

# Point brightens the gloom

HALF the game was out of sight as the Town battled to another away point at Saltergate, on their first visit for 29 years.

Fog swirled around the ground to hide 50 per cent of the action, and so far as could be discovered later that was a relief for both sets of fans.

The Town did not play particularly well, and certainly not with the flowing excellence we were to see a few days later against Millwall.

But they worked to take a hard-won point which might yet prove to be

## Chesterfield 1 Luton Town 1

invaluable in the promotion scrap.

The reshuffled back four was caught out when Kevin Davies headed Chesterfield into a 15th-minute lead, from a cross from their right wing.

Tony Thorpe equalised from a penalty five minutes before the break after he had been brought down by Chris Perkins.

Chesterfield complained that it was a dive and the referee had been conned.

The Town could have been two down before then, because Steve Gaughan cracked in a shot which hit a post when a long ball down the middle caught the defence out of position.

Thorpe insisted that Perkins was guilty of manhandling him, and the match video, misty though it was, confirmed the penalty decision was right.

The back four, with Julian James on the left in place of Mitchell Thomas, and Darren Patterson on the right, was less than perfectly drilled.

The attack was fitful on a night when both teams found it hard to concentrate knowing that the fog might cause the game to be brought to a premature final whistle.

### Below par

"In the first 30 minutes we were well below par in every department," admitted Lennie Lawrence.

"Then we improved slightly, and in the second half we were considerably better, decent, without being good.

"Chesterfield had marginally the better of it, and perhaps we are a touch fortunate to get a point.

"We have ground out a result without playing well."

## Midweek match details

**LUTON TOWN:** Feuer; Patterson, Davis, Johnson, James; Alexander, Hughes, Waddock, Showler; Oldfield (Grant 80 mins), Thorpe. Unused subs Linton and Marshall.

**CHESTERFIELD:** Mercer; Jules, Williams, Carr, Perkins; Dunn, Patterson, Hewitt, Beaumont; Gaughan (Howard 76 mins), Davies. Unused subs Lund and Howard.

**GOALS:** 1-0 15 minutes: Kevin Davies header from right wing cross; 1-1 40 mins: Tony Thorpe penalty after Chris Perkins manhandled him.

**OTHER STRIKES:** Town one saved and three wide; Chesterfield two saved, six wide and 23rd-minute drive by Steve Gaughan hit a post. Corners: 8-4 to Chesterfield.

**FOULS:** 19 by the Town, 14 by Chesterfield. Offside: Town twice, Chesterfield five times.

**BOOKED:** Steve Davis and Darren Patterson, both for fouls.

**REFEREE:** Phil Richards, Blackburn. Chesterfield thought he was very iffy with the penalty against them, but the Town had no complaints.

**ATTENDANCE:** 3,731.

**ENTERTAINMENT:** Very poor, with the Town well below their best and Chesterfield with half a mind on Sunday's FA Cup quarter-final, the biggest game in their history. Luckily for fans of both sides it was a foggy night and half the action was hidden from view.