

DOMINICKED

MELLOW YELLOW

Reuben Reid and Dominic Blizzard celebrate the win

MATCH STATS opta

	LUT	PLY
Possession	51%	49%
Shots On Target	3	4
Shots Off Target	6	5
Blocked Shots	2	1
Corners	10	5
Fouls Conceded	4	5
Offsides	2	1
Yellow Cards	1	3
Red Cards	0	0

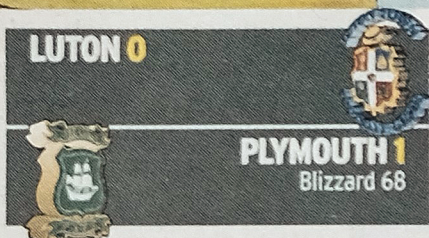
LUTON: Tyler, Connolly, McNulty, Lacey, Griffiths, Rooney, Drury (Stevenson 79), Ruddock, Guttridge, Howells (Lawless 69), Cullen (Lafayette 72).

Subs not used: Smith, Wall, Justham, Wilkinson

PLYMOUTH: McCormick, Mellor, Nelson, Hartley, McHugh, Alessandra, Cox, O'Connor, Blizzard, Banton (A Bray 58 (Smalley 69)), Reid. **Subs not used:** Bittner, Purrington, Norburn, Harvey, Thomas

REFEREE: Mick Russell

Ice-cool Blizzard pinches it for Argyle



By **DAVE KIDD**
at Kenilworth Road

HE was the high priest of 1980s knitwear, cosying up to Anne Diamond on the TV-am sofa.

Yet beneath the benign exterior, Nick Owen has known heartache, tumultuous passion, decades of addiction and years of agony.

Supporting a football team can do this to a man – not least Luton Town, who have suffered “as tough an eight years as any club ever could” according to their chairman.

When Owen took over as figurehead for local investors, in 2008, they had suffered a 30-point deduction, virtually condemning them to relegation from

League Two before a ball had been kicked.

Now after five seasons in the non-League wilderness, Luton are back in the Football League, after veteran manager John Still masterminded his third Conference promotion.

Heroes of Luton’s 1980s glory days were knocking around Kenilworth Road yesterday, including League Cup-winners Brian Stein and Mick Harford.

Today’s Hatters stars are more low-key. Skipper Steve McNulty is a former van driver, turned professional footballer. His physique is more that of a van driver – yet he’s a decent ball-playing centre-half, a Baresi with moobs.

Still (left) saw his Luton side beaten by a superb second-half effort from Dominic Blizzard as Plymouth – who have been to administration and back themselves – took the points.

Before that, Argyle goalkeeper Luke

McCormick was forced into action to deny Luke Guttridge and Jake Howells, while Argyle’s Lewis Alessandra, Blizzard and Reuben Reid saw efforts saved by Mark Tyler.

The Hatters have not won since an opening-day success at Carlisle, but Owen’s club have been through far too much to panic. Owen (left) said: “From 2007 when we were in the Championship, we had three consecutive relegations. It was a difficult time to take over a club and try to keep spirits up.

“But the investors who came in were all Luton fans, they didn’t mind whether we were in the Premier League or the Conference. I have been coming for 56 years now.

“Last season we started with 10 points from eight games but we finished with more than 100, so you mustn’t panic.

“This is not the biggest club but it’s got the biggest heart. To be back in the League is an overwhelming relief.”

