

Sports News

TOWN MATCH VERDICT

Luton Town0
Peterborough0

Brian Swain reports

Action pictures: Josh Levy

POSH DEFENCE SETS UP A LAST DAY DECIDER

WE WILL have to wait until Saturday night to discover if the 13th home draw of the season is good or bad luck for Luton Town.

Manager David Pleat did his best to remind us of the positive things to take out of a disappointing last home game. Another point had been gathered, and that might well be enough to ensure safety whatever happens between now and Saturday evening.

But everyone knew that a golden chance to wrap it up with a week to spare had been thrown away by a team that can do so much to impress except where it matters most, in the penalty area.

Peterborough, led by a manager who had a good football grounding under Mr Pleat, rode their luck and went home well pleased with a point to keep them in the top ten.

By contrast the Town dressing room was very subdued and thoughtful, as were the supporters who had come with high expectation, and left with the annual worry about what might happen on the last day of the season.

Peterborough rarely looked good enough to win, but they were well organised, defended in depth, and battled away, a team without stars, but full of workers.

They never matched the Town in quality of passing and attacking, yet their goalkeeper had only one save of note to make.

The Town were too predictable, running into the mass of blind

alleys Peterborough offered.

It might have been different if luck had gone with the Town instead of the opposition in the first minute.

The boss recalled more pace and width into the attack, and the knocked over a perfect far post cross. Kerry Dixon met it with a powerful header, but the ball hit the outside of the post and Peterborough cleared.

Oakes and Martin Johnson combined to give Paul Telfer the chance to lash a volley

of target, and Phil Gray was too high with

his volley after

the ball had flicked

off him from a long

pass by John Dreyer.

But Oakes, so

threatening with his

running down the net

from a cross by

Sterling, but he

and Adcock were

both well offside.

Referee Pat Foakes

earned few admirers

in the 49th minute

when Oakes made

a strong pacey run

from deep towards

goal.

Marcus Ebdon

brought him down

from behind, escaped

with a lecture and

not a yellow card,

and must have

thought it all worthwhile

when Oakes hit the

free kick into the

crowd.

Chances came

and went, with the

pattern the same

for the last 20

minutes when the

Town were playing

with two men wide

on the flanks.

Martin Williams

was sent on in

place of

Kamara.

But Chamberlain

had to go full length

to save from Gary

Cooper after

Sterling made the

best of

the season so far

CHART SHOWS Town score first, goalscorers, gates and league position.

BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIV I

1992

AUGUST

16 Leicester (a) 1-2 (Campbell).....17,428

22 Bristol City (h) 0-3.....7,926

22 Charlton (a) 0-0.....6,302

SEPTEMBER

22 Newcastle (a) 0-2.....27,054

21 Reading (h) 1-3 (Claridge, Linton, Oakes).....8,801

21 Brentford (a) 2-1 (James, Gray).....7,310

19 Birmingham (h) 1-1 (Claridge pen).....8,481

21 Notts Co (a) 0-0.....5,992

OCTOBER

22 Portsmouth (h) 1-4 (Dreyer).....7,954

21 Cambridge (h) 3-3 (Claridge, Linton, Oakes).....5,261

23 Charlton (h) 1-3 (Johnson).....8,848

23 Peterborough (a) 3-2 (Gray, Telfer).....7,125

22 Southend (a) 2-2 (James, Gray).....7,256

NOVEMBER

22 Cambridge (a) 3-3 (Oakes, Gray).....5,715

22 Gillingham (h) 0-4 (Gray).....6,928

22 Millwall (h) 1-1 (Gray).....5,760

21 Luton (h) 1-1 (Claridge, Oakes).....8,371

21 Watford (h) 1-1 (Preece).....8,341

DECEMBER

22 Bristol Rovers (a) 0-2.....6,245

22 Wolves (h) 1-1 (Gray).....13,932

20 Swindon (a) 0-1.....10,959

13 West Ham (h) 2-0 (Gray pen, Williams).....16,493

17 Sunderland (a) 2-2 (Preece, Telfer).....16,493

24 Derby (a) 1-1 (Preece).....13,741

MAY

1 Peterborough (h) 0-0.....10,011

APPEARANCES: Las sub in brackets; Gray 44; James and Preece 42; Peake 39; Johnson 37(2); Dreyer 37; Chamberlain 31; Rees 29(3); Telfer 29(2); Oakes 25(18); Williams 25(3); Kamara 20; Linton 17(3); Dixon 15(1); Salton 15; Patterson 14; Williams 7(14); Benjamin 5(5); Campbell 2(7); Harvey and Greene 1. BEFORE TRANSFERS: Claridge 15(1); Matthew (on loan) 3(2). Number of players used: 23 (32 last season).

GOALS: Gray 19(2) pens, Oakes 5, Johnson 3, James 2, Dreyer 2, Hughes 2, Dixon 2, Preece 3, Telfer 2, Claridge 2(1 pen). One each by Campbell, Linton, Benjamin and Williams. One OG: Lee Maddison, of Bristol Rovers.

ASSISTS: Preece 8, Gray 5, Johnson 4, Hughes and Kamara 3. Two each by Rees, Dreyer, Oakes, Williams, Dixon and Claridge. One each by James, Linton, Telfer, Peake and Salton.

REMAINING fixtures: Saturday Peterborough (h), Saturday week Southend (a).

THE FA CUP

Round 3: Jan 19 Bristol City (h) 2-0 (Gray, Hughes).....6,094

Round 4: Jan 23 Derby County (h) 1-5 (Telfer).....9,170

APPEARANCES: Two each by Chamberlain, James, Dreyer, Peake, Johnson, Telfer, Rees, Preece, Hughes, Gray and Benjamin. Two each as subs by Oakes and Harvey.

THE COCA-COLA CUP

Round 2 (1): Sep 23 Plymouth (h) 2-2 (Claridge 2).....3,702

Round 2 (2): Oct 6 Plymouth (a) 2-3 (Claridge, Preece) 8,946

APPEARANCES: Two each by Patterson, Linton, Salton, Peake, Johnson, James, Kamara, Preece, Gray and Claridge. Oakes 1(1), Rees 1(1). One each as sub by Campbell and Dreyer. GOALS: Claridge 3, Preece 1.

ANGLO-ITALIAN CUP

Sep 15 Watford (a) 0-0.....5,197

29 Bristol City (h) 1-1 (Claridge).....2,538

APPEARANCES: Two each by Patterson, Linton, Salton, Rees, James, Kamara, Claridge and Gray. Preece 1(1), Campbell 1(1), Peake 1, Johnson 1, Dreyer 1, Matthew 1, Oakes 2(2).

FOILED AGAIN: Posh goalkeeper Ian Bennett fields a cross with Phil Gray not too happy to see it delivered too far forward for him to have a chance of making contact.



FOILED AGAIN: Posh goalkeeper Ian Bennett fields a cross with Phil Gray not too happy to see it delivered too far forward for him to have a chance of making contact.

Chris Kamara, when little went right for him, the Town were a class above the Posh.

But Oakes, so threatening with his running down the net from a cross by Sterling, but he and Adcock were both well offside.

Referee Pat Foakes earned few admirers in the 49th minute when Oakes made a strong pacey run from deep towards goal.

Marcus Ebdon brought him down from behind, escaped with a lecture and not a yellow card, and must have thought it all worthwhile when Oakes hit the free kick into the crowd.

Chances came and went, with the pattern the same for the last 20 minutes when the Town were playing with two men wide on the flanks.

Martin Williams was sent on in place of Kamara.

But Chamberlain had to go full length to save from Gary Cooper after Sterling made the best of the season so far

I hope Luton don't go down

LIL Fuccillo, manager of Luton, admitted that his team had got the most they deserved at Kenilworth Road.

They came to defend well and hope for something on the break, and he was not too happy about the way the Town enjoyed so much control, especially in the first half.

"I gave my men a bit of a verbal volley at half-time," he said.

His greatest pleasure was the good reception the crowd gave him on his first visit as a manager since he was a player and part of the promotion-winning squad just over ten years ago.

"Over the 90 minutes Luton were far superior, had more of the play, and had more attacking than us," he said.

"But we defended well and in the second half we might have sneaked something."

He believes today's Luton Town team is not as good as the one he was part of, but added: "Luton still play nice football, as they have always done. I hope they don't go down."

His chairman, Chris Turner, another former Town player, agreed, and Town boss David Pleat, as is reported on the back page, said he thought the point gained was enough to keep First Division football at Kenilworth Road.

He was disappointed not to win, yet grateful that it had not been worse, because in the late stages, with the Town on top and going for goal, there was always the danger that they could be caught out and hit on the break.

"We don't have enough pace," was the comment of Fuccillo about that danger.

Said Mr Pleat: "We were not sharp enough, and did not have the guile to get through."

Peterborough defended deep but we had enough half-chances to win.

"And I thought we looked a little restless in the second half."

THREE AGAINST TWO: Scott Oakes and Phil Gray outnumbered.



LEADING BY EXAMPLE: Skipper Trevor Peake goes up for a corner.



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Local Soccer: Chiltern Youth League tables

UNDER-18 DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Leighton Town	12	8	2	43	18	18	
Hitchin Town	11	8	1	23	19	18	
Royston Town	10	6	2	36	14	14	
Luton Boys Club	11	4	3	47	21	11	
Stevens	11	2	4	27	31	8	
Lea Sports	11	2	7	14	40	7	
Coldharbour	12	1	2	9	16	7	
Wand	12	1	2	9	16	7	

UNDER-18 DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Woodstock	14	12	1	50	21	25	
Ramridge	15	11	0	47	25	22	
Dunstable	13	6	1	40	28	13	
Gysel	13	4	6	28	29	11	
Fairlands Youth	15	5	10	28	45	10	
HR Chiquers	14	1	12	18	63	3	

UNDER-16 DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
MK Wanderers	13	7	5	32	21	19	
Downside A	13	6	3	41	27	15	
Stevens	9	5	2	27	19	12	
Limbury BC	14	3	6	19	20	12	
*Putteridge	16	2	8	34	38	16	
*Amphill Boys	17	4	9	53	50	14	
Leighton Town	9	3	3	14	13	9	
Flamstead	12	3	6	25	39	9	
Leighon Foxes	10	3	2	21	21	8	

UNDER-16 DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Ramridge A	18	17	0	100	20	20	
Aylesbury Utd	18	13	1	70	30	17	
Dunstable Jnr	17	10	7	54	41	20	
Lewsey Centre	18	8	1	9	58	67	17
Lewsey Rgrs A	18	7	2	9	57	61	16
St. Mary's	18	2	3	13	25	7	
Leighon Cor	17	0	3	14	22	106	3

UNDER-14 DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Celtic Youth	15	15	0	1	50	18	30
Aylesbury Utd	15	10	2	3	43	18	22
Astra	16	9	3	4	49	31	21
Shenley Boys	16	7	3	6	50	26	17
Leighon Foxes	17	6	4	7	25	37	16
St. Joseph's	15	7	1	7	48	33	15
Ramridge Rgrs A	17	4	7	6	25	34	15
Lewsey Centre	15	5	4	6	4	30	15
Limbury BC	17	4	1	12	41	83	9
Newport Pagnell	18	1	1	16	20	76	3

UNDER-14 DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Dunstable Jnr	15	14	0	4	44	17	29
Auxiliary Yth	15	10	2	7	37	38	24
Amphill Boys	15	10	1	4	48	28	21
H Hatters	15	10	1	4	48	28	21
Pioneers	16	3	9	3	37	47	10
Downside	16	3	10	2	36	39	9
Downside	16	3	10	2	36	39	9
Barton Stars	16	4	1	11	33	64	9
Ramridge B	16	3	2	11	28	66	8

UNDER-12 DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Sundon PK	21	12	3	6	77	39	27
H Hatters	21	11	2	11	54	42	24
Wingrave	23	10	2	11	51	52	22
St. Mary's	23	10	2	11	51	52	22
Leighon Foxes	21	9	3	9	44	43	21
Amphill Boys	24	8	1	21	53	61	20
Celtic Youth	23	3	0	20	33	99	6
Flamstead	23	3	0	20	33	99	6
Lea Sports	16	0	0	16	13	104	0

UNDER-12 DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Icknield Ath	25	22	1	2	100	27	45
Sundon PK	22	19	2	1	76	40	40
H Hatters	21	12	3	6	77	39	27
Wingrave	21	11	2	11	54	42	24
St. Mary's	23	10	2	11	51	52	22
Leighon Foxes	21	9	3	9	44	43	21
Amphill Boys	24	8	1	21	53	61	20
Celtic Youth	23	3	0	20	33	99	6
Flamstead	23	3	0	20	33	99	6
Lea Sports	16	0	0	16	13	104	0

UNDER-10 DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Delco Dynamo	20	19	1	0	148	20	39
Icknield Ath	20	11	3	6	112	63	25
Beaudesert UB	19	11	2	6	78	45	24
Barnfield Colts	18	9	1	0	94	63	21
Kensworth	19	2	1	25	38	135	5
Harington	20	1	1	18	43	187	3

UNDER-10 DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
St. Joseph's	24	20	4	0	127	45	14
Aylesbury Utd	21	16	2	3	129	46	34
Sacred Heart	20	14	3	3	89	45	31
Celtic Youth	21	13	4	4	93	50	30
Flamstead	24	13	7	45	62	30	
Lewsey Centre	24	12	5	7	85	29	30
Amphill Boys	24	13	8	9	89	25	29
AFIC Luton	23	10	5	10	69	66	23
Houghton Yth A	25	3	10	15	69	83	23
Dunstable Jnr	20	5	15	0	89	66	23
Lea Sports	21	5	12	4	38	87	12
Ramridge	25	3	19	4	41	90	11
Sundon PK	23	2	7	14	41	90	11
Markyate Youth	25	3	19	4	45	129	9
	21	1	0	17	35	165	9

UNDER-8 DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Dragons Yth A	26	20	1	0	182	44	41
Dunstable Jnr	23	20	1	0	131	40	40
Warden Hill	25	18	2	5	133	30	40
Pine Green	22	18	0	4	149	39	38
Luton Boys Club	25	13	5	7	76	58	31
Icknield Ath	22	12	3	7	112	63	27
H Hatters	22	12	3	7	112	63	27
Filthick Eagles	24	11	1	12	90	82	24
Delco Dynamo	25	9	2	14	93	68	23
Barton Stars	25	9	2	14	93	68	23
Barnfield Colts	25	8	1	16	93	137	17
Houghton Yth B	24	3	18	8	169	13	17
Downside	23	0	0	23	13	277	0

UNDER-8 DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Leighon Cor	21	17	1	3	123	33	33
Newport Pagnell	17	16	1	0	123	33	33
Ramridge A	20	14	1	5	79	28	29
Leighon Cor	21	14	1	6	61	52	29
Sacred Heart	21	13	2	6	68	42	28
Lewsey Centre	22	12	0	8	56	60	22
Dunstable Jnr	20	10	2	8	59	60	22
Sundon PK	25	5	2	14	41	81	12
St. Mary's	22	2	1	24	41	25	78
Ramridge	22	2	1	25	42	114	12
Redburn	22	2	1	25	42	114	12
Houghton Youth	22	1	3	18	19	92	5

UNDER-6 DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Celtic Youth	22	19	1	1	126	34	39
Jets	22	18	3	1	119	31	39
Warden Hill	21	17	1	4	110	27	35
Leighon Foxes	21	14	2	5	85	40	30
Amphill Boys	22	8	5	9	61	62	21
*Markyate	22	8	12	5	63	66	20
*Sacred Heart B	22	8	3	11	71	74	17
The Arrow	22	8	0	14	39	104	10
St. Paul's	22	8	0	14	39	104	10
Hillborough H	22	3	3	13	64	65	12
Kensworth	22	3	3	17	45	106	10
	22	2	1	19	36	147	9

UNDER-6 DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Leighon Cor	17	14	1	2	54	14	29
Ramridge	15	9	0	3	48	15	21
St. Joseph's	18	9	0	5	33	16	18
Lewsey Centre A	16	7	2	6	34	30	18
Amphill Boys	15	7	2	6	26	37	16
AFIC Houghton	16	4	7	27	48	14	18
Barnfield Colts	16	4	5	7	28	33	17
Sacred Heart	15	2	3	11	20	33	7
	15	2	0	13	13	67	4

UNDER-4 DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Amphill A	24	24	0	0	172	25	24
Leighon Cor	23	18	2	3	111	25	24
AFIC B	23	14	3	6	96	27	24
Wingrave	24	13	3	8	96	27	24
Westoning BC	24	11	2	11	88	27	24
Sundon PK	24	11	2	11	88	27	24
Flamstead	24	8	3	13	63	30	24
Amphill B	24	6	3	15	63	30	24
Barnfield B	24	3	6	15	63	30	24
Pioneers	24	5	3	16	63	30	24
Barton Stars	24	3	2	21	63	30	24
Toddington Row	24	0	3	21	63	30	24

UNDER-4 DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Amphill A	24	24	0	0	172	25	24
Leighon Cor	23	18	2	3	111	25	24
AFIC B	23	14	3	6	96	27	24
Wingrave	24	13	3	8	96	27	24
Westoning BC	24	11	2	11	88	27	24
Sundon PK	24	11	2	11	88	27	24
Flamstead	24	8	3	13	63	30	24
Amphill B	24	6	3	15	63	30	24
Barnfield B	24	3	6	15	63	30	24
Pioneers	24	5	3	16	63	30	24
Barton Stars	24	3	2	21	63	30	24
Toddington Row	24	0	3	21	63	30	24

UNDER-2 DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
St. Joseph's	21	19	1	0	123	33	33
Newport Pagnell	17	16	1	0	123	33	33
Ramridge A	20	14	1	5	79	28	29
Leighon Cor	21	14	1	6	61	52	29
Sacred Heart	21	13	2	6	68	42	28
Lewsey Centre	22	12	0	8	56	60	22
Dunstable Jnr	20	10	2	8	59	60	22
Sundon PK	25	5	2	14	41	81	12
St. Mary's	22	2	1	24	41	25	78
Ramridge	22	2	1	25	42	114	12
Redburn	22	2	1	25	42	114	12
Houghton Youth	22	1	3	18	19	92	5

UNDER-2 DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Celtic Youth	22	19	1	1	126	34	39
Jets	22	18	3	1	119	31	39
Warden Hill	21	17	1	4	110	27	35
Leighon Foxes	21	14	2	5	85	40	30
Amphill Boys	22	8	5	9	61	62	21
*Markyate	22	8	12	5	63	66	20
*Sacred Heart B	22	8	3	11	71	74	17
The Arrow	22	8	0	14	39	104	10
St. Paul's	22	8	0	14	39	104	10
Hillborough H	22	3	3	13	64	65	12
Kensworth	22	3	3	17	45	106	10
	22	2	1	19	36	147	9