

Sub Ian's first goal seals comeback win

York City 1 Luton Town 2
AMID scenes of jubilation, the Hatters fought back to win at York yesterday in a great game.

They recovered from going a goal down on 32 minutes scored by Luton old boy, Lee Nogan.

The Hatters equalised four minutes before the interval when Carl Griffiths touched in a typical poacher's goal. But the real drama came after the break, that included a brilliant winner from on-loan Ian Hillier.

On 51 minutes, Stuart Douglas was clearly pushed in the back but Steve Howard's penalty was too close to Alan Fettis's right hand and he was able to beat it away.

His heroics were in vain as a team mate had encroached into the area.

Midfielders Mathew Spring and Kevin Nicolls tried to wrestle the ball from Howard but he fought, almost literally, to hang on to it.

So he took it for a second time – only to be denied a second time. Again he slammed the ball too close to Fettis who blocked the shot to his left.

But the Ministermen failed to make the most of the reprieve as Hillier picked this game to hammer in his first-ever league goal and the Town hung on for all three points.

Mathew Taylor was missing from the Luton left with a calf problem and Liam George deputised, after having an impressive game for the reserves in mid week. He responded by showing real determination in the early stages.

Both sides started in bright fashion the the Town gradually gained the ascendancy, forcing Fettis to several excellent saves.

He should have had no chance when Nicholls and Adrian Forbes



■ Celebration: Ian Hillier shows his joy after netting the Hatters winner at York

combined to leave George all alone in front of goal, but he fired over.

Soon afterwards Nogan made his former employers pay for their misses with the opening goal.

Russ Perrett was left for dead by Mike Proctor, whose accurate centre left Nogan with a simple job of an opener.

The Hatters equaliser was another simple affair. Nicholls took the ball from an Emmerson Boyce throw and produced, a beautiful cross for Griffiths to steal in for a close range goal – his fourth of the campaign.

After all the penalty drama, Howard continued to argue with Nicholls and

was substituted.

He stormed off, had a few choice words at coach Mick Harford, grabbed his tracksuit from the dug-out and was off down the tunnel.

His replacement Hillier was a revelation down the right and when Lee Mansell laid a ball back to him in the 73rd minute, he lashed a superb drive over Fettis and into the corner of the net.

The Town certainly had the rub of the green with York twice hitting Emberson's crossbar.

They were also thwarted by the Town 'keeper on several other

occasions. The visitors had to survive no less than nine minutes of stoppage time to earn the win and move up the table.

Luton Town: Emberson, Boyce, Skelton, Perrett, Johnson, Forbes (Mansell 46m), Spring, Nicholls, George, Griffiths (Douglas 46m), Howard (Hillier 57m).

Subs not used Ovendale (GK), Dryden.

Attendance 3,247

Luton Man of the Match: Kevin Nicholls.