

■ **DAVE FLETT:** SEES THE HATTERS CLAIM A POINT DURING A DRAB



● **STANDING TO ATTENTION:** A crowded Chesterfield penalty box watch the ball intently following a Hatters corner



● **HEAD TO HEAD**
Allen challenges C
field's Chris Per

SNOR DRAW

WATCHING paint dry would have been preferable to events on the pitch at times on Saturday but the suffering fans would even have been denied that pleasure at a run-down Saltersgate ground that didn't look as if it had seen a lick of paint in over 20 years.

Goal-mouth action was at a premium throughout this exciting Division 2 encounter but at least the Hatters can derive satisfaction from a disciplined performance that saw them take



CHESTERFIELD 0
HATTERS 0
Att: 4 358

a point from high-flying Chesterfield.

The afternoon started disappointingly for the visitors Julian James limping off after just six minutes forcing the cornered-looking Lennie Lawrence to reshuffle his pack. Lawrence brought Stuart Douglas on, dropped David Field back to right midfield and once again used Graeme Alexander as an emergency right back.

Assured

Unlike on previous occasions earlier in the season though players responded well to the enforced changes and produced a defensive display as good as any this season.

Steve Davis was at his inspiring best and Mitchell Threlkeld also made an assured return at left back in place of the departed Bryan Smell.

At the other end, Tony Thorpe's renewed fight for his cause again added a welcome dimension to the Hatters, our nearly landed him in hot water early on.

Thorpe retaliated after a push by Chesterfield defender Williams to get his name taken by referee John Ross. So was then skating on thin ice when a late challenge on Hewitt had the home fans baying for his blood.

The Hatters star sinker stayed on the pitch but his every move, blood, from that moment on.

Oldfield took the ball past home keeper Billy Mercer crossed to the far post where Douglas had a great opportunity to open the scoring but fired wide.

Earlier in the half, Douglas had hooked a mere 40 yards over after a mis-directed Paul McLaren volley.

Williams had blocked a Thorpe cross with Allen behind him with no chance for what would have been an open goal.

Possibly the best chance of the half fell to Chesterfield's mis-
striker Mark Jales however albeit in somewhat controversial cir-
cumstances.

It was a challenge that should Davis not have insisted to perform would have undoubtedly seen the club captain receive his marching orders and it was also one that kept the Hatters on level terms going into the season.

The final ball from both teams was consistently poor and the game slowly deteriorated into an unattractive stalemate.

Disappointing

The on-loan Chris Allen had a generally disappointing game on the wing not utilising the pace he evidently possesses and Oldfield gave himself into promising situations twice only to run into brick walls on both occasions.

Douglas' pace got him in behind the Chesterfield back line but, although he had still to beat keeper Mercer to the ball, his shot did not carry the necessary power to take it over the line, Chris Perkins recovering to clear the danger.

Earlier, Feuer had palmed the home team's best effort when he had been on the edge of the area and come the final whistle neither side had scored.

A poor spectacle overall, the game at least demonstrated that the players are getting both mentally and physically tougher and a point at Cheltenham on paper was no mean achievement.

"I think we were the better team," a suitably satisfied Lewis commented afterwards, "it was solid and professional and we controlled both parts of the game."

“I had three or four clear-cut chances and, on another occasion, I was in a good position to score. We were no better than that but I think we were probably a bit out of sync. The performance had most things except a goal.”

CHESTERFIELD: Billy Mercer, Jamie Hewitt, Mark Jackson, Paul Beasant, Mark Williams, Ian Breckin, Roger Wells, Paul Hogg, Steve Wilkinson, Marcos Ebdon, Chris Perkins. *Sans not used:* Curtis, Kirk Jackson, Iain Dunn.

HATTERS: Ian Feyer, Julian James (Stuart Douglas, 7), Mark Thomas, Gary Waddock, Steve Davis, Alan White, Chris Allen, McLaren, David Oldfield, Tony Thorne, Graham Alexander. *Sans not used:* Simon Davis, Andrew Foulds.

ENCOUNTER IN DERBYSHIRE



● **SLIDE AWAY:** Stuart Douglas beats Chesterfield keeper Billy Mercer to the ball but his shot didn't carry enough power to take it over the line.

I think we were the better team. It was solid and professional and we controlled large parts of the game. We had three or four clear-cut chances and, on another day, could have won 1-0. We were no better than that but I think we were probably worth that. The performance had most things except a goal.



**LUTON TOWN FC 1997-98
THE STORY SO FAR ...**

[illegible]

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

Up in December 12, 1967	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Waldorf	22	15	5	2	37	15	50
Bristol City	22	15	5	2	37	18	48
Oldham Athletic	22	9	7	6	37	29	38
Chorleyfield	22	8	10	4	22	17	34
York City	22	9	6	7	24	24	32
Milwall	22	6	8	6	23	24	31
Northampton	22	6	8	6	23	19	31
Preston	22	9	4	7	27	18	30
Grimsby Town	21	8	6	7	24	25	29
Bournemouth	22	8	5	9	30	35	29
Blackpool	21	7	8	8	27	24	29
Sheff Wed	22	7	8	7	24	25	29
Walsall	21	8	5	8	24	25	29
Bristol Rovers	22	7	7	8	24	25	29
Fulham	22	7	6	9	27	32	26
Gillingham	22	6	8	8	30	34	26
Wigan Athletic	21	7	4	10	30	33	25
Southend United	22	7	4	11	30	33	25
Plymouth Argyle	22	5	9	8	27	29	24
Sheff Wednesday	22	5	9	10	24	35	22
Luton Town	21	5	7	9	21	31	22
Bury	22	4	6	10	23	33	21

Player	Yellow Cards	Red Cards
Paul McLaren	5	0
Steve Davis	4	0
Graham Alexander	3	0
Phil Gray	3	0
David McGowan	0	1
Matthew Spring	0	1
David Brown	0	0

STAR TURNS

STEVE DAVIS - an immaculate display throughout, the uncompromising defender was equal to everything that Chesterfield threw at him

Player	McM	
Steve Davis	4	Stuart Douglas
Al McLaren	4	Richard Harvey
John White	4	Julian James
Abraham Alexander	2	David Oldfield
John McGowan	2	Bryan Small
Johnny Thorpe	2	Michael Thomas
John Davis	1	Gary Waddock