

Issue 3

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MAD AS A HATTER!



A LUTON TOWN FANZINE

Luton's Looking Up!! A New Beginning ?



EXCLUSIVE....

Peter Nelkin speaks ! Pages 15 - 18

MAD AS A HATTER!



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And finally, thanks to all our contributors.

Next "Mad" will be out on:

26 December 1990

Editorial

"Forget the Cup, concentrate on the League" is one of the oldest sayings in football, trumpeted out after your club have just been knocked out, usually by a lower division side on a wet Wednesday night in the North of England. On the basis that the great James (See All, Hear All, Know All) Hill has undoubtedly used this phrase at some stage, we therefore feel obliged to heed it and consequently shall ignore any cup matches in which the Town may or may not have taken part in the recent past. Until we win one, that is.

On a happier note it is our duty to record some satisfaction at Town's start to the season. Early days it may be, but both the results (with one exception) and standard of performance gives cause for guarded optimism. A long slog the season may be, but we have at least been able to thumb our noses (albeit behind their backs) at the so-called "experts" who foresaw doom and gloom. Let's hope that, unlike last season, form can be maintained throughout the winter; and that Steve Williams keeps his place in midfield to assist the younger players with his invaluable experience.

We should like to take this opportunity to wish Tim Breacker well at West Ham, although why he was allowed to leave must pose worrying questions for Town fans in as much as he becomes the fifth first-team regular to leave in the last twelve months - surely it would be a better policy to try and offload some of the fringe players? Unless, of course, it's a ploy to boost the attendance when we play West Ham in the Mickey Mouse.

Finally, some words of warning to our friends at Watford, before you start calling for Seelee's head remember - Ray Harford is only Caretaker Manager at Wimbledon. Frankly, we wouldn't wish him on our worst enemy, so we're glad he's at Plough Lane.

10 pints later

Remember the words to the song:

"WE'RE GONNA WIN THE LEAGUE, WE'RE GONNA WIN THE LEAGUE ..."

TV (un)Coverage

Those of you who went to Norwich will know just how well Town played in the second half to turn the game around. Those who didn't and watched the "highlights" on Anglia on Sunday are probably still wondering what all the fuss was about. To say this programme distorted 45 minutes of action could be a contender for understatement of the year, if not the century - I recall Norwich having about three attacks in the second half, yet by Sunday lunch time they were contesting an even second half in which it would appear dreadful luck cost Norwich dear. The imbalance was only tempered by a subdued performance from "Mr. Norwich" himself Gerry Harrison who was suffering with a cold (aaahh!).

This brings me on to the main point of this vitriolic diatribe (about time I hear you cry!) - that far from being exceptional, this was exactly how I expected Anglia to portray that particular game - indeed their coverage of the Town is so pathetic it could be funny. You know the sort of thing, Saturday teatime - Anglia Sports News - the headlines (mournful look) "Norwich slump to an unlucky five-goal defeat, or "(cheerful look) "and Luton crash to a controversial last minute penalty". Then the film, action of Norwich pouring forward in wave after wave of attack (no opposition goals, naturally) then a brief comment on Town, usually accompanied by a picture - either Kingsley, Tumble or Dowie - the only ones they possess - in Adidas kit! That of course is on the rare occasions when we get a mention.

And this has never been any different, Norwich this, Norwich that, lets interview the pitch at Carrow Road, then Ipswich, Cambridge, Peterborough, Northampton, Colchester, Norwich Reserves etc. then perhaps a brief grunt to the effect that Alan Buckley is doubtful for tomorrow's game, and striker Keith Barber may deputise. No matter which team is in whatever division the order never changes.

To anyone who thinks I'm being paranoid, I leave you with these thoughts:

When Norwich won the Milk Cup we were "treated" to live pictures of the team's return to the City. When Luton won the Littlewoods Cup we were graciously granted a couple of

minutes on Anglia News. (It was worth it, however, for the hilarious sight of Gerry Harrison et al playing at being Luton supporters with hats and scarves etc.)

Anglia have so far screened three "Soccer Specials" this season -

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 25th August | Norwich v Sunderland |
| 29th September | Norwich v Luton |
| 20th October | Norwich v Liverpool - spot the common link! |

We were going to finish this off with a photo of Gerry "Norwich" Harrison, but Anglia TV have thrown them all out!!!

TUSSAUDS BID FAILS

An audacious bid by Leisure giants Tussauds to buy the entire Watford defence for its Madame Tussauds Waxworks has been turned down by Manager Colin Lee, who would prefer an exchange deal to the straight cash offer made by Tussauds.

Tussauds spokesman Jack Theripper said of their swoop: "We have watched Watford several times recently and it is clear that their defence would be ideal for us, being a complete load of dummy's, expert at adopting a statuesque pose when caught on the break. They could go straight in to our Chamber of Horrors!"

Hornets Manager Colin Lee insisted however that the offer of £9.72 for the four players was derisory, although he confirmed he would consider an exchange deal. Negotiations are said to be continuing.

WATCHING FROM A DISTANCE

I started watching Luton in 1968 but I moved away from the Luton area in 1982, just after promotion to Division 1, and apart from occasional visits to the ground between 1982 the introduction of the membership scheme have had to rely on the reports of Luton in the press and, ever less frequent nowadays, the television. At first it seemed everybody loved Luton, they played great football and were a blessing to the 1st Division. But slowly it all changed.

First there was the plastic pitch, never a favourite move of mine I must confess but I could always see the pragmatic side and one should never forget that there are certain things we take for granted now that were once ridiculed in the same way, numbers on players and floodlights to name but two! And it wasn't as if Luton were the first team to use an artificial surface either. Then came the predictable taunts - Luton could only win on plastic, they couldn't play on grass etc etc. Mind you. Looking at the results of the last couple of years you could be forgiven for coming to the conclusion that Luton seem to find it hard to play on any surface! Still now I'm being unkind!

Secondly, and perhaps more telling, was the ban on away fans and the membership scheme. I can remember watching that Millwall game on television and the scenes of the ground I had once loved being ripped apart. Yet I never believed that a ban on away fans was the answer, and as for the membership scheme that effectively put paid to my occasional visits.


That takes us up to last season and by now it was clear that Luton held the 'Most Hated Team' award, although Wimbledon ran them pretty close! It all came to a head when the Guardian published that obituary of Luton on the last day of the season. Of course reports of their death proved to be exaggerated but the tone was clear. A team with a plastic pitch, a Tory MP ex-chairman, a ban on away fans and a small ground did not deserve to be in Division 1 but a team with a great big ground did. Not for the first time Luton proved that is on the football pitch that games are won, not on the size of your ground. Even after the event the slurs continued, poor old Wednesday, lucky old Luton. Even the alternative press, When Saturday Comes for example, couldn't

resist the odd dig on that score! Pah!! A team that wins away (yes, on grass!) on the last day of the season when nothing less would do deserves to stay up, a team that loses 3-0 at home needing only a draw deserves to go down! Bye bye Wednesday!

Of course I'd still prefer to see Luton with a grass pitch and let controlled numbers of away fans in but I'd also prefer to see them stay at Kenilworth Road. It's not the ground I grew up with, the Bobbers Stand where I used to go with my Dad is now that ugly row of Executive Boxes, but whatever anyone says it is still a great place to watch football. I really must try and get in somehow next season!



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JOCKSPOT

With the Scottish League season now well under way, it is fair to say that there is a familiar look about the Premier Division. Five or so weeks into the season, Dundee Utd, Rangers and Aberdeen all seem to be making the early running, Hearts, Motherwell, Celtic and Hibs seem content on a mid-table spot with St Mirren, Dunfermline and new-boys St Johnstone battling out the bottom places. However, all is not well at Parkhead (what's new some might say), despite reaching the league cup final versus Rangers, league form is inconsistent to put it mildly. It could even be said that Billy McNeills future as Manager is in doubt (we apologise for the poor picture quality, but we felt that Mr. McNeill's true facial features may shock you). As a club Celtic are expected to win trophies, something which has not been the case of late. So here's to Rangers on winning the League Cup for a change.



New boys St Johnstone were finding the gap between the First and Premier Divisions a large one, that was until a recent 5-0 win over high flying Aberdeen, surely that proves how unpredictable the Premier League is these days. After many years of doubt Grahame Souness, Manager extraordinaire, has finally proved to us all that he is human after all. Rumour has it that Mo Johnston has recently fallen foul of Mr. Souness's strict code of conduct. Instead of going the same way as Messr's Roberts, McMinn and Ferguson a verbal warning was the result. Obviously the sun shines out of Mo's arse more than ever before.

Now that the euphoria of Scotland's success in the World Cup has died down the nitty gritty of qualifying for the Euro Championships in Sweden has begun. Following the success of the Centenary celebration match at Hampden Park recently, when a lock-out crowd of 13,000 bothered to turn up, it is clear that as ever there is a considerable amount of interest in Scottish International football. I am sure that England followers are very envious of the talent the Scotland team have. Scotland's group, includes Bulgaria, Rumania, Switzerland and San Marino. San who? I hear you say. Well, not many of us knew they even had a football team. All that can be said is, Scotland beware!. It's not that easy a group admittedly, but surely even the Jocks can beat San Marino, or can they?

TOWN TRAVELS

DERBY COUNTY (03-11-90)

ROAD: M1 to Junction 24, then A6 towards Derby. Follow ring road westbound to A514, turn into Osmaston Road and then left into Shaftesbury Street.

RAIL: Direct Inter City service from Luton. Either 10.23 direct arriving at Derby 11.40, or 11.00 change at Leicester arriving Derby 13.06. Fare £18.50.

BEER: THE BRUNSWICK INN, 1 Railway Terrace, only 100 yards from the station, with too many good beers to mention. Highly recommended. STRUTTS at 73 London Road may be worth a try for the Mansfield Brewery beers.

LIVERPOOL (10-11-90)

ROAD: M1 then M6 join M62 westbound at Junction 21A. At end of M62 turn right into Queens Drive, left after about 1 ½ miles into Utting Avenue and right into Anfield Road.

RAIL: From Milton Keynes or via London. Depart Euston 10.40, Milton Keynes 11.15 arrive Liverpool 13.29. Fare £35.00 from Luton, £19.50 from Milton Keynes.

BEER: Be warned: Higsons brews are now produced at Sheffield by Whitbread who also own Boddingtons. In the city centre YE CRACKE, 13 Rice Street, is bloody difficult to find, but worth the effort and sells Oak Best Bitter and Marstons. NARVON CASTLE, 5 Tarleton Street, is a city centre pub selling the aforementioned Higsons/Boddingtons.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (01-12-90)

ROAD: M1 north to Junction 24, to Trent Bridge then right into Radcliffe Road.

RAIL: Direct Inter City service from Luton. Depart 12.23 arrive Nottingham 13.42. Fare £18.50.

BEER: YE OLDE TRIP TO JERUSALEM, Castle Road is one of the oldest pubs in the country, and is literally beneath the castle. Marstons, Wards, Sam Smiths and guest beers can be found here. Round the corner in Canal Street FELLOWS, MORTON & CLAYTON is Nottingham's only home brew pub, well worth a visit.

CRYSTAL PALACE (16-12-90, Sunday)

ROAD: M1 southbound to end then A406 North Circular westbound. At Chiswick take A205 to Wandsworth, A3 then A214 for Streatham and then A23 to B273 for Whitehorse Lane.

RAIL: Depart from Luton 12.15 to London Bridge arrive 13.12, Depart 13.27 arrive Norwood Junction 13.51. Fare £6.70 (One Day Capitalcard).

BEER: Being a Sunday, pubs won't be open until 12.00, but try the PRINCE OF DENMARK, 152 Portland Road (nr. Norwood Junction) for Courage beers.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (22-12-90)

ROAD: M1 to North Circular A406 eastbound, then A1010 to High Road.

RAIL: Network South East to Farringdon then Underground to Liverpool Street for local services to White Hart Lane. Depart Liverpool Street 04, 08, 34 and 48 minutes past the hour, arrive White Hart Lane 18 minutes later. Fare £6.70 (One Day Capitalcard).

BEER: Probably better to drink before leaving Liverpool Street, where the station bar serves real ale, but near White Hart Lane, the CHEQUERS, 843 High Road serves traditional Bass ales.

A Biased View ?

Luton give thanks to flexible friend

Chris Lightbown

LUTON 1

(4-3-3): Chamberlain; Breacker, Beaumont, Dreyer, Harvey; Rees, Hughes, Preece; Black, Dowie, Elstrup (James 86min).

COVENTRY 0

(4-4-2): Ogrizovic; Borrows, Kilcline, Peake, Edwards (Titterton 55min); Gallacher (Livingstone 76min), McDonald, Gynn, Smith; Drinkell, Speedie.

Goal: Dowie (2min) 1-0.
Weather: cold. Ground: artificial.
Referee: J Rushden (Stoke).

FIXTURES like this will not appear on television again. But this was good stuff. If Coventry did not wear one of the strangest away strips in living memory, satisfaction would have been complete.

On close chances and breaks, the score should have been about 5-3. Luton are quite difficult to play against at home. They use a form of nippy counter-attacking that away sides usually take an hour or so to adjust to.

That was not Coventry's problem. They just played well, without ever looking as though they would win. If the game was still going on, you feel the score would remain the same. One of those.

Coventry would say otherwise. They would say their man Kilcline had trouble clearing an incoming ball of the ilk he clears every minute because it bounced bizarrely. Because the pitch is plastic.

Well, that is also true. Once Kilcline lost possession there was not much chance of Coventry seeing the ball, let alone stopping it, before it was in the net. That's plastic for you.

If Dowie had not headed Black's shot, it would probably have gone in anyway. That's plastic for you. It alters the speed and direction of the ball only slightly, but enough to make a difference. Would Black and Elstrup have torn down Coventry's wings quite so often if they did not have such certainty about how the

ball would travel to them? It is doubtful.

By the middle of the second half, the number of routine Luton shots that became scorching near misses was reaching double figures. That pitch again.

But Luton won this game by playing the way they always have: neat, controlled passing down the pitch, until suddenly one of their forwards is in possession somewhere between the corner flag and the opponent's penalty area, and the jewels are all but lifted.

When Coventry got anywhere near an equivalent position — and that was not often — they frequently got stomped on. Breacker upended Speedie and Rees took out Gallacher within minutes in one first-half blood letting. That's what a 6-1 thrashing by QPR the week before does to you.

Taken from THE SUNDAY TIMES. Fair or not?

Critics Corner

TWELVE REASONS WHY WE SHOULD ALL RUSH OUT AND JOIN THE LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS CLUB

1. We can join the Chairperson (Chairperson!!) in wishing David Evans "all the very best for the future".
2. We can thank Brian Cole for "keeping us in touch with important issues" - no doubt issues like what to get Roy Wegerle for a leaving present.
3. We can mix with media stars like Nick Owen and, err... Brian Swain (sorry Brian).
4. After those friendly visits to Millwall we can all go to 'Holiday on Ice' at Wemberly. Will Les Sealey flatten Torvill and Dean or Winterburn miss again?
5. We can go to the Players Presentation Evening at the Coliseum and wonder where all those lovely women who are normally up there have gone.
6. We can visit the L.T.S.C. members shed; any chance of a bar instead?
7. The chosen few can attend the ultra secret/behind closed doors Luton Town Football and Athletic Co. A.G.M. and then not tell anyone about it. I do however believe that one brave soul did pass implied criticism on the interest good old Dave Evans so justly earned.
8. You may even be able to join the L.T.S.C. Committee and become the only person who has been hit by an away fan (remember those unruly bastards) since the Colditz Scheme was introduced.
9. After number 8 we can all pat the club on the back and thank them for saving us all from such a fate.
10. We have a column in the Official Manifesto, sorry Programme, on the same page as the letters. Generally what we say is as interesting as the letters.

11. David Moss. (It just looks right thats all!)
12. We can all now do what I did and either resign or not renew our memberships. How can any Supporters Club be credible and representative of us the fans when it remains silent on:

The sale of Roy Wegerle;
The sale of Big Mick;
The Ronnie Rosenthal fiasco;
Scrapping the away fan ban;
Davie Evans earning more at the club that he could at the Woolwich;
An Arsenal property developer taking over our club;
Ray Harford;
The strange and silent Steve Williams affair;
Ripping up that god awful plastic;
and finally and most importantly
Why, or why did Danny Wilson take our penalties all f****ing season.

Martin, Critics Corner

BOB HATTON RATTLE

Bob Hatton Rattle is the title of a new programme from BBC Radio 5. It has the format of an "audio fanzine" being an alternative to existing football programmes, with a mixture of humour, and serious coverage of issues concerning the average supporter. Unfortunately the timing is far from perfect, as it goes out at 21.00 on Friday evenings, when many of us would prefer to be at the pub. Still it may be worth missing the odd pint for.

The Luton Link

Do you remember those Sunday mornings when you wake up wishing you couldn't remember the previous afternoons debacle, only to look at the results in your Sunday paper and find that every other goal in the League was scored by an Ex-Town player. And to make matters worse half of them the sort of donkeys who struggled to find the ball whilst at Luton, let alone put it in the net. So called players like Billy Kellock and Peter Spiring come to mind. Those sort of Sunday mornings are less common now, but mainly due to a lower turnover of players during the Evans era. (A rare good point about Davids reign). However, there are still plenty of Ex-Hatters around the football scene. It is fairly easy to keep track of those still appearing in Division One, so we'll take a look at some of those who've sunk into the oblivion of the lowest division.

Probably the longest surviving Ex-Hatter still playing is Ron Futchter, who after stops at Bradford City and Port Vale is now knocking them in for Burnley. Ron's twin brother Paul still appears in the League, but gave up football last summer when he joined Halifax. The two brothers looked set for great things when Malcolm Allison signed them up for Manchester City, but it was downhill all the way. Obviously nothing changes - ask Andy Dibble or David Oldfield. Elsewhere in the basement of the League, Tony Grealish struggles to get into Walsall's first XI, and according to recent reports does not exactly grace their new Bescot Stadium when he succeeds, and while talking of grace, Steve Elliot, who made 12 appearances for Town (partnering Frankie Bunn in an attack of mind numbing potency) is now the spearhead at Rochdale.

Finally, a brief look outside the Barclays League at a former Town Manager. Swanage Town and Herston have recently been assisted in their F.A. Cup preparations by Alec Stock, a mere 18 years after he left Luton on the grounds of ill-health. Ever the optimist, Alec was quoted in a national newspaper as saying "We're only 10 matches away from Wembley". Sadly Weymouth ended those thoughts in the 2nd Qualifying Round. Perhaps next year, Alec?

The Interview

Peter Nelkin answers our questions.

- Q. Why would an Arsenal supporter suddenly become interested in becoming Chairman of Luton Town?
- A. If you want to be involved in a football club you need to be a fanatical supporter with a genuine love of the game. Not that I tried, but I was never going to get a directorship at Arsenal and when the Luton situation came up we looked at it. I came to Luton as a child and have a lot of friends in the area. We found Luton to be a nice football club even though it is the most unpopular club in the country, for obvious reasons. Believe me I'm now a Luton Town Supporter and my involvement is total.
- Q. What qualities can you bring to the post?
- A. The most important thing apart from enthusiasm is stability of management. After a number of Chairmen in the last few years I think this is important both from an internal viewpoint and that of the supporters. Before we have a successful team the club must be run on a sound financial basis achieved partly through stable management.
- Q. How do you see the long term future of the club whilst it remains under your control?
- A. We want to be able to build a team capable of winning things but we have a major problem here. We require 15000 supporters to break even, the grounds capacity of 13000 while the average gate is between 10 and 11000. The club can only be made to run successfully away from the stadium.
- Q. Has the local authority given the club enough support?
- A. Yes, I believe we are one of the few football clubs that does enjoy a supportive local authority, yet Luton Borough Council can only give us support within the relatively small confines of the Borough.

I am quite confident they will give us support if we find a suitable site for the club to go to. With regard to the new stadium I'm sure we will find a new location and obtain planning permission.

Q. How can Luton overcome their popularity problem?

A. The end of the plastic pitch will make us more popular with the other league clubs and I do really believe that away supporters should have the right to come here and without the Luton supporters at Derby the result may have not been the same.

Q. Is the media coverage fair to the football club?

A. Yes, we do have a good relationship with the local media although I feel the nationwide media look at only the negative and not the positive aspects of the club.

Q. With regard to income from television, is the current share-out fair?

A. Our view of the contract was that each team in the first division was to appear at least once either home or away and as that hasn't been the case the system is clearly unfair as this is the basis on how the majority of the income is split. I'm now constantly pressing for Luton to be involved in a live game before the end of the season.

Q. Does the club intend taking action against the Football league for loss of income with the removal of the plastic pitch?

A. Negotiations are in progress at the moment.

Q. Do you have any aspirations of becoming a member of parliament?

A. No, I have no intention. I like to tell the truth.

Q. Have sports ministers in recent times done a good job for football?

A. Yes, I think they have done a good job but I feel it is a shame that the ministers involved have not been genuine football fans.

Q. What are your views on the 'Taylor Report'?

A. At the time it was essential for a report to be compiled and I generally agree with the contents of the report although I believe there should of been greater flexibility concerning the much smaller clubs.

Q. How do you see the future of the first division with ever increasing speculation of a 'super league'?

A. I believe that most fans, including those of the 'Big Five' clubs do not want a super league as such. Fans are clearly keen on domestic football, supporting clubs both home and away, which would be impossible within a European Super League. I do though feel that such a league could run in some shape or form in conjunction with the domestic league with such clubs making a lot of money.

Q. Do fans deserve a more active role within the club?

A. Yes, the fans are the life blood of the football club and I don't believe the fans have been involved enough in what goes on at the club. I do feel fans deserve to be told something of the background of decisions made. If I sell a player like Tim Breaker, who I know was a favourite with the fans, they do deserve an explanation. I would genuinely like to bring fans closer into things through spokesmen but I can't have 10000 fans in my office talking to me. I am prepared to speak to anybody as long as they are polite. We hope to be here for a long time so it is important to establish the right sort of relationship with the fans and the town as well.

Q. What was the reason for selling Tim Breaker?

A. The decision was purely financial with the club


needing to reduce its overdraft with the bank. It was not a decision taken lightly but a decision that had to be made. We believe that Tim was a player who could be replaced from within the club. I am extremely enthusiastic about the up and coming young players within the squad and believe that by having a policy geared to bringing young players through together with a successful scouting network the future of the club on the field will remain promising.

Eds Comment.


We would like to thank Mr Nelkin for granting the interview and for what we believe were his frank and honest answers. Many people perceive football Chairmen and Directors as using clubs as purely an expensive executive toy. From the interview with the Chairman we formed the opinion that he is a genuine football fan who holds ideas which, if successful, will provide Luton Town with a stable financial future, a great football team along with a new ground that the supporters can be proud of. This opinion can only be proved correct over the course of time.



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Weeping about Willow

The absence of Steve Williams from the Town side is something the club have continually failed to explain. Steve is the clubs senior professional and by far the most experienced, and probably the most skilful, yet he had not (until Norwich) played for the first team since last Boxing Day. Originally left out of the side on the pretext of a knee injury he has been a regular in the reserves throughout 1990, to the extent of being made Captain.

Recently we were told, through the local papers, that there is no rift, but that Steve does not fit the teams style of play although he is still considered for selection. Taking the last point first, if Steve is still part of the first team squad why was he not in Scotland on the pre-season tour? Even Richard Cooke managed to get that far. As far as the style of play is concerned, if a player of Willow's quality cannot fit in to a style that evolved around Mick Kennedy and Danny Wilson something must be wrong. I can only assume that the style is intended to be more high speed hustle and bustle, than the entertaining passing game we have been led to expect.

Anyone who has been watching the reserves cannot fail to have noticed what a good influence Willow is to the players around him, helping to keep a young side calm and settled. Reserve team football has been a joy to watch, while the first team have got some good results, in spite of spending 85 minutes at a time on the verge of collapse. The home leg against Bradford City is a classic example; the early goal then aimless hoofing for 85 minutes, a total lack of any sort of style. It looked like panic from where I stood. The side was desperately in need of someone able to slow the pace of the game, and pass the ball accurately to make the best use of the running off the ball. That someone is Steve Williams, but I feared that Willow would never again grace the First Division, at least in a Luton shirt. At least it made football combination matches something to look forward to.

But why was Steve left out in the cold? We've been told there's no rift, we know there's no injury, so what is the truth? I think we should be told.

Fanzine Review

From our Original Ideas Department

Just to fill a bit of space, I've decided to review a few other fanzines which you may or may not care to sample. First up is *DEVALUED*, a Southampton fanzine based in Manchester! Cheaply produced, and typewritten, it's very much a one-man effort by Ian Ellis the Editor. No heavy or long articles makes it a light and easy read, but the editor's enthusiasm shines through. If you like a fanzine to be slickly presented, and well illustrated then I fear this is not for you, but if you prefer an "old-fashioned" fanzine then this comes recommended.

CLAP YOUR HANDS, STAMP YOUR FEET is the curiously titled fanzine from our old friends at Watford. The issue I saw was a special 56-page issue and used some good ideas from other fanzines to good effect, and expressed hope for a successful season which hasn't yet materialised. As you'd expect they've no great love for the mighty Town, but then a bit of friendly rivalry never did any harm.

From our Rumbelows Cup opponents Bradford City comes *PHIL OF FRIZINGHALL*, who, realising a good idea, when they launched it produced a free 4-page issue. The second issue contains some good humorous illustrations, and a preview of forthcoming opponents at Valley Parade as seen by their own fanzine editors. A good alternative to the long-established City Gent - even if they, like most others, tip Town for relegation.

Lastly, *THE DAILY MIRROR* is, as its name suggests, a daily fanzine dedicated to Tottenham Hotspur. Naturally it covers issues at White Hart Lane in great depth but has several features that seem to be unique to a fanzine. As well as covering other clubs occasionally, space is set aside for other sports, news, cartoons, music, television and a host of other subjects as well and these are somewhat inclined to crowd out its main purpose. Good colour pictures are a plus point, but poor quality writing leads me to suggest that this is not a fanzine I'd bother with too often.

ADDRESSES:

Devalued, 2 Lincoln Road, Failsworth, Manchester M35 0GN(35p)

(ALR = Very High)

Clap Your Hands, Stamp Your Feet, 25 Chestnut Drive, Pinner, Middx. HA5 1LX. (#1 for issue 6, 50p normally)

(ALR = What would you expect?)

Phil of Frizinghall, 64 Redcar Road, Greengates, Bradford, BD10 0DR. (30p) (ALR = Low, may increase depending on

Rumbelows Cup)

Daily Mirror (25p) is available from most newsagents - no mail order (ALR = None, as they know not of our existence)

Please remember if sending for any of the above to include a stamped addressed envelope. For your guidance we have included our ALR (Anti-Luton Rating) so if you're particularly sensitive the high ALR is best avoided.

I Believe....

I'm prepared to believe John Fashanu's an international
And I'm prepared to believe Mark Dennis is perfectly rational
I'm prepared to believe that Liverpool do not bleat
And I'm prepared to believe Diego isn't a cheat
I believe Peter Reid's not old enough for a bathchair
And I'm prepared to believe that Greg Downs once had hair

I'm prepared to believe P*** G***** looks much leaner
And I believe Peter Shilton never knew Tina
I'm prepared to believe Jimmy Hill's not a prat
And I even believe Philip Carter isn't fat
I'm prepared to believe Watford aren't really shit
BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE GRAHAM RODGER IS NEARLY FIT!!

SIMON N. GARFUNKEL

Impure Fantasy

At the time of writing, Luton Town F.C. are occupying the dizzy heights of 6th in the First Division. This brought on fantasies of winning the League. Here's a quick sketch, taking place 2 weeks before the end of the season, in a BBC Studio.

Des Lynam : Good evening, ladies - and gentleman, but is the women I'm interested in - and welcome. First of all, let's discuss Luton's chances of winning the League - 1st place and 5 points clear. What do you think, Emlyn?

Jimmy Greaves : He doesn't think. He writes in the Daily Mirror! I'm so funny, aren't I?

Emlyn H. : Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha! (Collapses in a fit of giggles)

Bryan Robson : What's he laughing at?

Jimmy Greaves : George Best. He's just taken his trousers off.

Des Lynam : Returning to the question. What do you think, Kenny Dalglish?

Kenny Dalglish : It's not a very big one, is it?

Garth Crooks : Desmond was referring to the possibility of Luton Town winning the League.

Kenny Dalglish : That's what I meant. They can't win it.

Des Lynam : Why not? Stranger things have happened. I mean, Watford won last week.

Emlyn H. : Luton are crap. Besides, the only football team I know anything about are Liverpool. Everybody knows Luton won't win Division 3.

George Best : You're talking about football? I came here to get pissed! (Sorry!) (Leaves)

Garth Crooks : Considering the socio-political effects of Luton Town's current success, and taking into account the current economic climate of Great Britain, I would say that

Des Lynam : Thank you, Garth. Bryan, would you comment on the issue?

Bryan Robson : I've never heard of Luton Town.

Des Lynam : But they're top of the League!

Bryan Robson : Ah, well, Manchester United never get that high up.

Garth Crooks : As I was saying
(Kenny Dalglish headbutts him).

Des Lynam : I wanted to do that all through the World Cup. Anyway, back to Luton Town.

Jimmy Greaves : Listen, Des, nobody gives a damn about Luton United. So what if they win the League? Everybody'll think Liverpool have won it again.

Des Lynam : How come?

Jimmy Greaves : They all read the papers! Luton are never in them, so who'll know?

George Best : (Returning with a bottle in his hand): Luton forever! Up the Hatters!

Everyone : He IS pissed!

I doubt that this will ever happen in real life. But it just appears to me, as a Luton Town "supporter" (I've only seen them 4 times, but it is difficult) living in Bradford, that this club do not get the exposure they deserve. If Luton do win the League this year, I wonder how many people outside Bedfordshire will be bothered?

Graham Johnson

SIGNING ON

The up and coming star of English football walked into the elegant surrounding of the restaurant with his agent. He had certainly come a long way from the days of playing in the East End streets. He spotted the face of possibly his new Chairman as he rose to greet them from a nearby table. The usual pleasantries were exchanged and completed by the time the waiter entered upon the scene.

During the meal the conversation centered entirely around football but as the brandies arrived the real business of the meeting started.

"All the points we discussed in earlier conversations are contained in this", said the Chairman giving the contract to the agent, "all he's got to do is sign it".

The Agent took the bounded set of paper and started to study it carefully, confirming it contained all the matters discussed earlier. As he came to the final sheet a look of surprise came over his face.

"What's this last clause, it's rather strange isn't it".
 "I think its essential if the lad is to gain the support of our board and supporters" said the Chairman. "If he does this it will be like him becoming one of us and I'm afraid I'll have to insist on it".

The agent showed the clause to his client.

"For the money they are going to give you its got to be worth it" said the agent as his client read the clause.

"Sod off" said the player rising from the table.
 "I'M NOT LOSING MY FORESKIN JUST TO PLAY FOR SPURS" and stormed out.

COLD BALLS COCK-UP

News has reached us that Luton Town were responsible for a dreadful error that marred the draw for the Third Round of the Rumbelows Cup. This is how our source who was present at the draw described the shambles:

"The list for the draw was done in alphabetical order to try and make things easier for David Dent to understand. Because time was dragging on - it was already past Bill Fox's bedtime - and the Bradford-Luton tie was still undecided, we had to make a choice as to who to include in the list so that we could refrigerate Liverpool's ball to ensure that they got their usual favourable draw.

"We decided Luton would go through so David put ball number 18 into the fridge. All was proceeding according to plan until that *!?!@X Dowie missed his penalty, for Luton's defeat meant that we had to re-jig the draw in a hurry. This made Liverpool number 19 in the draw and, as Bill had nodded off, we had to make the draw straight away - Liverpool's ball was not "cold" and of course the consequences were disastrous - Manchester United v Liverpool. Ian St John was in the studio and he was fuming I can tell you - 'heads must roll' he muttered darkly as he left to catch the last bus home - But it was all on tape and even we couldn't destroy the evidence. Mind you, Nick Owen thought the whole episode highly amusing ..."

A great second half for Falkirk, 3-0 down at half time,

a dissapointment for Dundee,
 and a busy night for Glenavon

SCOTTISH FIRST DIVISION

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| CLYDEBANK(3) 0 | FALKIRK(0) 1 |
| Eadie 22 pen 24 Davies 28 | Baptie 85 Att 2,026 |
| FORFAR ATHLETIC(1) 3 | MEADOWBANK(1) 2 |
| Whyte 39 Brewster 77 pen | Roseburgh pen 26 Perry 64 |
| Leslie 86 | Att 689 |
| HAMILTON(0) 0 | AYR UNITED(0) 0 |
| | Att 1,722 |
| KILMARNOCK(1) 3 | AIRDRIEONIANS(3) 4 |
| Burns 10 Stark 66 Sludden 83 | Coyle 3 23 41 Lawrence 79 |
| | Att 5,287 |
| MORTON(0) 0 | DUNDEE(1) 0 |
| | McSkimming 34 Att 1,865 |
| PARTICK THISTLE(1) 3 | BRECHIN CITY(2) 3 |
| Flood 5 Charnley pen 60 Eng- lish 84 | Ritchie 31 Scott 42 Brown 67 |
| RAITH ROVERS(1) 1 | CLYDE(0) 1 |
| Dalziel 9 | Gilmour 73 |
| | Att 1,410 |

UEFA CUP

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1st Round, 2nd Leg | |
| BORDEAUX (2)2 | GLENAVON (0)0 |
| Dugarry, Ferreri | —15,000 |
| (Bordeaux win 2-0 on agg) | |
| VIT ARNEHAM (0)0 | GLENAVON (0)0 |
| | 10,000 |
| (Vit Arnhem win 1-0 on agg) | |

INTERNATIONAL FLAVOUR

On the last day of last season, I, like millions of others, no doubt, was sitting anxiously by my radio, desperate to hear the fate of the greatest club in the Universe. The incredible happiness and jubilation at the news of that famous victory over Derby will probably never be matched again (unless we stuff Liverpool 10-0 at Anfield). Anyway, enough of this sentimental twaddle! This sent me into a rare mode of thought. I realised just what a great team we could have had if we hadn't sold them all. Just look at this list of internationals, compiled from Luton Town players of the past 4 seasons, including 2 current Luton stars.

1. Andy Dibble (Wales)

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2. Tim Breacker (England U-21) | 5. Mal Donaghy (N. Ireland) | 6. S. Foster (England) | 3. Ashley Grimes (Ireland) |
| 11. Kingsley Black (N. Ireland) | 4. Peter Nicholas (Wales) | 10. Danny Wilson (N. Ireland) | 7. Ricky Hill (England) |
| | 9. Mick Harford (England) | 8. Lars Elstrup (Denmark) | |

A brilliant side, that could hold its own in any League! And that's without England B International Mike Newell, and the great Nigerian, Chuck Nwajobi. It's such a great shame that so many gifted players have had to leave. Let's hope that the next few years provide an equally great crop, to take the Hatters marching onwards to conquer England, Europe and the World.

Graham Johnson

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the "injured" Mick O'Brien

The things they say....

adidas GOLDEN SHOE

AWARD 1990-91

Leading League scorers up to and including
Saturday, September 15.

DIVISION ONE

Nigel Jemson (Nottm. Forest) 5
Roy Wegerle (Luton) 5
Paul Gascoigne (Spurs) 4
David Platt (A. Villa) 4
John Barnes (Liverpool) 3
Brian Deane (Sheff. Utd) 3
Lars Elstrup (Luton) 3
Marco Gabbiadini (Sunderland) 3
Gary Lineker (Spurs) 3
Paul Merson (Arsenal) 3
Mark Robins (Man. Utd) 3
Dean Saunders (Derby) 3

Wishful thinking from
Shoot and Match Weekly?

FUN FACT

● EXPECT a relegation
battle at Kenilworth Road
on the last day of the
season. MATCH has
predicted Derby to be
relegated and Luton
to finish 18th.

Tampa Bay Rowdies once rode
on to the field on elephants.
Dallas, in turn, used horses be-
fore a friendly against Man-
chester United, only for the
idea to be abandoned when
John Ryan, now Luton's man-
ager, was thrown off and in-
jured his groin.

John Ryan - Luton manager?

TOP SCORERS

Division One

7 — Peter Beardsley
(Liverpool).
6 — Roy Wegerle (Luton).
5 — John Barnes (Liverpool);
Paul Gascoigne (Spurs);
Nigel Jemson (Forest);
David Platt (Aston Villa).

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Raving Mad!!!

Dear Sir,

I enjoyed reading the Mad As a Hatter Issue 2 particularly the article 'That Team'. I would however disagree with some of the selections - I do not think that Richard Money or Marc North were that bad, or am I only thinking of their great goals at Rotherham and at home to Bristol Rovers respectively?

I would suggest other worthy candidates for inclusion to be Clive Goodyear, Bobby Thomson, Mike Keen, Frankie Bunn, Robert Wilson or even Bob Hatton?

Finally, I think it would be better for the magazine to be more actually about Luton. We have surely all read ad nauseam about the World Cup by now?

Yours faithfully,

Andrew Wallace

Ickleford, Herts.

Dear Sir,

I am fed up with Luton Towns "new fangled" electronic score board! It has not been working correctly for ages now. Even after the close season it blacked out on the first day of the new season.

I am old enough to remember when a little man climbed up high above the open Kenilworth Road terrace to slot into a frame large cards showing the half time scores of all League matches. That system was fool-proof!

Surely this is a case of saying that the old-fashioned ways were far better. Please pressurise the Club to get the modern score board working correctly on a regular basis, if possible showing the scorer and time of each goal, not only the current score, which we all know.

Yours faithfully,

MRS. S.D. HOBBS

Luton

Dear Editor,

We are currently working on a compilation of soccer bloomers. We would very much appreciate suggestions from readers of your fanzine. We are looking for quotes and stories (true or

apocryphal) on the following:-

1. Saying one thing, doing another
2. "Foot in mouth"
3. Malapropisms
4. Apt, humorous descriptions of players, managers
5. Amusing philosophising on football.

We will be happy to attribute the contributions to your readers and mention the name and address of your fanzine in the appendix to the book.

Many thanks for your help.

Yours sincerely,

ROSEMARY BURR

Rosters Ltd

23 Welbeck Street

London W1M 7PG.

Dear Sir,

Thanks very much for issue 2. I have enclosed a cheque to cover the next 5 issues. Just one small point though regarding 'Jockspot' in issue 2. Surely you must have realised that the Costa Rican was miles offside when he scored, and didn't you see the horrendous bobble that the ball took right in front of Jim Leighton - he did well to save the shot never mind hold it!

But for these small points Scotland would have won the World Cup, of that I'm sure. They would also have beaten England 5-0 and given Gazza something to really cry about!

Anyway, keep up the brilliant work.

All the best.

STEPHEN FRAZER

Bathgate

West Lothian.

Dear Sir,

I bought Mad 2 from Sportspages a few days ago. Enjoyed reading it, especially the Derby v Luton retrospective, and the all time bad Town team. You certainly dragged up some obscurities, although names like Peter Spiring and Wayne Turner brought some bad memories trickling back.

I haven't actually been able to make it to any games yet, but everything I've heard seems to point to a promising season. The young players appear to be coping, did Lars Elstrup really score two goals at Southampton? Did we really get nothing against United?

Anyway, keep up the good work. Personally, I'd be interested

in seeing reprints of reports/articles on Luton from the late 60's/early 70's. Do you remember the glossy photo's of Town players that the Luton News gave away just before the 70/71 (I think) season? Or, that paper that was on sale at the ground called The Hatter in the mid-70's? Featuring a really crappy column - 'The Oak Rd Enders'?

See ya
Richard North
London SE5

Dear Sir,

Could Luton Town organise the proverbial visit to a brewery? I ask because a couple of weeks ago the reserves played just round the corner from here, at Leighton Town, in the first round of the Beds Premier Cup. Trouble is, first I heard of it was in the Luton News the next morning. Couldn't the club have mentioned it in the programme, or the Luton News have told us the week before? Leighton Town would have appreciated an extra hundred or two on the attendance. Will they tell us about the second round? Surely they owe the supporters that much.

Yours faithfully,
P.J. Smith
Leighton Buzzard

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed a cheque for a subscription to "MAD AS A HATTER". I am hopeful that somehow you will be able to come up with a copy of issue number 2.

It will be of great interest to me to see the worst Luton Town team of all time. If that team does not contain a certain Billy Harber I will be most surprised. I consider his inclusion in the Luton side to co-incide with the nadir of Luton Town F.C. I well remember his thrusting wing play in the F.A. Cup replay against Non League Corby Town at Kenilworth Road in 1965.

I wonder if you could make a personal plea for me in the next issue. I write a programme page in a magazine called "Non League Football Focus" in which I comment on current season's programmes from the Non League world. I wonder if any of your readers would send me the odd programme to review. I would like to stress that I do not buy or sell programmes. I do not even collect them - I merely have an interest in them. Last season I reviewed a 61 FC (LUTON) programme as well as

one from a little bit further afield Sandy Albion.

I wish you all the best with your new publication. To an old supporter like myself it is most interesting. I never used to miss a game until moving to Scotland in 1976. Opportunities to see the Town have been extremely limited since then although I was at Loftus Road a few years ago when Q.P.R. knocked them out of the F.A. Cup. A few weeks ago I was at Stirling Albion and should be at Derby on November 3rd.

All the Best.

Stuart W. Hogg
39 Forth Place,
South Queensferry,
West Lothian,
EH30 9RY.

HERO WORSHIP

THE WONDERFUL BRIAN LEWIS - THE GREAT PENALTY TAKER

Brian Lewis was a fair haired player who dashed around with such speed that I swear he could appear at opposite ends of the pitch at the same time. Luton had bought him from Coventry City for whom he had played 35 times and scored 2 goals. In the 1969-70 season he played 45 times for Luton and scored 22 goals! So what did Luton do? Sold him at the start of the following season for next to nothing to Oxford. And what did Oxford do? Played him as a half back! I ask you. Anyway what has all this got to do with penalties? Well, Brian was also Luton's penalty taker but as I recall it he never scored one directly. His method was simple: he blasted the penalty to the goalkeeper's right, just too hard for the keeper to hold it but not hard enough for it to beat him. Brian would then zip in at the speed of light and nip the ball into the net before the poor keeper had a chance to draw breath. It got so as you knew it would happen and couldn't help laughing at the opposition's goalkeeper getting ready to dive! The other funny thing was that the next day the paper read 'Scorer: Lewis(pen.)'. Did I just imagine the whole thing or was it that Brian moved too fast for the ordinary football hack?

The Expatriate

HE'S BACK

The ^{third}~~second~~ coming.



"The best midfield player in Britain, possibly the world." Coming soon, to a ground near you.... (Hopefully).