

Watford let off lightly

WATFORD 0 LUTON 0

THE DRAW which knocked Watford out of the Anglo-Italian Cup flattered the home club.

The Town were the better footballing side by a long way, and in the last 20 minutes in particular it was unbelievable that they could do so much attacking and not score.

In command

Trevor Peake and Darren Salton were in command at the back against Watford's longer ball game, and in all departments there was an obvious gap in class between the sides.

Veteran goalkeeper Perry Suckling kept out the Town's best strike, with an astonishing dive and finger-tip deflection

Anglo-Italian Cup

to turn away a close-range thunderbolt by Phil Gray, from a low cross by Steve Claridge.

From the corner Salton powered in a header which Paul Furlong diverted to safety off the top of the bar.

Jason Rees, Claridge, and sub Jamie Campbell all went close and David Preece headed wide of an inviting target from a pinpoint cross by Campbell.

Win to go through

The result means that the Town will go through to the next round if they beat Bristol City at Kenilworth Road next Tuesday (7.45).

City beat Watford 1-0 at Ashton Gate. A draw next week would put the Town out of a competition which gives three points for a win.

Match details

LUTON TOWN: Petterson; Linton, Salton, Peake, Johnson; Rees, James, Kamara, Preece; Claridge (Oakes 82 mins), Gray (Claridge 82 mins).

WATFORD: Suckling; Holdsworth, Dublin, Putney (Butler, 65 mins), Drysdale; Hesselthaler, Thomas, Lavin, Soloman; Bazeley (Nogan 65 mins), Furlong.

GOAL ATTEMPTS: Town seven saved, six wide and one hit the bar; Watford two saved and three wide. Corners: 10-7 to the Town.

REFEREE: Roger Milford, Bristol: boobed when he gave an indirect free kick when a cross deflected to Andy Petterson off Salton, but Watford made amends by wasting it from six yards.

BOOKED: No-one.

ATTENDANCE: 5,197, Watford's lowest of the season, and would have been even worse if the Town fans had not turned up for the first derby in four years.

ENTERTAINMENT: Remarkably good for a competition which some clubs are not treating too seriously. These two did.