

STORMER OR STINKER

ALAN SWANN'S verdict

MARK TYLER



A couple of outstanding saves in the first-half kept Posh in it. Looks in prime form

8

DEAN HOOPER



Some thrilling attacking play didn't quite make up for two costly defensive gaffes

6

ADAM DRURY



Tyler saved him after one dreadful early blunder, but recovered to play pretty well

7

ANDY EDWARDS



Plays to a consistently steady level. Don't notice him much because he makes few errors

7

SIMON REA



Comfortable on the ball all night and won most of his defensive challenges

7

DAVID FARRELL



Playing well again until injury jinx struck

7

DAVID OLDFIELD



Appeared to get stronger as match wore on, struck a post with excellent late drive

6

RICHARD FORSYTH



Battled manfully in new-look midfield without being particularly creative or forceful

6

FRANCIS GREEN



Stuck out on the wing and quiet, substituted at half-time

6

GUY WHITTINGHAM



Off the pace, but no surprise as starting a first-team match for first time this season

6

ANDY CLARKE



Brilliant goal, superb assist and instrumental in most attacking moments

9

SUBS

Tony Shields: (for Green, 46 mins)
Didn't sparkle so much6
Ritchie Hanlon: (for Farrell, 51 mins)
Mixed it without success6
Richard Scott: (for Hooper, 114 mins)
Not used: Jon Cullen, Dan Connor.

MARKS GUIDE: 10=stormer; 9=outstanding;
8=very good; 7=good; 6=average; 5=poor;
4=stinker

THE POSH MATCH REPORT

OVEN JUST

00/01 (FLC)



GOING HIGH: Ritchie Hanlon puts his foot in against Luton's Matthew Taylor.



MATCH-WINNER: Luton keeper Mark Ovendale.



GOAL: Andy Clarke curls in Posh's second equaliser.

THE POSH MATCH REPORT

TOO HOT



Posh 2 Luton 2 (aet)

● Luton win on away goals rule

Farrell (34 mins) Stein (31 mins)
Clarke (69 mins) Scarlett (54 mins)

Half-time: 1-1

Booked: Posh – Tyler (foul), Oldfield (foul).

Referee: Uriah Rennie (Sheffield) 6 Attendance: 4,286

GOALKEEPERS, even those that don't flourish silly pony-tails, are there to be shot at. Mistakes are mercilessly lampooned by the rapier-like wits often found on the terraces, while decent performances are often overshadowed by goal-grabbing antics at the other end of the field.

But no-one was in any doubt about the star of last night's Worthington Cup show at London Road. Luton keeper Mark Ovendale, a man reared and educated in Wisbech, ensured that Posh dipped out at the first hurdle for the third successive season.

And that despite a heroic second-half performance from Barry Fry's side who awoke from a slumbering first 45 minutes to play a full part in a pulsating cup tie. Ultimately it was to no avail as a 2-2 draw after extra-time in this second leg meant Luton moved into the second round on the away goals rule to the intense disappointment of Posh boss Fry, who sportingly found time to verbally applaud the man who dashed his dreams.

"We threw everything bar the kitchen sink at Ovendale, but he'd have probably tipped that round a post as well," the Posh manager reckoned. "In my opinion he's the reason Luton are through to the next round because he also made some vital saves in the first game. He's also the reason why I continue to be a jinx in this competition whether they call it the Worthington, Coca-Cola or Mickey Mouse Cup."

And it was hard not to feel sympathy for Fry and his players who put everything into a cracking contest. The four changes to the starting line-up meant a sluggish opening from the home side was no real surprise, but after falling behind for a second time at the start of the second-half they proceeded to bombard Ovendale and the Luton goal.

Full debutant Guy Whittingham appeared to hook a superb Andy Clarke cross away from goal when ideally placed, Andy Edwards' near-post header was superbly clawed away by a twisting keeper and David Oldfield's 18-yard piledriver was somehow diverted over.

It took an outstanding 20-yard curler from Clarke to beat Ovendale 20 minutes from time, but the sharpshooter missed the target with a free six-yard header from a pinpoint Dean Hooper cross eight minutes from time, just before Oldfield struck the base of a post from 25 yards.

It was breathtaking stuff, although extra-time proved to be a non-event once Ovendale had produced a double-save from Clarke and Whittingham. Posh appeared heavy-legged and Luton rather cruised to that second round spot.

It had looked like being far easier for the visitors as they dominated the early exchanges. Posh introduced Oldfield, Hooper, Whittingham and Richard Forsyth into a team that had been playing some fine flowing football, while an eight-foot blow-up doll wearing club colours bounced around the touchline

by **ALAN SWANN**

POSH REPORTER



alongside a monacled toff and a fluffy white rabbit that continues to look uncannily like a snowman.

Someone suggested that the three mascots would have made a more cohesive midfield as Posh were run ragged by a bright Luton side in the opening half-hour. Luckily for Posh, Mark Tyler was another number one in excellent form as his tipover of a swerving strike from Stuart Fraser suggested and a block from Dean Brennan, following Adam Drury's first defensive error in roughly three seasons, confirmed.

Mark Stein eventually gave Luton the lead after 31 minutes pouncing on a weak Hooper header to rocket a shot into the top corner, but within three minutes Clarke's vision had enabled David Farrell to burst through and equalise.

'We threw everything bar the kitchen sink at Ovendale, but he'd have probably tipped that round a post as well'

Hooper blundered again six minutes into the second-half by dithering on the ball in the penalty area after Tyler had denied Liam George enabling Andre Scarlett to blast Luton back into the lead from the edge of the area.

By that time Farrell, who collects injuries like others collect stamps, had limped off and as Francis Green had been voluntarily withdrawn at half-time, Posh looked short of attacking pace.

But, strangely, with Oldfield linking well with Drury down the left and Ritchie Hanlon barging around down the right, Posh suddenly launched into one of those rich spasms of form that have become their trademark this season.

Unfortunately they had the misfortune to run into a goalkeeper at the top of his game. "We'll pummell someone soon," insisted Fry, who would probably prefer that it happened in a league game. "That's a promise not a threat."



WHERE EAGLES DARE: Andy 'Eagle' Edwards jumps highest despite a strong Luton presence.



IT'S MY BALL: Dean Hooper fights to get past a dogged Luton defender.



LEVEL AGAIN: David Farrell slides home Posh's first half equaliser.

WHAT THEY SAID

Luton manager Ricky Hill: "Without a doubt the first-half was our best 45 minutes in an attacking sense of the season and we really should have turned round ahead. "But the last 30 minutes were nerve-wracking as far as I was concerned because Peterborough just flew at us and put us under tremendous pressure. "Luckily our goalkeeper dealt with everything they threw at him and that's why we won."

Posh man-of-the-match Andy Clarke: "When we start playing for 90 minutes like we did for the last 30 minutes of normal time, we will be unbeatable."

Posh midfielder Ritchie Hanlon: "How can we play so much good football and not win? We played some great stuff and should have had the game won in 90 minutes."

Posh defender Simon Rea: "That was very tiring, we really didn't need extra-time and now I'm just knackered and ready for my bed."

Luton defender Julian Watts: "That was exciting for the fans, but breathless for us defenders. We were pulled about all over the place."

FAN'S EYE VIEW

Alan Bailey from Stanground: "Another cracking match which we deserved to win, but we can't seem to shake off our habit of conceding bad goals."

OPPOSITION MARKS

Mark Ovendale	9
Stuart Fraser	7
Matthew Taylor	6
Julian Watts	7
Emerson Boyce	6
Andre Scarlett	7
Matthew Spring	7
Paul McLaren	7
Dean Brennan	6
Mark Stein	7
Liam George	7

Peter Holmes: (for Brennan, 75 mins)
Adam Locke: (for Spring, 105 mins)
Tresor Kandol: (for Stein, 114 mins).
Nathan Abbey: (not used).
Jude Stirling: (not used).

OTHER RESULTS

LAST night's Worthington Cup 1st rd 2nd leg results: Barnsley 3, Rotherham 2 (agg 4-2); Birmingham 0, Southend 0 (agg 5-0); Blackpool 3, Stockport 2 (agg 4-2); Bournemouth 1, Norwich 2 (agg 1-2); Brentford 2, Bristol City 1 (agg 4-3); Bristol Rovers 1, Plymouth 1 (agg 3-2); Bury 1, Crewe 2 (agg 3-4); Cardiff 0, Crystal Palace 0 (agg 1-2); Carlisle 1, Grimsby 1 (agg 1-3); Cheltenham 0, Watford 3 (agg 0-3); Chesterfield 2, Port Vale 2 (agg 4-3 aet); Exeter 1, Swindon 2 (agg 2-3); Fulham 4, Northampton 1 (agg 4-2); Hartlepool 3, Burnley 2 (agg 4-6); Huddersfield 0, Oldham 2 (agg 0-3); Kidderminster 0, Walsall 1 (agg 1-2); Lincoln 1, Sheff Utd 0 (agg 2-6); Macclesfield 3, Bolton 1 (agg 3-2); Millwall 1, Brighton 1 (agg 3-2); Notts Co 2, Hull 0 (agg 2-1 aet); Oxford 1, Wolves 3 (agg 2-3); Portsmouth 1, Cambridge 0 (agg 1-0); Preston 4, Shrewsbury 1 (agg 4-2); Reading 0, Leyton Oreitn 2 (agg 1-3); Scunthorpe 1, Wigan 4 (agg 1-5); Torquay 3, Gillingham 2 (agg 3-4); Wrexham 0, Mansfield 3 (agg 1-3); Wycombe 3, Barnet 1 (agg 4-3 aet).

APPEARANCES

	Apps	Goals
Clarke	6	3
Cullen	7	0
Drury	7	0
Edwards	7	0
Farrell	6 (1)	3
Forinton	1 (2)	0
Forsyth	2 (3)	0
Green	7	3
Hanlon	6 (1)	0
Hooper	2 (2)	0
Oldfield	2 (2)	0
Rea	7	0
Scott	5 (2)	0
Shields	6 (1)	0
Tyler	7	0
Whittingham	1 (2)	1

Pictures: By ADAM FAIRBROTHER