

# Fotiadis hits back but Hatters crash

**LUTON'S twin cup hangover continued as lucky Colchester somehow managed to leave Kenilworth Road with all three points.**

The Hatters threw away a first half lead given them to them Andrew Fotiadis, the perfect riposte to manager Joe Kinnear's public criticism this week.

A mistake by Steve Robinson, compounded by arguing the toss, led to Colchester's equaliser just before half time and in a frustrating second half, the struggling visitors snatched a fluky winner.

After going out of the FA Cup and the LDV Cup in the last seven days, Luton were looking to pep up their promotion push but Kinnear still had limited resources from which to choose.

There was still no Steve Howard, serving the last match of a three-game suspension, so Kinnear started with Fotiadis and Dean Crowe up front, rushed back from injury. His rustiness was all too apparent throughout the game.

Skipper Kevin Nicholls, who missed the defeat at Wigan last Saturday also because of suspension, was brought back into midfield at the expense of Peter Holmes, who dropped to the bench.

Colchester looked to be the perfect opposition for the Hatters to get back to winning ways as they had recorded just one win in their last six league games.

In the opening 45 minutes, the game looked set to go according to the script. But their superiority slipped in first half stoppage time.

Luton were full of running but they had a huge setback on 14 minutes when the influential Matthew Spring joined the growing injury list.

He limped off after a collision with Dean Morgan with a knee injury.

Apart from that early loss it was all going to plan as Luton camped in the Colchester half.

Robinson had the two best chances of Luton's sustained pressure, the first a glancing header from an Ahmet Brkovic cross and the second produced a superb save from United goalkeeper Simon Brown following a shot from just six yards out.

He parried it with his legs and Brkovic ballooned the rebound over the bar.

Fotiadis answered his critics, most notably the Hatters boss, on 34 minutes with the opening goal.

Emmerson Boyce, impressive throughout, dribbled across the penalty box and made room for a shot but didn't fancy it. Fotiadis did, though, taking it off the full back on the edge of the area and drilling it into the bottom corner.

Luton looked to move into cruise control but a moment of madness from Robinson proved disastrous.

From 40 yards out Robinson clattered into Karl Durguid and was duly penalised. However, the player remonstrated and referee Mark Cowburn brought forward the free kick by ten yards.

The resulting free kick was curled in by Durguid leaving Ovendale stranded to bring Colchester back into the game.

The second half started with Colchester clearly buoyed by their equaliser and on 57 minutes they got the winner.

Veteran Mickey Stockwell leaped in front of a Chris Coyne clearance and the ball ricocheted kindly for him, tempting Ovendale out of his goal to claim. However, Stockwell got their first and rebounded the goalkeeper before crossing for Morgan to head into an empty net.



■ Paul Hughes (above) and Andrew Fotiadis in action for the Hatters yesterday in the shock defeat against Colchester United



With Luton now on the back foot, Kinnear pushed Boyce from right back to striker but despite his efforts it was clear he is not Steve Howard.

Time and time again balls into the box were easily cleared as Luton had no aerial threat whatsoever.

Their only chance of the half came on 83 minutes when Coyne took the bull by the horns to unleash a 30-yard goalbound piledriver that was just about tipped to safety by Brown.



## MATCH FACTS



**LUTON TOWN (4-4-2):** Ovendale; Boyce, Coyne, Neilson, Kimble; Robinson, Nicholls, Spring (Hughes 14m), Brkovic; Fotiadis, Crowe Subs not used: Emberson, Holmes, Hillier, Mansell

**Referee:** Mark Cowburn (Lancashire)

### GOALSCORERS:

Luton: Fotiadis (34)  
Colchester: Durguid (45), Morgan (57)

### SHOTS ON TARGET

Luton: 9  
Colchester: 3

### SHOTS OFF TARGET

Luton: 4  
Colchester: 1

### CORNERS

Luton: 8  
Colchester: 2

### OFFSIDE

Luton: 1  
Colchester: 2

### BOOKINGS

Luton: Robinson (45)  
Colchester: White (42)

**ATTENDANCE:** 5,890

## HATTERS' STAR MAN: KEVIN NICHOLLS

Tremendous desire to win very apparent

## Division Two results

|              |   |              |   |
|--------------|---|--------------|---|
| Brentford    | 2 | Chesterfield | 1 |
| Crewe        | 2 | Barnsley     | 0 |
| Huddersfield | 2 | Stockport    | 1 |
| LUTON        | 1 | Colchester   | 2 |
| Mansfield    | 4 | Blackpool    | 0 |
| Northampton  | 0 | Tranmere     | 4 |
| Notts County | 3 | QPR          | 0 |
| Oldham       | 0 | Wigan        | 2 |
| Peterborough | 4 | Cheltenham   | 1 |
| Plymouth     | 1 | Swindon      | 1 |
| Wycombe      | 3 | Port Vale    | 1 |

## How they stand

|              | P         | W        | D        | L        | F         | A         | Pts       |
|--------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Wigan        | 21        | 14       | 5        | 2        | 36        | 13        | 47        |
| Cardiff      | 20        | 13       | 4        | 3        | 35        | 15        | 43        |
| Bristol City | 20        | 13       | 2        | 5        | 43        | 25        | 41        |
| Oldham       | 21        | 11       | 6        | 4        | 34        | 16        | 39        |
| Crewe        | 21        | 11       | 5        | 5        | 32        | 17        | 38        |
| Brentford    | 21        | 9        | 5        | 7        | 27        | 24        | 32        |
| QPR          | 21        | 8        | 6        | 7        | 28        | 25        | 30        |
| <b>Luton</b> | <b>21</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>31</b> | <b>29</b> | <b>30</b> |
| Chesterfield | 21        | 9        | 3        | 9        | 18        | 23        | 30        |
| Tranmere     | 21        | 9        | 3        | 9        | 26        | 33        | 30        |
| Blackpool    | 21        | 8        | 4        | 9        | 25        | 32        | 28        |
| Plymouth     | 21        | 6        | 8        | 7        | 28        | 29        | 26        |
| Wycombe      | 21        | 7        | 5        | 9        | 29        | 31        | 26        |
| Port Vale    | 21        | 7        | 5        | 9        | 26        | 33        | 26        |
| Colchester   | 21        | 6        | 7        | 8        | 21        | 27        | 25        |
| Northampton  | 21        | 7        | 4        | 10       | 21        | 29        | 25        |
| Stockport    | 21        | 7        | 3        | 11       | 26        | 31        | 24        |
| Swindon      | 21        | 6        | 6        | 9        | 25        | 31        | 24        |
| Barnsley     | 21        | 6        | 6        | 9        | 24        | 33        | 24        |
| Notts County | 21        | 4        | 10       | 7        | 30        | 31        | 22        |
| Peterborough | 21        | 5        | 6        | 10       | 26        | 30        | 21        |
| Huddersfield | 21        | 5        | 6        | 10       | 17        | 25        | 21        |
| Cheltenham   | 21        | 5        | 6        | 10       | 20        | 29        | 21        |
| Mansfield    | 21        | 5        | 3        | 13       | 36        | 53        | 18        |