

Luton directors quit as far-fetched merger is mooted

Mystery owners raise prospect of Wimbledon link

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Two directors of Luton Town, including the fans' representative on the board, resigned yesterday in protest at the uncertainty surrounding the club. Their decision came on the day the man who may or may not be the new owner of the club raised the far-fetched possibility of Luton merging with Wimbledon.

John Gurney, who while at Farnborough Town in 1999 was arrested and remanded in Winchester prison on a charge of conspiracy to import cocaine, arrived at Kenilworth Road three weeks ago. Cleared of the charge, he is the public face of an otherwise mysterious consortium of "businessmen" from as far afield as Hong Kong and the United States.

Their failure to identify themselves fully, or to produce documentation that proves they have bought Luton Town, has caused huge confusion and acrimony.

Sacking the manager Joe Kinnear and his assistant Mick Harford via a third party called Peter Miller, then offering Harford his job back because of the level of fans' protests, added derision to the anger of disenchanted supporters. Yesterday's idea to take over Wimbledon, who went into administration last Friday, will bring more of both.

"Should we buy them, merge them with Luton and play at Luton, effectively buying a back door to Division One?" Gurney asked of Wimbledon on Luton's website. "We will approach the administrator [of Wimbledon] to find out the terms, because it does no harm to ask the question."