Telephone Advertising: (01462) 423423; Editorial (01582) 31288; Dunstable Editorial: (01582) 608811

Sport 3

Endsleigh League soccer

Big match facts

TOWN: Feuer; Patterson, Steve Davis, Marvin Johnson; Alexander (Thorpe 52 mins), Waddock, McLaren, Harvey (Thomas 52 mins); Oakes, Taylor, Marshall. Unused sub: Kelvin Davis.

PORTSMOUTH: Knight; Pethick, Butters, Whitbread, Stimson; Durnin, McLoughlin, Carter, Simpson; Hall, Walsh. Subs, all unused: Russell, Griffiths, Rees.

GOALS: 1-0 3 mins: Paul Hall, dancing clear and round Ian Feuer after Alan McLoughlin's long ball caught the Town stretched; 2-0 40 mins: Hall again after break from the half-way line, engineered by Paul Walsh's pass; 3-0 44 mins: Walsh, into empty nhet from Hall's pull-back after Darren Patterson was relieved of the ball; 4-0 46 mins: Jimmy Carter, thundering drive from the edge of the box after Hall went clear down the Tolwn's left and pulld back another excellent pass.

OTHER ATTEMPTS: Town six saved and three wide; Pompey eight saved and five wide. Corners: 6-4 to the Town.

REFEREE: Eddie Lomas, Manchester. Made several very odd decisions, but none of the goals were down to him.

BOOKED: John Taylor for pointing out a mistake to the ref over a back pass that was not penalised; Jimmy Carter of Portsmouth for a foul on Paul McLaren.

ATTENDANCE: 7,012 on a bitterly cold day.

ENTERTAINMENT: Provided entirely by Portsmouth, whose four-goal salvo finally sank Terry Westley as manager of Luton Town.

Westley quits after a shambles

REPORT BY BRIAN SWAIN
PICTURES BY GARETH OWEN

TERRY Westley's career as manager of Luton Town was finally sunk at Fratton Park, where Portsmouth's four-goal salvo left travelling fans with nothing to shout about except their disaffection with Westley.

Even he knew how they felt, after another shambles of a performance from a team which seemed to lack any real cohesion or pattern, let alone a steely will to win.

They never looked like making an impression until Tony Thorpe went on as a second-half sub to inject enthusiasm and determination to what had previously been a lifeless attack.

The fans were questioning why Thorpe was relegated to the bench to make way for John Taylor to be given his first start in two months. They also questioned the commitment and tactics of a team that at times was naive in the extreme.

"Portsmouth played like an away team," said Westley, at what turned out to be his press conference swan-song as Luton manager.

"They sat deep and got behind the ball. We forced them back, but then bang, they hit us on the break. And two of their goals came from one long pass."

Westley probably knew at half-time that his first taste of league management was facing the chop. His team had been mugged as Portsmouth eased into a three-goal lead, and his half-time rallying cry was to be given a rapid and painful answer by Portsmouth's fourth goal a few minutes later.

"Although we had let in three, we told them at half-time that so long as they didn't let in another goal, they would get three chances," he said. "And then we let another one in..."

Westley's departure is bound to put the spotlight on his determination to use three at the back, a formation which is becoming popular with a lot of clubs. It works in the Premiership - with Premiership players.

Once again, at Portsmouth, the Town's formation looked wide open and inviting for the opposition, and the feeling persists that players were not happy with the system.

Ironically, it became a more normal back four when Mitchell Thomas was sent on as a sub to play at left back.

True, Pompey had taken their foot off by then, with manager Terry Fenwick pleading with them from the dug-out to keep up the momentum.

Their players knew they didn't need to, although they might have been embarrassed if Thorpe's strong and positive running with the ball had brought the goal or two it threatened.

Westley said: "We played well enough with the ball, but you have got to defend when you haven't got it, and we didn't do that well enough. And if you give goals away, particularly after only three minutes, you are going to be up against it."

The Town were: Portsmouth, themselves in relegation danger a few weeks ago, played with qualities that the Town lacked: speed, urgency, determination and a hunger to attack.

The first goal, after only three minutes, gave them a confidence boost, and the third, just before the interval, was probably the one that did greatest damage, all the more painful for Town fans because it was a gift from a mistake by Darren Patterson.

PORTSMOUTH 4
LUTON TOWN 0
(Half-time: 3-0)

The driving force of Ceri Hughes, starting his suspension, was much missed in midfield, where 19-year-old Paul McLaren clearly needs a rest after an impressive introduction to league football.

Pompey's long-ball attacks too often caught the Town flat-footed in defence, and it is a matter of conjecture how much worse it might have been if Gary Waddock had not dug in to try to hold the line in midfield.

Taylor and Marshall's reunion in attack needs more time to show what it can do, but for Westley time was all too short.

In defence, I am certain it has to be a case of back to basics, while we must hope for a return to form by Scott Oakes, who was not as sharp at Fratton as he had been in previous games.

Richard Harvey tried to make amends for the shotshy attack in the first half, with two useful efforts, but the question mark over him and Graham Alexander, when they play in midfield in front of a back three, is over their defensive abilities. I believe they are asked to do too much, and need to concentrate on defending first, attacking second.

Steve James and Marvin Johnson, like Patterson, were always willing to battle, but not always able to cope, even though the return of Ian Feuer gave them extra confidence. The pace of Paul Hall, playing like an old- fashioged flying winger, was the major difference between the sides. The elaborate skills of Walsh, as sharp as ever, added to Pompey's threat.

It was noticeable that the home defence was organised and well-drilled, while the Town's was not.

The all-important first goal illustrated it: the Town had been on the attack, had a free kick cleared, and were spread all over the place when Alan McLoughlin booted the ball downfield. Hall was on it on a trice, and had shot into the net before there was any sign of cover for luckless Feuer.

On 40 minutes another break destroyed the Town, with Walsh sliding a pass from the centre circle to the left, for Hall to take his second goal just as brilliantly, but again without serious impediment.

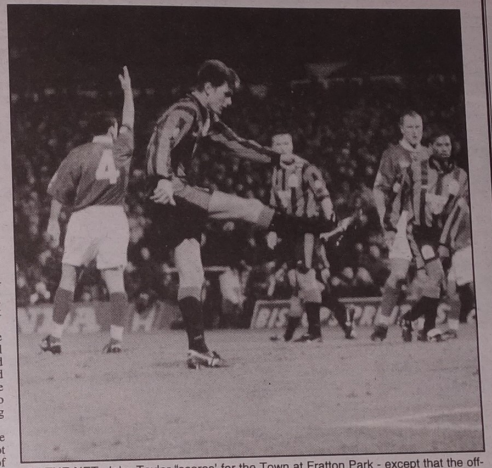
Patterson's indecision five minutes before the break was punished when Fitzroy Simpson robbed him and set up Walsh for a chance he could not miss.

And Westley's half-time plea to concede no more goals but take chances at the other end was in vain. Within two minutes of the restart Hall roared down the right wing, pulled back a pass which was deflected to the back of the penalty area, and Jimmy Carter thumped in a tremendous drive.

It was all over bar the sacking after that, although Thorpe broke through three times and had shots saved.

On a bitterly cold day, Town fans waited for an hour before resuming this season's most common chant of "We want Westley out.' Then, with grim humour they sang "Cheerio, cheerio, cheerio...' their verdict on the Town's First Division prospects.

The abject surrender at Fratton was as obvious to Westley as it was to the shivering fans. If he could not motivate the team better than that, he knew he had had to go, and did.



IN THE NET: John Taylor "scores' for the Town at Fratton Park - except that the off-side whistle had already sounded

Hatters go nap in Italian non-event

LUTON TOWN 5
ANCONA 0

THE smallest attendance since 1933 turned up to see the Town's final appearance in this season's Anglo Italian Cup. And even those who paid for cut-price admission - most of the customers were let in for free - had tremendous value for money as the visitors showed they never wanted to play the game.

In their previous match in the tournament, Ancona were involved in a brawl with Birmingham City. Their manager, who needed hospital treatment, stayed at home, and his team were perfect gentlemen, and very generous about not trying to win too much of the ball.

Like the Town, Ancona had nothing to play for, after losing to Port Vale and Birmingham, and beating Oldham in Italy.

They accepted a dodgy booking and a harsh penalty without complaint, and rarely brought Kelvin Davis into serious action.

Scott Oakes controlled the game, and for the Town a match they never really wanted turned out to be a useful bonus. Oakes notched the first-half opener, after a shot by Des Linton had been cleared off the line to him. Davis made a couple of saves from Ancona counter-attacks, but in the second half the Town were allowed to flourish, and whatever the opposition it was useful for confidence.

Dwight Marshall netted after John Taylor headed down a cross by sub Tony Thorpe, and Taylor turned off his marker to smash in a spectacular left-foot goal. Thorpe made it 4-0 from Marshall's pass, and when the eagle-eyed Italian ref spotted a shove on Taylor Bontcho Guentchev completed the rout by maintaining his 100 per cent penalty record.

Between those strikes, Steve Davis hit the outside of a post with a 25-yard piledriver that left the keeper beaten.

MATCH DETAILS

TOWN: Kelvin Davis; Patterson, Steve Davis, Marvin Johnson; Linton (Thorpe 51 mins), Waddock, McLaren (Guentchev 51 mins), Harvey (Thomas 61 mins); Oakes, Marshall, Taylor. Unused subs: Gavin Johnson and goalkeeper Fred Barber.

GOALS: Scott Oakes 31 mins; Dwight Marshall 57 mins; John Taylor 66 mins; Tony Thorpe 73 mins; Bontcho Guentchev penalty 79 mins.

OTHER ATTEMPTS: Town six saved, 12 wide and shot by Steve Davis hit a post; Ancona four saved and two wide. Corners: 6-4 to the Town.

REFEREE: Alberto Gronda, Genoa. So keen to be impartial, he sometimes looked a bit of a homer.

BOOKED: Ancona skipper Roberto Magnani for what looked like a good tackle on Scott Oakes.

ATTENDANCE: 2,091, on a wretched cold night, for a game that did not matter in terms of the tournament, and while Ireland v Holland's World Cup showdown was live on TV.

ENTERTAINMENT: Ancona didn't want to know, but the Town still managed to keep their game going and there was a lot of quality about their play, and the goals.

Town's season at a glance....

DATE... OPPONENTS... RESULT... SCORERS... ATTENDANCE... LEAGUE POSITION

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE DIV I

August 1995				
13	**Norwich**	(H)	1-3 (Guentchev, pen)	7,848 –
19	Southend	(A)	1-0 (Thorpe)	4,630 –
26	**Leicester**	(H)	1-1 (Hughes)	7,612 16
29	Grimsby	(A)	0-0	4,289 10
September				
2	**Derby**	(H)	1-2 (Marshall)	6,427 17
9	Reading	(A)	1-3 (Marshall)	8,550 20
13	Millwall	(A)	0-1	7,076 22
16	**Sunderland**	(H)	0-2	6,955 23
23	Wolves	(A)	0-0	23,659 24
30	**Portsmouth**	(H)	3-1 (Marshall, Davis, Guentchev pen)	7,795 23
October				
7	Tranmere	(A)	0-1	6,680 24
14	**West Brom**	(H)	1-2 (Harvey)	8,042 24
22	Ipswich	(A)	1-0 (Oldfield)	9 123 21
29	**Charlton**	(H)	0-1	6,270 22
November				
4	Stoke	(A)	0-5	9,382 24
11	Oldham	(H)	1-1 (Douglas)	6,047 23
21	Watford	(A)	1-1 (Davis)	10,042 23
25	Barnsley	(A)	0-1	6,437 23
December				
2	**Tranmere**	(H)	3-2 (Marshall 2, McLaren)	6,025 23
10	**Wolves**	(H)	2-3 (Oakes, Marshall)	9,997 24
16	Portsmouth	(A)	0-4	7,012 24

COCA-COLA CUP (First Round)

August 1995				
15	**Bournem'th**	(H)	1-1 (Marshall)	2,728
22	Bournemouth	(A)	1-2 (aet) (M Johnson)	4,844

(Bournemouth win 3-2 on aggregate).

ANGLO ITALIAN CUP

September 5 1995				
Perugia	(H)	1-4 (Guentchev pen)	2,352	
October 11				
Genoa	(A)	0-4	3,759	
November 8				
Cesena	(A)	1-2 (Marshall)	400	
Ancona	(H)	5-0 (Oakes, Marshall, Taylor, Thorpe, Guentchev pen)	2,352	

How they are standing in Division One

	HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sunderland	21	6	3	1	19	7	4	5	2	10	9	38
Derby C	22	6	4	1	20	9	4	3	4	15	18	37
Leicester	22	4	3	4	18	18	6	3	2	19	14	36
Charlton	23	4	5	2	15	13	5	4	3	14	10	36
Huddersf'd	22	8	1	2	24	13	2	4	5	8	14	35
Grimsby	22	5	5	1	13	8	4	3	4	14	16	35
Norwich	21	5	4	2	13	9	4	3	4	21	17	34
Birmingh'm	22	5	5	1	18	12	4	2	5	14	17	34
Stoke	22	4	4	3	13	8	5	3	3	19	18	34
Millwall	23	4	3	5	11	13	5	4	2	13	15	34
Southend	22	6	3	2	15	11	2	4	5	10	16	31
Oldham	22	5	4	2	21	12	2	5	4	13	14	30
Tranmere	20	5	3	3	21	13	3	3	3	11	11	30
Ipswich	22	5	3	3	21	17	2	5	4	16	16	29
Barnsley	22	5	4	2	14	14	2	3	6	14	24	28
Crystal P	21	2	5	3	12	14	4	3	4	12	14	26
Portsmouth	22	4	4	3	20	15	2	3	6	14	21	25
Reading	22	4	3	4	17	17	1	6	4	10	13	24
West Brom	22	5	1	5	13	13	2	2	7	12	22	24
Watford	22	3	5	3	15	12	2	3	6	12	18	23
Port Vale	22	2	3	6	12	18	3	5	3	13	12	23
Wolves	22	3	4	4	13	14	2	3	6	14	19	22
Sheff Utd	22	3	2	6	14	18	2	2	7	14	22	19
Luton Tn	**22**	**2**	**3**	**6**	**13**	**18**	**2**	**3**	**6**	**4**	**16**	**18**

APPEARANCES... GOALS

League appearances (as sub in brackets)
Harvey 22
Marshall 20
M Johnson 20
Steve Davis..... 18
Alexander ... 16 (1)
Hughes 16
Feuer 15
Peake 14 (3)
Oldfield 12 (2)
James 10 (3)
Oakes 11
Waddock 10 (4)
James 10 (3)
Guentchev ... 8 (6)
McLaren 8
Taylor 6 (4)
Vilstrup 6
Riseth 5 (1)
Linton 5 (1)
G Johnson 5 (1)
Kelvin Davis 5
Thorpe..... 3 (7)
Patterson..... 3 (2)
Sommer 2
Douglas..... 1 (3)
Patterson..... 2 (2)
Douglas..... 1 (3)
Woodsford 1 (2)
Thomas 1 (2)

League goals
Marshall 6
Davis 2
Guentchev .. 2 pens
Thorpe 1
Hughes 1
Oakes 1
Harvey 1
Oldfield 1
Douglas 1
McLaren 1

Assists
Thorpe 3
Oakes 2
Alexander 2
Taylor 1
Guentchev 1
M Johnson 1
G Johnson 1
Marshall 1
S Davis 1
Vilstrup 1
Feuer 1
Harvey 1

Anglo Italian Cup
K Davis 4
S Davis 4
Harvey 4
Oakes 3
Linton 3
McLaren 3
Marshall..... 2 (1)
Guentchev.... 2 (1)
James 2
M Johnson 2
Oldfield 2
Patterson 2
Vilstrup 2
Thorpe..... 1 (2)
Alexander 1 (1)
Skelton 1
Evers 1
Hughes 1
Riseth 1
Upson 1
Waddock 1 (1)
Taylor 1
Thomas..... 1
Woodsford ..... (2)

Goals
Marshall 2, Guentchev 2 pens, Oakes 1, Taylor 1, Thorpe 1

Assists
Taylor 2, Hughes, Linton, Marshall and Harvey 1 each.

Coca Cola Cup
Sommer 2
M Johnson 2
S Davis 2
Oldfield 2
Alexander 2
Marshall 2
Taylor 2
Guentchev 2
Harvey 2
Thorpe ..... (2)
Thomas 1 (1)
James 1
Hughes 1
Waddock..... 1
Matthews ..... (1)

Goals
Marshall and Marvin Johnson 1 each

Assists
Steve Davis and Alexander 1 each

Sport 4

Reports and gossip from Town

Youth team gets set for a visit to Anfield

JOHN Moore's youth squad have plenty to play for in the next couple of weeks. On January 9 he will select a team to step out under the floodlights of Anfield, to meet the cream of the young talent of Liverpool, in the FA Youth Cup.

The lads have lost only one of their last seven games after a 1-0 home victory over Bristol Rovers in the South East Counties League. Andrew Barr scored the winner, as he did a week earlier in the away game between the sides.

The youth team has a Christmas break before playing Crystal Palace away on Saturday week.

The reserves are away to Spurs next Wednesday.

ONE of the first players Terry Westley brought into Kenilworth Road was the subject of his final transfer deal. Defender Gavin Johnson, recruited from Ipswich on a free transfer in June, has joined Third Division Wigan on loan for a month.

He earned good Press reviews on Saturday in their 2-1 home victory over Hereford. Westley was doing a favour for an old pal as well as for the player - the Wigan manager is John Deehan, who use to be boss at Norwich.

The loan was designed to give Johnson league games which were unavailable to him at Kenilworth Road, and it will be up to the new Town manager to make a decision if Deehan wants to sign Johnson permanently.

A & B Sports North Home Counties Sunday League

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
*Hexton	12	6	4	2	31	18	18
Kent Ath	12	6	5	1	23	13	17
St Joseph's	9	6	3	0	48	11	15
*Luton OB	9	7	2	0	24	7	14
Green Man	11	4	3	4	25	32	11
Celtic	6	5	0	1	25	4	10
Lewsey	10	4	2	5	21	30	10
FC Houghton	12	2	0	10	14	46	4
Crawley Sports	11	1	1	10	14	48	3
Stag	9	1	0	9	11	27	2

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic Res	9	7	2	0	30	9	14
Trident Park	11	6	1	4	28	26	13
Houghton Town	7	6	0	1	29	7	12
Crawley Harriers	10	3	2	5	16	18	8
Brewery	8	4	0	4	13	16	8
Ewe & Lamb	9	2	5	3	17	21	7
Wyvern	8	4	1	3	15	20	7
Lilley SR	6	2	2	2	8	6	6
Wheatsheaf	7	2	2	4	13	15	6
St Joseph's Res	5	1	2	2	9	11	4
Crawley Res	9	0	1	9	9	38	1

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Luton OB Res	8	8	0	1	33	9	16
Borough Arms	8	8	0	0	28	5	16
Caddington	12	6	2	2	34	21	14
Crawley Har Res	11	6	1	4	22	23	13
CSFC	7	5	2	1	19	14	12
Lea Sports	10	4	3	4	28	23	11
Kent Ath Res	12	4	3	5	25	27	11
Limbury B Swan	12	4	3	6	21	28	11
NT Sugarloaf	9	4	1	4	23	17	9
Black Swan	12	4	1	8	29	41	9
Boater	12	3	1	8	19	37	7
AFC Wigmore	13	2	2	9	21	44	6
Silsoe Rgrs	10	1	3	7	20	29	5

DIVISION THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Magnum	9	6	3	1	31	12	15
GIS Windows	9	6	1	2	24	10	13
AFC Taverners	10	6	2	3	34	15	12
Jolly Topers	8	6	0	2	21	8	12
O Moat House	9	4	1	4	17	22	9
Limbury Utd	7	4	0	3	17	10	8
Eaton Bray	8	4	0	4	13	18	8
Red Star	8	2	2	4	20	21	6
Trident Pk Res	9	1	1	8	13	44	3
FC Houghton C	9	1	0	8	11	41	2

DIVISION FOUR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lewsey Social	8	6	2	0	45	16	14
Moor Park	12	5	3	4	34	35	13
*Houghton Tn Res	8	3	4	1	19	7	12
Britannia	7	5	1	1	21	15	11
Concorde 61	9	3	4	2	19	14	10
AFC Oakley	8	3	3	2	21	13	9
Laporte	10	4	1	5	19	22	9
Lea Spts Res	7	2	2	4	11	25	6
*AFC Park Town	6	2	2	2	6	8	4
Flint Utd	9	1	2	6	18	35	4
Wyvern Res	10	2	0	9	14	37	4

*Points added and deducted

DIVISION FIVE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hansom Cab	8	6	0	2	33	16	12
Markyate	7	5	2	1	22	8	12
AC Treporti	11	5	2	4	26	25	12
Barbarians	9	4	2	3	21	18	10
AFC Stopsley	10	5	0	6	27	29	10
Swan Rgrs	6	4	1	1	25	13	9
Hexton Res	6	4	1	1	18	7	9
Borough Arms Res	7	4	1	2	21	14	9
Wells Star	9	1	3	6	15	37	5
Royal Mail	8	0	3	5	9	27	3
Streatley Chequers	9	1	1	8	15	38	3

DIVISION SIX

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Woodstock	8	6	1	2	28	13	13
Sporting Luton	9	6	1	2	34	20	13
Red Lion Sundon	9	6	1	3	30	21	13
Windmill	11	5	3	3	27	18	13
FC Toddington	8	5	1	3	30	15	11
Black Swan Res	10	5	1	4	28	30	11
Fidus	10	4	2	4	23	26	10
Houghton Regis	6	4	1	2	17	9	9
Luton YS	7	3	2	2	21	19	8
Lynmore	9	3	1	5	27	34	7
O Moat House Res	10	3	1	6	21	36	7
Lilley SR Res	8	3	0	5	18	22	6
Swan Rgrs Res	11	2	2	8	19	44	6
Pulsebeat	9	1	1	7	16	32	3

DIVISION SEVEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Magnum Res	12	8	1	3	36	22	17
AC Helpline	11	7	2	3	42	25	16
Loyal Luton	8	7	1	0	39	6	15
Icknield Ath	10	6	2	2	30	13	14
Leagrave Wdrs	9	7	0	3	37	29	14
Saprisa	12	6	2	4	32	36	14
Sundon Pk Rgrs	10	6	1	4	29	24	13
Markyate Res	14	4	3	7	20	35	11
Musgrave Rov	9	5	0	5	32	20	10
King William	12	2	5	6	12	29	9
Wellington Arms	12	0	5	7	27	50	5
Red Star Res	9	2	1	7	15	41	5
Air Express	12	1	1	10	20	41	3

LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

Face to face meeting in a deserted ground

TERRY WESTLEY

TERRY Westley had known for weeks that his job was under threat, and by Saturday evening, after the 4-0 thrashing at Portsmouth, his departure became inevitable.

But he did not resign. He intended to make a family visit to Ipswich on Sunday, and thought he had better speak to the chairman on Saturday night. He called David Kohler, who said he thought they should talk face to face.

On Sunday morning the two met at a deserted Kenilworth Road and agreed it was time to part. They sorted out details of Westley's farewell package and within an hour Westley was carrying his gear out of his office into the boot of his club Mercedes, and his five months in charge was over.

Mick McGiven, Westley's assistant, was not so easy going about his departure. On Monday, when the formal announcement was made that the two were leaving "by mutual consent' the former Ipswich boss was refusing the severance offer made to him, and Mr Kohler said: "He is leaving, but it might not be by mutual consent in his case. If he doesn't accept our offer, he will be sacked."

The chairman added: "Terry and I shook hands, and I wish him all the very best. I am disappointed things have not worked out better, but at the end of the day the responsibility for putting things right is mine.

"I went on to the terrace at Portsmouth before Saturday's game and spoke to supporters, and I know their feelings. After the match, I knew we had to make a change.

"We had talked about it at board level a number of times. Terry knew that. He has been under pressure for a long time - you must be when you are manager of a team that is bottom of the league. The pressure comes from not delivering results.

"I am sad for Terry, and I also have to admit with hindsight I made a mistake in appointing him. We thought he would do better than he has, and there was no doubting his commitment to the job, and to the club.

"Now he has gone a lot of people will be saying "Told you so' and "About time too.'

"People might say it is harsh to do it just before Christmas, but that is the stage of the season where you must take stock. If we carry on in the second half of the season the way we are going, we will be relegated.

"We have to give a new manager time to put things right."

Westley spends over £2million

ONE of the points made by David Kohler when announcing Terry Westley's departure was that the manager had been given money to spend to build his team - and by Luton Town standards, a princely sum of over £2million.

The chairman suggested, without naming names, that not all his recruits had done the business.

In the summer Westley was deprived of Paul Telfer and David Preece, who both left under freedom of contract. The fees were £1.15million and £75,000, and in the first month of the season another £685,000 was pulled in through the transfers of Juergen Sommer and Rob Matthews, making a total of £1.9million.

Westley brought in a total of nine players: Bontcho Guentchev, Steve Davis, Gavin Johnson, Graham Alexander, David Oldfield, Darren Patterson, Johnny Vilstrup, Vidar Riseth and Ian Feuer.

On figures given at the times of the deals, the total cost was £2.035million, not counting signing-on fees.

The largest of those is thought to be to former Bulagarian international Guentchev, signed on a free from Ipswich, but who has been unable to win a regular place in the Town side.

Said Kohler: "Money was made available, but we are still bottom of the First Division, and we cannot stand for that."