DOPES TOWN MATCH VERDIC

Notts County..0

Luton Town...0

Brian Swain reports from Meadow Lane, Nottingham Action pictures by Josh Levy FORCED TO

At least the Town

County, whacked 6-0

game, at Millwall, were

Their crowd seemed

to enjoy the sight of the

ball being launched hard

and hopefully at every

opportunity, with the

midfield apparently an

area to be left for grass

having attackers good

enough to embarrass the

hard-working reshuffled

Recall

There was a recall fo

John Dreyer in central

Town defence.

They played a

ving none of that.

FIGHT FOR



ON THE BALL: Phil Gray, who with Steve Claridge was a

The Coca-Cola Cup

PLAYER-MANAGER Peter Shilton fancies Plymouth's chances of completing a Coca-Cola Cup humiliation of Luton Town at Home Park on Tuesday. The injuries sustained by Trevor Peake and Marvin

Johnson, which could keep them out of football for at least month, added to the Town's discomfort.

Fighters

Shilton's Second Division fighters may have been slightly less skilful than the Town, but as a team they got everything just about right

A late header by Steve

Claridge, his second goal of the game, rescued a team that played n fits and starts, never finding the fluency and consistency that had been seen in previous games.

Plymouth worked hard, and got their reward. Shilton said: "I am quite sastisfied with the result. But we could have gone

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Hitchin, Letchworth, Stevenage, Baldock,

deserved to.

cross by Des Linton; David Regis "We were awful in the first 15 pace to reach a through-ball from minutes and in the last 15, but in putting Argyle ahead in the 75th between we were very good. We minute from a cross by Kevin Nugent after a mistake by Julian James after 'But hopefully, with our fans

behind us, we can now get OTHER ATTEMPTS: Town five through to the next round. Plymouth had two coach-loads saved, six wide and one by defender Andy Morrison hit the top of the bar in the second-lowest Kenilworth when it might have been an own goal. Road attendance since the visit Plymouth five saved and four wide by Workington in Division Three Corners: 11-3 to the Town.

REFEREE: Alan Gunn, Sussex: Match details of the best, and looked it. BOOKED: No-one.

TOWN: Petterson; Linton, Salton ATTENDANCE: 3,702: lowest first eam gate since 3,374 for the visit of Peake (Rees 71 mins), Johnson (Campbell 60 mins); Oakes, James, Orient in the Milk Cup in Septembe 1984, which was the smallest gate ARGYLE: Shilton; Poole, Hill, ENTERTAINMENT: Nowhere Morrison, Morgan; Skinner, Joyce,

he had switched to left back.

been charged down, and 80th-minute

headed equaliser from a right wing

near recent standards, and while Town injuries may have helped them GOALS: Steve Claridge twice for enormously Plymouth deserved their the Town, low drive in the tenth

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how things have pass, and show a little changed in today's climate when a tried. Luton Town team in their previous league came home rightly pleased at battling

Sadly, battle, fight and survive were the main demands at Meadow Lane as two teams relegated last season scrapped for self-

to earn an away

It did not make for much pretty football, but with the Town skipper Trevor Peake and fellow defender Marvin Johnson, it was a case of buckling down to

defence, and Julian James switched from **Pass** midfield to left back. The game cried out Loan signing Damier minute after David Preece's shot had for someone to slow Matthew came into the

| Newcastle | 8 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 2 |
|----------------|---|------|---|---|----|----|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Charlton | 9 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 2 |
| Wolves | 9 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 11 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 1 |
| West Ham | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 4 | |
| Leicester | 9 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 7 | |
| Birmingham | 8 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 5 | î | 2 | 1 | 4 | 5 | i |
| Millwall | 8 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| Swindon | 8 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 7 | | |
| Tranmere | 7 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 9 | 1 |
| Bristol City | 8 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 10 | 2 | 0 | | 5 | 5 | ı. |
| Peterboro | 8 | 1 | ī | 3 | 3 | 7 | 2 | | 1 | 7 | 8 | |
| Oxford Utd | 8 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 1 |
| Grimsby | 7 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 4 | | 2 | 1 | 4 | 6 | |
| Brentford | 8 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 6 | |
| Portsmouth | 8 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | |
| Watford | 8 | ĩ | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 11 | |
| Notts County | 8 | 0 | 2 | 2 | | 7 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 8 | |
| Cambridge | 9 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 9 | |
| Sunderland | 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 10 | |
| Southend | 8 | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | |
| Luton Town | 8 | 0 | | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 9 | |
| Derby | 8 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 5 | |
| Bristol Rovers | 9 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 6 | |
| Barnsley | 8 | 6.24 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 11 | - |
| J | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 2 | - | | • | | | | |

The First Division PWDL FAWDL FAP

Andy Petterson had another very good game in goal. His inexperience showed a couple of times with rash decisions to leave his line, but he compensated by doing the business when he was asked to

I made Steve Claridge the best forward on view, always available in any attacking position, and a real terrier on the

Right

He and Phil Gray were not given good consistent service, but the Town did create chances, and Gray had ball, it was an no luck with his 8 0 2 3 2 5 1 0 2 4 4 5 finishing.

TEL No.

BEST HAND FORWARD: Steve Claridge is beaten to the ball by Steve Cherry.

Managers' viewpoints-

difficulties. At Nottingham it had been a

point well earned, ensured by the third

He added: "Depending on whether you

"It was an exciting second half, and

are an optimist or a pessimist, some might

after we had withstood the first 15 minutes

Mr. Pleat knew that we had not seen the

No wingers

Without genuine wingers, he said, it had been a day when the Town had not made

They had found it impossible to ferry

David Preece, for instance, was a good

left-footer, but Chris Kamara and Damien

Matthew were both right-footed men.

which made the left-to-right moves very

And he was pleased with the way the

team had sorted out its responsibilities

after earlier worries that too many were

the ball across from one side to the other.

of it and begun to get the ball down we

sort of attacking his teams can produce.

think that was two points thrown away.

clean sheet of the season.

were all right.

full use of the flanks.

BOTH managers thought their teams could have been winners at Meadow Lane.

Stalemate was the

The Town's best e

chance was the result

a difficult refe

decision, afte

Claridge and G

were looking for a r

when Michael Ic

to goal down the mid

made a good tackle

But he ballooned

ball high and S

Cherry caught it on

goalline, and the

back pass rule came

effect, even though

was probably

that

designed for cases lik

Justice

The neutrals thou

justice was done w

the Town failed

breach County's 11

The indirect free

was from the six-

line. County put &

man on the goalline

ween the posts

Cherry slightly

and in the middle

Chris Kamara

heeled the ball

Cherry sprang to

drive by Rees.

and blocked the t

Luck went t

way when Mark D

played in a swirling

weakly under pr

and Don O'Riord

thumped a hea

If you were

worried about the

and quality of t

for the set

against the bar.

ute corner

Petterson pul

defensive wall.

sides failed on t

was unlucky to make a right result becaus

Luton debut against a

Considering he had

met his teammates only

24 hours earlier he did

well but it was a day

when even David Preece

found it difficult to make

class tell, and for all the

effort Jason Rees made

to get involved the lack

of balance in midfield

removed some of the

Town's attacking threat.

looked better than he

had done just before he

was dropped and Darren

County boss Neil

Warnock, seeing his side

unable to rattle a defiant

defence, took off lanky

Steve Slawson for the

last 20 minutes, and sent

on Paul Devlin, to try his

luck with the ball at his

high crosses had got

Keeper

real class.

I thought Drever

biff and bang side

But with only a point dividing ne sides in the league table, one was con-

Defensive strength Each manager was robbed by injuries of

who would have been selected, and e defensive strength was pleasing to Neil Warnock and David Pleat. The County boss was desolate a week

efore when his side was thrashed 6-0 at "That was awful," he said. "I was so ipset I thought about resigning. I can orgive all sorts of things, but I will not

olerate it when a team gives less than 100 His side had put that right against the Town, he said, and while he thought they hould have notched their first home win

eir first clean sheet. The Town manager avoided getting into a general debate about football quality as

ounty being met by the

measured approach on

the break, particularly in

Forward

Kamara got more into

the game going forward,

nd almost nicked the

ad with a long high

oss which the

oalkeeper misjudged

herry stood watching

and was nowhere near it

is the ball dipped on to

ie top of the bar and

the second half.

d by Notts County But he pointed out that his team had low gone six league and cup games

own's composed by Slawson failed to con

defending and a more ref Lawrence Dilkes

"We are becoming less vulnerable when Rees set up Preece for Then Preece shot

good on the ball and not so good off it.

into giving a penalty, Gray put him in with a clever short pass. also right later when Petterson saved Gary Claridge whacked in a Lund's 25-yarder, and a sweet move involving sub Scott Oakes and Claridge ended with County, out of the Kamara's fierce cross-

Corners County won plenty of

shot which hit Charlie

Palmer on the arm and

bounced kindly for

danger area.

A theatrical tumble

corners and from one Rees cleared off the line from O'Riordan's header.

dinto the crowd. Slawson went through The Notts striking n his own after a long efforts were seldom over the top beat sharp enough to worry r and Salton, but the Town, but the same n was alert to was true at the other e his advance to Gray mistimed a far

on, and the shot wide as the post volley and wasted it after a quick throw-in by

MATCH DETAILS

LUTON TOWN: Petterson; Linton, Salton, Rees (Campbell 81 mins), James, Matthew, Preece (Oakes 81 mins); Claridge, Gray. COUNTY: Cherry; Short, Johnson, O'Riordan, Jraper, Palmer, Turner, Smith; Slawson 70 mins), Lund. Other sub: Murphy.

GOAL ATTEMPTS: Town eight saved, four wide hit the top of the bar; County six saved, seven and two hit the woodwork. Corners: 11-6 to

REFEREE: Lawrence Dilkes, Mossley. Kept ing well, and while he resisted home or dodgy decisions in the penalty area he also wn Town appeals when a shot by Claridge be blocked by a hand. OOKED: Phil Gray for a foul on Michael

ve Claridge for handball. ENDANCE: 5,992, County's lowest in the

TERTAINMENT: In short supply so far as thall was concerned, but the Town earned silient defence and refusal to be ered by County's long ball and muscle

don't have the artistry when we have it. that performance. But we are still a young

team and it is will not happen quickly."
He thought the Town should have had a penalty when Charlie Palmer blocked a drive by Steve Claridge, but the boss had aplaints about the referee.

He had doubts over the way the back pass rule came into operation in the first half, when County goalkeeper Steve Cherry was penalised on his line.

'The referee was right, but it was very harsh," said Mr. Pleat. "I think that where there is a doubt about a deliberate back pass, the benefit should be given to the defending team.

Keeper praised

The only mistake we made at that free kick was in giving the goalkeeper the hance to charge down the shot by Jason Rees, but you had to give Cherry credit there for doing his job well.

And his final word was for the spirit to stick to principles until the final whistle. 'We were not hanging on at the end, like we used to." he said

confidence to keep striv-

not conceding a loser.

But there was a let-off with four minutes left.

shot being palmed away Oakes and Jamie Campbell went on for the last nine minutes for Preece and Rees, and it was good to see the Town refuse to go into

The defending, by

ing for a winner, rather straight at Cherry after than concentrate all on

Let-off

when a Town attack broke down and Devlin pushed a neat pass down the inside-left channel. Dave Smith sprinted

clear, with no offside given, drew Petterson. and then shot hard and low against the far post. But the last attacking action came from the

delighted to hang on at

everyone, gave them the the second attempt to a sharp 18-yard drive b Claridge

On the day the draw was about right, but the prospect of a lot more games like Saturday's is not too pleasant.

For both sides it was a day more about survival than turning on the style. And when the home team has no style to turn on, quality of football is bound to be something of a loser.

But it was still a lot better than watching TV or suffering the Arndal Town, with Cherry for a Saturday afternoon



● PROMPTING: David Preece in control. Note the long grass, which was no help to men trying to pass the ball.

FOOTBALL

Local league

A & B Sports **NHCS** League

DIVISION ONE

DIVISION TWO

DIVISION THREE

Brache Green Man

Limbury Black Swan.

GIS Leagrave .

Vauxhall Hightown

AFC Heron Res .

Stopsley Harriers R

FC Coral Res.

FC Houghton ... Dog and Duck ...

Stopsley WMC Res.

GIS Leagrave Res...

Potters Bar Town

Hatfield Town

Welwyn GC ...

61FC Luton ..

Buckingham Athletic

Brache Sparta ... Harpenden Town

Biggleswade Town.

PREMIER DIVISION

Checkout Black Swan.

DIVISION FIVE

Casa Blanca (61). Crescent Social... Kenilworth Rangers... Streatley Chequers ... Lea Sports Res ..

DIVISION SIX

Red Star Res. HR Chequers. Laporte Res.

DIVISION SEVEN

| 5 | Manor Rangers | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 3 | |
|---|---------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| 4 | Royal Mail Luton | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 3 | 4 |
| 4 | Markyate Res | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 5 | |
| 2 | Limbury United | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 8 | W. |
| 2 | Magnum Res | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 7 | |
| 2 | Red Lion | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | |
| 2 | Old Moat House Res | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | |
| 2 | The Harrow | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 9 | |
| 2 | Postels | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | |
| 1 | Luton Rovers | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 4 | |
| 0 | Kenilworth Rgrs Res | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 10 | |
| 0 | Luton Thameslink | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 13 | |
| | | | | | | | | |

Campri S. Midlands League

PREMIER DIVISION

Risborough Rgrs . London Colney Potters Bar Cru .

RESERVE DIVISION ONE

Luton District Leverstock Green and South Potters Bar Town Beds League Letchworth GC ... PREMIER DIVISION Leighton Town.. 61FC Luton . 10 3 2 5 18 19 11 7 2 3 2 9 15 9 Welwyn GC....

*Hatfield Town Shillington Harpenden Town .

Buckingham Ath.

Lewsey Park ... Rotheram OB .. Kent Ath Stockwood Athletic

Christians Four Horseshoes . Luton Old Boys Res ..

DIVISION ONE

| | P | W | D | L | F | |
|-----------------|-----|------|---|-------|----|---|
| Crawley Green | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 12 | |
| Dagnall | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 13 | |
| Celtic | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 11 | |
| Markyate | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 4 | |
| Luton OB A | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 | |
| Luton Eagles | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 | |
| Flitwick Town | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | |
| Lewsey Park Res | 3 | 1 | 1 | 23748 | | |
| Manshead ODs | 1 | 2012 | | 1 | 8 | 1 |
| Monarch | 200 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | |
| High Town OB. | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | |
| Rotheram OB A | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 1 |
| SIEC Luter | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| 61FC Luton | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Eaton Bray Res | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | |
| Kent Ath Res | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | |

RESERVE DIVISION TWO

| *Ordand Cit. | 0 | 0 | | U | 13 | 8 |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------|-------|---|----|---|
| *Oxford City | 8 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 27 | 9 |
| Cranfield | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 4 |
| Flamstead | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 17 | 13 |
| Bedford United | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | | 93326-45 |
| Risborough | 90 - 40 | | 03.50 | | 16 | 13 |
| Stony Stratford | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 12 |
| Amethin T | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 11 | 8 |
| Ampthill Town | 7 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 11 | 15 |
| ASICCON | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 8 |
| *De Havilland | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 16 | S15000 S10 |
| Winslow United | 5 | 2 | 33340 | | | 15 |
| Caddington | 200.50 | 100.7 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 10 |
| Dalco | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 5 |
| Delco | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 15 |
| Tring Ath | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 15 |
| Potters Bar Cru | 8 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 11 | 100000000000000000000000000000000000000 |
| lckleford | 4 | 1 | 33.00 | | | 28 |
| Sandy Alb | 53355 | 1000 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| Walden Dom | 7 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 14 |
| Walden Rgrs | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 7 | 15 |
| | | | | | | |

Three points deducted