



Talk of the Town with Andy MacKenzie

Town Player Watch and the Star Hatter

Boyce puts in another top display

EMMERSON Boyce played in what Hatters' fans hope will not be his last game for the club on Saturday.

The 24-year-old is one of a number of Town players who are out of contract this summer.

And Boyce's star performances at centre-half have seen him being linked with a potential move to the First Division. Here's how he rated at Saltergate...

- Minutes on pitch: 90
- Passes to Luton: 18
- Passes to Chesterfield: 6
- Pass completion rate: 75 per cent.
- Tackles won: 5
- Tackles lost: 3
- Headers won: 19
- Headers lost: 4
- Free-kicks won: 0
- Free-kicks conceded: 2
- Dribbles ball retained: 1
- Dribbles ball lost: 0
- Shots on target: 0
- Shots off target: 0
- Shots blocked: 1
- Yellow cards: 1

VERDICT: Boyce produced another solid display alongside skipper Chris Coyne at the heart of the Hatters' defence. The Town's back line were under pressure from the start as the home side chased the win they needed to avoid relegation. Chesterfield's direct, route-one style resulted in Boyce challenging for many balls in the air rather than on the ground as shown by his high number of headed duels and low number of tackles, above. But Boyce showed his strength in the air against front pair Glyn Hurst and David Reeves by winning 83 per cent of the headers he competed for.

NEWELL'S VERDICT: "We're not unhappy with how any of the players performed, but the late goals have been the story of our season."



SO CLOSE: Enoch Showunmi sees Luton's only shot on goal blocked by Chesterfield keeper Carl Muggleton in the second-half.

Town aid escape act

CHESTERFIELD 1 HATTERS 0

ANOTHER late conceded goal and another away defeat for Luton sparked joy at escape specialists Chesterfield on Saturday.

Glyn Hurst's goal two minutes from time saw the Spireites avoid relegation on the last day of the season for the second year in succession.

And while the home fans invaded the pitch to celebrate another Houdini act, Hatters followers were left to applaud the end of a season that has exceeded many expectations with the club in administrative receivership.

Another special show of appreciation preceded the action on the field when home and away supporters gave an ovation to retiring Luton Town programme editor and former Luton News sports editor Brian Swain.

For Brian, 65, the Chesterfield loss was his 1,629th consecutive domestic league and cup Luton game and the hosts recognised his incredible achievement with the presentation of a bottle of champagne.

Brian said: "It was a lovely way to bow out. I wasn't happy with the result obviously, but I was very impressed with Chesterfield."

"It reminds you of what football is

And Swain ends an era

really about and the friendships that you make over the years travelling up and down the country.

"I was just disappointed that we didn't reach the play-offs. I was convinced a few weeks ago that I would end my time with Luton with a visit to Cardiff."

"That was disappointing, but on the other hand I'm so chuffed that we weren't anywhere near relegation."

"That was the big worry with all that happened in the summer when we didn't know if the club would even still exist."

"It's not the best I've ever seen from Luton this season, but in terms of surviving and doing so well against the odds it's a fantastic achievement."

"Mike Newell and co. and the players have done a wonderful job considering the injuries and suspensions they have had to deal with. The kids that have come through this season will also stand the club in good stead for the future."

Brian, who moves to Falmouth with his wife Rosemary next month, has

received numerous gifts and cards and has also been installed as life vice-president of the Town's supporters' club.

Brian, who is vowing to still attend Hatters matches where possible, added: "I'm overwhelmed almost by what's happened. The number of emails and cards I've had is astonishing and I'm absolutely touched."

Saturday's action saw Town top-scorer Steve Howard missing through injury; Enoch Showunmi stepped in.

Chesterfield knew they needed to win and that Rushden and Grimsby needed to lose for them to stay up.

The Spireites dictated play in the first period without creating clear-cut openings. David Reeves' first minute shot that was deflected round the post and

Alan O'Hare's 12th minute free-kick that was pushed away by Dean Brill was the closest they came. Luton could muster only Steve Robinson and Adrian Forbes efforts that cleared the bar.

After the break the hosts laid siege to the goal with Ian Evatt headers going close in the 46th, 48th, 55th, 64th, 66th and 76th minutes.

Despite the home side's aerial bombardment, Luton should have scored with their only shot on goal when Robinson's drive deflected into Showunmi's path in the 59th minute, but the striker's shot from eight yards was pushed wide by Carl Muggleton.

Instead Hurst sparked wild home celebrations by latching on to Sol Davis' backheader and slotting past Brill.

MIKE NEWELL'S VERDICT



"I FELT we defended very well considering the pressure they were putting us under, particularly in the second-half."

"We knew it was going to be like that, but I just felt we didn't show the composure to relieve the pressure and create chances ourselves. "I can't fault the lads

effort and commitment wise. They defended well for 80 minutes, but it sums our season up with us conceding another late one."

"It's a difficult one because there was nothing to play for yet they did well to compete with Chesterfield who were fighting for their lives at the end of the day."

HATTERS

Chesterfield 1-0 Luton

Hurst 88

Att On Target	Att Off Target	Att On Target	Att Off Target
Muggleton 8	1	Brill 0	0
Coyne 6	1	Davis 0	0
Dawson 8	1	Foley 0	0
Carroll 1	0	Hebban 0	0
Offside 1	0	Boyd 0	0
9	0	Robinson 0	0
10	0	Robinson 0	0
11	0	Robinson 0	0
12	0	Robinson 0	0
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14	0	Robinson 0	0
15	0	Robinson 0	0
16	0	Robinson 0	0
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