

● **ON THE WAY . . .** Brian Stein guides his and Hatters' first home as the hapless Gus Caesar appeals for offside.

● **NUMBER TWO . . .** Danny Wilson wheels away in delight as his equaliser heads for the back of the net.

ALL THIS . . . AND EUROPE?

ARSENAL 2

Hayes, Smith

LUTON TOWN 3
Brian Stein (2), Wilson

● ATTENDANCE: 95,700

ONE OF THE most thrilling Wembley cup finals in memory this week left Hatters proudly holding the club's first major trophy.

And a bonus for their scintillating, last-gasp 3-2 Littlewoods Cup win against Arsenal on Sunday could be a place in Europe next season.

It would be in the UEFA Cup, though Hatters will have to wait and see if English clubs are readmitted to the continental competitions during the summer.

That was still far from their minds, however, as Ray Harford's brave players celebrated a famous victory — taking a first-half lead and then coming back from 2-1 down to win with two goals from Brian Stein and one from Danny Wilson.

In between, stand-in goalkeeper Andy Dibble's spectacular display of heroics, including a penalty save, kept his side in with a chance.

There were only 10 minutes left and the Gunners were winning 2-1, when David Rocastle went down and Luton appeals were waved away as full-back Nigel Winterburn stepped up for the spot-kick.

It was struck firm and low to the keeper's left. But Dibble stunned everyone by swooping to paw the ball around a post. The breathtaking save gave Hatters new heart.

The game had been

NCE

slipping away from them, despite the perfect start Brian Stein's 13th-minute goal provided.

The opening exchanges had been fairly even. But when David Preece's free-kick was only headed out as far as Steve Foster, the skipper's subtle lob made it easy for Brian Stein to burst into the space and beat John Lukic from 10 yards.

Arsenal struggled to get back on terms. But the Hatters' defence, with Mal Donaghy and left-back Rob Johnson outstanding, kept the Gunners at bay.

In the last 10 minutes of the half Luton began to express themselves freely — Preece, Ricky Hill and Mick Harford combining in one sweeping move and seconds later Kingsley Black turning in a probing cross from a near-impossible angle.

Hatters ran out full of purpose for the second-half and Black soon centred for Harford to head just wide.

Hartford then turned provider in the 50th minute, when Brian Stein's goal-bound header was brilliantly parried by Lukic, who

SPECIAL REPORT BY DOMINIC BIGGS

also foiled Hill's follow-up attempt.

Hill fired into the sidene-tting from the ensuing corner and when Black burst past Winterburn to almost set up Harford, Luton were looking the only likely winners.

Gunners boss George Graham turned the tide with the introduction of Martin Hayes for Perry Groves, with half-an-hour remaining.

Four minutes later Harford limped off with

a recurrence of an ankle injury. Mark Stein replaced him and, sprinting through to shrug off the challenge of England's Tony Adams, almost scored with his first touch — but sent his lob over the crossbar as well as over Lukic.

That could have killed off the Londoners. But in the 71st minute they were back on terms.

Paul Davis's lob from a free-kick was met by

rebounded to find Hayes in space for a simple tap-in. It set up a classic finale.

Hatters' hearts sunk three minutes after Arsenal's equaliser, when Foster and Donaghy missed chances to clear outside the box and Thomas found Alan Smith, who rifled past Dibble.

Four minutes later Dibble turned Smith's flashing header onto the bar and Hayes, standing

Hayes' flick from Adams' header.

Ashley Grimes was ushered on for the trip.

David Preece, as the Arsenal bombardment continued unabated.

Smith had yet another chance to settle it when he raced through but Dibble parried his shot from point blank range.

When the ball ran to Rocastle and he won the controversial 80th minute penalty it seemed certain to secure victory.

Mark Stein robbed him and Black set up Brian Stein for a shot. It rebounded for Brian to centre for Danny Wilson to stoop and head it virtually on the goal-line. And the full-time whistle was only seconds away when Grimes buried down the right flank and fired in a low cross with his cultured left foot, for testimonial man Brian Stein to stab the winner perfectly between Winterburn and Lukic.



● WE'VE DONE IT...
team-mate Mal Da

6

Mick Harford congratulates...
...at the final whistle.

● **THE WINNER...** Brian Stein beats Arsenal's Nigel Winterburn to the ball and kills off the Gunners

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LUTON	TOWN:	Dibble,	ARSenal:	Lukie,	Winterburn,		
Breacker,	Johnson,	Hill,	Foster	Sansom,	Thomas,	Caesar,	Adams
(capt),	Donaghy,	Wilson,	B. Stein,	(capt),	Rocastle,	Davis,	Smith,
Harford	(M. Stein,	64 mins),		Groves	(Hayes,	60mins),	
Preece	(Grimes,	77 mins),	Black,	Richardson.	Sub: Quinn.		

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Mick Harford congratulates...
...at the final whistle.

● GROUNDED . . . Arsenal 'keeper John Lukic is on the Wembley turf just after Brian Stein's winner has flown past him.

● **WE'VE DONE IT . . .** Mick Harford congratulates team-mate Mel Donaghy at the final whistle