

MAD AS A HATTER!



A LUTON TOWN FANZINE

SHOCK! HORROR! LUTON TOWN SIGN PLAYER!



Holsgrove: "Why haven't you signed anyone before, Jim?"

Ryan: "Because with our finances we couldn't even afford the pen, let alone the transfer fee!"

MAD AS A HATTER!



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DAVIDS BOOKSHOP, 14 Eastcheap, Letchworth, Herts.
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Back issues: Issue 1 (Free + SAE), Issue 2 (Reprint 40p + SAE)
and Issues 3 and 4 (50p + SAE) are still available.

Next Issue out on 1st April

Editorial

As we enter February, Town again seem to be slipping into the
all too familiar relegation zone. Two league wins in the
last three months of the year has seen the side drop from a
'top six' place to perilously close to the bottom the table.
This has mainly been down to the inconsistency of the team
and rather poor finishing in front of goal, with the
exception of Ooh Lars Elstrup. Clearly a change of fortune
is needed if the team are to avoid a last match fight to
avoid the drop, for the third year running.

On a happier note the Town did enjoy a good win in the F.A.
Cup at Sheffield United and although at the time of writing
we have yet to play West Ham one can only hope that the game
brings further progress in the competition. To do so will no
doubt bolster the lads confidence for the weeks ahead as well
as providing much needed financial revenue for the club.
After all Wembley Way doesn't look the same without straw
boaters!

Last month did see Jim Ryan's first dabble in the transfer
market and no doubt all of us would like to wish Paul
Holsgrove a successful career at the club and hope that he
follows on in the tradition of other non-league players who
have successfully made the transition into league football
with Luton. Although this was by no means one of the biggest
transfers of the season so far, as A famous Town fan Billy
Shakespeare once said 'From the smallest acorns come bloody
great trees.'

Finally, in order to include both more pictures and humour in
this issue, we did hope to give away a free Watford Team
group poster. Unfortunately, the idea had to be dropped just
before going to press as we were advised that to do so could
cause unnecessary alarm and distress to the women and young
children that may read this publication.

P.S. To all those of us who stand at the back of the
Kenilworth and were told at the Southampton game that to do
so was a safety risk, a song to sing should the same happen
again today.

'We shall not We shall not be moved' Repeat as many times as
necessary.

What's it like to lose at home, Daddy?

Richard North (MAAH2) asked for reprints of reports from the late 60s/early 70s: as interesting as those are I'd prefer to see more impressionistic articles on those days rather than straight copies. And that's why I wrote this!

I first watched Luton in 1968 as they were going up from Div. 4 to Div. 3. I can still recall how distraught I was the first time I ever saw Luton lose at home, 1-3 to Bradford City. The combination of the colours claret and amber make me feel uneasy to this day! I seem to recall one Rodney Green playing that day (although on checking the programme he wasn't down as playing) and he was perhaps the worst player I ever saw in a Luton shirt. His later transfer to Watford confirmed all my doubts!

From then on, for a few years, seeing the Town losing at home was a rare novelty and always an unwelcome shock to the system. The first year in Div. 3, 1968-69, saw Luton unbeaten at home and only narrowly missing going up. They came too close to losing after giving Orient a 0-2 start before 3 goals in the last 20 minutes saved it. I think they also did the same against Shrewsbury before drawing 2-2 but I could be wrong! The next year, terror of terrors, Luton lost two home games in a row, 1-2 to Gillingham and 0-2 to Plymouth. Deep depression, despair, gloom, doom and the end of the world are reflected in the memories and in the programme notes of that time. Yet we were second in Div. 3! What were we so worried about?

Next year we climbed on to Div. 2 and again only lost twice, Sunderland 1-2 and Leicester 1-3. The latter game is particularly memorable to me because I got a runners-up prize in an Evening Post competition to write a report on the game, got a football and pictures of Malcolm McDonald! We were also still keen on giving teams a chance though: Carlisle Utd were leading 0-3 with 17 minutes to go when suddenly one Jim Ryan scored a cracking goal, shortly followed by one from Alan Slough. Then in the dying minutes that man McDonald popped in the equaliser. What a game!

So in four seasons I'd seen Luton lose at home in the League five times. The following season they lost six(!) including a 1-4 thrashing by Blackpool. And then in 1972-73 the trend continued to the point where, in the programme for the 16 December 1972 game against Millwall, a quote from the press said that it was "beyond belief how Luton, who boast the best away record in the League" were unable to win at home. So all had come full circle, home defeats were now common enough not to induce thoughts of suicide and I was old enough now to have realised that awful truth - Luton Town were not, after all, invincible. Well, not quite...

Steve Bailey - The Expatriate

Cutting Remarks

A mixture of fact and fiction from the Torygraph

MATCH FACTS

DIV 1: Arsenal stretch run to 23 League games since last defeat, Leeds make it 11. QPR record first win in 11 attempts after vital penalty save by Jan Stejskal. Sunderland go six without a win.

DIV 2: Plymouth seven without win and Ipswich and Portsmouth make it 10. Sheffield Wednesday and Notts County go eight since last defeat, Bristol Rovers nine, Swindon and Watford seven. First win for Oxford in seven attempts. First League goal for Sean Farrell (Luton).

DIV 3: Shrewsbury record their 500th draw. Bolton make it 12 without defeat, Gillingham and Doncaster eight, Brentford seven. First win in eight for Fulham.

DIV 4: First win in seven for Torquay. Wrexham suffer fifth successive defeat. Chesterfield seven since last win. Hat-tricks for Jimmy Gilligan (Swansea) and the first in his career for Ian Blackstone (York). First League goal for John Flower (Aldershot). Vital penalty save by Northampton's on-loan Kevin Hitchcock. Sent off: Neil McNab (Tranmere) and Paul Wilson (Northampton).

There was Oldham, a football club who used to be ranked with the Stockports and Rochdales of the Fourth Division, who spent the early spring (though the seasons were rendered irrelevant by their plastic pitch) gunning for a quite extraordinary treble: promotion to the First Division, plus the FA Cup and League Cup.

They couldn't resist mentioning the pitch.

Cheering news from the Sun

THE Sun

message to Arsenal fans

■ NOW for the good news: Tony Adams will be out of prison by the end of April. That's plenty of time to polish the dust off his boots and lead Arsenal out for the Cup Final on May 18.

JOCKSPOT

Over the years there have been many famous Ally's, Ally Robertson (once of West Brom), Ally McCoist (once of Sunderland) and the forgettable Ally Macleod. Almost thirteen years ago, Mr. Macleod was a household name North of the border. Not for his fabulous management expertise but for being the unfortunate man in charge of Scotlands' 78 World Cup "cock up". I will not bore you with the gruesome details other than say he is remembered for all the wrong reasons. It is said that events come in threes and for Ally Macleod this is certainly the case. Firstly being appointed Scotland boss (a regrettable mistake), secondly becoming Ayr's manager (remember not so long ago he helped Ayr to promotion from the Second division) and thirdly his reward for turning Ayr into a reasonably secure First division side was to be sacked for so called lack of ambition. Ironically, the man tipped to take over Macleod's job is Willie Miller. I say ironic because it was Macleod who made Miller the youngest Premier league captain, when only 20 in 1975.

Macleod will always be remembered for 1978 but I am sure that having said what I have, he wasn't that bad a judge, as Willie Miller's success will no doubt testify.

Little St. Johnstone go marching on. The men from Mcdiarmid Park in Perth, continue to surprise everyone but themselves in Scotland.

At the time of writing they are in 4th place, one place above Celtic, no mean feat (even these days). Isn't it nice to see one of the smaller clubs doing so well for a change. Without a doubt a place in Europe is a distinct possibility. So, from all of us at Mad as a Hatter, UP THE SAINTS.

In the First division regular Yo-Yo clubs. Falkirk and Hamilton Accies seem to be fighting out the top places for



that valuable top spot. Whoever gets promoted, it seems unlikely they will be in the Premier league for more than a season. St. Johnstone last season were well equipped. New ground, good support and sound financial backing. I hope I am to be proved wrong but I can't help thinking that the difference between the Premier and First division is too great for most clubs. Hamilton, especially, have been up and down so often in recent years one wonders whether the Premier was such a good idea in the first place. "Too good for the First, but not good enough for the Premier".

Regrettably an all too familiar saying these days.

It has often been said that the Scottish football authorities don't know what day it is. The dates in the picture below suggest that the Leagues main sponsor has similar difficulties !



GRIMES OF PASSION

Here at Luton we have a reputation for skilful, stylish football, and as spectators an appreciation of the same. In spite of this we like to see full backs belting up the wing at 100 miles an hour terrifying the opposition into submission even if the result is more likely to be another cross thudding into the terraces. It was the departure of one such full back, "Basher" Stephens to his home town club of Coventry City which brought Ashley Grimes to Kenilworth Road. Ashley was an Irish international who had been displaced at Old Trafford by Moses and Robson and came to Luton in exchange for Basher after a spell with the perennial strugglers of the first division. I still can't quite see what David Pleat had in mind with this deal.

It was a long time before we saw much of Ashley, due mainly to back trouble, for when he wasn't out through injury he was given the number 3 shirt. How three successive managers (Pleat, Moore and our little Ray of sunshine) could have seen Ashley as a full back is a lasting mystery. In truth he was a one sided, one footed midfield player of considerable talent, too slow and ponderous in the tackle to be a decent full back. In short most of his time at Luton was wasted by being played out of position. The rare appearances in midfield were occasions of sheer bliss, for me at least, the delicately floated crosses contrasting with the hopeless chases and clattering attempted tackles in the left back position.

Ashley's time at Luton may not have been the most memorable, but it was scattered with incidents that are not easily forgotten, like the sending off at Norwich for spitting at team-mate Rob Johnson, or that free-kick at Southampton, quickly taken and straight off Foster's head into the path of Wallace, that sent Fozzie and Sealey into raving apoplexy.

But for me two much sweeter moments stand out, along with Ashley's almost forgotten part in our only cup winning side. First, the beautifully struck free-kick against Oxford in the semis with that "cultured left foot". And then the piece de resistance, the beautiful cross for the winner at Wembley, neatly put away by Stein.

Sadly this marked both the high spot and the end of Ashley's Luton career as in the midst of Sunshine Ray's clear-out of the dream team, Ashley departed to some outpost of the Spanish Second Division to make a few fast bucks. Perhaps for his admirers this was better than more dismal left back appearances. Instead just the memories of the beautifully cultured left foot.

The Ashley Grimes Fan Club



Ashley demonstrates a dubious tackling technique (above) and proper use of the "cultured left foot" (below)



TOWN TRAVELS

MANCHESTER CITY (16-02-91)

ROAD: M1 North, M6 to junction 19, A556 and M56 to junction 3 then A5103 towards Manchester. At crossroads turn right into Claremont Road then right into Maine Road.

RAIL: For £21.00, leave Milton Keynes 1125, arrive Manchester Piccadilly 1336, then bus to the ground. Via London for only £37.00, leave Luton at 0940 and Euston at 1050 arriving at 1336.

BEER: The CASTLE HOTEL at 66 Oldham Street stocks the excellent Robinsons ales, whilst the WHEATSHEAF, 30 Oak Street is a Jennings outlet. Hidden away in a run down back street area behind Piccadilly Station, the JOLLY ANGLER, Ducie Street, is a friendly local serving Hydes beers.

ASTON VILLA (09-03-91)

ROAD: M1 North, M6 to junction 6 follow signs for Birmingham (NE). Fourth exit from roundabout onto A38 then right into Aston Hall Road for Villa Park. Street parking only.

RAIL: Depart Milton Keynes 1236, arrive Birmingham New Street 1347, then local service at 1404 to Witton arrive 1411. Fare £11.50. To go via London depart Luton 1010 to Kings Cross, then from Euston 1130, then as above. Fare £28.00.

BEER: Another area awash with M & B and Ansells. BRITANNIA, Grosvenor Road for M & B, SWAN & MITRE, Holborn Hill for Ansells. For an alternative ATKINSONS BAR, Stephenson Street is a free house within spitting distance of New Street Station.

MANCHESTER UNITED (23-03-91)

ROAD: M1 North, M6 to M56, then M63 to junction 7. Along A56 to Manchester centre. Turn left into Warwick Road North, car park on right, ground on left.

RAIL: As for Manchester City, except catch a local train from Piccadilly to the ground.

BEER: The MARBLE ARCH, 73 Rochdale Road is a freehouse with 14 handpumps, always has seven guest beers. After a quick pint at the JOLLY ANGLER (see Man. City) move on to the WHITE HOUSE, 122 Great Ancoats Street for Holts bitter and Thwaites beers. Also in this area is the CROSS KEYS, 95 Jersey Street, a Tetley pub once voted Manchesters most ethnic pub.

SHEFFIELD UNITED (30-03-91)

ROAD: M1 to junction 31 or 33, then A57, at roundabout take 3rd exit into Sheaf Street. At second roundabout take 5th exit into St. Mary's Road then left into Bramall Lane.

RAIL: Depart Luton 1023 arrive Sheffield 1217 or depart 1123 change at Leicester and arrive at Sheffield 1346. Fare: £30.00.

BEER: Opposite the station is the HOWARD, serving Mansfield beers, although experience suggests proof of age will be needed by anyone under 65. If the local police will let you near it the FROG & PARROT, Division Street is a home brew pub. The best bet is probably the ROYAL STANDARD, 156 St. Marys Road, which is close to the ground and serves Wards beers.

CHELSEA (06-04-91)

ROAD: M1 South, A1 to Hyde Park Corner, A4 to Knightsbridge. Turn left into A308 Fulham Road for Stamford Bridge.

RAIL: Depart Luton 1240 arrive Kings Cross 1316, then underground to Fulham Broadway. Fare: £7.30 for a 1 Day Travelcard.

BEER: Opposite Fulham Broadway station is the WHITE HART, for a good traditional pint of Charringtons (brewed in Wolverhampton!). For the dubious delights of a pint of Watneys, turn right outside the station to the KINGS HEAD TAVERN.

QUIZ ANSWERS

Our Christmas/New Year quiz in issue 4, brought an overwhelming entry. Well, we were overwhelmed by it anyway. Murray Craig domiciled deep in Arsenal territory at Islington managed 9 correct answers to our ten questions and an inspired guess for the one he got wrong. In fact such is the standard of the answers that Murray would have beaten the team who set the questions!

The lack of entries suggests that several hundred of our readers are scratching their heads trying to work out the answers, so here they are:

1. Joe Payne's ten goals came against Bristol Rovers in a 12-0 win, and the unfortunate goalkeeper was called Ellis. (How many would have bet on it being McKnight).
2. John Lacy of Spurs scored our first goal back in Division One. Brian Stein got the second in a 2-2 draw at Tottenham.
3. The two Watford captains who missed cup finals after being sent off against Town were Glenn Roeder (then at QPR) in 1982 and Wilf Rostron in 1984.
4. The Canadian soccer player who won "World Superstars" 3 times was Brian Budd, not, Murray guessed, Kirk Stephens! This was a trick question with no Luton Town connection.
5. Mansfield Town in '77-78 and Newcastle United in '85-86 were the two sides who played here in Town shirts.
6. Town's only African international was Chukwuemeka Nwajiobi, who was capped by Nigeria. Murray even got the spelling right.
7. Won in '89 and not defended the year after was the Oxfordshire Benevolent Cup which was won by beating Oxford United in a pre-season friendly at the Manor Ground.

8. Mike Cullen was the Town's only Scottish international, capped against Austria in 1956.
9. The four defeats in '81-82 were:

Sheffield Wednesday	(H)	0-3
Cardiff City	(H)	2-3
Newcastle United	(A)	2-3
Barnsley	(A)	3-4
10. The two occasions for seeing red were at Derby in '87 when Mick Harford was sent off after 4 minutes (Red Card) and a year later at Sheffield Wednesday, when Town did a poor imitation of Liverpool wearing an all red strip.

Given the level of entries the tiebreaker was largely irrelevant but we felt that Murray deserves the final word for bothering to enter.

"I enter stupid competitions like this one because I am 'Depleted' of any common sense, because I am a Luna-'Town'-ic and because I am as Mad as a Hatter!"



Red Connection (Q10). Mick Harford, amongst others, is seen here trying to impersonate Liverpool.

We used to play on grass...

(The trials and tribulations of being a Luton Town supporter in the 1990s)

Having watched Luton Town for some 20 years now, and been involved in the passions (and tribulations) of relegation and promotion battles, Cup runs (finals even!) nowadays the mere mention of Luton Town is enough to send normally rational football followers into screaming and ranting indignation.

The audacity of this club to upset centuries of tradition and dictate the terms on which people are allowed to attend matches sends the punters into frothing apoplexy. The ravings of David Evans likewise.

And understandably so, overnight we'd become a Tory wet dream, presented by Messrs Evans, Moynihan and their ilk as a shiny example of the 'sensible' solution to footballs so called problems. Debated in the Commons by people who've probably never been to a game in their life (unless its a freebie for the Cup Final) and heralded as a manifestation of Thatchers law and order policy.

Whereas once the admission of being a Luton Town supporter was met with generally good humour (and the names Hill, Stein, Walsh, Pleat invoked) it's now, the likes of, Nick Owen, David Evans! Plastic pitches, away fans ban etc. etc.

In fact it was Evans opportunistic takeover of the club (sorry, business) to further his own ends that became the turning point in the public shame of being a Luton Town supporter. Surely all genuine, sensible supporters can see that LTFC filled a convenient gap in his long term plans? It could equally have been numerous others had his boardroom overtures not been rejected. Now we, the loyal embittered faithful have been left to carry the can for his careerist manouvres.

And, although Evans has since departed (presumably richer through the process!) as the side are making genuine attempts to return to the skilful, passing game of old, memories are long in football. Where would the uncommitted's sympathies be should we face relegation again/progress in the FA Cup etc?

Nobody I know likes the membership scheme and while we can appreciate the financial advantages of a synthetic playing surface, I for one prefer the traditional romanticism of games played in unpredictable mud and slush.

Speaking as a socialist, most galling of all has been the equation of LTFC as a bastion of Thatcherite Conservatism, and having David Evans presented as the voice of Luton Town.

The fact that we've stayed loyal throughout these afflictions is surely a tribute to our genuine support.

Let's be sensible about this, scores of studies have shown that the majority of trouble/violence occurs outside the ground (any regular match attender will verify this) so; let's rip up the plastic, open up the turnstiles, junk the computers (which never work anyway) and get back to the basics; enjoyable, entertaining football played in front of both sets of supporters.

Finally, a word to all sensible football followers.

Just as you'd condemn the tabloids and media for depicting all football fans as unthinking, beer soaked racist thugs, please remember equally all Luton supporters aren't fans of membership schemes and plastic pitches, nor necessarily the Tory voting parochial morons that many pictured us to be.

Barry Mills.

SCOTTISH ZINE SCENE

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Fanzine Review

Another group of 'zines on the table to review, with a bias away from the football league this time. First up is *Follow, Follow*, a fanzine based on Glasgow Rangers. Now not being a fan of the 'Gers, I assumed that fans of such a successful club would have plenty to praise and laugh about. Wrong. Well produced and probably readable for those suitably biased, but I am perhaps over sensitive. Content is mostly anti-Celtic, anti-Scottish FA and anti-Rangers hierarchy, and lacking in humour.

The Absolute Game is another Scottish fanzine, but giving general coverage, a sort of bi-monthly equivalent to *When Saturday Comes*. Apparently able to see the funny side of just about anything including their national side, with the exception of our own Jockspot. Overall a damned good read whether you're interested in Scottish football or not.

A sharp change of direction brings us to *Elfmeter*, which describes itself as a British look at German football. The cover story of "issue elf", Are Wattenscheid For Real?, is indeed a taxing question, for many of us. An interesting read for those wanting to learn more about the Bundesliga etc, although after reading this I know more but understood less than I did before. Incidentally, *Elfmeter* is a German word meaning penalty kick, so now you have the chance to baffle everyone by shouting it at referees at Kenilworth Road.

The final review this time was going to be closer to home with a look at *Chirp*, the Hitchin Town fanzine, but with our review copy came the news that it has demised, following the appointment of its leading light as H.T.'s programme Editor. Perhaps, an idea there for future recruitment plans, Mr. Nelkin!

ADDRESSES:

Follow, Follow, P.O. Box 539, Glasgow, G11 (50p)
The Absolute Game, P.O. Box 303, Southern D.O. Edinburgh,
EH9 1NE. (50p)
Elfmeter, 16 Mallory Road, Perton, Staffordshire WV6 7XN (50p)

Please remember to include a stamped addressed envelope if sending for any of the above, none of which qualify for an Anti-Luton Rating, but for those of a sensitive nature we would warn that *Follow, Follow* has an Anti-Celtic Rating of about 15 out of 10!

A Letter from America

Dear "Mad",
As an American supporter of Luton Town I was quite pleased to have received, from one of my friends in England, issue 3 of "Mad as a Hatter!" I must say that congratulations are in order as I was extremely impressed with its contents. I had heard of the concept of "Fanzines", though until yours arrived I had no idea that Luton Town, also, had one. My association with the Town only goes back 16 years (1974-75 season) but I do consider myself the Hatters' No. 1 fan in the United States, and how big of a fan, you say? Well, if this is any indication, I was in attendance for both of the Town's Wembley Littlewood's Cup Final matches. I am a Centenary Club member also.

In reading your fanzine, and in particular the "Fanzine Review" article, I noticed what was referred to as A.L.R., or Anti-Luton Rating. In reading the two English football weekly magazines that I am able to obtain (Match and Shoot), I am well aware of the dislike the Town has throughout the country. What I would like to bring to your attention, though, is the Anti-Luton sentiment that, I feel, is expressed by the BBC.

Each Saturday morning I tune my short-wave radio to the BBC's World Service broadcast of live second half commentary from either an English or Scottish football match. Though, in truth, 99 per cent of the time it is an English match (thank goodness).

Unfortunately, what happens, year in and year out, is that many teams, for whatever reasons, are excluded. The BBC's big three seem to be Liverpool, Manchester United and Everton. Granted, for world-wide appeal, they obviously go with the big boys. Their second tier is made up of the London duo of Arsenal and Spurs, as well as, the top most Midlands club. Until recently this was Nottingham Forest, though lately they have fallen out of favor.

Throughout the course of the League season the Beeb's "big six" are heard an average of five times each. Quite a few of these times occur when they meet each other, naturally. The times that they do not play each other, however, is the chance that any other of the "smaller" or bottom table clubs gets to be heard world-wide. Rarely are two clubs in the lower third of the league featured unless an end-of-season relegation place is at stake.

What I have noticed, or rather heard, is a discernible lack of Luton Town matches.

During the early to mid-80's the Town did manage one broadcast match per year. The last few years, though, the Town has failed to exist as far as the powers that be are concerned. Though I do assume that the Beeb's views are quite the opposite, and as they took place on a Sunday the two Cup Finals would not have been broadcast either, Saturday matches only are heard.

To take the Anti-Luton bias a step further I would also submit the following for your consideration. The overall consensus, in respect to Luton Town, is almost always negative. Luton, to the sports "experts", never plays well. The Town's opposition always has a bad game if the result is not in their favor. Compliments are rarely seen, or heard, in sentences in which the Town is mentioned.

There was a time when I wondered if I was not a bit paranoid about my thoughts as they pertained to the Town's image. Thankfully, I now know that I was not.

In closing I would like to say, keep up the good job that you are doing with your fanzine. Hopefully my friends will continue to send me future copies of "Mad as a Hatter".

I appreciate you taking the time to read this far too lengthy letter. Though, when it come to Luton Town I usually am never at a loss for words.

Thanks
Brian Surette
Hull, Mass., U.S.A.

A F N

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Down at the Vicarage

Following Watfords recent renaissance, or at least reduced failure rate, we felt that an investigation was necessary. So we sent our undercover reporter into this darkest corner of Hertfordshire to find out what is going on.

"Life on the road has not been easy. The harassment of Hertfordshire police is bad enough without having to watch this bunch of pillocks. I've been fighting my way through the allotments to stand in the Rookery, as anything is preferable to being regarded as a Watford fan. Colin Lee's departure was no surprise given the results they had been getting, but the appointment of former Brentford boss Perryman with his extensive 3rd division experience seemed to point the way things are going. The run of worsened results (from a Hatter's point of view) has been due to poorer opposition not an improvement by Watford. I did enjoy the cup game at Shrewsbury though, they are a crap side at the best of times and still won 4-1.

Rumours of Watford changing to a different style of football are wildly exaggerated, suggestions of a passing game an absolute joke. The only Watford player to pass the ball regularly is the goalkeeper or perhaps it would be more accurate to say it is the ball that passes the goalkeeper. I still believe they will go down at the end of the season, but for Hatters fans I would just like to mention something I saw the other day that immediately reminded me of the Horrible Hornets. It was a sign by roadside flower stall advertising "Winter Flowering Pansies". That about sums this lot up. Now can I come home, please".

P.S. Like my temporary
address here? Loyalty, eh!

THE COURTYARDS
HATTERS LANE
WATFORD
HERTS

From our special correspondent behind enemy lines, E.I. Addio.

The Kingsley Rap

Following rumours of a recording contract for Kingsley Black, "Mad as a Hatter!" has obtained a draft copy of the lyrics for the new single, which we now exclusively reveal to you.

This song called the Kingsley Rap
Its certainly better than that Gazza Crap
I'm the number eleven for Luton Town
The man to make defenders frown
I made the game at Wemb-er-ley
When we beat Arsenal, tee hee hee
From that game things only got better
When Billy Bingham sent me a letter
Bobby R wanted me for his England pad
I said 'Tough I've got an Irish dad'
Next came a man called Brian Clough
Play for Forest? No I'm not duff
I dont want to play with your 'young men', Brian
I'd rather stay with Jimmy Ryan
Scored two at Derby to the Town fans elation
And condemned Atko + Wednesday to relegation
The Guinness soccer six was no big test
The team with the Black was sure to be best
My car got nicked - the rotten swine
Didn't he realise the Calibras mine
From this song I'll make a killing
So buy my twelve inch if your willing
I hope you like this very much
If not I'll kick you - in the crutch
Certainly will!

Ryan Reviewed - Year One

January marked the first anniversary of Jim Ryan's appointment as Luton manager. From the outset it was clear that the task he faced would not be easy with the club facing problems both on and off the field. Results were disappointing to say the least and had culminated in the Town being dumped out of the F.A. Cup by Brighton.

From day one it was clear that the new manager saw that a change in Lutons playing style was needed to restore the clubs image of playing a neat and attractive passing game, a feature that had disappeared from the style and play with the departure of David Pleat.

Although results were to improve at the end of last season, Luton still seemed doomed to relegation. No one on the terraces could possibly have foreseen what was to come in the next few weeks which led to The Great Escape at Derby on May 5th.

In the close season, Ryan was to see the departure of both Mick Kennedy and club captain Danny Wilson, who left the club to return to his native second division after being devastated by Lutons escape from relegation. The last twelve months was also to see the departure of Mick Harford and Tim Breaker to ease the clubs financial difficulties.

This season saw Luton make a reasonable start to the season although a poor run of results through November, December and into January has seen the team slip steadily towards the relegation zone. The highlight of this period was the winning of the Guinness Soccer Six tournament.

Due to be clubs financial position, Jim has been forced to rely on youngsters in the team. The likes of Ceri Hughes, Julian James and Sean Farrell have all done reasonably well for the club but all of them lack the experience of league football and this combined with more experienced players making basic errors has obviously led to inconsistency as far as results are concerned.

The last few months have seen the return of Steve Williams and the emergence of Lars Elstrup as one of the best finishers in the first division. One can only speculate on

how long it will be before another player is sold such as Black or Elstrup to 'keep the wolf from the door'.

At the end of his first year in charge Jim seems to be facing the possibility of another fight against relegation. After the clubs disappointing exit from the Rumbelows Cup, Town fans hope for a long run in the F.A. Cup and the financial income that this generates. Hopefully this will mean that there is no exodus of the clubs best players in the next twelve months and that the manager is left to continue building a team that is capable of more than just surviving an annual fight against relegation.

M.I.

Black in Business!

Hair raising evidence of Mr K. Black having business interests.



TALKING TERMS

The young Wrexham star was having talks about a move to Chelsea, and personal terms were under discussion.

"You'll get 3 bed detached house in Surrey as part of the deal", he was told. "And a company car, which is usually a BMW or Sierra Cosworth".

"Wow", said the starlet, "at Wrexham I got a grotty bedsit and a Reliant Robin, and that was second-hand".

"And your pay will be £400 a week with a £50 win bonus".

"Amazing, at Wrexham its £90 a week and an extra fiver if we win by more than eight goals!"

"We are also prepared to offer a signing on fee of £30,000".

"Bloody 'ell, Wrexham would think thats a pools win!"

"There is one final thing, though, you would be pulled off at half time."

"Well that is just incredible! At Wrexham all we ever got was half an orange!"

That man again!

Gazzamania: A more realistic view from The Grauniad.

THERE were two nominations for the Sports Page Hit of the Year award: a Mr Paul Gazza Gascoigne and a Mr Dessie Orchid. The judges decided, finally, to honour Mr Orchid on the basis of superior personality, singing ability, etc.



Gazza . . . soccer 4, sex appeal 0

Raving Mad!!!

Dear "Mad",
I wish fans would stop complaining about the electronic scoreboards not working at Luton. Don't they realise that repairing such items is very costly. If the Town had that sort of money they might have bough Ronnie Rosenthal.
It is no use complaining without offering practical solutions. Going back to the old system of putting numbers on a board would also be too expensive. However, while watching a match at Barnet recently I saw the problem solved by a man with a piece of chalk and a blackboard.
Would any local D.I.Y. shop like to donate a couple of sheets of hardboard and some matt black paint? I can supply the chalk. Perhaps one of the editorial staff could do the chalking.
Yours sincerely,
Cliff Davies
Luton

Dear "Mad",
I've just seen your cry for players on page 21 of issue 4 regarding the match against you-know-who from you-know-where. It does say "Regardless of ability" (sic) so I thought I'd volunteer. My only real claim to fame in a footballing sense is that Kingsley Black passed to me once in a soccer game played during one lunch time at the Luton XIth Form College back in '86. I don't play football regularly (I'm a bit of an asthmatic on the quiet) but I enjoy playing whenever and wherever I can.
I'm current in training for a match related to work (running up and down stairs, the odd stint on an exercise bike etc) so I should be fit(ish) quite soon. I usually play on the right hand side (up front, degenerating to defence when I get too knackered).
Keep up the good work on the fanzine.
Regards,
Richard C. Hewison
Ex-member of the Darron MacDonough Fan Club!
Luton

So Kingsley passed the ball to you. The burning question is what happened next?

Dear "Mad",
I am writing in reply to your request for players for the challenge match against Watford's Fanzine "Clap Your Hands, Stamp Your Feet". If you're still in need of players I would be happy to play. Perhaps as a possible venue, the match could be played at Kenilworth Road. After all the plastic is being torn up at the end of the season and the original idea was that it could be utilised by the community. Perhaps the club could give use of the pitch free of charge or at least at a reduced rate.
Yours sincerely,
Angus Kinnear
Digswell, Herts.

Dear "Mad",
Surely Luton's negative performance at Crystal Palace on Sunday 16th December was their most disappointing effort in what has been a most encouraging season.
Jimmy Ryan deserves so many accolades for the teams performance to date but what was he thinking about at Palace? It was evident from the team selection, with Dave Beaumont wearing the number 10 shirt, that a draw was the summit of their ambition and from the first few minutes of the game was evident that the sweeper system would be employed for the first time.
Luton's lack of experience, preparation and intelligence of playing this way meant that there were usually five men at the back with neither full back really pushing up and helping out in midfield. I would really suggest that Marvin and Richard go and watch Arsenal occasionally as Winterburn and Dixon really know how to do it.
The lack of intelligence at the back was highlighted by a free kick from Richard Harvey in his own half in which he played a long ball across the pitch to Darren McDonagh who without any pressure hoofed it up field for a goal kick. There were numerous examples of the back five hitting aimless balls forward.
Consequently Preece and Williams were without support as Kingsley Black appeared to flit around the forward line without achieving much. Elstrup and Dowie got no support and Palace were first to the ball in midfield every time.

Palace are known to stuff their midfield with at least five players and Thomas and Gray are intimidating ball winners with excellent vision.

I am completely confident that the Town could have achieved a better result had they been more positive, and certainly they would have given their fans better value had they done so. The frustration on the forwards faces towards the end at the poor service they had received said it all, but I resent paying £12.00 to see such an inadequate performance.

Yours faithfully,
Andrew R Davis
Guildford, Surrey

This was written on 18 December, prior to the Sheffield United game. We wonder if Andrew still considers Palace the worst of the season.

Goal Watch

Our myopic Kenilworth Road Ender (issue 4) is probably getting more irate as the season goes on. The question of price discrimination is one thing, but should seats be installed and away fans allowed back next season, we may all be expected to watch from the Kenilworth Road end. In the meantime an Oak Road season ticket is the one for goals.

The latest score up to the Southampton game:

	<u>Kenilworth</u>	<u>Oak Road</u>
For	5	15
Against	3	10

25 out of 33 goals cannot be bad, but imagine how I felt after choosing to stand for the Zenith Cup match!

K.H.

This page was originally set aside for details of the F.A. Cup fifth round tie, but being optimists we did not think that the fourth round would go to a replay. So, by the time this gets to you dear reader, we could be out of the cup or looking forward to a day out at Crewe, Cambridge, or some other equally exotic spot.

As far as the fourth round match is concerned, the referee must be in the running for the worst of the season, with his decisions lacking any consistency, other than being consistently bad. Mind you, he could have been forgiven for thinking he was in that cauldron of intimidation that is Upton Park, such was the lack of noise from Town fans. Let's hope the replay was better from both the ref's and the Town's point of view.

More Cuttings

I support Aston Villa but I'm still a human being.

John Taylor, Tory prospective candidate for Cheltenham

He was referring the tendency for Liverpool to be awarded penalties at crucial moments of big games—any such allegations are always angrily refuted by Anfield manager Kenny Dalglish—and Barnes, since his move from Watford three years ago, has been instrumental in a fair proportion of them.

A defence of the England winger, one used on occasions by Mr Dalglish, is that he and his Liverpool colleagues actually get into the penalty area more frequently than their rivals and consequently by the law of averages are likely to earn a reasonable number of penalties.

Liverpool: A credit to football ?

JOHN BARNES once stood outside the dressing-rooms at Hillsborough and spoke with commendable if naive frankness about being instructed by Liverpool to "go down" in the area if there was any chance of a penalty being awarded.

'Tory MP David Evans said: "He deserves it. Four months is really too short. He should have gone to jail for a year.

"Anybody who drinks and drives must expect what is coming to them, footballers, MPs, the lot."

Mr Evans, former chairman of Luton Town football club, added: "I think he should get a public flogging at Highbury on Saturday three minutes before kick-off."

This could become a regular spot, "The thoughts of ex-chairman David" or something like that. This time the subject is punishment for one Tony Adams, or on second thoughts it may be pre match entertainment!

TRANSFER LISTED



Have we seen the last of Dave Beaumont ? According to recent reports the club are prepared to listen to offers. Strange that this should happen when the clubs accounts are due to be published.