

CUP KINGS

88/89

SUPER Hatters stormed into the last four of the Littlewoods Cup with a dramatic extra-time win at The Dell last night.

Veterans Mick Harford and Ricky Hill netted spectacular goals to clinch a semi-final clash with West Ham in front of the TV cameras on February 12.

Boss Ray Harford kept to the same 13 that lined up on Saturday, leaving no place for new boy David Beaumont.

The game started in marked contrast to last week's dour, long-ball battle between the sides and if Hatters' finishing had been sharper, they would have been cruising by half-time.

Hatters pressed strongly from the start, with Roy Wegerle and

SOUTHAMPTON 1 LUTON 2 aet **Michael Weinstein reports** **from The Dell**

Tim Breacker working an opening down the right within two minutes.

But the striker's cross was a poor one.

Breacker sent a hopeful volley sailing over the Southampton bar from an early corner.

Wegerle was proving a thorn in nervous Saints' side and his neat turn forced Graham Baker to concede another corner after 15 minutes.

Danny Wilson's lofted ball had Saints in all sorts of trouble and a flying Ricky Hill was just inches away from repeating his spectacular header of last week.

Centre-back John Dreyer had to make a sharp clearance from the feet of Danny Wallace and seconds later Mick Harford — who missed the first game through suspension — flashed a header just over.

Then, at the other end, speedy Rod Wallace clipped the outside of a post — but two great Luton chances were on the way.

Wegerle picked up Jimmy Case's awful back pass on the half-hour and went round Burridge before shooting feebly into the side netting.

And in Hatters' next attack, Kingsley Black slashed carelessly wide

Mick is a **knockout**

from five yards after Wilson's great cross.

Ray Wallace was booked for a crude challenge six minutes from the break.

Then Les Sealey made a crisp, low save from the defender's cross four minutes later.

Danny Wallace switched wings after the re-start and gave Breacker a torrid time as Saints stepped up a gear.

He looped a header on to the bar in the 61st minute, and after Sealey had been booked, the winger found younger brother Rod for what looked a perfect "goal."

But referee Tony Ward let Hatters off the hook, calling play back for a dubious foul on Breacker.

Dreyer went into the book on 77 minutes and Danny Wallace brought the best out of Sealey from a cracking 25-yarder seconds later.

Sealey pulled off a second wonder save from Rod Wallace after the striker had sprung Hatters' offside trap.

And, after one minute, 40 seconds of injury time, Danny Wilson hacked off the line following a corner to send the tie into extra-time.

Mick Harford broke the deadlock in the 100th minute when he headed home Wegerle's flick from a Hill cross.

Hill delivered the killer blow when he collected Harford's neat pass 109 minutes into the game, ran on and lashed an unstoppable shot past Burridge.

Rod Wallace gave Southampton a lifeline with a goal two minutes from time but Luton hung on.

And the match ended in controversy as brother Ray was sent off in injury time for a foul on Black.



• Mick Harford — first goal.

BIG MATCH LINE-UP

SOUTHAMPTON: Burridge, Ray Wallace, Cook, Case, Moore, Osman, Rod Wallace, Baker, Rideout, Cockerill, Danny Wallace. Subs: Le Tissier, Benali.

LUTON: Sealey, Breacker, Grimes, Preece, Foster, Dreyer, Wilson, Wegerle, Harford, Hill, Black. Subs: Oldfield, Johnson. • Attendance: 18,872.