

Hatters make Posh

feel the force

Luton 3 Peterborough 0

PAUL SHOWLER made former boss **Barry Fry** regret the day he plucked him out of the force.

Ex cop Showler started his league career under Fry at Barnet – but yesterday repaid his former

mentor with a two goal salvo for Hatters.

It took the 30-year-old just 24 minutes to plunder an impressive third goal in four starts.

Graham Alexander floated a near post corner for Mitchell Thomas to head on, Steve Davis was given time and space to thump in a low shot and Showler was on hand to deflect home with his back to goal from five yards.

Nine minutes after the break Showler completed his brace, side footing home from eight yards after Tony Thorpe's blocked shot fell kindly into his path.

One senses a copper's instinct for being in the right place at the right time in Showler – none of his goals have been spectacular but they have all been crucial.

Posh had their chances, but were on the backfoot from the moment Davis plundered an early goal – his second in successive games.

Again it was an Alexander corner which wreaked havoc in the Peterborough box.

Former Watford striker Ken Charlery looped a back header towards his own goal under pressure from Thomas and 'keeper Jon Sheffield had to fling himself backwards to prevent the goal-bound boob.

But Davis reacted first and steamrollered in to head into the empty net.

**Report by
PETE KENYON**

Charlery could have made amends from Posh's very next attack – but failed by a whisker to get on the end of a dangerous ball across the six yard box.

And moments after Showler made it 2-0 Ian Feuer made a fantastic flying save to keep out a full blooded drive from Martin O'Connor.

A triple substitution at half time by Barry Fry failed to do the trick for Peterborough – and left the ineffective trio of Charlery, Zek Rowe and Derek Payne to sit it out in the Oak Road stand.

But the three stooges could not even get that right. A policeman decided they should not sit so close to their tormentors in the main stand, so after their nonedescrpt first half performances it's debatable whether they were any safer nearer their own fans.

After the match Lenny Lawrence paid tribute to star man Showler, who he now sees as a 25 goal man this season.

"Showler has got good instincts and he seems to get in the right place at the right time.

"He is a talented boy if he is physically and mentally right. He is a



Ceri Hughes, Paul Showler and Graham Alexander celebrate Showler's first goal

natural attacker with a good instinct for goals. He got me 14 goals at Bradford before the end of November when I was there, which was an incredible performance."

The Luton boss also expressed pleasure that at long last Hatters' set piece play is beginning to reap dividends.

"Four of our last five goals have now

come from corners – Mitchell is unstoppable at the near post at the moment and the delivery from Alexander has been very good.

"We are spoilt for choice in attack at the moment now that Dwight Marshall is back in training but the back four is a worry.

"The unit I have at the moment is looking very solid and I need them to

be playing together for the majority of this season otherwise I may have to look to the transfer market for cover."

● Hatters' right back Julian James played only hours after being involved in a car crash on the motorway following training. He sustained a back injury but was passed fit to play.



Gary Waddock, Ceri Hughes and Paul Showler and Graham Alexander celebrate goal number three



Tony Thorpe loses his footing after rounding four players