

Hatters storm home

DAZZLING Hatters once again saved their best football for the Littlewoods Cup as they demolished Coventry.

Front men Mick Harford, Brian Stein and Micky Weir reduced the Midlands' defence to nervous wrecks.

Two goal Harford made a mockery of claims that he's not worth £1 million as only a last minute penalty miss robbed him of a second hat-trick in this year's competition.

But hitman Harford didn't deserve all the glory as happy boss Ray Harford pointed out, writes Paul Sherwood.

"The front players worked ever so hard tonight, especially Brian Stein and Micky Weir. I thought Stein had his best game of the season, making two goals and getting the penalty."

Added Harford: "We got a lot of shots in and a lot of them were on target. We made their goalie work."

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And he continued: "It was a very good performance for an hour, then we panicked a bit.

"But a team's got to have some part of the game. And once we got through that 10 to 20 minute period we were alright."

Within 12 minutes Harford and Steve Foster had the Sky Blue defence in soggy disarray as close range efforts were first blocked then saved.

With 20 minutes gone though Coventry lost skipper Lloyd McGrath who suffered an eye wound which needed six stitches, and Hatters started to take control.

And after 35 minutes Harford made the crucial breakthrough, toepoking a close range shot through Steve Ogrizovic's legs after Stein had flicked on Tim Breacker's cross.

Harford made it two five minutes into the second half with a majestic header. Weir set Stein free down the left, and although his cross took a slight deflection the big striker still managed to get in line for a far post header which gave him his 10th goal of the season.

Micky Weir got the goal he deserved three minutes later — his first for the club.

Latching onto a mix-up between central defenders Graham Rodger and Steve Sedgley, the little Scot cut into the box and rifled a 15 yard left footer home.

Coventry briefly threatened after Nick Pickering gave them hope with a 68th minute scrambled goal.

But towards the end Hatters stepped up a gear with Ogrizovic having to pull off an amazing reflex save from Stein.

And then Stein won a penalty as he left poor Sedgley for dead, but Harford — now nicknamed Bruno after boxer Frank by the adoring Hatters fans — hit his kick too close to the keeper.