Hatters score in the second half for their first away win of the season

Hatters cling on to win

Wycombe 0 - Luton 1 Report by PETE KENYON

DAVID Oldfield finished off a sweeping four man move to give Hatters a maiden away win.

But it took a perfectly timed sliding tackle right at the death from Marvin Johnson inside his own

box to make sure of the points.

Two minutes into stoppage time, and with only keeper Ian Feuer to beat, Wycombe's Dave Farrell had already cocked the trigger when backtracking Johnson lunged in to prevent the shot being fired.

Five minutes from the end Mickey Bell half volleyed an inswinging David Carroll corner onto the underside of the bar as the home side, playing in front of their brand new 5,000 seater main stand, mounted a late rally.1

But Hatters deservedly clung on - a rich reward for an afternoon on which Luton's blend of skill

and long ball proved superior to Wycombe's unaccomplished kick and rush.

Already this season Hatters have been punished by teams mounting an aerial assault but this time the defence was solid and Graham Alexander in particular was able to place long passes on a sixpence.

The goal, seven minutes after the break, was a fine spectacle for the spectators in the half full new

Ray Wilkins, playing on a week to week basis at Adam's Park following his midweek departure from QPR, lost out to a stirsring challenge from Oldfield in the middle of Luton territory.

Oldfield rolled wide to Bontcho Guentchev, who interchanged with Mitchell Thomas on the left touchline.

Thomas went free on the overlap and spooned a deep cross to the far post where debutante Andrew Fotiadis, starting his first game, nodded down for Oldfield to finish from point blank range the move he had started.

Guentchev went close with a 20 yard effort, and Jason Cousins nearly slammed into his own net

after an exquisite piece of trickery from the lively Fotiadis.

Like the second half, Hatters dominated the first, though without ever really looking likely to score. Guentchev lashed a right foot curler too high on 11 minutes, Steve Davis got too thin a contact on an inswinging Alexander corner four minutes later, and seconds after that Marvin Johnson made contact with Alexander's drilled cross only to see the ball beat keeper Brian Parkin but not the

outstretched legs of Mickey Bell.

Yet the best chance of the match fell to Wycombe on the half hour.

But just how Miguel DeSouza picked out the only Hatter on Luton's unguarded goal line after he had rounded Feuer is a mystery which none of the jeering 1,500-strong travelling Luton faithful will care to see solved.

Luton: Feuer, James, Thomas, Waddock, Davis, Johnson, Hughes, Alexander, Oldfield, Fotiadis (Thorpe 76), Guentchev.

Subs not used: Showler, McClaren.

 Above right, Andy Fortiadis on his first starting debut challenges Ray Wilkins on his debut for Wycombe

• Right, Wycombe defenders look on in horror as David Oldfield sticks out a foot to score.



