

Champions winning style



Luton Town celebrate winning the Coca-Cola League One championship trophy

Luton 4
Brentford 2

04/05

ENOCH Showunmi scored a late winner for League One champions Luton — but Brentford's play-off hopes are not over yet despite a 4-2 defeat.

Brentford, who have a game in hand on their rivals, seemed to be heading for victory when Sam Sodje and Deon Burton cancelled out Ahmet Brkovic's early opener.

But Kevin Nicholls equalised from the penalty spot with six minutes remaining and in the closing stages substitute Showunmi popped up with the winner before Steve Robinson made sure from the edge of the area.

Luton took the lead in the fifth minute when Brkovic fired into the bottom corner from six-yards — his 16th goal of the season.

Stewart Talbot was denied a swift equaliser by a fine save from Luton keeper Marlon Beresford before Town

striker Steve Howard put an ambitious header wide.

Brentford levelled in the 21st minute when Sodje headed home John Salako's cross before Burton tucked home his 10th goal of the campaign from Michael Turner's delivery five minutes later.

Luton should have been back on level terms seven minutes before the break when Warren Feeney fired wide after Bees goalkeeper Stuart Nelson brilliantly parried Robinson's shot.

The post denied Nicholls an equaliser for the home side two minutes after the break and a fine save with his feet by Nelson prevented Howard from scoring 10 minutes into the second half.

Howard then hit the woodwork before Luton's late show.

Luton boss Mike Newell hailed his side's character.

Newell said: "It's nice to finish off in style. The lads were absolutely amazing in the second half and that sums up our season.

"I know what it means to the supporters and it was nice to beat Brentford. If a team ends up beating you three times in a season then there's something wrong, but the lads just wouldn't let it go.

"There's a feeling of relief now that the job has been done and the title has been won, but we've still got one game left and it would be nice to reach 100 points."

For Brentford, the defeat dented their play-off hopes but boss Martin Allan was gracious in defeat.

He said: "I don't fault my players for their dedication and commitment on the day, but Luton Town fully deserve to go up as champions and full credit to them."