GRAN EADS

LUTON TN 2 LEYTON ORIENT 1

FOR THE second time this week the Hatters made heavy weather of beating lower league opposition in Tuesday's cup-tie at Kenilworth Road.

But the 85th-minute winner was a tasty

treat for Kim Grant, who had taken a lot of the flak from fans for his part in a stuttering Town performance.

He headed in a cross by Paul Showler to complete a revival that gave a little cheer to the 1,594 customers who watched the Town's first-ever match in the Auto Windscreens Shield.

Uninspiring

Third Division Orient defended well and grabbed 27th-minute lead through veteran midfielder Martin Ling.

Grant had hit the bar with a dipping 20-yarder a few minutes earlier, but as Lennie Lawrence agreed the Town's firsthalf was uninspiring.

They looked more lively after the break, and a succession of corners brought an equaliser which was always on the cards.

Brian Swain reports

Steve Davis went upfield and headed in at the far post from a deep corner by Ceri Hughes.

Bontcho Guentchev missed an excellent chance to get a winner, and Grant was robbed by a last-ditch tackle when he should have scored.

But the fans who gave him the bird for being tackled out of it after passing the goalkeeper enjoyed his last word.

Wembley

So will Luton Town: away to Northampton in the next round they then need to win only three more to get to Wembley in the final, which should earn £500,000 at least.

But manager Lawrence is still concerned more about promotion, and looking for another home win against Crewe on Saturday.