

McDONOUGH SAVES TOWN'S BLUSHES

87/88

Veteran keeper Shilton praised by Hatters' boss

But Harford said that Mark Stein had not trained all week due to a leg injury.

Luton desperately lacked someone of height in front of goal. With Mick Harford serving the second game of a two match suspension it was left to Kingsley Black to take his place.

Although Black can be praised for his spirited showing he did not have the necessary height to match Derby defenders such as big Mark Wright. Luton went close to scoring in the 13th minute when Brian Stein shot just wide of the post after being put through by Mark Stein.

Derby's first chance was six minutes later as Michael Forsyth's effort was punched clear by Les Sealey.

As the half progressed Derby's confidence grew and they continued where they left off after the break.

Shilton showed his best form when he parried a Kingsley Black powerdrive over the bar after 60 minutes.

The one major black-spot of the game was the incident which led to Forsyth's booking. Forsyth took out Danny Wilson as Mark Stein was about to lay the ball through to him on the right.

Luton almost broke the deadlock in the 70th minute as Shilton could only finger away a superb Ian Allinson shot. A minute later Ross Maclaren cleared a Steve Foster header off the line.

The moment the Luton fans had all been waiting for came in the 85th minute as Wilson received the ball and broke on the right flank.

He sent over a cross to be collected on the left side of goal by McDonough. He unleashed a blast which even Shilton could not cope with as the ball landed in the top of the net.

Luton were kept on tenterhooks in the closing stages – not through a Derby resurgence but because of thick fog closing in on the pitch.

Had the game lasted another five minutes it is doubtful whether the referee Keith Cooper would have allowed it to continue.

LUTON: Sealey, Breacker, Johnson, McDonough, Foster, Donaghy, Wilson, B. Stein, Black, M. Stein, Allinson. Substitutes: Harvey, Oldfield.

DERBY COUNTY: Shilton, R. Maclaren, Forsyth, Williams, Wright, Blades, Callaghan, Gee, Garner, Gregory, S. Maclaren. Substitutes: Penny, Lewis.

DARRON McDonough saved Luton from the jaws of an embarrassing draw against Derby County at Kenilworth Road on Saturday.

Until McDonough's goal five minutes from time Derby – despite a poor overall performance – looked set to snatch a vital point from a far from exciting match.

On a handful of occasions only veteran keeper Peter Shilton kept Derby in the match. But, in the main, such was the quality of Luton's goal attempts that they could have carried on all day and they still would not have scored.

Shilton's outstanding display in a mediocre Derby side was not missed by Hatters' boss Ray Harford.

Harford paid tribute to the England number one when he said: "He looked like he was going to keep

**LUTON 1,
McDonough (85)
DERBY COUNTY 0
Attendance 7,175**

us out all day."

He was satisfied with Hatters' performance which he described as a patient display after a bright opening quarter of an hour.

During that period brothers Brian and Mark Stein combined well on more than one occasion to look threatening.



● The ball's mine says Derby keeper Peter Shilton as he puts an end to a Luton strike.



● Peter Shilton dives in vain as Darron McDonough delivers the killer blow.