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# Sports News

# TOWN MATCH VERDICT

Cardiff City.....1
Luton Town.....2
(Half time 0-1)

★★★★★

Sports Editor Brian Swain reports from Ninian Park

# So sweet success does a favour for the rest of soccer

● HAPPY HATTERS: The emotion is very clear as Town players, David Preece in the centre, enjoy the pleasure of the goal that put them through to the FA Cup quarter-finals for the first time in six years.

## The match details

LUTON TOWN: Sommer; Linton, Peake, Dreyer, James; Telfer, Harper, Preece, Hughes; Oakes, Hartson (Dixon, 71 mins). Subs Thorpe and goalkeeper Petterson.

' CARDIFF CITY: Grew (Kite HT); Brazil, Baddeley, Perry, Searle; Bird, Millar, Richardson, Griffith; Dale (Stant 54 mins), Thompson. Unused sub Adams.

THE GOALS: 0-1 38 mins: Scott Oakes, superb solo run and low angled shot after David Preece put him away down the left wing;

1-1 65 mins: Phil Stant hook shot after Gary Thompson knocked back a deep cross;

1-2 70 mins: David Preece, cleverly going through a slow square defence, with Cardiff furious that offside was not given against Ceri Hughes, who was running back from challenging the goalkeeper. 'Not interfering,' said the linesman and ref.

OTHER STRIKES: Town six saved and three wide; Cardiff six saved and two wide. Corners: 9-3 to Cardiff.

REFEREE: Laurence Dilkes, Lancashire: Had a good game, despite an intimidating atmosphere.

BOOKED: Alan Harper for delaying a throw-in.

ATTENDANCE: 17,296, about double Cardiff's Second Division league average, but 3,000 fewer than for the fourth round visit of Manchester City. The Town's following was 3,057

ENTERTAINMENT: A lovely football match, with quality and skill too good for Welsh fire and passion. It was said that the occasion was soured at the end when that passion turned to violence by Welsh yobs, and compounded by idiotic 'We were cheated' claims by the Cardiff manager and chairman. The Town did football a favour by removing the Cardiff 'fans' from any further involvement in the FA Cup.

IT WAS much more than a victory for football when Luton Town beat Cardiff at Ninian Park.

It was an FA triumph richly deserved as it ran the gauntlet of intense provocation and intimidation from Welsh yobs.

The victory took the Second Division side a place in the FA Cup quarter-finals was all the more pleasing in view of the verbal lootiba after the game of Cardiff manager and chairman.

In their way they were as guilty, or maybe more so, as those notorious 'fans' who spent the minutes throwing coins and other missiles at men who were guilty of nothing more than playing for the other side.

In the circumstances while the performance was not as fluent as the two games against Newcastle, it was meritorious.

Cardiff's players were no part of the unsporting disgrace that unfolded.

But the so-called fans and the stewards failed to control them, yet another matter.

Scott Oakes, scorer of the first goal, was hit by a piece of brick as the most intimidating afternoon of his life. "I never known anything like it," he said.

"By the end the pitch was littered with 10p and 2p coins."

The controversial winner was cleverly taken by David Preece, who said the rain of missiles was the worst he had known since the 1985 visit of Millwall.

But through it all shone a bright football-ing side, and for all their moans that the winner was offside, Cardiff were well beaten on quality.

In attack, three days after selling leading scorer Nathan Blake to Sheffield United for £500,000 their only threat came from the aerial work of Gary Thompson.

He caused a problem or two for **John Dreyer**, but once he tighted up on the veteran striker Cardiff showed little real threat in the penalty area. **Trevor Peake** was magnificent in the air and on the ground.

With **Alan Harper** steadying things just in front of the back four, the home side's frantic attempts to get forward were held at distance, and when they did break through **Juergen Sommer** did all that was asked of him.

**John Hartson** ignored the 'fat boy from Swansea' jibes to give a very lively performance.

While **Julian James** was rock steady in defence on the left, **Des Linton** on the right was the overlapping man, working in a sort of two-man team with **Paul Telfer** on that flank.

In the early stages the Town were well on top, with **Ceri Hughes** and Oakes both sparkling, but spoiling it with poor final balls.

But that changed gloriously in the 38th minute. Preece, who seemed to tip-toe over the tacky surface, put an angled pass out to the left wing, Oakes ran at the defence, cut inside, and jinked his way past the last defender. The Cardiff man's backside was just hitting the mud as the shot was cut inside the near post for another example of the tremendous talent Oakes has on tap in his role as a striker.

We needed a second goal to finish it, but at the start of the second half Cardiff raised their game, and the crowd's passion, with a series of attacks that were rousing without being very effective.

Sommer had to save a header by centre-back Lee Baddeley from a corner, and Dreyer made a superb challenge when sub Phil Stant almost got through.

Hughes hit a screaming drive just wide at the other end, but the crowd erupted in the 65th minute when Cardiff scored a good goal.

The ball was crossed deep from the right, Thompson knocked it back, danger area and Stant hooked a volley into the net.

The equaliser sparked a mass pitch invasion, and a rise in the intimidation level on the three home sides of the ground.

The stage might then have been set for Cardiff to add another big scalp to Manchester City's, and the Town had to be cool and composed.

They were, and within five minutes of being pegged back they had killed off Cardiff and roused the local fans to a fury with the winner.

Significantly, the defenders did not wait for the offside claim that was later to be made with such loutish fervour by the manager and chairman.

Cardiff had flirted with a creaky offside trap all afternoon, and it was overdue to be sprung.

The Town had missed several chances to do so by running too early, or passing too quickly, but Preece was not going to make that mistake.

The Cardiff sub keeper, Phil Kite, cleared upfield under pressure from Hughes.

Hartson collected in midfield, and fed Preece.

Hughes was running back towards his own half, and Preece realised that a pass to him was not on.

Incredibly, the litle midfielder outpaced the defenders snapping at his heels, raced to the penalty area, and drilled in a perfect low shot.

That was with 20 minutes to go, and they took an age to pass, with the hatred almost touchable as Cardiff yobs fretted and fumed and sent a barrage of coins at the linesman.

I only wish the Town had made it a bigger stuffing, as they nearly did in the last minute when Linton pounded upfield to hammer in a shot which was cleared off the line.

Those 'fans' do not deserve a good team. Mind you, they clearly deserve the manager and chairman they have, in view of their stupid comments after the game.

Luton Town did football a huge favour by removing Cardiff City from the FA Cup, and thoroughly deserved to be in the last eight.

● MAGIC MOMENT: David Preece has outpaced the defence and shoots past Phil Kite

● ON OUR WAY: Scott Oakes, after his superb opening strike, takes the salute from Ceri Hughes, with Alan Harper ready to add his congratulations.

● HE'S GONE: Ceri Hughes twists clear of Nicky Richardson.

# Ranting chairman lets fly

CARDIFF manager Eddie May would not shake hands with David Pleat at the end of the game. He was too busy trying to get at the match officials.

As the final whistle blew the referee, linesmen and players sprinted for safety as hundreds of Cardiff followers rampaged onto the pitch, trying to reach the pen housing 2,600 Luton supporters.

Mounted Police, and others with dogs, kept them at bay, and at times seemed to be opposing some of the home club's stewards as well.

Cardiff have a long history of riotous 'fans.'' They have a £25,000 fine hanging over them, a suspended sentence after trouble at Fulham in a Second Division match.

Amazingly, their officials had no word of anger or sorrow about how the name of football was let down.

May said: "We were cheated. The winning goal was offside. Amateurs are getting in the way of professionals in this job, and that was a ridiculous decision.

"I don't care what anyone says, or if I get into trouble. We were cheated."

Not so, said referee Dilkes. And he quoted a recent directive all league referees have received in this country.

It drew attention to the offside law's phrase about a man not interfering with play not being penalised.

If a player is running away from the goal and someone else goes through and scores, it is not offside.

Clubs were sent the same directive by the FA, and Town boss David Pleat said: "Whatever anyone says, the referee and linesmen were utterly and completely right."

Cardiff chairman Rick Wright, with a moon-shaped face and apparently with cream cheese between the ears, made a point of finding the Press to add his view of the matter.

"We've been robbed, cheated," he said. "One decision cost the players and the club a lot of money.

"If the FA charge Eddie May for his comments, and not the linesman who should have raised his flag, we'll fight it all the way."

He added that the linesman, Brian Rice of Worcester, had brought the game into disrepute.

Nice one, Mr Wright. Someone did!

Mr Wright, of course, was the man who sold Cardiff's only consistent goalscorer, Nathan Blake, two days before their biggest cup-tie since 1927.

Cardiff's genuine fans may think they too have been cheated.

## THE WEEKEND'S FULL LOCAL SOCCER RESULTS

### S. Midlands League

**O'BRIEN TROPHY:** Shillington 2 Cranfield 0; Bedford Tn 6 Risborough 2.

**O'BRIEN PREMIER CUP:** Brache Sparta 2 Milton Keynes 0.

**PREMIER DIV:** Harpenden 1 Arlesey 2; Hatfield 7 Letchworth 4; Langford 1 Potters Bar Town 3; Welwyn GC 1 Buckingham Ath 1; Wingate 1 Biggleswade Tn 0.

**SENIOR DIV CUP:** Pitstone 0 Tottenhoe 3; 61FC Luton 1 Leverstock 3; Tring Ath 1 London Colney 5; Ampthill 1 Winslow Utd 0; New Bradwell 2 Toddington Rov 3; Shenley 4 Bedford Utd 0.

**DIV ONE:** Ashcroft 2 Mercedes 2; Caddington 2 Potters Bar Cru 1; Delco 3 Emberton 2; Flamstead 2 Scot 0; Sandy 0 E Bray 4; Stony 0 Houghton Town 0; Walden 5 MK County 0.

**RESERVE SECTION**

**CHALLENGE TROPHY:** London Colney 5 Toddington Rov 2; De Havilland 4 Bedford Tn 4; Mercedes 0 Langford 4; Cranfield 1 Shefford 1; Houghton Tn 3 Tring Ath 4. **DIV 1A:** Bedford Utd 2 Shillington 4; Buckingham Ath 3 Pitstone 0; Milton Keynes 1 Tring Tn 5; Potters Bar Tn 0 Barton Rov 0; Tottenhoe Res 3 61FC Luton Res 0. **DIV 1B:** Arlesey 2 Ashcroft 0; Biggleswade Tn 1 Shenley 0; Letchworth 5 Stony 3; Leverstock 0 Harpenden 2. **DIV 2:** MK County 1 Walden 6; Potters Bar Cru 3 Delco 4; Risborough 2 Flamstead 1; Scot 5 Sandy 0; Winslow 1 Ampthill 1.

### Luton District League

**PREMIER DIV:** Dagnall 0 Flitwick 2; Ebony 2 Christians 7; O Dunstablians 2 Luton OB Res 4; Studham 6 Stockwood Ath 2; Crawley Green 3 Kent Ath 3.

**DIV ONE:** Kent Ath Res 2 Studham 4; Luton OB A 0 Thresher 2; Luton Eagles 3 Crawley Green 2; Thomas-De-La-Rue 1 Brickmakers Arms 2; Monarch 3 Flitwick Tn 1; Lea Sports 3 Lewsey Pk Res 2.

**DIV TWO:** Flitwick A 0 Christians in Sport A 3; Markyate Res 3 Harlington 3; First & Last 1 Old Dunstablians Res 3; Eaton Bray Res 1 Sportsman Dunstable 1; 61FC 1 Thresher Res 1; Harveys 6 Whitbread 2.

### The NHC Sunday League

**PREMIER DIV:** Enterprise 3 FC Coral 7; AFC Heron 2 Limbury Black Swan 1; St. Joseph's 5 Stag 0; GIS 0 Celtic 6.

**DIV ONE:** NT Sugar Loaf 0 Sacred Heart Res 1; AFC Heron Res 0 St. Joseph's Res 0; Stopsley WMC 1 Lilley 1; Celtic Res 8 Favourite 1; Stopsley Harriers 1 Horseshoe Saints 1.

**DIV TWO:** FC Houghton 9 TRW 0; AFC Wigmore 3 Lea Sports 4; The Brewery 2 Caddington 0.

**DIV THREE:** Black Swan 3 Borough Arms 4; Coulter 7 GIS Leagrave 0; FC Coral Res 3 Strawplaiters 7; First & Last Parkside 3 Magnum 2; Old Moat House 2 Red Star 1; Silsoe 3 Vauxhall High Tn 0; Caddington 0 Dog & Duck 4.

**DIV FOUR:** Markyate 0 Thames Utd 4; Wigmore Ath 3 NT Sugar Loaf Res 1; AFC Oakley 4 Britannia 5; Flint Utd 2 Roman Legion 1.

**DIV FIVE:** Streatley Chequers 2 AFC Stopsley 1; Casa Bianca 3 Barbarians 1; Crescent Social 7 Wells Star 2; Borough Arms Res 1 FC Houghton Res 2; Lea Sports Res 5 Royal Mail 1; Chalton Strollers Res 1 Lewsey Social 2.

**DIV SIX:** Luton YS 0 Toddington 2; Wellington 2 Houghton Town 7; Woodstock Wdrs 2 Swan Rgrs 4.

**DIV SEVEN:** Magnum Res 7 Postels 1; Fidus 0 Hansom Cab 3; Luton Rover 1 Lynmore 2; Red Star Res 8 Red Lion 0; Bedco OB 1 Pulsebeat 3; Sportsman 2 Markyate Res 0.

**LUTON NEWS CUP:** Houghton Regis 2 Stopsley WMC Res 4; Laporte 1 Lewsey Res 2.

**BEDS SUNDAY CUP:** Brache Green Man 2 Carlton Pavenham 0; Bedford West Indians 0 Sacred Heart 2.

### Luton Sunday League

**DIV ONE:** Barn Owl 7 Bridge Tavern 2; First & Last 13 Oakley Ath 0.

**INVITATION CUP:** Emerald 2 Round Green 1.

**DIV TWO:** GML Comets 4 Icknield Rgrs 2.

**LEAGUE CUP:** One Nation 5 Meds 2; AMC 6 High Town 4; Hibbert 1 DFL 2; Luton Dukes 2 Purley 1.

### S. Beds Sunday League

**PREMIER CHALLENGE CUP:** Bricklayers 1 Sundon Park 2; Moor Park 0 Leicester Arms 3; GM Clophill 1 Nurdin & Peacock 5 abandoned 80 minutes.

**SUNDON PARK TROPHY:** Britannia 5 Ramridge Sports 0; Moor Park Res 0 Beds Yeoman 6.

**SUPPLEMENTARY CUP:** Tophill Utd 6 Sundon Pk Res 0; Windsor Castle 0 Engineers 3; Emerald 1 Suspension Systems 3.

**BERNARD PEARCE TROPHY:** Air Express 0 Eddie's Bar 5; Lea Bank 3 Wigmore Sports 2.

**PREMIER DIV:** Farley Eagles 1 Coach & Horses 1.

**DIV TWO:** Cosmopolitan 2 Crown & Keg 6.

**DIV THREE:** Park Tn 13 Cosmopolitan Res 0; NV Ath 9 Northside 2.

### Chiltern Youth League

**UNDER 17 DIV ONE:** Water Eaton 0 Ramridge 8; Leighton Foxes 4 Dunstable 0. **LEAGUE CUP:** Wootton 1 Limbury BC 2. **DIV TWO:** Ramridge B 0 Griffin Brache 9; Leighton Cor 1 AFC Houghton 1.

**UNDER-16;** Leighton Foxes 1 St. Joseph's 6; Warden Hill 5 Putteridge 1.

**UNDER 15 DIV ONE:** Lewsey 1 Aztec 1; Leighton Foxes 0 Ramridge 2. **DIV TWO:** H Hatten 5 Bentley 1; Tring Tn 0 Ramridge B 3; Sundon Pk 3 Ampthill 1.

**UNDER-14 DIV ONE:** Sacred Heart 5 Ampthill 1; Eaton Bray 2 Leighton Cor 2; St. Joseph's 4 Flamstead 1. **DIV TWO:** Ramridge 2 Sundon Pk 1; Pin Green 1 Houghton Tn 3; Dragons 5 Sacred Heart B 1. **DIV THREE:** Downside 0 Luton BC 17; Flitwick Eagles 1 WL Saints 2.

**UNDER-13 SUBSIDIARY CUP:** Leighton Cor 1 Sundon Pk 1; Lewsey Centre 0 Dunstable Tn 2; Markyate 1 Ramridge A 5. **DIV ONE:** St. Joseph's 10 Celtic 1; Stony 3 Sacred Heart A 2. **DIV TWO:** Pioneer 2 Ampthill 1; St. Mary's 1 Ramridge B 4; Westoning 4 Icknield Ath 3; Arrows 1 Kempston Rurals 6; Sacred Heart 1 Schy 1.

**UNDER 12 DIV 1:** Barnfield A 0 Lewsey 6; Dunstable Tn 1 Celtic 8; Leighton Cor 0 Ampthill A 3; Leighton Foxes 0 Limbury B 0; St. Joseph's 7 Dragons 1; Lewsey A 5 Ramridge 1; Dunstable Colts 12 AFC Houghton 0. **DIV TWO:** Barnfield B 0 Redbourn 3; Barton Rov 1 Westoning B 0; Bushmead 2 WL Saints 3; Gideon 2 Westoning A 6; Markyate 5 Sundon Pk 6; Parkside 1 Flamstead 2.

**UNDER 11 DIV ONE:** Ampthill 3 Leighton Cor A 4; Dunstable Tn 2 AFC Houghton 0. **DIV 2:** Barton Rov 1 Dragons 0; Celtic 17 Markyate 1; Kensworth 2 Fairlands 1; Leighton Cor B 0 Limbury BC 11; Dunstable Colts 5 Lewsey B 2.

**UNDER-TEN CUP:** Ramridge 4 Celtic 0. **DIV ONE:** Aylesbury 2 Leighton Cor 3; Lewsey 0 Dunstable Colts 4; Leighton Foxes 1 St. Joseph's 1. **DIV TWO:** AFC Houghton 4 WL Saints 0; Limbury BC 6 Ampthill 4; Sundon Pk 3 Barnfield 0; Sacred Heart 1 Dunstable Town 0.