



CHAMPAGNE flowed last night as Luton Town celebrated their return to the First Division.

And for director Eric Morecambe, Luton's favourite comic, the champagne bubbles mixed with soap bubbles when the players jokingly threw him into the bath.

Pubs were deserted and cinemas half-full as 20,250 fans packed Kenilworth Road to salute their heroes.

The Hatters went down 3-4 in their final game of the season, to last year's FA Cup winners, Sunderland.

But not even that could deter Luton's chanting, singing fans.

After the game they streamed on to the pitch in their hundreds. And Luton manager Harry Haslam spoke to them from the directors box, surrounded by his happy players.

"You're the best supporters in Britain. And I want to thank each and every one of you for the magnificent way you have followed us all season," he said.

"Next season we will have a chance to consolidate our position in Division One. Just wait until we get hold of Liverpool!"

At the beginning of the match the Luton players were applauded on to the pitch by the Sunderland side. They then went to each corner of the pitch and gave bouquets of flowers to the crowds amid cries of "Ee-aye-addio, we're going up."

Fortunately there was no repeat of the crowd scenes which marred Luton's last home game with Millwall. The surging Oak Road end did spill on to the pitch once or twice and several youngsters were given first-aid treatment.

But there was no repeat of the

chaos of the Millwall game, when a crash barrier buckled.

But police reported that four youths were arrested during the match. Three are to be charged with possessing offensive weapons and one for causing damage.

Luton Town secretary Mr Bob Redhead said today: "A few people at the Oak Road end were treated for minor injuries after spilling onto the pitch. Everyone was so happy that a few toes were trodden on.

■ **Hail the conquering heroes** — pictures on page 11.

■ **A night to remember** — Back page.

73/74