

Luton 1, Chelsea 0

LUTON ended Chelsea's Christmas revival and run of three successive wins with a narrow and barely-deserved victory from a fiercely competitive clash at Kenilworth Road yesterday, writes **Robert Alexander**. 26/27

Striker Mike Newell, enjoying Harford's return to the Luton attack, grabbed the decisive goal in the 68th minute after Chelsea goalkeeper Niedzwiecki had failed to hold on to a Harford shot following a corner.

It was appropriate that an error should decide such a disjointed match, strewn with fouls and misplaced passes, much to the chagrin of the voluble visiting supporters who had unexpectedly but efficiently penetrated Luton's members-only ground scheme.

It was more remarkable, however, that only one player—Chelsea's John McNaught—was booked as the elbows and boots flew in fierce attempts to retain possession of the ball on the lively synthetic surface.

Luton: Sealey, Breacker, Johnson, Nicholas, Foster, Donaghy, Wilson, Stein (B.), Newell, Harford, Grimes.

Chelsea: Niedzwiecki, Wood, Dublin, Pates, McLaughlin, McNaught, Nevin, Spackman, Dixon, Speedie, Wegerle (Durie, 72).

Referee: J. Bray (Hinckley).