

City sunk by Howard

02/03

Luton 2 Bristol City 2

By Andrew Mallin

BOTH managers were pretty happy to share the spoils after a high tempo encounter gave first Luton and then City hope of emerging with three points.

Luton are condemned to another season in the second division, and manager Joe Kinnear has already announced he will be clearing out anything up to eight players in the summer to rebuild and mount another promotion challenge next season.

That announcement seemed to galvanise Luton, who surprised City with the energy and sometimes ferocity of their play.

In a bad-tempered first-half Steve Howard headed Luton into the lead after 59 seconds, after which Luton then earned all four of the game's yellow cards. Two went to Matt Spring and Chris Willmott for fouls on City skipper Tommy Doherty, who then had to be substituted with an ankle injury.

Luton boss Kinnear said at half-time he had told his fired-up players that so long as they kept eleven men on the pitch they would win the game.

But Peter Holmes committed a needless foul on Brown on 65 minutes and Brian Tinnion exacted full revenge by equalising from the penalty and ten minutes later veteran defender Alan Neilson hesitated when he should have headed clear and Lee Peacock headed City into the lead.

But Luton came storming back for Howard's second headed goal to earn them a point.

City boss Danny Wilson said: "It's disappointing not to win after getting your noses in front, but it was a hard fought point and as results elsewhere have been decent to us I am glad of it."