



## PLEAT ... return likely

LUTON chairman Peter Nelkin, champagne glass in hand, stood outside the dressing rooms celebrating the great escape and predicting the brave new world at Kenilworth Road next season.

The club will be healthy enough financially to compete in the First Division, the detested plastic pitch will be sold off as memento bookends, and away fans will be returning in their thousands. What he didn't reveal is that it will almost certainly be without the man who made it possible.

Jim Ryan's reward for keeping Luton alive on the last day of the season will be the most stunning kick in the teeth you could imagine from the club he has served

# Saved, but Ryan faces bitter bonus

Luton.....2 Derby.....0

By JIM HOOLEY 90/91

for more than 20 years as player, coach and manager.

Ryan should have been celebrating not only a job achieved with dignity, nerve and style, but his 46th birthday. Instead, he sat at home fielding inquiries about the rumoured return to the helm of former manager David Pleat.

'The chairman has not spoken to me about David, but if it's true, I don't see how I could work under him now that I've been the manager,' he said.

'I'm very proud of what I've achieved in very difficult circumstances.'

Nelkin refused to confirm or deny he has had discussions with Pleat, but Ryan can expect a call to see the chairman this morning now the cat is out of the bag.

**LUTON:** Harford (og, 43 min), Elstrup (47).