

TOWN

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THE LUTON FANS MAGAZINE

ISSUE 4  *one pound sterling*

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MARK PEMBRIDGE
there he is.

DO YOU KNOW ANOTHER SONG

TOP HATTER

KENILWORTH THE CAT

LUTON BOYOS

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ROWDY RAT



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TOWN TOWN TOWN

Welcome to the ace new TOWN IV, closely than ever followed by TOWN V. We very much believe that they'll be the last of the season but don't worry dear reader because we'll be back next season whether up here or down there unless we suddenly decide to pack it all in.

Troubling times, troubling times indeed. I hope the powers that be realise that we Luton fans may very well have had our fair share of relegation dogfights and the team doesn't look any stronger despite it. If I was looking for arguments against Jim Ryan, the first would be that he is all to ready to except that he has no money to spend in the world at large. He doesn't have lots of cash and he accepted that when he took over - we hear it over and over. Perhaps if the side was a few places higher we'd be more willing and able to accept it. However, we are now well and truly 'doing a Charlton' (and we're not talking Bobby) and if things carry on as they are, if we don't go down this season it'll be next. We are a weak side. Hopefully behind the scenes Mr Nelkin will be giving Jim Ryan the same sort of purchase power in the close season that David Evans afforded David Pleat. David Evans made alot of terrible decisions but at least he showed he could back up his managers' ambitions with cash for players. The team that Pleat built and Harford sold was the team Evans bought.

The depressing outlook is mirrored in our articles in from people, but remember - it's only a game. Things can only get better with a new grass pitch and away fans back (though not where they belong). Even if we land up in Div Two it might not hurt as much as we all think. A few seasons down might give Jim Ryan a chance to build a side worthy of a return to the Top Flight.

So, TOWN 3 - what a stonker eh kids? Off to a pro printer and the quality don't half go up a bit. So does the price mind, so much in fact that we've had to cancel

I think I have hit upon the reason for Luton's financial difficulties. Let me explain..(ooh, I think I feel an article coming on).

one SuPeR Luton???

On Saturday, 26th January, it all came to me. You see I am an expat Luton fan (*bloody'eck! How many more of you are there!*) floundering near Weston-Super-Mare with only Second Division football in Bristol available. So when the newspaper in bold print stated that extended highlights of the FA Cup 4th round were to be shown, I quite naturally assumed that an attractive game like ours v West Ham was bound to be shown. How wrong I was to be, not only were there no extended highlights, but in showing the goals for the game they managed to completely miss the West Ham opener.

Still, one item on this otherwise welcome interruption to live games, did grab my attention: the Spurs v Oxford game. No not for Gazza's skills (*No, but he is good though isn't he eh? eh?*) or for the "UNfair player of the year's" explosive finishing but for the sheer delight in being reunited with familiar faces. There was Fozzie (floundering in the mud most of the time), supersub Marky Stein, and on the bench the reasonably clean shaven 'Nobby' Horton and most suprisingly of all David Moss, not a player I would have labelled as a candidate for first team coach. Obviously Alan Judge must have been injured otherwise I fear Spurs might well have been dumped out of the cup!!

The Oxford line-up reminded me of Leicester City's where you have Ricky Hill, Marc North, David Oldfield, Rob Johnson and of course there was until today David Pleat. So to come to my

point. why should these two clubs be so nostalgic towards Luton? No reason springs to mind. Therefore I believe that Luton are secretly running these two clubs as retirement homes for old or discarded Luton players. There you have Luton's financial problems summed up. You see there is no other way that they could have spent well over one and a half million pounds over the last year without any new players coming in! Or does anyone else have any reasonable suggestions as to where the money has gone??

STAR SPOTTER

Have you ever wondered what sort of person goes to watch the most popular team in the league? Well, it's probably boring, fat, middle-aged scousers with bad perms and meweyes.

But what of the second most popular team - or at least the most talked about - Luton Town. Just take a look around you. There's a good chance you'll spot a star of the stage or screen or even a member of the Royal Family tucking into his (or her) meat pie.

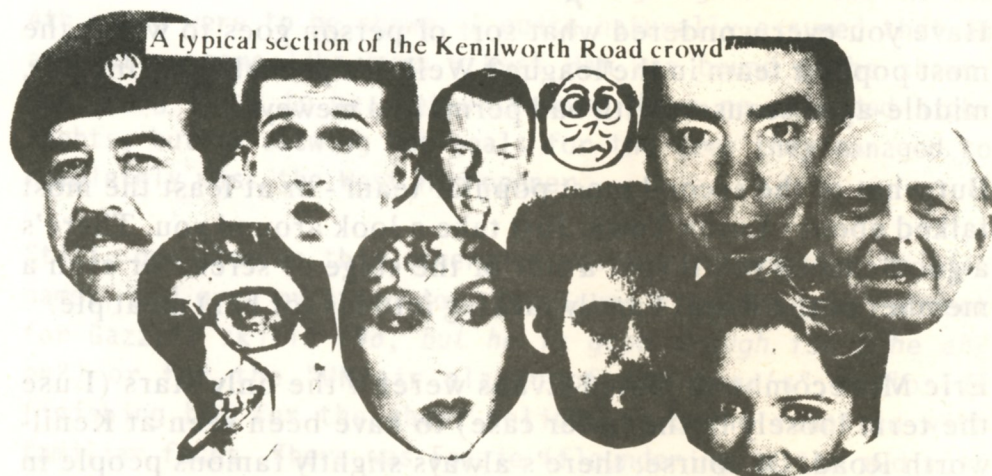
Eric Morecombe & David Evans weren't the only stars (I use the term loosely in the latter case) to have been seen at Kenilworth Road. Of course, there's always slightly famous people in the stand - like Peter Nelkin and Iain Dowie's mum and dad, as well as a quota of famous burks who support other teams.

We've already had the hilarious Little and Large (*eeeh, they're a funny pair*), Nigel Kennedy and the lush Brixie Smith (*And what a nice couple they were - HONESTLY though readers*) in this season! But we're not concerned about these high profile stars of the stage, screen and (in the) stand, we're talking about your run of the mill terrace supporting famous Luton fans.

Standing in the cold for hours on end in Kenilworth Road, flogging this mag to you lot, we get to see ALL the stars as they file past us with their rosettes and rattles in their sweaty palms. Some even stop to chat and buy a TOWN.

Many past and present Luton stars have been seen taking up terrace positions. Among them Jimmy Husband - star of the '74 promotion winning squad, and Ceri Hughes' drinking buddy - reservist Ian Scott who would be famous for the price of a first team place.....

Also seen recently was Luton News playboy columnist Eric Norris (without his dog) swapping tips with Gerry Harrison, of Anglia TV and Norwich City supporters club fame. Also, our



good friend Nick Owen (Or just plain 'Nick' to us) was spotted winking at my brother! That's what you get for offering to buy undergarments to TV presenters.

Stars of the Luton music scene have also been seen at many of this season's games. Half of Thrilled Skinny - recently voted 4th best band in Luton (and who am I to argue) have been ever present this season despite touring constantly to promote their new EP "Let there be shelving" (available for £1.75 from Record bleedin' Response, Dunstable Road). You'll also find

Keetah (voted 5th best band in Luton - although they're always tops in my book) who often have to play instrumentals on Saturday nights 'cos they've lost their voices shouting at/for the Town! Also famous for being spotted involved in wild celebration coming home from Derby in their transit.

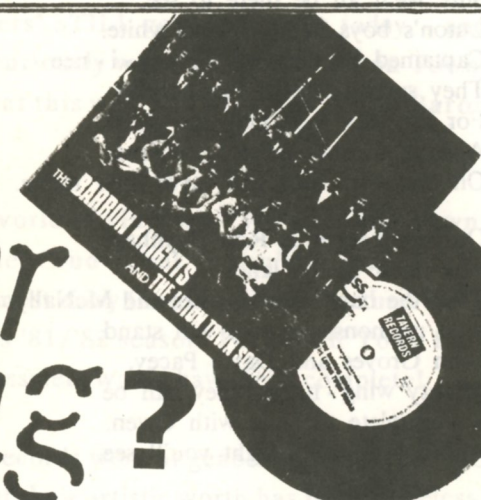
So there you have it. Take a look at that bearded fat git in the dirty anorak next to you, it could be the Princess of Wales, Bob Holness or even Norris McWhirter... or maybe not.

-Lucian Horrocks

Thanks there to our guest writer and 'cheeky young scamp' fanzine vendor sort. Lucian IS available in the close season as the eccentric 'RINKY STINKS Children's Entertainer - banned worldwide' and is currently appearing in 'Up the stairs Mister' at the B&Q Covent Garden.

DO YOU
KNOW

Another
SONG?



When football fans used to take 'rattles' and bells to matches, it wasn't for their own protection; it was to create some sort of atmosphere. In the hum-drum days when fans used to have to be persuaded to shout "Hip-hip, hooray, toot-toot!" then ANY attempt at causing a bit of a racket was welcome. Only in modern times, with the invention of 'mass-chanting' could the terrace fan find a means of expressing his eloquent views on the game.

I reckon Desmond Morris, (that psychiatrist bloke), has explored the avenue of

'tribal songs' in enough boring detail, so I won't go into the 'animal chants' of a 'bloodthirsty football throng'. Instead I thought I'd highlight the sort of football songs that were generated by the club itself.

Lyric sheets for songs used to appear on flyers and in matchday programmes as regular as clockwork. In Luton's case the words were changed to suit the goings on at Kenilworth road. One such occasion was the 1959 FA Cup final, (see below). Fans were asked to sing-along the following lyrics to the tune of "When Irish eyes are smiling" (!). (Brendan McNally, Shaemas Dunne and wee George Cummins were all regular first teamers ...ed)

When Luton Get To Wembley

(Tune: "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling")

When Luton get to Wembley
Sure we'll all be there to see,
Luton's boys in black and white.
Captained by dear old Sidney - i - nee
They surely deserve this honour
For the way they play the game,
And as sure as we're Lutonians
On that Cup they will carve their name.

Our goalkeeper is Ron Baynham
The finest in the land,
Then the backs are Hawkes and McNally
And no nonsense they will stand,
John Groves and Davie Pacey,
Mighty wing - halves they can be
So complete the line with Owen,
And a wonderful sight you'll see.

Chorus —

When Luton get to Wembley

You've heard our praise of defence
Of the forwards a word or two
For there's Brown and Cummins inside,
A magnificent blend it's true,
There's gallant Bob Morton at centre
Outside - left is Gregory,
Then outside right is Bingham,
And a broth of a b - hoy is he.

Chorus —

When Luton get to Wembley

=====

This was obviously a popular

tune, in fact we at 'Town' have ACTUAL CONTACT with a living witness who can make a near word-perfect rendition of the whole song.

Another set of lyrics appeared in the early 70s, ALSO to the tune of those 'smiling Irish eyes'. Ever since Billy Bingham there have been strong links between Luton and Ireland; (Mal Donaghy from Larne, "Ryanair" airways, Dowie, Black, Wilson, Grealish, etc.) But I reckon "When Irish eyes are smiling" was the LOW-POINT.

To the Oak Road Choir

Why not adopt this song as your signature tune?

Sing it to the tune of 'When You're Smiling', as Manager Alec Stock does when the team wins away from home.

When we're winning
And today we're winning
The whole world smiles with you

When we're drawing
And sometimes we're drawing
The sun comes smiling through

But when we're losing
It brings on the rain,
So stop your losing
And get with it again

'Cos when we're winning
And we love winning
The whole world smiles with you.

Two actual VINYL RECORDS have been "churned out" as official LTFC merchandise. Both were unleashed at times in Luton's history which coincided with promotion success and also when the club was as 'skint as a rat'.

The first in 1974 was by the old 60s group from Leighton Buzzard; "The Baron Knights". The sleeve was great, - a gatefold affair with pics of Eric Morecombe taking a fully-clothed bath with the team. On the front of "Hatters, Hatters", (45p from the club shop), the team lined up in their widest lapels and 'big knot' neck-ties. (The A-side - "Hatters, Hatters" STILL gets sung, even today, - and RIGHTLY SO! The flip-side was the curiously worded "We are Luton Town, you know" (!) You must remember that this was probably one of the Baron Knights's BETTER discs!

In 1981 a second LT venture into the world of vinyl was "We're Luton Town, ole!" I suspect this was released on the 'Crud' label. If you've heard it then you'll know what I mean. Laugh? Yes, most away fans did, when the tune came on at every home match in our glorious '81/'82 season. Perhaps if Town fans had worn hats with bells on, the embarrassment would have been complete!

I don't know how successful these two records were at generating club funds to pay for new players like Frank Bunn, but their artistic worth has been priceless. The terrifying instrumental B-side of "We're Luton Town, ole!" is by far better than 'Gazza's' "Fog on the Tyne", (or "Smog on the Lea" as we now know it!) And who remembers "This time" by the 1982 England World Cup squad. Indeed, who could forget it!

I say "bravo" to the club for its back catalogue of LT songs; but why let the story lie? Why not badger the current squad into recording a new official tune. (Face

it, they must have talents in some 'field'!!) How about a Lars Elstrup solo disc; with the "Ooh, Lars Elstrup!" provided by the rest of the squad? Or how about a Welsh male-voice-choir style tune, with Kurt "Aled Jones" Nogan singled out for a soprano solo? I reckon Steve Williams has got a good voice on him, - I understand he has already had some 'bookings' (!!!) Ha-ha!

.....Altogether now:-

WE ARE LUTON TOWN, YOU KNOW
OUR FANS SUPPORT US WHERE WE GO,
WE HOPE YOU'LL CHEER US ON OUR WAY,
SO WE CAN WIN A MATCH SOME DAY...



TOP HATTER

THE CHANT THAT PUZZLED...

It was at a match on Merseyside of all places, - Everton to be precise, when my buddies and I were made curious by a statement that was being lawded at us by the Everton supporters. Can you imagine our puzzlement when we heard, (with our own Lutonian ears), the chant: "WE HATE COCKNIES!"(!) They were bawling it at us!!

Now, we may not be very sharp, but even we could see the inconsistency of this little 'dig'. Not enough people noticed the chant for us to sing it straight back at the scousers, but I think this says a lot about the standard Liverpoolian Geography tutors. Just imagine;- 'Cockney Luton fans!' What bawlderdash!!!

- THEE Top Hatter.

e You Lots
Valentine
I LOVE YOU EVER XXXX
a puzzled

always julie xxx.
DAVID be mine forever. I love you. Claire.
DAVID did you ever know that you love me. Love, lusty Dusty.
DAVID EVANS True love never dies. I love you dave. xxxxx
DAVID Foster. I love you. Tracey
DAVID H. Love you always. Jan Jan
DAVID I love you now and always Karen
DAVID I'll always love you. Lara xxxxx
DAVID love you lots. Deb.
DAVID Loving you forever.

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Taken from the Valentines day edition of a daily paper is this juicy snippet...Is he sending himself Valentines or does he have a chunky male admirer...we should be told.



WE LOVE YOU LLUTON BOYO.



Wahey! Get the beers in, we've bought a player..... (yet) another midfielder Paul Holsgrove. I would've thought 4 defenders or a couple of attackers would've been more of a priority but then I'm not a football manager. Seriously though, it's good to see another youngster challenging for a place- Maybe Steve Williams regrets his lazy, lippy attitude with his loss of place. What nationality is this new lad, is he Welsh - and if not, why not? Of late it seemed like Luton were attempting to build a squad made up entirely of Welsh internationals and youth internationals. A veritable procession of diminutive, errr, good looking, and almost impossible to understand young lads have flocked over the border and set up home in Luton (Lluton ??) and in general i for one am fairly glad they have. It's a shame Brazil is not our closest neighbour instead of Wales as Wales doesn't exactly have the most talented side....indeed Wales are not really renowned for their soccer team at all, coming just below Borneo and Papua New Guinea in the all-nations success league. Seriously though I've no real complaints as they seem an ace bunch of lads with potential. I hope Jimmy makes the most of them. Jason Rees has some ability and works hard given the chance, as does Ceri Hughes and both could drink you or I under the table (according to regulars at the Brewery tap, Park St.) - Perfect requirements for a first div. footballer and much in the style of Mick "call me Micheal" Harford. Mark Pembbridge is also pretty good - my personal fave of the moment, his passing is pretty perceptive, unlike some of his colleagues who tend to misread any 'subtle' pass. Kurt Nogan also should eventually do well as he's got a great superhero type name.

I hope they breed as many good defenders as they seem to midfielders in the valleys, then Mr. Ryan when he signs them he may for once get a defence that understands what the midfield is doing.....

THE LTF-Itf....

We've had contact recently from a group of Luton Town followers who call themselves the "L.T.F. - L.T.F.", (the "less than faithful Luton Town fans"(!))

They jokingly claim to be loyal supporters of the club, but under our intensive questioning we can reveal that they are anything but. For instance:-

THEY CLAIMED that, they never give up on the team, even when things aren't going so smoothly. And yet, dear reader, I for one saw them leaving the Upton Park F.A.Cup match just after half time!!

THEY CLAIMED that, they were ever-present in the 1989/90 campaign, although we know they only went to Palace and Derby! (Their reason for only owning two programmes from the whole season was that, they "couldn't afford" the rest!)



Also, THEY CLAIMED to have joined in the chant "One Iain Dowie, there's only one Iain Dowie", which I can verify. However, they don't own up to the fact that they added the phrase "thank heavens" at the end of the chant!

The L.T.F. REVEL over some photographs, (which I am convinced are fakes), which show the "L.T.F." pictured standing at the gates of 'Red Star Baghdad' in the pre-season friendly, some

FOUR THOUSAND MILES AWAY!

Another photograph of them pictured standing near a "Highfield Road" street sign is also, in our opinion 'faked'. THEY CLAIM that the sign was outside Coventry City's ground at the time of the recent postponed match. WE CAN REVEAL that this photo was taken WITHIN the Luton Borough boundary at Highfield Road, Bury Park!!

The "L.T.F." do show SOME signs of loyalty. For example; - they memorise the match facts in Brian Swains Luton News column; - learning shots for and shots against, number of Luton corners, scorers, and match attendances. All said and done, the "L.T.F." are a great bunch of chaps, and a right royal laugh on match-days, (wherever they are!)

by 'Regular' Reginald, (a LOYALE SUPPORTA!!!!)



Well folks, we've had yet another article by Mr.S. Bailey aka. the Expatriate written at work on his bosses computer!! I hope for your sake, Steve, your boss isn't a TOWN fan otherwise you'll be out on the streets mate! Anyway, here goes...

Everyone who has used a PC for writing (I presume that's "Personal Computer" and not "Police Constable"- ed.) will know the endless merriment that can be caused by the use of the spell checker, with often unfortunate and embarrassing results. Whilst idling away the day at work recently I wondered what would happen if the Luton players and a few others connected with LTFC were run through the dreaded spell check - this, dear reader, is the result...

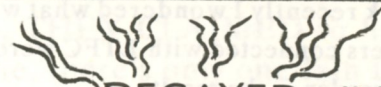
Peter Nelkin	= Peter Enkindle
Jim Ryan	= Jumpy Wry
Alec Chamberlain	= Alack Chambermaid
Marvin Johnson	= Marring Goings-on
Richard Harvey	= Richard Hearty

Steve Williams = *Steve Willies*
Darron McDonough = *Tarrying McOdour*
John Dreyer = *Yogi Drear*
Lars Elstrup = *Leers Letup*
David Preece = *David Precise*
Iain Dowie = *Yang Downed*
Ceri Hughes = *Cherub Hungers*
Kingsley Black = *Kinglike Black*
Sean Farrell = *Scene Fearful*
Jason Rees = *Gaseous Rehash*
Julian James = *Julian Japes*
David Beaumont = *David Bayonet*

And finally a couple of ex-Luton figures who I just couldn't resist running through:

David Evans = *David Effaces*
Tim Breaker = *Dim Preacher*

Well a bit strange some of those! Some though are fairly apt, like Steve Willies (what he gives the manager when he gets yet another yellow card), Cherub Hungers (to get fit again), and the comparison of the ex-chairman with the present, one effaces while the other enkindles! And it just wouldn't come up with any nasty words for David Preece or Kingsley Black! Perhaps the computer has become sentient and now supports the TOWN. Well, it is a genuine Zenith Data Systems PC! LUTON FOR THE CUP!!! (who said it was a Mickey Mouse Competition?) - (me until we got Hammered in the proper cup!!- ed).



DECAYED IN DIVISION ONE

Just think, if Luton Town stay up this season, we will have been in the top flight for a decade. A decade of mixed emotions for the long term Luton fan - but in the most part it's been crap. Almost every season has gone into the last few matches with Division Two looming and not everyone would argue that the drop would be a bad thing.

Players like Ricky Hill, Brian Stein, Mark Stein, Mick Harford, Emeka Nwajiobi, Peter Nicholas, Mitchell Thomas, Paul Walsh, Steve Foster, Mal Donaghy and others have all been and gone. All where doubtless great players, but even they could never lift Luton far from relegation trouble. Luton's best squad was probably the one that David Pleat created and handed over to John Moore (minus Mitchell). That squad may have been strengthened but for the antics of Crazy Ray.

Now all we've got left is David Preece and a great keeper. The other players make Wayne Turner look like Pele - let's face it, if Jim Ryan bought back Marc North we'd be in ecstasy. Luton are heading for the championship alright and in a few seasons time they may just be Champions - of Division 3.

Scathing stuff indeed reader, but unless Jim Ryan is allowed to buy into a bit of quality and experience then we'll have even more bad times. In issue One it said that supporting Liverpool would be repetitive and boring because they win ALL the time, I still wouldn't want that - but how about getting into Europe one day or five wins in a row or being able to win 3-0 or winning away sometimes.



YOU ARE
one of the
LINESMEN

Walking off the pitch after the first half of an important First Division match, you notice a slight tear appearing in your attractive fluorescent linesmans flag.

Do you:-

- Use the interval to darn it up, and prevent the tear from getting bigger?
- Secretly swap flags with your opposite linesman, while he's in the bog having a 'Dave Bliss'?
- Tell the ref you're really cut up about it and can't continue?
- Throw in the towel, quit the game, get a quiet little pub in the country?

Here's a little treat that we've dug up from the Town archives. About fifteen years ago, the club made up a column in the matchday programme, featuring those loveable characters called Dusty, Nobby and Clank. They were the "Oak Road Enders" who reported goings on from the Oak Road point of view. The column is a lot funnier now than it was when it came out, I'm sure. As you can see, the text implies that people in the Oak Road were incapable of proper speech. I doubt whether you'd get this sort of thing in a modern programme. Football's image has been dragged through the washing machine; a column halting scruffiness and demented grass-roots opinion is now the stuff of the football fanzine.



THE OAK ROAD ENDERS REPORT

It's only fair to say that we're very happy to be sharin' a page with 'Arry and Cloughie and that as long as he keeps his column clean, and doesn't lower the tone of the page wiv rough old English or jokes about jockstraps, we'll make a good team. In fact, we could all finish up being more widely read than Roger Duckpond, Brian Sprain or Bob Harassment. But me and Nobby and Clank 'ave been warned that we've got to be nice to people and not say nasty things like Cloughie's mouth being bigger than both of us; or suggest that Francis Lee is so small he's got turn-ups on his shorts—and things like that, otherwise we might find ourselves relegated to the inside of the back cover, next to the manure advert.

We creased up when we heard about that old fogey on the F.A. Committee who's trying to ban kissin' and stuff. If he bothered to go to a football match

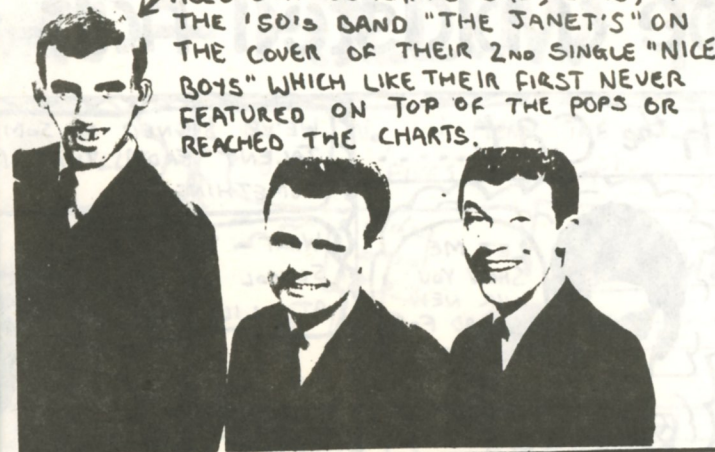
he'd see that kissin' is pretty rare among footballers. They might jump all over each other and ruffle hair a bit, but nine times out of ten they stop short of kissin' each other. Anyway, we think that sort of thing should be encouraged and go further than the players. When the ref makes a brilliant off-side decision, his two linesmen should run on and give 'im a cuddle and run the length of the pitch wavin' their flags.

And when Reg Game runs off the pitch after reviving someone, the substitute and Roy McCrohan should rush out of the dug-out and cuddle 'im—and his bucket . . . and the stewards and the coppers and the First-Aid men should join in as well. We'd like to see a copper 'aving his helmet ruffled.

Of course, all this should be extended to the terraces. It'd help the 'ooligan image. So when Luton score today—which of course they will—turn to your nearest neighbour, even if he or she comes from Nottingham, and give 'em a nice wet smacker and a cuddle . . . and it'll be your bad luck if you're standing next to a big hairy trucker.

It's a pity we've got knocked out of the Cup, but promotion's still on, and we 'aven't got the pressure of maintaining a position, and we think the lads can make it. Town can still beat anybody on their day—and we don't see why their day shouldn't be every Saturday.

See yers . . .

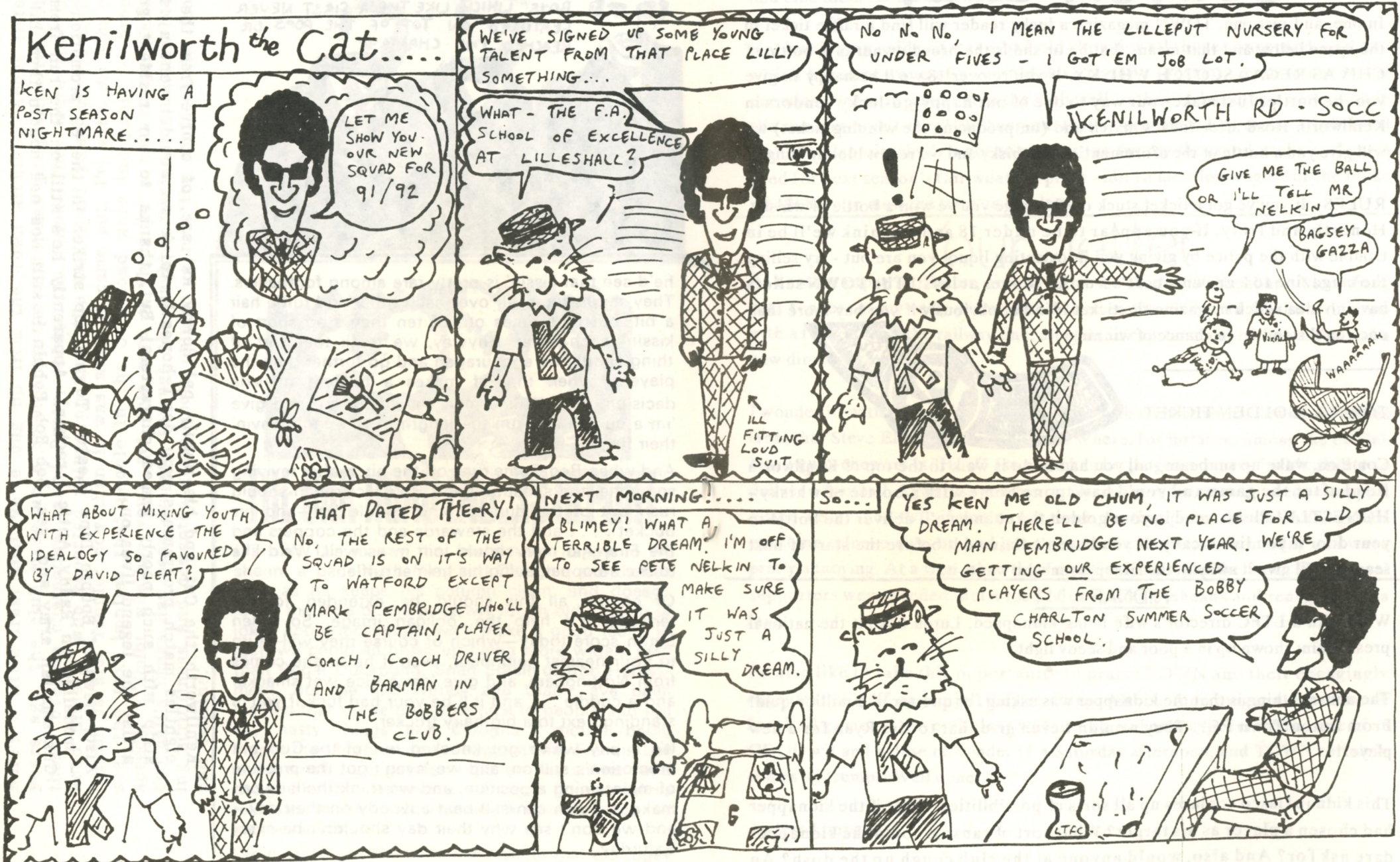


← ALEC CHAMBERLAIN'S DAD, CHAS, OF THE '50'S BAND "THE JANET'S" ON THE COVER OF THEIR 2nd SINGLE "NICE BOYS" WHICH LIKE THEIR FIRST NEVER FEATURED ON TOP OF THE POPS OR REACHED THE CHARTS.

Kenilworth the Cat and his unruly pal Rowdy Rat are, of course from the mid-eighties match programmes, you don't honestly think we would invent a cartoon strip with such poorly named characters! But, thanks to our resident graphic artist the legend lives on.

Also, news of Bobbin Dino (Leaton Town's top striker in the '82 promotion year - modelled on Raddy Antic I reckon). Apparently he's still on the run from the Guatamallian army and, yes, Bob Bob Bobbin is still Nod nod noddin them in!

"Don't be a blasted half-wit — FOLLOW THE L.T."



SCOTCH SPOT

In one, and just one, TOWN magazine a lucky reader will find a raffle ticket in the space below and that means that he or she is the proud owner of a bottle of CHIVAS REGAL SCOTCH WHISKY. If you're over 18 we'll be happy to give you the bottle. Just make your way to one of our happy-go-lucky vendors in Kenilworth Road after today's match and (on producing the winning ticket) we will give you a bottle of the aforementioned whisky and we're not bloody lying.

RULES - If you've got a ticket stuck on this page you've won a bottle of whisky. Honestly and truly. If you appear to be under 18 and we think we'll be in trouble with the police by giving you intoxicating liquor you are out - try selling the magazine to a grown-up. It's worth a tanner at least. The TOWN sellers have no idea which magazine the ticket is in but obviously if you buy more than one you'll stand more chance of winning.

TOWN 3 - GOLDEN TICKET

Come on, wake up sunbeam - all you had to do is walk to the top of Kenilworth Road after the game and you'd have gone home with a bottle of whisky - **HONESTLY!** Please send in your golden ticket and we'll deliver the bottle to your door if you live locally. If you haven't claimed it before the start of next season we'll give it away to the first person who wants it.

KIDNAP ! ! ! !

What with a LTFC director's wife being kidnapped, Luton has hit the national press again; shown up in a poor and seedy light.

The unusual thing is that the kidnapper was asking for quarter of a million quid! From Luton Town FC?! They wouldn't even give that to Jim Ryan for a new player!

This kidnap fiasco conjures up all sorts of possibilities. What if the kidnapper had chosen a player as his target? What sort of ransom could the kidnapper dare ask for? And also, would anyone at the club cough up the dosh? An unlucky kidnapper could find himself with a player on his hands for life.

Additionally, could kidnappers be paid IN ADVANCE to 'snatch' players away and take them off the club's hands?

No, but joking aside, it was a bad old show for all those concerned, and one which I'm sure none of us would wish to see repeated - even to our worst enemies. As for investment in the club well.....they're building a new stand in the summer aren't they? No hang on, that's been funded by the Football Trust isn't it? Also somebody's got to pay for the twenty thousand packets of grass seed for next season's fair weather pitch - not to mention wages for the bloke who'll have to mow the lawn on Sundays.

Your letter

As another expatriot Hatter, now living in the shadow of Highbury, I look back with fondness at my early years when I lived in the shadow of Kenilworth along with a few rats and the railway line; all of us in constant fear of relocation and a new director's carpark.

I wonder if, with your help, I could re-establish contact with a few of my mates from the "Steve Elliot for England" era. Where, for instance, among the ex-Oak Road gum-chewers is "Hoof" (so called as he judged a player by his ability to deliver a football skywards) and his rattily-jumpered mate who used to support Aston Villa? You two; if you're out there, betting pints of beer on the games outcome, please own-up and get a good sneering at, as in my day you were pretty annoying. At a time when the Town fielded people like Steve Elliot, loyal supporters were needed, not a load of executive pinheads and renegade Villa fans.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to praise TOWN and their engagingly enthusiastic staff on the job they're doing. Although no longer a spectator of football games, I nevertheless watch Arsenal and appreciate the need for GOOD wit and a dose of slander of a Saturday afternoon, and TOWN certainly comes up trumps! Well done!

Anders Limpet

PS Congratulations to Dowie for his double strike against league Champions Liverpool.

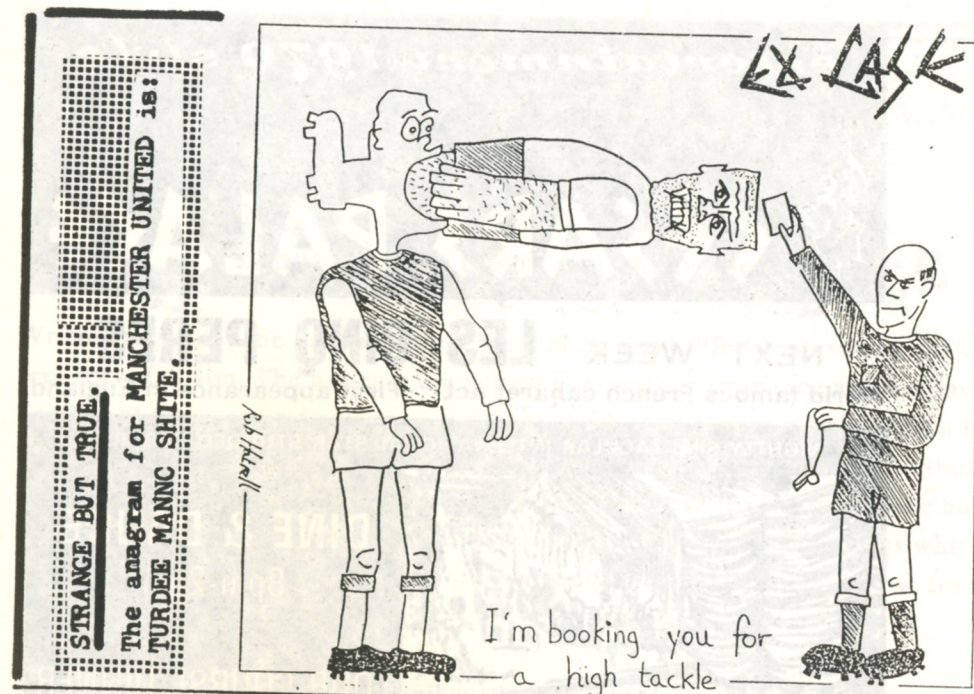
REPLECITED

So, David Pleat has had to leave Leicester and now, supposedly, he is twiddling his thumbs and rueing the day he left Luton Town. The day he moved to the big job at Tottenham and the gutter press started to take an interest in his private life. Poor bloke, and worst of all, imagine how he felt when Graham Taylor got the England job. Pleat, who whilst at Luton was the darling of the press and a favourite for some to take the England job. As David Evans would probably belch "You should have stayed at Luton".

But now he's free and available, let's get him a job. Not as manager, Jim Ryan is doing as good a job as anyone could - and at Leicester one could argue that Pleat had lost just a bit of his old touch (remember Oak Road's Pleat boo boys in the seventies?). In a coaching role I think Pleat could do good for the Town and a bit of scouting wouldn't go amiss. We could have Ryan, Moore and Pleat at the same club - couldn't be a bad thing.

Pleat could, and has, done alot worse in his topsy-turvy career - and if we get one prodical son who knows? Perhaps Mark Stein, Mick Harford and a newly rejuvenated Basher Stephens would come back and we'd win the championship, and the European Cup and then the season after that we'd win them again and the FA Cup and the League Cup and the other cups and loads of other stuff.....sorry.

WELL, we received 'numerous' entries for our "Colour Kingsley's Kit" competition in issue 2. Some of them jolly funny, others nostalgic, and even some ambitious designs. But there can only be one winner! The prizes, (an LT comb 'n' case, T-shirt, pen and log-book), went to CRAIG BOWMAN of Kempston. Congratulations Craig!



"Stcits"

It's Mr Statistic's time here at TOWN magazine. 'Stats', as we know him, is a confirmed Luton hater and will thrive on bringing out bad facts and figures for your you to contemplate suicide over - over you Mr S!

As I've such alot of lousy Luton statistics for you I thought I'd begin by comparing the record of Luton Town to that of Arsenal - proof, if proof be needed, that the North London side is much much better than their lowly South Beds cousins. From the beginning of the 88-89 season to 19.02.91 the records compare as follows...

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ARSENAL	100	55	26	19	170	86	189
LUTON TOWN	100	26	24	52	112	149	107

So there you go dear reader - your nasty little club has lost more than half their games in that time period whilst Arsenal, less than 35 miles away, won more than half. And, whilst on the subject, lets look into

(continued on page 34)

entertainment...1970 style



CÉSAR'S PALACE

NEXT WEEK **LES CINQ PERES**

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IT'S THE PLACE.2.B

try it! TONIGHT

AND NOW.....FROM NORTHAMPTON...please do not use my real name as I do not want the club to withdraw my season ticket.....AND MORE COWARD-ICE FROM "A.GRIFFIN".

£££££ \$ £££££
£££££but the club hasn't got any money £££££

Writing this after the Southampton, West Ham and QPR disasters one has to feel sorry for Jim. The honeymoon is now over with vengeance and we have (*still not got our ends away....Haaaah*) stuck to our more usual position in the relegation zone. The new regime seems much like the old - despite their recent overtures the determination to sell ourselves into Division Two has continued unchecked. To this aim I wish to contribute a few suggestions which have been overlooked or perhaps not even considered. Also I detail a few cost-cutting ideas.

1. Sell one goal. The one at Kenilworth end is rarely used and we don't attack much so we could get by with just one goal.
2. There appears to be a massive gap in front of Alec Chamberlain where the defence used to be and we could charge a fee to allow lorries to tip, like on a land-fill site.
3. Sell the tactics blackboard to a local school. Our moves breakdown very quickly nowadays and anyway in due course we can get a new one showing goals at the top and the bottom. That would replace the present one which can only show the halfway line and a few flags.
4. Sell tickets for a get-to-know-the-players event. Just invite the team though - lately they've been playing as if they've never met each other.
5. Switch off some of the floodlighting. The team are now used to playing in the dark.
6. Cancel the team coach to away games. Those players who intend to play for a win could easily fit into a Ford Escort. They will know who I mean and ignore this comment.
7. Sell plates through the club shop. We seem to have an unlimited supply

- judging by the number we give goals away on them.
8. Offer sponsorship of the Captain's job. Sorry John, but as the responsibility is weighing heavily on you this season we need a motivator. Successful local companies could actually supply their most inspiring worker to play a game, aiming to set a good example and provide leadership.
 9. As Steve Williams likes hearing the sound of his voice so much we could rent him for voiceovers on TV adverts.
 10. Charge the stewards admission. Apart from getting in the way I don't know what most of them do.
 11. Sell Kingsley Black. We know that it will happen eventually.
 12. Sell the pitch. Passing the ball on it seems to be in the past judging by the number of high balls lately.

A GRIFFIN

Bluddy'ell, I don't know about cancelling your season ticket - I reckon Nelkes will put a price on your head and get his top hit man (The mysterious Tel Mancini) to do the doirty work.

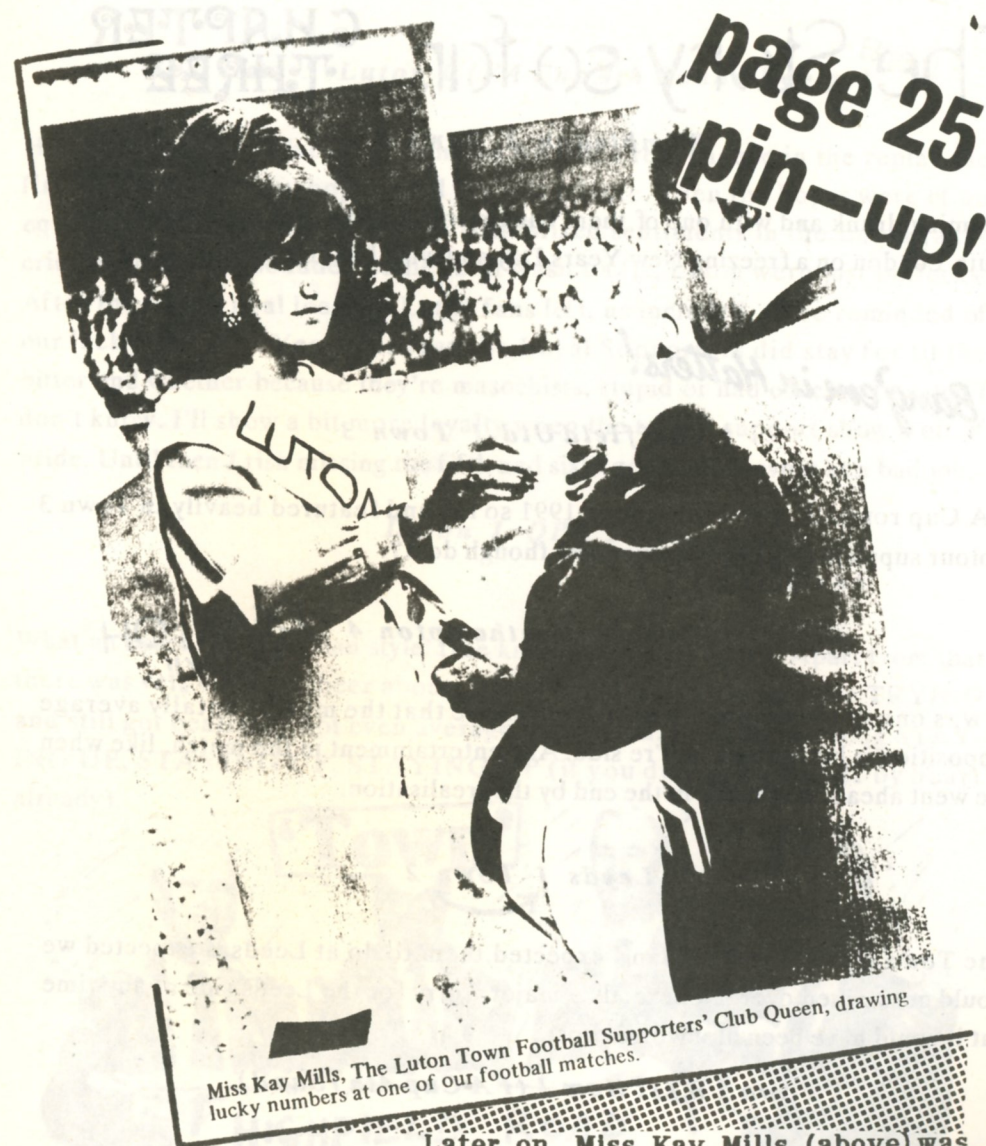
CRYPTIC CHARLIE, OAK ROAD.

It might have come to your attention over the past years that, certain cryptic messages appear at every home game, written on long lengths of paper, and stuck up at the back of Oak Road, (they used to be in the Bobbers stand, prior to the executive boxes. In fact, the first message popped up against Watford when Wayne Turner scored.)

Phrases such as "It's not over yet," and of lately; "Jim's boys respond to noise"(!), are paraded for the 'amusement' of us Town fans. ("Jim's boys respond to noise"!!!! - Oh gawd! This bloke is either genius or madman! - Ed.)

Two things we DO know about this chap are that he's very loyal indeed, and also he's got a job in computers, (where else would he get the paper?) Should his boss be tipped off as to where all the bloody computer stationery disappears to? I reckon so. Anyway, we'll wrap up this bit with a cryptic message of our own...

"YOUR MESSAGE WRITING, PLEASE DO QUIT, AS THEIR CONTENT TENDS TO BE RATHER ON THE POOR SIDE..."



Miss Kay Mills, The Luton Town Football Supporters' Club Queen, drawing lucky numbers at one of our football matches.

Later on, Miss Kay Mills (above) was repremanded by police officers who completed a successful search of her hair for the match ball.

RAY HARFORD has only to pick up the telephone to become the new Wimbledon manager.

(re-above) We understand Raymond got the job, - but only after several attempts.

The Story so far... CHAPTER THREE

Wimbledon 2 Town 0

Steaming drunk and with one of them hangovers hanging over me I travelled to South London on a freezing New Years Day and wish I hadn't of.

Bang'em in Hatters!

Sheffield Utd 1 Town 3

FA Cup round 3. The highlight of 1991 so far and featured heavily in Town 3 colour supplement. Don't matter now though do it?

Town 3 Southampton 4

DEAR, OH
PREY!!

It was one of them games where you realise that the meagre totally average opposition is better than you're side. Any entertainment in the match, like when we went ahead, was spoilt in the end by that realisation.

Leeds 1 Town 2

The Town did alot better, than I expected them to do at Leeds, I expected we would get walked over. Not exactly a major worry for the Leeds side at any time but it could have been alot worse. Lost.

Town 1 West Ham 1 (FA Cup 4th round)

Another flippin' 1-1 draw, good grief. Luton failed to take their numerous chances in the first half and paid the penalty. Our fave Iain Dowie missed a typical centre-forwards scoring opportunity late on... The scoreboard said "UNLUCKY", someone suggested it should have said "WANKER". In hindsight it's a pity the Irons didn't score in the last minute and saved us from the appalling replay. At least Kingsley Black played well and I thought he took his goal very well.

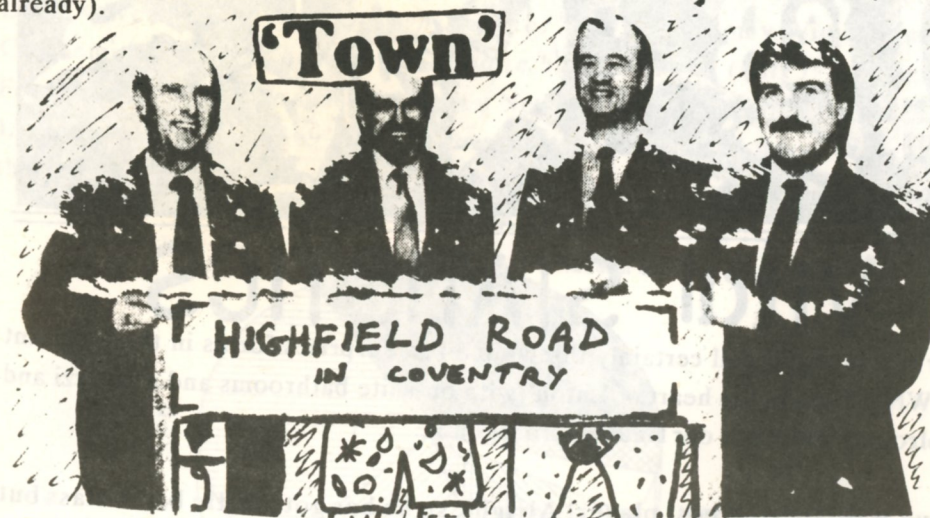
West Ham 5 Luton 0 (FA Cup 4th Round Replay) Blast!

Having kidded ourselves into thinking we had a real chance in the replay the first half upheld those hopes until the last minute. Then the hopes were of an equaliser - but they lasted shorter still. Mixed sentiments in the Luton ranks cries of "It's a fix" sounded pathetic. It wasn't a fix, Luton were just bollocks. After the fourth goal loads of Luton fans left, us included, to be reminded of our lack of loyalty. Yes, I dare say the Loyal Supporters did stay for til the bitter end whether because they're masochists, stupid or had coaches to catch I don't know. I'll show a bit more loyalty when the team I support show a bit of pride. Until then I risk missing the fifth and sixth goals and leave it as a bad job.

Luton 1 QPR 2

HMM...

What an excellent 'Brazilian style' free kick by Kingsley Black. Apart from that there was very little to cheer about. Worse thing is that Luton were TRYING and still got beaten by not even average opposition. Practise the song STAY-ING UP, STAYING UP, STAYING UP (if you don't know it off by heart already).



Coventry City v Town (postponed)

Bit of a disappointment this one. What promised to be an ace bottom of the table clash didn't quite go to plan courtesy of God via the weather. Coventry

are one of the few teams in the league with a worse scoring record than Luton. They wear a PEUGEOT legend on their shirts - SKODA might be more appropriate. Of course being loyal supporters we trundled up to Highfield Road anyway and went home happy for once - at least the Town didn't lose any points that day.



Vital STATISTICS

Our fanzine type poll certainly threw up a few surprises for us in the luxuriant TOWN offices in the heart of Luton (with on-suite bathrooms and a jacuzzi and poolroom). Here are our findings from you.....

Steve Williams the best player! Alright, so he has got a little bit of class but some people might argue that he's a lazy big-mouth. Alec Chamberlain certainly deserves all the votes he got, Lars did good as did young Mark Pembridge. I

would have thought that David Preece deserves a few more votes but there you go. Amongst the players who got nought are - John Dreyer, Ceri Hughes, Jason Rees and Darron McDoughnut. WHAT ABOUT MARVIN - Have you fans no soul?

YOUR FAVE RAVE PLAYERS

Alec Chamberlain 20

Steve Williams 24

Lars Elstrup 16

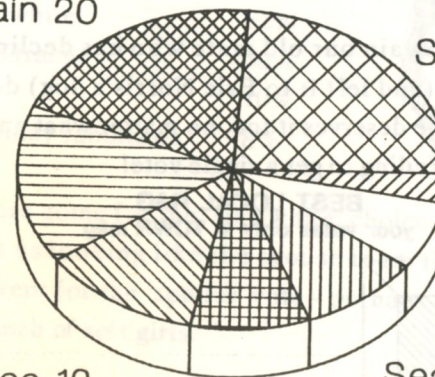
Iain Dowie 3

Mark Pembridge 7

David Preece 12

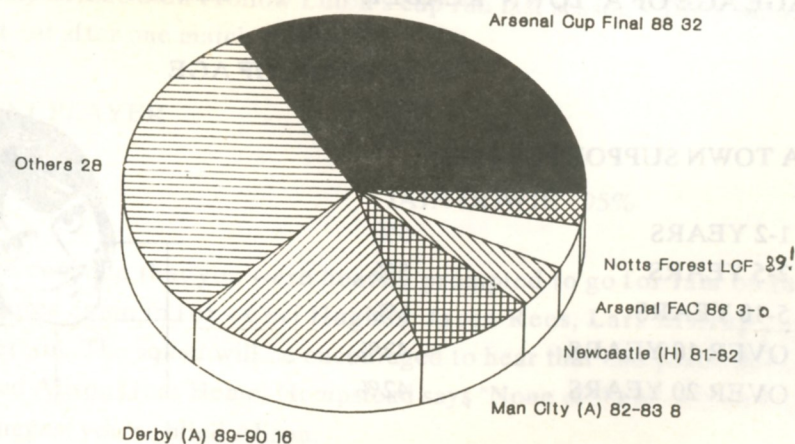
Sean Farrell 9

Kingsley Black 9



Luton 4 Middlesbrough 3 - early 60's. Harry Walden broke a leg and Luton had a crap team but really made a great comeback. Luton v Man Utd - as escort!! Luton v West Ham - (yes, but which one????????). Luton v Wimbledon FA Cup Semi-Final 1988 (how could anyone have enjoyed that?) Nottingham Forest 2 Luton 2 - this season. Luton v Newcastle - when I got a ball off Les. Luton 3 Carlisle Utd 3 69-70 - we scored three late goals to draw, noise from the Oak Road was amazing!

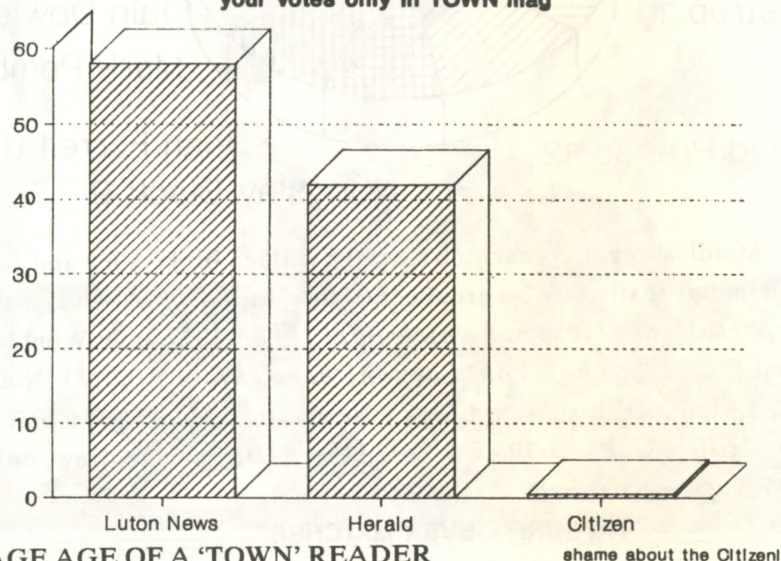
FAVOURITE EVER MATCHES



If anybody wants to elaborate on the Luton v Middlesbrough or v Carlisle games please do write in. To think that the noise in Oak Road was so loud it has stuck in someone's memory for 20-odd years is amazing. I have similar memories of a loud Oak Road at the Watford cup games in 85 and against Arsenal in the 2-2 draw the season after.

So our old mate Brian Swain our old mate who has declined to mention our mags coming out twice (and left it to Eric Norris's dog) done well out of our best local rag poll. And he deserves it too, no matter what anyone says. The City did very poorly indeed - failing to get a single vote!

BEST LOCAL RAG
your votes only in TOWN mag



AVERAGE AGE OF A 'TOWN' READER

25 YEARS OF AGE

BEEN A TOWN SUPPORTER FOR:-

1-2 YEARS	6%
2-5 YEARS	5%
5-10 YEARS	6%
OVER 10 YEARS	42%
OVER 20 YEARS	42%



So there you have it, you'll find no more loyal fan than one with a TOWN in his pocket.

KIT COLOUR VOTE

Stay mainly white	52%
Go back to Orange	30%
Go blue	10%
Pink with bunny rabbits on	8%



Over half of you there going for the 'stay white' choice. I can't believe that 10% of Luton fans want us looking like the scouse team that gets beaten in blue. Eight percent also went for the 'spoiler' vote - perhaps suggesting that the team are nothing but a bunch of soft girls.

WHO IS THE BEST MANAGER?

JIMMY RYAN 50%

DAVID PLEAT 50%

This one was so tight that we couldn't bare to separate these two obvious favourites. I seriously think that Pleat has been overrated, and what about Johnny Moore? Nobody else really figured in the vote - lacklustre Ray hardly had a look-in at all. On the other hand somebody out there voted Terry Mancini top manager after his incredible record of managed 1. Lost 1. For 1. Against 4. Obviously he/she didn't follow Luton's cup run last season - Terry Mancini did, he went out after one match as well.

UGLIEST PLAYER

IAIN DOWIE - 95%

Well, we concede that you were heavily prompted to go for Iain on this one. Other votes came in for - Ceri Hughes, Jason Rees, Lars Elstrup and Alec Chamberlain. The squad will be encouraged to hear that one particular teenage girl called Alison from Hemel Hempstead says "None of them! Aren't I kind!". I would suggest you're blind Alison.

What a load of socks!!

Who's going to grieve the digging up of that boring old plastic pitch. Not me, that's for certain. Hope that some of you who got your lawns done with the old pitch that cost you 50p per square whatever (probably inch, knowing Luton) will be willing to give some of it up so that some of the old pitch would have survived. Just to be sentimental. I wonder if anybody still has the penalty spots or centre circle.

I was unlucky enough to miss the last game on grass v Everton because I was forced to go on holiday with my Mummy and Daddy. However, we were on the pitch after beating Leicester City 4-0 and kill off that season's relegation fears. Knowing that we wouldn't be around for the last game we tried to take a bit of the pitch - well, what's a missing lump of turf when you've only got 90 minutes to play on the pitch? Unfortunately the groundsmen weren't too keen on the idea and we escaped only with a divot.

The week after our friends got themselves a chunk of ground that they kept, in pride of place in the kitchen in a glass of water. Within months it was mostly dead except for four or five bits of grass which grew up to about four inches. Sadly by then, we could hardly relate to this bit of mud as the pitch we had known, loved and occasionally invaded.

YOU What? YOU what?

Has Luton Town got a massive inferiority complex or what? If not why was Tim Breaker's move to West Ham looked on as a move to a 'big club'. OK, West Ham have a long history which is slightly more prestigious than the Town's but you could hardly match them with the Liverpool and S'nals of the league. They are in the second division. Even David Preece said that Breaker's skills will see him get a England call while playing at West Ham. I can't see the logic in that. Players and fans should remember that Luton Town will soon be celebrating a decade in Division One courtesy of dogged determination and skillful football - comparing ourselves to teams in lower divisions doesn't make a lot of sense.

Most important of all, your voice can have a real influence on the future of the game.

FANZIN REVIEW



Coming from Linfield, Ireland is a 60p, A5, 28-pager, (2 staples), called "One team in Ulster!" (Issue 11 - P.O.Box 190, Belfast, BT5 7JF.)

I like this mag! It's street-level stuff, not too slick in its production, and churned out without any pussy-footing around. Judging by the match report update the 'Blues' are having a bit of a poor time, but the writer makes some great comments throughout. Good jokes. Good language. Scathing where it has to be. Darned b***** ace!!

MAD AS A HATTER issue 5

Are those lads Mad or what? I should cocoa! Seriously though, just when it looks like the level of quality in fanzines may just be going down and perhaps, just perhaps, editors are scraping the bottom of the proverbial barrel Mad as a Hatter give us.... "The Kingsley Rap". Priceless boys, a gem, keep up the good work!

FORTUNES ALWAYS HIDING issue 10

The West Ham fanzine that uses....Sarcasm, apparently. Well, it's a load of old rubbish and we all hated it. However, before they beat us 5-0 we were a bit more open-minded and found it a jolly good read. All the pages are glossy so it must have cost a bomb to print. Unlike a lot of fanzines I could read this quite readily without having to know all the ins and outs of West Ham Utd. Good stuff and a good stuffing.

From: "North Bank Norman", PO Box 664, London SW11 6AL. 50p plus a SAE.

the the hours, minutes and seconds supporters have to wait on average to see their team score - or get scored against.

AVERAGE TIME PER ARSENAL GOAL FOR	=	52 mins 56 secs
... AGAINST	=	104 mins 39 secs
AVERAGE TIME PER LUTON GOAL FOR	=	80 mins 21 secs
... AGAINST	=	60 mins 24 secs

More facts you could have done without next issue, you poor swines. Oooh, what a bugger! Tony Pullein was never that cruel. If you happen to be a Town director or chairman please note these figures and that we must be longest suffering fans in the business. Could you fix it for us to get through a season without having to worry about relegation. We'd rather worry about nicer things, like will we get into Europe? or who we'll get in the sixth round of the cup? ...

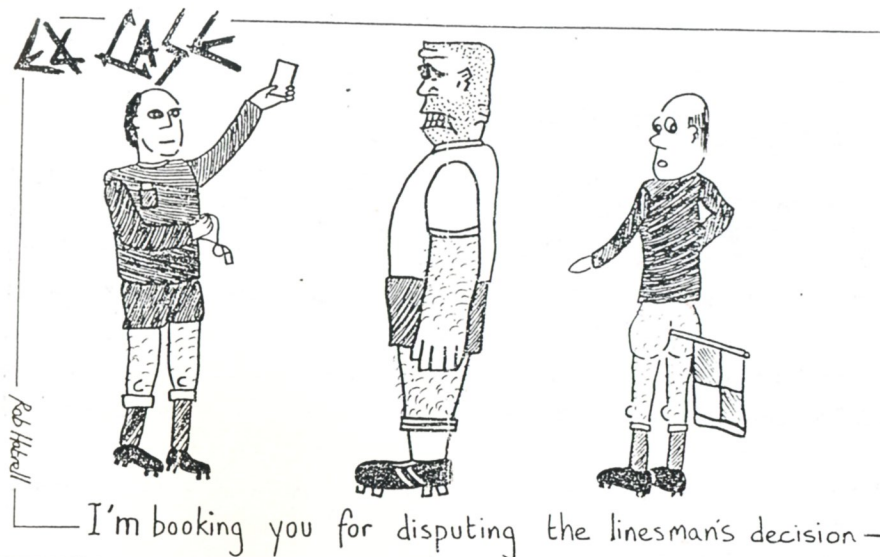
1. Signing all sorts of good players for next to no money (Brian and Mark Stein, Mal Donaghy, Kirk Stephens etc)

2. Selling silk scarves with "Oak Road" written on them.

1. Now who could possibly have thought that running in front of Oak Road (containing 3000 snarling, spitting rabid oiks), in only a leotard and tights was a good idea? Well, the Luton strikers Dance Troop used to do it! (Remember the one with straggly hair and a Hunchback? Aaaaghhh!!)

2. A few pounds may well have been collected by them, but who could possibly envy the "blanket collectors" on their circuit of the pitch. The idea was for the generous footballing crowd to toss money in the open blanket for the benefit of a local charity. However, in practice it served merely as an invitation to "pelt the old biddy with coppers" (without getting arrested by other coppers). "First one to hit the old girl from the St John's ambulance on the bonce!"

3. Free Mars drinks for the Oak Roaders may have been a good idea if the drink wasn't so damn nasty. Minutes after given free at a Milk Cup game the product was given an overwhelming thumbs down as hundreds of Oak Roaders chucked the offending drinks cartons back and onto the pitch.



All contributions and letters can be sent to the below address, and if you'd like to catch up on our extensive back catalogue then each issue is a pound each + A5 SAE. Issues one, two and three are up for grabs, - all containing 40 pages each + exclusive free gifts!) Cheques should be made payable to "S.WHITING", and NOT 'Town mag.'(!) Cheers.

Edited by Tim Ryan and George Street, 1991 ©



LUTON

**TOWN FANZINE,
P.O. BOX 375,
LUTON,
BEDS.,
LU1 4QP.**



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YOU ARE one of the LINESMEN

It's Saturday evening, and you've invited your fellow match officials for a post-match drink at the "Brewery Tap" in Park Street. You're getting in a round of bitters at the bar, when suddenly the barmaid tells you that the bitter is 'off'. It's your first choice beverage. Do you:-

- Caution the barmaid for dissent, whilst waving away protests from her manager.
- Flag the referee's attention to restart the round.
- Allow the order to stand, if needs be moving ten yards down the road to the "Cock Inn".
- Settle for three halves of sweet cider.

