

Kid's stuff!

WOKING 0 LUTON TOWN 2

DAVE FLETT reports
from Kingfield

TEENAGE defender Joe Deeney scored his first senior goal to ensure Luton Town's safe passage into the second round of the LDV Vans Trophy at Woking last night.

Delighted debutant Deeney headed in the Hatters' 56th minute second goal in a 2-0 win over the Nationwide Conference strugglers after Peter Holmes, the only player to retain his starting place from the side that won at Oldham on Saturday, had given the Hatters a first-half lead.

The Hatters included four players in the starting 11 who were making first team debuts with youth team regulars Deeney, James Osborn, Michael Leary and Matthew Judge all given opportunities to impress.

Holmes was named captain with the visitors bench also boasting five players without any previous first team experience.

Luton dominated the opening exchanges with both central midfielders going close to opening the scoring in the first three minutes.

First Holmes tested on-loan Spurs keeper Shwan Jalal with a 25-yard shot and then Leary sent another effort whistling wide from the same distance.

Holmes blazed over the bar on 12 minutes and Judge snatched at a 30 yard shot after Jalal's poor clearance had presented

match facts

WOKING: Shwan Jalal, David Piper, Ian Simpemba (Antony Allman, 33), Scott Smith (Stuart Reeks 46), Jon Boardman, Warren Patmore, Robert Kember, Ian Hamilton (Chris Sharpling 60), Neil Smith, Nicky Banger, Grant Payne. Subs: Steve Farrelly, Chris Collins.

LUTON TOWN: Mark Ovendale, Marvin Johnson (Leon Barnett 86), Ahmet Brkovic, Peter Holmes, Lee Mansell, Alan Kimble, James Osborn (Parys Okai 71), Joe Deeney, Michael Leary, Matthew Judge (Kevin Foley 55), Ian Hillier. Subs: Dean Brill, Stephen O'Leary.

REFEREE: M. Thorpe.

ATTENDANCE: 1,216

TOP HATTER: Peter Holmes

the teenage striker with a gaping goal.

Leary then evaded two tackles before firing wide before Holmes belatedly broke the deadlock on 26 minutes.

The 21-year-old midfielder's low right-footed cross from the left flank after a half-cleared corner was missed by players from both sides before finally finishing up in the bottom corner of Jalal's net.

Lee Mansell fired wastefully wide moments later, before long-serving centre back Marvin Johnson - playing his first competitive game of the season - made a brilliant headed clearance off the line to deny a certain equaliser for Grant Payne.

Home skipper Jon Boardman headed the subsequent corner wide but Ahmet Brkovic, playing as a striker, should have doubled the Hatters' lead on 32 min-

utes.

Brkovic was handed an excellent opportunity from Judge's low cross but sidefooted straight at Jalal from six yards.

Woking started the second half in a brighter fashion and Payne was only prevented from a clear sight of goal by Deeney's recovery tackle on 52 minutes.

Mick Harford, managing the team on the night with Joe Kinneer watching potential transfer targets, made his first substitution on 55 minutes, replacing Judge with Kevin Foley.

Both players are likely to figure in today's FA Youth Cup first round match against Brentford.

Brkovic's deflected shot was tipped over the bar by Jalal on 56 minutes but the visitors scored a second goal from the resulting corner.

Holmes' flag kick found teenage defender Deeney, whose header beat Jalal despite the home keeper getting a strong hand to the ball.

But it wasn't all one-way traffic, with Boardman's header and a curling 25 yard shot by substitute Stuart Reeks both narrowly missing the target at the other end.

Parys Okai was the sixth Hatters player to be given his first team debut when he came on for Osborn on 71 minutes and Leon Barnett followed him into the fray, replacing Johnson late in the game.

Brkovic went close to netting a third goal on 88 minutes after his jinking run ended with a firm shot that was saved by Jalal.

Ex-Luton midfielder Sean Evers was not in the home side after leaving the Kingfield club



JUDGE'S VERDICT: Matthew Judge, one of a posse of Luton players making their debuts, takes control against a flailing Woking defender. Picture: GARETH OWEN