

OLD-BOY Paul Walsh returned to haunt his former teammates as Luton took another step towards the Second Division at Kenilworth Road on Tuesday night.

With just eight minutes left of a pulsating game Walsh struck to put Tottenham 2-1 ahead, and a last minute solo effort from Paul Gascoigne wrapped the points up for Terry Venable's team.

The defeat leaves the Hatters just one point above the dreaded relegation zone having played more games than the three teams below them.

But at half-time it seemed that Ray Harford's side were on course for a much-needed victory with skipper Steve Foster's header giving them a 1-0 lead.

Foster struck from a David Preece corner in the 42nd minute with a glancing near post header past Eric Thorstvedt.



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But 10 minutes after the break Spurs were level with David Howells taking advantage of a lucky break off David Beaumont to strike a low drive past Les Sealey.

The Hatters roared back and Iain Dowie, Tim Breacker and Mick Hartford all went close before Walsh struck the decisive blow in the 82nd minute.

Sealey superbly tipped Gascoigne's drive over the bar but from the resulting corner Gary Mabbutt's shot hit the post and Walsh drove the rebound home from close range.

Throwing caution to the wind the Hatters pressed forward for the equaliser but Gascoigne took advantage in the final minute with a superb solo run and shot past Sealey.

To make matters worse for manager Harford his namesake Mick was booked for an innocuous challenge on Mabbutt and his likely suspension means that he will be absent if the Littlewoods Cup final goes to a replay.

The defeat was the second in four days for the Hatters following their 2-0 reverse against Manchester United at Old Trafford on Saturday.