



Mike Keen's left foot follows through and the ball flashes into the net past grounded Crewe 'keeper Mailey — but the goal was disallowed with Brian Lewis offside. Looking on are Luton's scorers, Alan Slough and Keith Allen

Watford date—April 30

LUTON TOWN secretary Bob Readhead has engineered a tremendous climax to the season by re-arranging the home fixtures against fellow promotion-seekers Stockport County and Watford as the last two games of the season.

For the first time in their history Luton are to play a game on a Friday evening. They will meet Stockport on Friday, April 25 — the eve of The Cup Final. Five days later, on Wednes-

day, April 30, Luton play their great local rivals, Watford.

This could quite conceivably be a promotion clincher and if everything hinges on the result there would certainly be an all-time record for a Kenilworth Road game.

The Friday game should also create a lot of interest as the public will be "soccer conscious" with the Cup Final at Wembley and on television the following day.

Luton's only other outstanding fixture, away to Bristol Rovers, is to be played on Monday, March 31.

Town's victory keeps them in the hunt

LUTON TOWN duly picked up two points and closed the gap at the top of the Third Division when they beat Crewe 2-0 at Kenilworth Road last night. But their performance was well below the form needed to carry Luton into Division Two.

To be fair to Luton they were given little chance to play football by a Crewe side that seemed intent on playing for a draw until conceding a goal and then keeping the score as low as possible.

Crewe's intentions were made clear before the kick off when they selected defender Mick Gannon on the left wing and immediately pulled him and his opposite flanker, Don Ratcliffe, back as extra defenders.

Rather than allow Luton the chance of creating openings the massed red-shirted Crewe defence conceded corners and free kicks like confetti.

Hit post

It was 15 minutes before the perplexed Luton players began to find chinks in the armour when, following a Keen-Moore-Allen link-up, Alan Slough crashed a drive against an upright, and from the rebound Freddie Jardine just failed to get enough power behind his shot to trouble Willie Mailey in the Crewe goal.

Two minutes later another Slough shot was charged down, Jardine chipped the ball back into the middle for Keen to chest down and score but referee Tom Lockett of Worcester disallowed the goal with Lewis lying injured in an off-side position.

Now that Luton had found a way through it looked as though the floodgates would be opened, with most of the play centred in the packed Crewe penalty area.

During this period skipper Terry Branstons was almost an extra forward, up for every dead ball kick and twice going close, heading a Dougan cross inches over the bar and then seeing a shot bounce off Mailey's knee.

The patient crowd, entertained by the goalmouth scrambles rather than the class of football, were rewarded with the long-awaited goal as the first half limped towards injury time.

It was a goal worth waiting for. Keen won the ball in mid-field and moved it on to Allen. The centre-forward screened it beautifully before laying it off for Alan Slough to burst

Luton 2 Crewe 0
By BOB HARRIS

through and crack a right foot shot high into the top corner.

This goal, we thought, must change the pattern of the match and force the visitors to come forward a little more. Sure enough, in the opening minute of the second period, a gaping hole in the Crewe rearguard allowed Keen to put Dougan through, but the full back seemed so surprised at his unexpected opportunity that he

NOT A WORD OUT OF PLACE!

A PAT on the back for the Oak Road-enders! After the appeals for good behaviour and the demand that the bad language should be cut out, the supporters responded excellently last night.

Although there were many frustrating moments that could have sparked a foul-mouthed chant or two not a word was heard that was out of place.

In fact the songs and chants that were sung were impeccable. They were good-natured and encouraging and were in refreshing contrast to the filth that sullied the air of Kenilworth-Road last week.

If the youngsters behind the Oak Road goal can keep that up they will soon be able to sing: "We're the best behaved supporters in the land!"

Keep it up!

hurried his shot, allowing Mailey to save.

Unfortunately this bright start was not maintained and although Crewe were showing a little more imagination play was too staccato, with both sides showing good football only in brief flashes.

Luton, however, always looked likely to increase their lead, if only due to their mid-field superiority gained through the delicacy of Keen and the thrust and drive of Slough.

The second goal came nine minutes from time following another period of intense Luton pressure. Again the tireless Keith Allen played a major part in it as well as providing the final touch.

The Crewe defence was caught square when Lewis nipped in between two defenders to latch on to a sloppy pass. A quick interchange of

passing between Lewis and Allen left Lewis with a chance. His shot clipped the goalkeeper and bounced up for Allen to nod the ball into the unguarded net.

The physical nature of the Crewe tackling threatened referee Lockett's authority but he stamped on the trouble quickly by taking Gannon's name after a foul on French in the first half and then booking Ratcliffe and French after a scuffle ten minutes from the end.

Sandy Davie in the Luton goal was rarely troubled. He was given fine protection by his full backs Max Dougan and Jack Bannister. Former Crystal Palace wing half Bannister has slotted perfectly into the left back spot, doing his job quietly and efficiently.

The middle of the park belonged to Slough and Keen, though the latter lost a little of his impetus in the second half. It was up front that Luton lacked power and Sheffield must surely come into the reckoning for a place at Oldham on Saturday.

All four Luton front runners ran their hearts out, but with French seeing little of the ball and Jardine being well policed by Crewe's best player, Tommy Lowry, a lot of sharpness was missing.

After the game Luton manager Alec Stock said: "The game was nothing to shout about. We took two points but we are not going to crow about it."

"Crewe made it very difficult for us by pulling both wingers back, but we lacked rhythm. I am not going to kick anyone around but I shall have a few things to say to the players."

Luton's only injury worry last night was Mike Keen, with a sore ankle, but Mr Stock said that the former QPR stalwart should be available for selection on Saturday. Teams.

LUTON: Davie; Dougan, Bannister; Slough, Branstons, Moore; French, Keen, Allen, Lewis, Jardine. Sub: Sheffield.

CREWE: Mailey; Lowry, Leigh; Stott, Barnes, Gater; Ratcliffe, McHale, Hollett, Tarbuck, Gannon. Sub: Curley.