Readers win free bets at the bookies

extra fun out of football this week after winning our competition which was run in conjunction with Coral the bookmakers.

They were among the host who sent in correct answers in our Luton Town quiz.

Every entrant knew that the man who scored the inal goal of last season was Lars Elstrup, the Danish ernational who then insisted on going back home.

Happy memories

The other two questions puzzled a few readers. We asked who was the Luton Town manager before David Pleat first got the job. Some forgot his first spell in charge, and thought the answer was Jim

The majority realised that Mr. Pleat first became poss in succession to the late Harry Haslam, and it was a tribute to a very good man that many used the phrase 'Happy Harry.

The number of Luton's appearances in FA Cup semi-finals was easy, with 1959, 1985 and 1988 the

All the correct entries went into the Sports Desk's ater, and the one drawn out first came from Barry Draper, of Brewer's Hill Road, Dunstable. He will receive a voucher worth £100 to place on any soccer bet at a Coral betting office.

Consolation prizes

Five readers win consolation prizes of £10 bets ouchers: Mr. J. Healey, of Runfold Avenue, Luton; Mr. A. Day, of Hillfoot Road, Shillington; Ian Torrie, of Colin Road, Luton; Philip Marsh, of Kings Mews, Hemel Hempstead; and Mr. G. E. Ashby, of The Mallow, Marsh Road, Luton. We hope they all back winners!

FOUR PAPER

COVERAGE FOR



● SALUTE: Mick Harford acknowledges the crowd's rapturous appreciation of his memorable second debut for Luton Town.

Set for a rise up the table

Telephone Advertising: (0582) 21222; Editorial: (0582) 31288; Dunstable Ed

the season pushed the Town up to 17th in the First Division them of not backing many them of not backing many them of not backing many them. table, with eight points from Managers everywhere are saying

And it left them poised for further year is not to be relied upon. progress last night as bottom club QPR came to Kenilworth Road.

Rangers in trouble

Roy Wegerle and friends were the nly club in the First Division without when league leaders Manchester they dropped. United nicked a 1-0 win at The Dell to Manchester United, five points clear leave them on four points from eight of the field on Saturday night, and have games, just one more than QPR.

third relegation spot, but moved off reminded that a year ago Liverpool pl

THE SECOND HOME win of game to voice their disapproval of the Bramall Lane directors, accusing went out for t them of not backing manager Dave

comeback.

Oldham could hardly believe it after

High price - but worth

Town boss David Pleat had signed Harf

he second time, 48 hours earlier, for a £3

which he admitted was about £75,000 over

for a man of 32. "I have to be mean with

Town's money, but I felt I knew what Mick

offer, and what he was really worth to us."

manager, whose first cheque for Harr

£250,000 to Birmingham City seven years a

deflect the praise and adulation to the mar

to the two young subs, Paul Telfer and Kur

who helped him achieve the dream fine

"I didn't take any time to accept Luton'

he said. "And I wanted to repay the

manager had shown by signing me.

After the game the hero of the hour was

that the league table at this time of the

David Pleat, for instance, reminded us that by Saturday the Town had played only three of their eight games

Unhappy omens? OPR, currently 22nd, will hope Nogan a win after two goals by Gary Lineker there is some truth in that wisdom: both goals sank them at Tottenham on Saturday. this time 12 months ago Derby County management of the same of the Southampton's troubles continued were bottom, and stayed there until you

preparing to meet the Town at Old sco Sheffield United still occupy the Trafford this week, may not wish to be



nake a marvellous save from his header a few minutes before the ^{equ}

own match verdict **

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And it a fairy-tale for big Mick

Brian Swain reports pictures: Josh Levy

cutting edge.

Hit the bar

"When I looked wobbly on one flank of the net, and it was looking lethargic on the for Stein. ovely to see it there."

Delight

The crowd shared the lelight as Harford's late double turned a game that threatened to be a The best move of the smash and grab success first half was a slick and or newly-promoted incisive one started and Oldham, who were ended by Preece, who looking for their first kept running after a away point of the pass to Pembridge. Preece arrived in the

To counteract the penalty area as the ball aerial menace of Ian got there via Pembridge Marshall and Graeme and a perfect chipped Sharp, and the wing pass by Harford. raiding of Rick Holden, Unlucky Preece hit a he Town boss chose volley against the top of defenders. He the bar wanted John Dreyer We had a shock seven

nd Matthew Jackson to minutes into the second ush up on the flanks. half when Oldham stole revor Peake, Graham the lead. Neil Adams Rodger and Darron hit a left wing corner lcDonough were the too deep, but skipper ut and out defenders. Earl Barret retrieved it It worked up to a on the right.

Debut

said Mr. Pleat.

nd Brian Stein.

oint, but the price was Sharp's attempt to lack of strength in meet his cross became a midfield, where there back-header, and with was no natural ball the defence facing both ways Marshall carefully steered his header into

the far corner. For compensation Yellow cards

there was an easy-going debut and a first taste of Harford had collected Division One football a first-half booking for a Steve Thompson. foul on Nick Henry, and le can and will play 15 minutes after the etter as he settled in, Oldham goal hearts fluttered when Peake For much of the game brought down Marshall the Town looked the just outside the box. etter attacking side,

Referee Paul Alcock and had more of the decided that with Town defenders covering, it Javid Preece enjoyed was not denial of a goalhe reunion with his old scoring opportunity, and quicky and the Town skipper rekindled the telepathic escaped with his second inderstanding he used yellow card of the have with Harford season.

With Oldham looking But Stein was still out capable of hanging on, sorts after his knee the boss made two njury, and with Dreyer quick changes, sending

The season so far

THE TOWN'S record in the Barclays League First Division:

134	-guol		
-	17 West Ham (a) 0-0	25.079	_
1	21 Coventry (a) 0-5	10,084	_
	24 Liverpool (h) 0-0	11,132	
	27 Arsenal (a) 0-2	25,898	21
	September (widy)	17,437	22
	4 Southampton (h) 2-1(Gray, Harvey)	8,055	19
	7 Wimbledon (a) 0-3	3,231	20
	14 Oldham (h) 2-1 (Harford 2)	9,005	17
	APPEARANCES :		inht

ncluding as sub in brackets: Eight erlain, Dreyer, Pembridge, Preece, and ATTENDANCE: 9,005, the day's force in the logan 1(3), Harvey 5, Peake 5, Farrell 3(1), Jackson 3(2), Hologrove 1, Telfer 00 1, Thompson 1, Glover 1, Interpretation of the logical state of the logica Number of players used: 20. Last season's total: 21.

LEAGUE GOALS: Gray 2, Harford 2, Harvey 1.

round it was in the back and Mark Pembridge McDonough and Nogan

other, after his Welsh It turned the game, international debut, the and the atmosphere attacking lacked the crackled as the Town went all out to save a Nogan gave his best

> first team performance in a 13-minute chance that was unlucky for Oldham.

Wilted

They could not match his pace, and wilted in With the instinct honed face of the continual by over 450 league late pressure.

Jon Hallwowrth kept position for the tap-in. them in it with a And with 20 seconds marvellous save to deny of injury time played Nogan a goal from Harford's presence Rodger's headed pass, unsettled Hallworth as but five minutes from they competed for a time the deserved cross by Dreyer. The

equaliser arrived. Youngsters Telfer poorly, Nogan returned and Jackson worked the ball, and Harford, ball down the right and with his back to goal. Nogan's speed took him hooked in an overhead to the by-line to deliver scissors kick for a a perfect low cross. memorable winner

Replay win

• LEVEL: The ball is

equaliser, Harford's 58th league goal for

games, Harford was in

goalkeeper punched

AFTER THE FIRST game ended in a thrilling 3-3 draw after extra time at Kenilworth Road, the Town's youth team achieved its best result of the season so far with a 1-0 win at Norwich on Monday evening in the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup.

The first tie had plenty of excitement — too much for coach Terry Westley, professionally unhappy about a team that scores three and does not win.

Paddy McDonagh and Scott Goodfellow made it 2-0 for the Town in the first half, but Norwich came back to force extra time. The visitors went 3-2 up, but John Hartson snatched a late equipaliser before schoolboy goalkeeper Neil Watkiss was sent off five minutes from the end for handling outside the box. In the replay on Monday the Town side was a much tighter unit, bossed the game in midfield, and won through a late strike by McDonagh, who took a pass from Lee Rogers on his chest and knee before

Match details

LUTON TOWN 2 OLDHAM 1 Half-time: 0-0

TOWN: Chamberlain; Jackson, Rodger, Peake, McDonough (Telfer 60 mins), Dreyer; Pembridge, Thompson, Preece; Stein (Nogan 77 mins) Harford. OLDHAM ATH: Hallworth; Fleming, Barrett, Kilcline, Halle; Adams, Milligan, Henry, Holden; Sharp, Marshall (Ritchie 77 mins). Other sub: Kane. THE GOALS: Ian Marshall for Oldham, 52 minutes, well-placed header from Earl Barrett's deflected deep cross; Mick Harford twice for the Town, 85 minutes tap-in from Kurt Nogan's low pull-back and injury-time overhead kick from Nogan's chip in.

OTHER GOAL ATTEMPTS: Town four saved, six wide and one hit the bar; Oldham four saved and three wide. Corners: 4-1 to Oldham.

BOOKED: Mick Harford and Trevor Peake, both REFEREE: Paul Alcock, Redhill, Surrey: did well

and kept the game flowing
ATTENDANCE: 9,005, the day's lowest in the

ENTERTAINMENT: A good contest, made better for Town fans when their play got the punching

power finish it deserved thanks to the late double to mark Mick Harford's second debut.



BOTH MANAGERS' press conferences spent a lot of time enthusing over the talents of Mick Harford.

caring,

David Pleat confessed that he was not sure what more he could say after heaping compliments on his latest purchase before the match

He took up points made by Harford about the emergence of young players.

Steady introduction

The steady performance of Steve Thompson in midfield also gave the Town manager pleasure. He felt the former Bolton man had shown that he will quickly adjust to First Division soccer after demanling the chance to step up from the Third.

From Oldham's point of view the result was a bit of a disaster. "We blew it," said Joe Royle. 'We went one up and then we stopped playing. Some of our players thought it was too easy. Luton gained a bit of momentum and suddenly we had lost. It was poor defending, as simple as that. We decided to make trouble for ourselves.

"That doesn't take anything away from Luton. They came on strong at the end. Mick Harford is a great player, and no doubt he'll be an inspiration to

of the match, but reminded us that younger men had also played important parts, particularly Matthew Jackson, Paul Telfer and Kurt Nogan.

He added: "I think we had as much of the game as Oldham in the first half, and that was important because some of our men don't play with confidence if they don't feel we are well in the game

Managers' viewpoints

He had made substitutions to change the pattern and to give the Town more attacking width, and he was delighted with Nogan and Telfer.

Only a week earlier Nogan had been given stick by Luton supporters after a poor display against Wimbledon. By Saturday night he was second only to Harford in the popularity stakes after his passes led to both goals.

Later, on the Town's SoccerLine, the boss added that he felt Nogan could become a very good player indeed with the right guidance

And after a week in which he had brought in two more players, his programme notes made another point. He discussed the steel that Wimbledon showed a week earlier. It's a dangerous asset if too heavily relied upon, he said, but it was an attribute the Town lacked at Selhurst Park.

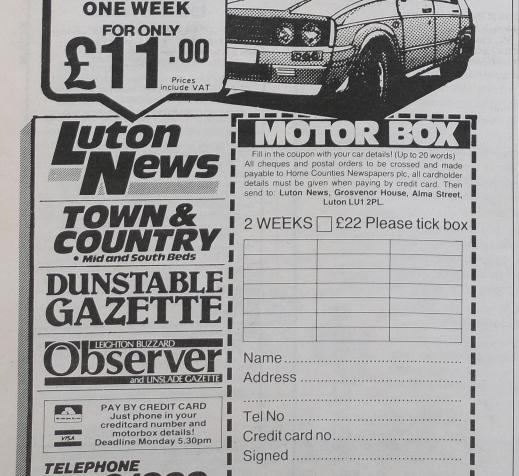
Implied threat

"It will be my attempt to build a foootball team," wrote the manager. "But if we succumb in the tackles, get beaten in the race for the ball, and cannot combat the way some teams play, something has

"There could be a fear that we may develop into a side that has no stomach for the task away from Luton. If there are individuals that prove this is the case, they will not be party to our first team plans.'



• HAVING A BALL: David Preece, who greatly appreciated the return of Mick Harford's skill and availability, gets in where it hurts against Craig Fleming.



SELLYOUR CAR FAST