

Dance on, Luton

DAVID PLEAT'S Maine Road dance of delight will become one of the indelible memories of another dramatic season.

Millions of Match Of The Day viewers yesterday saw manager Pleat run, hop, skip and jump his way across the pitch to hug his Luton players.

But he would not have cared if the whole world had been watching, he was so

Man City 0 Luton 1

82/83

overcome with emotion when his happy Hatters secured their First Division place at the expense of Manchester City.

It was a moment to put alongside Nobby Stiles's '66 Wembley World Cup jig and Bob Stokoe's '73 dash when Sunderland won the FA Cup.

But yesterday, as the euphoria subsided slightly, Pleat had his feet firmly back on the ground.

He is still determined Luton will continue with their open, attacking football — even though they were within three minutes of relegation after just one season back in the First Division.

"The way we have played has to be right for football," he insists.

It was a goal from Raddy Antic in the 87th minute which brought Luton's salvation.

Pleat admitted last night: "Words cannot describe how happy I feel right now. But I don't ever want to face such an experience again."

"There has been much more joy in beating the drop this time than there was in actually reaching the First Division in the first place."

City face new crisis

By DEREK POTTER

RELEGATED Manchester City face the biggest crisis in their history.

Serious cash flow problems and a shortage of quality players haunt them after Luton's 1-0 escape at City's expense.

And John Benson, 13th manager since the war, will have to wait until later this week before he is given "carry on" orders for next season.

Benson made it clear he will purge the playing staff next season if he and Tony Book stay in charge.

"We had to con players who we know have conned us for the last nine months."

"I'm not going to live through that experience every week. I'd rather play kids from the start of next season."