Two reasons why Shilton plays for England

Leicester goalkeeper Peter Shilton showed his England class at Luton yesterday. In the picture above he gets behind a shot from Peter Anderson with Viv Busby (8) looking on. Below he soars above Jimmy Ryan to punch clear.

ALEC STOCK CONCEDES: THAT'S IT

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Luton Town 1 Leicester City 3

WELL, IT WAS a good try. You can bet your next season ticket against an old newspaper cutting that Luton are still in the Second Division next campaign. Even manager Alec Stock admits defeat for his once so ambitious promotion push.

By ROGER DUCKWORTH

WELL DONE, MIKE

MIKE KEEN, the Luton skipper, played his 500th League match yesterday. And before the match against Leicester he was presented with an inscribed silver salver by Mr Len Shipman, president of the FA.

Mr Shipman, who is a director of Leicester City, also made a presentation to Joe Payne, who 35 years ago yesterday, scored his record shattering 10 goals against Bristol Rovers at Kenilworth Road.

Joe was made a life vice-president of the club and an honorary member of the club for next season.

Match details

Luton: Read; John Ryan, Slough, Givens, Nicholl, Moore, Jimmy Ryan (Bannister 72 min), Busby, Macdonald, Keen, Anderson.

Leicester City: Shilton; Whitworth, Nish, Manley (Stringfellow 80 min), Sjoberg, Cross, Farrington, Fern, Brown, Carlin, Partridge.

Goals: Sjoberg own goal (Luton) 2 min, Manley (Leicester) 37 min, Farrington (Leicester) 61 min, Brown (Leicester) 65 min.

Attendance: 24,485.

After yesterday's thrashing by polished Leicester, the Luton boss admitted: "There comes a time when you have to concede."

How right he is. Luton put up a pathetic Easter show, losing all three of their Bank Holiday matches.

And the defence that was once the best in the division collapsed and let in ten Easter goals.

Now Luton can sit back and work out why they were so outclassed over the weekend — especially yesterday by Leicester — and plan for next season.

Already reserve goalkeeper Keith Barber and defender Ken Goodeve figure in Mr Stock's plans for the weekend. Last night he indicated that he is likely to replace Read, who has not had a good Easter, and that there could be a place for the young centre-half.

Miracle

But Mr Stock pointed out that while experiments were necessary, he did not want to demoralise a side that has done well for him for most of the season. "You don't want to break down what it has taken a long time to build," he said.

Of course Luton could still go up, but it would take a miracle. Everyone else would have to lose all their matches and Luton win their last five. It's not on.

Even the gift of an own goal in the second minute by Leicester could not lift Luton. For half an hour they played well, but squandered their best chances. Anderson, Busby and Macdonald, twice all went close.

Then Read failed to clear a corner and Manley headed in Leicester's equaliser. They then proceeded to toy with Luton's ponderous defence with some of the best high powered football seen at Luton this season.

Luton's build-up was sloppy compared with the controlled football of Leicester. They must get out of the habit of flapping high passes about on a lively pitch. Luton were never given the chance to control the high-bouncing ball.

But they should have gone ahead again after an hour when a long throw by Macdonald presented Anderson with a glorious chance. With scant regard for the seriousness of the situation he tapped the ball tamely at Shilton who could scarcely believe his fortune.

The ball went straight back to the other end and Farrington smashed home a Carlin free-kick. Alistair Brown collected the third three minutes later after a Nicholl mistake. The Luton centre-half had a poor match, but I believe he was not fully fit. He missed the Millwall match and was brought back as a panic measure before he had recovered properly from his foot injury.

Misfired

Even though they were receiving a bit of a run-around, Macdonald managed to get into a scoring position twice more, but he misfired each time.

Luton had made changes from the previous day's poor show at Millwall by dropping Court and Roy after just one match, and moving Bannister to sub. But the return of Nicholl, Anderson and Givens failed to make the desired difference.

Leicester were without Glover and Kellard, but Partridge and Farrington both had fine matches.

It's difficult to name Luton's man of the match. They didn't really have one. The title for the game must go to Rodney Fern who ripped Luton's hesitant defence into little bits. They had no answer to him — not even John Ryan, who was the best of the back four. When Fern moved to the left late in the game he gave Ryan a bit of a roasting.

Luton have let promotion slip away from them. The pressure has paid its toll. But Luton must be congratulated for a good season.

It was their first go at the Second Division, and with a young team they have excited the crowd for most of the campaign. Nobody can say they have not done well. It was always a worry than even bet their inexperience would let them down in the end. It did. Mr Stock must now look to next season.