



MATLOCK TN 1 LUTON TN 2

McMahon (pen) 61

Ainge 16, Shaw 90



RIISING HIGHEST:
Simon Ainge
scores Luton's
first goal

PICTURE: Gareth Owen



SHAW SAVES HATTERS

By Ian Richardson

BRAVE underdogs Matlock came within a whisker of forcing a replay with Premier big guns Luton with the tie on a knife edge until the final minute.

But Luton's Jon Shaw had other ideas, although he and the Hatters were indebted to the eagle eye of assistant referee Simon Swallow.

A free-kick was played in from the left and Shaw eventually helped it goalwards, but despite goalkeeper Jon Kennedy's desperate attempts to keep the ball out, the goal was given thanks to Swallow's intervention.

Matlock had both Lewis McMahon and Glenn Cotton booked for their protests to add to Jacob Hazel's 87th-minute yellow card for dissent.

Shaw's winner prompted Luton boss Paul Buckle to reflect on what he considered was a well-deserved win.

"We were the better side," he said. "Now Luton take nothing for granted. You could see how Matlock had beaten another Conference side in Mansfield, they are well organised and work hard.

"I wish them well, they have a really good manager but on the day we had a number of chances, we were on top and our goalkeeper did not have a shot to save. It was a good victory."

The Northern Premier side felt hard done by and questioned the validity of that free-kick. But they leave the competition they won in 1975 with plenty of positives.

"It was a good all round performance against a very good side," said Matlock boss Mark Atkins.

"What pleased me most was that we still wanted to play our football when we were given the chance."

"Luton were lumping the ball forward but snatched it. It wasn't a free-kick and people are saying it wasn't over the line."

"But I am very proud of my players and now we have to transform this level of performance into our league games."

Luton scored from their first dan-

gerous attack on 16 minutes, with Simon Ainge heading over Jon Kennedy after Scott Rendell had headed a corner back in.

Rendell scrambled an effort wide 12 minutes later, while at the other end Dean Brill held a header from Matlock defender Adam Yates, who was outstanding throughout alongside skipper James Lukic.

The Gladiators levelled from the penalty spot on 61 minutes when Phil Roe went to ground under a challenge by Ainge and McMahon's conversion was emphatic.

But Luton came strong again with Alex Lawless striking the bar from distance straight after the equaliser and later on a header from Janos Kovacs rebounded off the inside of a post.

Kennedy also pulled off great saves from Stuart Fleetwood and Shaw but still that late goal seemed harsh on Matlock.

MATCH STATS

MATLOCK v LUTON

2	SHOTS ON TARGET	10
1	SHOTS OFF TARGET	6
1	CORNERS	4
4	OFFSIDE	3
11	FOULS CONCEDED	12
3	YELLOW CARDS	0
0	RED CARDS	0

STAR MAN: Adam Yates (Matlock)
ATT: 829

ENTERTAINMENT: *****
REF RATING: Peter Bonkas 6/10

MATLOCK TOWN: 4-4-2
Kennedy, Harcourt, Roe, Foster, Yates, Lukic, Grayson (Hazel 46), Ashmore Cotton, McMahon, Davies (Elington 75) Subs not used: Weesley, Gaughan, Buxton

LUTON TOWN: 4-3-3: Brill, Kovacs, Lawless, Shaw, Rendell, Howells, Ainge, Mendeny, O'Donnell, Henry, Gray (Fleetwood 35) Subs not used: Roe-Turner, Lacey, Dance, Robinson

12/13
(FAT)