

AT LAST! HATTERS SINK POOL

THEIR FIRST ever win at the bleak outpost of Hartlepool saw Hatters safely through to the FA Cup fourth round.

On Luton's four previous visits to the wind-battered Victoria Ground they have come away as losers.

Once Hartlepool completed a league double over the local side.

But that was during four successive seasons of Third and Fourth Division football in the second half of the 60's.

The clubs' fortunes have differed drastically since then. And on Saturday only a giant-killing feat would have ensured the perennial Division Four battlers maintained their unlikely 100 per cent home record against the visitors now establishing themselves in the higher reaches of the First Division.

But, try as Pool might, it was not to be. A

**HARTLEPOOL 1
LUTON 2**
By **DOMINIC
BIGGS**

late Andy Toman consolation was all the minnows could muster, after Hatters had the game sewn up with second-half goals from Micky Weir and Darron McDonough — in what was ultimately a competent, convincing job of work.

Not that the Tees-siders' faithful fans would have you believe that. They gave their

Bleak House takes on a brighter look

local heroes an ovation at the final whistle, having roared them on undeterred right from the kick-off.

Their noisy optimism almost knocked the visitors out of their stride, as Hatters had their hands full trying to contain determined opponents despite their frenzied, no-frills approach.

On-loan Bradford City player Rob Whellans, who had already shown his skill by delightfully clipping a falling ball inside the full-back, claimed the first clear-cut scoring chance. But his 20th-minute header was simply shepherded wide by an untroubled Les Sealey.

Two minutes later though, full-back Rob McKinnon's surge into the box and shot across goal seemed to inspire

more concern in Hatters' defence.

Ian Allinson's goal-bound drive was headed over and Danny Wilson's forceful run and shot helped Hatters assert themselves.

And although McDonough was booked for fouling Dean Gibb, as the Pool hit back, it was Hatters who were denied a two-goal lead before half-time.

In the 43rd minute Mark Stein was penalised for pushing, when he cracked home his own shot which rebounded from 'keeper Kevin Carr.

Then a minute later Stein's brother Brian had an effort ruled out because of pushing on the 'keeper at a corner.

But five minutes after the break the referee's whistle could not save Hartlepool, when Steve Foster chipped a pass



● TAKE THAT . . . tiny terror Mark Stein fires in a shot as Tony Smith looks on.

behind the home defence, for Wilson to centre and unsettled Scot, Weir to net his third Luton goal — all in cup football — from point blank range.

Although Mark Stein could have scored twice and Brian Stein certainly should have converted when his little brother set him up, the clinching goal did not arrive until 15 minutes from the end.

Brian Stein's pass clear across the penalty area was retrieved by Allinson. And he found McDonough, whose measured sweep from 20 yards beat the lethargic Carr, to find the corner of the net.

HARTLEPOOL: Carr, Barratt, McKinnon, Nobbs, Smith, Haigh, Honour, Toman, Baker, Whellans, Gibb. Subs: Tinkler, Borthwick.

LUTON: Sealey, Breacker, Johnson, McDonough, Foster, Donaghy, Wilson, B. Stein, Weir, M. Stein, Allinson. Subs: Black, Oldfield.

● Attendance — 6,605.



● WATCH OUT . . . Mark Stein homes in on Tony Smith.