

MAD AS A HATTER!



A LUTON TOWN FANZINE

TOWNS NEW SPONSOR



According to our mole inside the club, L.T.F.C. will shortly announce a new sponsorship deal with a company which "will match our profile within soccer". Full story on page 41.

MAD AS A HATTER!



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Back issues: All issues are available at 50p + SAE except Issue
1 which is free (SAE only) and Issue 2 (40p + SAE).

We have attempted to ease the pressure on your pockets by
avoiding publication on the same dates as other fanzines
(Town & Depleted). Whether this works remains to be seen,
but this is why there was nothing on sale at the Liverpool
game.

Editorial

Since our last issue much has happened at Kenilworth Road. Some of it good like the new stand, the return of grass and visiting supporters and Nelkin's resignation. Much however has been bad such as Jim Ryan's sacking, Elstrups departure, more price increases and Kohler staying. Jim's case is covered elsewhere in this issue, and it is probably fair to say that most of us were pleased to see Nelkin go, even if it was due to a few idiots overstepping the mark of acceptable protest. The man clearly underestimated our view of success and paid the price. (Perhaps the only time he paid a price in twelve months at Luton.) Elstrups departure remains something of a mystery, but we must assume he got what he wanted, although we shall miss his goals. As for Kohler, it seems that he has not got the finance that a first division club requires, nor the will to be in charge and take the flak that goes with it. Hence Roger Smith is again an unwilling chairman. But Kohler's hands still show the stains of Jim's sacking and we wonder if this is not unconnected with the failure to find a new sponsor. We also await news of a new stadium (an announcement was due last March) and wonder when this will be forthcoming.

David Pleat's return is what some supporters wanted and we can only hope he justifies their faith. The bookmakers showed their faith in "high profile" management by installing us as hot favourites for the drop. Performances so far indicate that William Hill et al are better judges than Luton Town's directors. Our inability to compete in the transfer market is reflected in performances on the pitch. What we desperately need is a Town fan with money to burn to come along and buy out Kohler.

Kingsley Black's departure came as something of a surprise, especially after offers in excess of £1.5 million were rumoured during the summer. After hearing David Pleat, on the clubs Soccerline, talk of the sale being forced upon him and his hands being tied it looks like little has changed. It also appears that less than the full amount will be available to the manager. As an aside to this a reporter on a Nottingham radio station could not believe Forests luck in getting Kingsley for such a "paltry" sum. We would like to wish Kingsley the very best of luck in Forest colours (except on January 1st and March 28th!).

Welcomes are due to Phillip Gray and Brian Stein, and temporarily at least, Lee Glover. May they all enjoy a successful stay at Luton. Well done to Mark Pembridge on his well deserved call up to the Wales squad. Pembo has been one of the successes so far, carrying on from his impressive first season, and proving that Town aren't just a one man team (or weren't anyway).

To close, dear reader, you probably think we're a bit depressed and cynical. Well, you'd be right. It's just that it gets like that sometimes. Just when your depression is lifted to unknown levels of optimism (May 11th) it all gets snuffed out again (May 13th). If only directors and chairmen could understand that. Still at 3 o'clock on Saturday the optimism is back, so lets get behind the team vocally and remember its not all their fault

COME ON YOU HATTERS!

JIM RYAN

Jim Ryan's spell as Luton Town manager was, all things considered, a remarkably happy one. Or, at least, two days of it were remarkably happy, and by coincidence Derby County were the opponents on both of those days. Two unforgettable results giving Jim Ryan a place in the folklore of the club (as a manager, alongside his place as a player).

Jim might have been a truly great manager, but we will never know. Forced to sell players for almost £2 million and allowed only £25,000 for buying purposes, he was starved of the resources to build a team of his own. Hughes and Pembridge in particular proved capable of stepping up to the first team, who knows what sort of team they would have played in had Jim had some spending money.

Jim was sacked for not having a "high profile" though what that has to do with running a football team is beyond me. Success in football is relative, but there is little doubt that Jim achieved it by keeping Luton Town in Division One, yet was still sacked for reasons of a dubious nature. The man deserved a medal for what he achieved, and what he had to put up with. It will be little consolation but all we can offer now is good luck for the future and thanks for keeping us where we are now.

K.H.

Super Luton and the Super League

"Luton Town are only a little club with no right to be in the First Division anyway so who cares if they aren't allowed in the FA Premier League?" That's still the prevailing sentiment although things are swinging back our way again slowly. Letting away fans in will help, although charging them £13 for sitting at the Oak Road end will win few friends. However, as I write, the minimum ground size for the new league will be 20,000 which excludes us and Oldham from the Super League, Wimbledon having circumvented it by shacking up with Palace. A number of other clubs are going to have to rethink their strategy when putting in seats in case they drop under the limit, the newly promoted Notts County for example have a current capacity of about 21,000.

It's not an original idea to ask whether the Super League is really needed but what follows is an attempt to disprove the case from another angle. Let us compare the Football League in 1969/70 with that in 1990/91 and see how teams have moved about.

	1990/91				
1969/70	Div. 1	Div. 2	Div. 3	Div. 4	N L
Div. 1	14	6	1	1	0
Div. 2	4	11	4	3	0
Div. 3	1	4	10	7	2
Div. 4	0	3	7	10	4
NL	1	0	2	3	/

NL (non league) also includes clubs no longer in existence

(The table above compares 1969/70 with last season so it is worth noting that out of the four clubs promoted to the top flight this year, 2 were in Division 1 back then (West Ham and Sheffield Wed) but the other two were in Division 4.)

Looking across the diagonal it can be seen that most clubs are still where they were 20 years ago and that the number of clubs who move up stay up (or move down and stay down) are

few. Out of the 22 clubs in Division 1 in 1969/70 no fewer than 14 played in the 1990/91 20 club Division 1. Indeed only two clubs from outside the top two divisions were in the top flight last season, one from non-league and the other from Division 3. And who are they you ask?

Even if you go back another 10 years to 1959/60 you find that 9 of the Division 1 clubs that year are still there with a similar trend to that in the table above, i.e. nearly half the clubs are in the same division today.

Apart from the fact I've been scouring old Rothman's in the summer what does all this show? It shows that you don't need the artificiality of a Super League to protect club status - a big club is ever a big club. Mind you most of the 14 clubs in Division 1 in 1970 and 1991 have had a refreshing dip in the waters of the lower reaches, even unquestioned giants such as the Manchester clubs and Spurs, and has it done them any harm? Still, all vain protests I fear - I can't see any alternative to the FA League and no alternative to us moving to a 20,000 all-seater if we are going to be in it.

After all Luton have always been a progressive club - way back in the early 1980s we signed a sponsorship deal with Tricentrol for shirt sponsorship. Now you'd be surprised to see any team come on the field without a sponsor's name on their shirts but just eleven years ago it was rather different. The programme for 1st March 1980 which announced the deal said that "only nine other clubs have taken advantage of shirt advertising". Then there was the plastic pitch, not the first as QPR beat us to it, but still an innovative move. I am still surprised that it didn't catch on more, particularly on the continent where they are not normally as conservative as we are, but the era of the artificial turf is over now (and so is the era of Nelkin: I said in the final Mad of last season that Nelkin should be judged by his actions. Well he has been and was found guilty ... but who's going to get us a new ground now?).

But who are those two interlopers in Division 1? Well the non-league club is the greatly loved Wimbledon as I'm sure you guessed. The Division 3 club is, of course, US!! The only club in the past 20 years to make the transition and stay there. If after all that we get sent down because of ground restrictions that would be, well, a little sad to put it mildly.

Bruno is back



After a spell in French football, where the kits are even more ridiculous than this, Brian has returned home. Just as well he's been away though, if he'd stayed and got a few goals Cole or Nelkin would have sold him.

KENILWORTH ROAD AS A TOURIST ATTRACTION

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Coach Tours to see the 7 WONDERS OF THE WORLD

1. THE GLOWING SHEEP OF SELLAFIELD

This is a truly breathtaking vision which will always provide a vivid memory - of the receipt of a letter from your hospital containing a second appointment card in respect of seeing the consultant haematologist. Indeed, nowhere else in the world (don't believe all the propagandist rumours you hear concerning the Ukraine) can you witness an entire flock of sheep which glows a spectacular, fluorescent -green in the dark. A week's camping can cost as little as £300 or £375 with geiga-counter hire.

2. THE RIVER MERSEY

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3. THE CENTRAL BARRIER OF THE M6 MOTORWAY (at Junction 14)

Considered by most experts of "Avant-Garde" aesthetics and "Scouser" street-poetry, and also by Professor David Ezza M.P. (pioneer of high-suction office carpet, plastic football pitch and football club bank account vacuum-cleaning technology) to be the definitive "piece" of mechanical engineering. Your coach will park on the hard-shoulder for 7 days to view this extraordinary man-made structure. Available throughout the year although cancellations due to unscheduled contra-flows are very possible. From only £1,499. Please note this Barga Brake is also now highly recommended by experts of "Scouser" motorway-poetry.

4. THE SHAY STADIUM (home of Halifax Town F.C.)

Spend 10 days and nights standing on the open terraces - from only £455 midwinter. Experience the special atmosphere of this ancient and primitive sporting arena that is in such an advanced state of decay it is considered to be many thousands of years old. Some locals claim that sporting events can still be witnessed here once a week, but most researchers and archaeologists insist on a greater chance of seeing a monster in the waters of Loch Ness. Apologies offered to Paul Fletcher.

Hang on a minute - now the Shay Stadium? This has got to be a joke. And of course it is as anyone who has been there recently would testify. However I do sympathise with poor little Halifax Town F.C. which is desperately propped up by Calderdale Borough Council (parks department, probably). Good luck to them. I sympathise less with the feebly apologetic stadia of some of the bigger clubs. The recent

Taylor report has decreed that in the near future much will change - especially for the stadia of the higher division clubs. As we all know this concerns improving spectator safety, and a very pertinent cause it certainly is as well as somewhat belated (Ibrox, then Bradford, and then Hillsborough). However, I hear several cries of disapproval from some of the poorly protected spectators, viz;

"Football's a working man's game. I've stood on the open terraces for twenty-five years and I won't bother going to watch United no more if they tell me I have to sit in some pigging yuppie seat. We don't want no yuppie, all-seater stadium - football's for the working man."

Certainly I've enjoyed watching many a match from a standing vantage-point, but I do feel that the "working man" has moved "up-market" in recent decades. Let's be honest, how many of the footballing dwellers of "Coronation Street" 25 years ago would have then believed that today they would return home from a match by car to their colour televisions and diverse other amazing contraptions like hi-fis, video-recorders, and micro-wave ovens? I have little doubt that most of the so-called "working men" of twenty-five years ago were a much harder bunch than today's equivalents. With this in mind, I recall how, more recently in the late seventies, I conducted my own survey at Luton VI form college to try to determine why Luton Town's home attendances were so disproportionately low. Apart from learning that the indigenous, or "Lutonian", population was waning rapidly whilst the non-Luton supporting hordes rushed in to take up residence (rather than set root), the biggest other reason for non-attendance at Kenilworth Road was manifest in the scathing criticisms of the stadium's inept facilities; "It's no good being told they're a good team to watch if when you get there you can't see a damned thing because there's some bloody great pillar in the way blotting out three-quarters of the pitch" or "Those plastic seats are diabolical. They must have been designed for eight stone women with twenty-eight inch hips" or "Having queued at half-time to get into the Gents, waded through ten inches of urine to get to a urinal and just managed to relieve my bladder before being overcome by the noxious fumes, I got back to the game ten minutes into the second half to discover I'd missed our winner" etc. ad nauseam. Now then, has the spectator's lot really improved at Kenilworth Road since the late seventies? I doubt it, and yet irrespective of inflation we seem to have to dig deeper into our pockets these days for the privilege of "slumming it". For example, and although Anfield is no slum compared with Kenilworth Road, I was horrified a couple of months ago to discover a minimum admission price of £8 to watch the Luton match from the all-seater visitors' end. I recall thinking that I may have preferred to watch the rugby league test on the telly under such circumstances. And now therefore the compounding of the problem is emphasised by the accelerating evolution

of all the additional (and often cheaper) leisure options which compete with professional football for the public's Saturday afternoon commitment.

In recent years there have been much discussion about building a new stadium for the Town at locations such as Milton Keynes (thankfully aborted) and Sundon Springs, for example. While the talking seems to continue nothing seems to change except for the increase in admission prices. Only a few weeks ago a journalist reporting from Kenilworth Road for a national newspaper had to apologise for being unable to describe much about two of the goals because a pillar obscured his view of the relevant goal mouth. I should have made my point by now so let's return to the brochure.

5. THE STAND ROOFING PILLARS OF LUTON TOWN F.C.

Now under a protection order and preserved by the National Trust, these pillars.....etc!!!

Rattus Hattericus



David Evans fascinating Craft Centre of Silk

Adult £9.50 OAP £9.00 Child £7.50 (not admitted under 12)
(price includes admission and tour of the mill)

David Evans and Company, a company steeped in history, invite you to take 'A Journey Along The New Silk Road' with us. From the moment you step into the Craft Centre of Silk you step back in time, to the romantic Victorian era, where our story began.

**Another nice earner for our ex-chairman, perhaps?
Difficult to see the link with politics though.**

Go North Young Man

Sparing no expense we decided to send our staff reporter on an all expenses paid trip to cover the pre-season tour of Scotland. Naturally the fool took up our offer and still went after we explained he paid all his own expenses! His reports (as viewed through a quantity of Best Scotch Ale) follow:

29.07.91 *v St. Johnstone. Won 1-0*

As this game was played behind closed doors we went to Perth, then stayed in the pub. OK we didn't see the game, but at least we were in the right town!

31.07.91 *v Hamilton Academicals. Lost 2-1*

Not an unusual result eh? The team(?) rehearsing for the Christmas panto. Darron played his usual part, (the hind legs of a panto horse), Dreyer, Rodger, and Chamberlain sulking, and not speaking to each other. The only really encouraging thing to come out of this performance was to see Mark Pembridge playing his heart out again. Chamberlain pulled off a great save at some jock's feet (maybe Alec likes to show off how great a goalkeeper he is, and that his why he doesn't speak to our defence(???). Also Holsgrove scored. Which resulted in me deafening a young Hamilton groupie.

One question raised was why didn't the players applaud the loyal 4 behind the goal? After all we travelled 500 miles to see them, paid £4 for the pleasure (we didn't scrounge freebie tickets, as we were thirsty), and after we sung BRUNO in the second half! OK they applauded the cheapskates in their complimentary seats, but not us! sob! sob!

02.08.91 *v Alloa Athletic. Won 2-1*

What? Free? Thats more like it and we won! But what a dire game, a Dreyer special (a penalty), a silly goal, and Bruno's back in business. More promising, Black played well and should have scored. In the second half this giant came out called Juergan Sommer, he really looked good on any crosses that came within reach (not surprising he's 6ft 5in). The real points of note were Luton fans outnumbering (a sort of) home fans (having been played at Grangemouth), and Marc North taking a photo of the Hamilton cheapstakes. Still not much of a way of thanks from the team though.

D.K.

Fanzine Sharing

- The Shock Revelations

Correspondents in When Saturday Comes (WSC 46 & 47) included letters which sought to denigrate the current state of the Fanzine market, essentially on the grounds that there are too many and therefore the available talent is spread too thinly. Well, I happen to know that there is a section of the Taylor Report which addresses just this problem but that part was suppressed and was never published. By a manner which I cannot reveal the suppressed section has come into my possession and it can now be revealed to the public.

Its findings show that there are not just too many fanzines but that the spread is non-uniform across the country. For example many clubs have only one whereas others have up to five, with one club, Leeds, having six. Studies of this show that, contrary to expectations, the number is not proportional to the average attendances at the clubs. This can not be better illustrated than by comparing Wimbledon with Manchester City. Both clubs have three fanzines which leads to a ratio of 2585 fans per fanzine for Wimbledon compared with 9325:1 for Manchester City. Of course this compares favourably with the Enfield ratio of 420:1 but non-league clubs are outside the scope of this Report. Incidentally the league record for the lowest is held, surprisingly, by Cardiff who manage four fanzines leading to a ratio of 910:1.

The reason then? Well it is suggested that where strong local rivalries exist the number is disproportionately large. For example look at the following clubs: Newcastle 4, Sunderland 5; Man. City 3, Man. Utd. 5; Ipswich 3, Norwich 5; Luton 3, Watford 3. The Report concludes that such proliferation is bad for fanzine standards and sets a minimum fan/fanzine ratio of 9000:1. It also goes on to recommend that fanzines should only be read sitting down and that they should only be sold to bearers of club membership cards. The lack of balance is also mentioned and it is recommended that fanzines are compelled to allow the real supporters in the executive boxes to have their say too. A national fanzine for the true supporter in his or her armchair is also recommended. These measures, says the Report, *'will lead to a reduction in the congestion in the roads leading to the ground before the match'*.

But what about those clubs which have less than the 9000:1 ratio? The proposals will mean that hundreds of perfectly good fanzines can no longer be legally sold? Well, the radical proposal of fanzine sharing is proposed, with the proviso that such fanzines should not publish material which criticises one of the sharing clubs. Indeed the Report states that *'it would not be conducive to good relations between sets of football supporters to allow criticism of football club performances to be published'*. This is perhaps the silliest notion of all and shows how out of touch the Report is with what fans really want. It is impossible to see how this would be palatable to the fans of clubs with close rivalries. How do the authorities expect Luton fans to say nice things about Watford? It is this sort of arrogance that brings disrepute on this Report.

The most controversial proposal of all is that fanzines contributors must be registered with a new trust which will be set up to regulate the industry. I can reveal that the chairmanship of this trust will be offered to none other than Robert Maxwell. To be registered the fanzine will have to pay a fee of £1 per fan, leading of course to a minimum fee of £9,000. Grants will be available from the trust but all would-be editors must possess an MA in literature or sociology. This, says the Report, *'will lead to a rise in standards that can only be good for the game as a whole'*. All contributions will be vetted by a specially selected panel of league club chairmen to, as the Report puts it, *'ensure consistency'*.

As I said above the Report has been suppressed till now but is due to be published at the end of this season by the direct order of John Major who points to the already successful fanzine share of Chelsea, Rangers and Linfield. I am afraid that those fans who thought our troubles were over with the demise of Thatcher will be sadly disappointed.

So the conclusions are controversial but do they make sense? Do they address the real problems affecting fanzines today? After all do we want to restrict fanzine contributions to the elite or should they be open to all? Surely fanzines are too important to only be read and written by fans with MAs in literature? If you feel as strongly about this as I do then

write to your MP now, get your branch of the FSA to take this up and give the authorities and the doubters this message: 'We may not be perfect, we may not always be up to the standards of Shakespeare but we demand the right to say what we want, how we want, when we want. Hands off our Fanzines!!!'

Steve Bailey - the Expatriate

Hatters in Norway

Lars-Petter Ronnestad is a 15 year old Town fanatic in Norway, who has started a Scandinavian branch of the Luton Town Supporters Club. Converted to the cause after seeing the home game against Oxford in 1987 (7-4 to Town) on TV, and decided to start a supporters club earlier this year. The club has 31 members to date, although he hopes to increase this to 100 by the end of the year. Membership of the Scandinavian Supporters Union for British Football (SBF) will also follow. To obtain this Lars-Petter needs to put out 2 newsletters to his members and be in operation for 3 months. Membership of 100 may not sound impressive, but it would rank Luton 11th of current First Division clubs. (Wimbledon and Crystal Palace had clubs which have closed!).

The newsletter runs to 28 pages of reports, cuttings, letters and the like all devoted to Luton Town so is obviously a fairly big job. The club will also be obtaining video's programs souvenirs and so on for distribution (and fanzines, like "Mad", we hope - ed) and will hopefully progress to arrange trips to Town matches for its members.

Lars-Petter has not yet been to Luton himself but is hoping to remedy that this season. He says that football started as a hobby but has now become a way of life! In the meantime he has to keep in touch with progress through TV coverage, newspapers and videos.

We at "Mad" are always pleased to hear from long distance supporters of Luton Town, and wish Lars-Petter the best of luck with his efforts to spread the word in Scandinavia. May our support in these parts go from strength to strength.

Name Games

OK its been done before, and lacks originality, but on the bright side it fills a bit of space and could be amusing. What we are rattling on about is asking the Amstrad/Atari/Amiga WP program what it can do with names on the spellchecker.

In time honoured fashion we started off with the fixture list for the season, but the results were a tad surprising - our WP knows its way around the first division. Apart, that is, from SHELFLIKE WEDNESDAY & UNITED (New Bramhall Lane sponsorship with MFI shortly?) and SATAN VILLA, a clue to Doug Ellis' true identity perhaps. Also with a comment on the finances of the club in question we came up with TOTTERING, but the WP concluded (correctly) that HOTSPUR was just a meaningless jumble of letters, which could not possibly be an attempt to type in a proper word!

So we turned our attention to the clubs playing staff, and got the impression that in one or two cases the WP had seen them performing and was passing its own comment. Here they are:

Alate Chamberlain

Jailing Times

Divot Abominate

Trauma Rigger

John Dreary

Tossing Trees

Jived Breeze

Seam's Frail

Mark Pampering

Clingiest Black

Syria Hothouse

Retard Horrify

Marrying Townsmen

Cart Nagging

Jerking Smear

Drange Myoclonous (??)

Alec Chamberlain

Julian James

David Beaumont

Graham Rodger

John Dreyer

Jason Rees

David Preece

Sean Farrell

Mark Pembridge

Kingsley Black

Ceri Hughes

Richard Harvey

Marvin Johnson

Kurt Nogan

Juergen Sommer

Darron McDonough

D.K./K.H.

TRIBUTE TO JIM RYAN

On 13th May 1991, Luton Town F.C. parted with its manager and its senses at the same time. The sense of shock, anger and sadness that I felt on hearing the news will doubtless have been shared by thousands more Hatters fans. It is impossible to be sympathetic to the Luton Town board in any way. We understood that players had to be sold to keep the club afloat, and accepted, albeit reluctantly, the departures of Big Mick, Roy Wegerle, Tim Breacker and Iain Dowie. But the decision to sack Jim Ryan cannot possibly be justified. Peter Nelkin blamed a personality clash. If this was so, why did Nelkin become Chairman in the first place? And most people consider the manager to be most important. After all, this is a football club. What Nelkin knows about football must be negligible if he was prepared to treat a man who did his job so well so badly. Most people would be delighted if their team had just avoided relegation for the second successive season. Let's face it. Jim hardly had an embarrassment of riches to choose from, having to rely on a young and inexperienced squad. These young men (sorry, Brian) did the club proud. Jim stuck to his principles and got them to play good, constructive football, which is more than can be said for some First Division teams.

Perhaps the Chairman was expecting better results? Well, obviously, so were we! But as far as I know (and please correct me if I am wrong) Luton were not exactly overcome by good luck last season. From reports that I saw or heard we dominated several games without finding the net. Surely Mr. Nelkin did not expect his manager to transform superiority into goals? Find us the money and we might just do it? Things are bad enough at Luton as it is without sacking people for stupid reasons. First we became a laughing stock for sacking Ray Harford for not smiling enough, now we fire someone who kept us alive for having the wrong temperament, encouraging good football and not having a big enough profile! Now that is what I call Mad as a Hatter. Who did Mr. Nelkin want? Well, keep it quiet, but rumour has it that Terry Wogan was approached.

We have lost enough credibility as it is without rocking the boat at this crucial stage. And for David Pleat, here's a

quick message: for Cloughie's sake, don't bring Oldfield back with you. OK, so I only saw him once, v Forest, but he made Tony Adams look mobile.

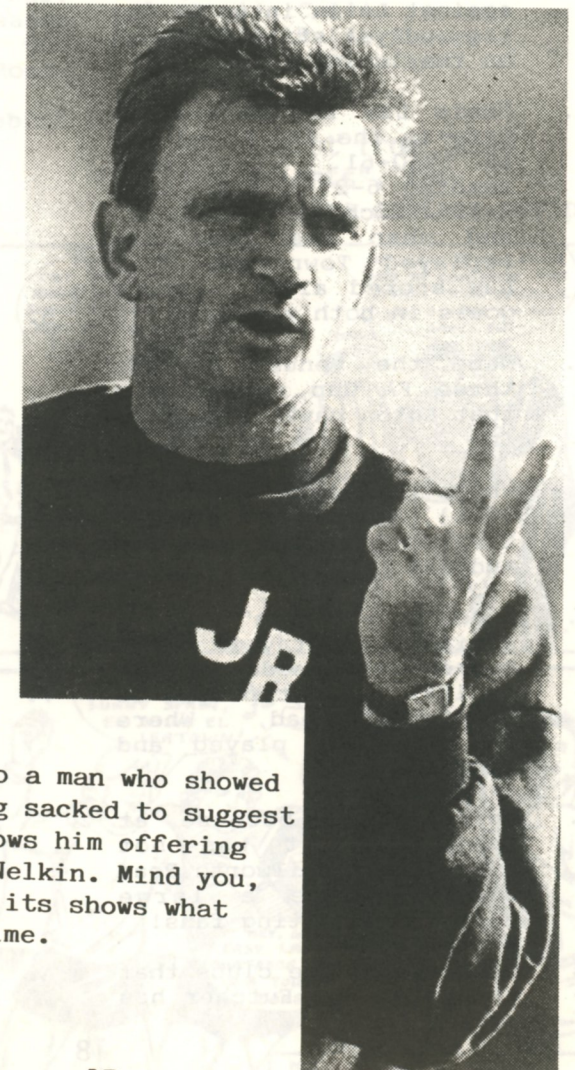
So I finish (about time too, I hear you cry!) with three words which Mr. Nelkin obviously disagrees with

WELL DONE JIM!

Graham Johnson (the Hatter from afar)



Sack for hero Jim



It would be unfair to a man who showed such dignity on being sacked to suggest that this picture shows him offering thanks to the idiot Nelkin. Mind you, we're willing to bet it shows what Jim thought at the time.

Quiz Answers

We can honestly say that the response to our end of season quiz was overwhelming - over 30 entries in all - and the standard was very high, although we suspect that most of you used Rothmans for the answer to one of the questions!

Anyway, the winner is Gareth Jones of Brynaman, Dyfed, who'll be receiving a brand new totally unworn Hatters shirt to dazzle them in the valleys. We think it's a just reward for providing 21 of the entries!

The answers:

1. Who scored seven goals against Luton in an FA Cup tie and yet still finished on the losing side?

A. Denis Law for Manchester City in the 4th Round tie in 1960-61. City were leading 6-2 in the first match which was abandoned, and when the game was replayed Town won 3-1. Law scored all of City's goals in both matches.

2. Name the venues of the three FA Cup semi-finals that Luton have participated in.

A. White Hart Lane (1959 and 1988), Villa Park (1985). Everybody also got St. Andrews (1959 replay).

3. Luton's 3-1 "home" victory against Coventry in a 3rd Round Littlewoods Cup tie in 1987 was not played at Kenilworth Road. Where was the tie played and why?

A. Leicester - because at that time it was not considered Kenilworth Road could handle a large number of visiting fans!

4. Name all of the clubs that ex-Hatter Ron Futcher has played for.

A. Take a deep breath ... Chester, Luton, Manchester City, Minnesota Kicks, Barnsley, Portland Timbers, Oldham, NAC Breda, Bradford, Tulsa Roughnecks, Port Vale, Burnley and Halifax (Phew!). Nobody managed to get all 13, most of you forgot Halifax! Ron is, of course, now at Crewe and scored on his debut at Barnet.

5. Who were Luton's last opponents on grass at Kenilworth Road? And who will the next be?

A. Everton, Liverpool. The most popular guess here was Oldham.

6. Who has been Luton's longest serving Manager?

A. Dally Duncan - 11 years 4 months.

7. What have the following in common?

- i) The RAF Dog Team.
- ii) Six-a-side cricket.
- iii) An escapologist and a portable crane.
- iv) George and his microphone.
- v) The Luton strikers.

A. All have provided pre-match "entertainment" over the years.

8. Why did a seemingly run of the mill combination fixture against Spurs in January 1983 at the Electrolux Ground, Oakley Road attract a crowd of over a thousand and the attention of the national media?

A. Ossie Ardiles made his return from Paris St. Germain where he had been since the Falklands War. Coincidentally, his League return was a week or two later, at Kenilworth Road.

9. Who was Roberto "Bobbin" Dino?

A. A cartoon strip hero who appeared in the programme for a couple of years in the early 80s.

10. From which clubs were the following Scottish Hatters signed:

- i) "Dixie" Deans
- ii) Andy Harrow
- iii) Mickey Weir.

A. i) Celtic
ii) Raith Rovers
iii) Hibernian.

An excerpt from "Head for Heights", the Bobbin Dino cartoon strip



The "Mad" Awards & Poll 1991

Our thanks to those of you who took the time and trouble to share your innermost thoughts with us, and help us to fill a bit of space easily! We'd love to give you all one of the sexy new Town shirts as a thank you, but as we're too tight-fisted we only bought one and the winner is G. Armatuda of Waltham Cross. If you're still waiting for the shirt at Christmas, let us know

AWARDS:

- Player of the Year : 1. Alec Chamberlain 76%
2. Lars Elstrup 12% each
David Preece
- Goal of the Season : 1. Lars Elstrup v Forest (A) - second goal 45%
2. Mark Pembridge v Villa (A) 23%
- Match of the Season : 1. Derby (H) 23% each
Norwich (A)
- Away Trip of the Season : 1. Norwich 45%
2. Forest, Liverpool, Villa 17% each
- Worst Game of the Season: 1. Sheff. Utd. (H) 31% each
Tottenham (H)
- Idiot of the Season : 1. Peter Nelkin 38%
2. Steve Williams 26%
- POLL:
- Young Player of the Year: 1. Mark Pembridge 93%
2. Ceri Hughes 7%
- Most Improved Player : 1. Alec Chamberlain 33%
2. Lars Elstrup 25%
- Best Town Performance : 1. Liverpool (H) 43%
2. Villa (A), Leeds (H), Derby (H) 11% each
- Worst Town Performance : 1. Sheff. Utd. (H) 25% each
West Ham (A)

- Best Goal Scored For : 1. Lars Elstrup v Forest (A) - second goal 75%
2. Mark Pembridge v Villa (A) 17%
- Best Goal Scored Against: 1. Nigel Callaghan (Derby) 17% each
Jan Molby (Liverpool) penalty(!)
- Best Opposition Player : 1. Matt Le Tissier (Soton) 17% each
Mick Harford (Derby)
- Worst Opposition Player : 1. Fashanu 45%
2. Pat van den Hauve 25%
- Most Entertaining Opponents : 1. Forest 33% each
Southampton
- Worst Entertaining Opponents : 1. Wimbledon 75%
2. Tottenham 16%
- Best Referee : 1. Allan Gunn 30%
2. Danny Vickers 20%
- Worst Referee : 1. David Elleray 30%
2. John Marks 20% each
Roger Wiseman

The final question; in which we asked who you would sign given £2 million provided such a variety of answers that we've decided to make a separate article out of it, which can be found elsewhere.

A.C.

**Fans'
view**

**Mad as a
Hatter...**

We unashamedly lifted this from the match programme v. Southampton. We did use the phrase first, but if they're that short of ideas... What next? Call the programme Town, and the managers column D.Pleated?

Hey, Big Spender!

When, in our poll, we gave you £2 million to spend and be Town boss for a day we expected a few names to crop up regularly. Much to our surprise between those who responded over forty names were mentioned, from those who "spent" the money on one or two players (like the optimistic Steve Bailey who "signed" Dean Saunders for £1.5m!) to those who preferred bargain buys from reserve teams, lower division and non-league.

Patterns did, however, begin to emerge. Most of you opted to sign a striker and a right-back, but few went for goalkeepers or mid-fielders, a clear indication of where you felt the strengths and, more particularly, weaknesses lay both last season and, with the departure of Lars, where they would lie this term. For the record, the only player to be nominated more than once was Nottingham Forest's Brian Laws, whilst strikers mentioned included Mick Quinn, Dion Dublin, Peter Beardsley, Darren Beckford, Paul Walsh, Ian Olney, Ronnie Rosenthal, Gary Bull and, perhaps most interestingly of all, Mark West of Wycombe. Also mentioned, by Steve Bailey again, was Ipswich's Chris Kiwomya who reminded Steve of "a young Brian Stein" - obviously not needed now as we've got the original back.

Last word, however, must go to Andy Davis who (possibly with a touch of bitterness?) would have spent his £2 million on Tim Breacker, Iain Dowie, and Roy Wegerle. You couldn't buy them now for £2 million, but a certain club sold them for that sum.

A.C.

In Britain we have seven species of wasps: the hornet, *Vespa crabro* (only in southern England and becoming rarer), two species of *Dolichovespula* (canary-faced rather ignorant

A warning for Watford fans ?
We thought they were already extinct, but perhaps they've just given up flying so high.

CAPTION COMPETITION

The winning entry in our caption competition comes from Andy Davis of Maidenhead. Andy's caption appears below, and he will be receiving a prize from us shortly.



RH: "Even when I cock up defending, I don't sweat - You can rely on 'MUM'".

JOCKSPOT

During the seemingly endless months of the close season it came to not only my attention but others involved in MAAH, that writing our beloved Jockspot is not as easy as it seems. Where do you draw the line when articles on the bigger clubs are concerned. By this I mean it tends to get a wee bit boring when all one talks about is the likes of Rangers, Celtic or Aberdeen. There is far, far more to Scottish footer than the so called "Glamour Clubs". I could write no end of articles on the 'biggies' in Scottish football, but to be honest I'm getting just as bored with the predictability of it all as no doubt everyone else is.

So, by way of a change I am inviting the readers of this fine footballing publication to help the poor struggling editor (namely myself) to write Jockspot. It does not matter how big or how small, sarcastic or funny or just plain daft the article is, because all donations are gratefully received. Preferably we would like snippets on the smaller clubs but as I say, any information is much appreciated.

On Town's recent tour of Scotland, which was enjoyed by myself and the rest of DP's travelling army (well five of us in any case), we were fortunate enough to meet some of our Scottish readers. So, if any of you are reading this issue, please help us to help you. We also came across some real characters, one of whom we met at Hamilton. Whether this individual had a heavy accent, or whether he was totally pissed is not quite clear, but never have I ever heard such obcenities shouted at an opposing side before. He must be thanked because what was understandable has enhanced my vocabulary no end. It could be said that Jockspot was a bit too serious last season, so let's liven it up a bit. One line or ten lines, it makes no difference at all. So get writing.

Are you a (budding) cartoonist? If so we need you! Please write to us or speak to one of our sellers around the ground. Don't be embarrassed as you haven't seen our efforts yet! You surely can't be any worse than us!

TOWN TRAVELS

21.9.91 MANCHESTER UNITED

Town actually scored a goal at Old Trafford last season so don't expect too much this time around. The journey is fairly straightforward by road or by train. Recommended for drowning the sorrows (in advance) are the CASTLE HOTEL, 66 Oldham Street, a Robinsons house and the JOLLY ANGLER, Ducie Street, an old favourite for Hydes Ales.

5.10.91 ASTON VILLA

Only an hour or so up the motorway, which is probably the best reason for going to this one. In spite of team changes and an indifferent start to the season this may not be a good day for Town. For the pub connoisseur a great area but the choice of beers is very restricted - mainly Ansells and M & B. The HOLTE HOTEL, Trinity Road may be as good a choice as any.

9.10.91 BIRMINGHAM CITY

A fixture that has all the makings of a major embarrassment about it, but at least the journey home is shorter than Bradford last year. City often kick-off evening games at 8 o'clock so prospective rail travellers take this and extra time into account. For the drinker the choice is much as Villa, although Banks's offers better value. The BAKER & BREWER, Ravenhurst Street, is only a short walk from the ground at Camp Hill, with M & B and Highgate Mild.

26.10.91 NORWICH CITY

Scene of a rare away win last season, courtesy of Steve Williams and Lars, both now departed. Our record at Carrow Road is not too bad so the trip may be worthwhile. A lot of Watneys in the town but not at the ROSE, Queens Road, (Adnams & Wadworth) or the ROSARY TAVERN, Rosary Road, Adnams, Batemans & Marstons, both within comfortable walking distance of the ground.

Luton at home looks like the fixture every First Division player will eagerly anticipate.

Nightmare Scenario

The letters of resignation have been signed and the Super League is on the way. In fact it will almost certainly be with us in twelve months time. It is proposed that there will be promotion and relegation between the Super League and the top level of what remains of the Football League, but by no means guaranteed. So what happens in the event of Town finishing bottom of this years first division?

We all assume that we will either stay in the Super League or go down to the (then) retitled Division 2. However, there has been no love lost between Town and the rest of the Football League in recent years and this could provide the opportunity they've been waiting for. Look at the possibilities: Luton relegated, the Super Leaguers take the opportunity to reduce the number of teams, and the Football League with no vacancies in 3 divisions of 24 teams take their revenge on the "big" clubs by putting up the no entry sign, with a comment of "you resigned, so tough luck!" thrown in for good measure.

Where would this leave the Town? With the pyramid system in operation in non-league football a club has to start at the bottom, so after studying the tables to find the shortest route back, and the history books, Town are accepted into full membership of the United Counties League. From here Town could be back in the Football League and one in the GM Vauxhall Conference. Our next visit to Vicarage Road could be to play Wealdstone in the Southern League, a truly horrific prospect.

I can see it all now. Town, in order to finance their return sell all the first and reserve team players except for Kingsley Black (in spite of Forests £5 million offer) and promising youngster Brian Stein, and field the youth team instead ("looking to the future" - David Pleat). Meanwhile managing director David Collar sells the Kenilworth Stadium to Luton Council who overlook the fact that they already own it. This raises a further £3 million. Collar then unveils Towns new home - a historic ground sharing agreement with Vauxhall Motors F.C. at a cost of £4 million pounds over 10 years, paid in advance. The administrative side of the club moves to plush new premises in Collar's garden shed. At this point misfortune befalls the club as they discover Vauxhall

Motors F.C. haven't got a ground, and Luton Council discover they've bought one twice and demand the return of their £3 million, and Collar's house (and shed) get repossessed. Finally, in an effort to win the backing of sceptical supporters Collar takes the field in a pre-season friendly and in a collision breaks Kingsley Black's leg, ending his career, and the insurance company refuse to pay up suspecting it was deliberate!

Ten years on Luton Town win their final match of the season 1-0 in front of a packed house, against a strong Ampthill Town side, narrowly avoiding the United Counties League wooden spoon as a result. Manager Kingsley Black is sacked the following day for failing to speak to the press, although he points out there are never any pressmen present now. Luton's remaining supporters (known as the unlucky 13) decide to watch Dunstable instead in future.

Could it happen? Well I for one certainly hope not, but I'd be a lot happier if we had a Fozzie and a Big Mick right now. Wouldn't you?

K.H.



More about the Super League

It's not as if the idea of a "Super" League is that new, nor the idea of a small group of clubs setting themselves up to cream greater profits for themselves, whilst merrily waving two fingers to the rest of football. This time, however, they have the implicit backing of the FA and, as such, feel that this particular venture is more "respectable". Let there be no doubt that, as ever, the so-called Big Five have been involved heavily in the planning. Neither should any heed be taken of the window-dressing that's been added to the latest announcement - that the League will start with 22 clubs and work down over a number of years to 18. I have little doubt that, where necessary, clubs will be relegated for reasons other than playing performance. Imagine if one of the Big Five finished bottom and due for relegation - no doubt the rules would suddenly be revised or that no club was suitable for the season.

The overall strategy will no doubt be to rid the Super League of the perceived weaker clubs, say Wimbledon, Luton, Norwich, QPR and maybe Southampton and Coventry, and replace them with supposedly bigger clubs, such as Newcastle, Sheffield Wednesday and, eventually, Celtic and Rangers. Once such an evolution has occurred, the clubs will probably break away from the FA who will have outlived their usefulness and set up a self-perpetuating meritocracy to the detriment of the vast majority of football. It does not take too much imagination to work out that the constitution of such a league will not be geared towards the "smaller clubs".

So, where exactly does this scenario leave Luton Town? For the time being it will make little difference, provided that First Division/Premier League status is maintained. Longer-term, like the vast majority of football clubs, Town will be in limbo - probably doomed for ever to survive in what could be a second-class competition with no real hope of improving status. It is, sadly, difficult to perceive clubs like Luton surviving in such a set-up. Once again, you can bet your bottom dollar that we, the supporters and biggest sponsors of the game, will be insulted in the usual way.

FANS AND PLAYERS CAN STOP THE SUPERLEAGUE

Most fans are opposed to the proposals for a Premier League.

Most fans can see that the Premier League is about greed and giving more money to the rich clubs. Most fans can see through the lie about "helping the national team". "Big Five" fans are mostly against the proposals too.

But who's going to stop the Superleague? We can't rely on the Second Division Chairmen. Some, like Bob Murray, are opposed. But some, like Kevin Maxwell, are in favour. Most will simply vacillate, panic and see what slice of the cake they can get.

Meanwhile the F.A. is making all the running: and the press are talking about the Premier League as "inevitable".

But it isn't inevitable. There is one group of people who will be seriously affected by a shake-up of the football 'industry' - and who have the power to change it. That's the players.

If the Premier League goes ahead, a few players will benefit - the top players at the top clubs. Most of the players face insecure futures, downward pressure on wages, the threat of part-time football or even redundancies. The players are aware of this, and they don't want the Premier League either.

A PLAYERS' STRIKE CAN STOP THE PREMIER LEAGUE. A strike that stops the League programme will force the rich clubs and the F.A. to drop their proposals. It will stop their revenue and make them pariahs. They are cowardly and complacent people. Faced with solidarity from players and fans they will collapse.

But it's not going to be easy to organise. The PFA has never had a strike, and Gordon Taylor is no Arthur Scargill. The longer we go on the way we are, the more they will get demoralised, the more they will accept the Premier League as inevitable, the more they'll settle for whatever they're given. Isn't that what everybody else is doing?

It's up to the fans to give the players confidence. We are relying on them, and they need our support. We have to raise the issue of a strike in the public eye, and make clear that we support it all the way.

IT'S TIME FOR FANS TO ACT. Write for your fanzines, supporting a strike. Better - write to your local paper, supporting a strike. Join the FSA and persuade them to back a strike. We have not much time left. Don't get demoralised, agitate for a fightback!

What else are you going to do, let it happen?

Ed Horton

READING THE TEA LEAVES

It's the time of the football season when we all play the expert and make our predictions for the forthcoming campaign, and we here at "Mad" are no exception, but as you can see our success rate so far is startling

rest on the final match of the season. If so we can only speculate on the possibility of Mick Harford nodding one in at the wrong end, or who the Town hero will be this time.

Issue 1, April 1990 (a year early)

Div. 1.	Champions:	Arsenal
	Relegated:	Derby, Sunderland
Div. 2.	Champions:	Oldham
	Promoted :	West Ham, Sheffield Weds, Notts. Co.
	Relegated:	WBA, Hull
Div. 3.	Champions:	Cambridge
	Promoted :	Southend, Grimsby, Tranmere
	Relegated:	Rotherham, Crewe, Mansfield
Div. 4.	Champions:	Darlington
	Promoted :	Hartlepool, Peterborough, Stockport, Torquay
GMVC	Champions:	Barnet
FA Cup:		Tottenham
Rumbelows Cup:		Sheffield Weds.

Issue 2, August 1990

Putting our necks firmly on the line in true Trevor Brooking style, we now proudly present the Mad As A Hatter guide to what will happen in 1991-92.....

Div. 1.	Champions:	Manchester United
	Relegated:	Southampton, Coventry, Wimbledon

Div. 2.	Champions:	Newcastle
	Promoted :	Sunderland, Bristol City
	Relegated:	Watford, Plymouth, Bristol Rovers

Div. 3.	Champions:	Brentford
	Promoted :	Bolton, Stockport
	Relegated:	Fulham, Torquay, Exeter, Bradford City

Div. 4.	Champions:	Burnley
	Promoted :	Blackpool, Crewe, Rochdale

GMVC	Champions:	Wycombe
FA Cup:		Arsenal
Rumbelows Cup:		Manchester City

Clair Voyant

Cuttings we'd like to be able to laugh about.

It is going to be difficult for David Pleat to make Luton a better side. Asked how much he would have available to spend of the £1.5 million Nottingham Forest have paid for Kingsley Black, the manager replied: "About four and six in old money."

Selling their three top scorers from last season, including Kingsley Black to Forest, isn't the best idea Luton have had.

eeper to beat. The season is less than a month old but already the question being asked is: Who's going down with Luton?

11.40 Star Test: Michelle (R)

12.10 Jazz on a Summer's Night: Joe Williams, with Kirk Stuart, piano, Keeter Betts, bass, Steve Williams, drums. **1.15** Close.

Evidence of Town players involvement in the music business. We were wondering where Willow played all last season.

"Berry had been screwed enough. He decided to start Motown. We had maybe four people, and Berry had an apartment. We were working with Marv Johnson, who had the first ever Motown disc ["Come to Me," in 1959]. Berry and I drove up to the pressing plant, up north in Owosso, Michigan. We went to pick up Marv's records, about two hundred and fifty of them, and took the records out to the radio stations ourselves. And suddenly the record was breaking so big locally we couldn't handle it. So Berry arranged a distribution deal with United Artists."

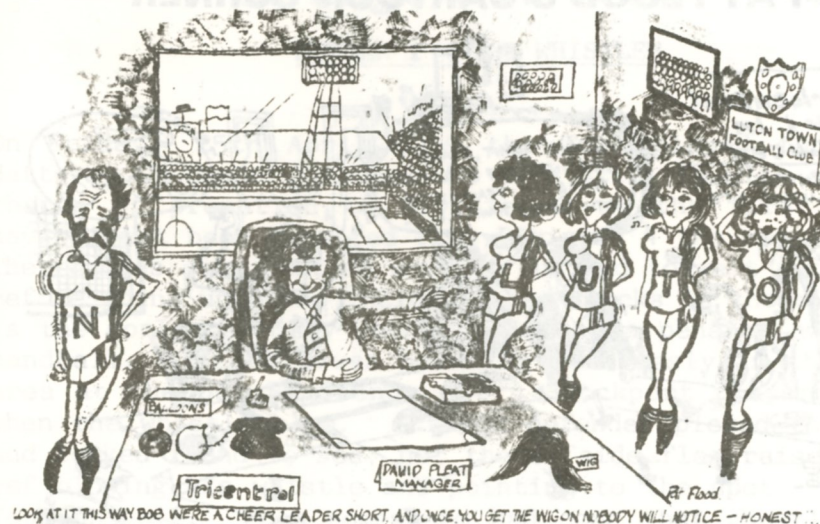
A MISUNDERSTOOD GENIUS

You all thrilled to the memory of Bobbin Dino in response to the question in the end of season Mad quiz - that legendary cartoon character who entertained thousands of Town fans impatiently awaiting the start of the game. And yet he was only a small part of the sociometaphysical fabric of the psyche (the what? - Ed) of the Town fans of the day, there was another who had a greater influence upon the supporters of the day and who's lasting legacy to the club and indeed the world at large is underrated, even forgotten. Yes! I am talking about Pat Flood!

Who was Pat Flood? He was "our cartoonist", a "regular contributor to the match day magazine" and "rather amusing". Well, that is just some of the quotes from the texts of the day but let us look closer at this larger than life figure...

Extensive research has unearthed the fact that his first cartoon was in the match day magazine (most of us still call them programmes) for the game against Watford on 5th April 1980 (of course we won). Pat had been "inspired" by the picture in the Evening Post-Echo of Luton's new cheer leaders - he had a problem. It was that, and I quote, he "could only imagine four girls". Quite why he had this unfortunate limitation is unknown but let us be thankful that he did, for it allowed his genius to flower and suggest that as each cheer leader would have one of the letters of LUTON on their shirts then "one of the lads" would have to volunteer to make up the numbers. Imagine our hilarity when he put forward the name of Bob Hatton as that volunteer - laughed? We nearly ... anyway the cartoon itself showed the "four girls" and a recalcitrant Bob Hatton being persuaded by David Pleat (first incarnation) that nobody would notice "once you get the wig on".

Pat's genius was inexhaustible and for the last game of that season against Wrexham it was the sponsorship of Town by Tricentrol that was savaged by his barbed wit. The cartoon showed a board meeting of Tricentrol with the assembled executives, all of whom were clearly in the latter stages of senile dementia, grinning inanely with Town scarves tied to their wrists, yelling and shouting as a Subbuteo game was taking place on the table. A rather more sober figure, perhaps a self portrait of Our Pat himself, sits at the

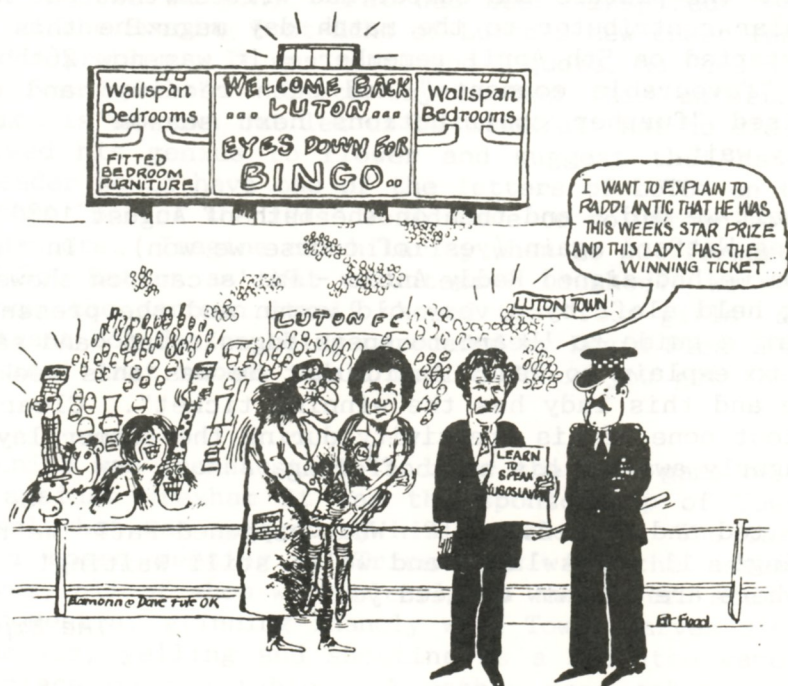
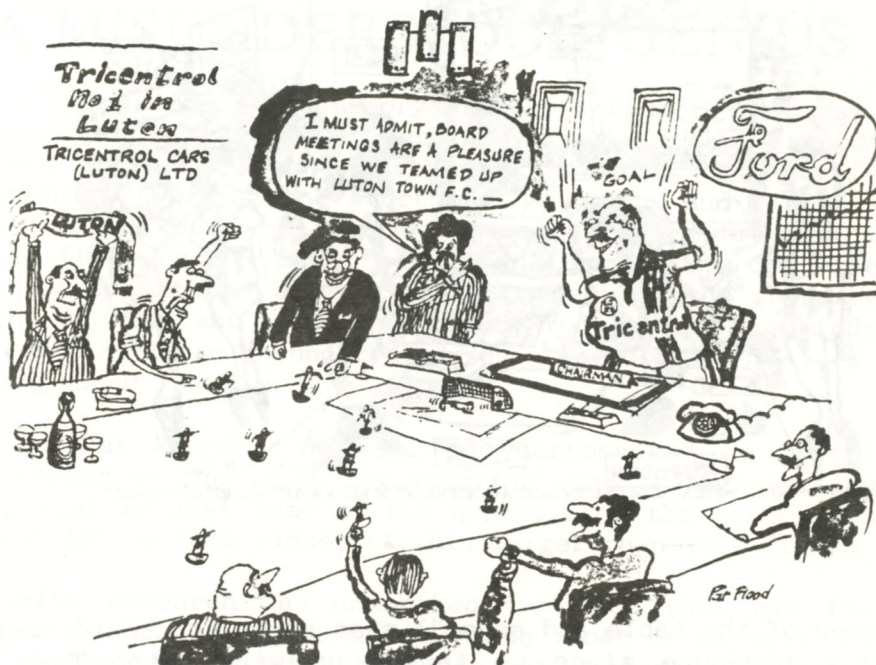


corner of the table and says "I must admit it, board meetings are a pleasure since we teamed up with Luton Town FC". Beneath the picture the editor had written that Pat had been "regular contributor to the match day magazine this season" (he started on 5th April remember - it was now 26th April), that "favourable comments" had been received and we were promised "further contributions next season". We could hardly wait.

But wait we did - and then on the 19th of August 1980 we were playing Watford again (yes, of course we won). In the close season we had signed Raddy Antic - Pat's cartoon showed Raddy being held aloft by a very old woman and the presenter was holding a guide to 'Learn to speak Yugoslavian' and saying "I want to explain to Raddy Antic that he was this week's star prize and this lady has the winning ticket". Clearly Pat had lost none of his creativity during the summer layoff and we eagerly awaited his next offering.

We waited and waited. Pat? What happened Pat? We're still waiting! 11 years later and we're still waiting! Oh Pat, Pat where are you now we need you?

The Expatriate



Strange but True

NUMBER 1 - THE WHISTLER

On Friday, 25th April 1969 the Town played those other Hatters, Stockport County. We were still in with an outside chance of promotion to Division 2 at the first attempt, having just been promoted from Division 4 the season before. The records show that we won 4-1 but had to wait another year before going up. The incident that sticks in the mind though is the goal scored by County. It was a penalty awarded for handball. The ball was bouncing harmlessly in the penalty area at the Oak Road end, not a Stockport player in sight when the whistle blew. A Luton defender picked the ball up and looked round to see, not the offside flag raised but the ref blowing his whistle and pointing to the spot - a penalty for handball. From somewhere had come that ghostly whistle which everyone thought came from the ref. Chants of 'kill the whistler' sprang up but the miscreant was not identified as surely they would have been had there been witnesses - there were 12,055 there so they couldn't have remained unidentified. The following programme reported that "the folly of the itinerant whistle blower is now reflected in our goal average" which was now worse than the club, Swindon, we were chasing. But was it an itinerant or was it a ghostly referee haunting the Kenilworth pitch - we will probably never know.

The Expatriate

RYAN DROVE HATTERS MAD

Dear Dave

I can't understand why there have been so many protests about the sacking of Luton boss Jim Ryan. As a season-ticket holder at Kenilworth Road, I have seen so much crap played on plastic this year that the groundsman could grow roses on it.

Ryan might have saved us from the drop but it was his fault we were near the bottom. His tactics and team-selection are mad. His inclusion of has-beens like Beaumont and Johnson is a joke - as is the omission of Steve Williams. At Everton, when we needed to win, he played a negative formation without a striker.

If he is a good manager, I'm a mashed potato. Come back David Pleat - all is forgiven. ● Peter Nelkin, Luton

This letter appeared in "90 Minutes" (5 June '91). Did Nelkin really write this or do we have in our midst a critic too gutless to use their own name?

MEMORY LANE

THAT TEAM v. CREWE 24/4/68

This was the night when we won the 4th Division championship and started on our steady climb to where we are now. It is one of the cliches of football that there is always a team that you can recite from memory no matter how long ago it was. This, for me, is that team.

1. *Tony Read* - a typical Luton trivia question could be "which Town keeper once scored a League hattrick?" It was Tony of course who doubled up as a forward in his early career. He was virtually unbeatable and once saved a penalty from Geoff Hurst in a 1971 cup tie. Last heard of running a pub, that traditional rest home for ex-footballers.
2. *Max Dougan* - a capable if unremarkable right back, the first of many Scots in the 1968 side.
3. *Freddie Jardine* - another Scot who complemented Max on the left side. Together they made the wings a difficult place to penetrate.
4. *Alan Slough* - a truly wonderful player who I saw as a 4th Division equivalent of Martin Peters. One of the best midfielders of all time but where did he end up?
5. *Terry Branston* - a conventional but useful old fashioned centre-half and the club captain. Nicknamed 'shouter' for some reason - probably because he used to shout I suppose. He never shone in the 3rd and faded away once we bought Chris Nicholl (the best Town no. 5 ever).
6. *John Moore* - another old fashioned type as a left half signed from Motherwell for nothing. Well known in later life as Town manager for a short spell but I remember him for his thumping clearances and once a 30 yard goal at the Kenilworth end - I wish I knew which game that was.

7. *Graham French* - the "George Best of the 4th Division", a dazzling creative winger who tied tubby full backs in knots. Well that's how I recall him but if he was really that good why wasn't he in Division 1? Got into a spot of bother with the police and a shotgun, don't know what happened after that.

8. *Ian Buxton* - played County Cricket for Derbyshire in the days when the season allowed such extravagances. A very useful and clever forward who scored some important goals. Was brought in as replacement to Rodney Green (when Green was not injured, which wasn't often, he was one of the all-time Luton donkeys - we sold him to Watford).

9. *Keith Allen* - a reliable goal scorer in the lower divisions but was always destined to fall away once the Town rose up. Scored many a header.

10. *Bruce Rioch* - now well known as a club manager but then a new face as an exciting and classy goal scorer. Scored three goals on that April night and sent the 18,904 crowd wild. I was devastated the day we sold him to Villa but amused when they went in to Division 3 the same year we went up to Division 2!

11. *Ray Whittaker* - another winger (all teams had two wingers in ye olden days) who was not as flamboyant as Frenchie but almost as useful on the other wing. Used to crash in the penalties too.

Sub: *Billy McDerment* - can't remember anything about him except that he was always the sub.

Of course like all teams that you remember within a year or two nearly all the players were gone and replaced, only Read, Slough and Moore made it into Division 2. For the rest Luton Town was just a stop along the way, yet for us the club is a constant: but just what is it that links that team of '68 with the team of '91? The name? The ground? The memory? Or a bit of all three? Or more besides? What do you think?

The Expatriate

Raving Mad!!!

Dear "Mad",

Having been forced into the new Kenilworth Road seats by the (welcome) return of away supporters, I was appalled at the poor standard of "facilities" provided with my new seat. I refer to the Gents toilets. The club has clearly underestimated the number of people wanting to "go" at half-time and in their calculations of average height of male supporters (and inside leg measurement?) completely overlooked the requirements of small boys who are now expected to direct their aim at something approaching shoulder level. I have previously accused the club of being unable to organise a piss up in a brewery, but this is just too much to believe!

Yours faithfully,

P.J. Smith

Leighton Buzzard

Dear "Mad",

I'd like to volunteer (again) for the return match against 'Clap your hands, Stamp your feet' whenever the game is arranged, as I really enjoyed playing in the first thrilling victory back on Good Friday. I understand that the match report in issue 6 failed to mention my legitimate penalty claim in the first half when I was brought down by the John Barnes play-for-England-alike clone, and my crap miss just before Mr. O.G. stuck one away when I was clean through with just the keeper to beat. On second thoughts, it's a good job you didn't mention the latter!

As for the sacking of Jim Ryan, the following words sum it up: Gutted, Shocked, p****d off, Betrayed, etc. I won't stop supporting the club but I am enclosing a letter with my season ticket renewal form (if they ever send me one!) telling Nelkin and Kohler how they've dragged the name of LTFC even further down than it already was. If you stop supporting the club, you affect the players and other employees too. I'm sure a couple of thousand supporters yelling 'Nelkin Out' will get to them in time.

Regards,

Richard ('Bob') Hewison

Luton

Dear "Mad",

If its more difficult to play against 10 men, as David Pleat said after the Liverpool game, and probably thought about saying after the Arsenal game, then how the **** did Coventry put 5 past us? If we must have excuses, then lets have the truth, like "we aren't good enough, and won't be until we sign a couple of goalscorers. Otherwise Division 2 here we come!"

While I'm writing can anyone explain the logic of keeping Kingsley Black in spite of offers nearing £2 million when we can only afford to buy other clubs cheap cast offs?

DEPRESSED HATTER

Luton

Dear "Mad",

The Derby game was good fun but the appalling way in which Jim Ryan was sacked has soured things a bit. I said in my article on Nelkin (Issue 6) that I'd judge him on his actions - well I've judged and found the bastard guilty! No matter what happens next season, even if we win the double (the sun's getting to me!), it won't alter the fact that Jim was treated like shit.

Have a good summer.

STEVE BAILEY

Suffolk

Dear "Mad",

Luton Town are taking liberties again. After the price increases on season tickets, it really is a bit over the top to charge season ticket holders to get in to reserve games. Will they ever learn anything about P.R.?

Keep up the good work.

SIMON N. GARFUNKEL

Dunstable

If you have anything to say about MAAH, Luton Town, or football in general send it to us. We will consider anything for publication as long as its not racist, sexist or pro-Watford. All letters, articles, poems, cartoons and cuttings will be appreciated. Send them to: Mad as a Hatter!, 30 Linden Road, Dunstable, Beds. LU5 4NZ.

Good Buy or Goodbye??



Lee Glover, who probably won't be here for long due to a £700,000 price tag, seen in action v. Southampton. Could this be another Rosenthal type fiasco?