



■ Push and shove: Liam George holds off Chris Casper



■ Go for it: Wonderboy Matthew Taylor gets stuck in



■ Book him: Matthew Spring gets the yellow card

Fotiadis inspires another glorious day for Hatters

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■ Oh Tony, Tony: Fotiadis celebrates

AN inspired substitution by Lennie Lawrence led directly to a deserved Town winner five minutes from time.

The home side should be inspired by the magnificent Madejski Stadium but they only came to life for five minutes or so after Andrew Fotiadis broke the deadlock for Luton on 53 minutes.

Reading squared the match quickly only to reverse into sleep mode and the Hatters took full advantage to dominate.

Lawrence brought on Michael McIndoe in place of Fotiadis with orders to hassle, harry and prevent any Reading resurgence and his energy rubbed off on his team mates.

Within seven minutes of arriving, McIndoe forced a throw-in and taking the ball from Matthew Taylor's throw found himself in acres of space down the left wing, his lovely cross from the byline found Liam George who joyfully tucked it past Scott Howey in front of the rapturous away support for his third goal in two games.

Tanny Abbey marked a solid performance in goal by taking a neat catch under pressure from a curling Reading cross in the very first minute, before an almighty scuffle led to Matthew Spring being shown the yellow card.

Reading 1 Luton 2 by Bill Cole

Julian Watts, who along with Gary Doherty and Marvin Johnson made up the Luton backline, tangled with two Royals forwards and ended up wrestling with them on the turf with studs flying. Spring took issue with one of the home players before a dozen others pitched in and was booked for his intervention.

How the game reached half time goalless was a mystery. Golden chances were squandered at either end, Reading failing badly with their final strikes, Luton falling down with some appalling final passes to well placed colleagues.

Three times the Town hit the Royals on the break with men over and three times the attack came to nothing. Fotiadis and George were the main offenders however Fotiadis did once get in a fine pass to put Phil Gray clear with a sight of goal but the Northern Ireland international chose to side foot for accuracy instead of powering it in, Howey saving with some ease.

Seventeen year old Taylor was hitting some fine corners in under Howey's cross bar and could have grabbed the first goal with a rasping free kick but the home keeper just

managed to touch the ball over before punching away Taylor's dangerous inswinging corner seconds later.

Meanwhile, Darren Caskey fired in a power drive a little too close to Abbey and a Jim McIntyre header back across goal was completely miskicked by the well-travelled Reading striker Keith Scott before a Doherty clearance went straight to debutant Neil Smith who wastefully shot miles wide.

At last the Town produced a quality cross. Phil Gray fired one in immediately after the interval but Fotiadis, off balance, fired too high. On 53 minutes Fotiadis went one better.

Abbey threw a quick clearance to Taylor who belted a beautiful long ball out of defence on to the right wing for Gray to run on to. His high cross was powered in by Fotiadis.

Stung into action, Reading took off MacIntyre to give a debut to £650,000 Nicky Foster and the pressure produced an equaliser within three minutes. Hesitation in the Town defence as a hopeful ball was pumped into the area allowed Scott to nudge the ball on and Luton old boy Martin Williams to touch over the line.

The Reading purple patch ended there. Fotiadis and Spring both produced super runs at the home defence only to be stopped close to goal, as was George who could not convert a poor throw out by Howey.

A great save by Abbey kept Luton in the match on 70 minutes. Foster hit a sharp low shot from eight yards through a forest of legs which the young Hatters stopper could only have seen late, but he got down to it brilliantly and saved cleanly to his left.

With five minutes to play George grabbed the winner, although a miskick by skipper Johnson almost led to a second equaliser.

His mistake led to a cross that was headed inches wide by Scott, but just seconds later the final whistle heralded a wonderful away win that puts the Town level on points at them top of the table.

Afterwards Lawrence said: "When we got into their box we looked more dangerous than they did. We had unrelenting commitment from our players and I was especially pleased with Taylor and the best performance by Gray for a long, long time."

"He held the ball up well when we needed to relieve the pressure and looked spot on today. "I was well pleased with Andrew Fotiadis who was absolutely tired out by the time I pulled him off to stiffen our midfield."

Pictures: Andy Handley.