

It's six of the best

LUTON Town made it six points out of six with a terrific win at Notts County last night.

Back-to-back victories at play-off hopefuls Northampton and Notts County have boosted the Kenilworth Road's club's chances of survival and goals from Emmerson Boyce, Liam George and Andrew Fotiadis secured the points at Meadow Lane.

Hatters' fans acclaimed both Joe Kinnear and Lil Fuccillo towards the end of the game.

Kinnear fielded an unchanged starting line-up after Saturday's 1-0 win at Northampton Town.

In fact, Kinnear's only change to the 16-man squad at Sixfields Stadium was Tresor Kandol's recall to the bench in place of flu-victim Mark Stein.

County went closest to opening the scoring after just 26 seconds when Mark Stallard drilled wide, but it was a rare attempt on Mark Ovendale's goal during the opening exchanges.

The Hatters made a confident start, controlling possession, creating space and producing some crisp passing in a passionate display.

Liam George, Matthew Taylor and Matthew Spring all saw ambitious long-range efforts miss the target before Emmerson Boyce made the breakthrough on 22 minutes.

Boyce directed his header past County keeper Darren Ward and into the bottom corner after George had set up Taylor for an excellent left-wing cross.

The home side improved towards the end of the half and Stallard missed a second opportunity to get on the scoresheet after 39 minutes, heading wide after Adam Newton had raced past Taylor on the right-wing.

But Stallard made amends four minutes later when he took advantage

Joe's boys on fire as the survival points pour in



**Notts County 1
Luton Town 3**
Dave Flett on last night's Meadow Lane match...

of a lapse in defensive concentration to level the scores. Newton's corner was helped on at the near post clumsily by Danny Allsopp, but Stallard was quickest to react in the visitors' penalty box, squeezing the ball past Ovendale from close range.

The Hatters responded well to their set-back with George going close twice straight after the break.

First, the former Republic of Ireland under 21 international fired wide from 20 yards after seizing on a loose ball and then he shot weakly at Ward after collecting a headed flick-on from Douglas. But it was a case of third time lucky for the persistent George when he scored his side's second goal on 55 minutes.

Taylor was again the provider, rampaging down the left flank and evading two challenges before smacking in a cross that was terribly misjudged by home defender Dennis Pearce.

George capitalised fully, drilling a low shot firmly into Ward's bottom corner from 10 yards out.

Ovendale prevented his side from surrendering the lead for a second time

when his agile stop on 64 minutes kept out an Allsopp header.

But at the other end George almost grabbed his second when he weaved his way past two County defenders, only to curl his shot just wide.

Substitute Andrew Fotiadis did make the points safe with eight minutes to go.

The Hatters striker had only been on the pitch for three minutes after Kinnear had pulled off fellow replacement Tresor Kandol, who came on for Douglas on the hour.

Fotiadis' goal was an excellent solo effort, showing strength to carry the ball into the penalty box before rifling a shot into the roof of Ward's net.

big match line-up

● **NOTTS COUNTY:** Darren Ward, Andy McDermott, Mark Stallard, Richard Liburd, Michael Brough (sub 85 mins Shaun Murray), Dennis Pearce (sub 71 mins David Joseph), Ian Hamilton, Nicky Fenton, Danny Allsopp (sub 79 mins Sean Farrell), Adam Newton, Anders Jacobsen.

Other subs: James Lindley, Henrik Jorgensen.

● **LUTON TOWN:** Mark Ovendale, Jude Stirling, Emmerson Boyce, Richard Dryden, Petri Hellin, Lee Mansell, Matthew Spring, Keith Rowland, Matthew Taylor, Liam George, Stuart Douglas (sub 60 mins Tresor Kandol, sub 79 mins Andrew Fotiadis), Other subs: Nathan Abbey, Peter Holmes, Friedrich Breitenfelder.

● **Referee:** M Warren.

● **Attendance:** 4,333.

● **Luton top player:** Liam George – dazzling skill.

Vauxhall training bid



HOPEFUL: Kinnear.

JOE KINNEAR is hoping that the Hatters will have the full-time use of Vauxhall Recreation Club next season.

The club's training programme has been seriously hampered this season with Luton Rugby Club often out of action because of the weather.

Kinnear took his players to Vauxhall on Monday, liked what he saw and has asked chairman Mike Watson-Challis to talk with the

Recreation Club about permanent use of the training facilities. The Hatters boss said: "Training facilities are a big problem. We had nowhere to train on Monday because the rugby club was under water."

"I gave Vauxhall an emergency call at 10.50am and they accommodated us."

"Their pitches are in excellent condition and, hopefully, we can have them on a permanent basis next season."