

Allen key to Hatters defeat

04/05/CNC



LUTON TOWN0

BRENTFORD2

Hargreaves (71), Tabb (89)

BY ANDY MACKENZIE

BRENTFORD breezed into the next round of the Cup with a smash-and-grab raid at Luton, after soaking up everything the Hatters threw at them and then hitting back on the break.

After taking an hour to get their first shot on target the Bees stunned Luton after 71 minutes when Chris Hargreaves volleyed home from the edge of the box after Marlon Beresford did well to block Isiah Rankin's original shot.

A minute from time substitute Jay Tabb made the game safe when he took advantage of Luton's stretched defence as they pushed forward for an equaliser.

Despite having most of the possession Luton rarely looked like breaking down Brentford's sturdy defence, although Steve Howard had a headed effort ruled out for pushing and Ahmet Brkovic hit the bar with a powerful header in the second half.

In the early stages Howard had looked the most likely to break the deadlock, but once Brentford cut out the supply to him they grew in confidence in the second-half.

Deon Burton stretched Beresford, Ben May back-heeled just wide from close range and Eddie Hutchinson volleyed over before Hargreaves opened the scoring.

Brentford boss Martin Allen told how his players had worked to a specific game plan to knock Luton out.

Allen said: "Every single one of our players stuck to the game plan that we'd

LUTON		BRENTFORD
62	Possession %	38
6	Corners	0
5	Offsides	9
9	Fouls	17
2	Yellows	0
0	Reds	0
0	Shots On	3
8	Shots Off	3
0	Hit Woodwork	0

LUTON: Beresford 6, Foley 6, Coyne 6, Davies 6, Davis 6, Underwood 6, Nicholls 5, Robinson 6 (Showunmi 88), Brkovic 6 (Andrew 82), Vine 5, Howard 5. **Subs not used:** Perrett, Seremet, Holmes. **Booked:** Davis, Underwood.

BRENTFORD: Nelson 7, Lawrence 7 (Tabb 81), Turner 7, Fitzgerald 7, Frampton 7, Talbot 6, Hutchinson 6, Rankin 6 (Salako 90), Hargreaves 8, Burton 7, May 7. **Subs not used:** Myers, Lee, Julian. **Goals:** Hargreaves (71), Tabb (89).

Man of the match: Chris Hargreaves (Brentford)

Referee: A Marriner (W Midlands).

been working on over the last three days in training.

"Luton aren't second in the table having been top for most of the season for no reason and results like this don't just come off the cuff.

"We thought that they would come at us and that gaps might develop in behind them for us to exploit and that's what happened.

"We only had 16 fit players and some people thought that we were underdogs for this game, but the players showed great character, desire, resolve, and belief.

"I trust them and they trust me now. We had a couple of hard games over Christmas and it's a great way to bounce back."

Luton boss Mike Newell was left to reflect on a first half Steve Howard "goal" that was disallowed for a push.

He said: "The goal was disallowed for a reason I was not sure of. It's frustrating because that was the turning point as if it had stood they would have had to come at us.

"It's a frustrating day all round to lose the game and go out of the Cup, but you get these sort of days in football.

"We're now going to just have to focus on the League and we still have faith in the ability of the players we have got."/>