



Luton Town 0 Brentford 2
TOM LEECH reports from Kenilworth Road

Angry Hatters boss slams 'dirty' Bees

04/05
(FAC)

LUTON manager Mike Newell launched a fierce attack at Brentford as the Bees sent Hatters crashing out of the third round.

Clearly irritated after losing 2-0 to Brentford – again – Newell took umbrage at some dirty tactics from the away side who frustrated shot-shy Hatters all afternoon in a dreary encounter.

"Most teams in this division won't outplay us. But they had a gameplan and stuck to it – they kicked it long, their players feigned injury, they time-wasted – it's not pretty but it does ruffle a few feathers and it got to us today," groaned the Hatters boss.

"It wasn't a day for good football – it was all about getting through to the next round, and we failed.

"We're out of the Cup and to be quite honest no-one will have known we were ever in it. We'll have to pick ourselves up starting with Stockport next week. It's all about the league now."

Newell brought back his big guns with the aim of getting Luton into the next round in the hope of a lucrative tie with a Premier big gun.

In came Chris Coyne, Steve Robinson, Ahmet Brkovic and former Brentford player Rowan Vine, who were all rested for the 2-2 draw with Peterborough as the hectic Christmas fixture list caught up with Hatters.

The first half was a scrappy affair – plenty of honest endeavour from both sides but very little entertainment.

Brentford set out their stall to defend in numbers and their kick-and-rush style of football was having the desired effect.

Only a dazzling dribble and close range shot from Vine troubled Bees' goalkeeper Stuart Nelson, although Steve Howard had a headed effort ruled out for pushing in the box.

The real action came at the end of the half and carried on down the tunnel.

Bees' winger Ben May went in late on Marlon Beresford which prompted a bit of pushing and shoving in the penalty area.

It all appeared to have died down when out of the melee fell Brentford's Isiah Rankin clutching his face.

It sparked a mass brawl which only Nelson at the other end of the pitch didn't get involved in. When the fuss had died down Sol Davis was somehow pointed out as the perpetrator and booked.

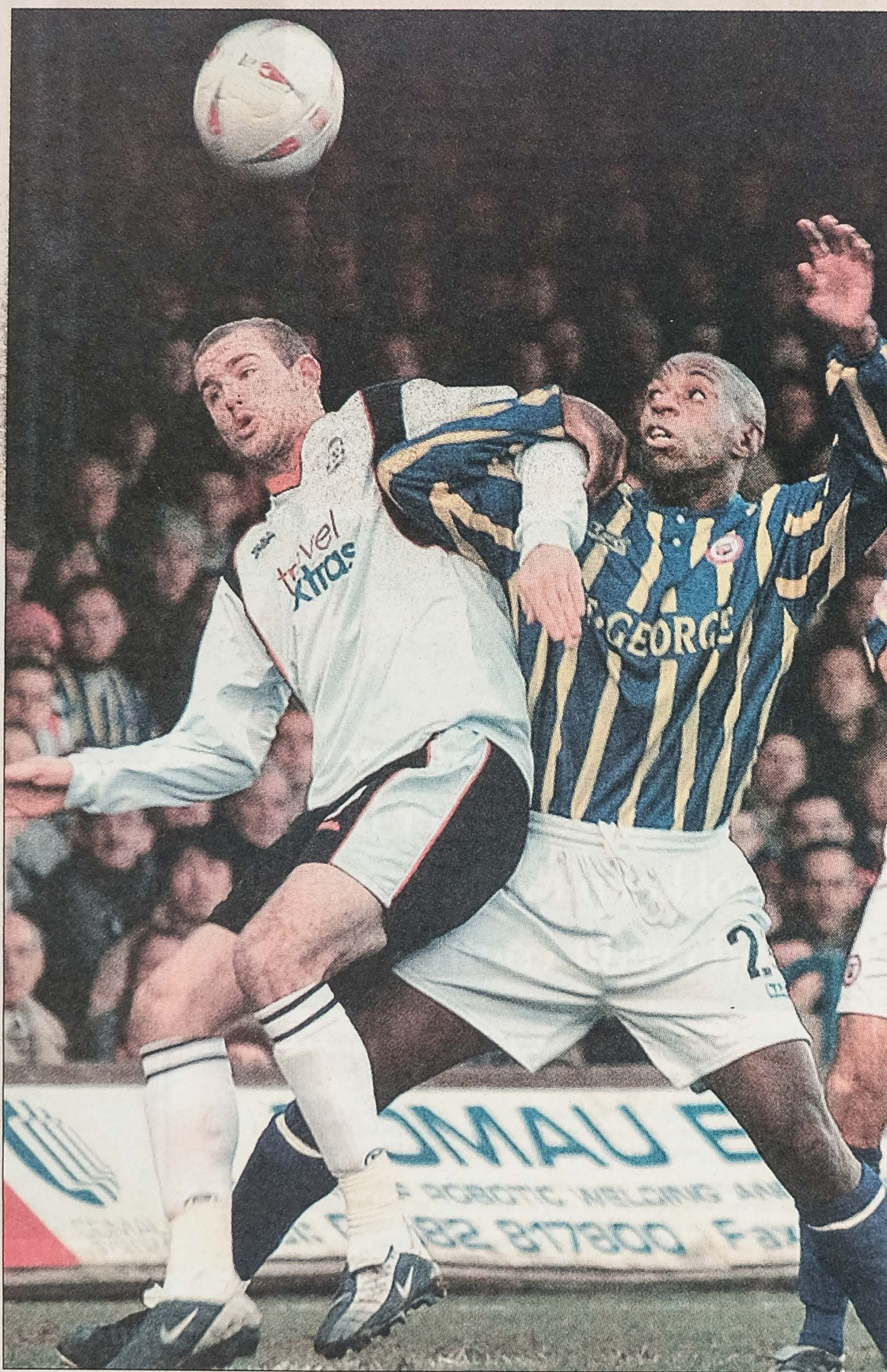
The row continued as the players left the pitch and to stoke things up a little more Brentford manager Martin 'Mad Dog' Allen worked the away support into a frenzy with his goading of the Kenilworth Road faithful.

Some of Brentford's away following were escorted out of the ground as this ill-tempered game seemed to be boiling over.

But back to the football... and still there was nothing to write home about.

Luton were in control but couldn't find a way past the Bees' stubborn defence. Robinson fizzed a long-range effort over the bar but that was about as close as Hatters came.

At the other end Brentford got their first



■ Action from yesterday's disappointing Cup defeat to Brentford.
Above: Rowan Vine goes for a header against his old club. Right: Paul Underwood holds off a challenge and (below right) Curtis Davis hurdles an attempted tackle

effort on target with a Deon Burton effort.

It was an indicator of Brentford's growing confidence and on 71 minutes they went ahead.

Curtis Davies, who has been in superb form this season, unfortunately made it two gaffes in a week. Last Saturday he headed past his own 'keeper and yesterday an untimely slip gave Brentford the advantage.

The centre-back was about to play the ball upfield when he fell and Rankin pounced.

The nippy forward cut inside but his shot was well saved by Beresford. Luton didn't clear their lines and the ball fell to Chris Hargreaves on the edge of the box whose

lob gave Beresford no chance.

Just seconds later Luton looked like they were heading in the right direction when Brkovic headed against the crossbar but it wasn't to be.

Staring elimination from the FA Cup, Newell threw on strikers Enoch Showunmi and Calvin Andrew to play four up front but still Luton couldn't breach the Bees' barricade.

To rub salt in the wounds two minutes from time Brentford doubled their lead through substitute Jay Tabb. May held the ball up on the halfway line and with Luton committed in attack the on-rushing Tabb had a free run to goal before coolly slotting past Beresford.



MATCH FACTS



Luton Town: Beresford, Foley, Coyne, Davies, Davis, Brkovic (Andrew 81m), Nicholls, Robinson (Showunmi 87), Underwood, Howard, Vine. Subs (not used): Seremet, Perrett, Holmes

Referee: Andy Marriner (Birmingham)

GOALSCORERS:

Luton: -
Brentford: Hargreaves 71m, Tabb 88m

SHOTS ON TARGET

Luton: 1
Brentford: 2

SHOTS OFF TARGET

Luton: 8
Brentford: 4

CORNERS

Luton: 6
Brentford: 0

OFFSIDE

Luton: 3
Brentford: 8

BOOKINGS

Luton: Davis 45m, Underwood 79m
Brentford: -

ATTENDANCE: 6,861

HATTERS STAR MAN:

CHRIS COYNE
Stirring display in the heart of defence

