to play on until Wolves scored an (undeserved) equaliser. Apart from the disastrous ending, this was one of the games of the season. Great atmosphere and brilliant passing football on a heavily watered pitch (the groundsman created the conditions of January 21st perfectly) that easily beat Wolves route one 'Hoofed' approach to the game.

Beatle

PS: What's the point of Wolves bringing their mascot, Freddy the Fox (or is it supposed to be a Wolf?), to Kenilworth Road, especially as it seemed to be obsessed with pulling it's shorts down and posing to the crowd.

#### 08.04.95 TOWN 2 NOTTS COUNTY 0

This was a comprehensive victory that was over by the third minute, with Telfer scoring his fourth goal in three games after a cross by Harvey. We could have had more in the first half with Marshall hitting the post, albeit offside, as did Oakes,



and had it gone in it would have been an assist by Trevor, yes, Trevor Peake. The second half was much the same, with Oakes missing a hat-trick of one-on-one chances until Marshall went down in the area and we got a penalty. I didn't have any confidence in the kick considering our previous form this season, the penalty taker (Oakes), and the fact that I wanted Kelvin Davis to take it. The unthinkable happened though, we actually scored it, at the jinxed Kenny end, as Oakes collected his second goal in two games (although one was for the wrong team). Notts County gave no real danger and this defeat for them in a low entertainment game must surely mean they're in the 2nd division next season. They relegated us 3 years ago, so it was our turn to do the same to them. Bye bye County, and thanks a lot for the 12 points you've given us in the past two seasons.

*Beatle*

PS: The referee wasn't too bad in this game, and he seemed to like to play the advantage whenever he could, but I was surprised that he blew for time a whole 4 minutes early, as he only played 91 minutes, and after Wolves I thought that the game length had changed to 95 minutes.

#### 11.04.95 BOLTON WANDERERS 0 TOWN 0

Yet another long midweek journey was rewarded for many by the presence of our illustrious Chairman giving away tickets for the next Town home match. At last, a real reward for going to the trouble of visiting these places.

Actually, the reward was greater than we dared to hope, as the Town put on one of their best displays away from home since the turn of the year. Plenty of chances were created and, although they were not taken, there was no doubt who were the better side. In the first half it was Branagan who kept the home side in the game, with a little help from the ref who really should have sent off Stubbs (who had already been booked) for bringing down Taylor as he broke through the last line of defence. For a side chasing a promotion slot, Bolton seemed to offer little threat, having surprisingly left McGinlay on the bench, his replacement De Freitas looking as though he'd be better off sticking to cricket. Once the change was made in the second half, they made more chances, but it was the Town change of bringing Marshall on for Matthews that looked more likely to pay dividends. We nearly lost it in the last minute when Thompson headed against the foot of the post, but Captain Marvel cleared off the line to ensure that no injustice was done.

On the balance of play, the comment on the radio that this was a point gained for Bolton rather than two points lost, was absolutely spot on.

*Ken Ross*

#### 15.04.95 SUNDERLAND 1 TOWN 1

Many of those involved in Mad as a Hatter! consider themselves to know their real ale. Some of the sadder ones combine this with an anorak and train trips. For this very reason, the fanzine found itself poorly represented at Roker Park.

I, on the other hand, am somewhat of a connoisseur of chip shops. For those of you who may be interested, Sunderland offers Pie & Chips for £1.15. This, sadly, was the highlight of the day.

A poor match saw Taylor score against the run of play, and 'Luton reject' Phil Gray equalise. Many more matches like this and I'll take up train spotting.

*P.I.*

#### 17.04.95 TOWN 0 READING 1

##### *Super, Super John.....*

After thinking that we had put our disastrous home form behind us, we put in this crap display which ended our 10 match unbeaten home run. We had slightly better of the first half and a below standard Oakes should have put us 2 goals ahead when he broke through twice but both times he missed. Reading scored with two minutes of the half left, with our own Johnny Taylor heading past Davis from a free kick and somehow Reading's Adrian Williams tried to claim it. Reading had by far the better of the second half, but we should have had a penalty early in the half when Marshall was felled, but the referee ignored our pleas. Davis made a magnificent save halfway through the half, diving well to block Nogan's shot, which helped to keep our chances of snatching a late equaliser alive. But we never looked like scoring apart from a 'goal' disallowed for offside and a Trevor Peake (yes, Trevor Peake!) header which narrowly missed the target. Good to see that Reading hadn't even learnt the basic rules of offside, especially scum reject Lee Nogan. Also, we got a large number of corners but none of them to any avail, and it was uncanny how Preecey managed to pick out big Shaka Hislop every single time with his crosses.

*Beatle*

#### 22.04.95 CHARLTON ATHLETIC 1 TOWN 0

To paraphrase an old cricketing term, Luton failed to trouble the keeper in this match, which left many of us wondering. We wondered what David Pleat might have said during his appearance on 'Football Focus' a couple of hours before kick-off. We wondered what he might have said to the team at half time, to make them look so ineffective against ten men. We wondered whether he had "seen some good things" during the game, because we certainly hadn't. And we wondered why we bother.

This was a game of no importance to either side, at the end of a long season, which would have been the ideal time to introduce a couple of youngsters to the team. Instead we got a return for Mitchell Thomas, in place of James, and a call up for David Greene, in for James. With Harvey on the bench we had a surfeit of left backs. When Steve Brown received the red card for his blundering foul on Preece it was a decision the referee could not avoid, and for some inexplicable reason we cheered. But as we will no doubt be reminded, it's more difficult to play against ten men, although this never seems to be the case when we are reduced in numbers. It was from this point that the Town performance



deteriorated, as passes went astray, and crosses were played to no-one in particular, and frequently no-one at all. After half time there were too many players in Town shirts who were happy to be playing out the season without putting in too much effort, and clearly did not think they had any obligation to the travelling support. It was not an attitude shared by the Charlton players, and that explains the result.

By way of a postscript, the following evening at the Supporters Club Presentation evening David Pleat did say that he and the players had spent 24 hours dreading meeting supporters, so it's quite nice to report some embarrassment on their part.

K.F.H.

*The two remaining match reports for this season, Middlesbrough and Stoke, will appear in the first issue of next season, issue 28, that's if anybody writes them!*

## MODERN NIGHTMARES

Kohler learns hypnosis.



## FOE OR FRIEND

This article is dedicated to a select group of players to whom little homage is paid, but who deserve the gratification of every football fan for their outstanding service to football.

The scene — the Town are 2-0 down to a struggling Sarfend team; you've paid good money to watch a team with one of the best away records in the league produce a Watfordesque performance, which practically obliterates any chance of a play-off place and you are really peeved off — furious to be more precise.

As you sit there, the furore, the anger builds up inside you, until you no longer know how you can contain it. But then a possible source of release is offered to you — a lifeline.

We've all seen the sort of player, most notably Messrs Gascoigne and Collymore. The sort that runs to the away fans end having just scored for the home team. On this particular occasion the player was in the form of a certain Keith Dublin — not any old player, but an ex-Watford player who had just plundered the third goal and was winding his merry way to the increasingly volatile Town end.

Now, isn't this the player you just love; here he is, offering himself, almost sacrificing himself as an object at which for the next thirty seconds the disgruntled hoards can rejoice in releasing all that pent up anger, by subjecting said player to as much abuse as is humanly possible in such a time span. As well as this there is the added benefit of seeing yourself on "Kick Off!" the following afternoon — although you would be advised to be aware of the CCTV cameras.

It is for this reason that I feel we should salute these unsung heroes to whom we owe such a debt in preventing us from going insane with rage. We may hate them, but let's admit it, we love to hate them.

*Led (Yes - Led!)*  
A Silsøe Hatter

### 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, Pottton, Sandy, Beds SG19 2SG.



## LACK OF ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE

On my two visits to the mecca of football this season, first on 18th February (v Swindon, won 3-0) and 18th March (v Tranmere, won 2-0) there has been a lack of 'atmosphere' at the ground. There could be several reasons for this condition. Firstly, the terracing has gone, meaning that groups of people that were allowed to stand together on the terrace and chant could do, but now because they each get an allocated seat, and these may not be together. I am working on the assumption that chanting usually begins with a hardcore of fans. What can be done? Well, over the summer maybe all the fans could practice their vocal chords by referring to page 3 of issue 22 of "Mad", learn the song, and maybe come the middle of August the old terracing songs may not be back, but we can try and sing our hearts out for the lads. So, come on, 'Bring me sunshine...'

Anthony Reid

## WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN!



It's Paul Telfer again, this time in action against Reading, and yes, since you ask, we were a bit short of photos for this issue. Below, Julian James in a match earlier this season.





## WE'RE HAVING A FANTASY.....

Ever keen to jump onto a bandwagon, we're looking into starting a fantasy football type of thing next season. Although details are far from complete, it will revolve around picking six or seven of our very own Luton Town superstars. As for how the points will be scored, I haven't the faintest idea! However, we will reveal all in issue 28, so if you fancy a fantasy, keep your eyes peeled.

## Thanks

As we reach the end of another season, we would just like to say thanks to all those people who have made this fanzine possible. Firstly, to all the contributors who have provided so much excellent material, some of which hasn't been used, for which we apologise. Secondly, to our own sales team, who brave the elements so often for so little reward. And then to you, dear readers, for making it worth all the effort. We must also acknowledge Paul the Print, who makes it possible to keep the price at 50p, and the staff and management of the Bricklayers Arms for providing an unofficial base for us. To all of you, and the people we have inevitably failed to mention, THANKS.

101 uses for a Kohlerdome



No.2

A VERY FETCHING GERMAN CAR.

## HATTIES PROBLEM PAGE

Dear Hattie,

Recently there has been a lot of talk of a wonderful new stadium for LTFC which I believe will be called the Kohlerdome. This sounds really good news as a new stadium is long overdue, even if it has a dodgy sounding name. However, I have also seen items concerning the removal of the pitch between games using hovercraft. Is this true or am I imagining things?

Stunned of Stopsley

Hattie replies: You are quite right about the new stadium news, including the hovercraft. I suppose there are two ways of viewing these latest developments. One is to be proud that LTFC are at the forefront of the latest technology and hopefully will have an excellent new stadium to see them into the new century, providing luxury so far unknown in UK football grounds (and hopefully a team to match).

The other way is to think back to the alienation suffered by the away supporter ban and plastic pitch of the recent past, and think "Oh God, here we go again".

To be honest I can see both sides of the story so I won't get too excited until the new ground is underway.

On the positive side I do look forward to hovercraft moving the pitch around and I see several opportunities to expand on this idea. Maybe in a few years we'll be able to take our own pitch to notable opposition mud baths during the winter months to ensure a decent playing surface. The Baseball Ground at Derby and the Allotments at Watford spring immediately to mind as two likely venues. Also the current trend of watering the pitch to saturation point prior to home games could be replaced by popping the pitch down to the nearby river and giving it a quick dunk, thereby giving it a more even drenching than the current method appears to. The B & Q Depot at Gypsy Lane could be another place to visit for any maintenance work such as reseeding etc. I imagine extra revenue could even be earned from hiring it out every year for a couple of weeks to the Chelsea Flower Show, or other such events.

On the other hand, I see the potential humiliation of Grandstand announcing that the Luton match has been postponed owing to a hovercraft breakdown as a distinct possibility. Worse still, the possibility of the pitch separating into several sections during a game is almost unbearable, although some people sitting near me think that Scott Oakes has been playing on a different pitch to the rest of the team for a large part of this season. Who knows, perhaps in the future he could be put onto a hovercraft and moved into the game a bit more often.

I'm sure you'll agree the possibilities are endless.



## We're wonderful, and it's official!

In issue 26 we carried a report of discussions that our correspondent, Clifford Saunders, had with David Kohler and others at LTFC. A couple of times in this item, the police were mentioned, and our favourite bobby, PC 699 Peter Palmer who is the Football Liaison Officer at Luton, asked if he could make comments. Of course, we are always willing to help the police with their inquiries, so we said OK.

The first point was on the subject of the membership scheme, and why something so costly, and unwanted was still in force to such an extent. The reply from Geoff Lovell (the LTFC safety officer) was that it was a condition of the reintroduction of away fans, but Cherry Newbery said that the club would rather it didn't remain. The response to this from PC Palmer, is that it was originally a condition, and the police are quite happy with it, but the club haven't asked for it to be relaxed, and if they did it could be discussed.

The second point was concerning the sale of tickets on the day to away fans and casual supporters. Cherry's reply was that the police say there can be no sales to away fans on the day. The police response to this is as far as casual fans are concerned, they have an agreement with the club that these can be sold, but will not allow it for some matches, for instance those where there could be trouble, and for certain "big" games. As far as away supporters are concerned the all ticket arrangement will stay.

Another which I raised was on the use of Oak Road for home support when there is very little away support, and a sell out for home fans, as happened at the Sheffield United game, and almost happened at the Portsmouth game. The club, asked about this some time ago, had indicated that the police would only allow away supporters into that part of the ground, and broadly speaking PC Palmer concurred with this. However, he added that the club have again not put forward any proposals to alter this arrangement, and that it was not a subject that was closed for discussion. There are, he said, implications for policing, stewarding and segregation, that would be difficult to address, but it could be discussed.

We would like to thank PC Palmer for his help with these points. In closing, he said that he felt that Luton supporters had been "wonderful" this season, very well behaved, in general, and that he felt that Kenilworth Road was becoming an increasingly pleasant place to watch football.

If any of our readers feel that there have been any problems with policing during this season, please drop us a line, and we'll take them up with PC Palmer and report back in the next issue, early next season.

KFH

## MARVIN — ALMOST A LEGEND

As a child, living in Wembley, a young Marvin Johnson must have seen a lot of great footballers gracing the hallowed turf, the likes of Keegan, Bremner, Brady et al, wondering if one day, just perhaps, he may also lead a team out on Cup Final day. After all, surely footballing law would suggest that anyone born in Wembley would turn out to be a great footballing superstar. Marv proved to be the exception.

His Luton Town debut was made against Everton in the Simod Cup (16.2.88) and his full league debut followed three weeks later, away to Wimbledon. His first job in pro football, was to mark the tricky right wing skills of Dennis Wise. Marv had an adequate debut. Town fans believed we may have a cultured left back after the likes of Money and Goodyear had left. However, Marv's career then entered 'circus mode'. The type of footballer you looked at, felt amazed, and then just laughed. A clown.

No Luton supporter doubted his footballing skills, many a time to waltz up the left flank past several opposition was warmly applauded by the crowd, until he fell over his boot laces. That's right, "Marv, the man who can, could not". Somebody needed to tell him that a career in tiddlywinking might just be the one for him.

And then came Villa at home in 1989. I'm sure most remember it. Spink's punt down field into lost space. Sealey comes for it, but who got to it first? Marv. From all of 30 yards, Marvin produced the type of finishing associated with Dalglish and co. I had to laugh, if I didn't I would have cried. By this time, Marv's kneecaps were perilously close to being seen to by Les — he was in a fit of rage (*no change there - Ed*). I've never seen anything like it.

Then, in 1991, Marv's contract ended, where would our beloved entertainer go from here? He had two choices — Torquay or Luton Hoo FC. Luton Hoo objected, saying "We didn't think he would get a regular place in our side". Poor Marv. But, amazingly, Mr Pleat kept whatever faith he had left in him — and Marv signed a new two year contract. Shit! Two more years of Marv. I was contemplating buying a Watford season ticket. Then three years of injuries consigned Marv to the treatment room, and it wasn't until the beginning of this season that he was again a regular.

Pleat masterminded a central position this season, and I don't think anyone, player, manager or supporter has looked back. Ever present this season, and I don't think I can bring myself to say it, ever reliable, Marv has probably been player of the year for many supporters, me included. His new central



role has ended his galloping left wing runs — sad to see them finish — but Marv has benefitted immensely since. A rock. So, maybe one day, when Marv is up there with the Keegans, the Charltons and the Bests, you can tell your grandchildren “I saw a legend in the making”.

*Tony Allbones*



First step to becoming a legend? Marvin, the only Luton player who doesn't need a surname, was the winner of the Players Player of the Year award at the Luton Town Supporters Club presentation evening, and is seen here laden with trophies

## TUMBLE BACK DOWN?

As Trevor Peake gets ever closer to that 40 year mark, his reliability and fitness are nothing short of remarkable, and he well deserves to be rewarded with another 1 year contract. What I ask though, is what would we ever do without him? At his age it always takes longer to recover from injury, and I would worry about the competence of any interim partnership in central defence using our current squad.

A little bird told us recently that one John Dreyer, who still lives locally, is fed up at Stoke, pottering ('skuse the pun) about in the reserves since his absolute nightmare against Dwight Marshall last October. Apparently he as murmured something to the effect that he would take a wage cut to play for Luton again.

The trouble is, judging by an interview in the Luton News on Wednesday 12th April, David Pleat seems quite proud of the fact that he decided to offload Tumble rather than give him a decent pay offer, and that decision seems to have been vindicated by Tumble's failure at Stoke City. So whether the pair didn't hit it off before, who knows, but in my eyes getting Tumble back on a freebie would be a bargain.

In this instance, I'm convinced that it's a case of 'better the devil you know', rather than forking out God knows how much on someone else.

*Objét*

Quentin Tarantino shows Luton how to take penalties.





## The Thin White Line

Old big 'ead, Mr Clough, once said of strikers, "Imagine how the centre forward feels, he's beaten the centre half, the goal's at his mercy. 25,000 fans cheering him on, watching his every move, willing him to burst the back of the net and, suddenly, he comes face to face with Shilton, built like a brick shit house, shoulders like an American Footballer. He's all but missed before he can even strike the ball."

The Goalkeeper, so often the hero, so often the villain. The last line of defence, the difference between having a few beers and a laugh with the lads afterwards, or shooting straight off home to the missus.

During my 31 years on this planet I've seen some legends, Banks, Aleksic, Kirk Stephens and Mal Donaghy, but I've also seen a few howlers, so, with this in mind, here's one fans view.....

One fan proudly presents...

### "Keepers Ball"

(in reverse order)

- 10= Fred Barber (Luton, Peterborough) Never seen him but if Juergen's keeping him out, he must be crap.
- 10= Peter Bonetti (Chelsea & England) 2-0 up, twenty minutes left, World Cup semi final in sight. Twenty minutes later..... extra time..... 30 minutes later..... out of the World Cup. "Sorry" probably didn't go down well in the dressing room afterwards. Wasn't very 'cat-like' that afternoon, were we Peter?
- 9 Jim Leighton (Aberdeen, Man Utd & Scotland) Jim was always worth a goal head start to the opposition, also kept goal in the 'I'm not very good looking' side of the 80s. His stunning performance in the 1990 Cup Final also allowed 'Les' to get a medal. Amazingly enough, Jim won a bucketful of Scottish caps..... er no, hang on..... maybe not quite so amazing.
- 8 Stuart Kennedy (Rangers & Scotland) Thanks mate, a truly memorable performance in the home international game of '75 against the old enemy. Rounded off a great display by head butting the goal post as another ball curled itself up in the back of the net. Even fat boy Gerry Francis scored that day!

- 7 Juergen Sommer (Luton & USA) Strikers in the Endsleigh One have sussed Juergen out and instead of shooting from five yards out where Juergen's reflex saves are breathtaking, just head straight for the by line and swing a cross in, whilst Juergen tries desperately to scrape the super glue off the bottom of his boots which seem to have taken root on the goal line. Sorry mate, but by my calculations we could be top now..... what shall we say..... 10-12 points?
- 6 Alan McKnight (West Ham) Thanks for ensuring a nice safe passage through to the Littlewoods Final of '89. Shame you couldn't have negotiated a transfer to Forest before the Final.
- 5 Gary Sprake (Leeds & Wales) Into the top five now and Gary needs no introduction. 1971 Colchester United was Gary's finest hour and a half, although Leeds fans may beg to differ. Was he really part of that great side?
- 4 Dai Davies (Wrexham & Wales) Yeah, weren't the Welsh lucky in the 70s? We had Banks and Shilton, they had Sprake and Davies, and our kit was better than theirs!
- 3 Alan Rough (Partick Thistle & Scotland) Good old Alan. Never a dull moment with Alan's sloth like reflexes. Alan's pre match preparations were the same for twenty years. Hair in rollers for half an hour before kick off and a thin layer of axle grease on the gloves. Unfortunately for Alan, he kept goal in the great 'I've got a curly perm' side of the 70s.
- 2 Paddy Roche (Man United & Ireland) No wonder George Best did a disappearing act to Spain. Paddy's favourite trick..... palming crosses into his own net. I can just picture the Doc on the phone to George in Bonkidorm — "But George, we can win the title, we've got a great side and Paddy Roche in goal"..... "Adios Amigo!"
- 1 Dave Beasant (Wimbledon, Newcastle, Chelsea, Southampton & England?) OK, OK, so what if he's the only man to save an FA Cup Final penalty — He is shit! The only reason England reached the semi-finals of the World Cup was that Beasant's arse remained firmly in contact with the subs bench!  
This is one man who couldn't survive a nuclear explosion as he wouldn't be able to go to ground quick enough. Alan Ball must hold him in very high regard if he's prepared to field a match thrower (*alleged*) rather than throw poor old Dave into the pressure cooker of a game of football.

Pete Armitage





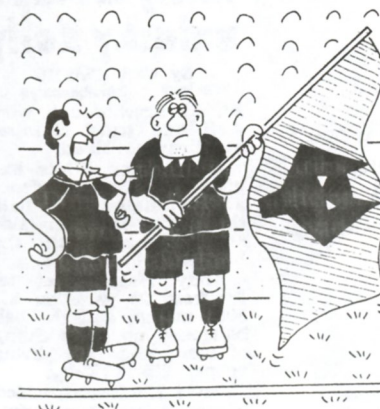
Two things we've seen too much of this season. Above, Scotty shoots and misses against Reading, and below, it's Preece's dodgy ankle again. Still, good to see Gary Waddock making himself useful.



## NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of Mad as a Hatter! will be a celebration issue, to mark 5 full years of Mad as a Hatter! It will include a reprint of issue 1, and possibly some selected highlights of the last 26 issues. But don't worry that you're being ripped off for a load of stuff you've read before, as there will be plenty of new stuff as well, with the reprinted stuff forming additional pages. We are as always, looking for contributions, and you've got a couple of months to think about them and put pen to paper. Although we don't know when the first match of next season will be, we'll assume it's on the opening day of the season, August 12th, and make the deadline for submissions Monday 24th July, which should allow a few days break for the editor to go to the pre season friendlies, and perhaps mean that we can get it off to the printer a couple of days earlier than usual.

So send us your contributions, in the form of articles, cartoons, poems, cuttings photographs, holiday snaps, and anything else, and don't forget the end of season poll, which you'll find on page 59 (it has an earlier deadline, remember).



You'd better hold on to this for me, the crowd might get suspicious by the 95th minute!

### FSA London Branch Programme

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

May 11th, 1995

The Season Reviewed

Guest speakers at most events.



## CUTTING REMARKS & REMARKABLE CUTTINGS

Quite a stack of cuttings this month, probably because we've been saving them up for a while. Plenty of stuff on Watford though, so it should be worth the wait.

First up is this double edged sword of a piece, which in it's headline sums up anyone who visits Vicarage Road. The reason he got off must have been mistaken identity, as how many Watford fans are educated, and "loud and vocal"?

### Apology for Hornets fan

**HORNETS** fan Peter Fincham has brought the police to book and cleared his name after he was arrested during the New Year match against Millwall.

Mr Fincham, 21, of Tunnel Wood Road, was cautioned for allegedly using bad behaviour at the game on December 27.

This week the Police Complaints Authority took up his case.

Mr Fincham said: "They have acted, to their credit, very, very quickly and with great fairness."

An authority representative said: "Mr Fincham was seen by officers on Wednesday. He

will be receiving an apology."

Watford FC Commercial Manager Mr Paul Biffen said: "It's a credit to all the hard work he put in to clear his name. Mr Fincham is a bit loud and vocal but we have never had a problem with him."

Mr Fincham, a final year law student at Hull University, explained what happened at Millwall.

He said: "I was singing as I always do. The police took exception to this and arrested me."

Mr Fincham accepted a caution at the time because he said that if he had not done so it could have affected his legal career.

### Andy clumps unlucky Kelly

By NEIL CUSTIS  
Watford 2 Scarborough 0  
POOR Scarborough were well and truly clumped at Vicarage Road.

After Jason White had given Watford's defence a nightmare first half, the First Division side stole ahead with the luckiest of goals.

Andy Hessenthaler let fly from 20 yards in the 50th minute and the ball ballooned up off a clump of earth and over diving keeper Gavin Kelly.

David Holdsworth added a second on 73 minutes.

SPOTTED in the local branch of W H Smith: 250 copies of the three-year-old *The Official Illustrated History of Watford*, complete with foreword by then England manager Graham Taylor, reduced from £18.95 to £2.50.

And how about this? It's still expensive for a pad of scrap paper!

Roeder was more tight-lipped, saying: "I don't want to make too much of it."

"Alan seems to want to talk a lot about Watford but I don't want to say anything about other people's teams."

**LIE WING.**  
Watford boss Roeder was astonished by what he saw as a tactical blunder by his opposite number Smith in a drab FA Cup stalemate.

He said: "I found it quite strange that Alan should withdraw a £4m striker to play wide on the right tracking our left back."

"But we were well pleased about it."

Back to Glennnda, the manager who doesn't talk about other teams. Unless, of course, he's talking about other teams, in this case Palace after the goalless draw at the Donkey Sanctuary.



**BORING** THIS Vicarage Road fan sums up just what it is like to be a Watford supporter these days

And you surely wouldn't have expected us to ignore this picture, even if it did come from Britain's most popular newspaper



Getting away from the subject of Watford, although not entirely, this item was published a few weeks ago and certainly has some interest for us.

Below we have an excerpt of the Daily Telegraph Fantasy Football supporters league, in which we have only been below the old rivals for one week all season. Top, incidentally, are Liverpool, while Arsenal occupy a most unaccustomed 92nd place.

## 32: SUPPORTERS' LEAGUE

P Club	Pts	P Club	Pts
24 Stoke City	245.48	47 Watford	242.78
25 Bradford City	245.44	48 Middlesbrough	242.63
26 Bury	245.38	49 Rotherham United	242.58
27 Wrexham	245.35	50 Blackburn Rovers	242.35
28 Brighton	245.28	51 Stockport County	242.26
29 Notts County	244.98	51 Exeter City	242.26
30 Oxford United	244.97	53 Northampton Town	242.21
31 Huddersfield Town	244.93	54 Sheffield United	242.14
32 Peterboro Utd	244.81	55 Crystal Palace	241.87
33 West Ham United	244.45	56 Gillingham	241.70
33 Cardiff City	244.45	57 Fulham	241.63
35 Bolton Wanderers	244.32	58 Darlington	241.61
36 Portsmouth	244.10	59 Wycombe Wdrs	241.57
37 Oldham Athletic	244.06	60 Bristol Rovers	241.47
38 Burnley	243.67	61 Grimsby Town	241.43
39 Hull City	243.49	62 Plymouth Argyle	241.42
40 Barnet	243.42	63 Reading	240.90
41 Derby County	243.36	64 Lincoln City	240.87
42 Luton Town	243.34	65 Scarborough	240.74
43 Leyton Orient	243.31	66 Barnsley	240.69
44 Torquay United	243.20	67 Crewe Alexandra	240.36
45 Carlisle United	243.11	68 Swansea City	240.08
46 Shrewsbury Town	242.84	69 Leicester City	240.02

## Big match facts

- **TOWN:** Sommer; James, Peake, Johnson, Thomas; Telfer, Waddock (Matthews 79 mins), Oakes, Preece; Marshall, Biggins (Dixon 69 mins). Unused goalkeeper sub Davis.
- **MILLWALL:** Keller; Joseph, Witter, Webber, Thatcher; Savage (Beckford 81 mins), Rae, May, Van Blerk; Oldfield, Mitchell. Unused subs Kennedy and goalkeeper Carter.
- **THE GOALS:** 1-0 323 mins: Dwight Marshall, blistering run and rapier drive into the bottom corner after being sent through by Scott Oakes; 1-1 57 mins: Dave Mitchell, close range after Ben Thatcher crossed deep from the left, and Alex Rae headed back across the face of the goal.

SHEFFIELD Wednesday are fourth in the Premiership. Norwich look certain to be relegated, and West Ham are halfway up the table.

In the First Division, Bolton are 10 points clear. Luton look certain for the play-offs. Tranmere are nowhere and it's farewell Portsmouth and Port Vale.

Fantasy football? Not exactly. These are all half-truths, based on the half-time table. Bookmakers who bet on the half-time results compile league tables based on 45-minute games. As you can see below, they make interesting reading.

The biggest change in the lower divisions is that Carlisle (14 points clear in reality) are five points behind Chesterfield. Which just goes to show that it really is a game of two halves.

PREM		DIV 1	
	P Pts		P Pts
Blackburn	34 64	Bolton	37 73
Man Utd	35 59	Middlesbrough	38 63
Nottm For	35 58	Sheff Utd	39 56
Sheff Wed	35 56	Luton	37 56
Liverpool	32 54	Grimsby	39 54
Newcastle	34 51	Millwall	38 53
A Villa	34 49	Barnsley	38 52
QPR	32 49	Wolves	36 51
Leeds	33 46	West Brom	39 50
Spurs	33 45	Sunderland	39 49
Man City	34 41	Reading	39 49
West Ham	34 41	Watford	36 49
Arsenal	34 48	Tranmere	38 48
Wimbledon	35 38	Oldham	37 46
Coventry	35 38	Southend	39 46
Everton	34 38	Derby	38 43
Soton	32 36	Swindon	37 42
C Palace	32 34	Charlton	37 40
Chelsea	33 32	Bristol C	39 40
Norwich	34 31	Notts Co	38 39
Leicester	34 28	Portsmouth	39 39
Ipswich	33 25	Port Vale	37 39
Information:		Stoke	36 37
William Hill		Burnley	38 33

Still on the subject of Luton Town, surely not even our most loyal supporter, Brian Swain, thinks it takes us that long to score a goal!



# Dell boys 6 Plonkers 0

Above, a favourite headline after the Dell debacle, which seems to just sum things up rather well.

And, on the right, what are we to make of our Ceri? It's one thing being an Elvis fan (not that we can understand it) but wanting to marry him?

**JOHN HARTSON, 19, Arsenal's shooting star, has taken to signing his autograph simply 'The Hart'. When challenged he said: "I want to start a new trend."**

And on the subject of that man Hartson, we have to wonder if fame is going to his head. What next, a name change along the lines of Prince? Will he be listed in programmes as ♥?



And finally, this photo was taken from the Daily Sport, and it isn't appearing here because of sexism or anything like that. Oh no, it's here because for some reason that smile on her face looks a touch forced. Why? Is she a Watford fan?



## HATTERS HELPLINE

We've had a few requests for individuals to place ads, so to save space we're putting them altogether here, and if these requests keep coming in we'll make this a regular feature.

**WANTED:** 70s, 80s, 90s LTFC replica shirts (old or new!) especially the following:  
 1979/80 Home or Away (Adidas)  
 1981/82 Home or Away (Tricentrol Championship season)  
 1988/89 Home (Littlewoods Cup era)  
 1989/90 Blue third strip (worn away at Derby)  
 1973/74 Home (Orange with single blue/white strip down front)  
 1993/94 Home (last seasons shirt)

If you can help with any of these contact: Pete Armitage, 60 Norman Road, Luton, LU3 1JN, or phone (01582) 581731.

**WANTED:** If you have any Luton Town souvenirs (anything considered) to sell, or give away, including pre-1989 shirts, please contact me, Steve Hines, phone (01582) 661581 (evenings) or (01525) 376463 (daytime).



On the internet?  
 Join WHOSH  
 Worldwide Hatters  
 on the Super Highway  
 email request-ltfc@robots.ox.ac.uk

## 10 Songs to sing at a local derby

Get the vocal chords ready for the 2 derbies next season, and here's a reminder of the songs we can sing towards the scum.

- |    |                                   |   |
|----|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1  | He's only a poor little Hornet    | Everyone's favourite this.  |
| 2  | 4-2, We beat the scum 4-2.        | Pick any scoreline you like for this chant as you know scum won't be able to sing it back.                |
| 3  | You're scum, and you know you are | Self explanatory  |
| 4  | Is that all you take away         | Regarding their crap following compared to our away contingent at their ground                            |
| 5  | One Kelvin Davis                  | 66th minute penalty. We all know the rest   |
| 6  | We'll see you all outside         | Not one that I use, but a few nutters use it (even sober nutters)   |
| 7  | WATFORD (High pitched)            | Mickey take of their crap supporters  |
| 8  | Nice ground, shit fans            | Give them some credit (not too much though). Vicarage Road is a half decent ground. Shame about the fans. |
| 9  | You're just a bunch of Shitfords! | See number 3  |
| 10 | We hate Watford, we hate Watford  | Again, self explanatory, as it is quite hard to find something to like about the club.                    |



## TOWN TRAVELS

This is not a column that normally appears in the last issue of the season, as we don't normally know where the next games are going to be, but we have heard that the pre season tour this year is heading back to Devon, as it was about 3 years ago. As we understand it, friendlies have been lined up at Plymouth Argyle, Torquay United and Exeter City, with Tiverton Town pencilled in if cash strapped Exeter happen to go out of business. No dates are settled yet, but these games will be around the end of July and very early August, prior to a home friendly on August 7th, when we understand that Spurs will be the visitors.

For those travelling to Devon, we would advise watching the local press for full details, and indeed confirmation that these matches will take place. Assuming they do, the first point to make is that the nearest railway station to Tiverton is Tiverton Parkway which is some 6 miles from the town, so the rail travellers had better hope that Exeter last the distance.

Torquay's Plainmoor ground is quite a trek from both Torquay station and the slightly nearer Torre station, while Plymouth's Home Park is about a 15 minute walk, mostly uphill, from Plymouth station. As for pubs, this will be in the height of the holiday season, so you should have plenty of time to mooch around and find somewhere, so we'll not go into the subject in too great a depth here. In Plymouth the PENNYCOMEQUICK, is handily placed between the station and the ground, and whilst nothing special, serves reasonable beer. The more adventurous may want to try the popular harbourside Barbican area, and the BORINGDON ARMS, Turnchapel, is also said to be worth seeking out, and is a pub that does B&B as well.

In Torquay the pub selection is typically unimpressive for a seaside resort, but the WIG & PEN, 168 Union Street, and CROWN & SCEPTRE, 2 Petitor Road are probably worth seeking out, although they are not exactly in the town centre. Exeter is possibly the best for choice, and has it's own home brew pub in the FIZGIG & FIRKIN, on Lower North Street. The BROOK GREEN TAVERN is close to the football ground at 31 Well Street and also worth a try should be the NORTH BRIDGE INN, on St David's Hill, between St David's and Central stations. And if we do go to Tiverton, try the RACEHORSE, Wellbrook Street and the WHITE HORSE, Gold Street, although it is worth remembering that non league grounds usually have their own clubhouse, and often have some decent beer on sale.

## UP THE POLL

Year in, year out, we plead with you to write to us, and last year, for some inexplicable reason, it worked. We had a record breaking number of entries, and actually had to spend rather more than 10 minutes counting the votes. So, as ever, the time comes round again to ask you to put pen to paper, and spend at least 19p on a stamp to tell us what you thought of the season that has just finished. As always, we will be putting all the entries in a 1988 straw boater and drawing one out, in order to produce a prize winner. The prize will be one of next seasons new replica shirts (well, there's bound to be one isn't there) so please state what size you will want if you do win.

The categories we would like you to vote in are as follows:

- |                              |                               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. TOWN PLAYER OF THE SEASON | 2. BEST YOUNG PLAYER          |
| 3. BEST TOWN PERFORMANCE     | 4. WORST TOWN PERFORMANCE     |
| 5. BEST GOAL FOR TOWN        | 6. BEST GOAL AGAINST          |
| 7. BEST OPPONENTS            | 8. WORST OPPONENTS            |
| 9. BEST REFEREE              | 10. WORST REFEREE             |
| 11. BEST OPPOSING PLAYER     | 12. WORST OPPOSING PLAYER     |
| 13. IDIOT OF THE SEASON      | 14. HERO OF THE SEASON        |
| 15. BEST GROUND VISITED      | 16. WORST GROUND VISITED      |
| 17. LOW POINT OF THE SEASON  | 18. THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO |

In addition to these we invite you to make comments to back up your votes, and if there is any category you think we've omitted, please add it to your response.

We would like you to send your nominations to us, to be received by June 30th. We'll still count any votes received later, but that will be the deadline for the prize draw. Please don't ignore this request, as we depend on you to make this poll representative of Town fans. If we get a really good response, we might even throw in an extra prize or two. So please write to us at:

292 Icknield Way  
Luton  
LU3 2JS





Not sure which team was defending here in the Reading game, but if it was the Town we might ask what Peakey was doing that far upfield. If it wasn't, then where were the rest of the defence?