



Rocastle, the Arsenal forward gets up between Thomas and Foster, the Luton defenders, to score and give his side a 2-1 lead.

Hill and Harford deny Arsenal

By MICHAEL CALVIN 85/86 (FAC)

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THE latest illustration of the latent international qualities of Ricky Hill and Mick Harford answered those who protest that artificial pitches threaten the traditional values of the English game.

The demands of a full-blooded F.A. Cup fifth round tie at Kenilworth Road in the depth of a British winter cannot be compared to the requirements of a World Cup match in the heat and humidity of Mexico.

Yet the very fact that Hill and Harford had the opportunity to defeat both Arsenal and the elements underlines the merit of Luton's investment in soccer's best example of a synthetic surface.

An increasingly voluble lobby, led by West Ham, are pressing for legislation to limit the ambitions of clubs who wish to abandon grass for commercial purposes. U.F.F.A., Europe's governing body, share their fears.

Pleat's point

But David Pleat, Luton's manager made a telling point when he took issue with Don Howe, his opposite number, who questioned whether players were in full control of their movements on the Luton pitch.

He said: "Nothing beats a good grass pitch—I'd rather play on Wembley every week. But in this weather matches on natural pitches are invariably games of chance. This was a game of skill."

Luton were certainly committed. Hill's inspirational individual contribution testifying to the international ambitions rekindled by his appearance as an England substitute in Egypt last month.

His eighth-minute goal, well taken despite the crude attempts of Keown to interrupt his progress, proved to be the prelude to a complete midfield performance.

Arsenal recovered from this early setback to take the lead by the 27th minute, when Rocastle's precise header added to Allinson's well-struck equaliser.

Harford's 17th goal of the season,

six minutes before the interval, in the end guaranteed Luton a replay. Bobby Robson will have noted the alert and decisive way in which Harford dashed between Sansom and Keown.

Luton Town.—Sealey; Johnson, Thomas, Nicholas, Foster, Donaghy, Hill, Stein (Parker 75), Harford, North, Preece.

Arsenal.—Lukic; Anderson, Sansom, Williams, O'Leary, Keown, Allinson, Rocastle, Nicholas (Mariner 75), Woodcock, Bix.