



Football in the snow. Chelsea's Ray Wilkins (right) takes the ball past Paul Futchner at Luton last night, but Futchner and Luton had the last laugh.

Luton crash four past Chelsea

By A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Luton ... 4 Chelsea ... 0 76/77

LUTON, lifted by a first-minute goal, toyed with heavy-footed Chelsea on the snowfield of Kenilworth Road last night, making the Second Division leaders look mediocre with a sparkling display of speed and balance.

Victory could have been even more decisive, had Luton made the best of their chances; but their masterful soccer utterly vindicated the play-on decision earlier in the day by Clive White, the Harrow referee.

While Chelsea skidded and blundered, Luton played with grace and aggression, working hard for each other and really getting to grips with the conditions.

Uncertain defence

Fuccillo gave Luton the start they needed, and Graham Wilkins also cleared off the line before Chambers grabbed Luton's second goal in the 12th minute.

Phillips, in the Chelsea goal looked unsure and the visiting defence were slow to react as Luton surged forward through

midfield pressure by Husband, Fuccillo and West.

Chelsea were hardly in it in the first half, though Ray Wilkins, their best player, put a dangerous shot over the crossbar.

Husband beat Phillips in the 58th minute to put Chelsea completely down and out, and Buckley's penalty, two minutes from time, served only as a further boost to Luton's confidence for clashes to come.

Buckley and Price at full-back, and England Under-21 star Paul Futchner starred for Luton, but this was a team performance to give their supporters high hopes for a happy new year.

On this showing, they have more to look forward to than Chelsea, who looked pedestrian by comparison in difficult conditions.

Luton.—Aleksie; Price, Buckley, Chambers, Faulkner, P. Futchner, Husband, West, R. Futchner, Fuccillo, Ryan.
Chelsea.—Phillips; Locke, G. Wilkins, Stanley, Wicks, Hay, Britton, R. Wilkins, Flaneston, Lewington, Swain.