Telephone Advertising: (0482) 423423; Editorial (0582) 31288; Dunstable Editorial: (0582) 606811

Sports News

TOWN MATCH VERDICT

Luton Town 1
Notts County 0
(Half-time 1-0)

★★★

Action pictures: John Sherwood

Brian Swain reports

County lucky not to be given a real pasting

ALTHOUGH they had only one goal to show off in Luton Town's display on Saturday was much more encouraging for fans and manager alike.

It has to be admitted that Notts County were as poor a team as we have seen visiting Kenilworth Road with the record they set at Kenilworth Road, their 25th league game without a win.

And their marking was awful when Paul Dickov headed the winner in the 13th minute.

WOODWORK

But the detailed count reflect a little more right, tells us they spent 90 of the minutes they were able to enjoy supremacy in attacking department.

Goalkeeper Steve Cherry was County's best player, aided by the woodwork on a couple of occasions.

I found it hard to believe a Town man of the match from such a performance.

Dickov got the vote of most neutrals, not only for the assured header that gave him the Luton goal, but for the all-round effort and endeavour of his play.

In a difficult game Tuffey was outstanding in his quiet and effective way, and always not to score with a shot that was declared off the line.

Kevin Ellison was the most dangerous player in the field, darted in to place his header accurately past Cherry.

With the Town midfield dominated, the defence had an easy time of it against Peake and John Dreyer always in charge assured Gary McSwegan and Gary Lineker.

On the flanks Marvin Johnson and Jon Linton were both much more composed than of late, and Sommer was not extended.

His only mistake was on one of the rare occasions County threatened, when a long ball from the goalkeeper made a mash of a dive by Mark Draper, but Tuffey cleared off the line.

There is a criticism County's only other real chance came when Johnson and Hughes got at odds with each other and lost possession, but even in a corner that followed Lund headed well wide.

There were few other scares at the other end, with Harrison writing hard against one of the few County men to put up a real effort, Richard Walker.

But if the new winds under Lil Fenwick's sail were kept fairly quiet it was at a price for the visitors: while they worked on half the space for others it paid off, and the Town should had done so more ruthlessly.

Oakes shot over the top from an acute angle after dumping Palmer in his backside, following an incisive passing move by Harison and Tuffey.

Cherry did well to deep out a 25-yarder by Dreyer after a corner was half-cleared, and Hughes might have done better with a volley which missed the target after the ref and neatness put into a half a single over the offside line.

John Brandwood, the ref, made some strange decisions, and if Hughes lacks to be allowed to fire off the volley Walker was even luckier not to receive a caution for bringing down Dreyer.

The ref was also suspect on his time keeping, with a total of 13 minutes extra being played.

In the second half the lot used County twice from the throughs they might have suffered.

Harison beat the offside trap and from his cross Tuffey was a clearance against the top of the bar, a header away from being a spectacular own goal.

Cherry saved from Harison, who drew tremendous cheers when he took a short pass from Linton and shot over from about ten yards. We all know he should have scored, but appreciated the work he was on the spot to have a go.

The last action was inevitably all about Dickov.

He was injured going in where it hurts, and instead of stopping play the ref let it go on to the other end of the field.

Physio Andy McDade went on to attend to the striker, after the ref missed a linesman's flag that was trying to draw attention to the injury.

McDade was booked, as Harison had been earlier for a foul on Tommy Gallagher.

UNLUCKY

And lady luck was against Dickov as the Town so nearly finished with a flourish. Oakes set up the Arsenal man for an open header, which bounced off the bar with Cherry beaten.

The second goal would have been better than Dickov and the Town deserved, and in his credit County boss Lil Fenwick paid tribute those who had no doubts about that.

The match details

LUTON TOWN: Sommer; Linton, Peake, Dreyer, Johnson; Tuffey, Harper, Oakes; Dickov (Campbell 90 mins), Harison (Williams 81 mins), Gnaliberger, Walker, Palmer, Johnson (Cox 87 mins).

COUNTY: Cherry; Gallagher, Walker, Palmer, Johnson (Cox 87 mins); Devlin, Draper, Simpson, Legg (Wilson, 68 mins); McSwegan, Lund, Hughes, Ellison.

Goalkeeper Paul Dickov's first for the Town, precise header from a precision right wing cross by Scott Oakes in the 13th minute.

OTHER STRIKES: Town saves: none. 1, 12 wide and two hit the bar; Notts County three saved and five wide. Corners: 10-6 to the Town.

BOOKED: John Harison and Richard Walker, Notts County; Paul Tuffey, Town; Andy McDade, for going on to do his job when the play was 100 yards away and Dickov was injured.

REFEREE: John Brandwood of Lichfield. A bit of a waffly. He should have been in basketball suggested County manager Mick Walker — Mr Brandwood played seven minutes of stoppage time at the end of the first half, when there were just over two on my stopwatch, and just over six minutes of overtime at the end. The game was the last to be completed.

ATTENDANCE: 6,366, still below break-even, but higher than for the last two home games, despite the demonstrations in Kenilworth Road calling for people-power fans to boycott the match.

ENTERTAINMENT: Pretty good, with the Town well ahead of Notts County in every department, and unlucky not to win by a far wider margin. The visitors were dire.

● ACTION MAN: Matchwinner Paul Dickov, despite being held under the armpit by Notts skipper Charlie Palmer, launches an overhead kick which hit the bar in the last minute.

The Town's facts and figures so far

● CHART SHOWS Town scorers first, goalscorers, gates and league position.

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE DIV I

1993

	AUGUST
14 Watford (h) 3-1 [Tuffey]	5,140
21 Portsmouth (a) 0-1	12,242
28 Bolton Forest (h) 2-2 [Harison]	6,798
	SEPTEMBER
4 Sunderland (a) postponed	
11 Barnsley (h) 1-1 [Harper]	7,108
18 Swindon (a) 1-2 [Gnaliberger]	5,971
25 Middlesbrough (a) 0-2	17,427
29 Birmingham (a) 1-3 [Tuffey]	11,081
	OCTOBER
2 Barnsley (h) 1-0 [Hatton 2, Harison, Johnson, Gnaliberger]	6,391
5 Bristol City (h) 0-2	5,908
9 Oldham (a) 1-1 [Williams]	4,188
16 Notts Co (h) 1-0 [Dickov]	6,366

● STANDINGS: Table is bracketed: first-presents, with 11 each: Sommer, Peake, Dreyer, Johnson and Tuffey. Harper, Oakes, Dickov, Gnaliberger, Hatton and Harison. Williams 10, Johnson 7, Palmer 3(1), Harper 2, Preston 2, Williams 4(0), Hunt 4(1), Hixon 4, Gnaliberger 2(0).

THE CO-CA-COLA CUP

Round 1 (1) Aug 18 Cambridge (a)	0-1 4,802
Round 1 (2) Sep 15 Cambridge (h)	3-1 3,801
APPEARANCES: Two each by Sommer, Jones, Johnson, Peake, Dreyer, Gnaliberger, Preston and Hayden. Dalton 1(1), Harper 1(1), Rees 1, Tuffey 1, Campbell 1, Williams 1, Harrison 1.

THE ANGLO-ITALIAN CUP

Aug 31 Watford (a) 1-2 [Preston]	1,854
Sep 7 Brentford (h) 1-2 [Dreyer]	1,823
APPEARANCES: Two each by Sommer, Hughes, Preston, Dreyer, Johnson, Gnaliberger, Hixon and Harrison. Williams 1(1), Jones 1(1), Harper 1(1), Hayden 1(1), Preston 2, Williams 4(0), Rees 4(1), Hixon 4, Gnaliberger 2(0).

THE WEEKEND'S FULL SOCCER RESULTS

S. Midlands League

PREMIER DIVISION: Wisgate 2 Milton Keynes 0. CYMRIES PREMIER CUP: Bedford Tn 3 Hampton Tn 1; Letchworth 2 Aylesbury Tn 2; Biggleswade 1 Hitchin Tn 2.

SP MERCK CHALLENGE TROPHY: Luton Ott 2 Holdenden Tn 1; Leighton Tn 2 Ampthill Tn 1; Leighton Tn 2 Leighton Rvrs 1; Cottage Hill OB 2 Cotting Ath 4 Sant 2; Bedlington Ath 1 Bradle Sports 2; Stotfold 3 Shefford Tn 1; Wisdom 3 W. Bowbrdg 1; Hitchenbrdg Rgrs 2 Fenlake 2.

DIVISION ONE: Bedford Athletic 2 Fenlake 2; Stotfold 2 LHS 2; Bedford 2 Wisdom 1.

DIVISION ONE: Ashwell 1 Stony 5; Eaton Bray 2 Chalfont 0.

RESERVE DIV 1a: Bedford Utd 1 Tottenhoe 0; Cranfield Utd 0 Bedford Tn 2; Toddington 4 Stotfold 2.

RESERVE DIV 1b: Shefford 1 Biggleswade 1.

RESERVE DIV 2: Ampthill Utd 1 Leighton Eagles 3; Houghton Rvrs 2 Bedford 2.

RESERVE CHALLENGE TROPHY: Roxbo Sp 1 Oxford City 2; Bedlington 1 Cottage Hill OB 2; Cotting Bedlington Ath 5; Stotfold 1 Ashwell 1; Flamstead 3 Tring 1.

RESERVE DIV TWO: Dallas 3 Ampthill Tn 3; Walden Rangers 0 Wisdom 2.

Luton District League

PREMIER DIV: Chesham 1 Old Dunstablians 2; Leighton Town 2 Luton Phoenix 1; Phoenix 2 Thrd Wrd 1; Sharpenhoe 1 Thrd Ward 4.

DIV ONE: Stotfold 2 Ashwell 1; Cdb Ath 0 L Kent Ath Rgrs 0 Flitwick Rvrs 2; Leighton Rvrs 2 Kent Ord 3; Stotfold 2 Sandy Ath 2; Swan Rangers 1 Wym Hart 1.

DIV SEVEN: Sharpenhoe Dunstable 2 Hanson Cub 2; Red Star Rvrs 3 Argentina 1; Lathbury Utd 0 Leighton Harlington Rvrs 3; Red Lion 2 Bedo OB 2; L Wym Hart 3 Sharpenhoe ARC 1; Pulloxhill Rvrs 5 Pitstone 1.

SENIOR CUP REPLAY: Sacred Heart 1 Mentmore 1.

JUNIOR CUP REPLAY: Houghton Tn 3 Flamstead 1; Hockerill Harriers 1 St Joseph's Rvrs 1 aet.

LOWER JUNIOR CUP Replay: Oakley 4 Vauxhall Griffin 1 aet.

CUTTENAY CUP: Chalton Strollers Rvrs 1 Bromley Ath 4; Rodgley Wellington Athn 1 AFC Luton 2.

The Luton Sunday League

DIV ONE: Hoo Utd 0 Cowslip 1.

DIV TWO: Bute Utd 0 Chalgrove Dynamo 2; Flitwick Tn 2 High Town 2; Luton Ex 1 Dallas Utd 2; Mark Town 3 Kent Ord 1.

DIV THREE: Bury Utd 0 Emerald 1 AMC Utd 12; Hilltop Arms 3 Rovers 1; Wilton Colt 4 Oak Vale 1.

DIV FOUR: Marlston 3 Bolanos 3; NT Sugar Lad 3 Steph Rvrs 2; Ashton Utd 2 Kent Ord 2; Bracke Cr. Man 2 Chg Sportd 1; Leagrave Lindsey Black Swan 1 Bedfordshire Utd 3; Hunt Rvrs 1 Bedfordshire Utd 2; Cowley Rvrs 2 Lowry 6; NT Sugar Lad 3 Hunt Rvrs 2.

DIV FIVE: Bedfordshire Utd 2 Kent Ord 3; Wheathead 6 Stone F.C. Houghton 2; Houghton Town 6 Wheathead 6; Houghton Town 2 Stone F.C. Houghton 2; Lowry 1 Kent Ord 1.

DIV SIX: Tottenhoe Dog & Duck 3 Rotolgo Aztec 1; Dallas Utd 2 Sp Tn 1; High Town 2 Kent Ord 1; Dallas Utd 2 Sp Tn 1; Mark Town 4 Kent Ord 1.

DIV SEVEN: