

# LUTON FACING

QPR 2 Luton 1  
By ROGER DUCKWORTH

AS The Walrus said to the Carpenter: "The time has come . . ." The time to assess Luton's position in terms of points gleaned against matches left.

And if you have Luton at heart, it doesn't make very good reading. To be honest, I can't share manager Harry Haslam's out and out confidence that Luton will escape the dreaded drop.

I want to. Life is good in the First Division. It's the difference between a country house on the Thames and a back street two up-two down.

Harry's argument is Luton still have to play most of the other clubs who are struggling. Sure they have, but are Arsenal and Leicester going to be easy to beat at Luton? Are Luton going to find it easy at Carlisle, Tottenham and Birmingham?

I think not. Not that the Luton boss would expect it to

be easy. He knows every match is damned hard. Yet he looks at the last quarter of the programme with confidence.

You've got to admire him for that. I would share his self assurance if we were talking three weeks ago when Luton were riding high and playing some great football.

But they seem to have gone a bit off the boil. That bubbling, effervescent arrogance seems to have been dulled by a couple of bad results.

## Difficult

In one rip-roaring spell stretching from the week before Christmas to the last week in February, the Town raided 11 points from a possible 16. That was escape form.

But one point from the last six available looks to have made their position as difficult to get out of as Colditz.

At QPR on Saturday, they played some good stuff, but in short spells. Rangers had more of the ball and, consequently, more of the good football.

For 20 minutes they were all over Luton, and had former Hatter Don Givens not miskicked from about four yards, I think the result would have been decided earlier.

Then there was a header from Gillard which John Ryan somehow managed to head onto the bar from whence it cannoned into the loving arms of goalkeeper Horn.

But the Luton defence held out. Faulkner took no nonsense from Bowles, and Paul Futchler played with his usual self-assurance alongside him.

Both Buckley and John Ryan continued their good form to give the defence a solid look.

# RELEGATION

|    |                                     |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 1  | 22P-P0 Ceanu Mor (S Fowkes) A       |
| 2  | 3/0 Collinberry (W Kydd) W K        |
| 3  | Copper Beacon (R Patten)            |
| 10 | P00-Lammias (Mrs M Maslen)          |
| 12 | 24P202 Mexican Frolic (C Davenport) |
| 13 | U Mitilal (Mrs K Ivory) K Iv        |
| 14 | P4400F-Petulenfro (Mrs K Ivory)     |
| 16 | 0334P/U-Protest Marcher (Miss V L)  |
| 17 | 00000-0 Silvertown (P Simms) P G    |
| 18 | 000-040 Sky High (FR) (Mrs P Mit)   |
| 19 | 000-P4 Sonario (H Barron) E Mc      |
| 21 | Rainbows Edge (W Kydd)              |

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