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COMMERCIAL
VEHICLES



LUTON TOWN 3 SCUNTHORPE 2 (AET)

08/09 (JPT)
LUTON: Brill, Asafu-Adjaye, Keane, Pilkington, Emanuel, Martin, Jarvis (Parkin 118), Spillane, Nicholls, Hall, Craddock (Gnapka 85). **Goal:** Martin 32, Craddock 70, Gnapka 95
SCUNTHORPE: Murphy, Byrne, Mirfin, Pearce (Wright 85), Williams, Sparrow (Woolford 77), McCann, Lansbury, Hurst (Togwell 64), Hayes, Hooper. **Goal:** Hooper 14, McCann 88.
REFEREE: Phil Crossley **ATTENDANCE:** 24,818



TOP HATTERS

Claude's Wembley prize for doomed Luton

BY **MIKE WALTERS**
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FRENCHMAN Claude Gnapka scored Luton's Wembley winner which will bring them sunshine in the Blue Square Premier next season.

Substitute Gnapka's extra-time lob will not bring back the 30 points the Hatters were docked by the Football League and the FA last August.

And barring a miracle, it will not save Luton from becoming the first club to win a Wembley final and be relegated out of the

League in the same season. But approaching the 25th anniversary of Hatters fan Eric Morecambe's death, the Johnstone's Paint Trophy will be a source of comfort to them as much as League chairman Lord Mawhinney's embarrassment at having to present it.

Cheered on by England cricketer Monty Panesar and Kenilworth Road godfather David Pleat, Luton shaded one of the best Wembley finals of any era.

In truth one of their heroes, striker Tom Craddock, should not have been on the pitch when he fired them 2-1 ahead.

Had any of the officials spotted his off-the-ball cuff on Cliff Byrne in the first half, he would

surely have been sent off. But it would be churlish to deny Luton a consolation prize on their way through the trapdoor.

Manager Mick Harford was among the team who beat Arsenal to lift the League Cup 21 years ago.

Harford promised his players he would shave his head if his side won, but he warned: "They will have to pin me down first, and I wouldn't like to be the first one who tries!"

"This could be a turning point in the history of Luton Town. Down on the touchline when I look back in a few years, it will probably top winning here as a

► **CLAUDE NINE**
Gnapka is mobbed

player. The players, directors and staff are going to have a celebration tonight - but Lord Mawhinney won't be invited."

Chairman Nick Owen, the TV presenter whose consortium

saved the club from extinction last summer, claimed Luton's triumph sent out a powerful message. He said: "It tells the Football League, the FA and all the football authorities: This team will not die."

It was Scunthy side up when Gary Hooper's 30th goal of the season fired Iron in front on 14 minutes.

But Luton, physically stronger and more robust in the tackle, deserved to be level by the break.

Chris Martin supplied the equaliser, chesting down Craddock's left-wing cross to steer his shot

expertly beyond Joe Murphy before Craddock drilled Luton in front with 20 minutes left.

Just when Scunthorpe appeared to have run out of ideas, Grant McCann curled an exquisite 25-yard shot into the top corner.

But it took Gnapka, who grew up in Marseille with posters of Chris Waddle on his bedroom wall, just five minutes of extra time to purge the Hatters' disappointment.

Iron manager Nigel Adkins gathered his distraught players in a huddle on the pitch afterwards and told them to "bottle the experience", adding: "Let's see if we can come back to Wembley for the play-off final and win it."

