

Golden shock

**DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE 3
LUTONTOWN 2**
**DAVE FLETT reports
from the Victoria Ground**

LUTON Town crashed out of the LDV Vans Trophy last night after an extra-time golden goal defeat at non-league Dagenham & Redbridge.

Goals by out of favour pair Dean Brennan and Peter Thomson had seen the Hatters take a 2-1 second half lead against the Nationwide Conference leaders.

But a bizarre own goal gifted Dagenham an equaliser, and a Mark Ovendale blunder presented former St Albans defender Ashley Vickers with the chance to win the tie in the third minute of extra time.

Ovendale dropped Paul Terry's free kick and Vickers fired into the unprotected net.

The home side had the first chance of a poor first half, when ex-Brighton striker Junior McDougald headed wide on 10 minutes.

Four minutes later Ovendale saved comfortably from a Lee Goodwin header.

The Hatters had the ball in the net on 16 minutes, when home keeper Paul Gothard parried after Peter Thomson had broken clear, and Andrew Fotiadis tapped into an empty goal only for his effort to be ruled out by an offside flag.

Brennan then curled a free kick for the Hatters wide from 25 yards, while an ambitious long-range lob from Peter Holmes was tipped over the bar by Gothard on 36 minutes.

At the other end, Richard Dryden blocked a goalbound effort from former Colchester midfielder Steve McGavin and Fraser bravely headed off the line after clever skills by home captain Terry.

Dagenham took the lead on 50

Hatters blunders to blame as minnows bridge quality gap

match facts

● **DAGENHAM & REDBRIDGE:** Paul Gothard, Mark Rooney, Ashley Vickers, Lee Goodwin, Mark Smith, Danny Hill, Steve McGavin (Jason Broom 78), Paul Terry, Danny Shipp, Junior McDougald (Tony Lock 80), Danny Hayzelden (Mark Janney 78). Subs: Ken Charlery, Terry Roberts.

● **LUTON:** Mark Ovendale, Stuart Fraser, Rob Gilman, Richard Dryden, Marvin Johnson, Lee Mansell (Jude Stirling 90), Peter Holmes, Dean Brennan, Liam George, Peter Thomson, Andrew Fotiadis. Subs: Scott Ward, Darryl Murphy, Steven O'Leary, James Osborne.

● **Referee:** David Crick (Surrey)

● **Attendance:** 2,433

● **Top Hatter:** Liam George.

minutes after Brennan conceded a free kick on the edge of the area.

McGavin stepped up to curl the ball over the Hatters wall and past a static Ovendale.

Fotiadis should have levelled on 54 minutes when he intercepted a poor header by Goodwin before rounding keeper Gothard, only to fluff his shot in front of a gaping goal.

Brennan spared the striker's blushes just two minutes later when he equalised with a firm drive into the bottom corner from 15 yards after a strong run down the right by George.

Holmes blazed over from eight yards moments later after

good work by Fotiadis before Dagenham left back Vickers hit the inside of the post on 67 minutes.

Luton immediately broke up the other end to take the lead. George again created the chance with another right wing cross and Peter Thomson's downward header from six yards crossed the line after squirming through Gothard's legs.

Fotiadis volleyed over from an acute angle and George burst clear on 75 minutes before stabbing the ball wide.

But Dagenham got back on level terms a minute later when Terry's spectacular overhead kick rattled the bar and Ovendale and Holmes got in each other's way as they attempted to clear the danger before the ball bounced over the line.

Both sides has chances to win the game in normal time, with Luton's George hitting the bar on 83 minutes and a wasteful Fotiadis firing wide five minutes later after being put clear by an excellent Gilman pass.

Joe Kinnear fielded a full reserve side for the game, although only 17-year-old centre back Rob Gilman was making his senior debut, while Stuart Fraser returned to competitive action for the first time since breaking his leg at QPR in January.

Dagenham also rested players with former Hatters favourite Mark Stein not being risked against his old side.



CLOSE CONTACT: Liam George gets stuck in during the early stages of last night's match at Dagenham.

HATTERS EXTRA

Kinnear is foiled in his bid to get Upson

JOE KINNEAR has been foiled in ambitious bids to bring Premiership youngsters Matthew Upson and Matthew Etherington to Kenilworth Road.

But the Hatters boss will not stop in his attempts at squad strengthening.

Ex-Hatters defender Upson, 22, made Arsenal's first team after Kinnear asked Arsene Wenger about his loan availability and Spurs reserve Etherington, 20, turned down a temporary move to Luton and has since gone to Bradford City.

Kinnear can take two more loan players after signing Dean Crowe and Ian Hillier and will not hesitate to bring players in who he believes can enhance the club's promotion push.

But the Luton manager denies speculation that he has made bids for Brentford forward Lloyd Owusu and Bury attacker John Newby even though he has watched both players.

He has made offers to Mansfield for Chris Greenacre, and admits that the 11-goal striker is his chief transfer target.

Kinnear said: "I spend
→ continued on page 71