

Dale crash out

03/04 (FAC)

Rochdale 0 Luton 2

GOALS in each half from Steve Robinson and Lee Mansell sent Luton into the third round at the expense of Rochdale.

Though Robinson opened the scoring from the spot, he missed a second penalty and was relieved to see Mansell settle the tie after a brief rally by the Third Division strugglers.

Robinson put them ahead in the 20th minute, finding the bottom corner of Neil Edwards' goal from 12 yards after Simon Grand had brought down Adrian Forbes.

But Robinson saw a spot-kick well saved eight minutes later after the persistent Forbes was sent tumbling by Gary Jones.

Dale came back into the contest after half time with substitute Kevin Townson making a huge difference.

He headed straight at goalkeeper Marlon Beresford and centred for Paul Connor to do the same shortly after.

But Rochdale were caught on the break 13 minutes from time when Robinson's cross was blocked by Edwards and Mansell dispatched the loose ball.

Luton boss Mike Newell expressed his satisfaction following the Hatters' win, but admitted it was a far from convincing performance.

"I was pleased with the way we went about things in the first half," he said.

"But we gave the ball away too easily in the second half and for 20 minutes it was a bit worrying."

Dale manager Alan Buckley was clearly frustrated after another home defeat for his struggling side.

"There was nothing in the game but after 20 minutes, we found ourselves having to work very hard to come back into it," he said.

"If you hang your foot out in the box, you pay the price and I'm just wondering who's going to make the mistake next week."