

Hit for 6!

BOURNEMOUTH 6 LUTON TOWN 3

ANDY MacKENZIE reports
from Dean Court

HATTERS were hit for six on an amazing night of action at Bournemouth.

Mike Newell's men led at one stage in a sizzling, six-goal first-half, trailed 4-2 at the interval and pulled back to 4-3 before the Cherries cashed in.

It meant Hatters had conceded 10 goals in just four days after losing at Brentford on Saturday.

Luton made only one change to the side beaten 4-2 at Brentford, Robert Beckwith replacing Dean Brill in goal.

Gary McSheffrey had the ball in the net after just three minutes when Adrian Forbes flicked on Chris Coyne's free-kick, but the effort was ruled out for offside.

Paul Hughes then entered the referee's book after just five minutes for a clumsy challenge from behind. Two minutes later Luton were behind when their static defence allowed Steve Fletcher to rise unmarked in the penalty area to meet Stephen Purches' right-wing cross and loop a header over the stranded Beckwith.

With Bournemouth looking threatening it was something of a surprise when Luton drew level in the 10th minute.

Courtney Pitt made a jinking run down the left and his fierce cross was sliced into his own goal by Purches.

Livewire striker Feeney then

match facts

BOURNEMOUTH: Neil Moss, Stephen Purches, Marcus Browning, Karl Broadhurst, Carl Fletcher, James Hayter, Wade Elliott, Warren Feeney, Steve Fletcher, Warren Cummings, Gareth O'Connor. Subs: Alan Connell, Brian Stock, Jason Tindall, Danny Thomas, Gareth Stewart.

LUTON TOWN: Robert Beckwith, Ian Hillier, Matthew Spring, Paul Hughes, Kevin Foley, Courtney Pitt, Emmerson Boyce, Chris Coyne, Russell Perrett, Adrian Forbes, Gary McSheffrey. Subs: Dean Brill, Ahmet Brkovic, Steve Robinson, Alan Neilson, Lee Mansell.

REFEREE: Andre Marriner (Warwickshire).

went close for the Cherries, heading Fletcher's cross just wide after 11 minutes and then shooting weakly at Beckwith in the 14th minute after outpacing Russell Perrett.

A Matthew Spring corner in the 16th minute led to the mother of all goalmouth scrambles in the Bournemouth penalty area, but the Hatters couldn't cash in.

The unrelenting first-half action continued when, from a quickly-taken free-kick after Carl Fletcher's foul on McSheffrey, Hughes beat Bournemouth's last man and toe-poked the ball past Neil Moss for his first goal of the season.

Brian Stock came on for the injured Marcus Browning in the 32nd minute.

And the substitute made an immediate impact following a foul on Steve Fletcher on the edge of the Luton penalty area.

Stock stepped up and curled an unstoppable shot into the top corner from 20 yards with his first touch of the game.

Pitt and Spring beat the Cherries offside trap in the 37th minute, but from Spring's cross on the left Kevin Foley could only slice wide on the stretch with the goal at his mercy.

Feeney's pace continued to trouble Luton and in the 42nd minute the striker streaked down the right and sent in a perfect cross for Gareth O'Connor to make it 3-2 with a simple far-post header.

With the Hatters' defence in disarray, Bournemouth made it four in first-half stoppage time when Feeney dummed Purches' right-wing cross and Fletcher drove home from 12 yards for his second goal of the night.

Bournemouth then had a goal disallowed for offside a minute into the second-half when Cummings volleyed Feeney's cross on to the bar and Hayter netted from the rebound.

After 60 minutes Pitt's cross from the left was nodded home by Forbes for his fifth goal of the season.

A minute later Stock capitalised on hesitancy between Emmerson Boyce and Perrett to drive home his second goal of the night, in off the legs of Beckwith.

In the 67th minute Wade Elliott made it six.

IT'S THERE: Paul Hughes scores his first goal of the season but Hatters took a beating at a wet Dean Court last night.

Picture: GARETH OWEN