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MAD AS A HATTER!



A LUTON TOWN FANZINE

Chamberlain gets it right (at last)



Alec laughs with relief at making a catch, while Graham wonders if he'll get booked for using his hands.

MAD AS A HATTER!



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Editorial

Printing deadlines mean that this column has been written before the Palace game (sounds like the programme, huh?), so hopefully by the time you read this then we may have had a victory or two to celebrate. Despite the disappointing results, recent performances have shown much promise, and, given a slice of luck here and there, suggest that the post-Xmas period may, after all, see a sustained push away from the danger zone. The support for the team both home and away in recent weeks has been magnificent and if we can keep playing our part then I'm sure the lads on the pitch will respond.

Looking back at our last editorial we were a little critical of Messrs. Pleat and Murphy, so perhaps it's only fair to give them the credit for recent improvements - the swapping of Thompson for Oakes and Linton has given the team a better balance. Whilst Chris Kamara has been a revelation, both with his own ability (greater than most of us had expected) and for the improvement his influence has brought - surely most noticeable in Mark Pembridge's recent displays.

Off the pitch, however, there is still a strong undercurrent of distrust of David Kohler despite recent welcome announcements about the (overdue) scrapping of the membership scheme, and long promised new ground. Obviously it is to be hoped that additional financial backing can be attracted to the club; however, the current plight of Oxford United shows how quickly a great saviour can become an intolerable financial burden, so potential new investors must be both reputable and committed, remember Oxford United 1991 is not that dissimilar to Luton Town in the early-to-mid 70s and those of us who remember those times have no wish for a repeat.

Well, thats all for 1991, just to say we hope you enjoyed your Christmas, let's hope 1992 proves to be memorable - for the right reasons. By the way, what happened to the "glamour" of the F.A. Cup?

Dreaming of Glory

The Luton Town player woke up in a cold sweat. It had seemed so real, but it must have been a dream. He had just scored the winner for his team and had the acclaim of the crowd. His family were watching from the stand, which was a hideous example of modern architecture. The minds of the 9,542 fans and the TV sets in the executive boxes were replaying his moment of brilliance. Old men stopped digging their nearby allotments to speculate on what the cheering from the football ground might mean, and his clubs chairman stood in the directors box, straw boater on his thinning hair, clapping. But something wasn't quite right. The opposition were not a familiar first division side but one from the lower divisions. Perhaps it was a cup match. It must have been away from home as his team-mates were not wearing the usual home kit. The surroundings were familiar, yet wrong. It wasn't Kenilworth Road, that shambolic mess called home, but somewhere that seemed more like home. He instinctively knew that this had been the scene of some great victories, the place he had watched his heroes as a boy. The referee blew the final whistle, and he left the field with his victorious team-mates, as he did so his manager patted him on the back and said "well done, Malcolm". This was particularly strange as this was not his name.

It was at this point that he had woken, and he lay in bed wondering what it could mean - if indeed there was any meaning to it. Was it a hideous nightmare? As dawn broke, it all became clear. The strange shirts were yellow and the familiar ground was Vicarage Road. Yes, it had been a dream and our very own Sean Farrell (for it was he) had achieved his lifetimes ambition - in his mind at least - and become the new Malcolm Poskett.

The sad thing about this was that Sean would never be able to tell his Luton team-mates of this wonderful dream, and how he yearned to score 17 goals in 63 appearances for his beloved Hornets. They just wouldn't understand. And nor would the supporters - or would we?

According to a recent profile, Sean, born in Watford, has a long term ambition to be the new Malcolm Poskett, (his favourite player - "a goalkeepers nightmare"), and his

favourite ground is Vicarage Road, "scene of some great victories". Is there a traitor in our midst. Does this explain Sean's poor goalscoring record for Town? Perhaps he doesn't want us to win!

As for Malcolm Poskett, the highest level he played at was in the 2nd Division with Brighton and Watford between '77 and '81 scoring 38 goals in 98 appearances. The rest of his career was spent in the lower divisions. Is this the summit of Sean's ambitions?

E.I. Addio

A Personal Goal

Reports have reached us at "Mad" which may explain Alec Chamberlain's alarming loss of form this season. It is alleged that in the search for international honours Alec spent some time in the summer researching his ancestry and accrued some evidence to suggest that he is qualified for Scotland. When asked to confirm this Alec said "Och, ye dinnae want tae believe all ye hear. Ah cannae deny that ah've some roots in the auld country, an' ah'm waiting tae hear frae Andy Roxburgh". The fact that Chamberlain is not an obviously Scottish name does not seem to be a problem as our researches show that Leighton, Goram and Rough are other names without strong Scottish origins. Surprisingly, we did find that there was once a clan Grobbelaar in north west Sutherland.

Andy Roxburgh, asked about Alec's claim to play for Scotland, said that he could not believe his qualification based on last seasons form, but during this season he had become more convinced.

So there we have it. Alec has been trying to win a Scottish international call-up.

K.F.H.

Promises Promises

Just over a year ago I was part of the editorial team that interviewed Peter Nelkin on his hopes and aspirations for the club. Of course he has long since departed, but what of the ideas he expressed on that day. Have they also departed or do they remain? Being vested in his business partner David Kohler who still remains at the club.

On the day in question Nelkin blamed much of Lutons current problems on lack of stable management. He felt that this would enable the club to run on a sounder financial basis. However, the sacking of Jim Ryan which ultimately led to the departure of Peter Nelkin, deprived the club of two of its most important people. This kind of activity hardly seems to suggest stable management and the sacking of Jim Ryan in particular was to make Luton even more unpopular with the national press.

So what of achieving a sound financial basis. Press reports this season have suggested that the club is losing between £8,000 and £15,000 per week. There seems little doubt that the end of the financial year report will show another substantial loss and will clearly lead to more quality players being sold. It was hoped that a reduction in the playing staff would lead to a safer financial situation. Although players have departed, with the exception of Elstrup and Black, they were hardly the highest wage earners at the club. With the arrival of players such as Harford, Peake and Kamara, who will all no doubt justify a substantial wage, it would seem that the overall wage bill has increased rather than decreased.

The other main problem facing the club is that the present ground is not suitable for the needs of the club. An announcement of the site of a new ground was due last March. However, we still await for news. Apparently, David Kohler does not wish to name a possible site until the deal for the land is tied up. There seems to be little point in all this secrecy when obviously planning permission will be needed for such a new stadium and obviously a public inquiry along with all the usual protests will follow. One can't help feeling that delays on the announcement of a new ground has been

caused by the teams form on the pitch. Afterall, if we are relegated at the end of the season, we won't really be needing a new ground anyway.

Obviously these two problems are only the tip of the iceberg but what is clear is that these problems remain unanswered and solutions to them seem a long way off. David Kohler was recently quoted as saying that he could see the light at the end of the tunnel, yet I doubt if the ordinary supporter would agree with him. Afterall, the clubs supporters still remain ill informed by the club on how bad the actual situation is. I would personally suggest that unless David Kohler can start addressing the problems facing the club and hopefully coming up with one or two solutions, then he should follow the example of his business partner and leave quietly by the back door.

Still, as the saying goes, there is no place to go but up - that is until relegation is officially declared.

This past September I was in England and fortunate enough to have been able to see a few matches. And, as luck would have it, I was gifted with a perfect record - one exciting win, one horrifying loss and one rain soaked draw.

With England Manager Graham Taylor returning from New York bemoaning the amount of games players in this country face, we here at "Mad" put forward an alternative plan. This would involve keeping the present number of games but making the actual games themselves shorter.

Our in depth research shows that such a proposal would be gratefully received by all Town fans.

The proof:

Notts County Home	Last minute penalty equaliser
Sheff. Weds. Home	Last minute equaliser
Sheff. Utd. Away	88th minute equaliser
Birmingham Away	Last minute winner
Ipswich Away	Last minute equaliser leading to extra time and then losing on penalties.

Judge for yourself.

An American View

At last ground zero has been achieved. At a point just past the one-third mark of the season Luton Town discovered that which many so-called "experts" had been predicting they would for a numbers of years - the base of the English first division. And while it was certainly polite of Sheffield United to have waited so long before winning their third match, thus overtaking the Town in the league standings, one only wonders why they could not have waited until the new year, at least then both could have had the opportunity to equally share time in propping up the division, to pull the rug out from under the Hatters.

Though what lies in store for the Town in the 1992 half of this season few supporters would be willing to get optimistic about. Still, as the saying goes, there is no place to go but up - that is until relegation is officially declared.

This past September I was in England and fortunate enough to have been able to attend three Luton Town matches. And, as luck would have it, I was gifted with a perfect record - one exciting win, one horrifying loss and one rain soaked draw. The matches in question were against Oldham Athletic, Manchester United and Notts County. And as my previous three pilgrimages to Kenilworth Road had all been during the spring season (1985, 1988, 1989) I was looking forward to attending matches that did not take place under the imminent cloud of relegation.

What I brought back to the States from those three matches are a mixed bag of memories. And while it may be possible to see a promising future for a few of the Town's youngsters, unfortunately, the future is not now.

Against Oldham and Notts County the Town played competition equal to their own ability. Manchester United, though, was a totally different story. This match literally pitted Manchester's men against Luton's boys. And it is in matches such as these that the class spectrum of football is truly illustrated. Still, it has been by no small feat that the Town has been able to spend the past decade among such giants.

One of the more disturbing aspects of the Town's game concerned the delivering of the ball from the fullbacks up to the midfield area. More times than I cared to count the ball was played to the head of David Preece. Why? Common sense would dictate that a player of Preece's size is more suited to a ground level game than to a bombardment from the air. His tireless effort and natural abilities are wasted in this manner.

Sadly, another memory is even more painful - watching Brian Stein trying to play quality first division football. Stein now is only a shell of the player who was a corner-stone in the Town's glory years of the mid-eighties. While Mick Harford was a good reinvestment Brian Stein was not.

As I said there is promise in the Town's future. If the current crop of players are allowed to mature as a unified team and played correctly, Mark Pembridge being used as a Kingsley Black-type winger was a study in frustration, then the hard lessons which they are now experiencing will prove beneficial. Though one would have to be a dreamer not to realize that to survive in the first or thrive in the second division will ultimately require a sale of one or more of these youngsters.

Memories are wonderful things. They can be dusted off and brought down from the shelves of the mind at will. I owe a great deal to Luton Town for the memories they have given me. And I eagerly await the future memories that they will provide - both from the short-wave radio and in person.

Sanctuary on a weekend with the donkeys

Explanatory notes from
a newspaper article on
Watford supporters.

DONKEYS may be quiet, unassuming creatures, but they make a strange impact on people.

A Good Judge of Character?

Be honest now, how many of us had ever heard of Scott Oates and Des Linton before they joined us from Leicester, with Tommo going in the opposite direction. I hadn't for one. Never bloody heard of 'em was the expression I used upon seeing the news on Ceefax. From what I gathered from Soccerline one was a winger, one a defender and neither had a regular place in the team at Leicester.

Lot of good they'll do us I thought not changing my mind one bit. However a few days later I heard a rumour that the boss had tried to buy these two earlier in the season but due to his popularity at Leicester was quoted inflated prices. However, knowing Leicester wanted Tommo, he beat them to it and the swap deal ensued. Pretty sneaky eh, perhaps they may be better acquisitions for Luton than first impressions suggested.

After seeing both play, my faith in Pleat's ability in the transfer market remains in tact. Both have proved that they have the ability to play in the first division and Oates in particular should go on to be the ideal replacement for Kingsley Black. Des Linton was unluckily injured but seemed to have made the right back position his own.

The boss again prove me wrong in the signing of Chris Kamara from Leeds. I still have nightmares about the complete lack of ability shown by Mick Kennedy at Luton and pictured Kamara as being from the same mould. i.e. Better at kicking players than footballs.

However, with Chris in midfield, Luton look a far better balanced team and performances have improved dramatically even though results haven't necessarily followed. Midfield seems to be the one area where there is real competition for places.

After being well out of line on the above predictions I won't be giving up the day job whilst awaiting offers to become a soccer pundit, but there again you can't be wrong all of the time. I was sceptical to say the least when Brian Stein

returned to Luton. It was hard to imagine how someone of his age and with a distinct lack of pace could still do a job at the top level. Sadly, I haven't been proved wrong. Brian has looked sadly out of touch all season and hasn't really ever looked like scoring the quota of goals he said he'd score at the start of the season. With the absence of Phil Gray for so long I would have preferred to see Kurt Nogan given a run in the team. There is though still time for Brian to prove me wrong and although nothing would please me more, I'm not holding my breath.

Swedish Selection

Elsewhere in this issue, you will find an article not uncritical of our beloved England manager. Despite this, the great man is not averse to providing us with a few choice titbits of information - such as explaining just who Richard Jobson is. We can, therefore, EXCLUSIVELY reveal that he has in fact already selected his squad for Sweden:

GOALKEEPERS

COTON
SHERWOOD

DEFENDERS

MCCLELLAND
JOBSON
PALMER
PARIS (Junior at Watford)
CHIVERS
BARDLEY

MIDFIELDERS

HOLDEN
RICHARDSON

HODGES

FALCONER
RICHARDSON
KUL
CALLAGHAN

ATTACKERS

BARNES
PENRICE
AGANA
THOMPSON
BAILEY (Junior)
WILKINSON
ALLISON
FALCO

(Our thanks to "Clap Your Hands, Stamp Your Feet" from where we nicked this bit!)

State of the Nation

Taylor-made success..?

On the face of it, everything's rosy, England will be in Sweden for the 1992 European Championships qualifying from a tight group ahead of Poland, the prototype united Great Britain team, and, ahem, Turkey, and unbeaten, to boot. Scratch off the tabloid-applied gloss, however, and a far less attractive picture is presented.

The progress made under Graham Taylor has been, at best, unconvincing and, at worst, an utter shambles-two 1-0 stuffings of Turkey (sorry!) do not a world-beating side make. Almost all of the progress made during Italia '90 has gone, and we're well on the way to playing the neanderthal type of football that Taylor made his trademark at you-know-where. Surely we won't steep so low as to give John Fashanu another chance to disgrace the England shirt.

Tactically, Taylor has shown himself to be particularly inept. The sweeper system, albeit stumbled-upon rather than initiated by Bobby Robson, was a revelation in Italy, and it finally seemed that we were catching up - playing intelligent football with flair WITHOUT sacrificing our traditional virtues of strength, fitness and work-rate. Since then, Taylor has only once used the system, against Ireland - a match patently unsuited to such tactics - after which it was swiftly dropped (during it, in fact), almost as if Taylor didn't believe the system would work and deliberately used this match to make his point. Similarly, some of his midfield combinations have defied belief - doesn't the man know the meaning of the word BALANCE?

Another criticism that can be levelled at Taylor is that he constantly chops and changes the team. Again, he must plead guilty to this. Apart from unavoidable changes caused by injuries and suspensions all too often England have fielded teams showing half a dozen changes from the previous match which, allied with the tactical ineptness of the management, is hardly likely to give any degree of continuity to the side. Furthermore, far too many of the players who have been selected are way short of what is required at international level - sadly, some of these are still in the side! - and too many have, in fairness, not really been given a decent run (although we can but hope that 45 minutes against Poland proves to be the total sum of Andy Gray's international career). Don Revie was mocked by many in the 70s for wanting to create an England "family" unit - as he had done successfully at Leeds - but it strikes me that this sort of continuity is exactly what's required at the moment.

Of course, it's not fair to blame all of England's current problems on Graham Taylor. Injuries haven't helped him - despite being sick to death of reading about him, there's no doubt we've badly missed the one player who can provide real genius, old fat boy himself. By the way has anybody else notice how many injured international are fit enough to play for their clubs the next Saturday? Neither can we blame Taylor for the lack of quality players available to him, particularly in the important midfield area (but there must be better players than Geoff Thomas in the Beazer Homes League!) although the continuing absence of Neil Webb suggests that Taylor prefers players who can all run like headless chickens ("Diego" Thomas again) to those with more flair.

So, if I'm such a smart-arse who knows all the answers, could I do any better? Well, obviously, this is a hypothetical question because I doubt my England side would ever take the field, but if it did, it would look something like this:

Woods
Wright M.
Walker Elliott
Steven Pearce
Platt Gascoigne
Merson
Lineker Wright I

This is, of course, subject to the vagaries of form and fitness - for instance you could substitute Hirst or Shearer for Wright or play Parker (from Thunderbirds?) as sweeper in place of Elliott, or right-back instead of Steven. But I digress. As within a structure such as this it would be easier to make these changes without affecting the overall pattern of play. Tactically, this side is very flexible - the full backs would be given the opportunity to push forward in attacking positions as much as possible, coupled with the job of bolstering the midfield to provide support. Merson would be given the free role in which he looks so classy week in, week out for Arsenal, whilst at the moment Ian Wright looks the best player to support Lineker on whom we have relied far too much in the past and who will be sorely missed after next summer.

So, some food for thought. Whilst this magazine might not seem the obvious place to ask one's views on the England side, it must be appreciated that a successful and attractive national team boosts all football.

Of course, I hope we'll do well in Sweden, but not at any cost. If failure leads to a change of manager (I'd go for Glenn Hoddle) then history may show a major step forward - sadly, I fear this is unlikely. Taylor to be in charge in 2000? Don't bet against it, but if he doesn't change his ideas quickly I can't foresee any success, and 100 caps for Geoff Thomas!

POSTSCRIPT

Since the above was penned, the 1994 World Cup qualifying draw has been made. One can't help lacking confidence in someone who tells us Norway will be tough opposition and that San Marino will be difficult to beat! I sense some advance excuse-making?

(Bury St Edmunds)

Began refereeing in Cambridgeshire
10:40 FILM: Murphy's Law. Murphy is Charles Bronson, so you know to expect a high body count.

A dramatized documentary on Towns training sessions, to explain the length of the injured list.



A.C.

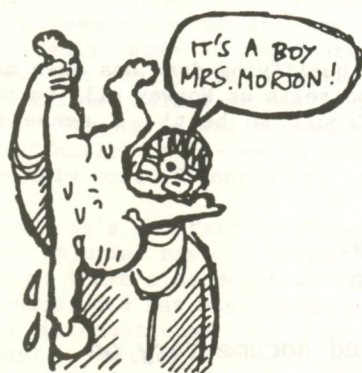
The Legend

Norwich v West Ham was not, perhaps, the obvious choice for ITV to select as their main feature game from Round 4 of the Rumbelows Cup recently (except, to Gerry Harrison). All, however, became obvious as Brian Moore uttered words which were music to my ears, and no doubt had the same effect on thousands, nay millions, of fans up and down the country: "Tonight's referee is Kelvin Morton, from Bury St. Edmunds."

Now this, as far as I know, was Kelvin's first ever appearance on national TV and so a vintage performance was expected. But, after 20 or so minutes, I began to start watching the game (when not crying with laughter at Darren Beckford - Norwich's "Fazza") and not the referee who had, by now, become unnoticed - the sign of a good referee?!

As the game moved into injury time I, along with Kelvin's vast army of fans, were beginning to feel a bit cheated at such a respectable performance. But the Great Man had a trick up his sleeve. A Norwich cross into West Ham's penalty area, a Norwich player falls over, and from his impressive vantage point (30 yards away with about ten players in the way), Kelvin points dramatically to the spot. The rest, as they say, is history and I slept easily. I KNEW he wouldn't let us down.

A.C.



KELVIN-THE
EARLY DAYS

MATCH REFEREE

Kelvin Morton
(Bury St Edmunds)

Began refereeing in Cambridgeshire when 16. progressed through to the Football League Referees List via the Eastern Counties League and Football Combination.

Married with two children, Kelvin is a complete and utter lunatic.

A DREAM COME TRUE

Many people look at the situation regarding Liverpool as unfortunate and being of a temporary nature only. Well all I can say is I hope it gets worse. Nothing would please me more to see them knocked out of the F.A. Cup in the 3rd Round and relegated to the 2nd Division. You may think this is a harsh view to take but let me explain my reasoning.

Firstly, all we hear about lately is the injury worries they have. But we don't hear about the 2 million pound plus player or the 2 internationals they have sitting on the bench while their injury ravaged teams fights valiantly on the pitch.

Secondly, why did they appoint a manager who even their fans don't rate. I bet most people who only go down the local park to watch or play football and be given access to Glasgow Rangers bank balance could win the Scottish Premier League. Just look what they achieved in the European competitions.

Thirdly, everybody is admiring and congratulating Liverpool on their return to the European scene. Well all I can say is I reckon our reserves could beat a couple of teams of part timers and a French team that most people haven't heard of. Lets see how well they do against some of Europe's better teams.

Fourthly, nobody speaks about the refereeing decision most small first division clubs have to put up with at Anfield. These decisions can be vitally important with 30,000 thick Liverpoolians cheer on their team.

Finally, but not least I HATE SCOUSERS.

UN JAMES

Black Sabbath, you see, have a credibility gap as big as the holes in Luton Town's defence. With Ozzy

From Kerrang! magazine

WHO DO Tuff bloody think they are? Their music has all the excitement of a Luton Town home fixture, so what gives them

PS. In response to Roger Lett who slagged off Tuff in the same issue: all I can say is, a Luton Town Home fixture must be a kick ass event, cos Tuff at the Astoria were just that. If you'd bothered to open your eyes

Strange but True



A rare shot this one. Kurt Nogan about to score a goal (against Wednesday).

A Luton Town Top 10

1. Nobody said it was easy The 4 Horsemen
2. Rock Bottom U.F.O.
3. Homesick Blues The 4 Horsemen
4. Luanne Foreigner
5. Shake and Tumble
(Dedicated to John Dreyer) Firehouse
6. The Big Payback Molly Hatchet
7. Give me back my wig
(Specially for Preecey) Omar
8. Modern day Cowboy Tesla
(Dedicated to D. Evans + P. Nelkin).
9. Looking out the window Steve Ray Vaughan
(for those in the "Bobbbers")
10. Music for a Raw Nerve Ending Bill Ward

See you on May 9, 1992 at Meadow Lane, in the East Midlands against a team playing in black and white!

N.J.G.

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All the rage ?

'Allo Spotters, (Yeah that means you D.K. I know there was 6 behind the Goal at Hamilton)

Well I'd just like to tell you a little story, now being a bit of a record collector (its the only way that I retain sanity what with life in general and the shower of shit we currently watch). I was in a record shop a short while ago (v Notts Co. H) and found a few CD singles and lo and behold the new Luton Town influenced record. Who remembers the last? 'Hatters Hatters What A Great Team' with the Barron Knights complete with picture cover. (Yeah in 74/75 that was a rarity as it wasn't till the arrival of Punk that the Pic Cover came to the fore.) Suffice to say it was utter crap, those of you who paid attention in the Derby game at home last year it was played before kick off. What can I say about the new one, now before I go any further we should address the facts of life.

We should be aware:

1. It isn't going to be played on Radio 1 (Day time) Why? They only Play CD's now, probably because some enterprising individual decided he could make money by selling all the left overs, to a local shop for personal profit. (A bit like the present board at LTFC.)
2. Its a shame we haven't got a fan base as large as, say, Manchester Utd. because if 50,000 people bought it, in these days of depressed record sales it would be straight in at No. 1. Now thats a thought, but they would not play it on Radio 1, and Luton fans would suffer just like the fans of say Iron Maiden who managed a place at the top with little airplay (Good old boys).

Onto the record itself, we have 2 mixes. A side: the terrace mix which is OK usual synth-pop 80's/90's affair with quotes courtesy of the local radio station but why oh why do Luton only end up scoring 2 goals, surely they could have dug back

further and found when we were scoring six, five and four. (Oh I remember that was in a dream.) The club mix side AA is basically the same synth-pop with just the few choice quotes from Andy Reston. Now, I'll tell you what I'd have done, I'd first recorded it and put it out on tape and given it away with the fanzine, that way it would have retained the Indie/fanzine mentality but having said that it looks as though Radio Beds has had a very large finger in the pie therefore smacks of commercialism, with just a few lines about the fanzine. (Well its better to be Mad I think).

Well spotters there you have it a record review in Mad, maybe you'll get a few more who knows? Next time I'll do a review of the Screaming Lord Sutch single (shows everyone the way home in the humour stakes).

Well spotters just one point how about our beloved leader (D. Pleat) anyone noticed the similarities between him and that young man from Notts Forest, Cluff.

Think about it. Against County:

1. Comes out in tracksuit bottoms and, wait for it, green top.
2. When ball out of play in the air leaps out of dug out and catches same.
3. Hollers from touchline shaking fist.
4. Oh by the way he didn't clip any fan round the ear. (None ran on the pitch, anyone who does is likely to be offered a game.)

Wimbledon Away was the worst performance by a Town side I have seen since Blackpool at home in '72. We lost 1-4 with the Slough O.G. who hit the ball over Keith Barbers head from 9 yards after Barber had bounced the ball to him.

Remember as the chairman or whoever says: don't shout too loud for what you want, you might get it. Now lets think what do we want?

Cheers.

The Laughing Cavalier

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Scrooge - David Kohler
 Bob Scratchit - David Peat
 Ghost of Partner Peter Nelkin
 Tiny Tim - David Peate



We will follow the Hatters....?

Z.D.S. Cup 2nd Round Ipswich v Luton

Three brave Hatters fans (well 2 Hatters fans and one sane person supporting Ipswich) arrived at Portman Road about 2 hours before the kick off. This was due to one of the Luton fan's driving. He seemed intent on crashing into a juggernaut rather than be bored to death by the football. Some time was spent in the Club Shop where the Ipswich supporter was advised to buy an egg cup. (Having taken 17 yrs to reach Portman Road, he was going to buy something to commemorate the trip - he bought a programme.)

Having elected to stand in the Ipswich end (on the grounds that everyone could shout "Come on the Town" in safety) we began to freeze parts of our anatomy to a crush barrier. The Luton team consisted of a number of new faces. There were those who were past it (Harford, Rodger, Chamberlain), those who will never make it (Salton, Allpress, James) and those who will soon leave the club (Pembroke, Hughes).

The game itself ranks along side such classics as Luton v Bradford and Luton v Wimbledon. It was god-awful. No-guns missed from 6 yards in the 1st minute and another star also missed early on. Ipswich's contribution was a corner. At half-time careful inspection of the Luton coach revealed numerous crates of beer (an unofficial source said they had 'Property of M. Harford' written on them).

The second half was equally bad. Luton were overrun until with 10 minutes left they scored. No-guns crossed and Telfer scored from 2 yards out, 0-1. With time expiring Jason Rees entered the fray. Luton's utility player (it doesn't matter where he plays because he's equally inept in defence or midfield) was to have the final word of the evening.

With 30 seconds left Lowe scored for Ipswich 1-1. Bugger - 30 minutes of boredom left. The extra time team talk was delivered by Colin Murphy (David Pleat was busy trying to buy a midfielder who was better than Gary Parker so he could swap him for two 2nd division players). Extra time was crap.

Luton did their impression of Red Star Belgrade and took it to penalties.

Ipswich went first. Whitton scored - 1-0. Pembroke scored 1-1. Dozzell's kick was saved by Chamberlain. Still 1-1. Julian James fired the ball against the bar and then Zondervan scored for Ipswich 2-1. Salton missed (Good debut - got booked and missed a penalty), Lowe missed, Telfer missed, 2-1. One penalty from each side to come. Linighan misses. Rees has to score to force sudden death.

It is interesting to know that Craig Forrest had dived to his left on all the preceding penalties. It was a great surprise when he dived to his left and was hit on the legs by Rees' shot. 2-1. Thank you. Good night.

If this is the best Luton can do, Mickey Mouse Cup or not, they may as well forget it. On the positive side had they won they would probably have got stuffed by Crystal Palace.

P.S: What is the point of having an orange and white logo on an orange and white shirt?

P.P.S: Will Luton ever win in orange?

Finally, my 2 cousins promised to take me to this match if I mentioned them in this report. This is their mention: THANKS SUCKERS.

Richard Barker

IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE?

James Woodgate has written to us from Market Harborough asking if anyone living in that area could help him with lifts to Town matches both home and away, in order that he might see his heroes more often.

If you can help drop us a line at the "Mad" office, and we'll put you in touch.

Tales of Woe

TOWN 0 EVERTON 1

I paid £30 for my Luton shirt and just hope we made those scouse gits pay a similar amount for the privilege. Anyway some Pole came off the bench to score the winner. I can't even pronounce his name let alone spell it. Enough said.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR PLC 4 TOWN 1

We arrived 10 minutes late (Thanks, BR!). Five minutes later me thinks "Shit, wrong date. Now where are Luton being thrashed today?"

"Now what game is this then, Yids v Who?" I ask the bloke behind me. "Dunno mate, fought it was Luton but I fink I've been conned".

With half an hour to go, yes this team in orange is beginning to look like Luton. After 90 minutes, Yep, thats crap. That last 30 minutes was Luton, but the first 60? That couldn't have been the Luton we all know and love/hate. Could it? And the lights - obviously use AMSTRAD controls!

D.K.

TOWN 2 MAN. CITY 2

Arrived 10 minutes late (*This could be a recurring theme - Eds*) after queuing for guest tickets. As it turned out this did not detract from the entertainment. An outstanding match, probably the best at Kenilworth Road for a couple of seasons at least. Oakes and Linton showing great promise, and Stein and Tumble showing some of the old form. Pity about Alec, though. As for the sending off, well, Redmond deserved it as a second bookable offence, but it certainly wasn't a penalty. Overall a four star performance by Town, in a five star match.

A.G.F.C.

SHEFFIELD UTD 1 TOWN 1

A couple of decent performances, plus a half-price train ticket (courtesy of Boots) finally persuaded me to desert Radio Bedfordshire and Teletext for the first time this season to see if we could continue our impressive away form.

After a very efficient train journey - shared for a while with a few neanderthal Leicester supporters, and a few who thought THEY'D got a good deal with Steve Thompson (I didn't dare mention DP!) - Sheffield arrived cold and grey. Found the ground and waited for 3.00 and rediscovered why I used to enjoy away games so much; might have to start going a bit more regularly!

Anyway, onto the game - standing near to a couple of coppers I decided to keep some of my forthright opinions to myself, however I found myself blushing at some of the phrases one of them was using (he was NOT a Sheff. Utd fan!) and decided I could be more vocal - as I crapped myself throughout a United dominated first-half which thankfully remained goalless (thanks, Steve Sutton).

The second-half was a different affair as Town began to stamp their style of football on the game and just when it looked that we might regret our missed chances Paul Telfer (not Mark - Herald please note!) put us in front much to our (and our friendly PC's) delight, but of course it was too good to last - the equaliser was predictable in many ways, but none the less of a sickener. No doubt we'd have settled for a draw, and it was great to see the fight shown by the lads, backed by a great Town support. Next stop Palace - I'll be there!

Geoff Thomas Fan Club!

TOWN 0 LEEDS UTD 2

Leeds looked like a side that could win the title this season. Although we matched them in the first half and seemed to have grounds for a penalty claim. Two goals in the space of two minutes finished us off and we ended up a well beaten side.

Gone to Pot(ton)

Beds Premier Cup 2nd Round - Potton United 5 Town 3.

It's a bloody long and tortuous journey across Bedfordshire, from Leighton Buzzard to Potton, especially if you get lost on the way. That's why I arrived ten minutes late (*This is getting to be a habit - Eds*) by which time the Town side were one-nil up, courtesy of Sean Farrell. The side fielded by Town was the usual mix of youth and inexperience, with David Preece added in for good measure. It soon became clear that incompetence was also lurking in the defence as the home side started to flow through with ease. A mistake by Pettersen gifted the equaliser and by half time the offside had been beaten several times more and Potton led 3-1. Potton had obviously identified the Towns left back, who shall remain nameless to avoid further suffering, as the route to goal and were 4-1 up within minutes of the restart. The introductions of Nogan and Hughes revived the Town and a class goal followed by a simple nod-in, brought Town back and gave Farrell his hat-trick. In the closing minutes the tie was settled by Potton's fifth goal. Another cup defeat. At this rate we'll call the Rumbelows a cup run next season, 'cause we're guaranteed two matches!

P.J. Smith

ELTONS AGONY - THE TRUTH

We can exclusively reveal today the REAL reasons why Elton John and his father have not spoken for ten years. We spoke to Mr. John (Snr) who told us "I can accept Elton's life-style, his wild ways, his homosexuality, his crap records. I can even even understand his being friendly with Phil Collins, but I can never accept the embarrassment he has caused my family and I." Understandably Mr. John was reluctant to tell us any more, but, with tears in his eyes he finally cracked. "How do you think I feel? I think everyone's pointing at me in the street, laughing behind my back and making snide comments. I ask you, how would you cope with a son that publicly admits to being a Watford fan?"

Beam us up, Scotty!!

(NEW ERA or FALSE DAWN?)

Perhaps we have got a good team again - perhaps we will climb slowly up to mid-table security and avoid having to go to Notts County and win by four clear goals to stay up! On the other hand...

The recovery seems to have started as soon as Pleat brought in the two Leicester lads - I can't have been alone in wondering what the hell he was up to in swapping the recently bought Thomson (admittedly not great success) for two unknown Leicester players with a handful of first team games between them but what a master-stroke! Both of them have looked a class above what we are used to, Scotty (he beats them all) Oakes in particular. The Spurs match may have been the turning point - never have I seen Luton play so well and lose 4-1 - those damned lights! Never have I seen Luton lose 4-1 and get cheered off - it was as if they'd just won by the same score! In the next game there was the moment of Cruyff-like skill Scotty showed in turning the Man. City defender in the first half of that game in one of those rare moments that are never forgotten! But what a tragedy when his compatriot Des fell to the ground when it looked as if he was going to take the ball all the way. If our luck continues to kick us in the teeth (Linton's injury, floodlights at Spurs, last minute equalisers) perhaps we will still go down but just now there's hope again - even the "Kohler Out" chants have stopped for now - there's too much to cheer on the field!

I have been wondering if it were Nelkin's master plan to get us relegated last year - after all would we have felt quite so angry about Ryan's sacking if we'd gone down? And by now we'd be at the top of Division 2 challenging for promotion, probably with bigger gates and Nelkin would be a hero for revitalising the club - as it is he miscalculated and paid the price. But let us be clear on one thing - even if we do go down (and I don't think we will now) we'll be straight back up - as I live near Ipswich, and because my wife is an Ipswich supporter, I've seen a lot of 2nd Division football in recent seasons and believe me there's a lot of crap sides about - yes, even worse than Watford. When you think that one of the teams that could replace us next season are Cambridge it makes you want to screech! They make Wimbledon look like Benfica!

One recent test (pre-Oakes) of how we'd fare in the 2nd was the

ZDS game with Ipswich - we were up against one of the main contenders for promotion to the Premier League. The form book said 'we'll get well beaten'. A side near the top of Division 2 should always beat a side at the bottom of Division 1 if they are going to have any hope of going up. I mean everyone beats us don't they? And yet we held our own, with half of the reserves playing, and only let it slip by the now traditional method of a goal in the last minute: perhaps it's all to pay us back for what we did to Oldham - as I left the ground that afternoon I heard someone say 'someone will do it to us one day'. How right they were - Notts County, Birmingham, Ipswich, Sheffield Utd...

Anyway whatever happens now at least we'll go down playing football but I'll make a prediction that come April could make me look rather silly - we will be in 15th place! And I fancy we might have a good cup run too - you read it here first folks!

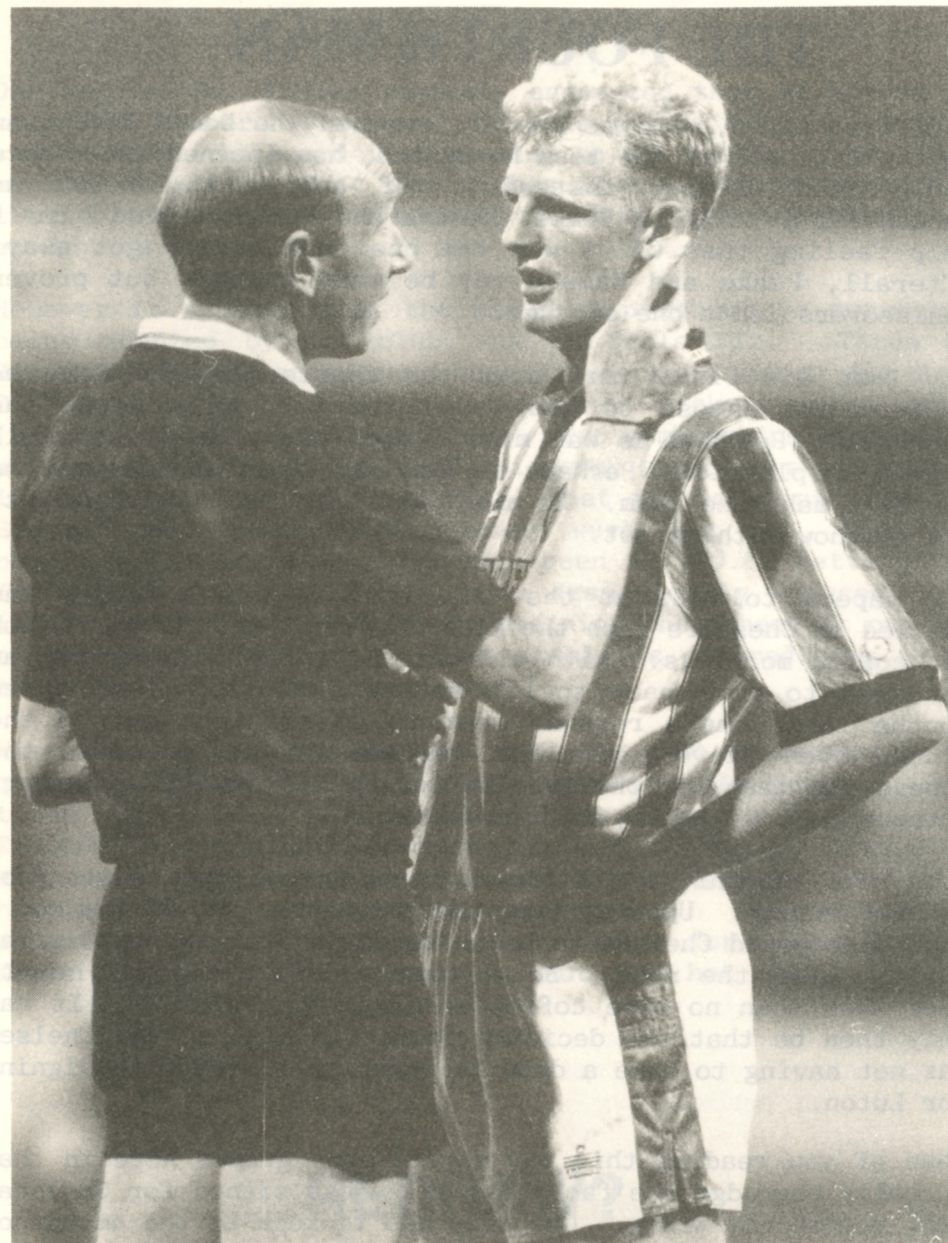
The (Ubiquitous) Expatriate

P.S. This was written before the Cup Draw was made and well before we got beat by Leeds - never mind - my prediction stands - we must keep the faith!

Wordsearch

Y	X	O	P	N	Z	W	T	R	A	S	H
R	U	B	B	I	S	H	C	O	J	H	R
A	W	F	U	L	S	X	R	T	O	I	O
D	O	N	K	E	Y	S	A	D	K	T	P
C	I	T	E	H	T	A	P	R	E	H	E
R	M	N	V	E	R	Y	D	O	D	G	Y
U	H	O	P	E	L	S	S	O	V	Q	
D	O	G	O	N	L	O	S	E	R	S	

Up or down, left, right or diagonal
find the words which best describe
those 'orrible 'ornets.



"If I have to look at you so closely again, I'll have no choice other than to send you off. After all, being so ugly could be called ungentlemanly conduct!"

THE FOURTH MAN

So, Clive Allen, who was one of four men who David Pleat saw as the backbone of the team he wanted, has spurned the chance and joined Chelsea instead. Of course the boss was successful in signing Peake, Kamara and Harford, but I can't help feeling that Clive was the one that really got away. Afterall, Peake and Kamara may be many things, but proven goalscorers isn't one of them.

Why then did Clive turn down the chance to play for the Hatters and choose to stay at Maine Road playing in the reserves? Perhaps he was misinformed and thought we still played on plastic. Perhaps he saw our squad and thought he wouldn't make the team. He might not have liked our new kit, but somehow I think not.

The papers told us at the time that he was a family man settled in Cheshire with the kids at school and the wife with her coffee mornings. With all this it seemed too much of an upheaval to move back to his southern roots. Yet, three months later these reasons seem to go straight out of the window when Clive signs for Chelsea and is again in the papers for thanking Chelsea for saving his dwindling career, without even a passing mention of Luton.

Hold on I thought, I did geography at school, you can't fool me that easily. Upon getting the road atlas out of the car I soon discovered Chelsea to be in London and at least 30 miles further down the road. So why the sudden change of heart. Does this mean no more coffee mornings for the mrs? It can only then be that the deciding factor in signing for Chelsea was not having to take a drop in wages that went with signing for Luton.

Some of you reading this may detect sour grapes here in that I really begrudge the fact that Allen has signed for Chelsea. Well you're not wrong. One only has to look at the amount of goals we have scored this season and then examine Clive's goalscoring record throughout his career to see what we missed out on. Surely another £1,000 a week on the table could have secured his signature for Town and dramatically increased our chances of competing in the Premier League next season.

Guests Galore

Our beloved Mr. Kohler recently announced that he wishes to scrap the membership scheme. If this can be taken to signify that at last the board is listening to the wishes of the fans we can only hope that our wishes start getting through a little bit quicker. After all 5 years is not really good enough, is it?

However it appears that the membership scheme is currently being adapted by the club, as it feels fit. Three of Decembers four matches have been all ticket, yet at the Man. City game it was possible to buy guest tickets right up to (and indeed after) kick-off time, also memberships were being sold on the day. In spite of this away supporters were being locked out at the Oak Road end. What is the point? At the Everton game, around 200 scousers were shut out. Had they been let in the club would have been £2,700.00 better off. That weeks loss would have been dramatically reduced. It seems impossible to justify maintaining the scheme at one end of the ground, whilst the club itself is discrediting it at the other end of the ground.

What this ludicrous scheme has cost the club is impossible to quantify. The return of away supporters is welcome, but those shut out would probably have been worth at least £10,000 to the club. However the loss of casual supporters and, worse, new supporters put off by the apparent hostility of the club is probably the worst cost. The sooner the scheme is removed, the better. Thanks for listening Mr. Kohler, now lets see some action, not just hot air!

K.F.H.

REDRAW?

The organisers of the World Cup qualifying draw have vehemently denied that the draw had to be scrapped after Leeds and Manchester United had been drawn in the same group!

TOWN TRAVELS

1.1.92 NOTTINGHAM FOREST

Not too far to go, and the 3 o'clock kick off gives a bit of time to recover from the New Year hangover and break a few resolutions, like the one not to go to any more Town away games. Our record at the City Ground isn't too bad and usually provides a couple of goals. For those wanting to top up the hangover and not driving try FELLOWS CLAYTON & MORTON, Canal Street, whose winter ale New Year Nectar should be available. Nearby the NARROW BOAT also in Canal Street is a Shipstones pub. All in all, though, Nottingham has an abundance of good pubs selling good beer from independent brewers, so nobody should be disappointed.

4.1.92 F.A. Cup 3rd Round

Its bound to be an away game (for the 5th year in a row), so details will be on the inside back page.

11.1.92 LIVERPOOL

Two years ago (almost to the day) Kurt Nogan got a goal on his debut at Anfield, but we all now know that was a fluke! The only thing we can say with any certainty is that this game will not be goalless. Our matches at Anfield have been eventful, and perhaps this year there is greater reason for optimism than usual. For a beer try BONAPARTES, 21A Clarence Street for John Smiths near to Lime Street Station, or nearer the ground perhaps the MELROSE ABBEY, 331 Westminster Road (by Kirkdale Station) for a pint of Tetleys.

1.2.92 SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

The first Saturday of the month and its, yes, Sheffield again. The majority of the route or the train times will now be firm in your mind. Wednesday are looking pretty impressive at home so far but we must hope our improved form brings some reward. Try the FROG & PARROT, Division Street for the home brewed ales

including Roger & Out, allegedly the worlds strongest draught beer! Also in central Sheffield is the FAT CAT, 23 Alma Street, a free house.

15.2.92 MANCHESTER CITY

Maine Road, scene of one of our greatest victories, and victory is probably just as crucial this time, but could be irrelevant. The beer scene in the city centre is not that brilliant unless you look to the back streets where some excellent beer may be had. Try starting at the JOLLY ANGLER, 47 Ducie Street (near Piccadilly Station) for Hydes Anvil Ales, then the WHITE HOUSE, 122 Great Ancoats Street, a free house, and on to the CASTLE HOTEL, 66 Oldham Street, for Robinsons. Also the JOHN WILLIE LEES at the back of the Arndale Centre for beers of the same name (if its open). But be warned, most of the local brewers do strong winter ales and if you start drinking too many of these you won't remember much of the match.

29.2.92 LEEDS UNITED

Towns last trip to Yorkshire this season, and facing a task more daunting than visiting Anfield. We were unlucky last season but will need everything on our side to win on this occasion. There will probably be very few seats available for Town fans, if any. For the record, the last time Town played on February 29th was in 1964 when Hull were beaten 2-1, and the 3 previous matches on February 29th were also wins for Town, so we've always won on this date. Lets hope thats an omen. For the beer buff this is Tetleys territory, and the locals love it! Close to the rail station is the ADELPHI, Hunslet Road, but for an alternative the PIG & WHISTLE, Woodhouse Lane, Merrion Centre, is a Camerons pub. Those travelling by road would be better to leave the motorway on route to find somewhere for a beer.

FULHAM SUPPORTERS GET THEIR DICKS OUT!

No, not mass indecent exposure at Craven Cottage, but when Jimmy Hill sacked manager Alan Dicks recently he was granting the wishes of Fulhams supporters who chanted "Dicks Out" at a recent home match.

Things they didn't say...

"The plastic pitch is brilliant"

"We were crap"

"I missed the match"

"The manager was right not to let women and children in the dressing room"

"This is a smile"

"My fault"

"He's not for sale"

"Membership schemes will never work"

"They could be better in the second half"

"Goal!"

"I couldn't wait to get a transfer"

"I'd love to stay for another season"

"Where's Snow White"

"I'm only mortal"

"Dive? Me?"

"One day I hope my brother and I can score in the same team!"

"Thomas for England"

"Mine"

"Dion Dublin frightened me"

"Norwich were lucky"

"I do hope Watford win"

If you haven't got a 1992 diary yet may we suggest the 1992 F.S.A. diary? Available by mail order for the very reasonable price of £2.50 each including post and packing.

Send your orders to: F.S.A. (Ref. 147), P.O. Box 11, Liverpool, L26 1XP.

Kenny Dalglish

David Pleat

Brian Swain

Peter Nelkin

Ray Harford

Les Sealey

Nelkin/Kohler

David Evans

Terry Mancini

David Preece

Wegerle/Harford/

Breacker/Dowie/Black,

etc.

Lars Elstrup

David Preece

Mick Harford

Phil Gray

(+ Dean Saunders)

John "Hard Man"

Fashanu

Me

Alec Chamberlain

Juergen Sommer

Gerry Harrison

About 10,000 of us

(excluding Fazza)



THE FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION

THE FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOUR HELP!

- We organised the World Cup Advice Centre in Italy
- We are presenting evidence to Parliament's Committee on Policing Football
- We are assisting the Rimini Deportees' legal action
- We are campaigning for safe and comfortable seating and standing areas at football grounds.

JOIN US NOW BY COMPLETING THE FORM BELOW

Surname/Forenames.....

Address.....

Postcode.....Telephone.....

Club supported.....

Age: Under 16.....16-21.....Over 21.....

Are you disabled? YES/NO

Sex: MALE/FEMALE

Membership Fee: United Kingdom £ 6 (unwaged £ 3)

Rest of Europe £ 7

Rest of World £12

Send the completed form and cheque or postal order to:

FSA, (Ref 147), P.O. Box 11, LIVERPOOL, L26 1XP, United Kingdom.

Raving Mad!!!

Dear "Mad",

As you may have seen from the national media coverage, a FOOTBALL SUPPORTER candidate stood in the Langbaugh by-election for which polling took place on 7 November. For far too long politicians have interfered in sport. They have told us who we can and cannot play against, they have taxed sport less fairly than the arts, they have attempted to impose identity cards on us, they have allowed the police to treat all supporters as potential hooligans (particularly as far as away fans are concerned), they will shortly be legislating to turn the Taylor Report into law thus compelling grounds to go all seated. The list is endless.

A group of us decided to put up a candidate in this marginal constituency that was likely to receive widespread national attention to highlight these matters. We were also attempting to emphasise the positive side of football, i.e. that most fans are intelligent thinking creatures who abhor the violent and racially motivated minority that have attached themselves to our national game.

The candidate was NIGEL DOWNING, a well known local figure and co-editor of the premier Middlesbrough fanzine "*Fly Me To The Moon*". I was his agent. Our aim was to beat the other "fringe" candidates and come fourth behind the major parties. We hoped to turn the Greens red, and whip the Corrective Party!

However, miracles aside, we lost the £500 deposit put together by our small group. We would particularly like to appeal to your readers that, if you feel we have made a worthwhile gesture, please send us a contribution to the address below, cheques made payable to David Lee. All donations of £5 or more will be acknowledged in a future "*Fly Me To The Moon*" (unless you request anonymity) and we will send donors a complementary copy. In the unlikely event, we reach the £500 target, any excess will be donated to a sport related charity.

Thank you for your assistance.

DAVID LEE

8 Enfield Street

Middlesbrough

Cleveland

TS8 0SP

The Football Supporter candidate finished seventh out of seven with 163 votes

Dear "Mad",

In a moment of innate boredom, I have been reading the ground regulations in the front of my season ticket book. Regulation 14 states that "behaviour likely to cause confusion or annoyance to any person is not permitted in any part of the ground". In view of this why are referees and linesmen allowed in for every game? Come to think of it, why is David Kohler allowed in?

Cheers

Ken Ross

Luton

Regulation 8 states: "The throwing of ANY (our emphasis) object within the ground is strictly forbidden." Presumably, this includes the match ball, yet we hear of a Barnsley fan who complied with this (or, no doubt, a similar) regulation and was fined for theft!

Dear "Mad"

I have long been one of the silent majority who have sat back and let the minority speak. Due to the reports being shown in the local press regarding the losses being made every week, I feel I must put forward my views. Recent reports have indicated that losses are currently running at either £15,000, £7,500 and £5,000 per week. I am sure that the figures published correlate to the situation that the club finds itself in. So the next time I see this figure rise to somewhere in the region of £15,000 I won't be surprised to see another talented youngster depart to one of the richer first division clubs or to a club where directors are prepared to put money in.

Another reason for this continued rise and fall in the losses per week could be due to the fact that the directors just do not know what they are doing and keep changing their mind or can't remember what they said last time. This would seem unlikely as surely the current directors, being successful and astute business men (or so it has been reported) do have a finger on the losses involved or maybe they are not what they are reported to be.

Whatever the reason, my mind starts to race if I think of reported losses of £20,000 a week, maybe a merger with Watford.

A. Hart

Bedford

Dear "Mad"

I am writing in response to your double page spread on Football Supporters Against M.S. (Issue 8).

I am really pleased to see football doing something for this charity. I myself am living with the possibility of this condition.

I was knocked down and trampled on at the 1989 Littlewoods Cup Final (Luton vs Notts Forest) and it is believed that the accident triggered the condition in my case.

Since then I have been in and out of hospital for tests and various scans, etc.

I have had to change my job, my life style and eating habits to help me cope.

I don't want sympathy as I'm at present one of the able bodied sufferers. At worst I have to use a walking stick.

My local M.S. Centre at Such Close, Letchworth has given me help and support when I needed it.

They were very pleased at seeing your article and have photocopied it, making a note of your fanzine name.

So you can see why I am pleased that football in the long run will be doing something for them.

I wish good luck to everyone involved and hope they raise lots of money as I know it is needed.

I don't go to matches anymore as I have a fear of crowds but the rest of my family are still Mad Hatters.

Lets hope the Town will rise again in the next half of the season.

Yours sincerely

K. Dear (Mrs)

Letchworth

Those of you who played in our "football" match last year against Watford fanzine "Clap Your Hands, Stamp Your Feet" will be pleased to know that a re-match is in the offing - provisionally booked for Good Friday. If anybody else fancies a game, let us know and we'll get in touch when everything is confirmed.

STOP PRESS - F.A.CUP NEWS

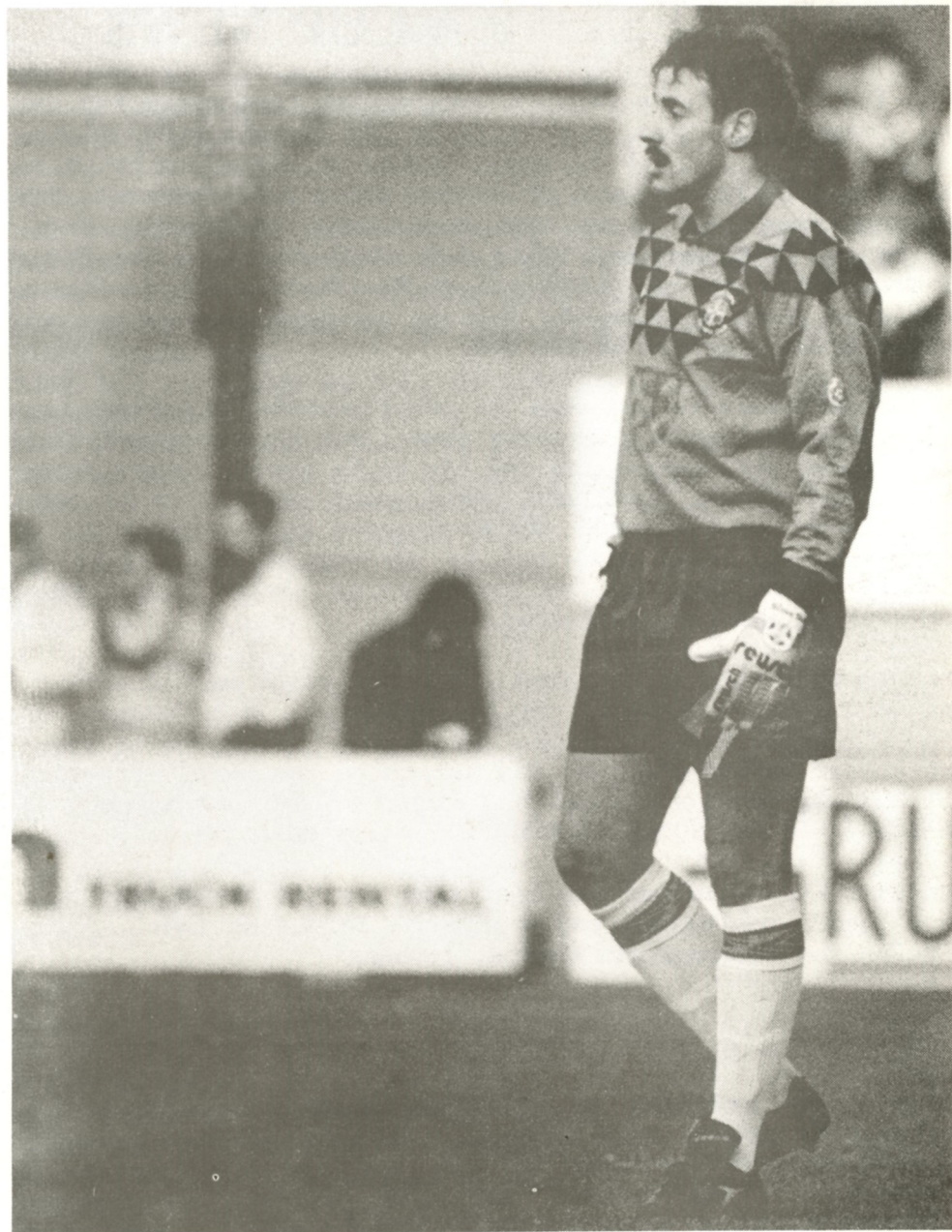
With the onset of the festive season, its time again for the one competition that really fires the imagination of the British public, the F.A. Cup. Well, it actually fills me with dread at the thought of another gross embarrassment, but for supporters of teams like Hartlepool or Crawley Town, Woking and Wimbledon and other tiny clubs there is the dream of a home tie against Liverpool or Man United. And after a couple of years absence the draw is available to the general public again courtesy of the BBC.

It was difficult to see what it could produce to upstage the Trump and Greavesie Rumbelows draw, but it succeeded with Leeds v Man Utd (again) the 3rd tie to be drawn. After Notts County and Wigan, Town make their grand entry with an away tie at Sheffield United. My excitement is uncontained! A rerun of last year will not be so bad if the result is similar. So long as the rerun stops there rather than continue to the 4th round draw.

Its probably safe to say that the match won't be all ticket, and won't be televised, so its Saturday, 4th January at Bramhall Lane, Kick Off 3 pm. Be there or be somewhere else! For a beer before the game its got to be the HOWARD opposite the railway station, which had excellent Mansfield beers in December, or the ROYAL STANDARD St. Marys Road (Wards).

Incidentally, when was the last time the 3rd Round draw only gave London one match, and Charlton v Barnet at that. A day off for the Metropolitan Police, perhaps?

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.



Steve Sutton, seen here in one of his quieter moments. We have to wonder why he couldn't get a game for Forest. Perhaps Clough can't see the wood for the trees.