

Town stung again

HATTERS 0 BRENTFORD 2

THE Football Association have confirmed they will be taking no disciplinary action after The Bees stung Hatters for the second time in a month in a stormy FA Cup clash at Kenilworth Road.

Second-half goals from Chris Hargreaves and substitute Jay Tabb were enough to see Brentford through to a home tie against either Hartlepool United or Boston United in round four.

And it marked the second 2-0 win for Brentford over Hatters in recent weeks following their home league win in December, leaving them as the only side to beat Luton and stop the Town scoring in their last 14 games.

However Luton's management, players and fans were left angered and frustrated by the spoiling tactics of the West London club on Saturday that led to a scrappy affair and saw a bust-up between both sets of players.

A late challenge by visiting striker Ben May on Town goalkeeper Marlon Beresford in the 45th minute sparked ugly scenes in the Luton goalmouth as the two teams squared up to each other.

And the confrontation continued as the sides left the field with trouble occurring in the tunnel. Brentford boss Martin Allen then stirred up mat-

ters further by gesturing to the 1,669 Bees fans before 'staring out' the home faithful. Police had to move quickly to prevent trouble between both sets of supporters and Bedfordshire Police football liaison officer PC Peter Palmer revealed three Brentford fans and one Luton supporter were arrested.

PC Palmer told this newspaper: "It was a volatile match and it was not helped by the behaviour of some of the visiting Brentford officials. I will be reviewing the tapes, but anything there is a matter for the FA not the police."

The Football Association yesterday confirmed they would not be taking any action following the trouble.

A spokesman told the News-Gazette: "We know that a lot was said about the game, but we have looked at the reports from the officials and there is no basis for us to take any action."

The players' clash saw Luton's Sol Davis pick up his fifth yellow card of the season which means he will lose his record as Luton's only ever-present Hatter in the league when he sits out this weekend's game against Stockport.

The Bees encounter saw Luton recall Chris Coyne, Ahmet Brkovic, Rowan Vine and Steve Robinson after the quartet were all rested for the 2-2 draw at Peterborough United.

Vine almost put Luton ahead in the 23rd minute when he burst past two defenders but saw his shot saved. From the resulting corner, Steve Howard volleyed home, only to see his effort dis-

allowed for a foul. Brentford came into the game after the break and scored when Curtis Davies' slip saw Isiah Rankin run clear. His shot was saved by Beresford but Hargreaves buried the rebound from 16 yards.

Brkovic hit the top of the crossbar two minutes later, but Tabb sealed the win with a breakaway goal two minutes from time.



DENIED: Distraught Hatters appeal in vain after Steve Howard, far left, sees his goal disallowed.



MIKE NEWELL'S VERDICT

"MOST teams in our league are not going to outplay us, but some might try to outfight us. That's Brentford's style of play. They knock it long, waste time and feign injury - that ruffles feathers and upsets people and we weren't able to deal with it.

"We had a goal was disallowed for whatever reason, I don't know. It's frustrating in that

it could have been the turning point because if that had gone in they would have had to come out and play.

"People are getting a bit carried away and excited that we've drawn our last three league games and been knocked out of the cup, but we have the same group of players who put us in such a good position in the league and we still have faith in them."