

Super sub



ACTION STATIONS: Enoch Showunmi in the thick of it for the Hatters during last night's LDV Vans Trophy tie at Broadhall Way.

Picture: GARETH OWEN

STEVENAGE BORO 0 LUTON TOWN 1

ANDY MACKENZIE reports
from Broadhall Way

SUBSTITUTE Matthew Judge fired Hatters into the second round of the LDV Vans Trophy with a dramatic injury-time goal last night.

The southern section, first round tie saw Judge fire home with his right foot from 20 yards to give Luton the win they deserved.

Seconds later Stevenage had the ball in the net but the effort was ruled offside.

Luton showed seven changes from the side that beat Wycombe on Saturday. Skipper Chris Coyne, full-back Sol Davis, midfielder Steve Robinson and 17-year-old goalkeeper Dean Brill were the only players to keep their places.

Hatters handed a first start of the season to Lee Mansell and full senior debuts to teenagers Parys Okai and Leon Barnett in an under-strength side.

Stevenage included former Luton player Dean Brennan among their substitutes.

After a quiet opening period Luton were the first to threaten when Okai's dangerous inswinging corner had to be beaten away by Westhead after 11 minutes.

Davis then intercepted a Stevenage clearance in the 15th minute and crossed to find Enoch Showunmi, but as the big striker brought the ball down

match facts

STEVENAGE BOROUGH: Mark Westhead, Simon Travis, Barry Laker, Simon Wormull, Justin Richards, Tony Battersby, Peter Costello, Jamie Gould, Gary Holloway, Michael Warner, Anthony Elding. Subs: Lee Flynn, Jamie Cook, Dean Brennan, Lionel Perez, Dino Maamria.

LUTON TOWN: Dean Brill, Chris Coyne, Sol Davis, Leon Barnett, Lee Mansell, Steve Robinson, Michael Leary, Parys Okai, Ahmet Brkovic, Enoch Showunmi, Ian Hillier. Subs: Robert Beckwith, Adrian Forbes, Matthew Judge, David Deeney, Steven O'Leary.

REFEREE: Mark Cooper (West Midlands).

and prepared to shoot, Ahmet Brkovic nipped in to blast high and wide from 15 yards.

Coyne then headed on to the roof of the net in the 19th minute after a well-worked corner routine between Mansell and Okai.

Seconds later Robinson produced a smart turn to set up Showunmi, whose left-footed shot from 18 yards was deflected for a corner.

The Hatters continued to dominate but they had to wait until the 33rd minute for their first effort on target.

Mansell laid the ball back for Ian Hillier to deliver a deep cross from the right and Brkovic arrived at the far post, only to see his low header blocked by Westhead.

With Stevenage offering little

threat up front, Luton broke again in the 43rd minute when Showunmi's flick set up Robinson, but the midfielder's left-footed shot from the edge of the area was easily gathered by Westhead.

Mansell became the first player to enter referee Mark Cooper's notebook when, in first-half stoppage time, he was booked for a foul on Justin Richards.

Stevenage brought on Lee Flynn for Jamie Gould at half-time and the defender saved the home team on 54 minutes.

A flowing move between Barnett, Brkovic and Davis saw the Croat run free into the area, but his goalbound lob over Westhead was cleared off the line by Flynn.

From the resulting Okai corner Stevenage were lucky to escape a scrappy goalmouth scramble.

Brkovic came even closer to breaking the deadlock in the 64th minute when he produced a delightful turn from Davis' throw-in to find space in the penalty area.

But with a clear sight at goal Brkovic fired his low drive against the inside of the far post and the ball rebounded back into the arms of Westhead.

Michael Leary followed Mansell into the referee's notebook in the 67th minute before Judge made his first senior start of the season, coming on for Okai in the 68th minute.

Coyne became the third Hatter to be booked and Robinson joined him five minutes later.