Sports News

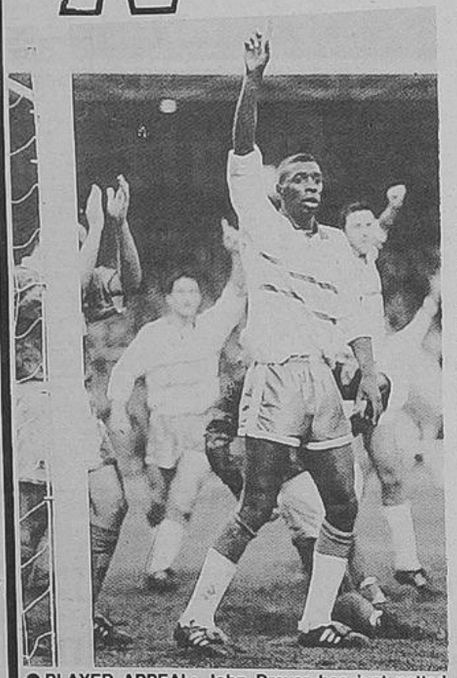
TOWN MATCH VERDICT

Peterborough.....0
Luton Town.....0

★ ★

Brian Swain reports — Action pictures: John Sherwood

Too smart for Posh, but no killer streak



● PLAYER APPEAL: John Dreyer has just netted, with Mitchell Thomas also well up with the attack, but referee David Elleray ruled out the 'goal' for a foul in the build-up.

LUTON Town returned from Peterborough on Monday with a mixture of pleasure and utter frustration.

They felt professional pride in their overall performance against a side battling for survival.

But they knew it was a game that should have had the extra ingredient of goals to turn it into a much-needed win.

They had one goal ruled out and saw **Kerry Dixon** hit a post in a three-minute spell when he might have snatched a quick hat-trick.

TIGHT

The big plus point was that the Town had the tightness needed in away games, and rarely looked like losing.

Peterborough were grateful to get a point, knowing that they were second best on the run of play, particularly in the second half.

Manager **Lil Fuccillo**, still a lover of the way the Town play, said: "On chances created Luton should have won it. They had about 60 per cent of the game."

The first half offered little to thrill London Road's biggest crowd of the season.

Peterborough used a formation with three centre-backs, with the flank defenders trying to operate in midfield.

The Town faced it with five men in the middle, and only Dixon as a committed front man.

It made for stalemate, although the home side's biff and bang might have given them an early bonus.

Goalkeepr **Juergen Sommer** put the big Town following on edge with a couple of missed catches, before settling down to do what was necessary after that.

The Town recalled **Scot Houghton** in place of **Scott Oakes**, and he threatened more than he achieved: in terms of stretching Peterborough and forcing the flank men to defend he was excellent. But the final cross failed to match that approach work.

He started on the right wing, with **David Preece** on the left; but the Town looked much better in the second half when Houghton was switched to the left and Preece moved inside to give **Paul Telfer** the right wing position.

It led to the Town dominating the second half, with every man on top of his job.

In the first half **Carl Hughes** had rescued his goalkeeper by chesting a shot by Andy Furnell off the line after Sommer dropped a cross.

RULED OUT

At the other end a foul spotted only by ref David Elleray prevented the Town grabbing the lead in the closing seconds of the first half.

In a game of 22 corners, Houghton's were always a problem for Peterborough, and one led to a scramble which ended with Dreyer shooting home from close range.

The home defenders had no complaints, but the whistle had gone just before the ball hit the net, with the ref saying there had been a push on the near post before Dreyer made contact.

Having played it tight for the first 45 minutes, the Town adopted a more open approach after the interval, and were by far the better side.

But they could not find the final punch, nor a little bit of luck, when it was needed.

In the whole of the half Sommer had only one save to make, from Fulton.

The defence was superb in two ways: they backed up the attack, and got back quickly and strongly when the Posh counter-attacked.

TACKLE

I made **Alan Harper** the man of the match for his steadying influence, including a fantastic saving tackle on Ken Charlery, who was put clear after Houghton lost possession in midfield.

The greater danger was always at the other end, but we saw off-target efforts by Hughes, Preece and Dixon as Peterborough were put on the rack.

But Dixon should have been the match-winner in a four minute spell midway through the second half.

His best chance came when Preece was sent down the left wing by Hughes, and got to the by-line. He cut in, drew goalkeeper Fred Barber out of position, and pulled back a low pass towards the penalty spot.

Dixon hit the ball in full stride, but almost straight to Lee Howarth, who clared from in front of the empty net.

Then the centre-forward rose beautifully to meet a cross by Houghton, who was finding the right line and curl, but the header hit a post and dropped to a defender to clear.

Dixon had another shot from the edge of the penalty area which did not dip enough before passing the target.

The match produced 11 corners to each side, which says something about the way both sides attacked and defended, and even the introduction of four subs failed to break the deadlock.

It was a nice Christmas present for **Julian James** to have eight minutes in place of the vastly improved **Des Linton**, but the arrival of **Paul Dickov** was a bit of a puzzle: he was not sent on until the 88th minute, in place of Houghton, a bit too late to have any real effect.

The match details

LUTON TOWN: Sommer; Linton (James 82 mins), Peake, Dreyer, Thomas; Houghton (Dickov 88 mins), Telfer, Hughes, Harper, Preece; Dixon. Goalkeeper sub: Petterson.

PETERBOROUGH: Barber; McDonald, Bradshaw, Howarth, Welsh, Spearing (Barnes 21 mins); Adcock, Ebdon, Fulton; Charlery, Furnell (Phillliskirk 75 mins). Goalkeeper sub: Tyler.

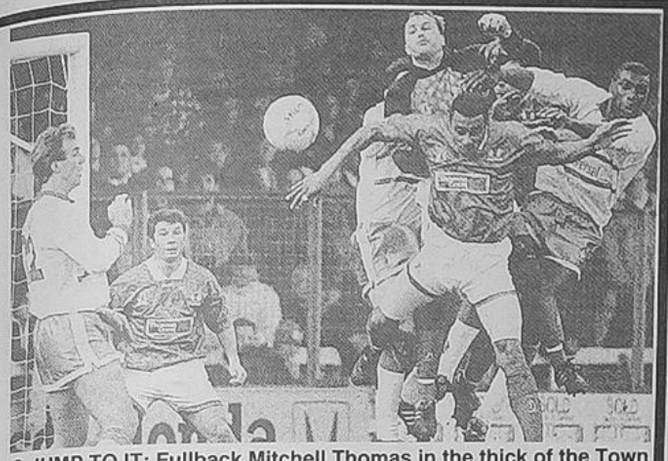
GOAL ATTEMPTS: Town three saved, four wide, one hit a post and one netted by John Dreyer but ruled out for a foul; Peterborough five saved and four wide. Corners: 11-11.

BOOKED: Des Linton, fourth of the season, for a foul on Steve Welsh, and Peterborough's Steve Fulton for delaying a free kick and David McDonald for a very late tackle on Scott Houghton.

REFEREE: David Elleray, Harrow: just about spot on throughout, although the Town were baffled as to what caused the 'goal' by John Dreyer to be ruled out just before the interval.

ATTENDANCE: 9,522, including a very good following from Luton. It was easily Peterborough's biggest gate of the season. Vouchers on offer for a cup-tie against Spurs might have had something to do with it.

ENTERTAINMENT: Not quite as grim as the scoreline might suggest, but spoiled for Town fans by the lack of a goal or two, particularly in the second half, which the Town dominated. It was two points lost rather than one gained.



● JUMP TO IT: Fullback Mitchell Thomas in the thick of the Town attacking action as the Peterborough goal comes under pressure.

● HALTED: Kerry Dixon stopped on a run for goal.

THE JEWSON FAMILY AWARDS

Your chance to win £7,500 in prizes.

THE Luton News, The Football League and Jewson, Britain's largest supplier of timber and building materials, are offering you the chance to win £7,500's worth of prizes by voting for your favourite family football club.

Not only will you be giving yourself a chance to win, you could also be helping your club to a share in the £45,000 Jewson Family Football Excellence Awards payout.

The fifteen clubs in each division of the Endsleigh Insurance Football League, collecting the most votes in proportion to their average home gate, will go before the judging panel for the top Jewson Excellence Awards category.

The judges will be looking at all aspects of the clubs family football work including facilities, community relations and standards of promotion.

If your club is doing a Jewson good job for the family football supporter, then why not give them your vote.

The reward for the top clubs in each Division is a £10,000 cash payout with a further £15,000 bonus going to the leading club nationally.

If you're 21 or over and your voting form is the first correct entry drawn you could win a fabulous Crosby Dream Kitchen worth over £5,000.

If you're under 21 there are prizes of £100's worth of Puma leisure clothing for the first four correct entries and all correctly completed voting forms will go forward into the draw to win five prizes of a VIP trip for two to the 1994 Coca Cola Cup Final.

To enter just name your favourite family football club, answer the quiz questions correctly, and send your completed form to the address indicated.

JEWSON FAMILY FOOTBALL

VOTING FORM

My favourite family football club is: _____

Division

Your full name: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms (delete where applicable) _____

Date of birth _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone: home _____ work _____

Answer these questions:

At which grounds do the following Football League clubs play?

Middlesbrough _____

Fulham _____

Chesterfield _____

Voting closes on February 1, 1994

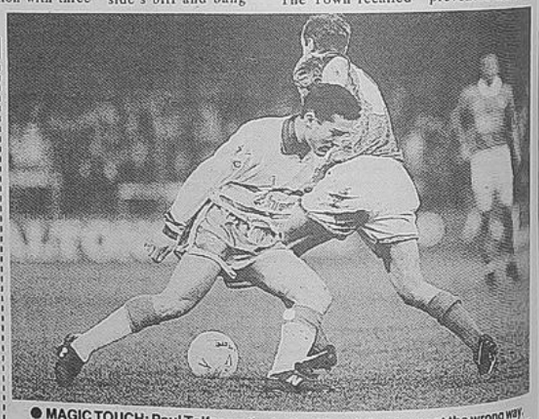
Prize winners will be notified by first class post on March 1, 1994

The name of the winning clubs will be announced on April 21, 1994

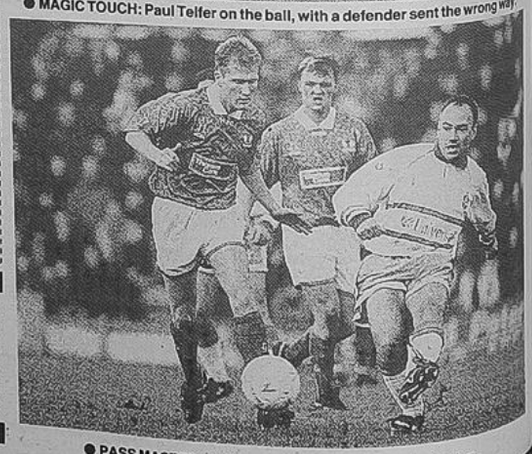
Please return this form to: The Jewson Family Football Awards, c/o The Sponsorship Workshop, 5 The Forum, Rockingham Drive, Linford Wood, Milton Keynes MK14 6LY. Telephone: 0908 670087

Please put a cross in this box if you do not wish to receive information about Jewson, or the Jewson Family Football Initiative. ☐

No correspondence will be entered into and the judges' decision is final.



● MAGIC TOUCH: Paul Telfer on the ball, with a defender sent the wrong way.



● PASS MASTER: Midfielder David Preece in typical action.

The Town's facts and figures so far

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

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE DIV I

1993			
	AUGUST		
14 Watford (h)	2-1 (Telfer, Dixon)	9,149	—
21 Portsmouth (a)	0-1	12,248	—
28 Nottm Forest (h)	1-2 (Hartson)	9,788	22
	SEPTEMBER		
11 Bolton Wdrs (h)	0-2	7,199	24
14 Tranmere (a)	1-4 (Benjamin)	5,871	24
18 Middlesbro (a)	0-0	12,487	23
25 Birmingham (a)	1-1 (Telfer)	11,081	23
	OCTOBER		
2 Barnsley (h)	5-0 (Oakes 2, Hartson, James, Houghton)	6,201	21
5 Bristol City (h)	0-2	5,956	21
9 Derby Co (a)	1-2 (Williams)	15,885	23
16 Notts Co (h)	1-0 (Dickov)	3,366	21
20 Sunderland (a)	0-2	13,760	23
23 Oxford (a)	1-0 (Hughes)	5,161	19
30 Leicester (h)	0-2	8813	21
	NOVEMBER		
2 C. Palace (a)	2-3 (Aunger, Hughes)	10,925	23
7 Charlton (h)	1-0 (Telfer)	6,327	18
14 Southend (a)	1-2 (Dixon)	5,567	18
27 Stoke (h)	6-2 (Dixon 3, Hughes, Oakes, Hartson)	7,384	15
	DECEMBER		
4 Charlton (a)	0-1	7,121	17
11 Tranmere (h)	0-1	7,075	19
19 Watford (a)	2-2 (Preece, Dreyer pen)	7,567	21
27 Peterboro (a)	0-0	9,522	20

APPEARANCES (as sub in brackets): Ever-presents, 22: Sommer and Peake. Hughes 21, Telfer 20(1), Dreyer 19, Harper 17, Oakes 15(3), Johnson 16, Dixon and Linton 13(1), Hartson 9(4), Preece 9, Dickov 8(5), James 7(2), Rees 7(1), Thomas 6, Houghton 5(6), Williams 4(8), Campbell 3(6) Aunger 3, Thorpe (1) Petterson (1).

Before transfer: Benjamin 2(1).

Number of players used: 23, same as last season.

GOALS: Dixon 5. Telfer, Oakes, Hartson and Hughes 3. One each by Houghton, Williams, James, Dickov, Aunger, Preece, Dreyer (pen) and Benjamin.

ASSISTS: Oakes 6. Hughes 5. Dixon 3. Two each by Johnson and Harper. One each by Williams, Hartson, Linton, Houghton and Thomas.

THE COCA-COLA CUP

Round 1 (1): Aug 17	Cambridge (a)	0-1	4,065
Round 1 (2): Aug 24	Cambridge (h)	0-1	3,861

APPEARANCES: Two each by Sommer, James, Johnson, Peake, Dreyer, Benjamin, Preece and Hughes. Oakes 1(1), Houghton 1(1), Rees 1, Telfer 1, Campbell 1, Williams 1, Hartson (1).

THE ANGLO-ITALIAN CUP

Aug 31 Watford (a)	1-2 (Preece)	2,854
Sep 7 Southend (h)	1-1 (Dixon)	1,823

APPEARANCES: Two each by Sommer, Hughes, Preece, Peake, Dreyer, Johnson, Houghton, Dixon and Hartson. Williams 1(1), James 1, Telfer 1, Linton 1. One each as sub by Oakes, Greene and Woolgar.

CLUB FAMILY STATISTICS

Luton Town
Nicknamed: The Hatters
1 Maple Road
Luton
LU4 8AW
Ground capacity 13,449

Family co-ordinator	Cherry Newbury (0582) 411822
Family enclosure	Kenilworth Stand, Capacity 5,802
Disabled facilities	Area for 15 wheelchairs with specific toilets. Facilities for partially deaf and blind fans
Family spectator key programmes	Coaching sessions for local children. Players involved with juniors at games and social gatherings
Reciprocal Visits	50 complimentary discounted tickets by arrangement. Family room

YOUR LOCAL JEWSON OUTLET: Maulden Road, Flitwick, Beds ,MK45 5BT. Telephone: 0525 713811