and patter keep a watching eye during last night's Worthington Cup match. Hatters smashed!

LUTON Town can concentrate on their perilous league position after last night's 2-1 Worthington Cup home defeat against Sunderland.

Goals by Mike Readdy and Paul Butler gave the Premiership visitors a 5-1 second round aggregate victory, but the second leg result was harsh on a Hatters' side that had the lion's share of possession.

And Tresor Kandol netted a consolation goal for Hatters at the death.

Ricky Hill recalled £100,000 striker Peter Thomson to the starting line-up in place of top scorer Mark Stein, who has joined the legion of hamstring casualties at Kenilworth Road.

Adam Locke and Paul McLaren also returned to the side in place of youngsters Peter Holmes and Andre Scarlett. Skipper McLaren played in

the centre of a five-man defence. Sunderland boss Peter Reid made 10 changes to the team that earned a point at Liverpool on Saturday, with only Darren Williams retaining his place in an otherwise reserve side. But staggeringly Sunderland showed their loyalty by filling the away end.

The Hatters, trailing 3-0 after the first leg in Sunderland, started the game with more expression and confidence than they have in recent

After just five minutes, Matthew Taylor drove a good chance over and, on the quarter-hour mark, referee

But Hill boys put on plucky show



Luton Town 1 Sunderland 2 Two-legs score: Luton 1 Sund'land 5 Dave Flett on last night's Kenilworth Road match...

protests for a penalty when Thomson tumbled in the penalty area.

The bustling striker had burst clear after George's neatly-threaded through ball but went down in the box as he tried to round Sunderland third choice keeper Jurgen Macho.

George then went close to netting an early contender for Goal of the Season. The former Republic of Ireland under 21 international collected a Thomson cross and displayed intricate skills to trick his way past three challenges in the penalty box before his shot was tipped over the bar by Macho.

Rob Harris had to wave aside home lead on 31 minutes with their first

serious attempt on Mark Ovendale's goal. Former Sampdoria striker Danny Dichio sent in a low, rightwing cross that was tucked calmly home by an unmarked Mike Readdy.

Eight minutes later, Sunderland gave their Division Two hosts another lesson in finishing with a goal from Paul Butler. Eric Roy, often overshadowed by the other Premiership stars at the Stadium of Light, has dazzled in both legs against the Hatters and it was the classy midfielder's pass into the box that was converted on the turn by Butler.

Luton responded with a stinging Matthew Spring drive that Macho gathered on the second attempt but the home side went in at the break trailing 5-0 on aggregate.

The Hatters continued to look for a goal after the interval and McLaren should have netted his side a consolation on 54 minutes but somehow contrived to send a diving header wide from two yards out.

Thomson then shot wide after team-mate Tresor Kandol obstructed his route to goal following Taylor's excellent cross to the far post.

On 69 minutes, George dragged an effort wide from the edge of the box and McLaren missed another sitter shortly afterwards when he sidefooted off target from six yards.

Macho saved a curling 20-yard George effort after 78 minutes before Kandol finally gave Hatters the consolation goal they deserved when he headed in Spring's corner at the far

big match line-up

LUTON TOWN: Mark Ovendale, Emmerson Boyce, Julian Watts, Paul McLaren, Stuart Fraser, Matthew Taylor, Matthew Spring Adam Locke, Tresor Kandol, Llam George, Peter Thomson (Dean Brennan, 82 mins). Other subs: Peter Holmes, James Ayres, Freidrich Breitenfelder, Nathan Abbey (gk).

SUNDERLAND: Jurgen Macho, George McCartney, Ben Clark, Eric Roy (Thomas Butler, 70 mins), Darren Williams (Brendan McGill, 46 mins), Paul Butler, Alex Rae, Paul Thirwell (Milton Nunez, 60 mins), John Oster, Mike Readdy, Danny Dichlo, Other subs. Andy Marriott (gk), Carsten Fredgaard.

- Referee: Rob Harris.
- Attendance: 5,262.
- Luton top player: Llam George.



Fletcher to host supporters' forum LUTON Town director and hopes that the fans' forums will be the first step.

the first of a series of rangular forums will give them the to achieving this. meetings with club supp- Hatters' matters with her. cambe suite at Kenilworth roles of a supporters' repres-

Fletcher joined the board of Luton Town in June as the orters and the club. supporters' representative

the first of a series of regular opportunity to discuss

Road on Thursday, October entative is to ensure a good two-way communication process between the supp-

"Hopefully the supporters'

Entrance to the meeting is free of charge but by tickel only. Tickets are available from the supporters' kiosk or by post from Luton Town FC (envelope should be marked Supporters' Forum and an sae enclosed).

More info at the club.

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