

AFTER the seat throwing, the football. And it came, all of it, from Luton. For one 15-minute period in the first half, when Harford scored the first of his two goals, they were quite superb, writes Ivo Tennant.

All that remained of the riots of 10 days ago was a gap in the seating at one end of a stand. Clearly no one was reckoning on a replay: there were — at least conspicuously — no more police and the attendance was not down.

So the locals enjoyed themselves and their team took a stride towards avoiding the drop. When Luton play as they did in that early phase, that they should be in such a perilous position becomes a mystery.

At any rate, they have a team for the future. Nwajiobi and Preece, who caused Rangers untold problems on the left wing, are fine players. Nwajiobi began the move which brought about the opening goal after 19 minutes. He was returned the ball from Nicholas's pass and his cross was thundered home by Harford.

A minute before half-time Stein squandered a penalty awarded when James held him back. His shot was too close to Hucker, who fisted it away, but Luton were unaffected and Harford headed his second 14 minutes into the second half, this time from Preece's corner.

Rangers did not threaten once. It seemed as if they had little to play for. Luton did — they had something of an obligation to their fans on two counts.