

GOING UP

69/70

That's Luton with slight apologies from Alec Stock

THE hottest Division Three promotion scramble in many years came to a frantic conclusion last night—with **ORIENT** virtually making sure of going up as champions, and **LUTON TOWN** joining them with slight apologies from their manager Alec Stock.

Why the apologies? Well, Stock took his side to Mansfield needing only one point to make sure of promotion.

So he did the most natural thing in the world. He ordered his boys to play it safe . . . really safe. And they did.

One hint of danger and they didn't bother to ask questions. They booted the ball away . . . anywhere, even on one occasion out of the ground.

It wasn't pretty football. But it worked. Mansfield never got a clear-cut scoring chance, and in break-outs Luton's top scorer, Malcolm Macdonald, might have given them a lead once, and twice went desperately close to ending the torment with first a header and then a fierce drive.

Manager Stock, the man who took Queen's Park Rangers from the Third to the First Division and went within four points of getting Luton up last season, said later: "We apologise a bit for the game, but we came for only one reason—to get a point.

"I am now going home to sleep for a week. It has been what is commonly known as a long, hard struggle."