

No slips as Luton march on

By Peter Lansley ^{98/99} (CAC)

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THE MANTLE of the neighbourhood's giant-killers remains with Luton Town after Phil Gray's two goals saw the Worthington Cup quarter-finalists dismiss the threat of Boreham Wood.

Gray put the Second Division side, who face his old club Sunderland in the other cup competition, on course for an FA Cup second-round home tie with Hull City.

Unfortunately for romantics and Bob Makin's Ryman League Premier Division team, playing within the shadow of Elstree film studios, there was no cinematic twist.

Once Gray found the space to head in Graham Alexander's centre, an upset greater than Luton have caused in beating Coventry and Barnsley in the Worthington Cup appeared unlikely.

A minute after Gray turned in Stuart Douglas's square pass, a long ball up was shoddily headed away by Steve Davis and Garry Nisbet, a printer with the Bank of England, made Luton pay.

The professionals re-established control as Davis headed in off Gray. Yet a barnstorming finale was set up after Kerry Dixon jostled with Ray McKinnon and the ball fell for Mark Xavier to score.

While Gray departed for Northern Ireland international duty, the Wood prepare for a Herts Senior Cup tie at Ware, of the Ryman League Third Division. That could be a banana skin.

Boreham Wood: Taylor; Sanders, McCarthy; Grime, Heffer, Shaw, Brown (Daly 88), Brady (Ireland 67); Dixon, Samuels (Xavier 73). **Goals:** Nisbet 54, Xavier 91.

Luton Town: K Davis; Alexander, S Davis, Johnson, McGowan; Evers, McLaren, McKinnon (Spring 90), Nyamah (McIndoe 62); Douglas (Doherty 66), Gray. **Booked:** McLaren. **Goals:** Gray 33, 53, S Davis 76.

Referee: P Alcock (Halstead, Kent).