

TOWN

still wildly
overpriced
at

£1

MAGAZINE FOR LUTON FANS

NUMBER SIX

FEATURING.....

KENILWORTH THE CAT
THE DAVID PLEAT SAGA

SEASON SO FAR

TOP HATTER

YOUR FANTASTIC GIFT!!!



THE LUTON WATFORD RIVALRY



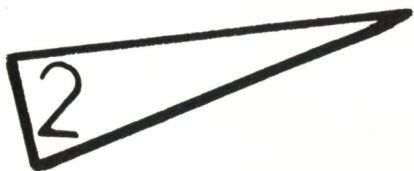


For all the effort that it takes to make any publication topical the events at the end of last season and the upheavels of the close-season have confirmed that the various editorial boards of LT fanzines cannot keep up with the Brian Swain Soccerline as far as current affairs go. So, although we've got plenty to write about now it's always going to be old hat - we can't begin to offer up to the minute news but we can, we hope, offer a wide range of opinion about events that have passed between the writing of TOWN 4/5 and now.

We can't tell you the line-up for today's match (whenever that is). Instead we've got informed (and/or ill-informed) opinion about Jim Ryan, Peter Nelkin, David Pleat, David Kohler, Brian Stein, Marc North, Plastic and Grass, Visitors from Outertown, New Stand and seats in the Kenilworth.

← WRITTEN PRE-SEASON

Today we walked onto the Kenilworth Road terrace and looked out onto the grass and the building work for the new stand. I don't know why but there was one seat, and one seat only, en-stalled on the upper tier of the new stand which otherwise was a worksite for dozens of navvies who obviously have a deadline to reach (will they make it though?) and therefore didn't have the time and couldn't be arsed to chase us off the premises. Instead they just gave us funny looks as we wondered how the new stand would affect the atmosphere at this end of the ground, would the Kenilworth Road sit-downers singalong? Would the new roofed stand create an echo all around the ground from Kenilworth to Oak? Would we have anything to sing about? How important is it not to lose against Liverpool on our new turf?



The atmosphere was more of anticipation than the disgust which had riled us at the end of last season - perhaps Peter Nelkin's masterstroke was to get David Pleat back. Nobody will thank him for it, the only benefit to Mr Nelkin is that, if the club prospers, the fans will forget all about him. Anyway, we left the ground amidst paranoia that David Kohler would come chasing after us with a Rottweiler.


So we're full of anticipation for a season which - if what they say is true - we should end up bottom of the table and on our way down now that teams can come to Luton with their fans in tow and playing on a pitch that they can identify with. Knowing this much must be an added pressure to David Pleat who has started off doing good by identifying the Luton weakness of having too many boys in the squad - a glaringly obvious problem that seems to have been overlooked in the past. So he's brought in Brian Stein to do what Bob Hatton did in the late seventies and Marc North to remind him how crap we were when he was last here.

No parking fuss when you travel by bus.

The start of the season has been going very much to form with the Town looking if anything, even weaker than ever before. Instead of deciding to end the season like Charlton the Town have obviously decided to start the season a la Sheffield United. It could, of course, get worse but not very much worse you've got to admit. And yes, we all know that Luton aren't a club that has great wods of money to spend on great players. However, if the only way of countering this is by letting the club sink down to yet another season at the bottom of the table then the LTFC book keeper must realise he's running on a false economy. Nobody wants to see a football team who spend the majority of the

season playing soft-touch to the other clubs in the division. Nobody wants to see a team like that live on the telly and nobody wants to see their company name on the chests of a bunch of losers.

Of course, for us poor sods, logic like that doesn't matter a toss. There are still alot of us who've got a life-sentence and couldn't stop supporting the Town even through all we've been through. These are the fans who make going away with Luton such a good laugh, even though you're always about 90% sure that we'll lose. We've learnt, through bitter experience, that you've got to be able to laugh at what you've spent money to see.



PATRON'S FREE CAR PARK **GAUMONT** LU TELEVISION

SUNDAY, MARCH 1st ONE DAY
Richard Widmark, Jean Peters, Thelma Ritter,
PICK-UP ON SOUTH STREET (A) 5.15 P.M.
James Mason, Michael Rennie, Danielle Darrieux, FIVE FINGERS
U.T.A. 8.15 P.M.

MONDAY, MARCH 2nd SIX DAYS
JERRY LEWIS,
THE GEISHA BOY
Technicolor and VistaVision 2.20 P.M. 4.40 P.M. 7.10 P.M.
with Marie McDonald and Sessue Hayakawa,
Jackie Longhery, Edward Kemmer, THE HOT ANGEL 11.15 P.M.

W E L C O M E

T O

TOWN

THE

BEST

FOR

YOUR

FAMILY

IT WAS IN

1978

"NINETY-NINE percent of the support is marvellous, part of my treasured memories of Luton I'll keep forever. Perhaps one day I'll be back at Kenilworth Road, who knows?"

Nineteen Seventy-Eight.

It was a big step for Chairman Denis Mortimer to take, but things happened very quickly at Luton F.C. at that time. A month before, Harry Haslam had requested a new contract to see him at Luton for a while, and a happy conclusion had been apparently met. But someone forgot to draw up the new contract, and three weeks passed. Mr. Haslam then got a little bit scared. He thought that the directors didn't want him at the club any more. So he went shopping, and landed talks with Millwall and Sheffield United; the latter getting their man.

So the young Pleat who had been until a month previous Luton's Youth Team coach stepped into Haslam's boots. Denis Mortimer took him on not purely on performance, but acting on a "Hunch". Not bad eh? A funny feeling in Mr.D.Mortimer's stomach was more likely to be an ulcer, but he'd created probably Luton's finest management spells (with exception, of course, to the 'glory-glory day's' of boss and funny man Raymond Harford).

Pleat wanted his team to play a particular style that, if it can be re-created will stop my moaning of the Town's gate fee. Luton Town 1981-82 were quite probably the most exciting team in Britain that season. There was a pressure on Pleat before that season. His team had come close to promotion, and the fans longed for it."I've done three tears as a manager and we are still not where we want to be, in the 1st division." All that was about to change. That season was of course

the record breaking 2nd Division Championship year that saw so many consistently entertaining Luton games. I'm gonna review that one some time. The style was quick, neat passing, creating chances, putting pressure on the opposition and closing them down very quickly and hard when not in possession. I saw a video not so long ago of that season and it's a real pleasure to see Luton play that way. Pleat's style had a simply devastating impact on the second division teams.....

A different story in the first. They still scored so many goals, but had just about the worst defence in the league. You had something to cheer alright, but the pattern was that the other set of supporters usually cheered one more time than we did. So even though Luton was still a pleasure to watch with games full of incident, they were looking like going straight back down from where they came.

Pleat admits now that he was a nervous wreck the weeks prior to the titanic struggle the team faced at Manchester City. So was I come to think of it. One team had to go down, and Raddy Antic made sure it wasn't going to be Luton. So Pleat danced onto the pitch which was caught live on television, at the end of the match not really knowing how many people were watching.

The seasons after 1983 until Pleat left were still a bit of a struggle, but such a crunch tie at the end of the season wasn't to be seen for a few years. 1985 was a year in which Luton really made an impact on the F.A. Cup reaching a semi-final against Everton. That cup run will also be remembered for the riots surrounding the 5th round tie against Millwall; and like everyone who actually experienced it Pleat had strong views. After this tie he said, "What should have been the happiest night of our lives was wrecked by violence and mob lawlessness that erupted inside & outside the ground." He carried on, "If this is what football is really about, we should all pack up. But my greatest hope is that supporters can get back to the simple pleasures of football, and enjoying the spectacle. Go to the match, show your feelings and support the game as well as your team." It was such simple but logical ideals that was a great credit to Pleat and this influence such an asset to this club. His simple and direct thinking showed in the simple yet lovely way his team played.

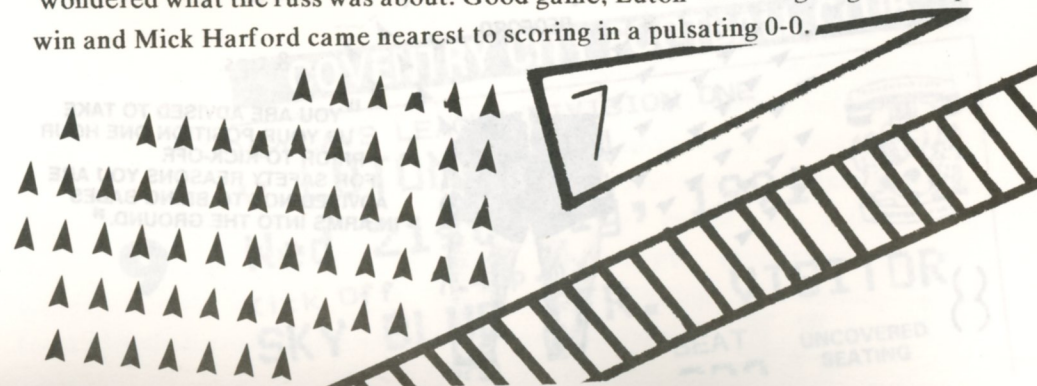
Pleat seemed to get 100% from all his players, and seemed very concerned that the supporters of his team would get value for money. Finishing his notes for the '85 season he hoped that his team could beat Leicester "with style and flair". Luton won 4-0.

1986 was a comfortable yet still exciting season for the L.T. finishing 9th in the first division, and the 5th round of the F.A. cup (Everton doing the job again after a replay). Pleat had made Luton into an established first division outfit, a challenge for any team that was to be a winner of a major trophy. A final word that season was "I hope that everyone that loves this club will be here come August to cheer us onto another successful campaign."

He left for Tottenham shortly after.

"It has been a difficult week with Luton Town tugging heartstrings one way and heart and head knowing that the Spurs offer needed great consideration. David Evans did everything to make me stay. I doubt if there is a finer chairman in the football league. Deep down, I thought for some time that Spurs were the only other club that I would like to manage. Quite simply I rated it as the best management job in football." So off David went, taking over for Peter Shreeve at White Hart Lane. The challenge of a flagging giant (finishing lower than Luton in 1986), large ground, support and everything else that seems to go with a North London Club (except Q.P.R.) was very strong.

At the time, Luton supporters hated Pleat and Spurs. They had "raped" Luton of their manager, physio and promising defender, Mitchell Thomas. The games against Spurs became a grudge game. The Christmas of 1986, Luton went to White Hart Lane with a large following, all of whom were spitting fire. Pleat & co. of (ex)Luton bore the brunt of the anger, and the Spurs support must have wondered what the fuss was about. Good game, Luton weren't going to let Spurs win and Mick Harford came nearest to scoring in a pulsating 0-0.

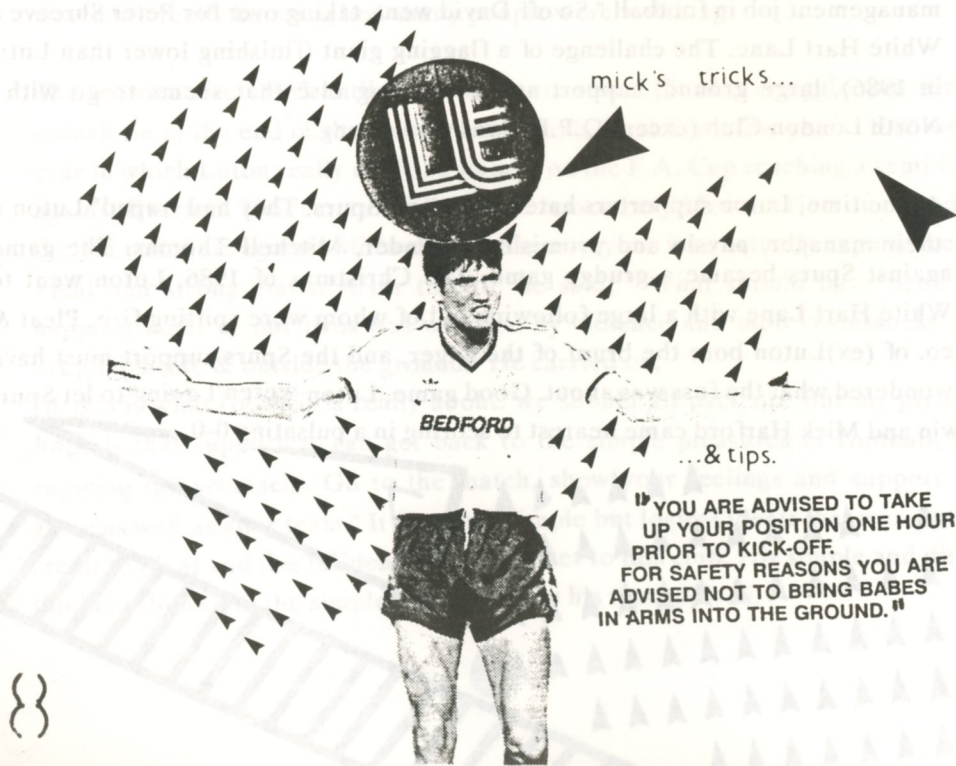


David Evans, never short of a word to say stated "Tottenham are a degenerating giant that has had its day. Luton are a team for the future. I think David will live to regret his decision.

Looking at it maybe he did. He didn't last long at Spurs, allegations about his private life stole the limelight and Pleat had a disappointing time at Leicester City. Then again, to know football outside of Luton must have been a priceless experience, which is exactly what today's young Luton team need.

A more popular successor to Ryan couldn't have been appointed as far as I am concerned. I believe that with Pleats experience and talent Luton needn't be the team that is constantly 'doing a Charlton'. I think we should look forward and give the team all the support they need in this, I see as a particularly difficult season for Luton. I think that Luton need experience on the field, and hopefully a couple more will guide the young team. Pleat has proved to be a very good buyer of both young and older Town players such as Stein, Hatton, Moss, Price, Donaghy, Foster and Harford.

We shall see what happens....



The Season So Far.....

END OF 1990/91 SEASON

Well, as you've probably guessed, we didn't do the double but then we didn't go down either. The last game v Derby was made good by Micky Harford who scored so well we've got him back for an encore. We got a bit of the pitch anyway...

WEST HAM 0 LUTON 0

So far so good, the sizable and good humoured support from Luton were misguided into thinking the team looked a little bit good. Bruno showed that what he lacked in pace he made up for in class, Pembroke was a star and the defence - although under pressure for long periods - never looked like pushing the self-destruct like they did at the same ground in January. We didn't score though. Pembroke hit the bar and that, if we only knew at the time, was going to be the closest we'd get to a goal for over 400 minutes!

COVENTRY CITY 5 LUTON 0

The Luton defence who had apparently lost their self-destruct mechanism at Upton Park reformed it with devastating effect at Highfield Road the next Wednesday. Dreyer, Rodger and McDoughnut were all generous contributors to the Coventry goal difference fund standing out in a defence which was comparable with Colonel Saunders Headless Chicken Utd back four. Sean Farrell worked out the only way he was going to make it into the papers was to elbow his future captain and got himself sent off - lucky sod. We've never been a great team but I can't recall us being outclassed by Coventry City before!

COVENTRY CITY FOOTBALL CLUB

BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

v LUTON TOWN

Wed 21st Aug, 1991

Kick Off 7.45p.m.

SKY BLUE TER.

VISITOR

SEAT

UNCOVERED SEATING



LUTON 0 LIVERPOOL 0

The important thing against Liverpool was to win the first game on grass at Kenilworth Road against the team who moaned about the plastic the most. We came close to doing that, and came closer still to losing so the draw was a fair result. The Steve McMahon sending off was an added bonus for a crowd who despite the attractions of the new look ground, the re-introduction of "atmosphere" and the gorgeous new kit were beginning to wonder where the next goal was going to come from. Surely not from Highbury - home of the league champions.....

ARSENAL 2 LUTON 0

You'd be dead right there. Visiting Highbury is like visiting Anfield or Old Trafford except not so damn far. An act of blind optimism only ever spurred on by the misguided logic that says "we've got to win there someday". But not tonight Josephine. Arsenal played well below-par but Luton's attacking flare had absolutely no-one worried about a possible upset. Anders Limpar lashed out on Mark Pembroke who apparently wouldn't stop pestering for an autograph. Limpar was sent off. Another stirring rendition of "cheerio" from the Luton fans who had precious little to sing about; except the ironic strains of "Chelsea, You are next" - sung more like an invitation than a warning.

CHELSEA 4 LUTON 1

Well, it had to come - the 1st goal since May 11th was handed to Philip Gray on a plate by the charitable keeper. Philip kept a cool head and slotted it in a treat, showing us all that he really is a clinical goalscorer, and giving us all hope for the championship come Spring '92. Fair dues though to the lad, the Luton support were joyous on the terrace that had in the main stayed silent and suicidal. The goal came when Town were already 3 down, and with the promise of more to come. Well the Blues missed a penalty, but still made it 4 by the end. Sad times for the Hatters at the start of the "new era", but the slightest glimmer of hope once we get at 'em on our patch, eh! (?)

LUTON 2 SOUTHAMPTON 1

First win of the season and what a stormer. Southampton took the lead from a penalty and Luton came back in a first half when all the goals went in. Iain Dowie was back at Kenilworth Road representing the ugly side of football.



IAIN DOWIE RECEIVES A GIFT WRAPPED
CHEWBACCA MASK AND AN APOLOGY FROM HIS
EX - PLASTIC SURGEON.

WIMBLEDON 3 LUTON 0

Nice to see that plenty of fans helped make this a record breaking day. The Luton fans who made the decision not to attend had the right idea - bloody terrible game (nice and sunny though).

SUPPORTERS



LUTON 2 OLDHAM 1

This game started with the bad work started at Wimbledon as the Town contrive to make it known that as well as being a side to destroy at the home grounds of any first division side - we could also offer a nice little away day for their fans as well. But, little did we know that Mick Harford would make his last gasp second debut. In his first debut at Leicester he scored a last minute equaliser and today he went one better to provide the first (of many?) scenes of mass "ape sh#t" excitement on the Kenny. Great stuff - and the amazing feeling of walking away from a football ground with a broad smile on your face.

LUTON 0 QPR 1

So, back we went on Tuesday night ready for a goal fiesta against QPR and what? A night to forget. The Town know who their rivals against relegation are - and they aren't afraid to lose against them either. Watch out Man U.

MAN UTD 5 LUTON 0

At least half the TOWN editorial board decided that a trip to Old Trafford might be a bad idea this season - so risking the chance to see Luton win there for the first time ever. Well, it doesn't take a genius. Those who went joined in the Jim Ryan songs and hoped it wouldn't be as bad as Coventry, Wimbledon or Chelsea. Luton, on the other hand, had away form to live down to meaning that Alec Chamberlain spent alot of time on his arse hitting the ground lots.

Rumblelows League Cup

LUTON 2 BIRMINGHAM CITY 2

Hey, what alot of noise them Birmingham fans made eh? A fine range of songs as well. Why don't we sing "Bring me Sunshine" or summat? Still, they was Third Division so we didn't want to get in a two and eight about it did we. Save for a period of ten minutes at the beginning of the second half, Luton played true to form and just managed to scrape a draw. Still, City got beat by Altringham at home when they were first division so! We might yet win up there (you'll know by now) but it's a tad iffy.

LUTON 1 NOTTS COUNTY 1

Nice to see the pitch standing up so well in the rain - wait for the winter quagmire! Nice goal by Gray, and we really should have won this about 2-0. The ref was a Mr. Gary Baldie and won the least wet hair competition.

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TOWN MAGAZINE

P.O. Box 375

LUTON

Beds.

LU1 4QP

Dear Supporter,

As you are well aware the successful away supporters ban has been lifted for the 1991-92 season at Kenilworth Road.

We at TOWN magazine, in the best interests of the club and local residents have decided to maintain the ban on sales of this magazine to all out of Town (so-called) "football supporters". It will therefore be necessary for our vendors to request from those buying this magazine the following:

- 1. Proof of Being a club shareholder.*
- 2. Former season ticket holder.*
- 3. Executive membership of the club.*
- 4. Centenary club membership.*
- 5. Five tickets from last season.*
- 6. Five copies of "TOWN" from last season.*
- 7. Fifty quid (OVNO).*

I am sure all GENUINE supporters will appreciate this necessity, and will co-operate with our efforts to provide them with a safe, family magazine.

Yours sincerely,

TOWN EDITORS

the write to reply

smart lettering
eh kids?

For your average Luton Town fan the politics of the club seem to generate more interest than anything that the team can come up with from week to week. More interest and more entertainment. Indeed, if Luton fans don't take up an up-to-the-minute account of Town affairs then it is often bemusing to find out who's been sold this week. If we relied on the Luton News and the Herald to deliver the latest news we'd be lost. An example of the latest news is the Herald's Thursday night assurance that David Pleat didn't want to let Kingsley Black leave Luton followed by the news on Friday that Brian Clough had snapped him up for £1.5 million.

In David Pleat's first term as manager he had his weekly slot in the Luton News which helped keep the fans up to date with events at Kenilworth Road. It was perhaps the last real link between club and supporters and was stopped when David Pleat left. Of course, David Pleat and all subsequent managers have their slot in the match programmes which they might argue serves the same as any local press column.

I would strongly disagree with this on quite a number of counts. Firstly the match day programme is an integrally biased publication on glossy paper with glossy viewpoints on dismally bad games. The manager may, from time to time, have to admit that the team has been "unlucky" in recent games but for anybody to criticise the team - even if they're playing really terribly badly would, in the programme, be sacrilege. Local newspapers are biased of course, but not to the extent of glossing over everything that is rotten. If David Pleat decided to continue with his Luton News bit he'd be unlikely to get away with the weekly

DAVID PLEAT'S VIEWPOINT 14

congratulations for the boys doing a mans job etc etc.

Secondly, the views of the manager, if only to be found in the matchday programme are only reaching those fans who go week in week out to Kenilworth Road and are prepared to shell out £1.50 to buy a programme. There are a few thousand membership card holders who apparently don't do either. You might argue that fans who can't sing "Loyal supporters" with any conviction don't deserve the privilege anyway. Perhaps not, but maybe they stopped coming to Kenilworth Road because they feel they've been alienated by the club they once felt very much part of.



WHAT THIS SO-CALLED FANZINE FORGETS TO POINT OUT IS THE EXCELLENT AND INVALUABLE SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE LTFC SOCCERLINE, FOR THE PRICE OF A SINGLE MONTHS RENT IN A PENTHOUSE SUITE YOU CAN LISTEN TO ME SAY ABOUT THE WEAK LINKS THAT NEED SORTING WHILST BRIAN SWAIN SAYS "SURELY" QUITE A FEW TIMES.

"Gray did an excellent job, but he needs someone to play alongside him," said Pleat.

The third point is the unhappy state of affairs between club and supporters which have included the sacking of Jim Ryan, the selling of players we might have done well to keep. The fans don't trust the board and the board have principles which do nothing to encourage the fans that better days are just around the corner. The net result of this is the lack of information coming from Kenilworth Road to it's public which leaves Brian Swain to speculate on events there and the Luton public at large to easily disregard their home team. A home team that doesn't like being here, a home team that the average man on the street can't go and see without being checked out first, a home team that has few loyal supporters, a home team who can't even see eye to eye with the supporters it does have.

↑ DON'T WORRY, IT GETS BACK TO THE POINT LATER....

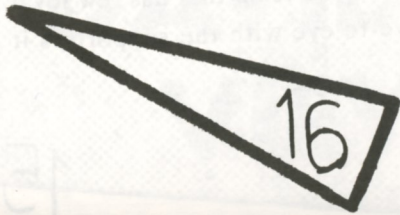
An example of the distrust between club and supporter came in David Kohler's piece in the Liverpool programme in which he states "A group of so called Luton Town fans, decided between themselves that, in their opinion, Peter Nelkin should resign in the best interest of the Football Club". Yes, he's not wrong their but he goes on "They undertook a vendetta against Peter Nelkin and his family using various tactics such as letters, abusive phonecalls and death threats...". Bleedin'eck! Hold on a minute, shouldn't their be a bit somewhere in

there explaining that it was the actions of the mindless minority who did the nasty business? Surely every Luton fan who called for Peter Nelkin's resignation can be blamed for the subsequent phonecalls and death threats - and everybody who kept the local press full of letters to three weeks following the sacking of Jim Ryan are apparently being tarred with the same brush as the death threat people. We all must be "so-called" Luton supporters.

Perhaps Peter Nelkin did the right thing in getting David Pleat to take over as manager because, when all is said and done, the supporters do still hold some respect for the man. It is up to him then, and nobody else in the club can do it, to recreate some of the good feeling in twixed fan and Football Club which he inherited years ago from Happy Harry Haslam.

So come on David. It isn't nice being a so-called supporter. There's alot of people out here who want to feel like they belong, who want to know whats going on - get the viewpoint started up again and replace speculation with information, displace our fears with facts.

" OF ALL the columns I have written for this newspaper — and I think there have been well over 200 — this is the most difficult I have ever had to prepare."



PG TIPS with Phil 'Earl' Gray

Just what are the referees on about this time. There is just too much these days to keep an eye on what with keeper steps, new offside rules, the professional foul and the drop ball. All quite confusing.

However one thing is for sure. If ANYBODY does so much as breath heavily on our own Philip Gray then he deserves to be SENT OFF! Everybody at Kenilworth Road knows the rule but unfortunately some referees obviously do not.

For instance at Coventry Philip blatantly FELL OVER. Nobody was about at the time but thats not the point - SOMEBODY SHOULD HAVE GONE OFF! A similar non-incident happened against Wimbledon yet the Dons were amazingly left with 11 men on the field!

It is imperative that such occasions do not happen at home which is why you exclusive free gift in this issue of TOWN is a gorgeous RED CARD!

INSTRUCTIONS - Philip is tackled and the referee is undecided what to do about it. Help make up the referees mind by waving your own red card high about your hand while chanting "OFF OFF OFF OFF" until the official makes the right decision. Alternately call over a player of the opposition and casually send him off for nothing - he'll be in the bath before he's got time to realise he's been had!



Everybody Happy?



THE TROUBLE WITH LTFC PART ONE - ATTITUDE PROBLEMS AND MEMBERSHIP CARD SCHEMES

The only way that we ever really will compete is if and when the attitude of the board changes. The present scenario of having to sell players to keep the club (if not the team) buoyant. What the club needs is more money. To get more money they have to attract more fans (especially fans with fat wallets). To attract more fans you need to display bright, skillful and entertaining football. To ensure good football you need good players. To get good players you need more money... So it goes on and on in ever decreasing circles until one day we end up at the foot of Division Four with Richard Briers as chairman.

Someone then has to take some risks and open their wallet. David Evans did it in 1984 and, for a short time, we had a team that could match any other team in the division. Ray Harford took it as his duty to kill off that squad after David Evans took it as his to make Luton Town the first Thatcherite football club (and, in turn about as popular as Thatcher with the rest of football). Plastic pitches and Membership card schemes must have done quite a bit to dissuade potential investors in putting their money behind the club. Everybody loves the underdog - but not necessarily the underdog that plays on a plastic pitch and doesn't let visiting fans into it's ground. Now that is all in the past - but the scars remain and it might be too late to redeem ourselves.

Although the membership scheme has been loosened the club is still not allowing in people that we used to call the "casual supporter". This too could go a long way in killing off the club. The "casual supporter" isn't the fan who, luck most of us unlucky sods, inherited Luton Town as their team. They're the fans who like football in general and decide on a Saturday afternoon that they should go to their local club to see a match. Slowly, but surely, they become loyal supporters

of that club. So it happens that a football fan with no set allegiances becomes an LTFC supporter and in turn brings along his friends and family too. Now, what chance is there of that now? Answer - None. Fans who would have been prepared to go to Luton Town but couldn't get in have found out that it isn't that expensive to hop on the train to Highbury or White Hart Lane instead. Coming back from Arsenal this season it was sickening to see Arsenal shirts outnumbering Luton shirts by about two to one at Luton station. Most probably loyal Arsenal supporters who might have been Luton supporters if they had been made welcome.

Now that away fans are being let back into the ground, isn't it about time the club made room for more Luton fans? Much is made of the fact that the membership card scheme numbers about 20-odd thousand (many of whom only come out of the woodwork when we get to Wembley). However, every membership card has printed on it that the card does not guarantee admission - so why must numbers be kept down? Is it imperative that the club knows the names, ages and addresses of all it's supporters? And if it is then why are the club so cagey in accepting new members? The guest ticket scheme that made life a bit more bearable in the no-away fan years (if you could stand the third-degree interrogation) has been tightened so that any guests must sit down if they want to go at all. What would be the damage in taking the details of guests and issuing them with a membership card so that they'd be free to come back next time? Would it mean that away fans would take advantage of such a ruling? Well, a few might, but I reckon they'd rather be up the other end of the ground anyway - and even if large numbers do make it onto the Kenilworth Road terrace - we all know that that doesn't mean that there's going to be a riot.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

Kenilworth the Cat

FEATURING
ROWDY THE
* RAT *

ROWDY GETS AN
UNEXPECTED CALL...

So...

MR RAT... MR PLEAT HERE. I'M BRINGING
BACK TOGETHER SOME OF THE OLD
FAVE RAVES TO THE CLUB AND YOU
AND YOUR DO-GOODER CAT PAL
FIGURE IN MY PLANS. MY
IDEAS ARE....

DO WHAT?! WELL I'LL ASK KEN
BUT I DON'T THINK SO
SOMEHOW

THIS T-SHIRT
IS NOT
AVAILABLE
AT THE
CLUB SHOP
ALTHOUGH
IT SHOULD BE

CHEQUEBOOK
(MUST NOT EXCEED
£50)

SPENDING
MONEY

MR PLEAT

GOOD
AND
WELL
I'VE
BEEN
TALKING
TO
KATHY

BUT KEEN KEN HAS IT ALL WRONG - AND ON MATCHDAY

WHOLE WHISTLE WHISTLE

YOU COULD'VE SAID WE WERE DOWN
FOR 'RETURN OF THE LUTON STRIKERS'!

YOU DIDN'T
STOP TO
ASK!

WHISTLE

CCOOOR

BLOODY
ELL
GET
THEM
OFF!

KEN SAYS

VISIT THE SEAFRY, DUNSTABLE ROAD, AFTER TODAY'S MATCH. ACE FOR
CHIPS, SVELOYS AND THE WORLD FAMOUS PUKKA PIE.

MR PLEAT RANG, HE WANTS US BACK AT THE LT-

WHAT! BRILLIANT! JUST LIKE THE
GOOD OLD DAYS - RUNNING ONTO THE PITCH,
PLAYING WITH THE JUNIOR HATTERS, TAKING SHOTS
AT THE KEEPER AND GETTING IN THE OFFICIAL
PROGRAMME RATHER THAN SOME TINYOT FANZINE

BUT...

BUT NOTHING.
WE ACCEPT

GOT THE TIME
MISTER?

IT WAS EITHER THAT OR
APPEARING WITH THE
BUNCH OF CLOWNS
ON NEXT!

BOOOO
GET
OFF!

from page nineteen

Who knows what would happen? One thing is for sure though - without encouraging new supporters to come to Kenilworth Road, the support might just curl up and die one day. How many Junior Hatters are there now compared to 1982?

I wonder. Football is a growing spectator sport again now and the hooligan element has been pushed out by a wave of good feeling and supporters who just got sick of the violence. Maybe it's about time Luton Town got over the shell-shock suffered in 1985 and opened the doors to the new breed of football fans in Luton who are currently being turned away by the club that needs them the most. Think on Mr K, think on....

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

FANZIN REVIEW



LEYTON ORIENTEER.

Another good fanzine, and by its 49th issue it should be. 31 pages of the usual stuff, well written and entertaining stuff. There are five pages of letters from supporters with genuine points to make about their club. It has sound content, and is not too daft at all. Decent articles from both the editors and readers with a few laughy-bits gives it a very good balance. Could someone please write an entertaining article for TOWN that doesn't take the rise out of anybody?? (Address on back, much appreciated.) The only thing was that it fell into the category of Too many words, not enough pictures. It initially looks pretty overwhelming, but stick with it.

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"It's Twelve Inches High..."
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FROM THE BIRMINGHAM CITY LONDON AREA SUPPORTERS CLUB is "BAD" (No.7). I actually enjoyed this one coz it took a lighthearted and often amusing view of the club (criteria needed to support the blues these days).

I enjoyed the match reports mainly, and mainly that was what the mag. was. This issue was all centered around City's return to Wembley (after 35 years) for the Leyland Daf, and as with all other "Wembley Specials" (fanzines) I've ever seen, a great amount of detail/ideas are aired about the shambles surrounding ticket allocation. Rather spoilt things really, but hopefully TOWN will be running similar stories before the end of this season.

Half a page of ish. 7 was one man's remembrance of the Luton v. City match in 1979, when they won 3-2. So Luton got a mention in here. Even so, it hardly beat a whole page dedication to West Ham v. Luton (F.A. cup k.o. last year) I saw in a recent Norwich City fanzine!

and also.....

STANDING ROOM ONLY - BBC2 MONDAYS AT 7.10pm

Right lads and lasses - it's true - football fans AREN'T all 'ooligans and idiots. No, things are different now. So, it's about time that Scouser bloke who used to be in Brookside but got stabbed and killed off a few years ago presented a football "fanzine" TV programme BY the fans FOR the fans etc etc. A good idea? After the excellent World Cup diary on BBC2 earlier in the year it's a bit dissappointing to think that they'd give air to such a condescending programme. "We get chummy with some Arsenal fans who WON'T BE ABLE TO AFFORD to see their team next season - good blokes too, they're cockney types". Perhaps that might be forgivable if the comedy content wasn't provided by the bloody Mary Whitehouse Experience twots. "Yah, I mean we're intelligent blokes from University and we get just as excited about football as your average stupid, but friendly, working class footy fan". Hopefully the series will end with matey off Brookside getting stabbed again by the last outbreak of football fuggery. Only joking..... See you on the terraces (cringe).

CUP FINAL NIGHT

SATURDAY MAY 2

CELEBRATION

DINNER

at the

HALFWAY HOUSE

DUNSTABLE

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THE FAMOUS COMEDIAN

BOB MONKHOUSE

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or Conso'le us if the Fates are Unkind

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TELEPHONE DUNSTABLE 1924



* page 25
pin-up!



kingsley

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lettuce pages



TOWN Magazine wouldn't be the same without a couple of letters so here we jolly well go. Don't forget letters are always appreciated. Only the two this time, we lost the others in a milk related incident at the Sundon Park WI.

Dear TOWN,

I was particularly interested to see mentions of games from the 70's featuring in recent editions of the magazine, and we recall the 3-3 with Carlisle in 1970.

It was pouring with rain, so much so that the front of the Maple terrace resembled a flowing stream! The Town came back from 3-0 down in 17 minutes to grab a point. Incidentally, the attendance was 14,837 for a mid-table, 2nd division fixture on a wet November day! Also the same season when Birmingham (with a young Trevor Francis) visited and took a 2-0 lead only for Luton to end winners 3-2 (att. 25,172)

Onto a more bizarre match. The first home game of 1973-74 found the Hatters 6-0 up against Carlisle within 26 minutes! (both Luton & Carlisle were promoted at the season's end). Luton went into autopilot after that start, and won 6-1.

I could go on for ever "waxing lyrically" about such performances. They are just a few memories from decades of following Luton Town, and I would be interested to read other contributors memoirs from days past.

BARRY MILLS.

I recall that the week prior to the Carlisle game, Luton lost 4-0 at Forest. Brian Swain was very critical of Luton after that match, immediately saying that Luton wouldn't be promoted that season; a main reason being Luton's total lack of inspiration up front! Thank's to Barry and we wonder how many other people have memories of happier times....

And, just when we thought our old pal Robboe Hatrell had let us down - he's sent us this West Ham player related story.....

Ion Uffs

Ian Bishop has thrown Styart Slaters marriage into turmoil. The incident in question happened when Bishop produced his credentials at the Slater household on Saturday.

When the two lovers were caught in the act Mrs Slater was quoted to say "Stuart has always found people with long hair sexually attractive so to find him uphill gardening with Ian is not a great surprise, I'm just glad it wasn't Paul Walsh, I hate blonde bimbos!"

Well, what can we say? I'm afraid it was all above us here at the TOWN office but well done anyway Robert. Anymore top quality letters to the address that you have grown to know and love - we wanna hear what you gorra say.

Get in the groove with
ANNA NEAGLE
Have fun with
FRANKIE VAUGHAN
Go bang with
JANETTE SCOTT

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THE LADY IS A SQUARE

The first year or two was harrowing, when we nearly dropped out of the Second Division as I changed the team around. Results since then speak for themselves — it is a matter of pride to see that the record shows an improvement in our league position every single year after those early worries.



A snippet from ELMSLIE ENDER (Wealdstone F.C.)
 Question is, what the 'eck is it supposed to mean???? Poor old
 Luton, even non-league supporters are having a go (probably).

...and the fans proved there simply are no better. By rights, a
 team in Wealdstone's position should have had a mere handful
 travelling to places like Lincoln - by the way I saw Man Utd v
 Luton midweek before Lincoln and Luton, the week before Wembley
 took 12 (twelve!) fans - but instead I'd say there were getting
 on for 300 there; and they provided infinitely more atmosphere
 and humour than four and half thousand country boys. - Iain
 Macleod from Manchester

POOR LITTLE HORNET

THE
 LUTON/WATFORD
 RIVALRY.

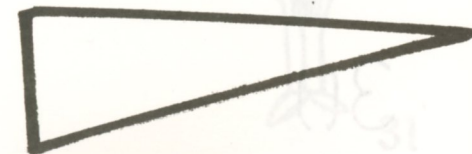
Sport

■ Enjoy football from the first
 class 'Hatters' at Luton Town's
 Kenilworth Road Ground. For
 the non-connoisseur, Watford
 FC is just 10 miles away

Win, lose or draw console yourself with this fact. This season at least we'll
 manage to finish higher than Watford have done in years. Out of sight and, for
 all intent and purpose, out of mind it's nice to see that Watford are finding it as
 hard in the second division as we are in the first. It isn't much comfort but it still
 remains a comforting thought. So what is this perverse rivalry between two clubs
 who haven't played each other for years? How comes we've had the upper hand
 over the Hornets for so long? Do Watford fans still have the same "hatred" of
 Luton Town?

Of course "hatred" is an iffy word to use, especially if used out of context. But
 what else was the feeling that you got when you saw Mo Johnson in a yellow
 shirt arms aloft after scoring a goal and running to the Oak Road end? What was
 worse than being beaten by Watford? And what was better than coming away
 from another victory at Vicarage Road? However, my hatred of Watford never
 extended to the point where I'd ever feel the need to physically hurt a Watford
 fan. Three of my friends at school turned out to be Hornets fans and that friend-
 ship was enhanced by the Monday morning piss-taking that one or either of us
 was bound to be dished out.

It's comforting to know that Watford fans still give out a little cheer when they
 hear Luton are losing at half-time (which leads you to believe that there must be
 alot of cheering from Luton and Watford fans at half-time). They still look back
 on such disastrous days as the 4-3 FA Cup victory when they ended up at
 Wembley and the 5-2 win in 1983 which didn't help our chances of staying up.
 The stick the Luton fans got at school by the Watford fans was merciless that
 season - obviously they were sick of the "2nd best" tag which they got the season
 before when we kept them at arms length to win the second division champion-
 ship.



Happy days indeed. Somehow not having Watford around has been a loss to all those Luton fans, like me, who would relish the trip to Vicarage Road (and always moan about the non-existent steps on the away terrace). The crazy atmosphere in Oak Road when Wayne Turner scored to put us through in the cup has to be one of the greats. The disappointment of losing the 2 goal lead the year before and the way we snatched their unbeaten home record in 1980 whatever with an own-goal. Priceless stuff.

So, if you want to know if we take pleasure in hearing Watford are losing the answer would be yes. Would anybody like to have seen Watford go third division though? I doubt it. At Sheffield Utd in the cup in January the excitement I

TE
TRIBUTION

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THE
COMPUTER

FIRST COMPU



remember was somewhat dampened by the news that Liverpool had got a last minute equaliser and Watford had lost at Shrewsbury. A cup draw against Watford would be great for both sets of fans. Maybe if we get past Birmingham in the cup - but then how are Watford going to beat Everton? Maybe in the FA Cup - heres hoping.

The Luton/Watford rivalry is a strong one which seemingly has held through changes of fortune and league status. Like Spurs/Arsenal and Liverpool/Everton there has always been the Hatters and the Hornets (although obviously not so well hyped). Not that Luton is the nearest club to Watford - that dubious honour belongs to QPR. Perhaps the point is that we're NOT London clubs, the rivalry is more about Bedfordshire versus Hertfordshire.

Even recently I was delighted to find a 100% Watford fan down the pub who was more than ready to join in the vitriol. Except this time I added to the tales of past glories with extra patronism, truly a moment to savour. If you're talking to other Luton fans it's all doom and gloom but get talking to a Watford fan and you can be whisked back to the glory years with the added boasts that 1. At least we're still up 2. Yes, but we got to Wembley and won and best line of all 3. Honestly I'd love to see Watford doing well again....

Thanks very much to Gary Parkins of Mud Sweat and Beers (the Watford FC fanzine) for his assistance. Poor bloke.

TOWN

BEST FOR
CHOICE



IN SHORT

HUGHES BACK IN BUSINESS

VOTED BEST LUTON FANZINE IN A RECENT READERS POLL (thanks Mum)

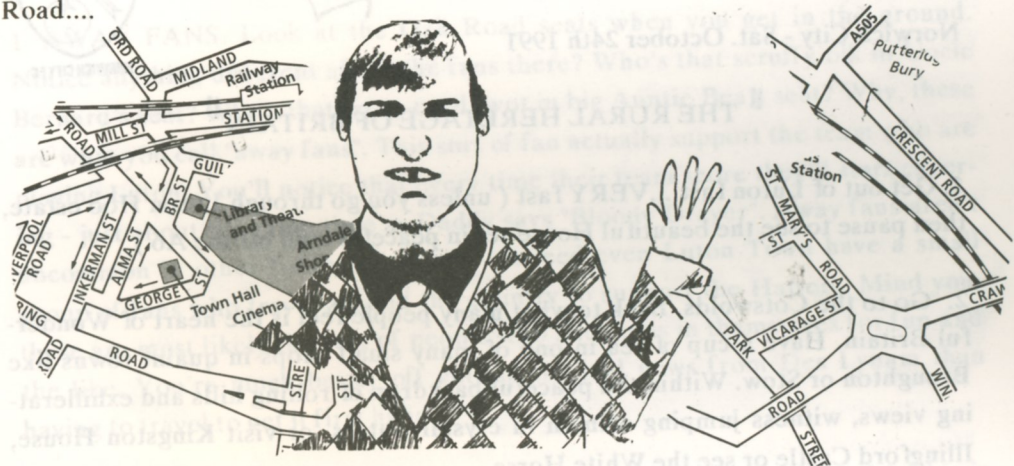
NOTE - this is not the official programme. The programme is the one with a picture of Mick Harford in a sort of "acid house" state which might have been caused by a Uranium leak in the darkroom (or the field of play).

ALL letters will be welcomed at Town. If you wish back issues please send money or cheques made payable to S.KINGSTON, and enclose an S.A.E. Address on back cover.

WARNING - VERY POOR QUALITY FEATURE

RIGHT UP ALEC'S STREET

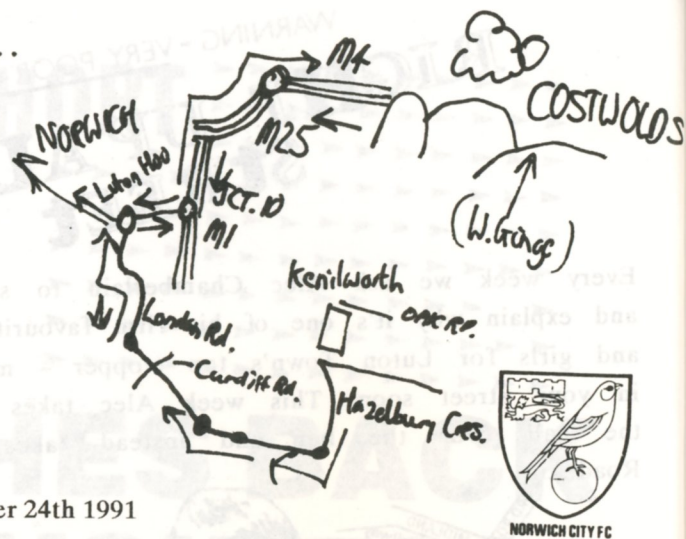
Every week we ask Alec Chamberlain to select one Luton street and explain why it's one of his firm favourites. So watch out boys and girls for Luton Town's top stopper - maybe he'll be stopping in your street soon. This week Alec takes a break from tipping the ball over the bar and instead takes a walk up London Road....



Alec says "London Road has, for a long time, been a great personal favourite of mine. Why, it's got a chapel, a carpark, a pub, Dave Bliss motorcycles and a petrol station. The petrol station is particularly useful because it's the last chance to fill up before the motorway. Not alot of people know this but the name London Road came about because it was built before the M1 and went directly to London at that time - and still does even now on a fine day. Of course it only goes to London on one side of the road - the other leads back into Luton town centre and might have been called Luton Road if it hadn't been done before"

HOW TO GET THERE*....

.... a much more
Scenic route.



Norwich City - Sat. October 24th 1991

" THE RURAL HERITAGE OF BRITAIN "

1. Get out of Luton fast....VERY fast (unless you go through Luton Hoo estate, then pause to see the beautiful House set in peaceful land off the A6)

2. Go to the Cotswolds. Back to what many people feel is the heart of Wonderful Britain. Have a cup of tea in one of many small shops in quaint towns like Broughton or Stow. Within the peaceful backdrop of rolling hills and exhilarating views, witness jumping salmon in crystal waters, or visit Kingston House, Illingford Castle or see the White Horse.

Before putting on your Luton favours and picking up the rattle finish up with a drive to Blenheim Palace where you may well see a top pop star like Prince tuning up a guitar or Madonna tickling the ivories.

3. Go to Norwich and cheer Luton onto a rousing 1-0 defeat in the rain with a goal from Robert Fleck in the 53rd minute.

FACTS:

- *) Distance: 450 miles
- *) Ground: Carrow Road. (ask a policeman for precise location)
- *) Decent Beers: The Crow (Norwich); The Cheeky Chappie (West Ginge, Oxon.)

* Possibly.

Ken's Kids Corner.



HI KIDS!!!! You're lovely cuddly big puss friendly Kenilworth Cat here to tell you all about the changes that might have had you confused this season. Namely, the return of away fans, grass (and mud) and the stringent new FIFA guidelines for referees. Well, here we go. Miaow.

1. AWAY FANS. Look at the Oak Road seats when you get in the ground. Notice anything different about the fans there? Who's that scruffy oik in Uncle Bernard's seat? Who's that cross-eyed twot in big Auntie Bea's seat? Why, these are what you call "away fans". This sort of fan actually support the team who are playing Luton. You'll notice that every time their team score they'll start cheering - just about the same time as Daddy says "Bloody Dreyer". Away fans aren't uncommon in other football grounds - indeed even Luton Town have a small group of fans who travel around the country to support the Hatters. Mind you, these are most likely the sort of people who stick pins in themselves for fun and the like. You're much better off getting the bad news from Des Lynam than having to travel to get it first hand.

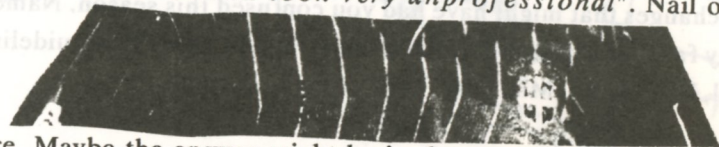
2. GRASS. Now look closely on the pitch. It doesn't look right does it? This is because the new pitch is made of "grass" which is coloured green just like plastic but has some curious characteristics. Firstly, if somebody lunges into a sliding tackle they don't get a friction burn but they do get a grass-related residue. At first it might seem like they've upset their pants, they haven't of course, they've got "muddy". Mud is what is under the grass and often causes problems in areas such as the goalmouth. Don't be fooled all of the time though, when Dazmo McDoughnut has the ball you'll probably be right in assuming that Alec Chamberlain HAS upset his pants! Other side-effects of grass is that all games in winter are called off and the pitch tends to "cut-up".

35

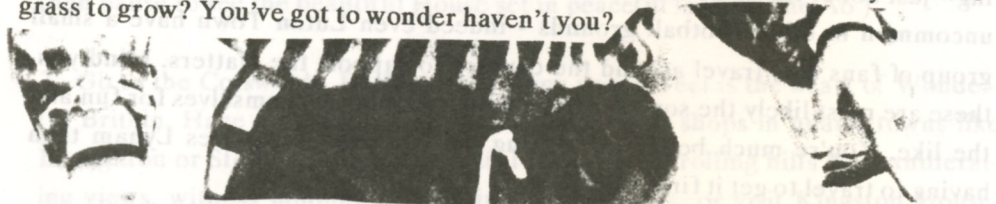
kenilworth THE Cat.

GET YOUR KITS OUT FOR THE LADS

In answer to a little mystery detailed in the last issue of DavidPleated. "why couldn't Luton Town wear their new strip on the first day of the new season - it made them look very unprofessional". Nail on the head stuff



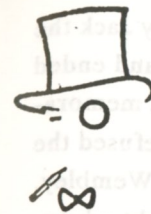
there. Maybe the answer might be in the next weeks match against Liverpool. The first game back at Luton which would again feature grass, away fans and a spanking new kit. Obviously the Town wanted their "new start" policies to be seen as a media event of sorts - and they don't come much bigger a supporting cast than Liverpool. Certainly a more prestigious "new start" match than a weekday against Coventry would have been. Wanting an extra three days for the grass to grow? You've got to wonder haven't you?



More observant fans might have noted that the Makita Meansnowt Cup which was televised live by LWT was little more than a chance for Arsenal and West Ham to show off their new Home AND Away kits to their fans to admire and buy up.

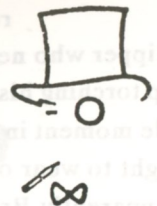


Luton weren't asked onto that catwalk and so had to make do with playing their first match at home and hoping it would be against a big club. The groundsman convinced Coventry, they trounced us, so who's complaining save us fools who went up there? Very unprofessional it may have seemed, but it had some semblance of a good business decision even if prospective sponsors couldn't see it....



TOP HATTER

BY JOVE!



At ease troops, Top Hatter here. Never mind the football dear hearts, I know it's been a swine of an opening but chin up and don't bung in the bally towel just yet, the proverbial opera is never over til that robust woman sings the epilogue and I'm sure the score will make for a triumphant sing-along come mid-season.

Anyway chums, close season I was sitting at the bar of the Turf Club in Cairo after a particularly good day crocodile baiting when one of the local fellows hands me an urgent telegram from my old pals from Town magazine requesting help from yours truly. "TH", it read "has come to our notice that the LT fans these days know bally bugger all about hats STOP Need educating STOP You're the obvious choice to do the job STOP See you back in blighty - Pip pip".

Gads, I thought, fans of the Hatters not knowing the difference between a bowler and a bridal bonnet whatever next! I made my apologise to the ambassador and took rushed back to merry England to present the Town lads with my extensively researched information. If I had it my way the non-wearing of head attire at the matches of the LT would be a punishable by public flogging so come on you Hatters - bung a bit of style on your nodding top and feel all the better for it. I'll start with the traditional Luton Town fan's crown - the straw boater.

Yes, the straw boater - the thing that made Luton famous throughout the Empire as the world centre of style. Made from straw the boater was not only a very light and comfortable piece of head gear but was also very prone to catching fire. Why

rumour has it that the great fire of London was caused by Jack the Ripper who needed a fag after committing one of the hideous crimes and ended up torching his boater when he turned his lighter up too high. The next memorable moment in the history of the boater was when Tom Hodgson was refused the right to wear one when leading the team out for the 1959 cup final at Wembley. Apparently Brian Clough complained that it gave Tom an unfair height advantage against him as he lead out Notts Forest. As a protest the Luton players deliberately lost the match after breaking Elton John's uncle's leg. Beezer senti-



FIG 1. COMMON OR GARDEN BOATER



FIG 2. BOATER SAT PROUDLY ATOP HEAD.



FIG 3. BOATER AT DECIDEDLY RAKISH ANGLE.



FIG 4. BOATER WORN STUPIDLY WITH PATHETIC MODEL DOG ON TOP.

ments but hardly a satisfactory execution of duty by the Lillywhites that day. Many a boater was chucked to ground that day and many fans refused to ever wear one again. However, come the 1988 final and they were all over the shop yet again. Unfortunatley there was many a shoddy representation on show in the form of mis-shapen and flimsy boaters which would have had many a proud blocker turning in their graves. Poor quality yes, but the boys did their job on the field like gallant lanciers fighting off the Bosch and, if the hats ended up torn up, nobody really cared that heady day in April. Anyway, thats about all the info I can cram - examine the diagram closely as I'll be spot-checking you all in the near future and will expect to see a good number of Boater on Bonces down Beech Hill Path ASAP. Chocs away *mes ami*, see you on the bally Christmas tree with more hat info next time, Pip pip. Bung-ho!

Of course
I'm laughing



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The next issue of TOWN may well be out before Christmas, but with us lethargic slobbs you never can tell. We'll chuck it in anyway if the results don't improve.