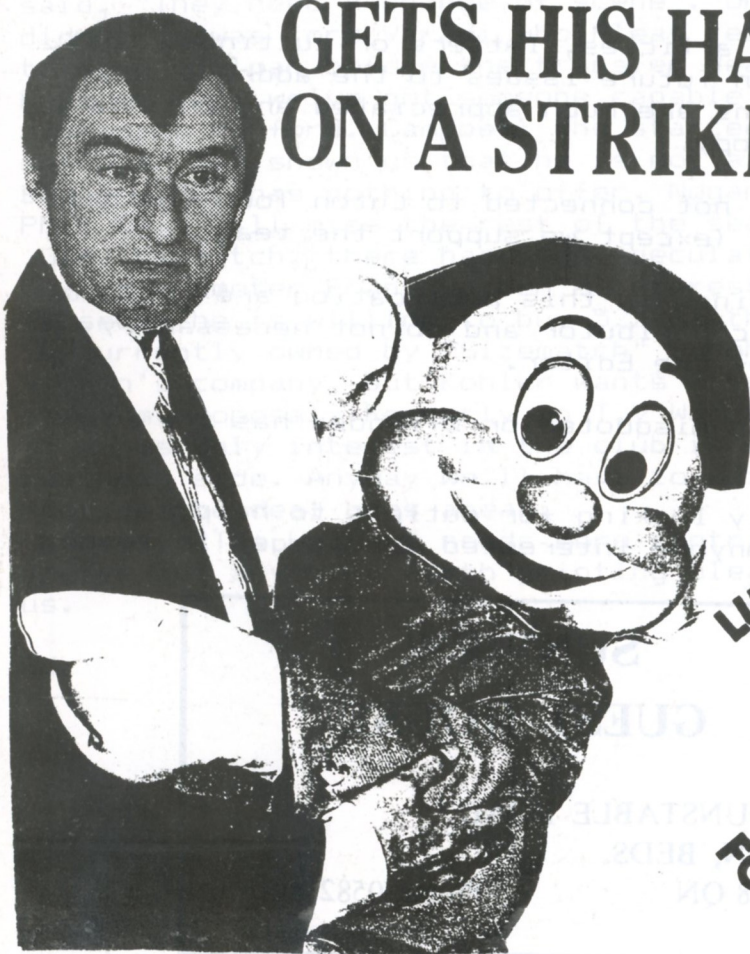


THE HATTER

issue 4

30p

**PLEAT FINALLY
GETS HIS HANDS
ON A STRIKER!**



THE HATTER

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Flitwick
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MK45 1RT

Editor: Simon

A big thanks to: Mick, Paul, Ken, Scott, Paul Stewart and anyone else who has supported us.

Availability: "The Hatter" is available on match days from our selling points at Maple Road, Oak Road and Kenilworth Road. Back issues (1-3) are available from the address above.

Please send any articles, letters or cuttings, that could be used in future issues to the address above. Any contributions are much appreciated and entitle you to a free copy.

"The Hatter" is not connected to Luton Town Football club in any way (except we support the team).

All views contained in this publication are those of the individual contributor and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor.

Anyone who feels misquoted or offended has the right to reply.

We are currently looking for outlets to help sell "The Hatter". Anyone interested should get in touch.

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to issue 4 of "The Hatter". At the time of writing we are third from bottom in the table and more importantly five points adrift from Southampton. Of course it would have been a totally different story if we could have held on to victory or even a draw at Southampton. But at the end of the day we are crap, and unless there is a drastic improvement we will soon find ourselves in the Second Division.

Our hard-up club recently sent the players for a short break in the Canary Islands because Mr Fleat said, "They need a change of scene". One player who didn't go was Imre Varadi who Fleat recently managed to sign on-loan before the transfer deadline. Let's hope at last we've got someone capable of playing alongside Harford. Campbell who started off as a defender has shown us that he is not a forward, Bruno sadly has nothing to offer, Nogan is crap and Phil Gray will miss the rest of the season.

Off the pitch, there has been speculation about boxing promoter Frank Warren's interest in the club. It seems he is willing to buy 52% of the club, which is currently owned by "Sizematch" - Kohler and Nelkin's company, but Kohler wants a hand in the new stadium proposal. Recently on T.V Warren admitted that his only interest in the club is on the business side. Anyway we'll have to wait and see whether the deal goes ahead.

Finally "The Hatter" needs more contributors, so if you've got anything worth printing please send it to us.

Ed

Calling The Shots

While the players have been sunning themselves on the Canary island of Tenerife, boxing promoter Frank Warren has been locked in negotiations attempting to take over LTFC from Coca Kohler.

It is rumoured Warren was encouraged to pursue the deal from former boxer Terry Marsh, who told Warren to "Give it your best shot". So with bullet like speed Warren made his way to our beloved Bedfordshire club, after attempts to save now extinct AldersHOT failed.

Warren even appeared on TV at Highbury (home of the Gunners), telling the watching millions that Luton Town had potential. But talks soon broke down when a mystery clause was found in the contract (perhaps Terry Marsh was to have a free Directors box seat, or Kohler revealed "Shoot!" magazine were being lined up as next years shirt sponsors).

However, talks resumed days later, and it was rumoured that Warren was seen running from the Dell when he heard someone behind him shout "Good shot", in response to Fembo's fine free kick goal.

So the saga continues. Will Warren be our new supremo at the club or will he pull out again? Only time will tell, and if so, will he take over as the man who comes into the firing line from us, the ever loyal fans?

ONE NIGHT AT THE RITZY....



IS THERE A FUTURE ?

It is with great regret that we have to report that as a result of a recent meeting with David Kohler there seems to be no future for the Town.

At the time of writing this article Frank Warren is negotiating to take over the club but we must question the motives of someone who has probably never seen the Town play (perhaps a good thing) and we can only assume that he is looking at the commercial future of the club (sounds familiar) so the team's league status will not be too important.

Since the close season our net transfer income has been in excess of £1.5 million and yet we still apparently need to sell further players. We were unable to raise £175000 as a down payment to secure the services of Steve Sutton a player who could well have kept us in the First Division and a figure which Third and Fourth Division teams seem to be able to raise. We have now been in the First Division 10 years during which time we have appeared in 3 Wembley finals, 2 F.A.Cup semi-finals, have sold the ground and still we are apparently running at a huge financial loss. Where has all the money gone?

Our only assets the players are diminishing fast. If we need to sell at least 6 players next year as we have done this year who will they be and who will take over from them? We are on a downward spiral and the main worry is that we could end up like Northampton or Aldershot.

We do not wish to sound defeatist but our only hope must be to attract someone who has the interests of the football club at heart and who will provide a cash injection to secure the future of the team and not simply to further his own business ambitions or to enhance his ego. Let's hope that such a person exists.

DAZMO ARRIVES ON TYNESIDE...



Kevin Keegan (on knees):
Welcome to our humble football club Diego

Dazmo:
Darren, the name's Darren McDonough

Kevin Keegan (quickly standing):
Do you mean that you aren't Diego Marradona?

Dazmo (looking at the name sewn into his gloves):
No I really am the famous Darren McDonough

Kevin Keegan:
I thought that you were too tall for Marradona. I know I am only four feet six inches tall but I didn't expect you to tower over me. I am fed up with being called short arse and thought that it would be good to have another midget at the club. Anyway I'd heard about your recent drug problem so assumed that you must be the real Diego

Dazmo (usual puzzled expression):
Did you honestly expect to get Marradona for £90000?

Kevin Keegan (becoming angry):
£90000 you mean £590000! £90000 for that tin pot football club and £500000 for that nice Mr Kohler who said that he would be able to invest the money far more wisely

Dazmo (still puzzled):
Oh dear

Kevin Keegan (crying):
What have I done?

HATTERS

DAZMO



14.3.92 Everton

Howard Kendall said, "Luton will stay up this season" after his multi-million pound team struggled to get a point against us. We took the lead early on after Pembo's brilliant free-kick hit the bar and fell to Bruno who scored his second tap in of the season. Everton were crap in the first half and their only real chance was saved by Mervyn Day.

Harford wasn't at his best after returning from suspension and he missed a couple of headed chances. Everton scored the equaliser seven minutes after the break courtesy of Mo Jo (his first goal for about a year). We could have taken victory in the last minute when Harford wrongly chose to shoot instead of passing to an unmarked Campbell. Anyway a point gained can't be bad!

21.3.92 Southampton

We lost this crucial six pointer thanks to a very dodgy goal. Pembo's new free-kick routine gave us the lead after 43 seconds. He would have scored again in the same way shortly after if it wasn't for a good save by Tim "Fansie". Bruno nearly gave us a second goal but he failed to score his third tap in of the season.

Fifteen minutes before the end our luck changed when we gave away a silly free-kick. From the free-kick Southampton hit the post and we conceded a corner. Mervyn came for the cross, made a complete cock up and Shearer scored. The second goal which came in the last few minutes looked very much offside. Mervyn couldn't hold on to the ball (sounds familiar) and it eventually came out to Dowie (Elephant Man) who scored. To make things worse some smart arse policeman decided to make us wait behind for about an hour after the game!

Playing Away Iain Dowie...

On our recent trip to the South Coast for the real six-pointer against Southampton, we were all too well aware one of the players we would be coming up against was Iain Dowie. We remembered what a donkey he was, and at the same time how he had scored some crucial goals for us in previous relegation scraps. He had already scored several crucial goals for the Saints previously this season, including the winner against West Ham at the Dell, and again at Maine Road on the TV thriller the previous week.

During our game with Southampton Dowie once more proved what an annoying git he is, especially so since he has seemed to have acquired the knowledge he is now a registered hard-man. He displayed all his macho talents against the Town, fouling players, moaning at the Ref and trying to provoke aggro with our lads. In actual footballing terms he did very little for 80 minutes. But just to put the icing on the cake he scored the Saints winner, which looked suspiciously offside, and after Shearer appeared to foul Day. This spoilt an otherwise good day, with a first minute lead cheered by our large Luton contingent. However, once again we went home cursing, particularly the ugly monster Dowie. Perhaps the Referee was too afraid to disallow that last goal in fear that Dowie might come up close and look him in the eye, thus spoiling the Refs nice afternoon, and his evening dinner.

Some things never change for Luton, weak Referees, losing away, the annoying capacity of Dowie and other former Town stars (Small is another), and the fact we are once again deep down in relegation problems. By the way, bad luck at Wembley Iain, and bad luck for the remaining part of the season!

MERVYN DAY

A number of years ago whilst playing for West Ham, Mervyn was said to be one of the best goalkeepers in the country. He was soon forgotten about and found himself playing for Leyton Orient reserves. Later on he played for Leeds before Lukic returned and hadn't played a First Division game for seven years until signing a month's loan with the Town. He will stay with us for the rest of the season.



We Want Sutton (Kohler doesn't)

CUP WINNERS '88

Part 4 - January 1988
Town v Bradford (5th Round)

The Quarter-Final draw was probably the best possible for the Town, another Second Division team. This time it was Bradford City at home, a team that was having a bad run in the league.

A series of serious injuries meant that Ricky Hill, David Preece and Emeka Nwajobi were all out of action. Youngsters Black Johnson and Mark Stein were all brought into the team.

A deserved lead came for the Town in the 55th minute when captain Steve Foster's shot deflected into the net. This eased the tension which was beginning to build up.

A place in the Semi-Final was made safe later in the game courtesy of a Harford header. The goal came after Danny Wilson's long range shot was parried by the goalkeeper the ball flew in the air and Harford headed home.

The crowd went home happy and we had to wait and see who our opponents would be in the Semi-Final.

Team: Sealey, Breaker, R.Johnson, McDonough, Foster, Donaghy, Wilson, B.Stein, Harford, M.Stein, Black.



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Things they didn't say...

"No more players will be sold".....Kohler

"Chamberlain's my No.1 keeper".....Pleat

"I hope Luton stay up".....Dave Bassett

"I've just been to the hairdressers".....Paul Walsh

"The Super League is a good idea".....Gordon Taylor

"I'll never walk out on Newcastle".....Kevin Keegan

"Jim Ryan is a brilliant manager".....Peter Nelkin

"I've got a couple more seasons left in me". Brian Stein

"I agree with Mel Machin"....Ray Harford

"It was my fault we lost"....Les Sealey



Burlingtons

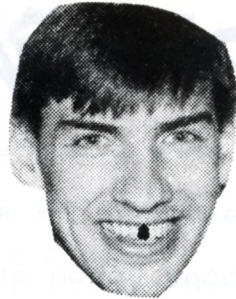
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A guide to Luton's No.1's...



ALEC CHAMBERLAIN

Alec was player of the year last season, but he has been a terrible flop this season. Okay he makes a few good saves but so do all keepers. He can't come for crosses, doesn't organise the defence and frankly is crap! Spends most of his time fetching the ball from the back of the net.

ANDY PETTERSON

A couple of seasons ago, he paid his own fees to come over from Australia for a trial. He shouldn't have bothered. He has only ever played in the Guinness six-a-side tournament and from what I've seen of him in the reserves, he doesn't look capable of ever making the first team.

JUERGAN SOMMER

A massive 6ft American who came over at the beginning of the season. He hasn't really played many games so far, although he did well against Cambridge whilst playing on-loan for Brighton. He is currently out with a broken collar bone which he picked up playing against Luton reserves.

STEVE SUTTON

All that can be said, is why on earth did we let him go? He helped us through some difficult games for three months and was a real favourite with the crowd. Forest offered him for £300,000 but they were told we couldn't afford him, despite the fact we had previously sold Rodger and Farrell to raise the cash. He was keen to sign for us but was soon snapped up by Derby County.

GRAHAM RODGER

We feel that all Town fans should know the truth about the Graham Rodger transfer.

Rodger's last game for the Town was in fact his 30th and under the terms of the transfer deal with Coventry we were obliged to pay a further fee of £50000.

Rodger spent most of his time at Luton on the injured list and contributed nothing to the Town's performances so at a time when Kohler's only comments concern finance we feel that it is scandalous that such an oversight should prove so costly.

This is yet a further example of the administrative bungling which typifies Luton Town and it is hardly surprising that we are in our current financial crisis.

P.S. Presumably someone at the top was aware of the above. Is he prepared to admit his mistake and will he continue to be employed by the Town?

PAK THEM IN!

David Kohler has come up with a brainwave to attract more people to the home matches. He has suggested that in all future games we include a Pakistani player in the team which is bound to guarantee an increased attendance by the 'locals'.

Inspector Ivor Truncheon said that he could not allow this as there was bound to be a punjab at every match.

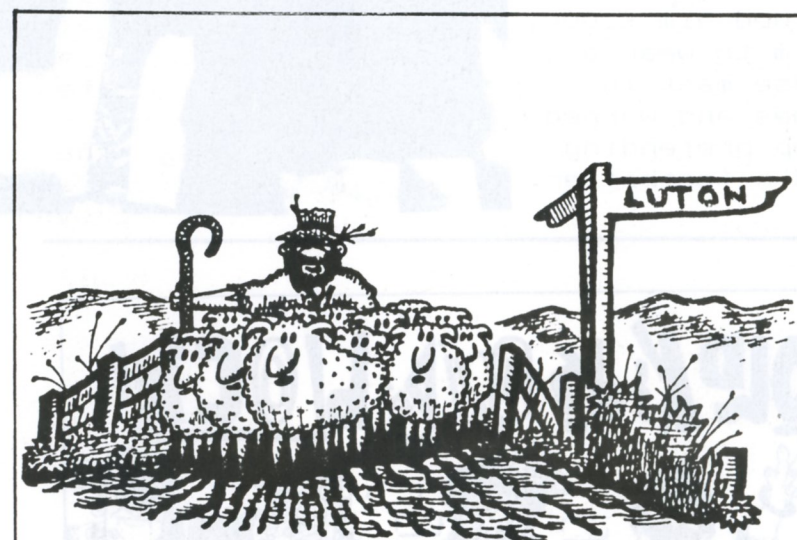
Ed. This is a joke honestly! For the thickoes amongst you, for punjab read punchup.

Letter

This is a letter sent in from a fan fed up with the way Luton Town is being run

David Kohler, who is currently trying to off-load the club, is obviously proving to us all at long last that he is a man barely with a penny to his name. How do we know that the new man at the club will be any different to Kohler? We don't. Nobody trusted Kohler or Nelkin from the start, and our feelings were justified. Constant player sales, debt and no players coming in have been going on for far too long. Perhaps David Evans has a lot to answer for. After the Cup finals, he simply made sure he got his money back (no doubt with interest), and sold the club to the first person who came along. Nelkin and Kohler simply had to secure the club's loans, and LTFC was their's. They could secure the loans with their properties, and didn't have any actual real, hard cash to put into the club. We heard so often how gates were too small etc.etc. to support a First Division club, thus players had to go. Well, the only real way of reversing this vicious circle is by investing some real money into the club, as proved by Derby and Blackburn. If this isn't done the downward spiral will never end, and the club will never have a prosperous future. Is Frank Warren the one to stop the rot? He, or anybody else can be if they come in with their eyes open. We are not only a business, and we cannot hope to be self-supporting. Cash injections on a large-scale can pay off debts, pay our best players wages, bring new players to the club, keep a decent squad of players together, bringing back the supporters and making a good football team once again. This turns the situation around, and an upward spiral results. Sounds simple eh? It can be. But what mustn't happen is a simple transfer of ownership which would not change our standing one iota.

We all know that the housing/property market is appalling at the moment, and I doubt if Kohler is making any money at all from that side of his business. So where does he get his income? No-doubt almost solely from us. We hear how hard he has been working, well so he bloody well should, everyone's got to earn their money (someone tell Ceri Hughes that). Anyway, I conclude by saying we must get someone in who really does have the club's interest at heart, for a change. Football is moving into a new era, and we must have a keen, progressive and overall a supporter as our supremo at the helm. It is vital we do!



Luton's Welsh scout finds some more talent in the Valleys. Can there be another Ceri Hughes amongst them?

UGLY MAN !

Iain Dowie has been charged by the F.A with bringing the game into disrepute on the basis that he is too ugly.

Manager Ian Branfoot said that he did not disagree with the charge and suggested that in future games Dowie wears a paper bag over his head. The F.A rejected this on the grounds that it would be a waste of a paper bag.

The F.A found Dowie guilty, fined him £2000, ordered him to wear a Mickey Mouse mask in future games and warned him to stop pretending that he is a footballer.

