

Sports News

TOWN MATCH VERDICT

Southend Utd2
Luton Town1

(Half-time: 2-1)

Brian Swain reports

Action pictures: Josh Levy

SOCCER WITH A SOFT CENTRE IS SHORT OF BITE



● ONE FOR US: Kerry Dixon, one of Luton Town's greatest fans, enjoys scoring their last goal of the season, his third for the club.

ALMOST swamped by power, pace and muscle in the first half, Luton Town improved in the second, and then ended the season with a huge sigh of relief at Roots Hall.

Failings by the other teams around the relegation zone enabled them and their fans to relax, and another last-day escape from the drop gave much

greater pleasure than the result against Southend.

In view of the difficulties caused by the financial straitjacket, David Preece and his men had every right to celebrate despite another defeat. It was a lovely feeling as fans of both sides joined in a joyful pitch party to express the relief that came from knowing the axe that was poised had swung over Cambridge and Brentford instead of Luton and Southend.

The Sunday morning hangover, however, was the worry that unless there is a major change of direction or ambition in the boardroom we might be in the very same rocky boat in 12 months time.

At half time at Southend the only bright spot for the big Luton following was the news of other results.

Relax

It reached the players of both sides throughout the game, and enabled them to relax a little.

But a lot of us were bothered about what might have happened if it had been a soccer life or death job, because in the first 45 minutes the Town had almost been put to the sword.

Southend had to win to overhaul the Town and guarantee their safety.

And they were taking no prisoners in a rip-roaring, all-action assault on the Town goal.

It was basic, almost crude, but so effective that at times the Town

looked as though they had no stomach for this kind of battle.

In Stan Collymore, the reserve striker Colin Murphy bought before he was sacked, Southend had the most dangerous attacker on view.

The Town set John Dreyer on him, and he did well to avoid being trampled.

For a big man, the striker was surprisingly quick and versatile.

He led a side which played with a furious passion in the first half, going in hard at both ends. For the home fans it was thrills and no frills. It was painfully effective to Luton eyes.

The Town did well to hold it to 2-1 at the break, and afterwards, with both teams being fairly certain their futures were secure, Southend eased off, and at last the Town's more composed passing football was able to show.

Even so, it became yet another day for wishing that the sweet play could have been a confection with a really hard centre.

Hard-working Phil Gray was given a bit of a going over by Pat Scully and ref John Carter turning a disgraceful blind eye.

He piled on the misery by allowing the clogging to go on and booking the victim to dissent. The news that Mr Carter has now

Match details

Southend Utd 2 Luton Town 1

LUTON TOWN: Chamberlain; James, Peake, Dreyer, Johnson; Telfer (Williams, 72 minutes), Kamara (Oakes 59 minutes), Preece, Hughes; Dixon, Gray.

SOUTHEND: Sansome; Edwards, Scully, Prior, Powell; Hall, Sussex, Jones, Tilson; Collymore, Angell. Subs, not used, Smith and Martin.

GOALS: 1-0, 21 mins: Andy Sussex, cracking first time drive from the edge of the box after Trevor Peake's attempted clearance from a cross by Stan Collymore dropped into his path; 2-0, 39 mins: Brett Angell header after Spencer Prior headed on a free kick by Steve Tilson; 2-1, 43 mins: Kerry Dixon, close range shot after Southend made a mess of dealing with a low cross by Paul Telfer.

OTHER ATTEMPTS: Town three saved and three wide; Southend four saved, four wide, early header by Mark Hall shaved the outside of a post and one by Stan Collymore disallowed for offside by Brett Angell. Corners: 1-0 to Southend in the first half, 6-0 to the Town in the second.

REFEREE: John Carter of Christchurch: It was his last match in the Football League. Pity he didn't retire a week earlier. The clogging he allowed Phil Gray to take was a disgrace.

BOOKED: John Dreyer for hands, Phil Gray for dissent, Marvin Johnson for a foul and Brett Angell of Southend for continuing to have a shot after offside had been given against him.

ENTERTAINMENT: Acceptable once we heard other scores coming in and knew that neither team at Roots Hall would be relegated. Southend bombed their way to superiority in the first half with height, pace and muscle all too much for the Town, but the more cultured football came from the Town after the interval, when they could easily have saved the match if they had shown real striking power.

CONGRATULATIONS: To both sets of fans, who applauded each other at the end of the game, with the Town following being allowed on to the pitch to give their heroes an ovation, and to add the season's last chant of 'Kohler Out.'



● FAREWELL: Martin Williams, Ceri Hughes, David Preece and Kerry Dixon head towards the Town fans to say thanks for marvellous support, and goodbye until August 14.

Local Soccer: Chiltern Youth League tables

UNDER-18 DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Hitchin Town.....	12	9	1	2	57	19
Leighton Town.....	12	8	2	2	43	18
Royston Town.....	10	6	2	2	36	14
Luton Boys Club.....	11	4	3	4	37	27
Stevens.....	11	2	4	5	27	31
Lea Sports.....	12	2	2	8	14	44
Coldharbour.....	12	1	2	9	16	77

UNDER-18 DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Woodstock	15	13	1	1	51	21 2
Cambridge	15	11	0	4	47	25 2
Dunstable	15	7	1	7	41	29 1
Gyssel	15	4	4	7	30	32 1
Fairlands	15	5	0	10	28	45 1
HR Chequers	15	1	2	12	20	65

UNDER-17 DIVISION ONE

avenage.....	15	14	0	1	85	15	21
K Rangers.....	15	13	0	2	74	27	20
. Joseph's.....	15	5	2	8	41	48	12
ark Town.....	15	4	4	7	29	44	12
eighton Cor.....	15	3	3	9	35	61	9
ensworth.....	15	1	1	13	23	92	3

UNDER-17 DIVISION TWO

Sundon Pk.....	27	24	2	1	96	12	50
Leighfield Ath.....	27	24	1	2	111	27	49
H Hatters.....	26	15	4	7	82	43	34
Wingrave.....	27	24	1	2	111	27	49
Leighton Foxes.....	26	13	3	10	50	48	29
St. Mary's.....	25	12	2	11	53	54	26
Amphill Boys.....	27	10	5	12	62	79	25
Fleming Youth.....	27	6	0	21	36	100	12
Lea Youth.....	27	5	1	21	54	91	11
Lea Sports.....	27	0	0	27	13	115	0

UNDER-16 DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A
MK Wanderers...	13	7	5	1	32	21
Downs A	14	6	3	5	31	29
Stevenage	9	5	2	2	27	19
Flamstead	13	4	3	6	29	36
Leighton Foxes	11	4	2	5	23	21
Limbury BC	13	2	6	5	17	20
St. Joseph's	14	3	4	7	24	38

UNDER-16 DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Camridge A	18	17	0	1	100	20
Aylesbury Utd.....	19	14	1	4	87	34
Dunstable Jns.....	18	11	0	7	58	43
Lewsey Centre.....	18	8	1	9	58	67
Amphill Boys.....	18	7	2	9	57	61
St. Mary's	19	2	3	14	27	75
Leighton Cor.....	18	0	3	15	28	115

UNDER-16 DIVISION THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Barton Stars.....	21	13	5	3	107	42	31
Tring Tn.....	21	12	6	3	73	40	39
Cambridge Rgrs B	19	10	5	4	99	32	24
Pioneers.....	21	11	2	8	71	50	25
Griffin Brache....	21	9	5	7	67	34	33
Downside B.....	20	8	2	10	60	82	18
Camfield Colts...	21	4	2	15	46	135	11
Manor Youth.....	20	1	1	18	25	133	3

UNDER-15 DIVISION ONE

St. Joseph's.....	14	13	1	0	88	11	27
Dunstable Jnr....	15	11	2	2	66	21	24
Warden Hill.....	15	9	1	5	55	30	19
Shenley.....	15	4	2	9	22	60	10
Valley Park.....	14	3	2	9	30	51	8
Sts.....	15	0	0	15	18	106	6

UNDER-15 DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Sundon Pk.....	18	14	2	2	100	26	30
Lea Sports.....	18	12	0	6	48	23	24
St. Mary's.....	18	10	3	5	44	40	23
Puttbridge.....	18	8	2	8	36	38	20
Amphill Boys.....	18	5	4	9	54	50	16
Lewsey Centre.....	18	6	0	12	43	39	8
St. Joseph's.....	14	3	4	7	24	38	10
H Hatters.....	18	2	1	15	24	133	5

UNDER-14 DIVISION ONE



UNDER-14 DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Celtic Youth	17	16	0	1	55	19	32
Aylesbury Utd	17	11	2	4	47	25	22
Flamstead	22	15	4	3	95	50	34
Amphill Boys	22	13	4	7	97	63	32
Lewsey Centre	25	14	3	8	104	86	31
Celtic Youth	21	13	4	3	52	30	

UNDER-14 DIVISION TWO

Cambridge Rovers A	18	5	7	6	27	34	17
Elton Eighton Foxes	18	6	5	7	32	40	17
Chenley Boys	16	6	4	6	51	29	16
Lewsey Centre	16	5	4	7	23	25	14
Limbury BC	18	4	1	13	41	85	9
Newport Pagnell	18	1	1	16	20	76	3

UNDER-14 DIVISION TWO

UNDER-14 DIVISION THREE

Hatters	16	11	1	4	52	29	23
Amphill Boys	16	10	1	5	53	29	21
Pioneers	16	3	4	9	37	47	10
London Pk.	16	3	3	10	26	39	9
Downside	16	4	1	11	29	51	9
Arton Stars	16	4	1	11	33	64	9
Camridge B.	16	3	2	11	28	66	8

UNDER-14 DIVISION THREE

	P	W	D	L	T	A
Delco Dynamo ...	20	19	1	0	148	19
Beaundesert OB...	20	12	2	6	78	45
lcknfield Ath	20	11	3	6	112	63
Barnfield Colts...	20	10	1	9	101	66
Kensworth	20	2	2	16	40	142
Harlington	20	1	1	18	43	187

UNDER-13 DIVISION ONE

Aylesbury Utd	24	18	2	4	138	49	38
Sacred Heart	22	15	4	3	95	50	34
Flamstead	25	14	4	7	97	63	32
Amphill Boys	26	13	5	8	80	51	31
Lewsey Centre	25	14	3	8	104	86	31
Celtic Youth	21	13	4	4	93	52	30
61FC Luton	26	11	3	12	79	73	27
Houghton Yth A	25	7	3	15	63	89	24

UNDER-13 DIVISION TWO

Markyate Youth	24	2	3	19	42	160
UNDER-13 DIVISION TWO						
	P	W	D	L	F	A
Dunstable Jnr....	26	23	0	3	166	32
Pin Green.....	25	21	0	4	164	52
Dragons Yth A...	26	20	1	5	182	44
Weymouth Utd...	25	19	1	5	182	44

UNDER-13 DIVISION THREE

Flitwick Eagles	26	11	4	11	95	87
WL Saints	26	10	2	12	75	70
Delco Dynamo	26	10	2	14	94	99
Barton Stars	26	10	1	15	83	96
Barnfield Colts	26	8	1	17	94	137
Houghton Yth B	25	6	1	18	88	165
Downside	26	3	3	20	50	165
	26	0	0	26	18	308

UNDER-12 DIVISION ONE

UNDER-12 DIVISION					
	P	W	D	L	F
St. Joseph's	21	19	0	2	121
Newport Pagnell	17	16	1	0	123
Ramridge A	20	14	1	5	79
Leighton Cor	21	14	1	6	61
Sacred Heart.....	21	13	2	6	68
Lewsey Centre	22	10	2	10	59