



**Mick Harford . . . headed
winner for Luton**

85/86

Harford warms to the occasion

Luton 1, Sheff Wed 0

A POWERFUL headed goal by Mick Harford in the 16th minute gave Luton victory over a workmanlike and uninventive Sheffield Wednesday. No pitch, artificial or otherwise, would have done anything to improve their game, writes Ivo Tennant.

There was no trace of snow or ice on the synthetic grass at Kenilworth Road. The match was guaranteed to be played and the bounce was true throughout. What more, Luton reasonably can claim, could be asked of them?

Apart from the match being played, there was precious little to warm the cockles of anybody's heart. Harford, although his 18th goal of the season was an excellent one, had a quiet game.

He rose at least 10 inches higher than anyone in Wednesday's penalty area and headed home Preece's corner. Hodge, well recovered from his head injury sustained in midweek, was not at fault.

Wednesday's best chance followed when Snodin's left-foot free-kick was beaten out by Sealey. From then on, they offered little, as if to suggest they are happier on a bone hard surface. Although their offside traps worked well, their long ball game for once did not.

That is not to detract from Foster's excellent game. His captaincy was as authoritative as his game on the ground and in the air. Little got past him or passed him by. When late in the day Wednesday managed their only chance of the second half, it was from a setpiece, Snodin again having the shot.

By the time Newell turned and tested Hodge's recuperation, Luton were safely on course for their first home League win since the middle of January.

Luton: Sealey; Johnson, Thomas, Nicholas, Foster, Donaghy, Hill, Newell, Harford, North, Preece.

Sheffield W: Hodge; Sterland, Morris, Hart, Shirriff, Smith, Marwood, Megson, Thompson, Shelton, Snodin, Shutt/Shelton (73).

Referee: D. Axell (Southend).