Telephone Advertising: (0462) 423423; Editorial (0582) 31288; Dunstable Editorial: (0582) 608611

Sports News

TOWN MATCH VERDICT

★★★★★

Luton Town.....3
Oxford Utd.....0
(Half time 2-0)

Brian Swain reports

Action pictures: John Sherwood

Oxford are given an education in cup preparation

● FLARE-UP: John Dreyer, once of Oxford, in a brief disagreement with Nicky Cusack.

AS a booster for their candidate for tonight's big cup game, Luton Town could hardly have done it better at Kenilworth Road on Saturday.

The three-goal win, to complete their second double of the season, was the very least they earned.

Oxford United, who arrive in the FA Cup tonight, were awful — or at least made to look it by a Town side that on this condition oozing through it after nine games without defeat.

The victory margin could have been a lot wider, but it was clear that one side had understood how to forget about FA cup glory for the day, and the other had not.

The Town were clean above the visitors, despite a couple of changes and the continued absence of suspended Cert Hughes. In attack 19-year-old John Hartson is still settling in to his role. In no Kerry Dixon, yet he is still just himself around to good effect.

In midfield Mitchell Thomas, on what may be his farewell appearance, did a reasonable job on the left, while on the right Paul Telfer is a real Consistency.

But perhaps the real revelation of recent weeks has been Scott Oakes, who has become the attacking foil, playing a free role in support of the specialist striker.

The only mystery on Saturday was why he took so long to be given a chance.

Oxford were somewhat better throughout, it were lucky not to three down in the first minutes.

The Town then set off the bell for a wild effort by Gavin Mahon. Thomas struck a

● CONGRATULATIONS: to Mitchell Thomas and John Hartson after he and Thomas scored from the rebound after Hartson shot against a post.

The match details

LUTON TOWN: Sommer; Linton (Thorpe HT), Peake, Dreyer, James; Telfer, Harper, Preece, Thomas; Oakes (Houghton 82 mins), Hartson, Godbolt, supported by Peterson.

OXFORD: Whitehead; Robinson, Ford, Elliott, Rogan; Beauchamp, Lewis (Allen HT), Magilton, Cusack; Cranson (Murphy HT), Byrne. Goalkeeper Judge Work.

THE GOALS:

Luton: Oakes 20 minutes, 25-yard low drive after David Preece touched off a short free kick. 2-0, 90 seconds into injury time at the end of the first half: Mitchell Thomas, diving header, from a Peterson cross which Oxford defence laughed at but which proved no laughing matter. 3-0, 77 minutes: Tony Thorpe, calm control and shot after the Oxford defence was solid a dummy by Hartson ducking under a diagonal cross by Alan Harper.

OTHER STRIKES: Town four saved, four wide, one hit a post and led to a goal, and a second goal disallowed for Hartson being ruled offside by Preece. Oxford three saved and five wide. Corners: 6-6 to the Town.

REFEREE: Gerald Ashby, Worcester: made a few strange decisions, including one when he ordered a free kick against Oxford for offside against Oakes without being played towards him — Paul Telfer was dribbling with it at the time!

ATTENDANCE: 8,261 with visiting around 600 from Oxford.

ENTERTAINMENT: Very pleasant, with the Town full of confidence as the unbeaten run went to nine games. They did well to keep going purposefully against a side that was a shambles.

The Town's facts and figures so far

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

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE DIVISION 1

1993

AUGUST
14 Watford (A) 2-1 (Telfer, Oakes) 6,145
21 Portsmouth (A) 0-1 12,240
28 Bristol Rovers (H) 1-2 (Harrison) 6,788 22

SEPTEMBER
11 Sutton Utd (H) 3-2 ..... 7,199 24
14 Tranmere (A) 1-4 (Benjamin) 5,971 24
18 Middlesbrough (H) 0-0 ..... 12,407 23
25 Birmingham (A) 1-1 (Telfer) 11,081 23

OCTOBER
2 Barnsley (A) 5-0 (Oakes 2, Hartson, Preece, Houghton) 6,091 21
9 Swindon (H) 0-2 ..... 9,956 21
9 Derby Co (A) 1-0 (Williams) 15,985 23
16 Notts Co (A) 1-0 (Oakes) 9,368 21
26 Sunderland (A) 0-3 ..... 13,790 23
23 Oxford (A) 1-0 (Hughes) 6,165 18
30 Leicester (A) 0-2 ..... 8013 21

NOVEMBER
2 Cr. Palace (A) 2-3 (Hunger, Hughes) 13,925 23
7 Charlton (H) 1-4 (Telfer) 12,227 18
14 Southend (A) 1-2 (Dixon) 5,567 18
27 Stoke (H) 6-2 (Dixon 3, Hughes, Oakes, Hartson) 7,394 15

DECEMBER
4 Charlton (A) 0-1 ..... 7,121 17
11 Tranmere (A) 0-1 ..... 7,275 19
19 Watford (A) 2-2 (Preece, Dreyer pen) 7,567 21
26 Bristol R (H) 3-0 ..... 9,352 20
28 Barnsley (A) 2-1 (Harper, Hughes) 7,234 18

1994

JANUARY
1 West Brom (A) 1-1 (Preece) 16,138 18
15 Notts Co (H) 2-1 (Dixon 2) 8,589 17
23 Derby Co (H) 2-1 (Telfer, Oakes) 9,171 17

FEBRUARY
5 Oxford (H) 3-0 (Oakes, Thomas, Thorpe) 8,261 15

APPEARANCES (as sub in brackets): Ever-presents, 27 Sommer and Peake, Telfer 26(1), Hughes 25, Dreyer 24, Harper 22, Oakes 20(3), Linton 18(1), Dixon 17(1), Johnson 16, Preece 12, Hartson 11(8), James 10(4), Bean 7(1), Houghton 6(7), Williams 4(0), Campbell 4(7), Jumpp 3, Thorpe (2) Patterson (1), De Ioan, Thomas 1, Dicker 0(1). Before transfer: Benjamin 2(1).

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

GOALS: Dixon 7, Oakes 5, Hughes and Telfer 4, Hartson 3, Preece 2, One each by Houghton, Williams, James, Jumpp, Dreyer (pen), Harper, Thorpe, Thomas, Dicker, Benjamin.

ASSISTS: Hughes and Oakes 7, Dixon 4, Harper 3, Two each by Johnson and Harrison. One each by Williams, Linton, Telfer, Houghton, Preece and Thomas.

THE FA CUP

Round 3:
Jan 10 Sunderland (H) 1-0 (Telfer) 7,953
Round 4:
Jan 29 Newcastle (A) 1-1 (Thorpe) 32,218

APPEARANCES: Two each by Sommer, Linton, Peake, Dreyer, James, Telfer, Harper, Preece, Oakes and Dixon. One each by Hughes and Thorpe. Campbell (2), Hartson (1), Hill(A), Bean(1), Hughes and Preece.

THE COCA-COLA CUP

Round 1 (1): Aug 17 Cambridge (a) 5-1 4,565
Round 1 (2): Aug 24 Cambridge (h) 0-1 3,861
APPEARANCES: Two each by Sommer, Johnson, Linton, Peake, Dreyer, Houghton, Preece and Hughes. Oakes 1(1), Hartson 1(1). Hartson was lashed a shot against a post.
3-6; 77 minutes: Tony Thorpe, calm control and shot after the Oxford defence was solid a dummy by Hartson ducking under a diagonal cross by Alan Harper.

THE ANGLO-ITALIAN CUP

Round 1: Sep 28 Lucchese (A) 1-2 (Thompson) 2,864
Sep 7 Southend (h) 1-0 (Johnson) 7,823
APPEARANCES: Two each by Sommer, Hughes, Preece, Peake, Dreyer, Johnson, Thompson, Telfer, Linton. One each as sub: Bean, Williams, James, Telfer, Linton 1. One each as sub by Oakes, Grace and Houghton.

THE WEEKEND'S FULL LOCAL SOCCER RESULTS

S. Midlands League

PREMIER DIV: Redditch Utd 3 - Hinckley 1; Bedworth 2 - Bagworth 2; Stafford 0 - Brocket Lickfoot 0; Buckingham Athl 0 - Bromsgrove 1; Potters Bar Town 3 - Worksop 1; Wingate 2 - Langley 1.

O'BRIEN TROPHY: Shenley 4 Toddington Rov 2.

SENIOR DIV CUP: Bromsgrove 3 Tring 3; Tottenham 4 Stotfold 1; Redditch 0 New Bradwell 0; Potters Bar Town 1 Shefford 1.

DIV ONE: Houghton 3 Walton 2; Soon 3 PB Cro 2; Bletchley 0 Leighton 1.

DIV ONE CUP: Sandy 2 Dc Hertford 2; Ashwell 1 Eaton Bray 1; Flamstead 0 Ampthill 0.

RESERVE SECTION

PREMIER DIV: Bromsgrove Town 1 Stowe 0; Stotfold Comptonians 1 Worksop 1.

DIV 1A: Langford 5 Mt. Kemble 0; L. Colney 10 Potters Bar 0; Ashwell 2 Bedlington 1; Ampthill 2 Bedford Utd 1; Hitchin 2 Eaton Bray 1; Hertford Town 2 Hitchin Town 3; Hertford Utd 2 Letchworth 2; Letchworth 1 Leighton Town 2; Welwyn 1 Biggleswade 1; Welwyn Garden City 3 Bedford Town 1; Cosby 1 Kidsgrove 1; PB Cro 4 Wendover 2; Wolston 3 Sandy 0.

Luton District League

PREMIER DIV: Flitwick 0 Slough Swifts 1; Kent Ath 1 Dagnall 1; Luton Old Boys 0 Lewsey Pk 1; AFC Oakley 4 Stockwood Ath 3; Christians 4 Studham 2; Chalgrove 1 Cowley Green 1.

DIV ONE: Lewsey Pk Res 1 LOB A 3; Marsworth 4 Elbow 1; Flitwick 2 Thistle 1; Dc Ac Rut 1 L. Eagle 1; Chalgrove 0 Mt Bloomsbury 0; Brickmakers Arms 2 Cranley Green 1.

DIV TWO: AFC 5 Markyate 5; The Compasses 4 Harlington 2; Dunstable Res 3 Kent Ath 2; Thrubbs Res 1 Dunstable 1; Dunstable Res 1 Fox & Lady 0; Dunstable Res 2 Spertanus Dunstable 2; Stockwood Res 2 Wilshamstead 1.

The NHC Sunday League

PREMIER DIV: Crest 1 Eversholt 1; S. Hinck 1 Wing 1; Tring 3 Ivinghoe 3; Joseph's 3 Cossey 3; Bridge Cross Mac 2 Cobb's 2; Ivinghoe 2 Cossey 2.

DIVISION ONE: Dunstable Res 0 NTC Sugar Loaf 2; Cobb Res 2 Sugley Hammers 2; Cobb Res 3 Cobb 3; Eversholt 2 Sugley Hammers 2; Bridge Cross Res 1 Mac's 1; Flyer & Firkin 0 WMC 4.

DIV TWO: TRW 3 AFC Wigmore 3; Whitchurch 2 Berkswell 0; Houghton Tn 3 Leighton 3; Chalton Southend 2 Cobb's 2; Cobb's 2 Chalton 2.

DIV THREE: Wigmore 2 Red Star 0; Black Swan 1 Dog & Duck 1; Berkswell 2 Whitchurch 2; Red Star 2 Berkswell 2; Vauxhall High 3 Cobb's 3; Grafters 0 Berkswell Arms 5; Old Mout House 1 Cobb's 1.

DIV FOUR: Cobb's 4 Crown 5 Lea Valley 0; Cobb's 0 Markyate 1; Flint 2 Rovner Leigton 2; Bedmond 2 Bedmond Res 2; Cobb's 2 Leighton 1; Lewsey Res 2 Cobb's 2.

DIV FIVE: Stockwell Chrysoprin 4 Lewsey Social 1; Chalton Res 2 Chalton 2; Stockwell Res 2 Stockwell 2; Wilshamstead Res 2 AFC Borough Arms Res 1; FC Hough Res 2 Hough 2; Wilshamstead 2 Wilshamstead Res 2.

DIV SIX: Wolverton Res 2 Wolverton 2; Hoo Res 4 W. Hall 0; Sewn Res 1 Woodcroft 1; Lea Valley Res 2 Lea Valley 2; Wilshamstead Res 1 Toddington 1 Barnsley 2.

DIV SEVEN: L. Rover 0 Hanson Club 6; Hanson Club 2 Dunstable Res 2; Hanson Club 2 Lutterworth Utd 3; Red Star Bedford CB 1 Thurnham 0; Flamstead Res 0 Red 7.

Luton Sunday League

DIV ONE: Bridge Town 1 Parks 12; High Tn 2 Dunstable 1; Dc Ac Res 1 Dc Ac 1.

DIV TWO: GMC Cimets 4 Hilton 2; Jolnstd 0 GMC 4.

INVITATION CUP: Dukes Res 0 Lea Sports 0 (6-5 pens); Dunstable Res 1 Dc Ac Res 1 (Dc Ac Res 5 Mech 3); Fox & Lady 1 Dunstable Fox & Lad 1.

S. Beds Sunday League

PREMIER DIV: Moor Pk 1 LM Chopfd 2; Coach & Horses 1 Leighton 2; Ampthill 3 Flitwick 3; Parts Hop 1 Flamst Eagles 2; Bricklayers 3 - Nurdin & Peacock 3; Cranfield 1 Ampthill 1.

DIV ONE: Moor & Crown 5 Lea Utd 1; ECG Orthos 1 Flamstead Arms 2; Moor Pk Res 2 Moor Pk 2; Flitwick Utd 2 Bricklayers 2.

DIV TWO: Robin Hood 1 Maulden Pk Soc 3; Windsor Castle 5 Sportsman 3; Ampthill Griffin 6 Engineer 2; Limerick Comprehensive 1.

DIV THREE: Lonsdale 2 Greyhound Ath 3; NN Ath 3 Lea Rovers 2; Comprehensive Res 1 Ad Hornet 1; Eaton 1 Ampthill 1.

DIV FOUR: Ampthill Rov 2 Ad Hornet 1; Dc Ac 3 Ampthill 3; Ampthill Rov 1 Ad Hornet 1; Dc Ac 2 Ampthill 2; Ampthill Rov 2 Ad Hornet 2; Dc Ac 1 Ampthill 1.

Chiltern Youth League

UNDER 18: Sunbrite Pro 3 Ch Hills 2; Ampthill 1 Hatfield 2; Hughes Tn 5 Hatfield 0; Wingrove 4 Hughes Tn 1.

UNDER 17 DIV ONE: Downside A 5 Dunstable 1; Sun 6 Pagnell 0; Hitchin 3 Ramridge 0. DIV TWO: Cole Ath 2 Sun 6 Pagnell 2; Downside A 2 Wilshamstead 2; Downside B 20 Ramridge B 2; Maidenhead Town 3 Sun 6 Pagnell 3; Ramridge 1 Cole 1.

UNDER 16: DIV ONE: Dunstable 7 Ch Hills 0; Ampthill 2 Ramridge 0. CUP: Warden Hill 1 Ch Hills 1 (Ch Hills 5 pens); Ampthill 1.

UNDER 15 DIV ONE: Beech Hill 4 St. Joseph 1; Pat Pond Rovers 0 Ampthill 2; Ampthill 2 Beech Hill 2; Dunstable 1 Sun 6 Pagnell 1. DIV TWO: Ampthill 2 Beech Hill 2; Dunstable 2 Sun 6 Pagnell 2; Ampthill 2 Bradenham 1. CUP: Ramridge A 0 Ampthill 1.

UNDER 14 DIV ONE: Ampthill 3 Ch Hills 2; Ampthill 2 Chalfont 1; Fairlands 1 St. Ives 1. DIV TWO: Ampthill 1 Fairlands 1; Ampthill 2 Ch Hills 2; Ampthill 2 Ch Hills 2. CUP: Ch Hills 2 Ch Hills 1; Dragons 3 Markyate 3; Houghton Tn 1 Ch Hills 1; Ampthill 2 Dragons 3; St. Ives 0 Ch Hills 2.

THREE: Barton Stacey 1 Downside 1; Ampthill 1 Bedford Pk 1; Ampthill 2 Bedford Pk 2; Ampthill 1 Downside 1.

UNDER 13: DIV ONE: Dunstable 1 Ramridge A 0; Ampthill 1 Ramridge 1; Ampthill 2 Ch Hills 2; Ampthill 2 Mentmore 4; Kempston Rutsh 5 Sun 2; Ch Hills 1 Ramridge 1; Ampthill 1.

UNDER 12 DIV 1: Downside 2 Ampthill 2; Ampthill 1 Hughes Tn 1; Ampthill 2 Dragons 1; Fenny Lond 2 Ampthill 2; Ampthill 2 Ch Hills 2; Ampthill 2 Ch Hills 2. DIV TWO: Wootton 4 Ch Hills 1; Ampthill 2 Ch Hills 2; Ampthill 2 Ch Hills 2; Ampthill 2 Ch Hills 2.

UNDER 11 DIV 1: Ampthill 2 Ch Hills 2; Ampthill 2 Ch Hills 2; Ampthill 2 Ch Hills 2; Ampthill 2 Ch Hills 2. DIV TWO: Ampthill 2 Ch Hills 2; Ampthill 2 Ch Hills 2; Ampthill 2 Ch Hills 2; Ampthill 2 Ch Hills 2.

UNDER 10 DIV 1: Ampthill 2 Ch Hills 2; Ampthill 2 Ampthill 1; Hanson 1 St. Joseph 1; Ramridge 1 Ch Hills 1; Ampthill 2 Ch Hills 2; Ampthill 2 Ch Hills 2. DIV TWO: Downside Tri 1; Bereford 1 Wh Lion 1.

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Oxford boss lashes out

● HEADING FOR THE TOP: Town defender Mitchell Thomas is well up with the attack, in company with John Hartson, as Oxford come under pressure after a corner.

RARELY have the rival managers been in such contrasting mood as when David Preece and Brian Smith met on Saturday night.

The Town boss was quietly well pleased: "It was a very good emphatic victory, and well deserved," he said.

"We had an excellent first 17 minutes. But then Oxford began to get a bit more of the ball and had chances. We got the boots up, they settled down.

Mr Smith was in a calm fury at his men: "We were absolutely disgraceful," he said. "Linton worked harder than we did. In fact, you name it and they did everything better than us.

STUPID GOALS

"If we play like that against Leeds in the cup on Wednesday we will be beaten by 15.

"I looked at (though our players didn't want to get involved before going to Leeds. With so many taking a rest, the cup becomes a bit meaningless.

"We gave away stupid goals. Ford had no need to throw away the free kick that led to the first.

"For the second Rogan gave away a corner when he didn't have to, and then it was a bad header from the corner that led to the Luton shot that hit the post.

"Every time Luton attacked we looked as if they had a chance, while our attacking was non-existent.

"I am as a boss to understand it. I could have gone out there and worked harder, and I'm 46.

"I'm sick to the back teeth of the poor performance. If we play like that we won't win another game this season."

LOCAL SOCCER: The up to date tables

The Minerva South Midlands League

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stotfold Utd	14	10	3	1	29	10	33
Biggleswade	15	10	3	2	30	20	33
Wingate & Finchley	14	10	2	2	35	14	32
Hadenoe Town	15	9	3	3	27	10	30
Haywodes Town	15	9	2	4	29	16	29
Oracle Sports	15	8	3	4	25	20	27
Shillington	15	8	2	5	29	20	26
Langford	15	7	3	5	29	20	24
Potters Bar Town	15	7	3	5	29	26	24
Worksop	15	7	2	6	29	24	23
Langford	16	7	2	7	29	25	23
Arlesey Town	15	6	3	6	22	20	21
Buckingham Athl	15	6	1	8	19	20	19
Potters Bar Town	15	5	3	7	20	27	18
Letchworth GC	14	5	2	7	18	24	17
Welwyn Garden	15	2	4	9	12	34	10

RESERVE DIVISION 1A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Langford Colney Res	14	11	2	1	49	14	34
Harlow Harvest Res	14	11	2	1	45	13	34
Langford Res	14	10	3	1	41	16	33
Potters Bar Town Res	14	9	3	2	41	16	30
Letchworth GC Res	14	9	2	3	41	16	29
Potters Bar Town Res	14	7	3	4	31	21	24
Tring Town Res	14	7	1	3	38	18	22
Bedford Utd	14	6	3	5	27	22	21
Buckingham Athl Res	14	6	2	5	22	22	20
Ivinghoe Res	14	5	3	6	22	27	18
BYFC Lake Res	14	5	2	7	22	31	17
Tottenham Res	14	4	3	7	21	28	15
Cranfield Utd Res	14	3	3	8	18	32	12
Tottenham Res	14	3	1	10	20	50	10
Flitwick Res	14	2	2	10	13	35	8
Tring Athl Res	14	0	1	9	7	39	1

(One point deducted)

SENIOR DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Toddington Rovers	16	14	2	1	52	18	43
Stotfold Rangers	16	12	3	1	48	12	39
Tottenham	15	9	2	4	34	23	27
Shefford Town	16	8	3	5	32	23	27
Stanway & Langford	14	8	2	4	27	14	26
Ampthill Griffin	16	8	2	6	27	24	26
Wheathampstead	16	7	3	6	31	26	24
Leverstock Green	12	6	2	4	26	20	20
Bedford United	16	6	2	8	27	31	20
Ampthill Town	15	4	3	8	24	32	15
Kings Langley	15	4	3	8	21	32	15
Ashwell	16	4	3	9	21	37	15
Hertford Town	17	3	2	12	12	42	11
Flitwick Rangers	16	2	3	11	12	37	9

RESERVE DIVISION 1B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hatfield Town Res	17	12	1	4	58	22	37
Oxhey Jets Res	16	12	1	3	47	22	37
Leverstock Green Res	17	8	2	3	33	22	30
Aldbury Town Res	16	8	2	6	32	22	26
Leighton Town Res	14	7	3	4	28	17	24
Wheathampstead Res	16	7	2	7	32	32	23
Hoppscotch Tn Res	16	7	2	7	23	17	23
Hoppscotch Town	12	7	2	3	22	12	23
Oracle Sports Res	17	7	2	8	27	32	23
Shefford Town Res	14	6	2	5	20	16	20
Ampthill Town Res	16	6	2	8	25	32	20
Letchworth GC Res	16	5	3	8	23	32	18
Stotfold Rangers Res	16	5	3	8	19	32	18
Cockfosters Res	16	5	2	9	23	32	17
Shenley Res	14	1	0	13	10	54	3

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stony Stratford	16	12	3	1	42	14	39
Houghton Town	16	11	1	4	32	20	34
Ivinghoe	16	10	3	3	32	17	33
Leighton Town	16	9	3	4	32	20	30
Dunstable Town	16	8	3	5	26	27	27
Dallas	16	8	3	5	26	27	27
Gs Hartland	16	7	3	6	37	28	24
Cockfosters	16	7	3	6	27	24	24
Caddington	16	7	3	6	27	27	24
Cranfield Utd	16	7	3	6	27	27	24
Ashwell	16	6	3	7	24	23	21
Cranfield United	14	6	1	7	24	23	19
Kensworth Rovers	16	5	3	8	22	31	18
Mentmore Res	16	4	4	8	20	30	16
Ridgmont Res	16	4	2	10	21	34	14
Sandy Albion	17	0	0	17	6	68	0

RESERVE DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wootton Rangers Res	16	10	3	3	45	17	33
Stotfold Utd Res	16	9	3	4	37	17	30
Flitwick Rangers Res	16	8	4	3	46	26	27
Potters Bar Town Res	16	8	3	5	35	26	27
Marcedes Benz Res	16	7	3	6	38	21	24
Ridgmont Res	16	7	3	6	32	29	24
Houghton Town Res	16	7	2	7	34	32	23
Ampthill Town Res	14	6	2	6	26	28	20
Ashwell Res	16	6	2	8	29	35	20
Tilsmead Res	14	5	3	6	25	31	17
Dunstable Res	16	5	2	9	24	37	17
Ivinghoe Res	16	4	3	9	21	37	15
Leighton Res	16	3	2	11	9	23	11
Luton Blower Res	16	2	3	11	19	41	9

Luton District & S. Beds League

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Luton Old Boys	14	12	2	0	48	8	38
Christians In Sport	14	10	3	1	36	17	33
Studham Res	14	9	3	2	36	17	30
Lewsey Park Res	14	9	2	3	36	17	29
Kent Athletic	13	7	3	3	29	13	24
Studham	14	7	3	4	29	17	24
Luton Sugar Loaf	14	4	5	5	20	17	17
Lewsey Park	14	4	3	7	19	27	15
Chalgrove	14	3	3	8	17	32	12
Stockwood Athletic	14	3	2	9	20	34	12
Flitwick Town	14	3	1	10	17	32	10
Cowley Green	14	2	0	12	22	48	6
Dc Celtic	14	0	2	12	10	42	2

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Markyate	14	12	2	0	48	8	38
Brickmakers Arms	14	10	3	1	36	17	33
Lea Sports Res	14	9	3	2	36	17	30
Lewsey Park Res	13	10	2	1	42	22	32
Chalgrove Res	14	9	2	3	36	17	29
Kent Athletic Res	13	7	3	3	35	19	24
Studham Res	14	7	3	4	29	17	24
Toddington Rov	13	7	2	4	29	17	23
Cowley Green Res	13	6	3	5	30	19	21
Lea Sports	14	6	3	5	29	19	21
Monarch Arcwelt	13	4	2	6	17	23	14
Thomas-de-la-Rue	13	4	2	6	17	23	14
Flitwick Town Res	13	3	2	8	12	32	11
Studham Res	14	2	1	11	14	52	7

LETTERS TO THE SPORTS EDITOR

Fans are on the manager's side

A LETTER a couple of weeks ago from Town fan Ron Hedley attacking David Pleat for his deals in the Vauxhall market produced several replies from supporters who disagreed entirely, and not a single one in agreement.

It would take too much space to quote them in full. Mr Paul Dickens, of Leagrave, Luton, wrote: "Dear Pleat, with his coaching staff, has done an incredible job in extremely difficult circumstances.

"He has had a well and self-aggrandizing Mr Hedley, in the absence of any substantial funds he has had to 'fig and beware players from other clubs to plug the holes.

"Given this scenario, of course some players may not be the same calibre as those transferred. You can't have Rolls-Royces if you can only afford Fords.

"In terms of developing players David Pleat has a track record second to none. Given stability at board level, he will produce another side comparable with the one he built previously."

ADRIAN Meacham, of Church Lane, Cheddington, wrote: "All managers have made bad decisions at times. Mr Hedley, in his letter, seems to forget this.

"On the point about David Pleat's work on Town and Sale, Sir Alex Ferguson, by this such a big problem with Manchester United, is in the same situation as the writer refers to Luton Town or their future opportunity.

"It's no use fast blaming David Kohler or David Pleat for problems which result from previous bad decisions. Let's get behind the present people, and stop moaning."

IN asking writers to be brief and to the point with their letters, we are pleased to quote the following in full.

I WOULD like to congratulate David Pleat and the Luton team. He must be pleased with recent results and the number of fans he had recently.

He is the board of the best managers in the country. His finding of a young Vaughan thinks of him when he picks the England team of coaches. And good luck tonight, lads.

Phil Burgess
40, Florence Avenue
LUTON.

CONTRASTING VIEWS

COMMENTS by Tom Hurst, of Luton Town Supporters Club, about the club's decision to accept 750 supporters for the game at Newcastle, and turn down a bigger allocation, also generated response.

AS a long time supporter of Luton Town I was extremely angry at the decision to turn down an allocation of 4,000 tickets for the Newcastle game.

It was the biggest game for Luton since relegation, Luton's Cup Final.

A large number of fans would have travelled, as is evidenced by the followings taken to Wembley and Bristol City to Spurs and Liverpool respectively.

Not sure people wanted to accept a lower allocation their misunderstanding of the draw and the magic which is only held by the F.A. Cup.

I could not attend, and would not pay the exorbitant prices asked to watch the game on television at Kenilworth Road.

This can only work against the players, and I agree with Tom Hurst that any surplus of tickets could have been distributed to local schools to add vitality and vocal support.

The actions of the current Luton Town regime are antagonising supporters. I am now another calling for changes to be made.

Mark Chapman
1 Elmers Meadow
NORTH MARSTON

I HAVE to write after reading the report of Tom Hurst's latest outpourings.

As a supporter for the Luton Town Supporters Club Committee he has never let common sense get in the way of their dislike for all things Kohler.

It was only a few weeks ago that he was forecasting, for at least the third time, the imminent bankruptcy of the club or at worst the loss of yet another star player and a rapid plunge to non-league status.

Now we have him demanding that the club should subsidise supporters wishing to go to Newcastle.

Not sure people would be interested in the cost 2,000 to 2,500 fans would have bought tickets. That would have the club losing £40,000 to £50,000, or even if it had bought all 4,000 tickets, as he wanted.

Even if that had been the case it would have been insensitive, to say the least, to have used it to give free, or subsidised, tickets to Newcastle fans after redundancies were announced.

I think it is confusing for Mr Hurst to claim he is a spokesman for Luton Town Supporters Club. He usually speaks for a few individuals.

At no time during the years I was a member was any attempt made to canvas the feelings of other members that attended the meetings, never mind the wider support.

It is common in such organisations for entrenched officers to believe their views are shared by all, and feel they can speak on any subject without referred to the membership.

Mr Hurst continues to be so confused and biased in his thinking, he will accelerate the Supporters Club's drive into insignificance.

Dave Baker
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