

T O W N

NUMBER
007

£1



FEATURING :

KENILWORTH THE CAT
TOP HATTER
CLASSIC MATCH
SEASON 1974/75
SEASON SO FAR II
& A DRINK ON US!!

TOWN Editorial TOWN TOWN

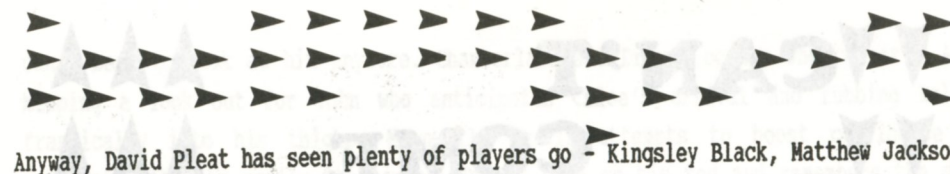
Protected widely by patents & patent applications.

Hello ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls to issue 007 of TOWN Magazine - the magazine for the Luton fan. A lot has happened since the last mag was out and now we find ourselves on the bottom of the table and looking more likely than ever to drop down to the second division next season. Or are we? (as they'd say on tomorrow's world).

At the beginning of the season we were all still appalled by the sacking of Jim Ryan and continued to be appalled more by the "bank manager" tactics employed by Mr Kohler with David Pleat appearing too willing to let players like Kingsley Black and Matthew Jackson go. It all seemed too much like the previous two seasons to be true - the club continually weakening a weak side. Perhaps we tended to overlook the old man Pleat was bringing in - and not without good reason. When Trevor Peake was dropped into the early season shambles there was very little that he, on his own, to achieve to put things right.

The return of Mick Harford seemed to confirm that Pleat was either a) trying to please the fans by getting the 'boys are back in town' (all you're old favourites Stein, Harford, Preece and the old man in charge David Pleat) or b) to attempt to undue the harm that Ray Harford did to the town when he decided to turn a fair (at times handy) first division side into the Muppet babies. Whether or not the latter point may have been on Jim Ryan's priority list to fix is no question - the fact is that he was told he would like it or lump it.

No disrespect to David Pleat meant there - one gets the feeling that David Pleat isn't one to stand down to Mr Kohler whereas Jim Ryan was just Gentleman Jim in a world where there are no gentleman left (not like there were when Jim played for the Town in the seventies).



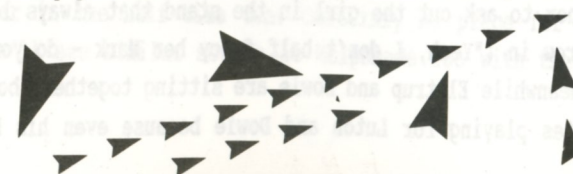
Anyway, David Pleat has seen plenty of players go - Kingsley Black, Matthew Jackson,

Paul Holsgrove (the only Jim Ryan signing), Thompson etc etc. But it only needs a quick look at the players he has bought in to realise that Mr Pleat can still build a side. Trevor Peake, Chris Kamara and Mick Harford. It suddenly dawns on you when watching players like Harford and Kamara play that what Luton Town have been for far too long is a namby-pamby side with a distinct lack of skillful nutters. We have had Darren McDoughnough for ages but skill is somewhat lacking there.

What Pleat wanted for his side was a "backbone" of the sort of the Foster, Nicholas, Harford variety to see that Luton would keep their heads above water. If Peake can sort out his soppy defence so they stop falling apart after they've let in a goal then we just might have that sort of set-up now. The benefits of the old backbone system are so important to a club of our size and stature. Firstly, we shouldn't be blown off the park by the first bit of decent opposition we come up against - defenders are scared of Mick Harford, midfielders must dread Kamara. Secondly, older players are more likely to be able to settle whereas players like Mark Pembridge and Scott Oakes might (though I wouldn't say they do) look at every good match as a step nearer Old Trafford or White Hart Lane. Dream moves are forgotten by Kamaras, Steins and Harfords who are just happy to stick it to the bigger clubs whenever they get the chance. A team full of "high fliers" is doomed.

Yes - David Pleat might just have got it right. This magazine was sent to the printers before the crunch game at Sheffield United, here's hoping it was our first away victory. We've played very well in the last two games and come out of them with only one point where there should have been six. With that sort of luck we'll be down at the end of the season.

Anyway, see you soon, have a merry Christmas - do David Pleat a favour and sell all your raffle tickets (you're editor has sold all his already - loyal supporter). Until we meet again may your football spectating hours be merry ones. xxxx



CAN'T **COME** **IN!**

Imagine, if you will, the atmosphere of the LTFC past and present. How much would it have changed over the last year or so.

Apparently, it was revealed, Gentleman Jim used to allow Pete Nelkin's daughter Chloe to visit the players in the dressing room on match-days where she would talk to them and "write them notes". Mmm, lovely. On top of this Chloe was also in the possession of a number of teddy bears which she christened after all the first team players. We can only imagine that the Kingsley teddy was the cutest, the Preece ted was one of them matchbox efforts and the Dowie ted was so ugly that it would be locked up in a wardrobe after giving young Chloe nightmares. Strange goings on that wouldn't seem to befit a First Division outfit as much as a episode of Little House on the Prairie in which that buck-teeth little brat goes to see Daddy play a friendly in the townsfolk amateur Christian Sunday (after church) league. But no, apparently before Jim had to stress the danger posed by the likes of Mark Hughes, Ian Rush and Gary Lineker he had first to endure a visit from the chairman's three year old daughter. Anyway, Chloe is has probably re-named her teddies after the Arsenal side and forgotten all about the time that nasty Uncle Jim said no to her pre-match visit (we do believe, however, that she and Kingsley Black remain pen-pals).

Looking at the squad today one wonders how she would fair if all was forgiven and Peter Nelkin returned to the LTFC after handing in his notice advertising Ostlers (is it a cake or is it a biscuit? And hold on a sec - aren't you Peter Nelkin?). Surely now the LTFC dressing room would be the last place one would consider taking a young girl.

Last season it must have been pretty safe. Kingsley, Pembo and Ceri sitting in one corner asking each other to ask out the girl in the stand that always looks at them when they've got a throw in ("Yeah, I don't half fancy her Mark - do you reckon you might have a word"). Meanwhile Elstrup and Dowie are sitting together, both moaning - Elstrup because he hates playing for Luton and Dowie because even his Mum says she

can't bear to look at him anymore. Chamberlain and Dreyer occupy one corner - Alec keeping a look out for John who anticipates Chloe's arrival and rubbing Ralgex frantically into his thighs. Meanwhile Marvin attempts to boost confidence by confirming that he really is injured, Preece sits on his tod and remembers the good old day and Gentleman Jim shakes his head and looks even further into the past. It might have been very different but I still can't imagine that the LTFC Christmas Party was the greatest swinging blockbuster the Joe Payne lounge ever saw.

That was then - but can you imagine the scene now. David Pleat (MR Pleat to the playing staff) running a tight ship - and having to. The antics of Harford, Peake and Kamara kept off the front pages only for the fact that they are employees of LTFC and not Spurs. Preece and Stein back together to add a bit of sanity and remember the good times like they were yesterday (and look to tomorrow?), and realise how they forgot just how much of a lad Mick Harford was. The younger players are getting well trained in the art of just about everything they should and shouldn't know, Kingsley having left because he just wasn't ready for that much information. Gray and Oakes are the new 'Jack the lads'. Chamberlain and Dreyer imagine the time when they were a tight defensive set-up which in reality, had the goals not been shown on 'The Match' every week, Dreyer and Chamberlain would be famous as stars on "You've been framed".

Yes, one can imagine that this years Christmas party will be an event full'o'laughs and (if the rumours I heard about Mr Pleat's idea of party entertainment are true) be an event that would need hushing up if the Town suddenly gained top five status.

Oh yes, the dressing room must be a much more colourful place this season than last. All they need now is some arse like Les Sealey to argue with his team mates over who put the sugar in the half-time tea. Certainly no place for young Chloe Nelkin to wander - she'll see similar scenes at Whipsnade zoo with the animals safely behind bars.

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

FANZIN REVIEW



The official 1982 promotion video

We've had a number of letters from fans wanting to know where they can lay their hands on the video celebrating Luton's promotion season. We only wish we knew ourselves - we borrowed ours off some bloke we know in the courts. The trouble is that the video was made at the time that video wasn't the common thing it is now (which explains why the vid was also available on Betamax - remember Betamax?). Anyway, household entertainment has come a long way since 82 - and so has the quality of football videos. Set against the likes of season reviews out every year (with only the last bit worth watching) the 82 video looks decidedly dodgy. What one is treated to on the 82 video is a decidedly fat looking Steve Ryder (the boy done good now he's Grandstand's top dog) telling us how well the Town done and then interviewing David Pleat. Then we see the Luton 4 Watford 1 match highlights (which makes the video worth having straight away). After that it's back to Pleat who "talks us through" the goals we've just seen, and saying "And now we see" almost as regularly as Brian Swain says "surely".

STARS OF THE SCREEN

Elsewhere in this afternoon's matchday magazine, you will find full details of the video we recorded to celebrate winning



the Second Division Championship last May.

Our players recently took time off from training to visit the Flitwick factory of Wallspan Bedrooms whose chairman and managing director Terry Bailey sponsored the video.

The lads had some great fun clowning around with the sophisticated recording equipment as our pictures show Lilly Fucillo attempting to ask Jake Findlay to provide the commentary.

So far, a bit dodgy, games that weren't televised by the BBC or ITV don't get a look in. But it gets worse. Ryder goes on to say how much the club owe to their official sponsors - Wallspan Bedrooms - and suddenly a five minute commercial in which Jake Findlay and his pregnant wife are shown around a bedroom showroom while Ryder commentates "the highest quality....a number of different styles.....as you can see Jake and his wife are starting a family...etc etc". Certainly a job for the fast-forward button.

The action sets off again and goes on, almost uninterrupted until the end which is good although again very few matches are highlighted. The finale is always worth watching as we remember those nights against Shrewsbury and QPR....those were the days....

So anyway, you probably won't ever get the chance to buy it but if you're crying you're eyes out expecting that you missed a blow by blow "all the goals" account of that historic season you'd be wrong. Still very much worth watching though.

THE CHELSEA INDEPENDENT

Not a big, glossy, colourful magazine this one with pretty pictures and free gifts this one. Then again, it doesn't need to be. From what I could gatherm this publication is available from anywhere in the bleedin' world. Then again, such is the support of the London Club- and the Chelsea Inde. is a fine read for any one of them I'm sure.

I had a go, but found it too much for a neutral to take in, unlike previous magazines from Birmingham and Orient. The long articles written in the smallest print was rather daunting, but with patience, I fong the articles interesting; if not to the point.

The better part of the magazine featured a readers poll, in which the Luton Stewards are voted the best in the first division, and our team as the worst opponents; and we managed to beat them twice last year!

In retrospect, it's a fine read, and you cannot put down a fanzine with the apparent success of the Chelsea Independent.

From the makers of D.Pleated comes the rather imaginatively record "D.Pleated" record. Now, there's nothing worse than turning on the radio and hearing John Peel play yet another football/dance single (mostly by Liverpool fans). The idea is to mix as much relevant commentary, chants from the crowd, interview snippets from players and manager etc etc as poss to a heavy, repetitive, dance beat. When the record swings to the sound of "You'll never walk alone" interspersed with a whine from Kenny Dalglish and a rant from John Motson then it needs switching off more than listening to. The record D.Pleated is different because it's about OUR team and it's long overdue. Sadly however, it seems that in a rush to get a record out the DavidPleated team have given little time in actually collecting enough radio/TV footage to make the record very interesting. Seemingly commentary is from some two-bit radio Beds commentator and the amassed library of recorded matches runs into about two. A bit of David Pleat explaining how he prefers to be a David than a Goliath (because Goliath tends to get his name on the front pages perchance?) and there you have it - add a casio beat and you're away. With a bit of thought the record could have included footage from all the great LTFC matches - the promotion year, the 82 Man City match, the 85 semi, the 88 cup final, the voice of the late great Eric Morecombe and more. A fine idea that sells itself well short - perhaps the surgeon crew should have waited for some reply to their appeal in WSC for material. Could we do better? Probably not - but we'd give it alot more thought before we tried.

"There's a very fat person going absolutely wild"
(oh really)
A. Terrace Mix
AA. Club Mix



MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I'M
LUTONIAN - THAT I USE
"LUTON RHYMING
SLANG"

ah surely not...

Now, it has always been a geographical error by fans of Everton and Newcastle Utd to think that, as fans of Luton Town, we should want to be told how much they hate cockneys. And these Northern dolts are continually surprised that it is indeed a mutual disrespected and one doesn't often find the average LT fan saying "Gowd'blimey'guvnor'sstrike-a-light up the old apples and pairs aroun' the ol'joanna". But there is a case to argue that we have got our own slang down here in South Beds - here are a few examples which, even if they aren't as widespread as we'd like to think - at least it'll provide something for you to cringe at (although we're often beaten on the cringe stakes by our "rivals").

Jim - Oft used as the preface to a request or question eg - "Do us a Jim-lenders" (lend me some money) or "Are you Jim-pubb-innit?" are you going to the pub before/after the match. Origins seem to point to the Jim Ryan era although "Jim" has been used for longer than that (I think).

Lateres - Meaning "I'll see you later". The use of "Lateres" is a customary parting phrase which leaves out any arrangement as to where and when "Lateres" will be. For example one might say "Lateres" to a friend who you know damn well will be in the pub come 7.30 on a Friday night in the same way as you would say it to a friend who is going on a world trip and doesn't know when or if he/she will return. A quick and easy auvoir which rids itself of sloppy plans of organisation of reunion. "Lateres" can be aired as "See you Jim-Lateres" when one is feeling chatty (see Jim above).

Dunny, Dunnet, Dumpstable, Dunstabubble - Depending on how one feels about the old cowboy town anyone of these versions may be used. "Dunstabubble" comes from the old Aero advert and the others are from common use.

Two and Eight - A state, as in "Look at the state of them" - "What a bunch of two and eights".

Kenny - An obscure and not necessarily well-used term for the Kenilworth Road ground. A home cup draw will be described as being "At the Kenny" and, more specifically if one is going to stand at Luton then one will be "On the Kenny". "Kenny" is sometimes swapped for "Kennet". Origins are a bit shady but may well have stemmed from TOWN magazine called Kenilworth the Cat Kenny - this theory being made by the fact that we don't know anybody else who uses it.

On a recent visit to Kenilworth Road for a Reserve game against Tottenham my pal and I could not gain entrance to the New Stand. To pay the full whack for such a privilege at a first team game is beyond most (proving why it's always half empty), and I thought this may be a good opportunity to see what the view is like. No dice. Looks like I'll have to go up there 10 minutes before the end of a match and stand up the back.

Even so, the Reserves won 4-1 in a entertaining match. You should go some time.

It's my prediction now that if Luton go into next year at the bottom, or 2nd bottom of the league in the new year, then they will go down. They've shown us that they have the ability to do so, but would they be able to show the fight if they got left stranded at the bottom? I also hope that the City game was not the classic case of raising the game to good opponents

10

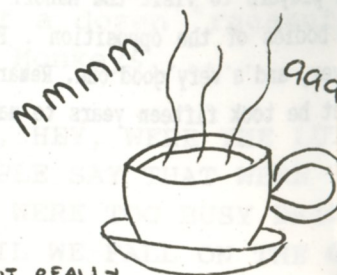
get lost.



PG TIPS with Phil 'Earl' Gray

Always the ones to carry on joke onto another issue. In conjunction with the LTFC refreshment bars* TOWN magazine present YOU the fan with just what you want at half-time. Phil 'the Earl' Gray, the man for whom tea is not just a drink - it's a way of life presents you with the tea so tasty you'll be as happy as a bloody chimp. As Phil says "It's the taste".

Directions - Take the tea-bag out of the magazine carefully. At half-time wander to your nearest refreshment kiosk. Ask the nice lady/gent serving for a cup, some hot water, milk, sugar (if desired) and some sort of stirring implement. If lucky thank the lady/gent warmly. If told "piss off you cheeky bugger" don't despair, simply take the tea-bag home and enjoy the Beverage there whilst watching Brucie on the television.



* NOT REALLY.

chris kamara

GUESS WHO HAVEN'T GOT A
PICTURE OF
CHRIS KAMARA



Luton new 'boy' Chris Kamara was, apparently, on David Pleat's shopping list along with Trevor Peake, Mick Harford, a bag of sugar, loaf of bread and a pack of cornflakes which happened to be on a special offer and included a free replica of the old Brian Stein. Now, apart from the fact that he used to play for Leeds but not regularly and is old enough to know better, Luton fans didn't know too much about his colourful past.

Now, of course we know that he is of the favoured old school of fervent 'nutters' who look at a sliding as being fun, is likely to be booked (at least) every game and earned enough notoriety to go out on the razz with other unsavouries like Mick Harford and Steve Foster. What of the man's past though? In a future issue we hope to find out more about the man although we did find an amazing bit of information in the new WSC book "Late Tackle" about the man who is already known and hated at Oxford United -

"Chris Kamara has inflicted a permanent scar on Oxford's footballers. Undoubtedly, he would top any list of the most feared and hated players to visit the Manor. Hated, because of his preference for laying waste to the bodies of the opposition. Feared, because he is also an exceptionally powerful player, and a very good one. Remarkable, with such a combination of power and malice, that he took fifteen years to make his way to Elland Road.

His finest hour was on Boxing Day in 1977, when we (Oxford) led 3-0 at half-time (against Swindon) and spent the last twenty minutes hanging on for a draw after Kamara got two of Swindon's three goals. Kamara's birthday was the previous day, a coincidence often commented upon by Oxford fans ("Chris Kamara? Jesus Christ!"). Even after he left, he cast his shadow over the Manor Ground. I remember Dave Bennett as a small, moderately proportioned winger who won the Cup Final for Coventry. He played for Swindon in September 1990, and I didn't recognise him: he seemed to have sprouted enormous shoulders, as if a cartoon character had swallowed a chest expander. Other Oxford fans apparently had the same experience, and watched the game convinced they were witnessing the Return of Chris Kamara. It couldn't have been him, though, as three days later a thug from Darlington broke his leg with a vicious tackle. No-one would have dared do that to Kamara.

Good little insight there into the life and times of one Chris Kamara. The bit about laying the opposition to waste is par for the course for a David Pleat squad. To win the Second Division and for the first few seasons in the First, Pleat believed more in the skill factor - a bit airy fairy Paul Walshy etc. However his head was soon turned by his new "take no prisoners" chairman who showed him his Rambo video and then gave him the money to buy Mick Harford and Steve Foster. Do we want such nutters in the team? Well, yes of course we do - there is a place for skillful players at Kenilworth Road, usually on the opposition and preferably writhing around in agony in the mud after being taken out by Chris Kamara challenge. All good clean fun, and next time you're off.

But hold on a minute. What's all this about being a very good player. Don't tell Dave Kohler about that.

HOW DOES IT GO?

Who started singing that song during the Manchester game way up in the Kenny? It involved no more than half a dozen 'ragamuffins' croaking to the tune of The Monkeys.....

HEY, HEY, WERE THE LUTON,
PEOPLE SAY THAT WERE GOING DOWN,
BUT WERE TOO BUSY DRINKING,
UNTIL WE FALL ON THE GROUND!

very well done.

THE TROUBLE WITH EMEKA

1. Coming from Dulwich, Pleat just couldn't look at young Chukwuemeka for fear of laughing at the young stars' tasteless dress sense.



2. Disillusioned Emeke then took up ballroom dancing. A poor choice to try and "up his image."

3. Pleat tried not to see the funny side.

Everybody Happy?

THE TROUBLE WITH LTFC - KENILWORTH ROAD

For years and years the club has been telling us about the importance of moving away from Kenilworth Road for various reasons. Don't be fooled into thinking the '83 proposed move to Milton Keynes was the first of it. When we set about looking back on the '59 cup final we stumbled upon the proposals for a new purpose built stadium. So, the club has been dreaming for over 30 years, but what about the fans?

The club, it would seem, do not like Kenilworth Road. Tell them that the cramped surroundings adds to the character of the place and they'd no doubt moan that they've got nowhere to park their car. Tell them that the ground can create a fantastic atmosphere on the right day and they'll probably tell you that the hot-dog facilities aren't spacious enough. No, for the club Kenilworth Road is a constant embarrassment and wants leaving as soon as possible.

Where, one might ask, are they going to build this new purpose built stadium? Hopefully within the Luton boundaries they say - but we all know that they don't really have many scruples about moving off to any new town who might just think they want a ready made first division football club for the nuclear families to watch. Happily Milton Keynes decided that they, and their community, could do without it in favour of the quiet life and trying (with some success) to adopt crappy American sports for their gullible citizens. Anywhere in Luton then? Well, no. Nobody wants a football ground in their back yard and the council aren't going to give planning permission after they've seen a couple of hundred names on a petition.

So, even if the club suddenly got planning permission to build a gorgeous new US type hyperstadium (remember the ridiculous pipe dreams in the 83-84 programmes) where would the money come from? The football trust? I'm sure even they wouldn't be that willing to pick up the bill. The club? The bank manager would love to hear about that. The church? Probably the most sensible suggestion. No, but seriously - no doubt

if a site were ever found the club would work itself into a financial crisis after about the first week.

So what happens when the lease of the ground runs out and the council chuck us out? Surely that will be the end of the club. But hold on a sec, who really thinks the council will chuck the club out - the uproar from the fans would make the "Nelkin Out" campaign look like a Gentleman's agreement. And we are talking politics here. What council would fancy there chances in closing down the town's football club? What MP would allow it to happen? The damage to their political careers would be crippling.


Anyway, the chances of Luton Town leaving Kenilworth Road in the next few (30?) years is pretty minimal. The evidence is all around us but still the club won't admit it. The new stand, the pitch, the new social clubs added to the ground etc etc. Surely the club can't keep up the pretence - but they are - who can tell why.

Whatever the club want it is certain that Luton Town fans have a soft spot for Kenilworth Road. Alright, so it is the worst ground in the First Division (now Wimbledon have left Plough Lane) but what the hell. That is part of Luton's charm - the fact that we can bring multi-million pound sides from massive posh grounds and beat them is something that has been a credit to Luton Town for the past ten years. The club should be proud of that and not bemoan the small stadium that remains, as it should, the home of a small but proud club.

So come on LTFC, level with the fans and accept the current circumstances and get on with forging out together for the first time for so long. We all know the previous arguments had gaping holes in ie - the 83 argument "we have to move because the new relief road will go right through the ground" - well, perhaps a little bit of exaggeration there especially as we've since found space on that side of the ground to build a new stand etc etc etc.

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LUTON TOWN COVERAGE BY TOWN



It seems to me that the sale of Matthew Jackson for two more young players was a good move. There was such a fuss when the move went through, but look at the obvious facts. He had limited experience and Luton got a good price. If players had not been brought then there would be cause to moan. Scott Oakes looks to be a very good player, and Linton is also quite handy. However you look at it, those new faces will get better and wiser, and there is the potential within them to help Luton more than I ever think that Jackson would. (Wasn't Matthew poor in the Everton game!)

Hatrell

Nobby "the hat" Hatrell says - "I SWEAR IT'S TRUE"

QUESTIONS WITHOUT ANSWERS

by Rob Hatrell

SMART! I
LOVE
HATRELL'S BITS!



Since the dawn of time, there have been many unanswered questions:

Which came first, the Chicken or the egg?

Who invented the wheel?

Why do men have nipples?

People have varying ideas on these subjects, but there are no definite answers. Football too has many inexplicable questions; here are a few.....

1. When Liverpool win a game by a single goal, why is that goal a very dodgy penalty?
2. Why do Arsenal fans buy a new shirt every year when their kit has not changed since 1889 BC?
3. Why do, some home supporters (of any club) always buy the matchday magazine when it's content is the same? Why not buy one at the beginning of the season, take it to the game and throw £1.50 away. The effect is the same!!!!!!
4. Is Gascoigne a talented player/singer, or an overrated, loud, fat Geordie git?
5. On "Match of the Day", why doesn't Terry Venables give Jimmy "ooh, what a big chin I've got" Hill a good kickin', and say "What does a Fulham supporter know about football."
6. Why did Kenilworth the Cat disappear when we sold Marc North?

7. Why has the Rumbelows Cup got three handles?

8. What do goalies keep in their little handbags? Is it really necessary?

Anyone who can shed some light on any of these questions, please send your answers on a soggy beer mat to:

John "Where's my top lip" Major
I'm the P.M. (your not)
Downing St. (etc..)



Please send your poll tax money 'cause it's the only way we'll be able to collect it!

Fair play to ya Rob. Another classy contribution to the magazine which is much appreciated. We also received an explanation of the last Hatrell extravaganza which we couldn't print, but solved a mystery. Another question to you Rob, why are your letters postmarked from Watford?

A couple of great performances from the Town, and still they didn't pick up three points! What's going on? The City game was full of the tough, fast and imaginative play that the fans like to see. More of that, and Lutonians may come and see what they are missing, but they won't be able to. The scourge of the club, it's membership policy still bugs me. Talking to an old Luton fan before the Sheffield Wed. game proved how daft the idea is, he was 76 years old, and had to go and listen to the game from the radio in his car! Poor bloke travelled up from London to spoil himself and was turned away. Should this club really be turning

Kenilworth the Cat

FEATURING
ROWDY THE
* RAT *

STEWARDS
HQ

NOW, AS I SEE IT READERS,
THE ONLY WAY I'M GOING TO
GET BACK ON THE LTFC
PAYROLL IS TO BECOME A
STEWARD



So YOUNG KEN APPLIES TO THE
TOP STEWARD - 'BASIL X'

YOUR DUTIES AS A STEWARD ARE AS FOLLOWS



So.....

WAHEY! AM I SMART OR
WHAT READERS?!

YOUR FIRST
MATCH WILL
BE
LEEDS



AND ON SATURDAY KEN PATROLS THE MAPLE ROAD
WHEN HE HEARS A FAMILIAR VERMIN VOICE.

KENNY - YOU OLD TASS!

LESS OF THE BAD LANGUAGE ROWDY
OR I'LL HAVE YOU CHUCKED OUT. WHAT DO YOU
RECKON THOUGH EH? BEST VIEW IN THE HOUSE,
SMART UNIFORM AND I GET PAID! HAVE I
HIT THE JACKPOT OR WHAT?



SUDDENLY LEEDS SCORE A
GOAL WHICH IS PROMPTLY
DISALLOWED. THE LEEDS
FANS AREN'T TOO HAPPY
ABOUT IT....

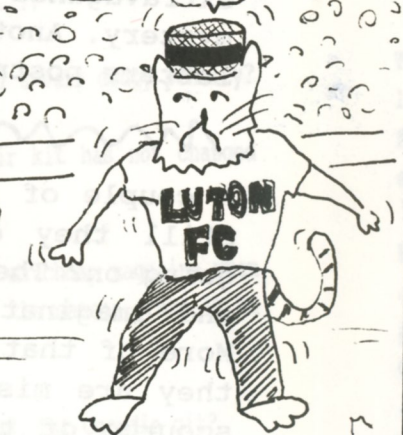
ALL STEWARDS TO
THE OAK ROAD
END



COME ON CAT
FEATURES!



EERRR YEAH, SEE YOU UP THERE
LADS - I BETTER KEEP AN
EYE ON THE CROWD HERE.
I'VE, EERRR, HURT MY LEG
I'VE LOST ME GLASSES - ETC
ETC



THANK GOD - IT LOOKS LIKE
IT'S ALL ALRIGHT.



LATERS

SORRY KEN, I DIDN'T REALISE IT
GOT NASTY AFTER THE MATCH



TOO RIGHT IT DID
ROWDY - AT THE
STEWARDS'
POST-MATCH
DISCUSSION!



KEN SAYS:

WHEN BUYING SECOND-HAND UNDERWEAR FOR
CHRISTMAS PRESENTS, ENSURE THAT YOU GIVE THEM A
GOOD WASH AND RINSE BEFORE WRAPPING

Merry Christmas



CLASSIC MATCH



LUTON TOWN vs. CHELSEA

Tuesday 1st. January 1980. League Division Two

Going into this game, Luton and Chelsea were at the top of the table in 2nd and 3rd positions. The frost had made the pitch bone hard, but the referee passed it fit for play, much to the amazement of both managers. Pleat remarked that "even a fool could see that there could be a serious injury", but 19,717 people were already on their way to Kenilworth Road for the 11.00 kick off. And By Jimminny what a cracking match!

It says here that Chelsea started the game well. Mistakes on the tricky surface were going to make this a hard game to play, but the sheer grit and determination "was a credit to the 22 professionals on the park."

As I said, it was Chelsea who took up the running, and scored through Mike Fillery in the 8th minute. A 20 yard low drive into the corner of Findlay's net spurred Luton, and Tony Grealish unleashed a cracker, again from 20 yards that hit the underside of the bar and went in. 1-1.

A minute before half time, Mike Saxby headed Luton into a 2-1 lead with a far post header from a Moss cross. With the huge Luton crowd still celebrating, Hill took up the ball outside the box, and tried his luck. He hit it sweetly into the Chelsea net, only 35 seconds after Saxby's goal. The linesman held his flag aloft, penalising Hatton for offside, and the goal did not stand. The first of a few questionable refereeing decisions that ended the first 45 minutes.

The fast pace of the first half was taken up in the second. Chelsea's equaliser was after 47 minutes when a corner was swung into the Luton area. There was a lot of

feet, fists and heads all going for the ball, and after a brief game of ping pong on the Hatters goal line, Ian Britton forced it over. Two all.

Kirk Stehens tested Borota in the Blues goal before the ref decided to entertain the Luton crowd (and annoy the huge Chelsea contingent!) Stephens, fresh from his goal attempt was adjudged to have handled the ball in the Luton area from a Clive Walker shot. The ref. awarded the penalty, and the Luton players asked him to go talk to the linesman. He did, and came back giving Luton the decision for a previous throw in up the other end of the pitch. The cheering Chelsea supporters couldn't believe it!

Paul Price threw a bouncing ball into the area, and Moss got above the defence to head home in front of the Oak Road end. 3-2. It was thought to be 4-2 moments later when the same man blasted a shot into the roof of the net from a tight angle. Again, Hatton and Stein were off-side, quietening the delirious Luton supporters.

Chelsea equalised for the second time when Clive Walker shot home after getting onto the end of a long pass. Luton nearly snatched the equaliser, but Donaghy's header from a Price flick bounced on the top of the crossbar. So it finished even.

The referee was criticised again by Pleat at the end of the game for seeing his linesman's flag too late too often, and one of the linesman got a cut on his head from a stray 2p from a Luton supporter. Pity his membership couldn't be taken away, eh.

Both Jake Findlay and Borota were presented with a bottle of Champagne for their outstanding performances from a hotelier in St. Albans, Borota for his bravery under pressure, and Findlay for commanding the area, and a world-class save in the second half.

A classic struggle in difficult conditions. "A game I shall remember until the 1990's.....if I live that long" commented one press-man. Great Stuff.

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS AGAINST MS

This season the whole of football will come together to help
raise funds for
ACTION AND RESEARCH AGAINST MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

Funds will be raised through the staging of :

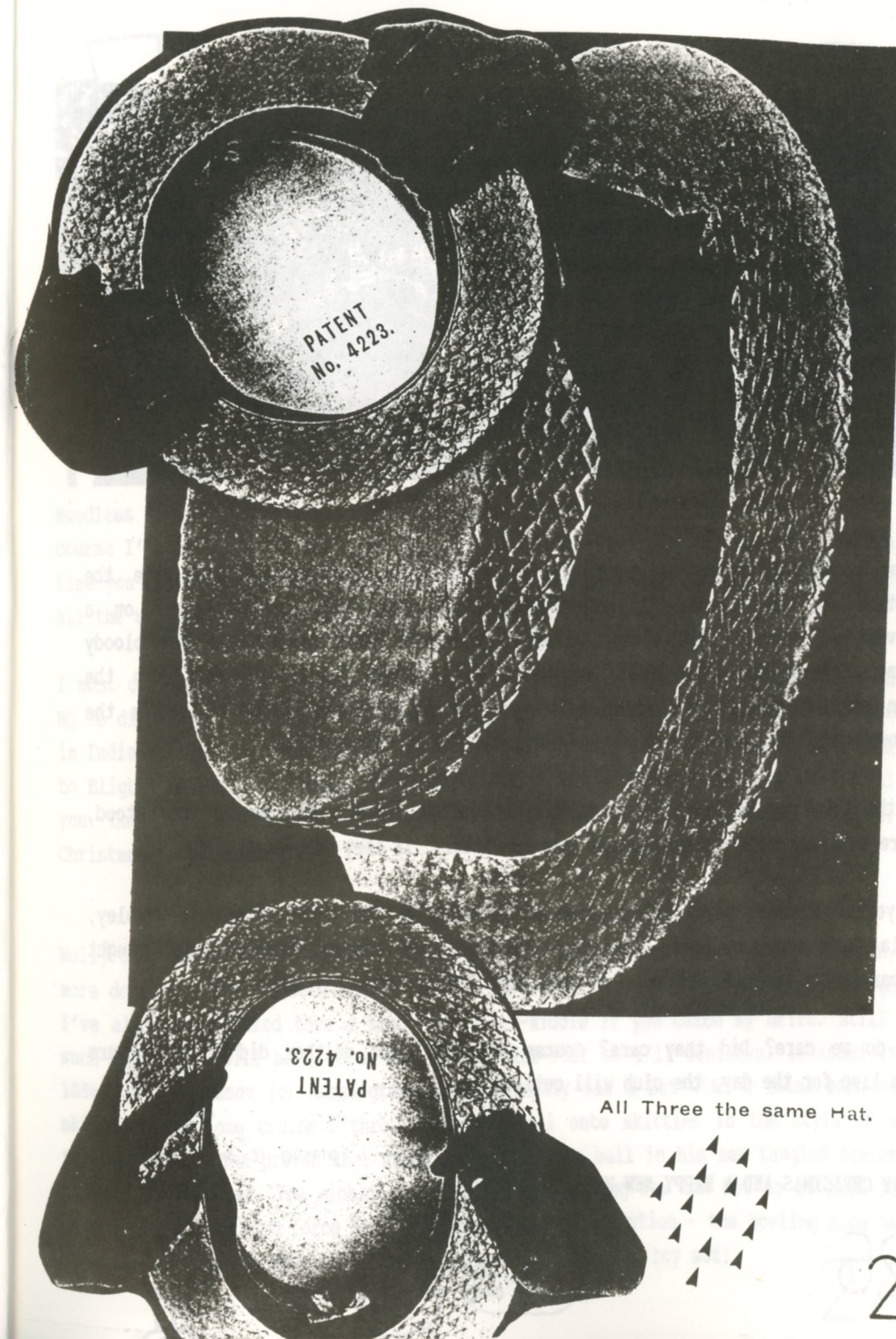
A National Walk to all
English and Scottish league grounds
Supporters Matches
Collections
Parties/ discos and barbecues
Match of my Life book
It's Twelve Inches High... fanzine compilation
A National Raffle

Plus other events too numerous to mention

For further information contact
FAMS at 4a Chapel Hill, Stanstead, Essex
or watch out for further details that will appear just about
everywhere.

Don't miss the FSA fanzine compilation
"It's Twelve Inches High..."
due out on sale before Christmas

ARMS Registered Charity No : 268899 Registered Company No : 1196338



The "RIGHTAT" will fit all.

All Three the same Hat.





From a picture from the turn of the century at Kenilworth Road. Note the boaters out on parade. All these people are now but memories, names on a gravestone. Men in this picture died fighting for their country in the bloody Somme. Others came home from the Great War and sung as they burnt down the Town hall. Some of them might have been in active service and killed in the second world war. How many survived? How many live to this day?

At the time the horror of wars to come was of no concern to them as they stood, where we stand today, shouting the Town to victory. If they only knew...

In years to come they'll be looking at pictures of the Luton crowds at Wembley, Villa Park and Kenilworth Road and lamenting the tragedy that so many caught on camera so long ago should be so obviously dead and gone.

But do we care? Did they care? Course we don't, and neither did they. Hatters fans live for the day, the club will outlive us all.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.....

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TOP HATTER

BY JOVE!



Hello again my merry fellows of the Southern Bedfordshire football fraternity (would mention the gals at this point too chaps but, as you know, this is a 'gentleman' only feature -(we don't want little woman worrying herself to distraction over the styling of a lad's headgear). Anyway my dandy band of vagabonds and ruffians, olde TH, here again with a few tips off the bally hatstand for the uneducated scruffs you undoubtedly are.

Needless to say I haven't had much of a chance to see the old LT yet this season - of course I've re-hired the box again but one so really gets the call. Hopefully by the time you read this the lads will be on the climb up the jolly table and we can forget all the untidiness at the start of the campaign. Too bally right too.

I must confess though "mes ami" that I almost forgot my promise to the lads at Town HQ to dispatch my hat-trick (to coin a phrase wot!). You see, dear hearts, I was out in India hunting the tigers when I suddenly remembered my duty - and had to rush back to Blighty before I had chance to skin the stripy swine. Buggers to skin I can tell you. Luckily I have servants to do the dirty work and the rugs will be ready for Christmas party pranks.

Well, onto my hat of the month - the bowler. What can one say? What is more English, more debonair than a smooth combed bowler? Not a bally lot I can tell you - although I've always considered them a touch too upper-middle if you catch my drift. Still, such subtleties will be lost on you joyful riff-raff so I'll continue. Invented in 1856 by Ian Johnson (of Kensington) who apparently had a bet with a local band of skinheads that one couldn't throw a bowling ball onto skittles in the style of a frisbee. Plucky Ian proved them wrong by putting the ball in his new fangled bowler hat and won the bet. The kicking he received upon asking for the bet to be paid is said to be the driving force behind Johnson's second invention - the bowling shoe as the old steel toecap DM made quite an impression on the old boy wot!

27

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FIG 1 - BOWLER HAT



FIG 2 - BOWLER
HAT ATOP HEAD



FIG 3 - FOOLISH BOWLER
WORN, WITHOUT STYLE, ON
"CHILDREN IN NEED" DAY

Since then of course the bowler has been a favourite for a good few years. In the film "Goldfinger" the oriental thug 'Oddjob' displayed a novel way of using ones headware as a bally weapon! Chopping off the head of a statue on a golf course if you please! I was a member of the club (by appointment, of course) at the time and I bally nearly took the brute to task. Admittedly I'd had one over the eight in the nineteenth, and I knew that it was just a movie, but darn me if the spectacle didn't get my gander up! It took five of their best men to keep me off the brute....Still, I'm rambling now.

Anyway, should you want to get you hands on a jolly old bowler you'd certainly look at treat striding down the Dunstable Road - especially if you pin a few selected favours to the ribbon. Anyhow, the wind blows westward and with it shall I go - see you soon and give the lads a throaty claxon call from yours truly. Bung ho!



*
page 29
pin-up!

Young Luton starlet David shows some sparkle on the Hatters sacred turf, helping Uncle D. (groundsman) to cut the grass!

"It's much better now with proper grass cos I can have some of it in my trailer here and show Mr. Pleat," quips the cheeky young scamp!

Absolutely.

"chirpy"

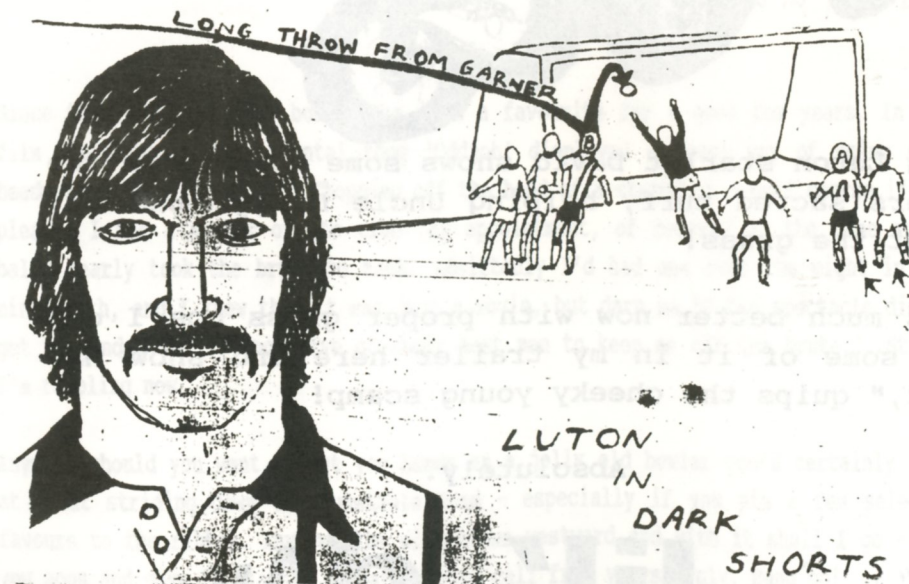
lil' dAve

The Big Drop

IN 1975

THE LAST TIME LUTON TOWN WERE RELEGATED WAS IN THE 1974/75 SEASON UNDER HARRY HASLAM. THEY WENT DOWN THE SEASON AFTER THEY WERE PROMOTED AND SWORE THAT THEY WOULD JUMP BACK UP; IT TOOK THEM SEVEN YEARS TO DO SO IN 1982. WELL, THIS SEASON LUTON ARE TIPPED FOR THE BIG DROP ONCE MORE, AND HERE IS A NOSTALGIC REVIEW OF THE POOR FORM NEEDED TO DO SO.....

Up until Christmas 1974, Luton Town had only won two of the 22 first division games. The first two points had been taken from Carlisle United who had been promoted with Luton in the previous season, and would indeed go back down with them. The second victory came on December 21st at Kenilworth Road against the Champions to be, Derby County. This, and the fact that Man. United were a second division side shows how times have changed!



The writing was on the wall according to most pundits, and Haslam told local press that he felt that Luton had got to the top too quickly. But as Luton went into the new year, the manager promised the highly cynical supporters that the Town would fight all the way. That battling effort actually hoisted Luton off the bottom for a week in January with three successive wins against Derby, Wolves and Ipswich away during December, and a home draw with Chelsea early the following year.

Luton's brighter form during the festive season carried into the new year. They drew 1-1 away at Sheffield United and beat Newcastle at Luton, but a loss Burnley, plus the form of those clubs above them kept Luton in deep trouble. Those teams that were picking up points included Leicester, the Arsenal and Spurs, West Ham and Birmingham. Chelsea were on par with Luton, and Carlisle seemed to be doomed.

The final nail in the coffin came in March 1975. Luton's form was sporadic during the beginning of the year, but three defeats in a row away at Everton (1-2), Q.P.R. (1-3) and at home to Coventry. Luton supporters had been very critical during the season, what with the lack of money at Luton and boardroom disarray; but they rallied around for the end of the season. Chartered busses ran up to Goodison Park carrying the hopeful supporters for 80p each for the night match in Liverpool. Leicester were looking very dodgy before the 3 Luton defeats, but at the same time helped themselves to 3 wins and some breathing space.

It looked all over. Haslam again refused to give up. He drew on his teams ability to fight and had the right to stay up, and the fact that Leicester, Chelsea and Spurs could as easily drop down with Carlisle. Luton still had 10 matches to play, but were now 4 points below the 3rd lowest team. They overtook Chelsea three wins in three games later. In spirited performances during March, Luton took maximum points from lowly Carlisle away (2-1), almost as lowly Arsenal at home (2-0), and Leeds United (one of the most feared teams in England) were beaten 2-1 at Kenilworth Road in front of 23,000 supporters. It suddenly looked good, with then Town on form, the fans backing them and safety in sight. League leaders Derby thumped Luton 5-0 at the Baseball ground, and Luton dropped once more to second bottom.

The stuffing was really knocked from Luton again. Wolves got revenge for the Christmas defeat, again putting 5 past Luton with rappels from Seaman and John Ryan. The crunch tie was next at White Hart Lane. Luton and Tottenham deep in trouble slogged it out in front of a large crowd, with Spurs scraping it 2-1.

The last games, played with less pressure than the whole season previous saw some of the best performances from Luton. They won three and drew one of those games,

*Town were just too bad
to be true* ➤ ➤ ➤ ➤ ➤

LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB First Division Football League SATURDAY, AUGUST 17th LUTON TOWN v LIVERPOOL Kick-off 3 pm Spectators will be able to pay at the turnstiles for the Oak Road end of the Ground at 70p (35p for children), and at the Kenilworth Road end at 50p (25p for children). All seats have been sold.	
MONDAY, 19th AUGUST MIDWEEK FOOTBALL LEAGUE Luton Res. v Northampton Res. Kick-off 7.30 p.m.	WEDNESDAY, 21st AUGUST FOOTBALL COMBINATION Luton Res. v West Ham Res. Kick-off 7.30 p.m. Admission Prices: Stand 30p, Terraces 15p

This advert for the Liverpool game (the first game of the season), shows how inflation has brought the prices of football spectating up. The crowds at Kenilworth Road were criticised even then as being small. The smallest league attendance that season was around 14,000, and often there was in excess of 20,000 people at Kenilworth Road.

including a 4-1 away win at Birmingham, and a 3-0 win over Leicester. They may well have just about stayed up but a Tuert goal for Man City in the draw took it out of Luton's hands. Luton were out of the bottom three for the last Saturday of the season, but Spurs had a home game in hand over Leeds. On the Tuesday, Tottenham overcame Leeds with class, and won 4-2. Luton were finally relegated in third from bottom place with Carlisle and Chelsea below them.

It was a very poor season for Luton, and particularly disappointing after the promotion season the year before. Haslam thought that Luton would be able to do a much better job when the bounced back next season. Luton had form, but hit it all too late, and never really grappled their way out of serious trouble. Some pointers for this season. DON'T LEAVE IT LATE LUTON!!!!

The Season So Far.....

The road to Barn-zer-lee part two

ASTON
FOOTBALL CLUB
BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIV. 1
ASTON VILLA v LUTON
T 05 OCT 1991 KO 02
WITTON LANE

ASTON VILLA 4 LUTON 0

At the scene of the Hatter's only away league win of 1991 the current team apologised in the only way they know. The first goal followed a display by clumsy Mr Butterfingers Chamberlain and the Keystone cop defence in the first five minutes. After that Luton settled, had quite a bit of the game, and in the second half were awarded a penalty for their efforts. The fact that they were 3-nil down at the time shouldn't matter. What did matter was that Gray hit the bar and shortly after Villa scored again. Well, we was unlucky and Villa go laughing up the league.

Special Report

Rumblelows Cup

BIRMINGHAM CITY 3 LUTON 2

Losing 2-0 in the midweek return to Birmingham Luton did a curious thing through Phil Gray and found themselves at 2-2 and, seemingly, gaining control. Could anyone on that windswept Luton terrace believe it? Why can say. It didn't matter anyway because, with extra time looming and school in the morning, Birmingham grabbed an injury time winner. Hard luck on Luton - any other sort of luck is not as yet available to us.

LOOKING BETTER

LUTON 2 SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 2

The return of the broken hearted to Kenilworth Road for a game that we really should have won but, surprisingly enough, didn't. It started off looking good when Micky Harford put the Town ahead only for us to suffer an equaliser later on. Later on still, in went the Earl to score a goal that should have won it. However a last minute goal made sure that eyes stayed dry on the Oak Road - a fabulous free kick that looked like it was already in slow-mo. Lots of time added on for stoppages in which we might have won. Didn't though.

oh so

PREDICTABLE

NORWICH CITY 1 LUTON 0

The highlight of this excursion was the pub round the back of the away end which was packed to the rafters with Luton fans a'singing songs and a'swiggling beer. Unfortunately we got the wrong idea at five to three and decided to go to the football instead. Alec Chamberlain had a corker of a match but one doubts even he enjoyed it. The nearest any Luton players got to scoring a goal was with one of the many back-passes to Mr C. A day noted more for rugby and the fact that the Norwich police consider a cup of tea to be an offensive weapon.

looking

crap

LUTON 0 EVERTON 1

Highpoint of this match was seeing Everton come out in the Luton away kit like Newcastle did some years ago (and I believe Peter Beardsley played then as well - not to mention Gazza). Lowpoint of the match was the rest unless you were watching from the Everton end which wouldn't have filled a taxi let alone the Oak Road. One wonders when we'll see a team winning whilst wearing that kit?

SPOT THE BALL.

SPURS 4 LUTON 1

Try telling anyone who wasn't there that we were unlucky and they'll laugh in your face. Honest though, it's true. Mick Harford gave us a Stein assisted half-time lead which had the Luton end singing there way to (and in) the lavs at the break. Second-half, doing well, then the infamous floodlight incident - the lights went out and so did any hope for Luton. So, we go bottom of the table. Anyone got that Yazz record for Saturday?



TOP GAME

LUTON 2 MANCHESTER CITY 2

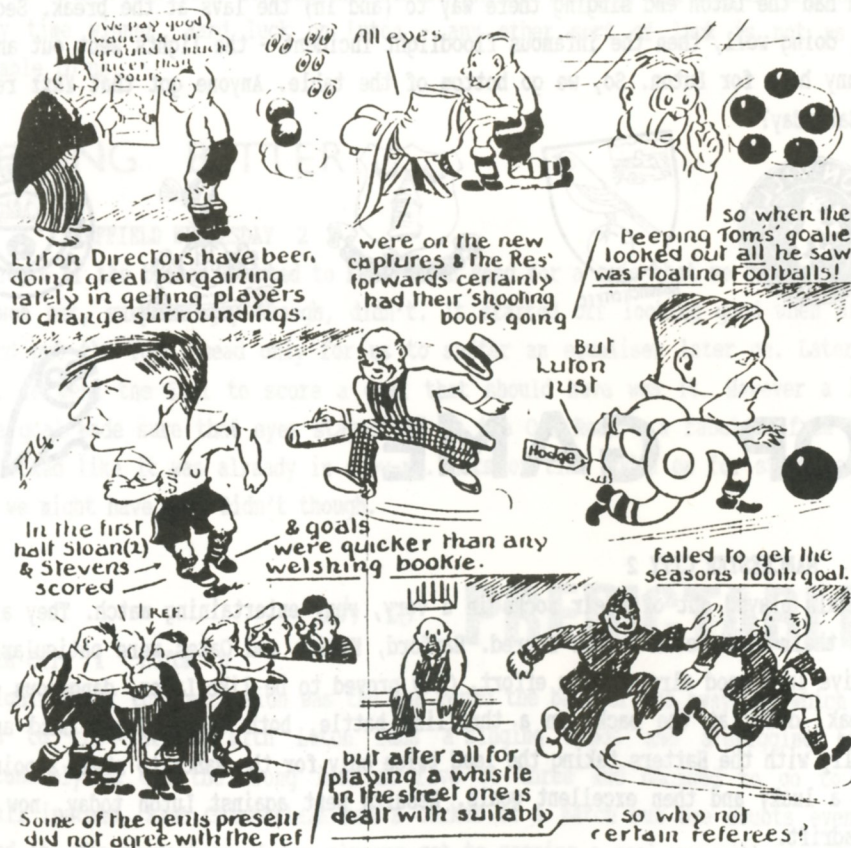
Luton again played out of their socks in a very, very entertaining match. They all gave it their best; even Dreyer scored. Harford, Kamara and Oakes were particularly impressive in a good alround team effort. City proved to be like Luton, dangerous on the break, dodgy at the back. In a thrilling battle, both teams played hard and skillfully with the Hatters taking the lead twice only for the Mancs to steal a point through a lucky and then excellent goals. Results went against Luton today, now 4 points adrift.



Luton matches have been reported on in various ways, and drawings of goings on in Kenilworth Road in local press has featured throughout the history of the club.

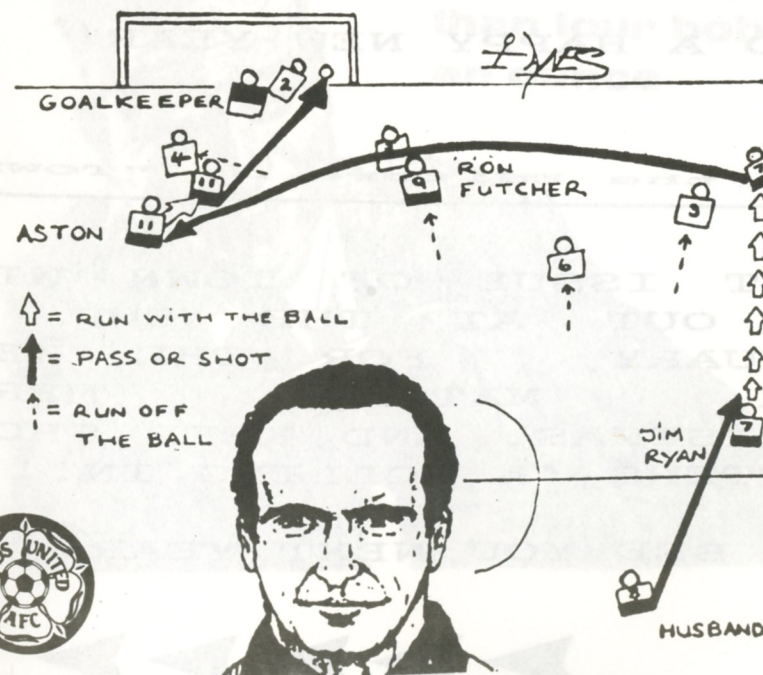
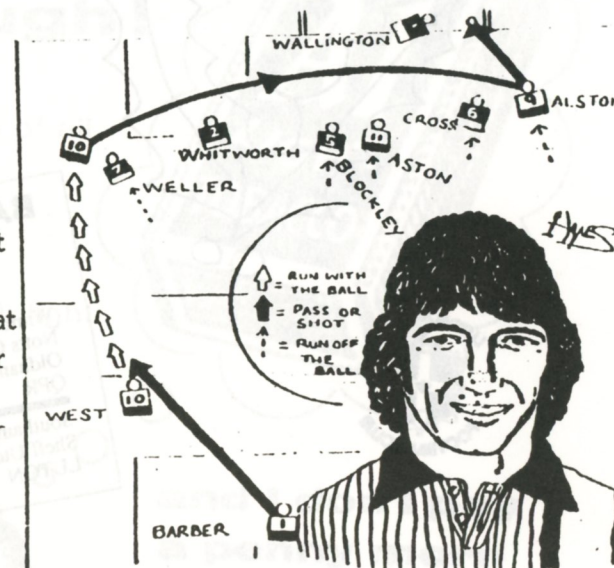
In 1936, the same Easter weekend that Payne scored his record breaking 10 goals, Luton Reserves played and won a game against Coventry City. All Reserve games were depicted in this way at that time, better and more inspired coverage than the team gets today! So this is a taste of that coverage. Quite what the score was, and what the artist was getting at is hard to see, but the comments and pictures are great!

Luton Reserves Strafe Coventry



Luton's return to Division One in the 70's caught the imagination of Paul Haynes who would regularly depict a Hatters goal in great detail, and include a portrait of the goalscorer. These were shown in the Luton News at the time, and as well as these below, more can be seen in our feature on that 1974-75 season elsewhere in the magazine.

This shows Alston's goal against Leicester City which Luton won 3-0, and below is a Luton goal at Kenilworth Rd. in a 2-1 win over Leeds Utd.



MERRY CHRISTMAS



**BARCLAYS LEAGUE
DIVISION ONE**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wimbledon	16	5	3	8	22	24	18
Notts County	16	5	3	8	19	26	18
Oldham	15	4	4	7	20	23	16
QPR	16	3	6	7	14	23	15
Southampton	16	3	4	9	13	26	13
Sheff Utd	16	3	3	10	22	33	12
LUTON	16	2	4	10	9	35	10

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

from the Editors of "TOWN"

NEXT ISSUE OF TOWN WILL
BE OUT AT THE END OF
JANUARY, FOR THE WEST
HAM MATCH. MERRY
CHRISTMAS, AND KEEP THOSE
LETTERS 'A ROLLING IN!!!!

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

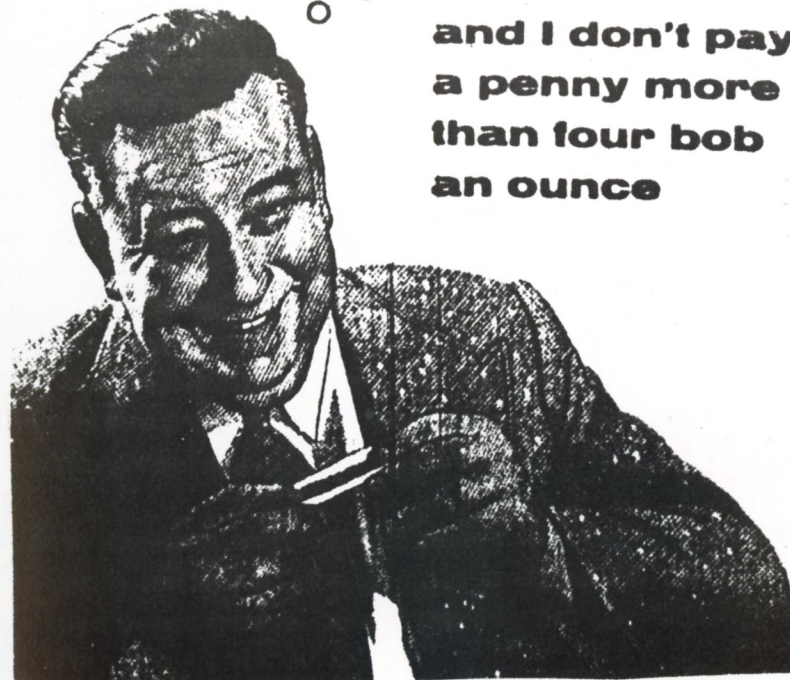


**I've got
to laugh!**

When I think of all
the fresher,
smoother
cigarettes
I roll with A.1. light



**and I don't pay
a penny more
than four bob
an ounce**





TOWN MAGAZINE

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