

# Hatters' Windscreen smashers shatter the Bees

HATTERS moved into the Southern Area quarter-finals of the Auto Windscreen Shield last week with a comfortable cruise against struggling Brentford.

The Bees, managed by ex-Pulham boss Mickie Adams, came to Luton with 14 senior players unavailable and were never a stern test for Lennie Lawrence's team despite a pedestrian first half.

Early exchanges did little to inspire a respectable 3,106 crowd with an almost practice match atmosphere prevailing throughout a dull first period.

David Oldfield had the home team's best chance of the half on 36 minutes, firing just wide with a shot on the turn after Chris Allen's cross had been headed back by Sean Bivens.

The second half began with Mitchell Thomas almost getting himself on the scoresheet with a diving header from Bivens' cross that just cleared the crossbar before



**HATTERS 2 BRENTFORD 1**  
Dave Flett reports



the Hatters broke the deadlock from a more likely source.

Quick thinking from Steve Davis saw him slip a free kick inside the day-dreaming Simon Worrall who criminally left Tony Thorpe with enough space in the penalty area to set his sights and fire past Bees keeper Kevin Dearden.

Aside from the goal, Worrall didn't enjoy the best of evenings being tormented for large periods of it by the increasingly impressive Chris Allen.

In the 63rd minute, Dearden had to be alert to palm away an Allen effort after he had ghosted past Worrall and, with the same player trailing in his wake ten minutes later, the on-loan winger saw his shot across goal

cleared off the line by Jarric Bates.

Brentford's response was a Canham curling effort that had Ian Pezer at full stretch to tip around the post before, on 72 minutes, Adams himself entered the fray for his first competitive appearance in over two years.

With a quarter of an hour left, Graham Alexander was replaced by Gary Wallock and, six minutes after the captain's arrival, the game appeared safe when Oldfield fired home from 20 yards after Brentford defender Bates and Leon Townley had backed off.

Teenager Liam George replaced Thorpe on 82 minutes and, with his first touch, almost made a name for himself when he saw his ambitious effort float over Dearden but drop just wide.

The only blemish for the Hatters came in the final minute when Davis entered the referee's book for a reckless challenge and, from the resulting free kick, a lapse of concentration saw Townley head home from close range.



● DAVID OLDFIELD: Second