



■ Kelvin Davis scrambles the ball away for Hatters



■ Sean Dyche gets up to head a corner

Wrexham wreck Hatters



■ Matthew Spring and Phil Gray celebrate Gary Doherty's goal

THE Hatters' revival at Burnley last week proved to be short-lived, as they were eventually ground down then beaten by a Wrexham side battling against relegation.

The smallest league crowd of the season at Kenilworth Road saw a first half with so little atmosphere it could have been played on Mars.

On-form Gary Doherty breathed some life into the match with a cracking goal seconds after half-time. But after Doherty went within a whisker of scoring again, Wrexham hit the Hatters with two sucker punches and went home to North Wales with all three points.

The striking partnership of Doherty and Andrew Fotiadis showed some promise, almost fashioning a chance inside the first minute that was hauled back for a foul. The award proved to be the first blast of an inept, fussy display from referee Alan Wiley.

Kelvin Davis was recalled in the Hatters' goal after suspension and, after a solid catch from a swirling Brammer free kick he spilled a cross from the same man and had to be rescued by skipper Marvin Johnson.

That was the sum total of the Welshmen's goal attempts in the first half as they retreated behind some physical defending and quality goalkeeping.

Mark Cartwright has taken a lot of the blame for Wrexham finding themselves in the relegation fight this season, but he

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**Luton Town 1
Wrexham 2
By BILL COLE**

excelled himself yesterday.

A brilliant save after 12 minutes to defy Fotiadis' close-range shot after Doherty had headed Ray McKinnon's cross on was beaten by a brilliant one-handed flying effort on the half-hour.

It was Phil Gray who drove a super volley at the Wrexham goal after coming on in place of the injured Fotiadis, cynically chopped down after being singled out as the man most likely to trouble the Wrexham defence.

Strangely, Mr Wiley did not see that foul as worthy of a booking, but instead showed the yellow card to Doherty for a challenge in midfield. It was merely one of many puzzling decisions by the man from Staffordshire.

Gradually Luton were dragged down to Wrexham's level, and if ever a game needed a goal this was it.

Doherty was the man to lift the fixture seconds after the interval. He clashed for the umpteenth time with Dean Spink in a challenge for the ball which carried on almost to the goal-line.

The striker managed to wrestle control of the ball and lashed in the opener high into the net. Six minutes later, he almost settled the game.

Graham Alexander, back after suspension in place of Gavin McGowan, powered in a shot that Cartwright only just managed to parry. Doherty was first to the

rebound and crashed in a powerful shot against the underside of the crossbar. It bounced down and out again without any award from referee or linesman.

The game was beginning to buzz, but it was Wrexham who gained from the higher tempo. Forced to come forward, they carved large holes in the Town rearguard to score twice in ten minutes.

Jack Edwards, only in the side because top-scorer Karl Connolly pulled out to be at the birth of his second child hours before kick-off, scored one and laid on the other.

Edwards first dummied a couple of defenders in the inside-right channel in the 56th minute before cutting in and firing a low drive into the very corner of Davis' goal.

Luton had time to threaten when Sean Dyche was found unmarked at the far post by Matthew Spring's free kick, only for his header back to find just red shirts before Wrexham stunned the home fans once again. Martyn Chalk started the move with a run and cross from the left, Edwards pulled clear of his marker and his header back across goal was touched in by Carl Griffiths.

Wrexham promptly battened down the hatches once more and despite Lennie Lawrence throwing on his two remaining substitutes Luton lacked the width to hit back.

Luton: Davis, Harrison (White 74), Alexander, Spring, Dyche, Johnson, Evers, McLaren, Doherty, Fotiadis (Gray 25), McKinnon (Cox 67). Bookings: Doherty 23.

**Attendance: 4,759.
Man of the match: Johnson.**