

Luton 3, Watford 2

LUTON centre forward Mick Harford produced a final reminder of his goal power to Bobby Robson with his second hat-trick of the season as Luton completed an entertaining league double over their local rivals, writes **Robert Alexander**.

Harford, playing with great skill and purpose, took his tally for the season to 25 goals with a precision chip, a close range tap-in and a searing left-foot volley as Luton overwhelmed Watford to record their first win in four games. **85/86**

Preece shot narrowly over in the second minute and eight minutes later they went in front, Stein squeezing Harford clear to wedge a delightful shot beyond Coton from 15 yards.

Watford scurried hard to resist, Jackett was booked for dissent, and West, with a glorious chance was caught in possession by Foster, before Luton went further ahead on the half hour. This time Nwajiobi was the provider. He squirmed between Jackett and Sinnott to drill in a low cross from the right. Harford, unmarked, tapped in at the far post.

A stream of chances followed for Luton. Foster's header was saved, Coton dived at Stein's feet, and Nwajiobi volleyed wide from six yards before the interval. It continued the same way afterwards until Jackett pulled a goal back for Watford with an unexpected penalty when Thomas handled in the 58th minute.

Watford somehow hung on as Luton continued to press and Harford's third did not arrive until the 75th minute.

By then, Coton had also been cautioned for dissent after one of many erratic refereeing decisions, before Barnes stole away and crossed, Bardsley hit the bar, and Sinnott scored Watford's second, 11 minutes from time.

Luton: L. Sealey; Breaker, Thomas; Nicholas, Foster, Donaghy; Hill, Stein, Harford, Nwajiobi, Preece.

Watford: Coton; Gibbs, Sinnott; Talbot, Terry, McClelland; Sterling, Allen, West, Jackett, Barnes, Bardsley/Allen 58.

Referee: D. Hedges (Oxford).