

Goal-less draw earns promotion point



THE tension explodes with the champagne corks in the Luton dressing room. All the delight of promotion is captured in Tony Maddell's picture. From left to right: Chairman, Mr Tony Hunt, Mr Len Hawkins (director), Reg Game (trainer), John Collins, Keith Allen, Terry Branston, Mike Keen, Viv Busby, Sandy Davie. And at the back (left to right) are: Tony Read, Alan Slough, Malcolm Macdonald, John Ryan and Jackie Bannister.

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A CHAMPAGNE NIGHT

QUOTES

ALEC STOCK (manager)

"It's great, mate. We must give a big 'well played' to our coach Jimmy Andrews. He's taken all the training and all the tactics. Let's give him a fair crack of the whip."

MIKE KEEN (skipper)

"It's hard to take in. It must have been awful to suffer, but we've won promotion. We went through a bad patch earlier in the season, but we pulled out of it in time. The lads have done a great job."

TONY HUNT (chairman)

"We have done what we set out to achieve. And we have done it under a bit of stress. Tomorrow we hope someone big plans for the future concerning alterations and new stands at Luton."

ERIC MORECAMBE (director)

"I think that as much as anything else, it was fitness that had a big say in it. Our fitness is finer than the others."

JIMMY ANDREWS (coach)

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By ROGER DUCKWORTH

THAT VOLUBLE THRO Tony Hunt, Alec Stock and Eric Morecambe led Luton Town's triumphant footballers in song and champagne last night after the Hatters had secured their return to Division Two. The chairman, the manager and the new director set the corks popping seconds after the final whistle at Mansfield, and continued the celebrations as the team's coach sped home down the Motorway.

It was a memorable night for the players, the officials and the hundreds of Luton fans who travelled to the Midlands to cheer Luton to promotion.

The only thing worth forgetting of the whole night was the football. It was abominable. Horrible. Seton football is known in the country this morning will shame Luton for their tactics.

Luton forgot all about attack and defence. They packed their defence unashamedly oblivious to the chants of 'shame' and 'kicking' from the Mansfield fans.

Unsavory

For once it seemed these tactics. There would have been no future at all in waking up this morning and saying, 'Well, we played some seton football - what a pity we were.' There was no unsavory job that had to be done as professionally as possible. It was there were some brief efforts set up by Luton early on when the light landed but they were not enough.

The highlight of their attack was a magnificent shot by French. It came after 12 minutes when the ball was swung between two seton defenders, pulled over the top of goalposts and belted a driving drive against the far post.

Earlier still, Macdonald had used his speed to chase a long pass back from Read that swung awkwardly in the wind. He kicked the ball on to his champion foot, the left, but goalkeeper Brown made a good diving catch.

That was about the extent of Luton's scoring aspirations.

Fast and flighty

The fast back and relied on the big foot. At times the latter defence looked as if they as the occasion, and Mansfield tried forward in an effort to beat the system. But it failed.

The match was fast and flighty, but Luton's forwards were forced further and further back. Luton began with kick and rush - and ended with back and back.

Luton cannot be blamed. They were playing to orders, but the hearts of those with Luton aspirations must have fluttered no more than our own.

MATCH DETAILS

LUTON TOWN: Read, Ryan, Bannister, Keen, Branston, Moore, Slough, Busby, Macdonald, Allen, French, John Collins.
MANSFIELD: Brown, Pate, Walker, Quigley, Hoar, Valler, McKenzie, Simson, Jones, Roberts, Goodfellow, Sub-Sharkey.
Attendance 14,361.
Referee Mr A. P. Oliver (Leigh-on-Sea).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Orient	44	24	12	8	65	34	10
Luton	45	22	14	9	75	42	26
Bristol R	46	20	16	10	80	59	26
Fulham	45	20	15	10	81	54	53
Brighton	46	23	9	14	57	42	53
Barnsley	46	19	15	12	68	59	53

Notes: Brian Clough and Matt Green, to mill over as they watch home.

Love and hate

But what the fans. Luton have won promotion - even if it meant finding much like seton players.

The Luton fans loved it. The Mansfield fans hated it - and called it a low, narrow, the path like the others of seton players.

On the field there was a certain, very dangerous among the two players it was to be.

Goalkeeper Tony Read fumbled a square of time, and Keen and Allen sent him to the south with their backs to the goal. He was not to be surprised. He was not to be surprised. He was not to be surprised.

Macdonald ran willingly when the opportunity arose, and French found the going hard.

again on an angry Mansfield defence.

What a relief when referee A. P. Oliver blew the final whistle. Luton fans celebrated the job, shouting 'We've done it, we've done it!'

What football there was, especially on Mansfield, but they spread. Luton's tactics were simple on football. Roberts came close with a first half flick from a corner, but for most of the time Luton kept their feet at bay. The ball spent most of the night above stand level. And, you can't say football when it was there.

It's only a pity that with so many matches remaining, Luton will not be able to do a lap of honour for their fans. But it would not be surprising if the team were to be promoted on Saturday, when the fans expect to have 1,200 following.



MANAGER Alec Stock (right), coach Jimmy Andrews (centre) and trainer Reg Game mirror the tension of last night's occasion on their faces as they wait for the final whistle.

EE-AI-ADDIO LUTON GO UP!

Congratulations to Luton Town on their promotion to Division Two soccer.

To mark this great achievement the Evening Post is publishing in tomorrow's paper a great 12-page souvenir. Don't miss it.

Details of how to order extra copies for yourselves or friends and relatives abroad appear on Page Two. But please act quickly.

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Division Two here we come. Luton's team coach rocks to a triumphant cheer

LUTON TOWN'S loyal fans invaded the pitch at Mansfield last night chanting, "Ee ai addio, we're going up," as the Hatters won their way back into Division Two after a break of seven years.

And they hope it is not a case of the seven year itch — they plan to be back in the First Division a bit before 1977.

Club chairman Mr Tony Hunt, busy popping champagne corks at the promotion binge after the match, hinted at big things to come at Kenilworth Road next season.

But for the time being the focus is the players, directors

and staff were just happy that the point won last night had put them back where they belong. The essential business of soccer playing behind them they set about a celebration binge that lasted all the way home on the team coach.

Magic

Then the secret of how Town clinched promotion was divulged — by Eric Morecambe, the club's newest director.

"It's the Morecambe magic — it's made Ernie what he is today. It's wonderful, just great."

Mr Hunt said: "We have done what we set out to achieve. And we have done it under a bit of stress."

"Tomorrow we hope to announce big plans for the future concerning alterations and new stands at Luton."

Last night the club received a telegram from Mr Will Howie, Luton's MP.

The telegram read: "Congratulations on promotion. Best wishes for Division Two. What next?"

Today they and the whole town was flying high on the soccer success.

Luton's Mayor Alderman John Macdonald, a former season ticket holder, is thinking of throwing a party for the team. And Mrs Shirley Lester, the wife of former Mayor Frank Lester, a devoted fan and a season ticket holder, couldn't go to bed last night till she'd heard the result.

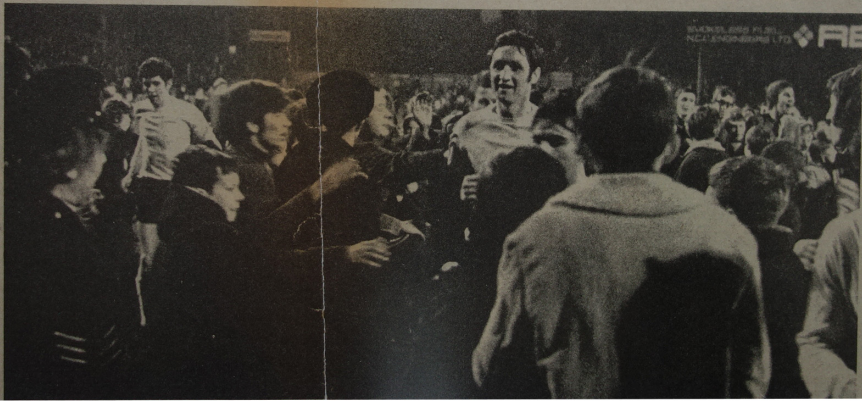
Prestige

Chamber of Commerce Secretary Mr Hedley Gore said today that promotion was "good for the town and good for trade." A great prestige booster was his verdict.

SECOND DIVISION

20.4.70
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Happy Luton clinch it at Mansfield



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