

Issue 4

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MAD AS A HATTER!



A LUTON TOWN FANZINE

PURE GENIUS



THE TEAM WITH SIX APPEAL

"Artificial pitch specialists win....."

MAD AS A HATTER!

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Editorial

Something strange happened recently when Town were featured
in live television coverage. Sadly it was not a league game
with its huge financial rewards, but the final of the
Guinness Soccer Six tournament. Still, any excuse will do
for a 4-0 stuffing of Liverpool! Based on the TV coverage of
the event the Towns win was well deserved, although it was
irritating to hear Motson and Co. rattling on about the
advantages of artificial pitches, even when its an indoor
game. What will our advantage be next season when we play on
grass?

In the league, wins have been a bit scarce lately, but we
don't believe that is anything to be depressed about, as we
are picking up points from games we are expected to lose.
The competition for places is improving all the time, and
those who drop out through injury (James, Beaumont, Hughes)
have a real fight on their hands to get back in the side.
And of course there is Willo now firmly established and a
growing influence in the side, with the problems of the
recent past looking likely to be sorted out. Perhaps there
is a use for the winnings from the Soccer Six.....

Our congratulations go to Ceri Hughes, Jason Rees and Kurt
Nogan on their selection for Wales Under 21 squad, and
particularly to Terry Yorath, and Billy Bingham of Northern
Ireland, who clearly does not see the plastic pitch as
harmful to players international careers. Given Graham
Taylor's often stated dislike of our pitch, we wonder what it
will take for a Luton Town player to get anywhere near an
England shirt. After all if an unfit Bryan Robson and 32
year old Gordon Cowans can get into the 'B' side what about
David Preece and Steve Williams? Or are we just dreaming?
Zzzzzzzzz.....

Finally, as ever, a word about Watford. Their fate this
season has clearly been accepted and future planning is
taking place. Proof? The appointment of Steve Perryman as
Manager, a man with previous experience in, yes, the third
division. "You're going down, you're going down"

Oh, and as its Christmas:

"JINGLE BELLS, JINGLE BELLS, JINGLE ALL DER WAY"

Tactics

Forty five minutes had elapsed as the home team players walked slowly back to the dressing room, with the score standing at 0-0. The seasoned internationals knew the next 10 minutes were not exactly going to be pleasant. The tactics they had employed season after season had been totally forgotten. They knew the Manager would remind them.

With the Manager's words still ringing in their ears the second half started. Using the small amount of skill they each individually possessed and the tactics which had been drubbed into their heads at half time, the match swung their way.

The match statistics showed they had done their job.

	Home Team	Away Team
Bookings	0	4
Men Sent Off	0	1
Penalties Awarded	2	0
Offside Goals Allowed	1	0
Perfectly Good Goals Disallowed	0	2
Final Score	3	0

The players had a spring in their step and were in a jovial mood as they made their way to the dressing room at the end of the match. Their Manager smiled wryly at them as they filed in.

"You can't lose if you just follow the golden rules" said Kenny as he pointed at the rules on the dressing room wall. In bold, bright letters they read:

- 1) Always DIVE when you are tackled in the penalty area.
- 2) Always MARK the referee.
- 3) Take ADVANTAGE of the home fans bias.

M.I.

OUR BOYS OF '66

"They think its all over - It is now!" Yes, 1991 marks the twenty fifth anniversary of those historic words and no doubt the memorabilia boys will be laughing all the way to the proverbial, cashing in on Englands Finest Hour. However, I shall remember 1966 for a much more important reason - the year I got hooked on the Hatters.

Wembley seemed light years away as they prepared to visit Barnsley on New Years Day that year and a 3-0 stuffing put us down to eighth place in Division 4.

Nevertheless after the previous years of wailing and gnashing of teeth promotion seemed a fair bet with John O'Rourke scoring nearly as many goals as he put in transfer requests. It looked a formality at half time on Cup Final Night when we declared at 5-0 against Port Vale. Of course in the end we did not go up, drawing the final game at Chester when two points were needed. It was a very sad little boy clutching his "Green Un" that night. I was too naive to realise that promotion had really been lost in Newport County's dressing room before the penultimate match. A row over promotion bonuses provoked by Mercenary Matt Woods and ably backed by O'Rourke (seemed he wanted a nice Juicy bonus AND a transfer) meant that only half the team bothered to break sweat in that 3-1 defeat.

The directors made a big show of ridding the club of dissidents over the summer but conveniently neglected to replace them (Pause here while we state the obvious).

After the goings-on at Wembley in July, we settled down to the new season with hope in our hearts and an opening victory against Halifax Town in front of nearly 7,000. However it soon became apparent that in several positions we would have been better off using the monkeys at Whipsnade. (Now theres a thought Jim!) Early home form was reasonable but away trouncings at such exotic venues as Barrow, Southport, Wrexham and Rochdale speak for themselves.

There was a brief flurry of excitement in late September when young Tony Thear scored 4 goals at Kenilworth Road in the space of three days. However it turned out to be a flash in

the pan as he left for Gillingham, never to be heard of again. Later in October with even home results faltering a trialist named George Yardley played at centre forward against Bradford P.A. It was decided not to engage him so he went to Tranmere instead and scored 69 goals for them. (Shades of Ronnie Rosenthal?)

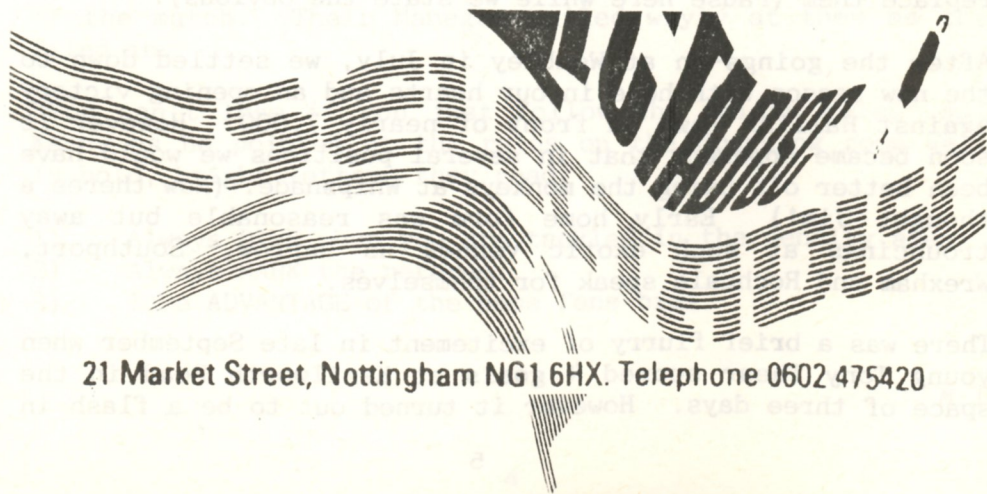
The absolute Dogs Bollocks came on 3rd December when in 91st place in the Football League, we went to Lincoln, the only team below us "Dad, Dad - they've lost 8-1". His reply considerably enhanced my vocabulary. We had reached our nadir.

To his eternal credit new Manager Allan Brown slowly pulled them round. He strengthened two key positions by signing ex-England Number 9 Derek Kevan and Leicester's reserve centre half Max Dougan. I was well impressed, an International striker and any replacement for Alan Rivers HAD to be an improvement.

The new boys settled in well and with Frenchie (still my all time favourite - Youngsters under thirty ask your Daddy about him) and Bruce Rioch also starting to sparkle the year ended on an encouraging note. A home victory over Tranmere at Xmas, watched by 9,123 was followed by a 3-0 win against Brentford on New Years Eve.

So even if next year fails to bring us all that we might hope for it will have to be bloody depressing to beat 1966.

Alan J. Robinson



Jim and David celebrate in style knowing that Town can now afford to keep Steve Williams

JOCKSPOT

Scotland's recent performances in the Euro Championship qualifying games bring about the following questions. Is it really Andy Roxburgh who is master-minding a recovery in their fortunes, or a football genius who wishes to remain anonymous? It seems incredible what difference a few months make in football. Having returned home from Italy a virtual national disgrace, it would appear that barring a total cock-up, the Jocks should win their group with some ease.

However, before I get carried away, all is not well, especially as far as individual club performances in European competitions are concerned. Rangers left themselves an almost impossible task after a 3-0 drubbing in the First leg, although Graeme Souness did have the encouragement of a rare goal from John Brown. All Souness has to do now in to explain to John which direction Rangers happen to be playing in. Dundee United, only 1-0 down after the First leg were stuffed out of sight at Tannadice. Obviously, Raphael Meade meant more to United than any Luton follower could ever imagine. Hearts also had a good First leg result but lack of European experience cost them dearly in the Second leg in Italy. To round off a wonderful show of Scottish European football supremacy, Aberdeen struggled in both matches, so rather than waste any more space let us return to the reality of League football.



John Brown-great goal

Despite the inevitable departure of Terry Butcher, Rangers have finally made it to the top of the table. Coupled with the Skol Cup Final victory over our friends from Parkhead, a recent quote of Rangers being too good for Scotland and not good enough for Europe has been heard around Ibrox. Three league titles in four years and early exits from Europe in recent years would suggest this is so, but 'Gers' always have a few shock results every season, showing that they're human after all. Graeme Souness excepted that is.

One time boy-wonder Charlie Nicholas is finding life

difficult after his move to Celtic. Goals are a rare sight indeed from this not so long ago goal-scoring machine. Has Billy McNeil finally realised that his days are numbered. Celtic are a big club in every sense, but with the re-emergence of Rangers it seems that a managerial change would be in everyone's best interests. Only time will tell, or will it?

G.S.

Right of replay ?

Largely unnoticed, a news item recently appeared in the sports pages of the quality papers, stating that, in future, all cup ties would be limited to one replay on police orders, as they claim that they cannot organise sufficient manpower at less than 10 days notice.

If this does come to pass, then our cup competitions, particularly our much cherished FA Cup, will change irrevocably and undoubtedly for the worse. The long drawn out cup ties have become legend over the years and for my money nothing grips the imagination quite like a second or third FA Cup replay. Sadly, it looks as if this may no longer continue, and one wonders where it will end ... I have a horrible suspicion that the next step will be the abolition of replays, so that all of our cup competitions come to resemble the ZDS Cup.

What is of even more concern is the increased power that the police seem to have in deciding where and when football takes place. Of course, without police co-operation there could not be a game played anywhere and I accept that ultimately they can refuse to police a game which leads to its cancellation. What I cannot accept is that they have managed to cope for many years with replays at short notice, so what has changed?

A.C.

A Christmas/New Year Quiz

Yes, its Christmas, and time for a quiz for those moments when you need something to take your mind off your hangover. Closing date for entries is 15th January 1991, and for the winner there awaits a football book/video of your choice. So to the questions:

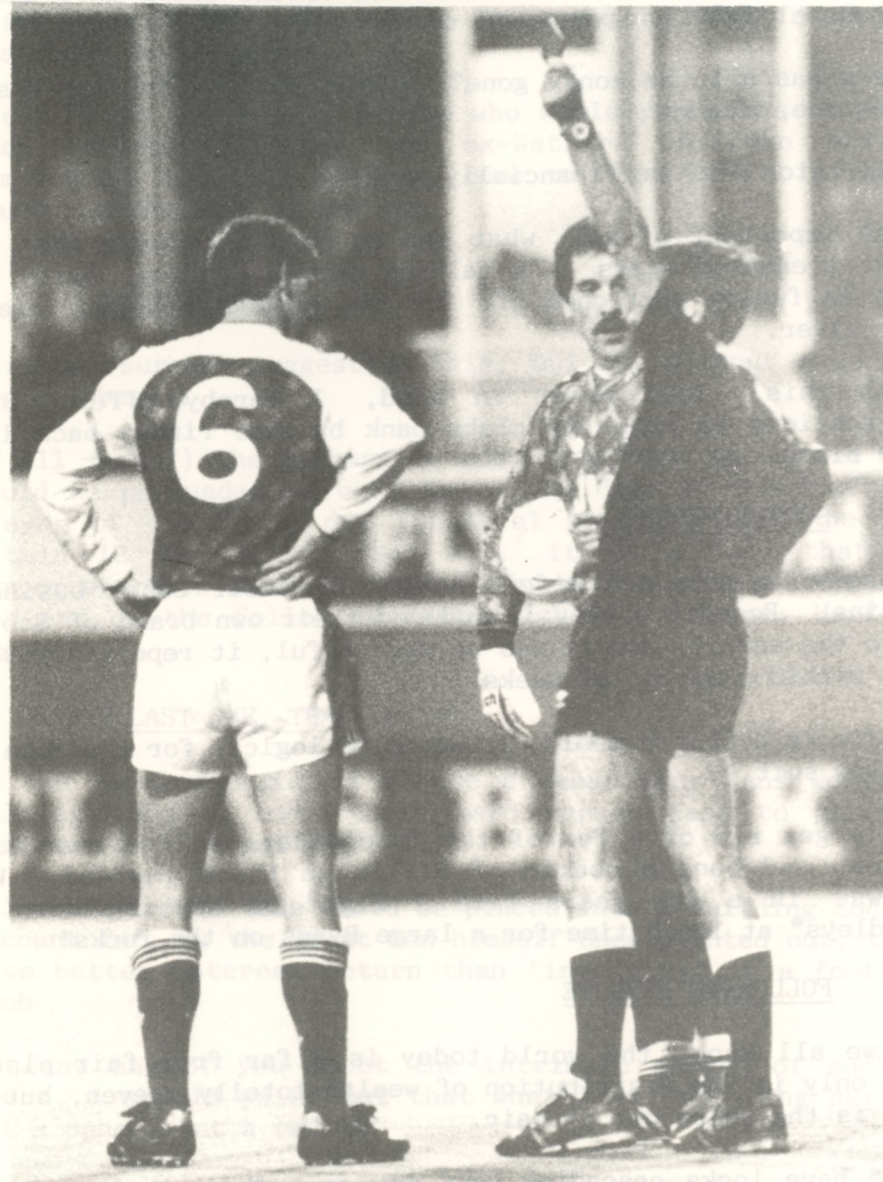
1. Against whom did Joe Payne score ten goals in April 1936, and what was the final score of the match?
2. Who scored Luton's first goal upon their return to Division One in 1982?
3. Name the two Watford Captains who missed Cup Finals in the 1980s as a result of being sent off against the Town?
4. Which Canadian soccer player won TV's "World Superstars" three times?
5. Name the two occasions (clue: one in '77-78 season, one in '85-86) when an away side wore Town shirts at Kenilworth Road?
6. Who was Luton Town's only African international footballer?
7. Name the trophy Luton won in 1989 and were not given the opportunity to defend the next year?
8. Name all the Scottish full internationals who have been capped whilst playing for Luton?
9. Which four sides beat Luton in the League during the 1981-82 promotion season?
10. At which two recent opening games of the season(s) were Hatters fans seeing red, and why?

The entrant with the highest number of correct answers will win, but in case of a tie please complete the following sentence in not more than 20 words:

"I enter stupid competitions like this one because....."

The judges (in) decision is, of course, final. Entries should be sent to: 30 Linden Road, Dunstable, Beds. LU5 4NZ.

ADAMS SEES RED!



The controversial moment when Tony Adams was P.Don by the referee.

COULD YOU SPARE US 10P TO STAVE OFF BANKRUPTCY. GUV?

The recent sale of Tim Breaker due to the clubs unfortunate financial position poses one or two questions.

Where has all the money gone? (Could our ex-Chairman answer that one, please)

Will Luton ever be financially secure?

Most important of all, what can be done to ensure that our most treasured stars (I'm talking Marvin Johnson, here) are not in future auctioned off for the customary thirty pieces of silver.

With this last poser in mind, I hereby offer a few suggestions to push the clubs bank balance firmly back into the Black:

1. SCOTCH MISSED

Glasgow Rangers are widely noted for their canny business brains. Recently, they introduced their own brand of Scotch onto the market, and it was so successful, it reportedly sold out within a matter of weeks!

As Jim is a Scot himself, it would be logical for the Town to follow suit.

Let's get rid of a few of the freeloaders in the executive boxes, and bung a couple of Stills in there instead. Who knows, in a few years time I might be popping down to Bradleys* at lunch time for a large Ryans on the rocks!

2. FOLLOWING HIRSUTE

As we all know, the world today is a far from fair place. Not only is the distribution of wealth totally uneven, but so too is the share out of hair.

Some have locks cascading half way down their backs, whilst others have, to put it politely, a more shiny look to the tops of their heads (no offence meant to Max Faulkner).

As the Towns young side all have a relatively healthy crop of

barnets, particularly Messrs. Dreyer and Petterson, why not utilise a little of the surplus to produce a range of those expensive human hair toupees so much in demand with the less hairy amongst us. After all, it is just a short step from 'Hatters' to 'Wiggers'.

I can think of several people who would pay handsomely for such exclusive items; an ex-Watford Chairman springs immediately to mind, as does, come to think of it, a rather chubby ex-Chairman of our own.

3. SUPPORTER POWER

A rather surreal suggestion this, but not without a certain logical basis.

If all (both?) the members of the Luton Town Supporters Club could be persuaded to vote for 'Luton Town FC Overdraft' as Player of the Year, our financial problems could be over within 12 months. After all, it is a fact that the Supporters Club choice for this honour is always history come the end of the following season (choices so far; Harford, Breaker).

4. THE LAST ONE, THANK EVANS

As one final thought, I'm sure a great many fans would be willing to part with their hard earned cash to purchase tickets for 'D Evans MPs Ball'.

All profits from this could be placed into a Building Society account for, as the great man himself once pointed out, these give better interest return than 'investing' in a football club.

In case any of you doubt the intrinsic appeal of such an event, I should point out that what I am proposing here is not a dance, but a raffle!

Marc Graham - Hatter With Attitude.

* Bradleys, Hanway Street, W1 - the best pub in London. (Please print this plug, I may get a few free Guinness out of it).

REID gets it RIGHT



Lesson one in football management: Instil a sense of discipline in your players. Costly advice to ignore as George Graham will testify.

Lesson two: If you fail on lesson one, and race on to the pitch yourself to harangue the referee, try and con the public and authorities into believing your motives were different.

Peter Reid in his first outing as Man City Manager failed on lesson one, but passed with flying colours on lesson two, claiming he was trying to get his players away from the referee. The press believed him, and TV cameras hardly noticed he was on the pitch.

Undoubtedly, this was his motive at full time, but straight after Tumble's smartly taken penalty, Tony Coton raced to the halfway line to assault the referee, and Reid, despite attempts by his coach and substitute to restrain him, was on the pitch to verbally attack the referee himself. Merely being on the pitch should be enough for a caution, but Reid gets away with it, and then skilfully ducks the disrepute charge by claiming he was acting in the interests of the game. Unbelievable? Almost, but true.



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TOWN TRAVELS

Please Note: The fascist pigs at B.R. are putting up the fares in January so please check the fares with B.R.

WIMBLEDON (01-01-91)

ROAD: M1 Southbound to end, West on A406 North Circular Road, cross Kew Bridge onto A205 South Circular Road to Wandsworth then A217 towards Earlsfield into Garrett Lane. Turn right after 1½ miles into Summerstown leading to Plough Lane.

RAIL: Luton dep. 1210 or 1240, arr. London Bridge 1302 or 1332. Take a Charing Cross train to Waterloo East then frequent services from Waterloo to Wimbledon (25 minutes walk to ground). Or change at Kings Cross then Underground by Circle/District Lines to Wimbledon Park (10 minutes walk). Fare £6.70 (One Day Capitalcard).

BEER: From South Wimbledon Station try the ROSE & CROWN, High Street, Merton, for a refreshing pint of Youngs, possibly including the excellent Winter Warmer. Closer to the ground the BRITISH QUEEN, Haydons Roads serves Taylor Walker beers.

LEEDS UNITED (19-01-91)

ROAD: M1 Northbound to end, then M621 to A643 into Elland Road, where there is plenty of car parking.

RAIL: Depart Luton 1023 arrive Sheffield 1217, depart 1227 arrive Leeds 1315. Frequent buses to the ground, but keep your gob shut if you value your life! Fare £30.00 Travel via London is also possible for £42.00.

BEER: Quite good for real ale, especially Tetleys, but for an alternative the EAGLE TAVERN, North Street, Sheepscar is a free house with Timothy Taylors and guest beers. The DUCK & DRAKE, Kirkgate serves Marstons, Old Mill, and Theakstons.

COVENTRY CITY (09-02-91)

ROAD: M1 North then M45 and A45 to Ryton-on-Dunsmore. Third exit from roundabout A423, right into B4110, across crossroads, left at T-junction into Swan Lane for Coventry City.

RAIL: From Milton Keynes depart 1246 arrive Coventry 1319. Fare £7.20. Via London, depart Luton 1110 arrive Kings Cross Thameslink 1146, then depart Euston 1230 arriving Coventry 1349 at a fare of £24.00. The railway station is about 30 minutes walk from the ground.

BEER: Coventry is overrun with M & B and Ansells beers, so try the PLOUGH, London Road, or PITTS HEAD, Far Gosford for M & B, and the HAND & HEART Far Gosford Street for Ansells.

No Hope ?

Fulham: Caught in the midst of a great run !!

Fulham have now taken 13 points from their last possible 118 to give their season a much needed boost.

Reasoned thinking from our ex-chairman.

PUT HIM IN THE TOWER

By EBEN BLACK

OUTRAGED Tories last night slammed Sir Geoffrey for his stinging attack on the Premier.

David Evans, MP for Welwyn Hatfield, Herts, said: "Put him in the Tower."

Spurs are clamped!

TOTTENHAM'S players had to go by taxi to their game with Chelsea at Stamford Bridge this afternoon after their team coach was clamped on the way to the ground.

The kick-off was delayed by ten minutes and the confusion clearly unsettled Spurs — they were two goals down at half time.

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It only takes a few seconds.....

It's slightly disappointing to report the lack of appreciation shown by some of the players towards the travelling Town fans at certain away games this season. This was particularly evident at Sunderland where the players, with one exception, trooped straight off the pitch at the final whistle. Thus our 500 mile round trip (not to mention irritating traffic hold ups) was not only unrewarded in terms of the result, but the impression was that too many of the players couldn't have cared less whether we were there or not.

I'm sure that this is not the case, but it would be nice for them to show that we are noticed, as I'm sure they would notice soon enough if no-one made the effort to go - and if people get as pissed-off as I was at Sunderland then perhaps they might not bother. All because some players couldn't spare a few seconds just to say "Thank you".....

A.C.

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AWAY DAY BLUES

Despite an away fans ban being in force at Fort Kenilworth over recent seasons, a large number of 'undesirables' have still managed to beat the system and support their team. Such actions are deplored by all of us here at 'Mad' so we sent our man in an undercover operation to investigate. His often perilous mission involved three months of both drinking in their pubs and sleeping with their womenfolk but I'm sure you'll agree that the ten point masterplan used by these hooligans to gain access to our ground makes startling reading that will concern both club and supporter alike.

1. Obtain your membership card from a reputable dealer. Scousers will no doubt prefer the alternative method of scrounging at the players entrance.
2. Walk to the ground in a confident manner. This may include wearing a Luton scarf which can be discarded at a later date. Alternatively you may wish to recall the 1959 Cup Final. Please though do remember to check your facts beforehand. Cries of 'One Ron Futchter' will no doubt raise suspicion.
3. Never collect your card near to the ground or you will make yourself a target for the 'boys in blue'.
4. Once at the electronic turnstile please insert your card correctly. Remember that all stewards are heavily armed (with master copy members cards).
5. Avoid all areas selling refreshments as you will no doubt be aware of from your travels to other league grounds.
6. If you're thinking of buying a Vauxhall car the programme is good value for money or you may wish to collect a free brochure from Shaw & Kilburns.

7. Robert Wilson (no, but seriously).
8. Once your team enters the field, nothing more than polite applause will be tolerated.
9. Enjoy the match but please don't cheer as it will only ruin the atmosphere.
10. Numbers 1 to 9 can be avoided by drawing Luton in a tinpot cup or being rich enough to afford an executive box.

P.I.

LOCAL DERBIES TO RETURN ?

We have been challenged to a football match by the Watford fanzine "Clap Your Hands, Stamp Your Feet". We are, however, somewhat short of players, and thats where YOU come in, dear readers. Regardless of ability (although it would be an advantage), if you're enthusiastic and want to continue our tradition of local derby successes please get in touch with us. No date or venue has been fixed yet, but we'll contact you when its arranged.

YOUR ASSISTANCE PLEASE

We would respectfully request your assistance, or to put it in simpler terms, HELP! We would like to receive your contributions for publication. Articles, letters, poems, press cuttings, photos, cartoons, in fact just about anything you think is worth putting in print. As long as its not libellous, pornographic or complimentary to Watford we'll consider it. Our policy is to be mainly about Luton Town but not exclusively, so if you feel the urge to write, draw or whatever, send your contributions to: 30 Linden Road, Dunstable, Beds. LU5 4NZ. And if you want to use a pseudonym in print, please give your real name for our benefit.

Something in Reserve(s)

When getting to an away game is out of the question, going to see the reserves is not the worst option available. For a start, its free! Mind you a programme costs 20p, and refreshments are both the usual price and usual standard. But back to the football, the Combination is not the most competitive league in the world but several internationals have appeared at Kenilworth Road this season, and as for the refereeing, the Combination is a feeder to the Football League List, so this is where they learn their incompetence.

Lutons unique blend of inexperienced youth and inexperienced youth (no its not a misprint) is enlivened by the appearances of Richard Cooke, (who must have been bought because Ray Harford had a grudge against Bournemouth) and the occasional first teamer recovering from injury.

In the early part of the season the incomparable Steve Williams was the hub of the team, but since his overdue departure to higher echelons that mantle has been worn, somewhat awkwardly, by Ian Scott, who seems to be getting worse. At one stage Israeli international Shalom Tikva made a fleeting, unspectacular appearance. In goal Andy Petterson looks a reasonable second choice, at least while Alec is fit as first choice, behind a defence built around the promising Tim Allpress and Darren Salton. In attack Stuart Brown seems to be the regular goalscorer, whilst Paul Gray, who made the League side at the end of last season can't seem to hold a regular place in the second team. To round this off, several other players could be worthy of mention here, especially those who were lucky enough not to make the side for the Premier Cup match at Dunstable, which was not the sort of performance that made a freezing night at Creasey Park worthwhile. However, several of todays reserves will be future first teamers, so if you get a chance, pop down for a reserve game sometime and judge for yourself.

The Ashley Grimes Fan Club

You pays yer money.....

Is there a form of price discrimination at Luton? I ask because, as a myopic Kenilworth Road ender, I've had the pleasure of seeing at close quarters, FOUR goals this season out of a total of 17 (see below):

	<u>Kenilworth Road</u>	<u>Oak Road</u>
For	3	7
Against	1	6

Mind you, I mustn't complain too much, it could be a Vicarage Road, season ticket.

A.C.

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Ooooh! Lars Elstrup!



Henry Mancini is seen here teaching Lars everything he knows about goalscoring which explains the mystified look on the Danes face.

Around the Town

Away from Kenilworth Road the local non-league soccer scene is in good shape this season, with the possibility of multiple promotions in the Vauxhall Football League looking good at the halfway stage of the season. North Herts especially could have reason to celebrate with Hitchin Town top of Division One and Stevenage top of Division Two (North). South Beds appears to be going for the consolation prize in Division Two (North) with Barton Rovers in fifth place and Vauxhall Motors second, with the Motors also enjoying a bit of a run in the FA Vase. In the Premier Division of the VFL St. Albans City are occupying their usual spot three-quarters of the way down the table. In the Beazer Homes League Dunstable have had a traumatic start to the season, losing the Manager and most of the team, being taken over by one of the new players, and then welcoming back the departed Manager to oversee something of a recovery. The Blues (an appropriate nickname) were banned from this years FA Cup and FA Trophy, which at least leaves them unbeaten, but look well placed in the Beds Premier Cup after beating a young and inexperienced Town reserve side at Creasey Park.

Meanwhile Barnet's perennial runners-up slot slot in the Conference is no longer a mystery. It has been exclusively revealed to "Mad As A Hatter!" that they are anxiously awaiting Watfords relegation from Division Four in order to become Hertfordshires only Football League team. According to the current plan this will happen in 1994 when South-West Herts finally gets itself a half-decent non-league team.

K.F.H.

Black and Knights Minstrels ?

When recently interviewed by us, Kingsley Black adamantly denied that he was set to follow the likes of Marv Johnson, Danny Wilson and The La's into a musical career by joining local group The Barron Knights in releasing the famous single "Fog on the Lea".

An Havelange of ideas

Since around the time of the World Cup, football followers around the world have been subjected to a stream of ideas to "improve" the worlds most popular game. Most of them come from the head of the games international governing body, the unpronouncable Joao Havelange, who seems determined to be the man who made football a commercial success in the U.S.A. and damn the consequences. Should he succeed in making these changes, designed simply to attract uninterested American TV and its advertisers, and increase the number of goals scored (and hence the excitement of the game), the legacy could be a simple game (of two halves) transformed into a stuttering progression of substitutions and advertising breaks. Mr. Havelange could go down in history as the lunatic who changed the face of the game as we know it. The ideas would be less worrying if he were not in a position of such power and anybody else worried about the future of our great game can only hope that Mr. H. never meets Jimmy Hill, another man intent on changing the face of the game.

An analysis of Mr. H's ideas emphasises the drastic nature of the changes. First off the line was a suggestion at the World Cup that each team should have all 22 members of its squad available for each match - 11 to start and 11 potential substitutes - if only 2 subs are allowed this is not too serious, but the logical progression would be unlimited substitutions and ending up with offensive and defensive teams changed at will, as in American Football (the version where feet aren't used!).

The second idea was to change from two 45 minute halves, to four 25 minute quarters, giving 10 minutes more football and 20 minutes more advertising time. Not too drastic at the Nou Camp Stadium on a warm September evening but a different story at Stockwood Park on a freezing January Sunday morning.

Then followed an implementation of logic. As the average height of man has increased in the last hundred years or so, the goal should be increased in size. Bigger goalkeepers equals bigger goals. Simple, logical and horrendously expensive when the cost of a new set of goalpost is multiplied by twice the number of football pitches around the world.

This was followed by a sort of reverse logic with his fourth (and to date final) pronouncement on the future of the game. This was to reduce the number of players per team from 11 to 10. Reverse logic indeed bearing in mind the rate at which the worlds population is increasing. This will mean the end of the flying left winger as we know it. The sight of the No. 11 sprinting down the touchline will more often mean the sub is warming up.

As if these attempts to transform the game were not enough, Alan Robinson, Englands top referee, recently suggested the introduction of the sin-bin, as used in Ice Hockey and Rugby League, presumably as an alternative to bookings. Given the inconsistency of many referees when it comes to issuing the yellow card this is hardly likely to lead to any improvement and will have teams down to 10 (or even 9 or 8) men for as yet unspecified periods of the game. Overall, I personally don't like the changes that the leading lights of our game propose, in fact I quite like it as it is. Having said that, a deliberate handball should be a sending off offence (Red Card, Neville). Change to improve the product we've got, not to introduce a new product. Campaign for Real Football, anyone?

K.H.

Going Down ???



Raving Mad!!!

Dear "Mad",

Thanks for issue 2 of "Mad as a Hatter!" Thoroughly enjoyed it (and not just 'cos you printed my article - though that helped!) but you could improve the layout a bit by bunging a few more pictures in, and not of bloody Mo Johnstone this time.

Luton fanzines are like buses, aren't they - wait ages for one, then three appear all at once! Hopefully though, there is room for all three on the market. They're all more entertaining than the official programme! Anyway, it's a highly enjoyable season so far - (searches round for piece of wood to touch) - I even enjoyed the Q.P.R. away game.

All the best, and may you continue until Watford win the championship and Elton Johns hair starts growing back (the latter being far more probable than the former).

Marc Graham

Milton Keynes.

P.S. The answer to your footnote to my article - 'NICER GAY REP' - is GARY PENRICE, but you did nearly fool me with your Red Herring. There is no such thing as a REGULAR scorer for Watford! Unless you were talking about his toiletry habits, in which case, I'd rather not know, anyway!

Point taken Marc, more pics, but not Mo Johnstone.

Dear "Mad",

TV bias? Well I saw the game at Norwich and you are certainly not wrong in claiming that the version shown on Anglia did not show Luton in the best light. Their second half performance was stupendous - if we played like that every week there'd be no problems! Since Mad 3 Anglia did show Luton v. Everton - perhaps your article wounded poor old Gerry's conscience! The trouble with the TV bias that you highlighted is really due to the fact that Luton are not really in East Anglia at all. According to my dictionary East Anglia is Suffolk and Norfolk so perhaps it's not too surprising that a Bedfordshire team, 100 miles west, did not get the coverage they deserve.

Now when I used to live in the Luton area TV reception was split, depending on where you lived, between those who got Anglia and those who got London and I assume that is still the case. I can even recall Luton being on LWT's The Big Match a few times back in the early 70s! So as we are on the

periphery of two television areas we get totally inadequate coverage: an accident of geography rather than deliberate malice? Incidentally Ipswich supporters feel even more aggrieved than Luton supporters at the pro-Norwich bias! It would be a bit like us turning on the TV every week and seeing those horrible Hornets!

All The Best

Steve Bailey

Saxmundham, Suffolk

Seeing the Hornets on TV every week - perish the thought!

Dear "Mad",

The 'Forget the Cup, concentrate on the League' cliché used in Issue 3, has prompted me to select a few remarks often churned out by (losing) Luton Managers and players:

- 1) "WE 'WAS' ROBBED" - a phrase frequently used by both players and fans alike.
- 2) "THEY HAD THE WIND IN THEIR FAVOUR" - often quoted when the Town lose heavily on a blustery day, but in particular on that fateful 8-1 defeat at Scunthorpe 1965.
- 3) "WE WERE PLAYING UPHILL" - alternative excuse for the above mentioned match.
- 4) "IT'S ONLY A GAME" - Alan Slough's apt remark, only he never had another chance to play 'the game' again anyway.
- 5) "WE'LL BE THERE..(OR THEREABOUTS)" - famous last words of the Luton squad as they anticipated victory in the Simod Cup final v. the 'mighty' Reading.
- 6) "AT THE END OF THE DAY, IT WAS A GAME OF TWO HALVES BUT WE WERE IN IT TO GET A RESULT (WHICH WE DIDN'T)" - a sentence of typical footballing clichés used by Luton Managers down the ages.

Come back Les Sealey - all is forgiven.

Yours faithfully

Heather Robinson (Miss)

Luton

Thanks Heather, for the second 8-1 defeat to be mentioned in this issue.

Dear "Mad",
 You obviously have influence in high places. After my letter which you published in issue 3, both the Luton News and the Club programme told us about the second round Beds Premier Cup match at Dunstable. As a result I was able to attend the match, so I've only got myself to blame!
 Keep up the good work.
 P.J. Smith
 Leighton Buzzard

Glad to be of service, but we were there too and we blame you as well!

Dear "Mad",
 Congratulations on your publication. Your "all time" bad Luton side evoked some memories, but I must concur with your recent correspondent on the question of Bobby Thomsons omission. He was hopeless! Thomson arrived in the early '70's a genuine England international (capped a decade previously!) and how he kept his place was beyond belief. He looked 50 and played like someone twice that age! He couldn't run, couldn't pass, and definitely couldn't tackle. Clearly an inspirational Captain.
 Additionally, no-one has mentioned Brian Chambers - one of the most inept performers ever seen at Kenilworth Road. One pass in ten would reach its target, he couldn't head, didn't run much and never won a tackle. Your selection of Ray Daniel seems Maradona - like in comparison.
 Finally one point on Wayne Turner - he certainly was a hopeless player and how well I recall the crowds chants for him to 'sit down' when warming up as a sub! However, he did score the goal that beat Watford in the FA Cup 5th round 1985 - and was chaired off the pitch by jubilant fans - so he did at least make one significant contribution in his career!!
 Yours faithfully,
 Barry Mills
 Catford, SE6
 P.S. What about Gordon Hindson?

Fair comment about Wayne, but was his significant contribution beating Watford, or the arrival of Millwalls hordes in the 6th round, and all that followed (membership and away fan ban). And yes, what about Gordon Hindson?

Stop Press ---- F.A. Cup News

So much for the romance of the cup. With the draw being hijacked by BSKyB, it was a matter of waiting for it to appear on tele-text, and oh! what excitement! Sheffield United away. 77 teams to choose from and we get another Division 1 side, 10 days after the home league game. Not only that, but an extra dose of Vinnie Jones and the dreaded long ball game, although the thought of seeing Wilf Rostron twice in that short time does have a certain appeal. And, come to think of it, when did Town ever play well against a supposedly crap third or fourth division side anyway? No danger of this one being televised either, so at least it will be played on a Saturday afternoon. So to the important bit, how to get there:

SHEFFIELD UNITED (5-1-91)

ROAD: Take M1 northbound to junction 31, then A57 to roundabout. 3rd exit into Sheaf Street, then at 2nd roundabout take 5th exit into St Mary's Road (inner ring road) then turn left after ½ mile into Bramall Lane.

RAIL: From Luton depart 1023, arrive Sheffield 1217. Fare £30.00

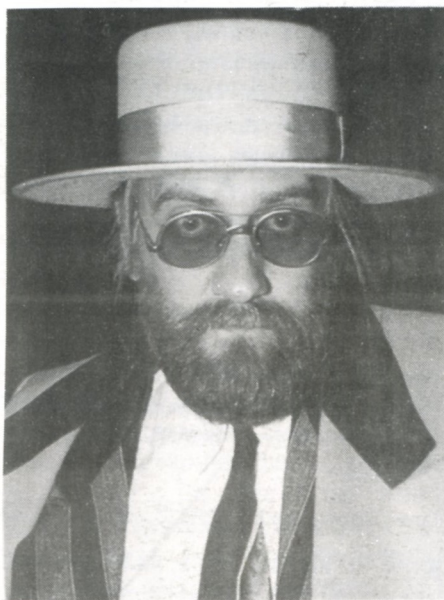
BEER: The ROYAL STANDARD, 156 St Mary's Rd is near the ground and serves Vaux and Wards beers. At 23 Alma Street the FAT CAT is a free house with Marstons, Taylors and Theakstons, but the Owd Rodger will probably be out through injury. The LORD NELSON, 166 Arundel Street is a Stones pub. And as for the COSSACK (backs to the wall, lads!), in the interest of your own wellbeing we won't tell you where it is, but if you do find it you have been warned.

Finally, as for the 4th round, our crystal ball is on the blink. so we are unable to provide any info for that one, but we'll tell you about the 5th round in the next edition.



Vinny Jones -
 Hit-man or
 hero of the
 hodcarriers?

IDENTITY PARADE



One of the men pictured above is Graham Rodger.
Can you identify him ? Answers on a £5 note....