

Goal-hungry Town end that Southport run

By **ROGER DUCKWORTH**
Southport 0 Luton Town 3

LUTON's man of the moment, Malcolm Macdonald, scored the Town's first goal and laid on the second at Southport last night to restore the club's lead at the top of the Third Division — a lead that had been surreptitiously borrowed for a night by Barnsley, who won at Tranmere on Monday.

And one of the other newcomers, Chris Nicholl, scored his first Luton goal as the Town rubbed in a second half superiority — and rubbed out Southport's home record of 23 unbeaten matches.

The only time Luton looked pushed was for 15 minutes before the interval, and then they had a golden patch of luck.

It took some bravery by Sandy Davie and two fine interventions by Alan Slough, as well as some bad Southport finishing, to see the hard times through.

The first half was a bit lifeless. But at Southport they politely clap the teams off at half time — whatever the entertainment value.

Not that conditions were good. Far from it. There were some peculiar defensive slips on account of the wet grass, and the heavy atmosphere made many passes 'bend' like the work of a seam bowler in cricket.

The first half hour belonged to Luton. With Keen, Slough and Collins operating well in midfield, Macdonald, Slough and Dougan all had good attempts at goal.

Cool, calm

Even if sometimes it was an 'in each others way' affair, Luton looked cool, calm and collected as they more than matched the sea-siders for pace and ideas. They are worthy leaders of the division.

In the second half they showed the Lancastrians what you have to do to be top. After a brief Southport raid the Town settled down to show why they are the most feared side in their class.

French got the hang of Pearson and it took three defenders on occasion to hold him. When French begins to buzz there's usually a goal around the corner.

In the 56th minute the winger put a high one over for Macdonald to head down to Keen — but for some reason the wing half blinded the ball over the top from six yards.

Afterwards, as if in atone-



MACDONALD



FRENCH



NICHOLL

DIVISION THREE — TOP FIVE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
LUTON TOWN	8	6	2	0	18	4	14
Barnsley	8	6	1	1	14	8	13
Torquay	8	6	0	2	18	7	12
Brighton	8	4	3	1	11	6	11
Orient	8	4	3	1	11	6	11

ment, Keen worked through the middle with grim determination and slipped a neat pass to Macdonald who stretched the net from 18 yards — with his right foot.

Mac's eighth

It was Mac's eighth goal of the season, and one of his best. The ball was in the net less than 60 seconds after Keen's miss. That's the way to make up for misses!

Matt Tees had his best game so far, and had a rare old tussle with the burly Harrison. There

was a lot of pulling, shoving and niggling, and Tees just about got the best of it.

He combined well with Macdonald, who shone with his high-speed distribution and aggression. Macdonald looked as if he was going to score from the start.

In the 71st minute he sent French away on his own with a lovely pass and the winger shot into the net under the body of goalkeeper Wraith, who did not dive quickly enough.

Torpedoed

Luton take some stopping when they are ahead, and by this time it was clear they were going to score their biggest away win for a couple of seasons — even when Bannister had to make a goal-line stop to an Alty shot with Davie beaten.

With six minutes to go Tees torpedoed himself at a French cross and missed scoring by the barest fraction.

But two minutes later Nicholl rounded off a brilliant display when he nodded in a Keen centre following a French corner.

The entire Luton defence was superb. And it would be wrong to single out anyone for

Last night's win at Southport will increase the enthusiasm of fans thinking about travelling to Sheffield for Luton's League Cup-tie against United next Tuesday.

Tickets for the special train can be purchased from the Luton Town Sports Club, 231 Dunstable Road, and they cost 25s each. The train leaves Luton at 3.40, reaches Sheffield at 6.06, and is due back in Luton at 12.23.

It will leave Sheffield at 10pm. Incidentally, the kick-off time on Tuesday has been put back to 7.45 so there will not be a lot of time for celebrating before the train goes.

special praise. Dougan and Bannister blotted out the threat from the touch lines; and others commanded the middle.

Keith Allen had another outstanding game and was evident throughout for his hard work. He worked well with Collins, who also had a happy night.

For Southport, Field and Alex Russell were the biggest threats. But the Southport fans don't appreciate losing 3-0 at home and the ground, far from full at the start, was almost empty by the final whistle.

As I said, they are polite at Southport. They don't throw toilet rolls to show their dissatisfaction. They just go home — quietly.

And it's a much more effective gesture of disapproval.

Southport: Wraith; Pearson, Alty; Peat, Harrison, Clarke; McCarthy, Field, Andrews, Russell (A). Pring. Sub: Groves.

Luton Town: Davie; Dougan, Bannister; Keen, Nicholl, Slough; Collins, Macdonald, Tees, Allen, French. Sub: Sheffield.

Referee: Mr A. Green (Sheffield)

Attendance: 4,003.

69/70