



LOOK BEHIND YOU: Steve Robinson holds off Robins' captain Matthew Hewlett at the County Ground.

Hatters hang on for victory

**SWINDON 2
LUTON TOWN 3**

ANDY MacKENZIE reports from The County Ground

LUTON survived a nervous last 25 minutes to win a game they should have sewn up comfortably last night.

Hatters led 2-0 thanks to a Kevin Nicholls penalty and Rory Fallon own goal.

Steve Howard replied to a Sam Parkin strike for Swindon to put the Town 3-1 up and Luton should have scored more, thanks to an hour or so of direct football.

But in the end Mike Newell's battle-weary men were happy to hang on for a 3-2 victory that saw them continue their 100 per cent start to the season.

Hatters started the game with the same 11 that beat Oldham Athletic on the opening day of the season on Saturday.

The only squad change was Michael Leary coming in for Matthew Blinkhorn on the

big match facts

SWINDON TOWN: Rhys Evans, David Duke, Stefani Miglironzi, Alan Reeves, Andy Gurney, Matthew Hewlett, Sean O'Hanlon, Sammy Igoe, Brian Howard, Rory Fallon, Sam Parkin.
Subs: Steven Book, Steve Robinson, Grant Smith, Andy Caton, Luke Garrard.
LUTON TOWN: Marlon Beres-

ford, Kevin Foley, Chris Coyne, Curtis Davies, Sol Davis, Stephen O'Leary, Steve Robinson, Kevin Nicholls, Paul Underwood, Steve Howard, Rowan Vine.
Subs: Dino Seremet, Enoch Showunmi, Ahmet Brkovic, Alan Nellson, Michael Leary.
REFEREE: Tony Leake, Lancs.
ATTENDANCE: 6,286.

bench. Luton almost took the lead in the fifth minute when Stephen O'Leary pounced on Rhys Evans' poor clearance and Kevin Nicholls was able to play in Rowan Vine on the left.

The Town's loan striker took one touch before firing a low drive from just inside the penalty area that Evans pushed onto the foot of the post.

Nicholls then fed O'Leary five minutes later, but the young Irishman shot straight at Evans from 10 yards. The Town continued to look the

more threatening and Chris Coyne nodded down Sol Davis' long free-kick in the 20th minute, but Steve Howard couldn't get full purchase on a free header in front of goal.

Luton's purpose paid off four minutes later, albeit in slightly controversial circumstances. O'Leary flashed a centre across goal and the danger seemed to have passed, but referee Tony Leake pointed to the spot, supposedly for a Sean O'Hanlon foul on Vine.

Town skipper Nicholls duly drove the penalty past Evans

to give Luton the lead. Andy Gurney flashed a 25-yard free-kick just wide for Swindon in the 26th minute after Curtis Davies was booked for a foul.

But Hatters continued to attack and Howard flicked on Chris Coyne's long 33rd minute free-kick for Paul Underwood to fire just wide.

Luton's deserved second came eight minutes before the break when Sol Davis was fouled by Gurney and from Steve Robinson's resulting free-kick Swindon forward Rory Fallon flicked the ball past his own keeper while under pressure from Davies.

Coyne headed just wide from Davis' free-kick a minute before the break before Davis himself saw a 25-yard effort fly just over the bar.

But Swindon pulled a goal back out of nothing in first-half stoppage time when Coyne's error allowed Sam Parkin to lob home.

They later scored in the 65th minute when Alan Reeves headed home a corner.