

How Hatters beat the drop

LUTON defied the odds to beat relegation on the last day of the season for the third year in a row and secured a 10th successive term in the top flight.

They ripped into Derby like men possessed in the first-half, John Dreyer almost giving them the perfect start with a back header which just cleared the Derby bar after only two minutes.

Alec Chamberlain denied Mick Harford a goal on his first return to Kenilworth Road when he tipped over a sixth-minute drive.

Luton stormed forward for the rest of the half but after chances from Kingsley Black and Sean Farrell (two) had gone begging they could have been forgiven for thinking it wasn't to be their day.

But a 42nd minute free kick from Jason Rees glanced off the

LUTON 2 DERBY 0

LUTON: Chamberlain, Beaumont, Harvey, Rees (James 79), McDonough, Dreyer, Elstrup, Preece, Farrell (Nogan 79), Pembroke, Black.

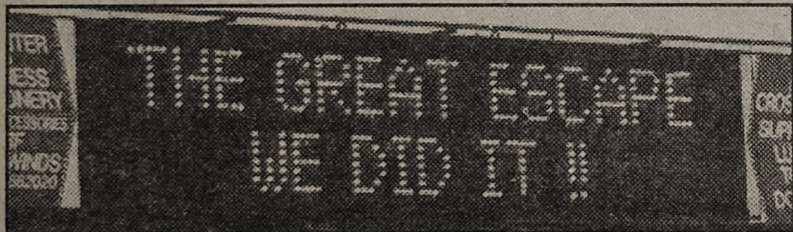
DERBY: Shilton, Sage, Forsyth, Williams, Wright, Patterson, Micklewhite, Saunders, Harford, Williams (Hebbard 66), McMinn (Cross 45).

REF: George Courtney. **ATT:** 12,889.

head of Harford — and Hatters were ahead.

The second goal came two minutes after the re-start with Dreyer and Black helping on a corner and Lars Elstrup nodding in almost on the line.

The second period was a nervous affair and Luton survived a double scare in the 80th minute when Chamberlain saved at the feet of Mark Wright and the England defender headed against the bar from the corner.



● Safe and sound — the scoreboard says it all.