

SO-LATE HODGE ROCKS HATTERS

LUTON'S Division I survival hopes were dented at Kenilworth Road last night as Forest scored an 89th minute winner.

Hatters appealed in vain for offside as Johnny Metgod strode past the defence and slipped the ball to Steve Hodge, who scored with ease.

Brian Clough's team had survived a second-half pounding from the Hatters but always looked dangerous on the break and that is precisely how the stole the winner.

Luton were forced to make two changes from the side that beat Manchester United on Sunday.

Wayne Turner came in at left-back for the

By **GRAHAM PUNTER**

suspended Mitchell Thomas and David Moss replaced Meka Nwajobi, a groin strain victim.

LUTON: Sealey, Breacker, Foster, Donaghy, Turner, Hill, Nicholas, Preece, Stein, Harford, Moss. Sub: Parker.

NOTTM FOREST: Segers, McNally, Swain, Fairclough, Hart, Bowyer, Mills, Metgod, Clough, Davenport, Hodge. Sub: Birtles.

There was a disastrous start for Luton when they fell behind after just two minutes.

From within his own half young Clough found Mills in acres of space on the right side of the field. He played the ball in and as Foster blocked Davenport's ef-

fort, the ball ran free to MILLS, who followed up to lash the ball past Sealey.

Almost immediately Hodge took up a deeper role and made the Hatters struggle for midfield supremacy.

But Luton were back on terms after 17 minutes when they won their third penalty in three successive games.

Harford played the ball in to Hill and as the Luton midfield star raced into the box, he was clearly tripped by Fairclough.

After scoring from the spot against United, Harford suddenly found himself relieved of the job, perhaps because Brian Clough was watching the televised game, and it was left to David MOSS to pull the Hatters level.

Six minutes after the equaliser Luton so nearly took the lead when Hill kicked the ball away from a hesitant Bowyer on the edge of his own box and got in a hard, low shot that Segers did well to scramble to safety.

There was a worrying moment for Luton with 29 minutes gone when Harford, back helping his defence, was judged to have handled just outside his own area. But the danger came to nothing when a tame cross by Hodge was easily plucked out of the

air by Sealey.

The equaliser had opened up the game again and play swung from end to end with both sides creating chances.

Luton went close again when a fierce drive by Nicholas veered away from Segers' goal.

Five minutes before half-time there was a nasty moment for Luton as the speedy Davenport raced through the home defence but Turner managed to get in a tackle to deny the England squad player.

Denied

Then the Hatters had a good chance when Metgod fouled Preece. Moss pushed the free-kick to Foster, he thought about trying to repeat the rocket that led to Luton's winner on Sunday, but instead rolled the ball on to Nicholas, whose shot was just over.

A minute into the second-half Luton were denied a goal by a desperate clearance off the line.

A Moss corner was headed goalwards by Harford but the blond head of McNally flicked the ball to safety.

Bowyer put the ball in the net for Forest but the celebrations were cut short as referee Brian Hill gave a handball decision against Metgod.

As both sides tried to get their noses in front some of the tackling became fierce and Harford, who will miss next Saturday's game with West Ham because of suspension, was booked after a skirmish with Bowyer.

Luton were now putt-

ing together some good moves and both Harford and Preece went close with long range efforts.

Forest lost central defender Fairclough, injured as he tried to block a run by Harford, and striker Birtles came on to play in the Forest back four.

BOTTOM EIGHT

(POSITIONS BEFORE LAST NIGHT'S MATCHES)
CANON LEAGUE DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Watford.....	35	8	5	5	41	27	3	6	8	23	34	44
Ipswich.....	36	7	5	5	22	18	4	4	11	17	33	42
Norwich.....	36	9	5	5	28	23	2	4	11	13	33	42
LUTON.....	34	9	5	5	30	19	2	3	12	16	36	41
West Ham.....	34	5	7	5	21	19	5	4	8	21	35	41
Sunderland.....	37	7	6	6	19	20	3	3	12	18	31	39
Coventry.....	34	8	3	6	22	18	3	1	13	14	36	37
Stoke.....	35	3	3	11	16	35	0	5	13	4	38	17