

A LITTLEWOODS CUP TIE FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER



It's there — Sutton looks on helplessly as Harford's header hits the net... and the keeper knows Forest have got it all to do.

Chairman Evans takes defeat in style

BUBBLY CHAIRMAN David Evans took defeat in style and carried a crate of champagne into the Forest dressing room.

The Tory MP — who walked through a barrage of abuse from anti ID card demonstrators when he arrived at Wembley — said he'd taken a leaf out of Arsenal's book.

"I know how to win and I know how to lose, we learned from Arsenal last year. They came

into our dressing room with a crate of champagne and I've just done the same for Forest," said Evans.

The defiant chairman added: "I'm not depressed, we got to the final and I think we played terrific football in the first half.

"Forest played exceptionally well in the second half. They took their chances extremely well — and we did not — and life is all about taking your chances."

"The team are a bit disconsolate but knowing Luton, we will get over it, and get on and win the last six games.

"And hopefully we'll be back next year."

Evans has been at odds with Forest since calling for Brian Clough's head, after the manager's now infamous clash with supporters.

But Evans was full of praise for Forest after the game and added: "I hope they get as much enjoyment out of winning the cup as we did."

Wegerle: I did not get involved

SAD ROY Wegerle trudged away from Wembley wishing he had done himself justice.

"I just never got involved in the match. I did not impose myself on the game at all and I'm very disappointed," he said.

"It's hard to know what went wrong. I don't think I froze, it was just that I was not involved in the key instances of the match.

"I just hope I get the chance to come back some time and turn things around.

"But it's great to be involved and the memory of the day will live with me forever. Wembley is a great place," added Wegerle.

• Flying full-back Tim Breacker pledged he would be back at Wembley in the future to make amends for Sunday.

"I am still young and hopefully have a lot of years ahead of me to return here," said Breacker.

Breacker said he was in line with play for Forest's second goal and felt Webb was probably offside.

SNIPERS DOWN!

BIG MATCH LINE-UP

LUTON: Sealey, Breacker, Grimes (McDonough 77), Preece, Foster, Beaumont, Wilson, Wegerle, Harford, Hill, Black. Other sub: Meade.

FOREST: Sutton, Laws, Pearce, Walker, Wilson, Hodge, Gaynor, Webb, Clough, Chapman, Parker. Subs: Chettle and Glover.

• Attendance: 76,130.

far and failed to find the net.

But Sutton was beaten again after 36 minutes — and this time Hatters were ahead.

Mighty Mick Harford got a touch to David Preece's corner and when Danny Wilson turned the ball back into the danger zone, the striker made no mistake with a bullet header from eight yards.

Forest — who saw a Lee Chapman "goal" disallowed for offside after 20 minutes — were desperately close to an equaliser just two minutes after Harford's strike.

David Beaumont cleared a fierce Neil Webb shot off the line

and all hell broke loose as Chapman lunged at the ball as it nestled safely in Sealey's arms.

Chapman was cautioned for his troubles and was joined in referee Roger Milford's book by David Preece on the stroke of half-time for a crude challenge on Nigel Clough.

Hatters had another glorious chance five minutes after the re-start.

The Forest defence breathed a sigh of relief when Roy Wegerle failed to reach Wilson's pass, but they failed to pick up the incoming Harford, who shot weakly at goal and was unable to follow up.

Sealey's blunder came

four minutes later and television's man-of-the-match Clough made sure from the spot.

Then it was all downhill for Hatters as they fell behind in much the same fashion as last year — only this time there was no way back.

Webb looked well offside as he raced on to Tommy Gaynor's pass and slotted coolly past Sealey.

There was still a chance for Hatters to get back in the game after 76 minutes when Harford slipped Kingsley Black into space, but the youngster was challenged from behind and failed to get his shot in.

But Forest put the game out of Hatters' reach a minute later when Gaynor took advantage of an injury to Grimes and fed Clough for his second goal.

Sunday's defeat was Hatters' first ever in the Littlewoods Cup. They were barred from the competition in its inaugural year and won it last season.



Lonely Les — Sealey trudges back to the dressing room.



The Herald's picture team was Nigel Wigglesworth and Bruce Raidl

Ricky could be moving on

MIDFIELD STAR Ricky Hill refused to rule out an end-of-season move in the wake of Hatters' Wembley demise.

Hill — now in his 13th season at the club — dismissed reports of his impending departure as "pure speculation".

But he added: "I've got one year left on my contract but I've had an agreement with the club for years about playing abroad.

"My ambition is to play abroad at some time and if it's going to happen, it will happen this year.

Decision

"I have had 14 happy years at the club and it would be a wrench to leave."

But he added: "It will be the manager's decision at the end of the season — he might think that it's time to get some fresh blood in."

Disappointed Hill thought he should have put Hatters in front after 27 minutes when he went round Forest keeper Steve Sutton.

"I wanted to shoot as soon as I'd gone

By HERALD REPORTER

past him but the ball ran away and I went too wide," he said.

Hill said he'd had a good luck call from last year's Wembley hero Brian Stein on the morning of the game.

"Steiny played a cup game on Saturday and didn't get home 'til four in the morning — so he couldn't come.

"But he rang to wish us luck and I must have been on the phone for about quarter of an hour."

• Frustrated substitute Raphael Meade spent 90 minutes itching to get into the action.

"I had to keep warming up again and again and I thought to myself: 'he's going to bring me on soon'," said Meade.



Oh no — Hill pushes the ball a fraction too far and the chance is gone.