

Hurst earns Spireites a dramatic late reprieve

CHESTERFIELD1

Hurst (88)

LUTON TOWN0

BY BRIAN SANDERSON

DELIGHTED Chesterfield boss Roy McFarland hailed Glynn Hurst after the striker's late goal earned his side a dramatic last-day reprieve from relegation.

Top scorer Hurst pounced two minutes from time when he latched onto a long goal kick just as it seemed the Spireites were heading for Division Three.

And, after the celebrations which followed the final whistle had died down,

McFarland said: "Glynn has had a great season. We missed him at the start with a back injury and, to be honest, we struggled up front without him. But once he got back into his rhythm, he was magnificent.

"He has been so important for us in recent weeks and when it mattered today, he kept his composure.

"But it was a real team effort. I want to say a massive thank-you to the players and especially the fans. They were superb today. It's been an excellent day and it feels a bit like a promotion. I'm delighted for everyone connected with the club."

Hurst is one of a number of

players out of contract in the summer, and McFarland added: "There may be one or two clubs chasing some of the lads, and now we will have to sit down and see what we can sort out.

"We know where we want to go and staying in this Division is a massive boost."

The Spireites went into the game knowing they had to win to have any chance of staying up.

But, despite plenty of pressure, they created few scoring opportunities in the first 80 minutes.

But Hurst's strike, coupled with defeats for Rushden and Grimsby, ensured the Spireites will be playing

03/04
Second Division football again next season.

McFarland said: "It was hard work, but the players kept their discipline. It took a long time, but we thought lady luck just might have a final twist, and she did."

Luton, missing top scorer Steve Howard, rarely threatened and after the game, manager Mike Newell said: "We knew it would be difficult because Chesterfield were fighting for their lives.

"But I can't fault the effort and commitment of my players, as well as our defending, at least for 80 minutes. It sums up our season to play well for most of the game then concede late

CHESTERF'D		LUTON
47	Possession %	53
9	Corners	5
10	Offsides	5
7	Fouls	14
2	Yellows	4
0	Reds	0
8	Shots On	2
6	Shots Off	5
0	Hit Woodwork	0

CHESTERFIELD: Muggleton 6, Dawson 6 (De Bolla 82), Blatherwick 6, Evatt 7, O'Hare 6, Allott 6 (Davies 82), Niven 6, Hudson 6, Brandon 6, Reeves 6 (Robinson 67), Hurst 8.
LUTON: Brill 6, Neilson 6, Davis 6, Coyne 6, Boyce 6, Foley 6, Nicholls 6, Robinson 7, O'Leary 6, Forbes 6, Showunmi 6.

on. But I'm happy with them."

Newell added that he was satisfied with his side's comfortable top ten finish.