

SAD HATTERS BOTTLE OUT

85/86
(cnc)

LUTON'S Milk Cup hopes went sour on Tuesday at the hands of a Norwich City side determined to hold on to the trophy they won last season.

They swept Luton's unbeaten home record under the carpet, and left nothing but a shadow of the side that whipped Southampton two weeks ago.

Without injured mid-field duo Peter Nicholas and David Preece, as well as the suspended Mitchell Thomas, Luton

Home record crashes as Norwich ease in

never looked likely to break down Norwich's well organised defence.

Gary Parker and Ray Daniel were pitched into the fray, and Parker particularly found that he could not cope with the energy and pace of the Second Division side.

On the few occasions Luton put on the pressure they came up against the mountainous

Steve Bruce and the unflappable Dave Watson, and the result was a forgettable night for Brian Stein and Meka Nwajiobi.

For 20 minutes of the first-half Luton looked promising, with Hill, Harford and Nwajiobi having half chances, but two goals in the last 10 minutes of the half put Norwich in command.

The first stemmed

from a lapse of concentration by Rob Johnson, deputising for Thomas at left-back.

He lost the ball in midfield and failed to get back, leaving Mike Phelan to cut through on the left and blast a fine shot which Les Sealey parried.

Sizzling

Peter Mendham followed up to drill home the rebound.

Five minutes later Steve Foster was penalised 25 yards out, and Bruce fired a sizzling free-kick into Sealey's

bottom right-hand corner.

Second-half effort only occasionally produced danger in the Norwich goal, and it was the visitors who looked more likely to add to their tally.

Donaghy cleared off the line from big centre-forward Robert Rosario, and Sealey saved from Kevin Drinkell as Luton threw caution to the wind.

The appearance of Ashley Grimes in the 66th minute did nothing to change the pattern, and it was not until the last five minutes that Norwich keeper Chris Woods was troubled.

He saved superbly

from Harford and then watched as Ray Daniel skimmed the bar with a roaring drive, but Luton's energy was all spent.

LUTON: Sealey, Breacker, Johnson, Parker, Foster, Donaghy, Hill, Stein, Harford, Nwajiobi, Daniel. sub: Grimes.

NORWICH: Woods, Culverhouse, Van Wyk, Bruce, Phelan, Watson, Barham, Drinkell, Rosario, Mendham, Williams. sub: Brooke.

LUTON 0 NORWICH 2
By GREG FOUNTAIN