

Mick stars

LUTON striker Mick Harford finished off his side's march to First Division safety with a typical towering header and could be rewarded with a place in the England squad, named tomorrow, for the close season trip to Mexico. England boss Bobby Robson saw Harford and Brian Stein take dismal Leicester apart for the win Luton needed to guarantee their survival in the top bracket.

Robson later spent a half-hour closeted with Luton manager David Pleat, the man who two years ago did a war dance at Manchester City when Luton had another close call before staying up.

He was much quieter this time and said: "I can't tell you what was spoken about between Bobby Robson and me. It is private."

The conversation must certainly have got around to Harford, whose 16-goal haul since his £300,000 move from Birmingham in November has been a key factor in keeping Luton in the top flight.

And his ramrod style would be the ideal cover Robson needs for Mark Hateley, whose Italian club A C Milan will allow him

by WILLIAM PIERCE

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to play in just one of the four England games in South America.

Modest Harford could not deny he did his international chances a power of good against Leicester, whose own England candidate Gary Lineker had an anonymous afternoon.

Luton looked certain winners from the moment Emeka Nwajobi headed them powerfully in front from Stein's right-wing cross in the 14th minute.

Stein was heavily involved again in the build-up to a blistering 20-yarder from David Preece which brought Luton's second 15 minutes later.

With Harford and Luton skipper Steve Foster ruling the airways at either end, Leicester were stunned into complete collapse after the interval.

Stein brilliantly grabbed a third goal from Harford's knockdown 10 minutes after the break and Harford came roaring in at the far post, six minutes from time, to thump home a deep cross by full-back Tim Breacker.

Mitchell Thomas's goal-line Williams and a plunging dive clearance from Tommy by keeper Les Sealey to palm out a header by substitute Mark Bright were Luton's only anxious moments.

They reduced Leicester to the sort of impotency that was inflicted upon Arsenal in the previous game at Kenilworth Road.