

LUTON SLIP UP

CREWE 2, LUTON 0

CREWE mastered the frozen pitch and skidded to a much-needed win.

For both sides, self-preservation and not glory was the golden rule as minor casualties piled up.

Leigh, Crewe's skipper, was injured twice and Mailey was knocked out as he leaped from his goal in the closing stages to make a spectacular save from Whittaker.

Crewe, unsure early on grabbed two vital goals in ten minutes. Wheatley laid on the first for new boy Sandiford, who then set one up for Wheatley.

Luton's forwards were rapped by the fans for tough play as they tried in vain to crack Crewe's formidable defence.

Rivers was a tower of strength in Luton's defence, which was busy keeping a watch on Crewe's forwards, who improved as the game went on.

CREWE: Mailey 7; Marshall 5, Leigh 7; Bradshaw 6, Barnes 6, *BODELL 8; Gowans 6, Kane 6, Sandiford 7, Wheatley 6, Matthews 6.

LUTON TOWN: Tinsley 6; Riddick 5, Jardine 5; Reid 6, *RIVERS 8, Moore 5; French 7, Read 6, O'Rourke 6, Rioch 7, Whittaker 6.

Referee: H. Richards (Oldham) 7.