

Sub Stein sent off

LUTON Town are out of this season's LDV Vans Trophy after last night's 1-0 defeat at Peterborough United.

And they had substitute Mark Stein sent off for a reckless challenge on Jon Cullen in injury time.

The Hatters have now fallen at the first hurdle in the competition for the last three years but were unlucky to be beaten at London Road.

Peterborough, who have now won their last seven home games, rarely threatened the visitors' goal in the second-half before Francis Green's 83rd minute strike smoothed their passage into the second round draw.

Hatters' boss Lil Fucillo made five changes from the side that started against Stoke on Saturday.

The back-line of Adrian Whitbread, Julian Watts and Marvin Johnson was rested, with James Ayres, Kent Karlisen and Stuart Fraser coming in.

Andrew Fotiadis returned to the Hatters' front-line in place of the injured Liam George and Mark Ovendale replaced Nathan Abbey in goal.

Chances for both teams were at a premium in a low-key first-half.

Francis Green fired wide for the home team after four minutes before Hatters' midfielder Adam Locke saw a deflected effort go wide.

Locke then went close at the other end, Ovendale sparing his blushes after he sliced Andy Clarke's cross towards his own goal.

Fotiadis then fired wide on 22 minutes, but Peterborough finished the half stronger.

Ritchie Hanlon's long-range effort was comfortably saved by Ovendale on 25 minutes, but the Hatters' keeper was

Last-minute drama as battling Hatters go out



**Peterborough 1
Luton Town 0**
Dave Flett on last night's London Road match...

at full stretch moments later to keep out Jon Cullen's header after Clarke's cross.

Daniel Murray then headed over from a corner and Gareth Jelleymann dragged a 20-yard chance wide.

But Peter Thomson could have given the Hatters a 1-0 lead to take into the break, heading Matthew Taylor's cross over from close range on the stroke of half-time.

Fucillo replaced Thomson with a fit-again Mark Stein at half-time and introduced Lee Nogan for Fotiadis on 59 minutes.

The Hatters started the second-half brightly and Locke, enjoying a busy performance in midfield, went close to breaking the deadlock on 53 minutes, shooting wide from 20 yards after a surging run.

Matthew Spring then headed Taylor's cross over on 59 minutes before Stein missed the best opportunity of the night.

Locke was again involved, sending a perfectly-weighted pass into Stein's path, but the 34-year-old striker volleyed wide with only home keeper Daniel Connor to beat.

Spring headed another Taylor cross over on 74 minutes.

But Peterborough took the lead on 83 minutes with their first serious attempt of the second-half.

Cullen's cross was met by Hanlon, whose firm shot was well saved by Ovendale, only for Green to turn the ball into an empty net.

Green went close to doubling Posh's lead three minutes from the end, dragging hit shot wide when clear through on Ovendale's goal.

The Hatters' misery was then compounded in injury-time when Stein was sent off for a two-footed challenge on Cullen.

big match line-up

● **PETERBOROUGH UNITED:** Daniel Connor, Dean Hooper (sub Richard Forsyth, 45 mins), Andy Clarke (sub Jason Lee, 64 mins), Jon Cullen, Matthew Gill, Francis Green, Daniel Murray, Ritchie Hanlon, Gareth Jelleymann, Howard Forinton (sub Daniel French, 72 mins), David Rogers. Other subs: David Oldfield, Mark Tyler (gk).

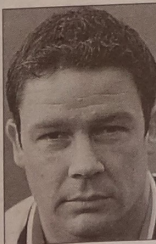
● **LUTON TOWN:** Mark Ovendale, Petri Helin, Matthew Taylor, Kent Karlisen, James Ayres, Stuart Fraser, Paul McLaren, Matthew Spring, Peter Thomson (sub Mark Stein, 46 mins), Adam Locke, Andrew Fotiadis (sub Lee Nogan, 57 mins). Other subs: Nathan Abbey (gk), Andre Scarlett, Jude Stirling.

● **Referee:** Phil Joslyn.

● **Attendance:** 2,075

● **Luton top player:** Adam Locke – busy display.

Whitbread's extra stay



EXTRA: Whitbread.

ON-LOAN defender Adrian Whitbread has agreed to extend his stay at Kenilworth Road by an extra month.

Whitbread, on loan from Portsmouth, will now be with the Hatters until the end of January at least.

The former Pompey captain is available on a free transfer.

But the South Coast club are currently sharing the cost of his wages with Luton and a permanent

deal would almost certainly involve a substantial pay cut.

Whitbread has already impressed Lil Fucillo with his attitude.

The Hatters boss said: "He was brilliant in the dressing room at Stoke on Saturday.

"At half-time he came in and lifted everybody after we had conceded a goal.

"He's an old hand and very vocal, unlike most of our players."