

Wimbledon.....1 Luton.....2

By TREVOR HAYLETT

THE LOWEST First Division attendance since the War witnessed Jim Ryan's first win as Luton manager and the first by his team away from home for 14 months.

Just 3,496 saw a dismal advertisement for the game and, apart from a few sodden but satisfied visitors from Luton, they must have regretted every minute.

Escape

At least Luton took home three much-cherished points to help them plan their escape from the threat of relegation.

All Wimbledon had at the finish was a hat-trick to forget — this all-time low beat the

Wimbledon hit an all-time low

1989/90

previous two smallest gates which were both recorded at Plough Lane.

Luton's victory came with a minute to go through Iain Dowle's far-post header. His was the finishing touch to a superb cross from David Preece, matching Danny Wilson's delivery in the 52nd minute from which Kurt Nogan supplied the lead.

Nogan's second goal in only three first-team appearances

looked sufficient given the paucity of the efforts which passed as goal-scoring attempts before.

But Wimbledon, disappointing all the way through, finally perked up as a desperately uneventful first half at last drew to a close although it was injury time before either goalkeeper was called upon to make a save.

Wimbledon finally conjured an equaliser in the 74th minute, with the help of the Luton,

defence when substitute Paul McGee sent in a cross to enable Alan Cork to head to the feet of Dennis Wise.

Wise, the skilful winger newly restored to the team and under scrutiny again from Arsenal manager George Graham, despatched the chance with the minimum of fuss.

Boost

Jubilant Ryan said: 'That was just what the club needed. At half-time we talked about taking the game more to them and getting the ball forward. We tried to do that and did it quite well, but they make it very difficult.'

'The goals were real footballing goals, with a little bit of craft. Obviously it's a nice boost to get your first away win for such a long time, especially when you are in our position.'