

Return for a cup-tie

89/90 (ZDS)

THE TOWN return to Selhurst Park on Monday week, in the second round of the Zenith Data System Cup. They earned the trip with a thrilling 3-2 extra-time victory at Oxford after equalising in each half through Iain Dowie.

Substitute Paul Gray, 19, in only his second first team appearance, headed the winner in the 114th minute.

John Durnin's header put Oxford ahead after eight minutes, and he hit a post with a 25-yard thunderbolt before the Town's first real attempt at goal resulted in Dowie heading home at the near post from a cross by David Preece.

The Town looked a better side in the second half, but on a cold and wet night they were caught on the break in the 77th minute. Alec Chamberlain brought down Mark Stein and Jimmy Phillips converted the penalty.

Subs Gray and Aaron Tighe were sent on with eight minutes to go in place of Richard Cooke and Mick Kennedy, but Oxford got within five minutes of victory, until Dowie's right foot cashed in on a far post free kick by Preece.

The winner came after Alan Judge tipped a Preece drive round the post. Preece took the corner from the right, Roy Wegerle — preferred to Lars Elstrup — back-headed on the near post and little Gray rose magnificently on the far post to head his first senior goal. Chamberlain's late tip-over save from Stein prevented it going to a penalty shoot-out.

THE MATCH DETAILS

LUTON TOWN: Chamberlain; Breacker, Beaumont, Johnson, Harvey; Cooke (Gray, 81 mins), Wilson, Kennedy (Tighe, 81 mins), Preece; Wegerle, Dowie.

OXFORD: Judge; Smart, Foster, Greenall, Phillips; Lewis, Mustoe, Ford (McClaren, 106 mins), Heath; Durnin, Stein.

THE GOALS: John Durnin header for Oxford, 8th min; Iain Dowie header for the Town, 35 mins; Jimmy Phillips penalty for Oxford, 77 mins; Dowie right foot shot, 85 mins; Paul Gray winner for the Town, 114 mins.

OTHER STRIKES: Town 5 saved and 7 wide; Oxford 8 saved, 12 wide, and one hit a post. Corners: 5-4 to Oxford.

REF: P. A. Tyldesley, Stockport.

ATTENDANCE: 1,754.

ENTERTAINMENT: Pretty good on a miserable night.