



■ Matthew Spring balsts a 30yard free kick high during yesterday's second half



■ Ian Watts holds his head in his hands after putting through his own net



■ Adam Locke in midfield action

Watts own goal 99/00 sinks Luton push

Luton Town 1 Bournemouth 2
By PETE KENYON

JULIAN Watts stretched his unbroken goalscoring run to three – but unfortunately yesterday's effort was in his own net.

And the effort turned out to be the matchwinner for visiting Bournemouth, who Luton have now not beaten for seven matches.

Trailing 1-0 Scott Mean's perfectly-placed header at the break, Hatters immediately shot themselves in the foot within seconds of the restart.

Former Luton striker Mark Stein, now 34, sent Richard Hughes on the overlap, and his low cross into the six-yard box proved impossible to defend – Watts turning into his own net at the near post as

he tried to stop James Hayter getting the necessary touch.

Five minutes later Watts came close to making amends, but his looping header was well tipped over by the impressive Mark Ovendale.

Phil Gray then had an effort cleared off the line before Hatters finally put a decent move together.

That Emmerson Boyce found himself in front of goal with the ball at his feet was completely down to luck – but there was nothing lucky about the first-time right-footed strike into the corner of the net.

Skipper Marvin Johnson may try to claim the mis-hit shot which set up Boyce was a perfect angled through ball, but if he does, he was not only kidding himself but all 5,921 in yesterday's crowd.

After that Hatters huffed and puffed in an effort to salvage a draw against the side with the division's second leakiest defence

on its travels, but only Liam George went close.

That he was even on the pitch at all when the decisive moment came in the 77th minute is a mystery.

Having had a stinker of a game, he seemed to be the perfect candidate to make way for Andrew Fotiadis, but with boos all round, Lennie Lawrence decided to withdraw Stuart Douglas, who was playing well, instead.

But George failed to repay his manager's confidence – heading a golden opportunity created by Watts's header across goal straight at Ovendale when a matter of centimetres either side would surely have brought a scarcely deserved equaliser.

Team: Abbey, Bouce, Watts, Doherty, Johnson, George, Locke, Spring, McGowan (Scarlett 72), Gray, Douglas (Fotiadis 78).

Man of the match: Johnson.