

# Toothless Town!

**TOOTHLESS** Luton Town clung on for a point against table-topping Walsall last night despite managing just one shot on target.

Matthew Spring forced Walsall keeper James Walker into his first save of the game on 87 minutes and the Hatters were fortunate to take a point in a lack-lustre display.

Ricky Hill's men have now gone five games since their last victory, with confidence draining away as quickly as the country's petrol resources.

Nathan Abbey surprisingly kept his place in the Hatters' goal with summer signing Mark Ovendale returning to the bench after missing Saturday's 2-0 defeat against Northampton with a neck spasm.

Ricky Hill also carried out his threat of wielding the axe and dropped Liam George and Stuart Fraser.

New signing Peter Thomson made his first start in place of George after a £100,000 switch from Dutch club NAC Breda and Adam Locke was recalled for Fraser.

Walsall marginally shaded a dismal first-half short on quality and goal-scoring opportunities.

After eight minutes Spanish midfielder Pedro Matias saw his 15-yard effort flash wide for the visitors.

Moments later, the Hatters enjoyed a fortunate let-off when Darren Wrack side-footed against a post from

## Hatters hang on in misery show



**Luton Town O  
Walsall O**

**Dave Flett on  
last night's  
Kenilworth  
Road match...**

just four yards out after pacy striker Darren Byfield had pulled the ball back.

On 25 minutes, Emmerson Boyce produced an excellent recovery tackle on Walsall's Tom Bennett as the midfielder burst clear on goal.

Abbey came to the rescue of his team-mates soon afterwards when he raced off his line to punch away from Byfield.

At the other end, Luton did not force one save out of Saddlers' keeper James Walker before the break.

Dean Brennan shot woefully over from 20 yards and Matthew Spring headed over at the near post from a corner as Luton struggled for

confidence and form. Walsall continued to look the most likely side to break the deadlock after the interval and Byfield clipped Abbey's crossbar with a looping header on 54 minutes.

Abbey then spilled a firm, low header from Walsall striker Jorge Leitao before the Hatters' defence swept the ball to safety.

On 65 minutes Saddlers' danger man Byfield drilled a low shot wide before Abbey pulled off a fine save after the Walsall striker had broken the Hatters' offside trap and raced clear through on goal.

Hatters' boss Hill brought on George and Tresor Kandol for Brennan and Thomson, who failed to impress in his first start.

But Hill's attempt to inject some creativity into his side made little difference with Scarlett's header that flashed wide the Hatters' only noteworthy second-half attempt.

Spring forced Walker into his first save of the night three minutes from time but the Hatters' midfielder's

close-range volley was cleared behind for a corner.

Kandol also hit a deflected effort over the bar, but Luton's overdue flurry was too little, too late on a night to forget.

●Luton Town Supporters Club are putting on extra luxury coaches for Saturday's away trip to Swansea and Tuesday night's Worthington Cup clash at Sunderland.

Town On Tour have taken the measure because of the current petrol situation and anybody interested in booking a coach place can call the club shop on 411622.

The Bobbers Travel Club are also running coaches to Sunderland. Prices are £17.50 for adults and £14.50 for OAPs and children.

Call Paul Deason on 01234 750996 for more details.

●The Hatters Reserves game against Leyton Orient, scheduled for today, has been called off due to travel problems.

## Now Brache take on Clapton



**GOAL: Tipper.**

**BRACHE** Sparta will travel to Clapton in the next round of the FA Vase on September 23 after Saturday's 2-1 win at Brentwood.

John Tipper's header and a Tommy Doyle penalty sealed victory for Sparta.

Tipper headed Steve Brinkman's men in front after 66 minutes when he

beat three defenders in the air to meet a superb Stuart Strange cross.

Four minutes later, Doyle converted from the spot after home defender Kevin Garneys handled another cracking Strange cross.

Brentwood pulled a goal back on 80 minutes when Dave Allen scored a penalty.

### big match line-up

●**LUTON TOWN:** Nathan Abbey, Adam Locke, Emmerson Boyce, Julian Watts, Matthew Taylor, Andre Scarlett (Peter Holmes, 83 mins), Matthew Spring, Paul McLaren, Dean Brennan (Liam George, 53 mins), Peter Thomson (Tresor Kandol, 73 mins), Mark Stein. Other subs: Stuart Fraser, Mark Ovendale (gk).

●**WALSALL:** James Walker, Ian Brightwell, Tom Bennett, Andy Tillson, Darren Byfield, Dean Keates, Darren Wrack (Paul Hall, 73 mins), Jorge Leitao (Brett Angell, 73 mins), Pedro Matias, Zigor Aranalde, Tony Barras (Ian Roper, 73 mins). Other subs: Gabor Bukran, Carl Emberson (gk).

●Referee: David Elleray (Harrow).

●Attendance: 4,362.

●Luton top player: Emmerson Boyce - another solid display.