



■ Stuart Douglas and Andrew Fotiadis celebrate Luton's equaliser



■ Sean Evers in midfield action for Hatters



■ Gerry Harrison in action against his old club

The young ones put on a star showing for Hatters



■ Tanny Abbey produced a good performance for Hatters

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A ROUSING performance produced victory for the Hatters, and it was their youngsters who proved the stars of the show.

Facing former skipper Steve Davis, Tanny Abbey produced a mature performance in goal and Gary Doherty scored the late winner after Andrew Fotiadis equalised the Clarets' opener which was scored against the run of play.

The Town started by far the better and should have been ahead inside the first five minutes when they created several openings.

Fotiadis, who was looking lively, was tripped and Matthew Spring brought an excellent diving save from Paul Crichton. Sean Evers then crossed, only for Ray McKinnon to mis-kick when unmarked on the edge of the box.

McKinnon almost immediately made an even bigger hash when Spring found him all on his own six yards out with only the keeper to beat.

The Luton defence were playing the offside game well upfield in front of Abbey and it worked no fewer than six times in the first quarter of an hour to the great annoyance of the home faithful, who gave assistant referee Mr Shaw plenty of advice regarding his flag.

Luton produced a sweeping, passing move the length of the pitch which ended with Sean

Burnley 1 Luton Town 2
By BILL COLE

Evers' super little through-ball putting Stuart Douglas in a good position, but his shot from close range was well-saved.

As the heavens opened, rapidly causing puddles to form on the pitch. Burnley took the lead against the tide of play. A magnificent 28th minute strike by Micky Mellon from fully thirty yards bounced in front of goal and fizzed off the wet surface past Abbey into the corner of the net.

Encouraged, Graham Branch was stopped from doubling the lead by a great double save from Abbey. The youngster did well to parry his cross-shot then did even better to block his follow-up effort with a brave save.

Mellon turned from hero to villain within five minutes. Hassled by several Luton players on the edge of his own penalty area, Mellon let the ball run away from him, Andrew Fotiadis seized on it, took it on and coolly side-footed past Crichton's left hand into the goal.

The Hatters continued to create chances, with McKinnon's cross evading three attackers in the muddy goalmouth, then a Fotiadis cross produced hard close-range drives by first Evers, then McLaren from the rebound.

Douglas made an early chance for himself soon after the interval, running the ball from halfway but being denied by the admirable

Crichton once more before Burnley were reduced to ten men.

Neil Moore had been booked for fouling Douglas after just 12 minutes, and took first use of the soap on 52 when he repeated the treatment on the same player.

The standing water on the pitch prevented the Hatters from creating clear-cut chances with close passing as they put the pressure on the ten men.

As usual, Gary Doherty was brought on to replace Douglas and he produced the goods with his third goal of the season in the 87th minute. A lovely interchange between Fotiadis and Spring fed the substitute in space and Doherty ran on to finish emphatically and with some style.

From a 19-year-old hero at one end, the spotlight fell on a 20-year-old at the other. Abbey kept all three points for Luton in the dying minutes, first with a brilliant low save from an Andy Cooke power drive then moments later touching Peter Swan's looping header over his bar.

After the game Lennie Lawrence said: "At last we got the points our performance deserved. We lost our way a bit when their man went off, but it would have been an injustice if we had not have won."

Luton Town: Abbey, Harrison, McGowan (White 88), Spring, Dyche, Johnson, Evers, McLaren, Douglas (Doherty 72), Fotiadis, McKinnon (Alexander 77). Attendance: 10,285. Man-Of-Match: Tanny Abbey.