

MISERY

QPR 2 LUTON TOWN 1
 By DAVE FLETT

LUTON Town came within seconds of a famous FA Cup third round replay win at Loftus Road last night.

A goal by debut kid Lee Mansell after only 58 seconds looked to be good enough to take Hatters through to a fourth round clash with Arsenal.

But sub Chris Kiwomya pulled QPR level in the dying moments – and then he scored the winner in extra-time.

Lil Fuccillo made six changes to the side that started the 2-1 defeat against Wycombe in the Hatters' last match.

Three were enforced, with injured pair Emmerson Boyce and Adam Locke joining the suspended Matthew Taylor on the sidelines.

But top scorer Liam George was relegated to the bench and unfit duo Peter Thomson and Friedrich Breitenfelder did not even make the squad.

Transfer-listed Gavin McGowan and 18-year-old trainee Lee Mansell were the surprise inclusions in Fuccillo's starting line-up, with Kent Karlens, Lee Nogan, Peter Holmes and Andrew Fotiadis also returning.

Fuccillo opted for a more solid 4-4-2 line-up, with Nogan playing in an unfamiliar left-midfield

Hatters foiled in the last seconds

big match line-up

■ **QPR:** Ludek Miklosko, Jermaine Darlington, Ian Baraclough, Chris Plummer (sub Chris Kiwomya, 35 mins), Clarke Carlisle, Mark Perry, Matthew Rose, Karl Connolly (sub Michel Ngonge, 68), Richard Langley, Sammy Koejoe (sub Stuart Wardley, 91), Peter Crouch. Other subs: Lee Harper (gk), Steve Morrow, ■ **LUTON:** Mark Ovendale, Stuart Fraser (sub Jude Stirling, 9 mins), Kent Karlens, Matthew Spring, Gavin McGowan, Adrian Whitbread, Lee Nogan, Lee Mansell, Peter Holmes, Andrew Fotiadis (sub Andre Scarlett, 80), Stuart Douglas (sub Mark Stein, 66), Other subs: Nathan Abbey (gk), Liam George. ■ **Referee:** Roger Furnandiz (Doncaster). ■ **Att:** 14,395.

position. Mansell, only given a first team squad number on Tuesday, made a dream start to his debut.

The teenage midfielder gave Luton the lead after just 58 seconds when he fired in off a post from 15 yards after exchanging passes with Fotiadis.

Luton's injury woes were added to on eight minutes when Stuart Fraser was stretched off after a strong challenge with QPR's Matthew Rose and an ambulance whisked him away from Loftus Road shortly afterwards.

A minute later Sammy Koejoe's deflected shot went wide of Mark Ovendale's goal.

At the other end Fotiadis could have doubled the Hatters' lead on 14 minutes but dragged an excellent opportunity wide.

The home side's best effort before the break came in first-half injury time when beanpole striker Peter Crouch sent an overhead kick inches off target.

Luton switched to a 4-5-1 formation for the second-half with Fotiadis playing in a more withdrawn role on the right.

Chris Kiwomya, a 36-minute tactical replacement for defender Chris Plummer, should have levelled for QPR twice in the early stages of the second-half.

First the former Arsenal striker shot straight at Ovendale when given a clear sight at goal and then he chipped over with only the Hatters' keeper to beat.

In between, Matthew Spring

fired a 20-yard effort just wide and Adrian Whitbread's header was plucked from under his own crossbar by home keeper Ludek Miklosko.

On 66 minutes Fuccillo replaced hard-working lone striker Stuart Douglas with the fit-again Mark Stein.

Koejoe put the ball in the net for a desperate Rangers' side on 78 minutes but the effort was disallowed by an offside flag.

Visitors' skipper Spring almost put the tie beyond doubt two minutes later when his 20-yard drive flashed wide with Miklosko well beaten.

But QPR got an extremely undeserved equaliser deep into the third and last minute of injury time when Kiwomya drilled in from 12 yards despite protests from the visitors after an earlier push on Stein and suspicions of offside.

In extra-time the home side won a 96th minute penalty after Kiwomya broke Luton's offside trap and dispossessed a dithering Ovendale before being pulled down in the box by the keeper.

But Richard Langley rattled the spot-kick against the bar and Ovendale redeemed himself moments later by pulling off a terrific save to deny Kiwomya.

The Hatters held on until the 112th minute when Kiwomya bagged his second goal of the game, collecting Crouch's flick-on before burying a low shot past Ovendale.