

● THE WINNER: David Preece wraps up three precious points with his third goal of the season. Warren Barton is the Wimbledon defender making a despairing effort to get in a tackle after his mistake gave Preece the opening to steer his shot wide of Hans Segers.

AGAINST one of the First Division's most difficult teams to beat, Luton flowing football to get its Town showed the character and the determination that will be needed to defy the relegation odds in overcoming Wimbledon at Kenilworth Road.

After an anxious start against very physical oponents, they had the strength to get back after conceding an early goal, and complete the overy with a secondhalf winner from David

noon, and with the blood pouring from a league position a worry,

By Sports Editor Brian Swall

But the Town faced

And what a day it was

off their game.

it was no day for fine head wound.

the grim challenge with him considerable defiance The Town had to find and a refusal to be put an extra dimension, and did so, including at times mixing it with the Dons for Alec Chamberlain, when brute strength was needed as much as out of the side for four months and back only subtlety and skill. Bravery bordering on because Mervyn Day

of the battle with John

Fashanu with two teeth

Mick Harford had

well blacked.

was injured. the foolhardy was one The crushing blows ingredient that had to be that hit the goalkeeper as first Steve Sutton Return then Day, have replaced him, could have ruined John Drever came out the confidence of a

lesser man. Instead, he came back to play a vital role in the win, despite a shock start when the first shot of the match whistled past him into the net It was hardly the perfect start to his 100th First Division appearance for the Town.

There was nothing he could have could do about that Ipswich reser

THE MATCH DETAIL

Reserv

**LUTON TOWN 2 WIMBLEDO** (Half-time: 1-1)

TOWN: Chamberlain: James, Drey Harvey; Stein, Kamara, Pembridge, Preed Harford. Subs, not used, Hughes and Camp WIMBLEDON: Segers; Barton, Fit Scales, Phelan; Ryan, Earle, Sanchez mins); Dobbs, Fashanu, Miller. Oll McAllister

THE GOALS: John Fashanu for Wimb minutes, cracking drive after the Town fallet a cross by Terry Phelan; Imre Varadi on debut, 27 minutes, bundling in close-fafter Mick Harford flicked on a long thro Pembridge; David Preece for the Town, b careful left foot shot after Harford flick Kamara's diagonal cross.

OTHER ATTEMPTS: Town three sant wide; Wimbledon five saved and four wide 6-4 to the Town.

REFEREE: Brian Hill, Kettering. Ma very strange decisions and there was an a whistle, presumably because he was delt keep control on a potentially explosive mal BOOKED: Amazingly, no-one, althu

called both skippers together to ask th things down after a very tough opening John Fashanu hardly seemed the right m that sort of appeal.
ATTENDANCE: 7,754, with only a his

ENTERTAINMENT: Not as good which was right, with the Town wind half on football ability against difficult lo

• THE EQUALISER: Imre Varadi makes sure the positive finishing touch is applied to Mick Harford's flick for his debut day goal for the club who let him leave as a schoolboy.

# SELLYOUR CAR FAST—USEANO OTORBO



TICK APPROPRIATE BOX

ADVERTISE

TO OVER

1/2 MILLION

POTENTIAL

BUYERS

EVERY WEEK!

TO CANCEL 2ND WEEK RING BEFORE 12 NOON MONDAY — SORRY, NO REFUNDS. NEWS/GAZETTE/LEADER MOTORBOX, ADVERTISING DEPT 31, MANCHESTER STREET, LUTON, BEDS LU1 2QG

OR TELEPHONE TODAY (HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD READY) (0582) 480280

NAME ADDRESS TEL No. CREDIT CARD No. CREDIT CARD EXPIRY DATE PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO: HOME COUNTIES NEWSPAPERS PLC

### Action pictures by Josh Levy

Wimbledon challenge head on.

heline intact. And Imre Varadi. back on the ground Early on that side of he was turned the visitors' game threatened to prevent it being a football match. and referee Brian Hill own to complete a had immense problems in an explosive first 20 om Leeds led to Brian His answer was to tein dropping back a

BRUISED BATTERED,

BUTNO DOWN YET!

seeing fouls which were not, particularly on the question of intent. The result was that both sides were upset by

Hard work A lot of the Town's

little, and it was a very

with Harford winning

nore in the air than

achanu at the other

David Preece made a

real go of his job as a left

Chris Kamara had to

as the only genuine

and was just the man to

West Ham (a) 0-0

Caelsea (a) 1-4 (Gray)

Motts Co (h) 1-1 (Gray)

& Norwich (a) 0-1

Everton (h) 0-1

nsive midfielder.

sful formation,

bout hard work and onsistency than fourishing skill, and on Neither manager was that count every man Julian James and Richard Harvey had to ettle for less overlap

tacking than usual, but with Drever and Trevor well justified. eake performed Kamara and Harford wonders to keep mbledon's central ring ram attacks Mark Pembridge was a real engine room ower source, and

Barclays League Div One

ton (h) 2-1 (Gray, Harvey).

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

1992

(a) 1-2 (0G Tanner).

(Wed (a) 2-3 (Preece, Oakes) .....

wich (h) 2-0 (Preece, Harford) ....

htd (h) 2-1 (Stein, Harford) -

Sea (h) 2-0 (Harford, Dreyer pen)..... 10,738 20

Sheff Wed (h) 2-2 (Harford, Nogan).

entry (h) 1-0 (Harford)

Mr. Hill eventually called both skippers together for a 'calm it' plea. As Fashanu was the Dons' captain, it was a bit like asking Hitler to rein in the Gestapo.

Fortunately, the meet the stern nastiness did ease off

The season so

25.079

10.084

. 11,132

25,898 21

17,457 22

.3.231 20

.9,185 19

46,491 21

18.722 21

..9,401 21

. 10,514 21

. 27,543 22

.. 10,031 22

. 21,804 22

11.550 22

.7,533 22

. 35,095 20

. 11,088 22

.. 22,281 22

...8,554 21

22,137 21 ..9.003 20

Results showing Town score first, home and away, Town scorers, attendances and league position

after that 21st-minute lecture, and the football

Offside played by both sides did little to contribute to

make much use of the whistle, to the extent of worth its reward.

strange decisions, and with so much hanging on the result, the Town did

No bookings

well to keep their cool.

impressed by Mr. Hill, vet he got through the game without a single booking on a day when one or two in the early stages would have been

both threatened to blow their tops at some of the mystery decisions, and Fashanu got away with one dreadful challenge which left Dreyer flat

up was a typically sweet piece of Luton Town was all the better for it. football. Quick passing led to a throw-in on the

But the offside trap left, and Pembridge hurled it deep into the

Harford got the flick-Wimbledon threw away chances to make the game safe before half-time, and after the interval the Town's superior football was

The defence had been caught cold by the day's first attack. First they failed to clear a long free

Phelan returned the ball from the left towards the far post, and Robbie Earle beat Dreyer and Peake to flick on Fashanu's fierce firsttime shot gave Chamberlain no chance. I feared for the Town

for some time after that, but Chamberlain tipped over a cross-shot by Earle, and was let off the hook when Paul Miller shot wide from a clear chance made by Earle's run and cross from the

a handball in his own penalty area, with James adjudged to be guilty of a foul as he competed for the ball, but there was no escape for Wimbledon in the 27th

The goal was a bit get another flick-on, and

29 Leeds (a) 0-2 ....

11 Tottenham (h) 0-0.

14 Everton (a) 1-1 (Stein).

7 C. Palace (h) 1-1 (Oakes) .

25 C. Palace (a) 1-1 (Pembridge pen) ....

21 Southampton (a) 1-2 (Pembridge)...

nh 9. Jackson 7(2), B

4, Farrell 3(1), Holsgrove 1, Glover 1 (on loan).

Nogan 1, Telfer 1, 06 1 (Tanner, Liverpool).

Oakes and Stein. One as sub by Campbell.

Jan 4 Sheff Utd (a) 0-4...

two as sub. Salton one as sub.

4 Wimbledon (h) 2-1 (Varadi, Preece) ...

APPEARANCES (as sub in brackets): Ever-presents,

36 each, Dreyer and Pembridge; Peake 32, Stein 28(5),

Preece 28(4), Harvey 27(1), Harford 23, James 22,

Kamara 22, Chamberlain 18, Telfer 17(3), Oakes 11(6),

GOALS: Harford 9, Pembridge 3(1 pen), Preece 3, Gray 3,

Dreyer 2(1 pen), Harvey 2, Oakes 2, Stein 2, Varadi 1,

FA CUP, THIRD ROUND

APPEARANCES: One each by Chamberlain, James, Peake, Dreyer, Harvey, Telfer, Kamara, Pembridge, Preece,

THE RUMBELOWS CUP

Zenith Data Systems Cup

APPEARANCES: One each by Chamberlain, Telfer, Rodger, Salton, Allpress, Pembridge, Nogan, James, Hughes, Williams

Rd 2: Oct 22 Ipswich (a) 1-1 (Telfer). Lost on pens....

and Harford. One each as sub; Rees and Campbell.

on and Varadi pounced to scramble the ball over the line from very close Harford put a header

just wide from a cross by Prece, Chamberlain made a thrilling save to stop Fashanu making it 2-1, and Harford curled a 20-yarder a few inches too high as the first half Fullback Terry ended in a torrent of

> both sides. Composed After the interval the

> Town put much more

composure into their

good attacking action by

Stein dribbled through for a shot that was too close to Hans Segers, and when Wimbledon hit back Chamberlain came to the rescue again, going full-length to push a low shot by Lawrie Sanchez

> round the post. But the Town had the better of things by now, and got the winner in the 64th minute Kamara hit a diagonal

cross in from the right

.12.109 20

. 28,231 20

.11,494 20

16.707 19

.. 15,315 20

Harford's reliable aeria

WIMBLEDON manager Joe Kinner, who knows what relegation battles are all about, hopes Luton Town win their's. The Dons were only three

the top job after Peter Withe was sacked in January. Since then Wimbledon have naed their Premier League place safe with only three defeats in his

No complaints

Gray 9(2), Hughes 6(9), Nogan 6(8), Campbell 4(7), Day 4, Rees 3, Linton 2(1), Varadi 1, Salton (1), Williams (1). said. "Paul Miller had a chance to Before transfers: Sutton 14 (on loan), Rodger 11(1), make it 2-0 and Fashanu could Thompson 5, Black have got our third just before the Number of players used: 32, eleven more than last season.

half, and good luck to them.

was a difficult challenge made more difficult when we went a

I was pleased with the first 25

'I was particularly pleased for Alec Chamberlain, who returned with confidence. "The defence did very well in

pushing Fashanu out away from goal, and the communication was very good between Chamberlain.

Peake and Dreyer. "It was a tricky decision to fighting for it, and I thought we

misjudging the bounce Prece nipped in on the placed a left-foot drive into the far corner.

#### Minimum

We might complain that once more the Town were not strong there and double the lead, but at least this time the usual latematch nerves were kept to a minimum, and Wimbledon were kept at long range until the final whistle sounded.

It provoked a roar of lelight and relief from the crowd, redoubled when news came through that Coventry had lost at home to

#### In trouble

With a five-point gap to make up in the last six games, the Town may sillier things have appened in football before today.

All I want is to see the away results start to

good at home for scored by the striker on loan from Leeds.

## Luton can still beat the odds

ed to be back in the side.

you from their first shot.

want to happen aain.

First Division side.

although it is not a good start to

"I have never been dropped

"I didn't see any point in going

Division as cover when there was

a chance I could get back into our

Century up

"I have been on 99 games for a

long time, and I wanted to reach

three figures. Thankfully I have

done that now, and I hope I can

go on to get a few more.

decide on the goalkeeper.

"Mervyn Day probably could have played with an injection to reduce the pain from his finger pints above the relegation places when he was promoted to **Late selection** 

"It was a real dilemma, and the decision was made at the last minute. Fortunately for us Alec had a sound game. Now it's up to 11 games in charge. him to go on from there."

But he had no complaints

about Saturday's result. 'We got off to a great start with John Fashanu's goal," he

"We missed our chances and paid for it. Luton won the second "We have been in the position

there are in now and got out of it, and hopefully Luton will do the Town boss David Pleat said: 'It

goal down. "But we fought back well, and

minutes of the second half. "We played good football and put a lot into it.

the importance of Saturday's 'Wimbledon were content with knocking the ball long and

stood up to it quite well after

weathering a bit of an early "In the first half we didn't pass the ball, but in the second w

### Dish it out

Midfielder Chris Kamara said: "Wimbledon are a funny side to play against. They can dish it out. t can also take it Chamberlain said: "I am pleas-

'They knocked us over for the first 15 minutes, but we had a lot of determination.

the game when the ball goes past "I have never been involved in a relegation struggle before, but "But after that everything the lads tell me they are quite went well, and we looked fairly good at it!"

before, and it is something I don't after he was passed over as a schoolboy player. Godfrey Ingram beat him to an on loan to Ipswich in the Second

back for a scoring debut 17 years

apprenticeship vacancy.

"I was very disappointed when they let me go," he said. "But in football you have got to keep going and make your way.

so when David Pleat rang me I was delighted to come.

"I was out of the side at Leeds

#### Difficult start

It was a difficult first game "Hopefully we can get the You have to battle with points we need for safety in our Wimbledon, and we did. "My goal was a matter of being

He said it might not have been in the right place at the right a pretty match to watch, but time. It was a set piece we had everyone in the Town camp knew practised in training. I think we deserved to win.

Everyone knows how well Luton have been doing football-wise this season, but it's the points

### The things they said