Like players, the men in black have

If we have to accept the occasional aberration that

of football - use your common sense



● ATTACKING: Ceri Hughes, who went on as sub in the second nearby Liverpool forgetting the unwritten 18th law half, runs at the City defence.

Fury as City benefit from benefit to the thorac City as City benefit from benefit to the service of the service WHEN YOU follow a team like Luton Town you have to learn to live with the disappointment of defeat. But it sticks in the throat when the pain is inflicted as much by the third team, the

He reduced himself to a laughing stock in the eyes of home fans when he allowed an astonishing third run on to Steve S killer goal early in the second half.

And it provoked fury from the whole Town team, and on the bench, when Mr. Breen gave the goal to a taken. man he knew was offside.

If he had any common sense he could have got out of his predicament. City, with the pace of David White their greatest asset, had been outplayed by the Town's good passing football

and were restricted to

counter attacks. With the Town well forward for most of the first 50 minutes, White and Niall Quinn had been caught offside time and agair

Missed

But linesman E. K. Wolstenholme from Blackburn missed one when White was allowed to go through on his own in the 13th minute to capitalise on Quinn's ball over the top and the linesman's error.

That was bad enough, but the other flagwaver, P. M. Roberts from the Wirral, was on the ball when the greatest controversy

Luton. But I just p Peter Reid lifted a to the whistle. pass forward, and the flag went up against did not dispute the

was well offside. Nor did anyobdy in the ground, who casually retr If he really thought into midfield f Town's free kick playing the advantage

rule and giving a goal to the offender was right I oback to the 18th law. All he had to do was have a word with his linesman, confirm his decision, and that would

Play had slowe

to almost a stan

after the flag signal

keep the game my

He clearly wa

Sutton to ma

Flagseen

He waved play on.

Sutton had already

the flag for offside.

was looking at the h

he kicked it alm

aimlessly upfield.

back, and it went i

the net off the inside

post and the ci

chuckled when

realised that the off

was to be ignored

though two officials

But it was no la

It took three min

matter for the Town

for the mass prote

die down. Not a

was booked, either

White said:

have to feel son

Fair enough.

seen it.

White hit the b

clearance.

And I doubt if even City would have argued: their players too, were laughing over the craziest goal they are ever likely to see.

They also knew they had been lucky to win, let alone by such a attering margin. The Town had gone

on to the attack from the ery first minute, with Paul Telfer on the right Peake had a drive in a and Preece's clever and David Preece on the th using the width of hacked off the line by made an astonishing the pitch intelligently. But Telfer began to hit the outside of the But the game was

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uton News LEAD

White's 13th-minute and had to be subbed at lucky break did little to With 98 seconds Mark Pembridge was and at the interval my sharp words from oppo on the Manchester Stein and Mick Harford, Evening News, a City the dressing room, both missed easy man to his toenails, and ching Reid and Steve who used to play for their left. them, reckoned the true Reid and McMahon

> But City had survived Town's lack of the final thrust.

Astonishing

And when Stein got a humdinger on target, couple of chances, after Harford's low cross goalmouth scramble dummy, Tony Coton

THE FULL MATCH DETAILS

MANCHESTER CITY 4 LUTON TN 0 (Half-time: 1-0) TOWN: Sutton; James (Hughes 76 mins), Peake, Dreyer, Harvey; Telfer

Oakes HT), Kamara, Pembridge, Preece; Stein, Harford. CITY: Coton; Hill, Curle, Redmond, Pointon; Brightwell, Reid (Heath 66 mins), McMahon, Hughes (Sheron 75 mins); White, Quinn. THE GOALS: David White, 13 mins, well offside from Niall Quinn's lob over

the top; And White, 13 mins, well offside from Niali Quinn's 100 over

We but I a will be added:

Man United 27 9 4 1 25 8 7 5 1 23 13 57

But he added:

Man United 27 9 4 1 25 8 7 5 1 23 13 57 dared; White again, 49 mins, given offside by the linesman but allowed to play on Leeds ... by the ref under a mistaken 'advantage' ruling; Adrian Heath, 76 mins, after the Own defence failed to deal with another deep cross. OTHER ATTEMPTS: Town nine saved, ten wide and one hit a post; City seven

aved, five wide. Corners: 8-4 to the Town (5-0 at half-time).

REFEREE: Kevin Breen, Liverpool. Turned in a joke performance, except that the strong when you are playing against two teams: the three men in black all ame from within 30 miles of Manchester, which put them in an invidious position ayway. Mr. Breen's brainstorms, giving City two goals, had the home fans BOOKED: Mark Pembridge, David White and Neil Pointon, all for fouls. And

100-one for the mass dissent angry Town players expressed after White's second PANCE: 22,137, with a few hundred from Luton who can at least claim to e seen the worst First Division refereeing performance they are ever likely to

ERTAINMENT: Knock-about fun for the City fans. For visiting supporters, galling to see so much excellent play come to nothing, with the Town's poor contributory factor. In the first half they played City off the park.

Action pictures by Josh Levy

feel the effects of the post from that turned on its head in the foot injury that had kept clearance. him out for two games, the interval.

linking well with Brian McMahon in midfield, and John Dreyer and Trevor Peake were holding Quinn and Luton.

White with ease. Excellent

But a lot of excellent approach play came to nothing through failure

to get the final touch. Pembridge wasted a Reid and Julian James save. first three minutes of the

turn the tide City's way, played, City, after a few mounted an attack down

reflection of play would worked the position for Pembridge, Harford have been about 5-1 to Ian Brightwell to lash in

chip into the net.

Farcical

Over the 90 minutes Not for the first time the Town were the more mainly through the this season the Town cultured footballing were vulnerable to the side: and for sure they far post ball, and the half-clearance was met the referee! by Andy Hill with a neat

Mr. Breen had destroyed the Town's morale and while they were still trying to attack Adrian Heath lobbed City's fourth from yet another far post cock-White and Quinn at the other end Coton

played a lot better than TOP MAN: Brian Stein, who had his best game of the season at Maine Road, gives Steve Redmond an anxious moment.

Three teams have to

One minute later DAVID PLEAT, who nearly missed the came the farcical third Maine Road trip because of a heavy cold, goal, and that was that. chose his words carefully when he spoke To their credit the Town continued to play about the goal that killed off the Town, on before and after I referees' appointments good football, but it was and how sick he felt about it.

a forlorn task, and tough You have to accept the referee's deci- "But we know that we It puts the officials in luck on Scott Oakes, sions, he said, but he thought both clubs knew that have been hurt." who had replaced Telfer Mr. Breen had not had a good day.

on the field.

good game.

and Stein

AWAY PWDL FAWDL FAP football. 3 9 2 12 11 48 Sheff Wed 28 9 3 2 30 19 4 5 5 14 21 47 Arsenal 29 8 5 2 32 15 3 5 6 18 19 43 ... 29 5 7 3 25 21 5 3 6 14 20 40 ... 27 5 3 5 16 19 5 6 3 22 25 39 Oldham 28 6 6 2 21 10 3 3 8 15 23 36 Norwich City...... 28 6 5 3 19 16 2 5 7 14 22 34 ottm Forest..... 26 6 4 3 26 22 3 2 8 15 19 33 . 28 6 4 4 19 17 3 2 9 24 31 33 27 5 3 5 16 10 4 2 8 12 19 32 27 6 4 4 21 15 1 6 6 11 19 31 Sheff Utd.....

could tolerate it. He was very pleased goal looked well offside. a match between one with the way the Town He thought football team from almost on

of the game by good standards of officials. Co-operate

"Everyone saw the "Sometimes you have to look at the three teams linesman flag. "Unfortunately the be Important

laughing at the officials, were about decision and that cannot be good making, not the result of "It's very important that the independent for football. 'They are a team and good play." team contributes to a have to co-operate like a

"Sadly for that team, after half-time and our with each other.

very crucial decision. football team. "If that had been con- He added that he was be consistent with the

are being regionalised. an invidious position He thought the first when they are handling

had dominated so much needed to examine the their doorstep and the

City crowd started "The crucial minutes

our bad play or City's

"It's like if you want a He disclosed that City at a most important good football team: boss Peter Reid and his stage of the game, just players have to work assistant Sam Ellis had team talk, the game was "If they don't, you Town's complaints, and turned on its head by a will never get a good Mr. Pleat hopes their

ocalfootball tables **DIVISION TWO**

LUTON LEAGUE

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	
Luton Old Boys	19	14	4	1	48	15	32	
Four Horseshoes		13	3	1	61	20	29	
Singh Sabha	20	10	6	4	51	29	26	
Lewsey Park		11	3	4	39	19	25	
Rotheram OB		10	4	1	30	15	24	
Studham		9	3	2	29	16	21	
Christians		7	6	6	33	35	20	
Cricketers			5	6	31	31	17	
Harlington	17	6	2	9	30	34	14	
Kent Ath	17	4	3	10	26	39	11	
Ebony	20	3	5	12	31	46	11	
AC Cadoza	17	3	5	9	20	40	11	
Eaton Bray	19	3	4	12	25	51	10	
Heath Utd	20	3	3	14	17	52	9	
Thirtie	10	3	2	14	25	54	8	

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	U	L		n		
Stockwood Ath	20	16	1	3	90	23	33	
Lewsey Park Res	22	14	4	4	59	30	32	
Manshead ODs	20	14	3	3	64	21	31	
Luton OB Res		11		4	46	26	25	
Monarch		10		4	37	28	25	
High Town OB	22			11	51	66	19	
Markyate	21		6	9	32	53	18	
Hayward Tyler	21		3	11	48	59	17	
Mayward Tyler	18		4	8	38	46	16	
Rotheram OB A	20	6	4	10	35	45	16	
Flitwick Tn	19	4	7	8	35	37	15	
61FC Luton	19	5	4	10	34	50	14	
Kent Ath Res	19	5	3	1000	32	53	13	
Eaton Bray Res	18		2		36	1075700	12	
CUMPIER CHOOM	3000		2		12	52	8	
Month Utd Res	18	3	4	10	12	UL		

	P	W	D	L	F	A	I
Dagnall	18	14	3	1	115	20	31
Manshead ODs Res	19	11	3	5	49	36	25
Luton Eagles	18	12	0	6	63	29	24
Christians A	19	11	2	6	42	24	24
Thresher	18	8	7	3	47	23	23
Raiders	19	9	4	6	56	48	22
Studham Res	18	7	3	8	33	36	17
Flitwick Tn Res	18	7	3	8	32	46	17
Thistle Res	18	5	6	7	26	40	16
Sportsman Dunstable	18	6	3	9	32	53	15
Markyate Res	18	4	3	11	21	59	11
Sportsman Harl'ton	17	3	3	11	32	67	5
Crawley Green Res	20	1	2	17	27	92	

• YOU CANNOT BE SERIOUS: The protests start after City's third goal.

Luton Sunday League

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Nurdin & Peacock	13	11	1	1	85	22	23
Norman King	16	11	1	4	62	24	23
Strawplaiters			0	1	69	16	22
Lea Sports	14	7	0	7	63	32	14
Lea United	15	7	0	8	56	48	14
Stopsley Ath	17	7	0	10	37	72	14
Barn Owl	14	2	0	11	18	71	4
Independent	12	0	0	12	9	109	0

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
High Town	14	11	2	1	74	18	24
Limbury United					67	23	23
Salisbury Arms					56	31	17
Herts BTR	12	7	1	4	51	21	15
Emerald Res				6	49	58	13
Luton Dukes	13	6	0	7	26	47	12
Icknield Rangers			1	7	32	44	11
Meds			1	5	33	24	9
Stone Rovers	14	1	2	11	19	67	4



• SHOOTING STAR: Mick Harford lets fly with one of the shots Tony Coton dealt with Prince of the Shots Tony Coton Tony Coton dealt with. Brian Stein and City skipper Keith Curle are admiring spectators.

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