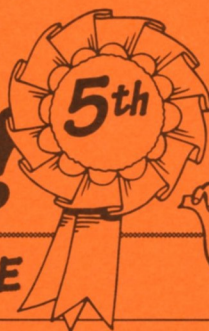


# MAD AS A HATTER!

THE LUTON TOWN FANZINE



## ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Issue 28

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# MAD AS A HATTER!

THE LUTON TOWN FANZINE



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

**Editor:** Keith Hayward.  
**Backroom Boys:** Phil Ivinson, Mark Ivinson, Andy Collon.  
**Executives:** Jerry Darr, Mark Wilson, Andy Overall, Mark Araci, Nick Gazeley, Geoff Smith, Steve Follit, Dave Kirkby, Paul Tindle.  
**Contributors:** Our thanks to Paul Devall, Chris Lennon, B. Dave B., Tony Allbones, Anthony Reid, Brian Surette, Graham Johnson, Ken Ross and Steve Bailey.  
**Cartoons:** Brilliantly drawn by Ray Aspden, Adam Lloyd, and Kev.  
**Action Photos:** Gareth Owen

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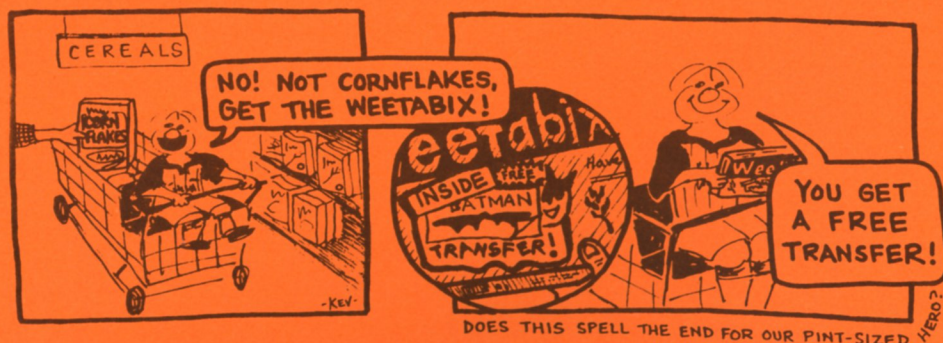
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## PREECE'S SHORTS



## 5 YEARS OF MAD

It might be a well worn cliché, but it barely seems like 5 minutes ago when the MAAH editorial team had it's first meeting, where we decided upon absolutely nothing except the name — personally I wanted something a bit more subtle, but I think I've been proved wrong. So, cast your minds back to February 1990 and try to remember the discontent surrounding Luton Town FC: the Ray Harford sacking, the Roy Wegerle sale, David Evans, the membership scheme, plastic pitch, fears about relegation, David Evans, concerns about the future of the club, a shambolic cup defeat at Brighton (incidentally, just about the lowest point in my 20+ years of watching the Town), David Evans. At least some things have improved in the last five years!

Seriously, though, at lot has changed at the club during our five years, mostly for the better (although we're not claiming any credit). The only exception, of course, being the relegation from the First Division to, erm, the First Division. Off the pitch, ever since we started, the club have been, at worst, tolerant of us and, at best, downright helpful to us to the extent where we have a very good relationship with the club, yet still distant enough to criticise as and when necessary.

If nothing else, over our lifetime, we've provided a platform for fellow supporters to rant, rave, argue, criticise or whatever, which was our (very lofty and self important) motive in setting MAAH up five years ago and we've squeezed a few beers in along the way too. Thanks for your support over the past five years, we hope we've provided you with some entertainment over that time (and still no price increase!) and will continue to do so. Here's to the next five years. . . . .

AC

## EDITORIAL

In our five years we have usually started the season with a few words of pessimism. Sadly, these words have usually been borne out over the nine months that follow. For this reason it makes a pleasant change to be feeling mildly optimistic at this stage. An unusual summer hasnot only seen the club signing new players, but they have outnumbered the players leaving. Coupled with a change of manager, there are grounds for hoping that the coming season will see a finishing position higher than the 16th that was the best under David Pleat. We hope that Terry Westley can succeed, and wish him all the best in his efforts to do so.



## Polls Apart - The Declaration

It gives me great pleasure to report that this years poll had a record number of entries, with a over 50 being received, and 49 before the deadline. This meant that in order to select a prize winner, the metaphorical Wembley '88 straw boater was in fact televised live. All the entries were numbered as they arrived, and with 49 available to win, I used the first number out on the National Lottery draw of 8th July (I missed the draw on 1st July!) to select the winner. As a result Paul Devall of Flitwick, (number 3) will be receiving a prize in the near future. The sheer volume of material received means that we are splitting the results over two issues, so if what your looking for isn't here, you'll just have to wait.

### Town Player of the Season      Julian James

Interestingly the top three in this category were the same as they were a year ago, which may suggest that it is time we had some new blood in the team. The vote was so close that the final vote was needed to allow the winner to emerge from the trio. Julian's plaudits included "solid and dependable", "always gives 100%" and adjectives such as consistent, hardworking and hard-tackling, the only negative being "if only he had pace...". Equal second were Preece and the "ever young" Peake, "outstanding consistency, but how much longer can he go on?" Marvin was fourth, with Telfer, Waddock and Oakes mere also-rans.

### Young Player of the Season      Kelvin Davis

"Need you ask?" There was no surprise in an overwhelming victory for the young 'keeper, who polled so many votes that there was never any doubt about the winner. Described variously as a potential England keeper, the best prospect in Britain and mature beyond his years, he "oozes confidence", but your greatest worry "how long can we hang onto him?" There were 3 other nominees, with John Hartson (who might have got more if he had stayed longer) in second place with 2 votes! For the record David Greene and Ben Chenery were the others.

### Best Town Performance      Middlesbrough (H)

The second year in a row that this has been won (or should it be lost?) by a team from the north east. The "comprehensive victory over the eventual champions" was "the bollocks" and "we killed and dominated from start to finish." The winner was way ahead of the victory away to Wolves, and, of course, away to Watford. Nine other matches were nominated.

### Worst Town Performance      Southampton (A)

Comprehensive defeats tend to last long in the memory, and the fact that we "thought we were in with a chance down there" does nothing to help. "No fight" and "complete capitulation" do sum up a match which had no redeeming features,

so there was no surprise that it topped the poll, although there were 15 nominations, including Grimsby, Southend and Charlton away. A vote also for the Kenilworth Road end — "hardly any atmosphere or am I just deaf?"

### Best Goal For Town      Richard Harvey, v Stoke (H)

A popular goal without doubt, but perhaps a little fresher in the mind than most, but nonetheless "a sweet volley" struck like a "bullet." Also notable for the fact that he "did not fuck about in the box.... just wallop." In second place was Hartson's blaster against Middlesbrough, which was "struck like an Exocet missile" which "Shearer would have been proud of." Dixon's wildly optimistic lob at Barnsley was third. And 17 others, no less, received votes including three from Telfer and four from Oakes! One writer, however, felt we "had very few class goals", although Brian Gayle and Paul Wilkinson deserved a special mention for their contributions in the shape of two own goals apiece.

### Best Goal Against      Ricky Otto, v Southend (H)

You can't argue with the sentiment that "there are never any good goals against — we should have stopped every one!!" Otto's goal was a clear winner, although the only comment in support of it was the straightforward "brilliant volley." And to rub salt into the wound, we'll be playing against him again this season. There were 15 other goals nominated, including John Taylor's own goal for Reading ("Kelvin had no chance"), and Marvin's second at Wolves.

### Best Opponents      Barnsley

An editorial casting vote gave this to Barnsley who "did a job on us, twice," ahead of Southampton ("they had little to beat"), because their quality was evident over two matches and "they play good attractive football and haven't spent millions in the process." Bolton were placed third, ahead of Grimsby (the respect for them is growing) and five others, with single votes bringing up the rear for Graham Pooley, Mitchell Thomas, and Watford ("They're crap!").

### Worst Opponents      Notts County

It must say something about playing standards in the division generally, and at Meadow Lane in particular, when Watford are unable to win this category. As it turned out they were in second place, lagging behind by four votes, so Notts not only overcame (if that's the right word) the lack of quality threshold, but also the innate loyalty of Hatters fans by being "truly abysmal." But the result does answer why we "still bother with this category." There will be no argument that Watford were "utterly crap," while in third place were Tranmere, "Premiership material — don't make me laugh" followed closely by Swindon. Four others received one vote apiece, but most entries mentioned Notts County as a second or third choice anyway.



## Things to look Forward to:

We asked you as part of the end of season poll, to tell us what you would like to look forward to. The number of suggestions is getting out of hand, and we might have to rethink this one next time. Meanwhile here is a selection of the answers you gave (demands on space mean we can't include all of them — we'd need to produce a special issue). Thanks to everybody who contributed to this.

The overthrow of the capitalist system, Guinness coming down to 20p a pint — oh, you mean on planet football..... Finishing top..... Actually getting through our traditional League Cup 1st round tie against opponents from a lower division..... Playing Total Football like Holland in 1974..... Beating Man Utd, Arsenal, Spurs and Leeds in either of the cups.... Peake growing dreadlocks..... More mental Luton away followings..... Finishing above the scum..... A Luton chant at Kenilworth Road..... Gary Waddock's next goal..... New stadium..... Next issue of MAAH..... Town beating Birmingham City..... Beating W..tford 5-3..... No David Pleat and no arcane mumbo jumbo excuses..... The championship..... Going back to Sheffield, and six points off the scum..... Beating the scum..... Captain Peakey lifting the FA Cup, Coca Cola Cup and League titles..... John Taylor's 100th goal of the season..... A pint or two in the pub before every home match..... Travelling miles for away matches in our small clapped out car..... Peakey scoring a goal..... Winning the Lottery and sponsoring the club..... A new kit (bring back orange)..... Erm.. Christmas..?... Molineux again (and the Great Western)..... A new ground..... A working scoreboard..... Oldham's next away shirt..... Peakey's 50th birthday party..... Pleat leaving Luton..... Going to Huddersfield again (95th league ground with Luton)..... Entering the "Give the Kohlerdome a real name" competition..... Reading of Mitchell Thomas' transfer..... Beating W..tford 4-1 away next season..... Preecey's 350th league match..... Our 3000th league match..... Our 2000th goal in the "2nd" Division.... Our 90th league goal of the season, and 30th clean sheet of the season..... Finishing higher than 16th..... Reading about reduced admission prices for 1996/97..... Seeing the first sod turned at Stockwood..... Experiencing helpful and friendly stewards..... Beating Sheffield Wednesday away in every bloody cup..... Getting in a new ground at Huddersfield..... Piss ups at Southend, Wolves, Portsmouth, Port Vale, Sheffield and Charlton..... Not having to play the vermin on Sunday or at 12 noon..... David Pleat "poaching" Mitchell Thomas again..... The return of Ceri Hughes..... Promotion as champions..... Sale of Juergen Sommer..... Doing the double over W..tford..... Winning the Premiership..... European domination..... Spending some of the Hartson money..... Norwich and Ipswich away, Town live on Anglia!!! Taylor/Marshall combination..... More victories over W..tford..... Pleaty leaving so we can wear orange shirts again..... A new shirt without a tacky 'iron on' sponsor logo and name..... Seeing Norwich have to use an away kit at W..tford..... Luton v Norwich on Anglia TV..... Winning a few million on the Lottery..... Coming home

to a Premiership team — we pull out of Hong Kong in 1997!..... The woman in the ticket office getting a sense of humour..... The new ground (in Luton, or that's it for me after 33 years)..... Promotion, and staying up..... Rob Matthews actually passing the ball (just once would do)..... Not sitting near the drum at Charlton..... Six points from the scum..... Winning as many trophies as Manchester United for the second successive season..... Not qualifying for the Anglo Italian Cup..... The Kohlerdome public enquiry..... Crystal Palace away (not)..... Mid table obscurity..... The return of Ceri Hughes..... Holding on to young players..... Beating W..tford..... A good cup run..... Spending money on players..... The Oak Road cat returning as a mascot..... No sales of players..... More issues of Mad as a Hatter!..... More brilliant TV coverage from Anglia..... Playing Birmingham City..... Peake scoring a hat-trick at W..tford..... A decent cup of tea at the Kenny End..... Luton spending £6 million to sign an international star..... Automatic promotion with 106 points..... A new back four?.... Pre season tour of Devonshire..... Promotion and ground..... Pleat spending some money on decent players..... Another season of 1st Div football..... New players, preferably from abroad..... A new manager. A new team..... Kathy Leather in leather for the Golden Gamble. The same kit..... Winning a trophy..... Slip End being bulldozed..... Richard Harvey completing an injury free season..... Mitchell Thomas, Gary Waddock and David Pleat leaving.... Buying a hard midfielder and a commanding centre half..... More consistency..... Beating Norwich and Ipswich and upsetting bloody Anglia..... W..tford getting relegated..... More own goals by Brian Gayle..... Ceri's return..... Me winning rollover week on the Lottery (I promise I will buy Alan Shearer)..... Winning home. Winning away. Winning promotion. Winning.

## JUST LAUGH AT THEM

Stockwood, not Woodstock. The anti-Kohlerdome protestors held their placards high, smug with coming up with such a clever catchphrase, in response to the idea that the stadium could be used for concerts.

However, they shouldn't be smug because "Stockwood, not Woodstock" is just a catchphrase for the amazingly stupid. Woodstock is a symbol of American greatness, not just an event that caused a lot of noise to the locals.

If such an event were ever to happen in the UK and by some such miracle, it occurred in Luton, this would be brilliant, wonderful, great, not something to protest about.

So in response to the Stockwood dolts' campaign, let us just laugh at the simpletons, and hope that the "powers that be" see them for what they are — morons.

B. Dave B.



## ***The Division One Who's Who***

Last season, Division One was the most evenly contested of all four top divisions, and the coming season looks like being no different — many of the sides being as likely to be involved in the play-off shake up, as fighting to avoid relegation. All of this makes trying to predict the outcome of the new season a hazardous business, but here goes. . . .

**Barnsley:** Danny Wilson's boys looked one of the better sides in the division last season, and should do all right again this year, but much will depend on whether they can keep Gerry Taggart.

**Birmingham City:** Made hard work of winning Division Two last year, but got there in the end. Have already spent heavily in the summer, and no doubt will continue to do so. Could well make the play-offs.

**Charlton Athletic:** Mid-table obscurity last season, and will do well to match that, especially if they don't get their customary flying start.

**Crystal Palace:** Bounced straight back last time they were relegated, but have since lost an inspirational manager and most of their better players. Unless they are replaced, difficult to see a repeat performance.

**Derby County:** Spent heavily in recent years to get absolutely nowhere, but money now seems to have dried up. Shouldn't struggle, but unlikely to be involved at the top either.

**Grimsby Town:** A tidy side, but unlikely to have the depth to seriously challenge for promotion. Always capable of matching the best on their day.

**Huddersfield Town:** A bit of an unknown quantity, Brian Horton may have his work cut out to avoid instant relegation. Anoraks amongst Town fans will enjoy visiting a new ground.

**Ipswich Town:** Struggled badly last year, and with little cash to spend on improving, must have every chance of emulating Swindon's back-to-back relegations.

**Leicester City:** Like Ipswich, way out of their depth last year, but will at least have money from the Draper sale. Back on familiar territory, they should be there or thereabouts come May.

**Millwall:** Flattered to deceive last season, they have the ability to do better provided they are not forced to sell. Games against the Town almost certain to be draws.

**Norwich City:** Expected to do well, and should do unless Robert Chase continues his ground improvement fetish. However, they may find it more difficult than they think to make an immediate return.

**Oldham Athletic:** Did very little of note last season, and unlikely to do so again this. May lose some of their good young players, and could be involved at the wrong end of the table.

**Port Vale:** Always try to play good football on limited resources. Found the going tough last year, and will, in all possibility, find the same this season.

**Portsmouth:** Still seem to be hung over from their near miss a couple of seasons ago. Ground problems could lead to lack of cash and, therefore, a season of struggle.

**Reading:** Surprised everyone, probably including themselves, by reaching the play-off final in May, but that side is showing signs of breaking up. Unlikely to do as well this season.

**Sheffield United:** Undermined by off season turmoil last season, much will depend on whether or not this is resolved. They should, however, be in or around the play-offs.

**Southend United:** Can't think of much to say about Southend. They should struggle, despite taking at least four points off the Town, but then again, who knows?

**Stoke City:** Another side who struggled for much of last season, and, with a somewhat ageing side, are unlikely to do much better this time.

**Sunderland:** Have been left behind by their nearest neighbours in recent years, and will be under enormous pressure to follow Newcastle and Middlesbrough into the Premiership. They won't.

**Tranmere Rovers:** Perennial play-off losers, the feeling persists that their chance of promotion has now gone for good. Will, as always, be difficult to beat at Prenton Park.

**Watford:** Lucky to escape the drop last year, hopefully will not be so fortunate this time. Manager would be captain of any world bullshitting team.

**West Bromwich Albion:** Well-supported side who should do better, but seem to lack ambition. Over reliant on Bob Taylor's goals, will need to keep him to avoid flirting too closely with the drop.

**Wolverhampton Wanderers:** Favourites, if only because of their riches. The GT factor (Graham Taylor and Geoff Thomas) more likely to be a handicap than help, but may well kick their way to the title.

So, enough of the twenty three teams that, frankly, we couldn't give a toss about, and on to the Hatters. What does the new season hold in store? Plenty to look forward to, I think. Unlike some, I was not devastated at Pleat's departure, frankly, since Christmas he seemed less and less interested, almost sensing he would be on his way at the end of the season. Whatever, he seemed unable to motivate the players at the fag end of the season. Terry Westley has inherited a squad that, as we all know, is capable of being amongst the best in the division, and he has already shown that he is prepared to spend money to strengthen the right areas. So far, he's also been buying players who should be at or approaching their best years. Despite the loss of Telfer and (?) Preece, there looks to be more depth to the squad, and if Westley and McGiven can instil more consistency, the play-offs are by no means out of the question.

AC





Mad as a Hatter! was pleased to sponsor player Gary Waddock last season. He is pictured presenting his shirt to Mark Wilson, a stalwart of our sales team.

## A LOT TO ANSWER FOR....

*When Saturday Comes* has a lot to answer for. It was March 1990, I was sitting on a train back from London, with a copy of WSC (that was in the days when 'normal' newsagents didn't stock it) in one hand, A can of beer in the other, when I chanced upon a note on the fanzines page. It said: "News of a Luton fanzine which is in the process of being put together. Budding contributors should write to. . . ."

Now I'd supported the Hatters since, well, a long time ago, but I had drifted away due to changes in lifestyle, job and All that. I hadn't even seen them play since 1985 although I can recall jumping round the front room when we won the League Cup in '88. And yet the following year I went as far as turning down a ticket (a free one at that!) to go to the '89 Final because I was going on holiday. I tell you this — these days I'd cancel the holiday! In fact I'd go further — now I plan my holidays to avoid major football occasions just in case we're involved! But back to '90 — WSC had brought me back to football as, for the first time ever really, there was a magazine that captured the true spirit of what it's all about and the memories of the past came flooding back — I wanted to be a part of it again. This was the third time I'd bought WSC so when I saw this plea for a Luton fanzine I had to respond, at first a flood of articles came forth, part of a pent up need I never knew I had, to download my experiences of football in the late 60s, 70s and early 80s, winning the 4th division, Brian Lewis, our great home record in between '68 and '72, and what a fine fellow Nelkin was, an article published a week before he sacked Jimmy Ryan. Perhaps my greatest coup though was an article on the legendary Pat Flood who was stirred from an early grave to start cartooning again! But for me the terrible writer's block set in, like a goalscorer who can't find the net anymore, I had no ideas left! For a year I wrote nothing and now I realise that I shall only be able to make the odd guest appearance and wait for the testimonial!

But back to 1990/91: with the new found enthusiasm for the game rekindled I started to come to Kenilworth Road again, at first courtesy of guest tickets (thanks Andy) and then on my own card, at first every other month, then every month, then every other week, then every other away game as well — something had to break, and it did — my bank account. I had to slow down (after all even a home match is 100 miles and 2.5 hours from my home) and now I've settled at two out of three homes and the occasional away. If I ever win the Lottery I'll never miss a game again, damn it I could even buy the club.

So what of these 5 'Mad as a Hatter!' years? It all started so optimistically with the fanzine lauding the arrival of Nelkin and Kohler, soured with Jimmy



Ryan's sacking which led to Nelkin's acrimonious departure and a long campaign to oust DK. Yet now he's really turned things round, giving away free tickets, fighting for a new ground, fighting our corner when Pleaty was poached, I mean, when was the last time you heard a 'Kohler out' chant? We have fallen out of the top flight after those close years, just about avoided a further drop, had a great cup run and last season the unparalleled achievement of mid-table obscurity. Pleat came back, and then left again, and Marvin Johnson is still in the first team. More significantly we have moved into an era of interactive fanzines like WHOSH (Worldwide Hatters on the Super Highway) lauded by The Times as "perhaps the most sophisticated (interactive) fanzine". Through this Town fans across the globe, from South Africa to Singapore, Australia to the USA, England to Germany, can chat about all the latest gossip, make wildly controversial statements, suggest outlandish people as the new manager and still get listened to!

There's still a place for good old paper fanzines though, don't get me wrong. Mad as a Hatter! has seen off all the other Townzines and there's a very good chance it'll still be around in 2000 celebrating its 10th Anniversary by which time we'll be in the. . . . oh, I don't know where we will be but it's going to be great fun finding out.

Happy 5th birthday Mad!



*The Expatriate*

## Can Kohler Really Be For(Mc)Given

"Have you got over getting McGiven as your assistant manager yet?" These were the words which greeted me when I spoke to an Ipswich fanatic friend of mine on the phone last night, just hours after the announcement of the appointment of Terry Westley's second in command. I had been looking forward to gloating about us getting Gavin Johnson for £0 and 0p, my friend's favourite player, but obviously this was sent to balance the deal. Now Terry Westley I can accept, a brave choice but when Kohler said (something like) "he's never been a professional footballer which is a good thing" I was puzzled. Whilst great footballers rarely make good managers, I can't think of any great managers who've never been footballers. Still, I accept the choice and wish him well. It's the choice of Mick McGiven that galls me.

McGiven rose to prominence as coach to Lyall's Ipswich when they won the old Second Division 'in style' the same season as we went down. Lyall then moved aside and McGiven became Team Manager for Ipswich. Their season started well but then it all started to go wrong. McGiven's response to the crisis was to create a brand new team formation — you've heard of 4-4-2, well Ipswich started playing 10-0-0 — the imaginative idea was to dispense with the luxury of forwards and even midfielders and pack the defence. He adopted the old Italian adage of 'if a game starts 0-0, let's keep it that way'. I am told that watching McGiven's Ipswich away was like watching paint dry in slow motion, and the home games were nearly as bad. Ipswich fans, like us, want to see their team play attractive football and they grew restless, with pitch demos and the like. McGiven was sacked — then things got even worse for Ipswich but that need not concern us here. What troubles me is that McGiven might try his negative ideas with us — regular away fans you have been warned.

I really do hope I am wrong — when McGiven was coach at Ipswich they played well, only when he became manager did the rot set in — so maybe that shows he's a far better coach than manager. But just now I fail to understand the logic of appointing someone who has so spectacularly failed as McGiven did. When interviewed on BBC Look East, McGiven replied to the question "do you have something to prove after it went wrong at Ipswich?" His reply, showing a rather selective memory, was that things actually went very well at Ipswich, so no, he had nothing to prove. Wrong Mick, you do have something to prove — you have to prove you can create, with Terry, a team in the Luton tradition — good attacking football, a bit fragile at times, but mostly damn good fun to watch. Fail us in that and we will not be pleased. You've been entrusted with the job — please don't let us down!

Prophetic articles like this have a habit of looking silly a year or so later so I hope in 1998 someone will read this and think "what an idiot, McGiven took us into Europe!" So good luck to Terry and Mick, take risks, don't play safe, and we might just be "there or thereabouts" come next May.

*The Expatriate*



## DePleated — Again

The big story about Luton Town during this summer has revolved around the departure, in acrimonious circumstances, of David Pleat to Sheffield Wednesday. And although David Kohler fought hard to keep Pleat, or at least get a healthy compensation for his departure, it seems that few Town fans were shedding many tears. Most, it would seem, have felt that it was time for a change of some sort with the teams fortunes stuck in something of a rut in recent years.

During two spells as Town manager, Pleat had built his reputation, and then rejuvenated a career damaged by a poor spell at Leicester, but in his second spell it seemed that he had managed to gloss over a poor record in terms of results. The praise he received during the last four years revolved around one good cup run, and a series of player sales to bigger richer clubs based on the idea that Luton are a small club battling against the odds to stay where we are.

Personally, I am glad that Pleat has gone, as his faults as a manager seem to outweigh his good points. To give credit where it is due, he can, on occasion, be a brilliant tactician, as proved by the defeat of Newcastle in January '93. And in the transfer market he has been a shrewd operator, but mainly on the selling side over the last four years, whereas in the previous spell, that reputation was based both on buying and selling. The signings this time round were, with the notable exception of Phil Gray, mainly players signed on free transfers, or at bargain basement prices, but going nowhere. Too many thirtysomethings and teenagers, giving us a team with an average age in the mid twenties, but hardly any players in that age group. And far too many of those signings were players who had worked under Pleat at his previous clubs, or who he had tried to sign years before.

Players were undoubtedly developed under Pleat, but there was also a tendency to persevere for too long with those in the depths of a bad spell. Examples would be Andy Petterson, a keeper who made Juergen look top class, Martin Williams, still given chances last season ahead of better players, and Mitchell Thomas, rumoured to be a close personal friend of Pleat. At times you could get the impression that he was determined to prove himself right when all around him knew he was wrong.

At the same time young players were being over protected, clearly shown by the fact that Hartson couldn't be sure of a first team place at Luton when he was sold for £2.5 million. Indeed, of the team that finished last season none were youngsters who had come through the ranks in the last two seasons, with the possible exception of Kelvin Davis, although it is arguable whether a player is established after 11 games. The likes of Thorpe, Skelton, Greene, Woodsford and Chenery wait in the wings, all of them having had the odd couple of games and then been left in the reserves.

Others have clearly developed under Pleat, but failed to reach their full potential, often not knowing what position they are playing in from one week to the next, as a winning formation is sought. Scott Oakes particularly seemed to suffer from

this, and will, I hope, benefit from playing under a new manager and being given a role in the team which will not be altered to accommodate others. If nothing else, he should never be played at right back again!

As I said earlier, tactically Pleat could be brilliant, but in recent years he seems to have been caught out too often, and has been unable to respond. Motivation just doesn't seem to have existed, and this has been taken out on the players, perhaps unfairly. In the eyes of Town fans, our teams have developed a reputation for fragility, particularly late in games, which has often seen victories slide away into defeats. What has been said in dressing rooms at half time remains a mystery, but at the beginning of last season the papers were full of crap about what the players were being given to eat, instead of the rockets they should have been getting. Substitutions have never been Pleat's strong point and all too often it was the wrong player replacing the wrong player at the wrong time, in fans eyes, and we were not proved wrong often enough.

Probably most irritating to fans has not been what he did, but what he said. Whether it was in programme notes, on radio or television, he has a capacity to irritate. The old favourite was the frequently aired, usually after a dire home defeat, "I saw some good things out there", closely followed by "There may have been a mistake by the player, but we'll have to watch the video." The latter usually came after a spectacular own goal, or something similar. He also seemed to have little respect for those who might challenge his opinions (the likes of the writer, for example), suggesting that if those who criticised players/managers knew anything about the game they would be employed in it rather than paying to watch it. Such contempt for supporters is a disgrace, but this contempt also tended to be shown by the speed with which Pleat would leave any function which carried a risk of having to meet ordinary supporters.

In summary, Pleat has been associated with Luton Town FC for a long time. In his first spell he established a reputation for stylish football that had began under Harry Haslam, and in his own right established the team in the top flight of English football, and became noted as a shrewd and clever operator in the transfer market. In his second spell he established the team as perennial relegation strugglers, and the most positive term I can associate with him is financially lucrative, for the club and presumably himself (through TV and radio work, as well his management contract — I am not trying to suggest anything untoward). I am glad he has gone, and hope that he realises that Sheffield Wednesday's supporters expect a very different type of success.

K.F.H.

## MERCHANDISE

The *Mad as a Hatter!* range (can two items be called a range?) of merchandise is still available. The '74 shirts, in a choice of 2 sizes, sell at £26.95, while the aerial photo of the home of quality football (that's Kenilworth Road) is a snip at £3.50. Both available from the usual address. The ad will be back next issue.



# The King and I

"My biggest crush is on Elvis Presley," said midfielder Ceri Hughes recently. "He's the only man I'd ever marry!"

## The secret love of Ceri Hughes!

But does Ceri really want to be Michael Jackson's step mother in law?

HEY HUGHESIE, WILL YOU GET MY SHOPPING FOR ME?

OF COURSE MINI, WE DON'T WANT TO RISK YOU GETTING INJURED!

AND SO CERI WENT TO TESCO'S



BIZARRE AS IT MAY SEEM CERI AND ELVIS WERE SECRET ADMIRERS OF EACH OTHER, AND SO AT KAISER'S PALACE



CERI SANG CWM RHONDDA AND DELILAH, DAMN THEY SOUNDED BOTH THE SAME ---



I CAN JUST SEE THE HEADLINES: LUTON STAR GETS INVOLVED WITH BOOS AT NIGHTCLUB!



MEANWHILE: AT KENILWORTH ROAD --



I MUST UPHOLD CERI'S ROLE AS A HARD MAN!



OK FATSO, IT'S EARLY BATH TIME FOR YOU!



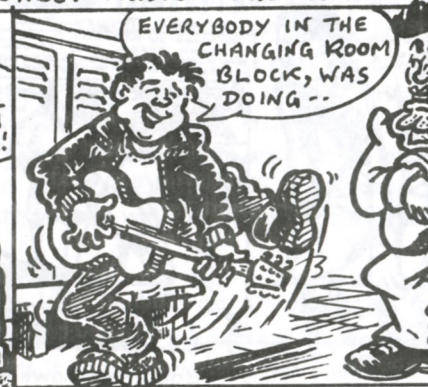
WELL YOU CAN DO ANYTHING BUT LAY OFF OF HIS BLUE SUEDE BOOTS!



OH MISERY, WHAT'S GONNA BECOME OF ME?



YES INDEED, CERI AND ELVIS MADE SWEET MUSIC TOGETHER ---



THE EARLY BATH ROCK!





# WHO ON EARTH WAS BOBBIN DINO IN THE FIRST PLACE?

Bobbin Dino's name came partly from the Bobber's Stand and Dino's Off Licence (now defunct). He was "The Hatter's Own Hero" in an adventure strip "Which Side Was He On?" for Junior Hatters in the Matchday Programme during the 1980/81 season.

Because of the "official" nature of the strip the brief was that there could be no satire or implied criticism of the club. In the end we agreed upon a bizarre plot about a Central American signing who was also a secret agent.

A second story "Head for Heights" followed in 1981/82. But the strip brought neither fame nor fortune to either the Junior Hatters or the

writer/artist and Bobbin was therefore dropped.

South-Beds CamRA was the midwife which brought about the rebirth ten years later by being a shared past of Fanzine Editor and Cartoonist. Thus El Dino was revived in Mad As a Hatter for the 1992/93 season, with a head transplant, and is now set for a fourth season. This time round the brief was the direct opposite: "Whatever Happened to Bobbin Dino?" could be cynical, topical, critical and (with a bit of luck) funny! - Ray A.



THE SIXTH SENSE WHICH MADE "BOBBIN" SUCH A FINE POSITIONAL PLAYER, WARNED HIM THERE WAS DANGER AT HIS BACK!



## WHICH SIDE WAS HE ON? EPISODE TWENTY-TWO

by Ray Aspden.



Bobbin borrows the body of Alex McLeish!

# TOWN TRAVELS

If it's August, it must be the holiday season, and the fixtures seem to back that up with three visits to the seaside in the month. First we're off to Southend, home of the worlds longest (burnt) pier, then it's down to Bournemouth, and finally a midweek trip to the millionaires playground that is Cleethorpes for the match against Grimsby. September, by contrast, keeps us firmly inland with matches at Reading (where there is more chance of our heads getting wet than our feet), Millwall and Wolverhampton. And then there will be the extra match if (and it's a very big if) we defy our form in the competition and beat Bournemouth.

Starting off with Southend, we can only hope for an improvement on last seasons performance, which shouldn't be all that difficult. For beer, there are several decent pubs in the town itself. The LIBERTY BELLE, Marine Parade is on the seafront close to the pier, as is the FALCON HOTEL, a rare Riddleys' pub in the area. The CORK & CHEESE, Chartwell Square, Victoria Circus is close to Southend Victoria Station and hidden away in a shopping precinct, but worth a visit for it's constantly changing range of beers. The alternative to drinking in town is usually Rochford, a single stop from Prittlewell (nearest station to Roots Hall) on the Liverpool Street line. Here the GOLDEN LION, North Street, is recommended, but doesn't serve Pernod!

On to Bournemouth, which must have some pubs worth drinking in, but the best advice seems to be to go to Poole! And, unless I can get any information more useful than that before we go to press, that's all your getting.

Grimsby next, and the drinking in Cleethorpes is certainly better than Bournemouth. On the seafront, at 17 High Cliff Road, is WILLY'S PUB & BREWERY, which is, as the name suggests, a home brew establishment set in a cafe style pub. Those seeking a more traditional type of pub might like to try the NOTTINGHAM HOUSE, 7 Seaview Street, just off the sea front, a Tetley pub.

For the visit to Reading, pray for good weather for a rare opportunity to sample open terracing. The BUTLER, Chatham Street (Fuller's), and WALLINGFORD ARMS, 2 Caroline Street (Morland) look to be the best bets for a pre match drink.

On to Millwall for a midweek match, and an old favourite in the shape of the WHEATSHEAF, Stoney Street (by Borough Market), and the adjacent MARKET PORTER, a pair of free houses a few minutes walk from London Bridge station. By way of a change however, the FOUNDERS ARMS, 52 Hopton Street is an excellent riverside Young's pub within easy walking distance of Blackfriars station, across the river.

Finally for this issue is the ever popular trip to Molineux, accompanied, for those of discerning taste, by the visit to the GREAT WESTERN, Sun Street, a superb back street Holden's pub near to both the current Wolverhampton station and the old low level station. Expect it to be packed, and if you order food be prepared for it to arrive almost instantaneously. Wolverhampton has plenty of good pubs, which is more than can be said for the availability of car parking.



Finally, for those who cannot get enough information on away venues, good news. The Football Fan's Guidebook, newly published, should have just appeared on the shelves of your local bookshop retailing at £8.99. Having seen some of the proofs for the book a few months ago, I can highly recommend it for leaving no stone unturned in the search for correct and comprehensive information which most other books of the genre lack. A full review will follow in issue 29.

K.F.H.

## GENOA — for £59!!

### GENOA v LUTON TOWN, 11 OCTOBER 1995

Having heard that the cheapest trip available from the club will cost you a whacking £210, we are in the process of organising a budget priced coach trip for the Anglo Italian Cup match at the Stadio Luigi Ferraris.

The coach will depart from Luton on Tuesday morning 10th October and, leaving Genoa immediately after the match, will arrive back in the evening of Thursday 12th October. There will be a free half day in Genoa. Outward travel will be via the Channel Tunnel, returning on a cross channel ferry (because the duty frees are cheaper!).

To book your place send a cheque for £59.00 payable to Haylit Travel, to Genoa Trip, 292 Icknield Way, Luton, LU3 2JS. Phone (01582) 573485 for further details.

**KERRY'S NEW  
LAWNMOWER WAREHOUSE**  
Rectory Farm, Upper Stondon,  
Near Shefford.

MOWERS, STRIMMERS ETC  
Exchanges Welcome

Tel: (0462) 812973  
for free advice

OPEN 7 DAYS  
SUNDAY 10am-5pm



Where are they now? Looks like our old striker has gone to pastures new, or has he just been put out to grass?

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

# MAD AS A HATTER!

A LUTON TOWN FANZINE

## Frayed Nerves

At the time of writing the Towns destiny is still far from certain. Two wins may be enough to ensure another season of first division football, but equally may not be enough to avoid the big drop. Scarcely believable for Town fans is the fact that if points and goal difference are equal at the end of the season we would stay above Wednesday through having scored more goals. The unsatisfactory aspect of this is having to rely on another teams results to settle the future. Charlton Athletic and Nottingham Forest are not, on current form, the teams you would put your last pound on, and Sheffield Wednesday were, according to the pundits, out of danger a month ago. However, the late charge to safety is nothing new in the first division. In recent seasons both Coventry City and Charlton Athletic have confounded the odds to climb to safety at the eleventh hour, or even later. Luton Towns hopes are far from over, and if the residents of Selhurst Park can turn in the right set of results today, then it will all rest on the final match of the season. If so we can only speculate on the possibility of Mick Harford nodding one in at the wrong end, or who the Town hero will be this time. Perhaps Raddy Antic should be called up out of retirement.

A week of frayed nerves ahead for Town supporters ?  
We certainly hope so.



# About 'Mad'

Welcome to the first edition of "Mad as a Hatter", not quite as was intended, but look upon it as a free sample! We'll be appearing at regular intervals, starting early next season, hopefully providing a forum for supporters to air their views about the Town, and other football topics.

We'll welcome any contributions from you for publication - please send them to us at the address below.

"Mad as a Hatter" is an independent publication, and has no connection with Luton Town FC, Luton Town Supporters Club, or any other supporters organisation.

The views expressed in this publication are those of the individual contributors concerned and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial team.

## Editorial team:

Andy Collon  
Keith Hayward  
Phil Ivinson

## Correspondence address:

30 Linden Road,  
Dunstable,  
Beds, LU5 4NZ.

## Next Issue

The first full scale issue of "Mad as a Hatter" will be on sale at the first home game next season, but we're afraid you'll have to pay for it!

We'll be on sale around the ground on matchdays, and hopefully in local newsagents, etc.

If anyone knows of any outlet that would be willing to stock "Mad as a Hatter" please let us know, at the above address.

# About Town

It's all too easy to blame the current board of directors for our plight this season. However, it must be said that they have to take the majority of the blame if, as looks likely, Town are relegated - after all they were happy enough to share in the limelight after the 1988 Littlewoods Cup win. Too many of the present board seem to be lacking in the necessary commitment and in all honesty they have let the fans down. Not a single penny of the £1.5m received from the sales of Wegerle and Harford has been made available to Jim Ryan for new players which seems to be contrary to promises made at the time. Whether Ronnie Rosenthal would have made any difference we will never know, but it is particularly galling to see how well he has done so far at Liverpool.

This is not to belittle the efforts of the present players, whose effort and commitment has, in general, been outstanding since Jim took over. If only they had played like that before Christmas..... Having said that, it is obvious that some reshuffling will be necessary in the close season if next season is to be successful no matter what division we're in. Hopefully by then we'll have some directors prepared to make a financial commitment, no matter whether they be new to the club or existing board members having had a change of heart. Otherwise, it is difficult to see any immediate prospect of better times ahead.

Being cynical is easy of course, but the recent injection of £1.2m by the directors does not really mean any good news for Town fans. It is all money which will have to be repaid, with interest, and by the end of the summer will be equivalent to another £1.5m. This takes into account the loss of £6000 per week, most of which will be eliminated by trimming down the playing staff. That these debts exist is due to ground improvements, and membership schemes. We have been told the truth now, but it is too late. It is difficult for any dedicated Town fan to be able to trust the directors now, and in the future with the care of what we all regard as our club.



# A 'Mad' Poll

Not too taxing, we hope, but a chance for you, the ordinary supporter, to tell us what you really think about the 1989/90 season, with a couple of questions on the wider issues concerning the club thrown in for good measure.

1. Player of the season for the Town.
2. Most promising young player.
3. Best Town performance this season.
4. Worst Town performance this season.
5. Best goal scored for the Town.
6. Best goal scored against Town.
7. Best opposition player.
8. Worst opposition player.
9. Best referee (Ha!)
10. Worst referee.
11. Worst boardroom decision.
12. Should away fans be allowed back next season ?
13. Should a grass pitch be installed at Kenilworth Rd ?
14. Does the membership scheme work, and should it be kept in force ?

Replies to 30 Linden Road, Dunstable, Beds, LU5 4NZ please.

As ~~a bribe~~ an incentive to answer, we intend to draw one or two entries out of a Wembley '88 straw boater (of course) to win a prezzie - although we've no idea yet what it will be.

In the next issue of "Mad as a Hatter!"

THAT TEAM - Possibly the worst ever Luton Town eleven.

WHERE NEXT - A look at the relocation problems facing both the club and the town.

ITALIA '90 - A World Cup review - Scotlands glorious failure, Eire's success and Charltons Sainthood, Robsons injury and Englands shame - and much more.

All this and more in "Mad as a Hatter!" available around the ground at next seasons first home game.

# IT ALL ENDED IN TEARS

(LAST SEASON, THAT IS)

30.04.95 MIDDLESBROUGH 1 TOWN 2

*You wot! You wot! You wot!*

At last we had reached the final away game of the season. A week before this fixture I was joined by hundreds of fans queueing all night to get a ticket for this memorable match. I had also heard that the 'Boro fans had bought all tickets available to them just to get a glimpse of Peakey's bald patch.

The match day came and I walked up to the top of our stand, when I reached the top I was engulfed by a mass of orange, blue 'n' white Town colours. I took advantage of this and began to sing "YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE AT HOME". Then, to my surprise I found no-one joining in with me. I looked down to the front of the stand and saw a young man selling programmes so I ran down to the front and got £6 out of my pocket, after all that's a fair price for a programme these days, but to my surprise and delight he told me it was £3. Wow! That must be the cheapest programme in the land.

By this time there were some players (young and old) walking around the pitch getting a round of applause from the crowd, they weren't any of the present players and as they passed I still didn't recognise any of them. But then I saw who was possibly the greatest ever loan signing Luton and Pleat have ever made, when he pulled on the Town shirt you could tell he was proud to be at Kenny Road and would die for the club. Yes, you've guessed who it was, the fans favourite, the man who could not stop scoring..... MARK BURKE. So, on this evidence I gave everyone a massive round of applause because the players walking around must have been all of Luton's top loan signings.

Eventually we reached the traditional kick-off time of 2.55 and the match started. The first half was fairly even, but we had a little more pressure. Late in the half we got a penalty. Our left back, Harvey, stepped up but their keeper saved it. What a COX he really is. But right on half time we took the lead from a shot by "Super John" deflected into the net. Half time, 1-0 to Town.

In the second half we began to take over and their keeper played a blinder, saving them from a thrashing, but in the 62nd minute Pollock's (a word to describe this rhymes with Pollock's) cross was met by their "Super John", I was furious, it was clearly offside. The thousands of Town fans stayed motionless from shock. The game continued as it had been and eventually we found our deserved winner when "Super John" side footed in our second. Even then their keeper made some marvellous saves to prevent our victory being more emphatic, as those who had viewed the game on television will realise. We were asked to stay off the pitch at the end so the players could come back out and congratulate us. It was a great day.

*The Dream-dome*



PS: On a serious note, when we were leaving 'Boro, wasn't it good to see a whole row of 'Boro cars with parking tickets, on the grass verge just before we got on the motorway. *(If they had all been 'Boro fans cars I would agree with you, but I suspect that some of my colleagues may not have been amused! - Ed)*

### 07.05.95 TOWN 2 STOKE CITY 3

This was probably as near as you can get to having one game sum up the whole season. Although the party atmosphere among the away fans was a bit different, their ability to outsize the home support was not. And the team played their part to perfection. The first half of the game was the old story of possession not being turned into goals, and it took a full back to show the so-called strikers how to score a goal. Richard Harvey's superb strike after 43 minutes was his first goal for three and a half years, and the keeper was left helpless by the power of the shot. A goal so close to half time should have been the catalyst for a victory, but not for the first time, the opposition were spurred on by their half time talk. Stoke were a different side in the second half and Orlingsson's goal was just what they needed to encourage them. It doesn't help to know that it came from a free kick, awarded for Thomas' push on Scott. As Stoke pushed for a result, Town faded and a reshuffle after Woodsford's substitution had little effect. Peschisolido got a second for Stoke, and it looked all over. But then Gary Waddock mis-hit the ball into the net, and it looked as though one point had been saved. Judging by Waddock's reaction you would be forgiven for thinking he had won the Lottery. That was the reaction of a man who wants to play for Luton. Sadly, the game was not over, and Keith Scott's header (coupled with a hint of a mistake from Kelvin) brought Stoke victory, and condemned us to the First round of the Coca Cola Cup, and the possibility of yet another embarrassing defeat.

I have a couple of questions about the line up for this game. Why was Oakes played at right back? OK, James wasn't available but surely even at his worst Oakes would be better in midfield, and Chenery or even McLaren could have worn the No.2 shirt. Secondly, what on earth had Thomas done to justify being back in the side? That was probably the most unjustified selection of the season (apart from Thomas replacing Harvey at Charlton), and again denied a promising youngster some valuable experience, instead giving a game to the one player most Town fans would prefer to see at another club. "Spider" seems to have lost every ounce of ability he ever had, and the concept of him being a useful squad member is completely lost on me.

Ken Ross

### 15.05.95 THE EVENING STANDARD LONDON FIVES

Settling down for an evening in front of the telly, I expected us to go out in the 2nd round (well, we had Watford in the 1st). How little I knew. We easily beat our rivals 3-0 in the 1st Round. Thorpe scored after 3 minutes and Telfer scored twice (5 & 7 mins) to take his tally against them to 5 for the season.

Team: Davis, Thorpe, Telfer, Johnson, Skelton. Subs: Preece, Woodsford.

Drawn against Barnet in the 2nd Round, the game went to a shoot-out after a 2-2 draw after 10 minutes. Hodges had put Barnet ahead on 2 mins before Marv levelled at the start of the 2nd half. Primus put Barnet back ahead a minute later and Woodsford took the game to a shootout with an equaliser after 8 mins. The first 4 kicks were all missed (Telfer and Preece for Luton) and the next 4 all scored (Woodsford and Marv for us). It was left to the keepers. Kelvin scored for Luton, then saved Phillips' effort, which meant we won 3-2.

Team: Davis, Thorpe, Telfer, Johnson, Skelton. Subs: Preece, Woodsford.

The semi-final saw us meet favourites QPR. Gallen opened the scoring after 3 mins but Marv levelled after 7 mins to take it to another shootout. Kelvin saved Gallen's effort, and Marv's screamer put us into the final against Wycombe.

Team: Davis, Preece, Telfer, Johnson, Woodsford. Subs: Thorpe, Skelton.

Playing last years winners in the final was a lot further than I thought we'd get. The 10 minutes of normal time were goalless, so the dreaded shoot-out would decide the winners. Marv missed our effort and Carroll scored to win the tournament for Wycombe. Well, at least we still got a runners-up trophy and prize money for our troubles.

Team: Davis, Preece, Thorpe, Telfer, Skelton. Subs: Marv, Woodsford.

PS: Where did Sky find Jonathon Pearce? He is a Spurs loving nutter who shouldn't have been let out to commentate on this (even Brian Moore is better than him, and that's saying something!).

And did anyone else get the feeling that everyone in the crowd was rooting for Wycombe in the final. Something to do with all the boos our boys received every time they got the ball told me that.

Beatle

### 22.05.95 TOWN 3 MAN UTD YOUTH 3 (Testimonial)

What a great match for David Preece's 10, well appreciated, years at Luton. I got the chance of being in the Kenilworth for only the second time, the first when we trounced Oxford 7-4 in February 1988. The game started well, with Preecey almost scoring with his head and then missing a couple of half chances. Taylor didn't disappoint us, scoring twice in 5 minutes to put us in command. Preecey and Taylor should have had another 10 goals between them, the worst miss when SuperJohn headed against the angle from 1 yard out and the keeper stranded 20 yards away, but with it being a testimonial I couldn't really care less. United's best chance came when they hit the bar (I wasn't really paying attention to who it was). Half-time came after 40 minutes and the second half brought the second reason I was at the match. Memories of the mid eighties came flooding back with Stein, Foster, Donaghy, Hill and big Mick all coming on. Man Utd came back a different team and soon went 3-2 up before Nathan Abbey, the youth team keeper, came on for Kelvin Davis. With time running out, Preecey got his goal



which would even make a You've Been Framed video look real. Stein swivelled with the ball, could have scored himself but passed it kindly to Mini, who couldn't miss (*as the keeper dived for God knows what*). Frantic celebrations with mediocre chants of 'Mini' and 'Preecey' as he saluted the Kenny End. Full time came at 80 minutes, and Preecey got a well deserved standing ovation. Here's to the next few years Mini (unless you bugger off to QPR).

That's the nice report about the match, but one thing that really got to me while there was the Man Utd GLORY fans. They could all be recognised in the crowd because of there non-Mancunian accents — dead giveaway. The glory hunters had only just worked out which colours they were playing in when they scored so they decided to celebrate the goal — not wishing to admit they didn't know who the hell had scored. There was this one bloke in particular in the front row of the Kenny who turned round to the rest of us, arms aloft and cheering. He was immediately met with boos, chants of 'who are you' and joyous comments of 'where's your double gone', 'is this the first game you've been to' etc, etc. Not only did he get to me, but also all the small glory kids about. You know the ones I mean, the ones under 9 years old who shriek 'United' and 'Ryan Giggs' but have probably started supporting Blackburn by now, saying that they've always liked the club, whether it be hometown or whatever. I was born in Luton and have supported the Town all my life and will continue to do so, through thick and thin. I wouldn't go and support a team like Man Utd like these glory fans just because Luton were relegated or something like that. Bloody glory hunters, don't you just hate them?

*Beatle*

PS: that is the first and most definitely the last Hot Dog I buy from the refreshment kiosk. It was disgusting.

#### 22.07.95 DISS TOWN 1 TOWN 5

Two intrepid Suffolk based WHOSH people met up at the Diss Town game, expecting a youth friendly only to find the first team squad in attendance — Terry Westley used to be player/manager at Diss so he was obviously doing them a favour. Word had obviously got around as at least one third of the crowd were Luton fans. It was more like being at a cricket match though, not just because of the weather, but because the players come on to the pitch, through the crowd, from a pavilion, mingled freely with the crowd (when not playing!), and drank in the same bar area afterwards. A world away from professional football.

The game was an entertaining kick-about, Taylor scored twice in the first half, one a sharp shot from the edge of the box, the second a hilarious affair as he literally walked the ball into the goal, after being put through 30 yards out, using just about every legal part of his anatomy on the way! The second half saw 8 of the players being replaced by subs, Diss pulled a good goal back then three fairly scrappy goals, two Thorpe and one Oldfield. Highlight of the second half was a certain T. Westley coming on as sub for Waddock and dazzling us all with his silky

midfield skills — he'll be challenging for a place soon, I have no doubt!

All the other Town fans had gone home but as we lived locally we stayed on, and were sitting in the bar when up came Terry Westley, sat down next to us and started chatting about things quite openly. About his jacket he said "Mr Kohler will want this back on Monday" (he'd just spilt his drink on it). He then talked about how things were going with various players, the fact that we were going to sign Bontcho, the doubts he had over Bruno, where Preecey might be going, how he was going to persuade Juergen to sign again, why we were signing the players we were — a classic quote "Me and Mick are signing players that can play", followed by "we want competition for places". That is definitely a good thing as it has been sadly lacking in recent seasons. Terry's willingness to spend five minutes talking to a pair of ordinary fans must be applauded, he even consented to having his photo taken with us — a great attitude from a truly nice bloke. And so the players got on the coach home, and Scotty was spotted taking yet another glass of his favourite body building material on to the coach with him, yes, another pint of Guinness!

*The Expatriate*

#### 27.07.95 KETTERING TOWN 2 TOWN 1

A difficult match for the Town side, against opponents who were clearly better prepared and motivated. A goal for Dwight Marshall, from Taylor's cross seemed only to spur on the home side, and in the second half they got their rewards. In the process, much of the early optimism of the Town fans was comprehensively blown away, but this may not have been such a bad thing.

*K.F.H.*

#### 31.07.95 TIVERTON TOWN 1 TOWN 5

OK, so we haven't had a report for this game, but ought to mention a first half hat-trick for Bontcho Guentchev, which went most of the way to securing the result.

#### 03.08.95 TORQUAY UNITED 1 TOWN 4

An interesting evening out at Plainmoor, where the announcer would be a candidate, with our own, in the 'Worst Announcer' stakes. For some inexplicable reason he felt it necessary to spell Gary Waddock's name, but the peak was his description of Bontcho as a French international! Bontcho took his revenge with another hat-trick, but the match was more significant for the number of injuries. Having started with a squad weakened by the loss of Hughes, Marshall, Taylor and Steve Davis, we then lost Oakes, Matthews, and Bontcho, and finished up with David Greene playing up front. One can only imagine what Torquay fans must have thought of our second string striker, because we know what we thought of him.

*K.F.H.*



## 04.08.95 EXETER CITY 0 TOWN 2

The brief tour of Devon was concluded with a Town victory over last seasons 92nd club. The two goals were a penalty from Thorpe, after Guentchev (him again) had been fouled, and one for Rob Matthews. Otherwise the game was crap. However, there was mitigation in that the team seemed to be made up of all the fit players available, and, most unusually for a friendly, the same 11 players were on the field for the whole 90 minutes. If nothing else, it went some way toward proving the wisdom of having such a large squad of players. But, at the end of the day, it was 3 wins out of 3 on tour, and you can't ask more than that.

*K.F.H.*

## Revenge at Last

If anyone likes Norwich or thinks they play good football, stop reading now, because I am going to insult them. You see, it's my turn. Living in King's Lynn, which looking on your road map is approximately 45 miles west of Norwich on the A47, I was 'torn to shreds' when the Town went down against Notts County, and since that day I have plotted revenge.

Although my revenge plans have not been without problems, Norwich entering the European arena didn't help me much. But then someone unlikely gave me a hand — Robert Chase, the Chairman. He began by selling Ruel Fox, then Chris Sutton, followed by Efan Ekoku and Mark Robins. Norwich started to slide after Christmas, it was as if they were helping Isaac Newton in some kind of gravity experiment. One win, against derby rivals Ipswich, and that was that. A defeat at Leeds, the correct results at Villa Park and Southampton, welcome Norwich City to Endsleigh League football.

When we get to Carrow Road next season, forget West Ham for 'over aggressive stewarding and policing'. The stewards and police at Carrow Road are by far the most aggressive and over reacting lot that I have ever seen. So as you can see Norwich now match my liking of Watford, in a word, crap.

The funny thing about the whole affair was when Ipswich got relegated, all the Norwich fans were obviously slating their rivals, but now it seems that Ipswich and myself are having the last laugh.

*Anthony Reid*

## 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.

To subscribe, send a cheque for £5 (payable to Hatters Matters) to: Hatters Matters, 292 Icknield Way, Luton, LU3 2JS. Or just send an SAE for a free sample copy.

## WHY DOESN'T JUERGEN SOMMER LIKE ME?

An open letter to a Hatter from a Mad Hatter:

Mr Juergen Sommer  
Luton Town Football Club  
1 Maple Road  
Luton, Beds, LU4 8AW.  
England

Dear Mr Sommer,

To get right to the point, I have a bone to pick with you so I won't beat around the bush. It's time to clear my mind and get these thoughts off my chest hoping that you will see fit to try to rectify the situation. And, if possible, I'm willing to start anew and forget what has happened. But it is all up to you.

Last March I travelled to Luton to be at Kenilworth Road for the derby match against Watford. I was hoping to meet you, do an interview and get your impressions on what it's like being an American playing football in England. Imagine my surprise to learn we had passed each other somewhere over the Atlantic Ocean as you were headed to Dallas, Texas.

Last June the US Cup '95 tournament was held. The opening match (USA v Nigeria) was played outside of Boston at Foxboro Stadium. Only a 30 minute drive from my home I was, again, looking forward to meeting you and doing an interview for this issue of MAAH. Well, due to circumstances, you stiffed me once again.

So, I'll make this plain and simple. I'll even put it in two languages so there is no chance of a translation problem between your native home and your adopted home.

"Yo, bro, wa'sup? Jurg, my main man, how come you wanna go and diss me like that?" Or if you prefer, "Excuse me, Mr Sommer, sir, but could you please explain why you are treating me in such a manner?"

I can understand the allure of the friendly match against Uruguay in Dallas last March. At least the South American nation has a rich tradition of football history. Not like those pesky postage stamp sized Caribbean islands that the United States always schedules and is often embarrassed by. Still, a Luton v Watford derby should take preference over a meaningless friendly any day.



US Cup '95, though, was an entirely different matter.

Juergen, if I may, as we still have to be formally introduced, first and foremost you are a footballer. Did it ever occur to you that in your hormonal hurry to happy husbandry you have seriously damaged your chances of future glory in the US national side? If the United States Soccer Federation and Luton Town Football Club had wanted you married they would have issued you a wife.

So you had an off-season last term. Why the marriage right now, at this point in time? Granted, US Cup '95 was a minor nondescript tournament, but this year it was a tune up to the summer's biggest show, Copa America, the South American championships that took place in Uruguay, which the United States along with Mexico were, for only the second time, invited to participate in.

You could have been the United States number one (maybe), number two (possibly) or number three (probably) choice goalkeeper at that tournament. Of course, all this would have depended on what day of the week the coach of the month made his team selection. Did those aspersions which were cast in your direction challenging your manhood dictate such an extreme response (marriage) on your part? I never believed those rumours that your fiancée reckoned she had better bag and tag you before she, too, slipped through your fingers.

In any event, I have a feeling I was not the only football fan who wanted to say, "You shouldn't," a nano-second before you said "I do." And that's not to say you should never get married, only your choice of timing left a lot to question.

I am Luton Town Football Club in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. I am the entire Hatters army on the Northeast seacoast of the United States. And as any good Englishman who knows his history will tell you, keeping good relations with the citizens of a commonwealth is paramount to retaining strong bonds of loyalty.

I hope that you can understand my frustration. And while you may deny the direct snub, you must admit these two incidents seem more than mere coincidence. Am I wrong? You tell me. The ball is in your hands. Don't drop it (again).

Sincerely,  
Brian Surette

## Kohlerdome — Dream or Reality?

Let's be honest with ourselves here! The Kohlerdome is a very nice artist's impression of a futuristic design, but how many of these designs actually make it in concrete and steel? Few, I suspect.

The drawing printed in the programme looked very impressive. So impressive that half the people I spoke to thought it was to be built on the Harpenden side of the J10 spur! Indeed, until I looked closely at the plan, so did I!

How many of you have picked up a holiday brochure in the travel agents and come across an 'artist's impression' of the new hotel you have unluckily been booked into? And, then when you get to sunny Benidorm, it's still a building site or bears no resemblance to the drawing.

Well, that's my theory about the Kohlerdome! It's a fantastic piece of art that will hang on the wall of the Kohler family for years, a dream on paper. What I expect we will get by the turn of the century, (ask for a few bob from the Millenium Fund!) is something like Charlton have already got!

After visiting the new Valley, in April, for the first time, I was quite impressed with the stadium they had. Apart from the perennial problem of the seats being too close together, ie; no one over 5'8" could possibly get away without the grooves in their knees from the seat in front, the stadium was all we *really* need. If the NIMBY's win the day, it will be another nail in the coffin of English football. It happened before and it will continue to happen! At Maidstone, the council 'backed' the club's move out of the town centre, supposedly provided support for a ground out near the M20, but it all fell through because the NIMBY's complained of noise and traffic. Considering that they already had the M20 extension and the high-speed rail link to the Chunnel is planned for the same area, the football ground would have been a small beef! In the end, there was no going back as Maidstone town centre needed another Courts/Texas more than it needed a football ground, and it was goodbye Maidstone United and R.I.P.

Incidentally, the superstores they built are a terrible eyesore on the side of the River Medway, but it's what the town deserved!

As for the criticism of David Kohler wanting to make a few bob out of the scheme, what kind of prats are we? Football is a multi-million pound business, the players aren't the only people that want to make money! Gone are the days of the butcher, baker and candlestick maker being part time directors of a football club. Football needs managing by professionals if it's to survive. Unless you can find a multi-millionaire that happens to have £50m to spare on a new ground and the best players, e.g. Blackburn "the team that Jack bought" Rovers, then you have to aim lower, or enter into deals that mean everyone gets his wad!

If we get a new ground, if the team stays in Div 1 or even gets into the Premier League and the club has a home for ever, I don't care if David Kohler or Whitbread make a huge pile out of it.

Don't forget who the enemies of a new ground are; it's not David Kohler, but the



NIMBY's and the apathetic people of Luton who will make or break the move, Kohlerdome or Valley clone!

It's been said before, the people of Luton don't get behind the club until we're at Wembley and then they all come out from under their stones! It's up to YOU to get behind David Kohler and Luton Town FC, and then we can look forward to the new ground and a secure future.

One thing I'd like to ask though; when we get a new ground, wherever and whatever it is, please get Burger King or McDonalds to handle the burger franchises!!!!!!

Kaptain Kettle

## • Bobbers Travel Club •

### Coach Travel Price List - Season 1995/96

*For ALL Luton Town F.C. First Team Away Fixtures*

Travel Co-ordinator: Paul Deason - ☎ Telephone: **01234 750996**  
5, Millards Close, Cranfield, Bedford, MK43 0HL.

DATE	DESTINATION	ADULT Fare	*CHILD/ OAP Fare	CRANFIELD Departure	LUTON Departure
1995 SAT AUG 19	SOUTHEND UNITED	£7.00	£5.50	10.30am	11.30am
TUES AUG 22	BOURNEMOUTH (C.Cola L.Cup)	£9.50	£7.50	2.15pm	3.15pm
TUES AUG 29	GRIMSBY TOWN	£9.50	£7.50	1.15pm	2.15pm
SAT SEPT 9	READING	£6.50	£5.00	10.30am	11.30am
WED SEPT 13	MILLWALL	£5.00	£4.00	3.45pm	4.45pm
SAT SEPT 23	WOLVERHAMPTON WANDS.	£7.50	£6.00	10.30am	11.30am

\* Child rate is for a youth under 16 years of age. Prices and times may be subject to change. • Based on 3.00 K.O.

#### BOOK FOR COACHES IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

1. FROM OUR TICKET KIOSK IN THE KENILWORTH ROAD TURNSTILES. SEE PAUL DEASON OR ANY OTHER BTC COMMITTEE MEMBER BEFORE ANY SATURDAY 1ST TEAM HOME MATCH BETWEEN 2.15PM & 2.45PM. (NO BOOKINGS TAKEN AT MIDWEEK MATCHES).
2. ON THE RETURN JOURNEY FROM THE PREVIOUS AWAY GAME.
3. TELEPHONE PAUL DEASON ON BEDFORD 01234 750996 - Answer phone service operational at certain times of the day.

#### PLEASE NOTE

1. Any member who books and then fails to turn up without notifying us in advance will be required to pay for that journey in FULL before being allowed to travel again.
2. If a match is postponed before travel commences a full refund will be given on application to Paul Deason. Alternatively the payment can be carried forward to a future match if required. All members will be required to book again when the match is re-arranged. **NO BOOKINGS WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY CARRIED FORWARD TO THE REVISED DATE.**
3. Being a membership Club we do insist that you are issued with a TRAVEL CLUB CARD which MUST be carried with you on EVERY journey. **Payment of Membership covers you for life membership.**

**BOBBERS TRAVEL COMMITTEE ARE AS FOLLOWS:** JOHN PYPER - President STEVE RUSSELL - Vice President  
LES MILLER - Treasurer PAUL DEASON - Travel Co-Ordinator & Membership  
DAVE BROWN - Travel Steward



Scott Oakes takes advantage of a rare opportunity to be pictured showing off a medal. In fact, you could say he's bowled over, but perhaps not.



## RAVING MAD!!!

Dear "Mad",

So Pleaty has jumped ship yet again; this time it's goodbye rather than au revoir. There's no way Kohler & Co would ever have him back given the cloud under which he departed. Many fans will have mixed feelings regarding his departure, and his record in his second spell of management was hardly covered in glory. It's unlikely that his new employers will look so kindly on his second job of appearing on TV and radio more often than Danny Baker either. There are all sorts of questions I'll never be able to ask him now — why did we only score two goals from corners in two seasons? Why did he persist with the predictable free kick routine that left us with more players behind the ball, thus making it easy to mark those few players left? Why did he never push a player (Marshall?) up to the half way line when it was our turn to defend corners etc? Why did he not think of bringing on our second sub at home to Wolves and run the clock down, rather than let the Turnips score in the last few seconds? This naivety then, and throughout the season, cost us points. The main question that will remain unanswered is why he kept Juergen in goal for most of the season when it's clear that Kelvin is far superior?! Still, that's history now. The new guy, Terry Westley, seems to be a more positive manager than DP ever was although the bloke cannot be judged before Christmas, and his only previous managerial job (a case of Diss Town ain't big enough?) hardly prepared him for life at Kohler Towers. I'd rather have seen an Andy King/Mick Harford partnership. We'd probably have lost every game 5-4 or 7-6 but it would have been fun, and big Mick could have threatened Scott Oakes with a kicking at half time — that would have upped his work rate and had him get his shirty dirty — I doubt it ever needs washing given his lack of effort in most games last season. TW has got the right idea in signing enough players to make sure that the likes of Oakes will know that they won't automatically be on next weeks teamsheet regardless of performance. I read that we've signed on some bloke called Nathan Jones, so look out for Jimmy Mack and Floy Joy to be added to the squad as well. One good thing About last season was the failure of the loud mouthed gobshites of Reading to get promoted. "One-nil to the champions," they chorused — excuse me but don't the champions get automatic promotion and not have to bother with the play-offs? For them to be 2-0 up against Bolton with less than 15 minutes to go, and then lose in extra time made my summer! Can anyone explain why they are nicknamed the Royals? When I was a kid they were, and will always remain, the Biscuitmen, though they were left with few crumbs of comfort. They have also signed reject Martin Williams so I can't see them even finishing in the top 6, but then again neither will we — will we? Still, hope springs eternal blah blah blah and let's hope that although the new kit is made by Pony the performances on the pitch aren't. Finally, a bit of poetic justice in those Taffy Twatheads Cardiff being relegated, eh? Konica League of Wales here they come — in fact why not send them to Bosnia if they think they are so f.....g hard — Twats!

Gerry Callaghan

Stevenage

## TV or not TV?

Sunday 30 April, 1995, Luton Town are away to Middlesbrough in a televised match. 443 dedicated Hatters fans make the long trip to Ayresome Park, while thousands more settle down in front of their televisions to watch the live transmission, courtesy of Anglia TV. Imagine their shock, when they are presented with coverage of West Brom v Tranmere and "extended highlights" of the Town game (since when did 9 minutes qualify as extended?). Many of these armchair supporters (and many of those at Ayresome Park who have set their video recorders) are outraged at this selection of a match with no regional interest. The Luton News received a lot of calls about this, and it is likely that Anglia did as well (they certainly acknowledged having a 'full postbag'). So, what happened?

Earlier in the season, after Anglia had waited a month longer than Central to announce the coverage of the Derby game, Anglia declared: "Rest assured that, whenever Luton games are being televised, we will be transmitting them." Having gone back on that guarantee, Anglia were quick to shift the blame to the Football League, claiming that they had blocked their attempts to show the Town game. This is not strictly true, and it would appear that the League are being used as something of a scapegoat in this case.

At the start of the season, Anglia were signatories to a binding agreement with other ITV companies that, on four critical weekends, they would televise the same match, effectively networking the game. These games receive a higher fee from the TV companies. Tyne Tees however opted out of this agreement for the Town game, arguing that, as the last game at Ayresome Park, it was a once in a lifetime opportunity. They still paid their fee for the West Brom game though. What Anglia wanted to do was opt out of both showing and paying for the Albion game, in order to show the Town game, and the League would not allow that. They would allow Anglia to show the Town game, but they would still be required to pay for the other one as well, and perhaps we can assume that as Tyne Tees were doing this they wanted a larger than usual facility fee from Anglia, to help cover their costs.

The Football League, when we spoke to them, stressed that the agreement for the four "networked" matches is entirely the decision of the TV companies, and individual regions are not compelled to sign the agreement. Where does this leave us as Town supporters? It would appear that Anglia have a half hearted commitment to showing live football, and their promise to transmit Luton games should have the added rider "depending on what it costs". As we all know, Anglia will show their true colours this season with Ipswich, Norwich and Luton to choose from, and if Central show a Luton match on the same day as LWT show a Norwich match, we know which one will go out on Anglia, don't we?



## CRYSTAL BALLS 4

Welcome again to another set of the predictions that make Russell Grant look like Jimmy Hill. Come to think of it, that would be quite an improvement. Much has happened over the last 12 months, both on and off the pitch, but next year is going to be a corker. As Divine Brown said to Hugh Grant, sit back and enjoy. . . . .

### August

Terry Westley admits to having reservations about new signing Steve Davis. "He has some strange habits", says the Hatters' new boss. "Having a glass of water instead of oranges at half time is fine, but some of the lads are worried about what he might get up to with his piece of chalk in the dressing room."

### September

George Graham is cleared of a long standing charge of bringing the game into disrepute after it emerges that he intended to sell Kevin Campbell before he was sacked. More scandal erupts at Arsenal after it is disclosed that Paul Merson was sent home from their pre-season skiing trip, for attempting to snort the slalom track and spending too much time on the piste.

### October

Graeme Souness' Galatasaray are banned from European competition after unveiling their new kit. A UEFA official explains, "We drew the line at the Doc Martens boots, but the knuckle dusters and Uzi submachine guns were considered slightly OTT." Luton's lead in Division One increases to 20 points.

### November

Watford announce plans to sign a World Cup star from the sale of their leading scorer. Bobby Charlton later says he is flattered, but is too busy trying to find his hair. Watford decide instead to spend the money on a new tyre for their team coach.

### December

Iain Dowie moves to Norwich. Martin O'Neill says, "I've been looking for ages for ways of keeping starlings off my cauliflowers and Iain's just the ticket." Paul Walsh is out for three weeks after a nasty accident involving a short-sighted, frustrated Old English Sheepdog.

### January

Rangers make an early exit from the European Cup, knocked out by an Icelandic Sunday League Third Division side. Terry Westley confesses to

mistaken identity when signing Steve Davis. "I meant to buy Alex Higgins instead", he explains. David Kohler denies that his latest design for the Kohlerdome was inspired by Lombardo of Sampdoria.

### February

Juergen Sommer's career is threatened after he is run over by a double-decker bus. A doctor says, "He saw it coming several hundred yards away but wasn't sure where to go, and ended up diving the wrong way."

### March

Eric Cantona protests his innocence after his latest argument with a referee. Claiming that the use of CS gas is legal in France, he remarks, "The world is a giant cow covered in margarine. Come forth and eat my coconuts." Plans to turn Vicarage Road into a compost heap are rejected after the council decides that there is enough crap on the pitch already.

### April

England's European Championship defeat against San Marino leads to calls for the reinstatement of Graham Taylor as England coach. The Wolves team's request is granted after Terry Venables resigns to become Nick Leeson's financial adviser. Steve David lifts his first trophy as a Luton player. At the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield.

### May

Luton's 10-0 victory over Watford completes their victorious season. Manchester United are relegated, having finished the season with no players, but a healthy bank balance. Sheffield Wednesday win the Premiership, and widespread rejoicing ensues as David Kohler announces he is leaving football to become Chairman of Watford.

So there we have it, an interesting season in prospect. Here's wishing Terry and the lads the best of luck this coming season. UP THE HATTERS!!!

*Graham Johnson*

## Subscriptions / Back Issues

"Mad as a Hatter!" is available on subscription at £5.50 (£6.75 outside the UK) for the next seven 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 (perhaps).



## Fantasy Football comes to Luton — The Hatterleague

Well, a new season comes along and with it comes a new competition. Fantasy Football comes to Luton Town in the form of the 'Hatterleague'. The rules are simple: pick 6 Hatters players out of the squad and hope that at the end of the season these players have earned enough points to win you the title of Hatterleague Champion 1995/96.

The points system for the Hatterleague isn't just based on goals and clean sheets. There is also an emphasis on cautions and substitutions. Players will lose points for being substituted or not playing, so pick your team with that in mind. The points are as follows:

Goals:	3 points for a goal
	-3 points for an own goal
	-1 point for a penalty miss
Defence	2 points for defenders clean sheet
	3 points for a goalkeepers clean sheet
	-1 points for every goal conceded
Performance	5 points for Man of Match award (to be selected by Brian Swain)
Discipline	-2 points for a yellow card (booking)
	-4 points for a red card (sending off)
Appearances	-1 points for being substituted
	-1 point for substitute not coming on (excluding goalkeeper)
	-2 points for a player not playing

That means that if a defender is substituted with a clean sheet intact, but then the team concedes 2 goals, the defender will gain 2 points for the clean sheet, but lose a single point for coming off. The same applies to a defender who comes on as substitute. If he comes on after 2 goals have been conceded and then keeps a clean sheet (even if it's only for a minute), he will gain two points for a clean sheet.

Transfers through the summer mean that you have been given £3 million to build your HatterSix squad. It must consist of 1 goalkeeper, 2 defenders, 2 midfielders, and 1 striker. Pick your team wisely, for injuries, transfers and missed games in the real league can result in points lost in the Hatterleague.

### The HatterSix Players:

Code	Player	Price (£)	Code	Player	Price (£)
<u>Goalkeepers</u>					
01	Kelvin Davis	0.6 m	03	Fred Barber	0.2 m
02	Juergen Sommer	0.4 m	04	Nathan Abbey	0.1 m

### Defenders

11	Julian James	0.8 m	16	Steve Davis	0.6 m
12	Trevor Peake	0.6 m	17	Mitchell Thomas	0.3 m
13	Marvin Johnson	0.5 m	18	Ben Chenery	0.2 m
14	Des Linton	0.5 m	19	David Greene	0.2 m
15	Richard Harvey	0.4 m	1X	Pasqal Bruno	0.3 m

### Midfielders

21	David Preece	0.7 m	26	Aaron Skelton	0.2 m
22	Scott Oakes	0.5 m	27	Ceri Hughes	0.4 m
23	Gary Waddock	0.5 m	28	Rob Matthews	0.4 m
24	Tony Thorpe	0.4 m	29	David Oldfield	0.5 m
25	Graham Alexander	0.3 m			

### Strikers

31	Dwight Marshall	0.7 m	33	Jamie Woodsford	0.2 m
32	John Taylor	0.7 m	34	Bontcho Guentchev	0.5 m

### HATTERLEAGUE TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- All entries must be sent in on the managers form included in this issue. Photocopies, or handwritten forms in the same layout will also be accepted.
- One loose 25p (first class) stamp per form must be included with your completed application form, to cover the cost of confirmation of your entry.
- Only one entry will be accepted per person, There is no limit to the number of applications per household.
- Although we have tried to include all players with a chance of playing, non inclusion or value of players will not be discussed.
- Transfers of players are not allowed in the Hatterleague.
- Team selection must include one goalkeeper, two defenders, two midfielders and one striker, and MUST NOT exceed £3 million.
- Players scores and a managers update will appear in each issue of Mad as a Hatter! under the title 'Hatterleague Update'.
- Only Endsleigh League Division One games count for the Hatterleague.
- All statistics for the compilation of players points will be taken from the Luton News.
- Team names must not exceed 40 characters in length, and any deemed offensive will not be accepted
- Entries are to be sent to: Hatterleague Entries, 292 Icknield Way, Luton, LU3 2JS, and should be received by 13th September 1995. The game will start on 16th September 1995.
- Letters of confirmation will be sent out within 7 days of receipt of entry.
- Teams that do not meet the selection criteria will not be accepted.
- Incomplete, illegible or late applications will not be accepted. We can take no responsibility for last entries. Proof of postage is not proof of receipt.
- The Hatterleague Champion 95/96 will be the manager with the most points at the end of the season. The winner will receive. . . . . In the event of a tie a count back system will operate (highest points score in last week of game) to decide the winner. The Editors decision is absolutely final.
- The winner will be notified in writing, after the end of the 1995/96 season,



and results published in the first issue of Mad as a Hatter! of the 1996/97 season.

17. Complaints about the Hatterleague will be investigated, but we shall not be obliged to enter into any correspondence. In any event the Editors decision is final.

18. We reserve the right to refuse participation or disqualify any entry which fails to comply with the rules, or to cancel the competition at any time in the event of circumstances arising beyond our control.

19. No individual will be excluded from entering, but Editors, sales staff and others directly involved in Mad as a Hatter! will not be able to claim the prize in the event of winning. In that event the prize will be awarded to the second placed manager in the Hatterleague.

20. "Hatterleague" and "HatterSix" are copyrighted to Mad as a Hatter! and the Originator of the game, and may be reproduced without prior permission.

#### HATTERLEAGUE ENTRY FORM

Managers Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Team Name \_\_\_\_\_

My HatterSix Fantasy Football Team is:

	Code	Player	Price
1	GK		
2	D		
3	D		
4	M		
5	M		
6	S		

Total (£3 million or less) \_\_\_\_\_

Photocopies of this form will be accepted. Please remember to include a 25p stamp per entry form.

## THE BAD AND THE UGLY

"Shoot from there? He's got more chance of scoring with Cliff Richard. Hang on, it's in!!! EAT MY GOAL!!!" No, not the words of Brian Moore, but those of yours truly when Nayim made David Seaman look so gloriously stupid on that wonderful night in Paris. The whole of Britain rejoiced, united by that unbreakable bond — hatred of Arsenal FC.

Why does everyone hate Arsenal? Well, how long have you got? Their refreshingly honest fans will tell you that they have no midfield, hence the boring tag. But Ipswich had no midfield, defence or attack last season, and they were merely laughed at. No, the answer is far more simple. The truth is that ever since Charlie Nicholas left Highbury, Arsenal have pursued a cynical policy of frightening the opposition by fielding football's equivalent of The Munsters. Consider the evidence: Anders Limpar, a hugely talented, exciting winger, was considered by George "Guilty? Me?" Graham to be too handsome, so he was left to rot in the reserves after refusing to undergo plastic surgery that would make him look like Bela Lugosi. His resistance led to the ultimate humiliation: a transfer to Everton.

Then there is Ray Parlour, the only man in football to wear a plate of spaghetti on his head. Either that, or his barber has the eyesight of George Courtney. Whatever, his hairstyle (and I say "style" in the broadest possible sense) is not really the kind of thing young children should be exposed to.

And what of their ex-manager? Stewart Houston was the only boss in English football to have appeared in several episodes of Star Trek as a Klingon. Apparently he is cheaper because they spend less money on make-up. But such negative tactics have stalled, because Arsenal fail to realise that in order to win, a team should be able to play football, instead of just passing the ball to Lee Dixon and letting him hoof (if that's what donkeys have) it 50 yards towards Ian Wright. And do we not like that.

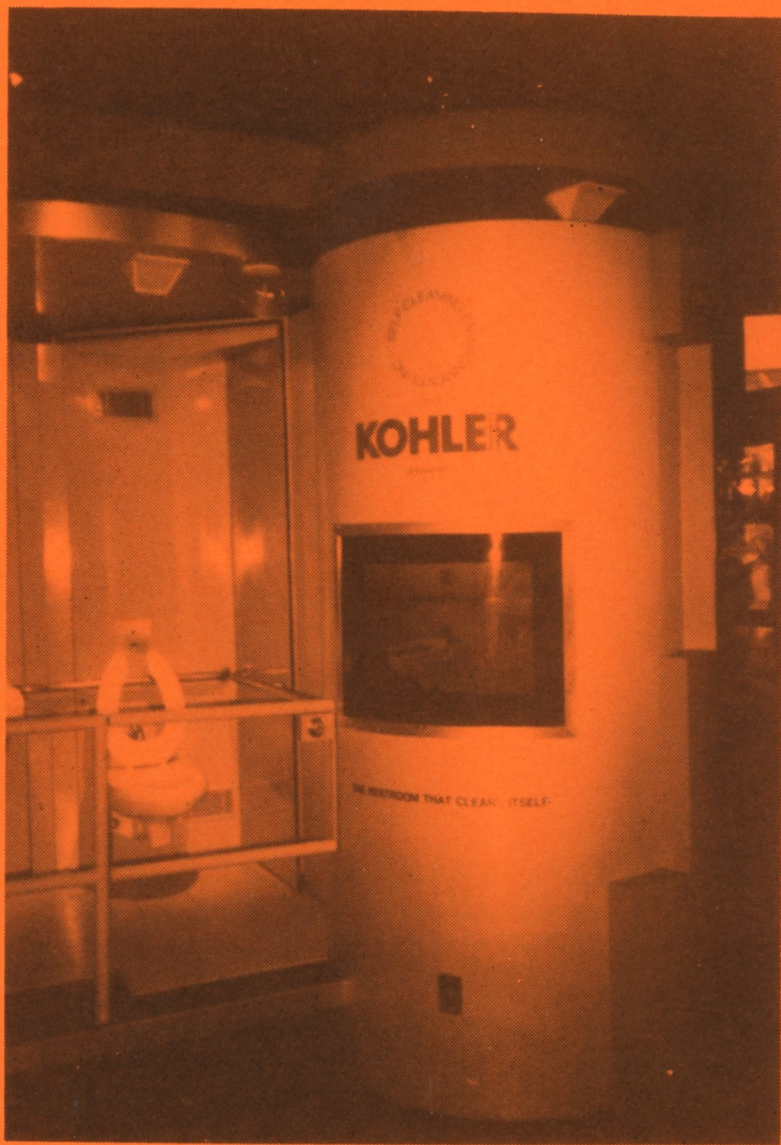
The Arse's code of conduct hardly endears them to the British public either. Fair enough, they sacked George Graham, but his fate was probably sealed by then anyway. But to support Tony Adams and Paul Merson so unstintingly, despite being commendable acts of loyalty, showed a remarkable tolerance of indiscipline and bad behaviour. Parlour's recent activities serve to reinforce the point that Arsenal are too tolerant. Let us not forget that Moan United are not universally adored for precisely the same reason. Where will Arsenal draw the line? Does one of them have to be exposed as a serial killer before action is taken? Or maybe one day Parlour will commit the ultimate crime and get a decent haircut?

So there, as Motty would say, we have it. Arsenal are dull, ugly and morally dubious. So when they eventually decide to call it a day, they could walk straight out of the bootroom and into the Cabinet.

Graham Johnson



## NEW FACILITIES



The “restroom that cleans itself” from Kohler. A device to which our beloved Chairman’s image owes something perhaps? Or is this just a case of getting used to working with shit?