

Barnett off

BRENTFORD 0 LUTONTOWN 3

Andy MacKenzie reports from Griffin Park

WARREN Feeney scored his first Luton goal of 2006 as Hatters disposed of League One Brentford to reach the third round of the Carling Cup.

Feeney's second-half strike followed Dean Morgan's second of the season early on and came before Rowan Vine's late third, while the Bees had manager Leroy Rosenior and substitute Chris Moore sent off in an ugly end to the game.

Town were also reduced to 10 men with two minutes remaining as Leon Barnett was red-carded for a professional foul on another substitute, Calum Willock.

But Hatters wrapped things up with Vine's injury time strike, his fourth of the season, to win the chance of a possible draw with the Premiership big boys in the next stage of the competition.

A much-changed Luton side lined up with just Marlon Beresford, Carlos Edwards and Leon Barnett remaining from the 11 that crashed 4-1 at league leaders Cardiff over the weekend.

Town's defensive frailties were shown by Edwards and Peter Holmes having to play out of position as full-backs.

And it was Holmes who created the first chance of the game in the sixth minute from left-back when his deep cross saw Ahmet Brkovic head straight at Stuart Nelson from 12 yards out.

Just seconds later, though, Holmes was caught out as John Mousinho played the ball down the Brentford right for Paul Brooker to cut back for Jo Kuffour, who smashed an eight yard shot at Beresford before Edwards completed the clearance.

The danger was not completely averted, however, and as the ball bobbled around the edge of the area Gavin Tomlin rifled in an 18-yard shot that bounced off the inside of the post across the area and away.

The home fans were lifted by the openings, but were soon hushed when Hatters took the lead in the 10th minute.

Keith Keane started the move by winning the ball in the centre of the park and playing square to David Bell, who threaded an inch perfect pass through the home defence for Morgan to run on to from the left and take a touch before sliding home left-footed from 15 yards.

The home side came back and Stephen O'Leary had to clear the danger after Bell had been robbed in midfield in the 17th minute before Barnett's quick challenge five minutes later blocked Tomlin's shot.

Striker Adam Boyd was making just his second start of the season after his



Referee: Clive Penton (Sussex)
Attendance: 3,005

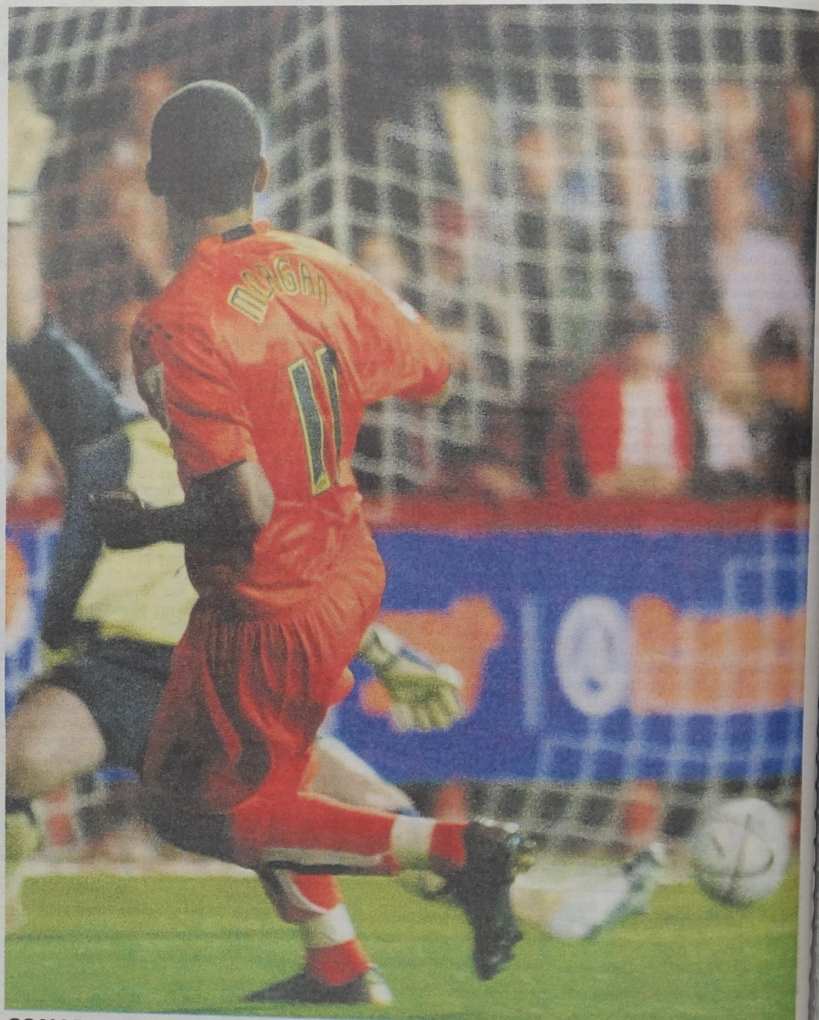
£500,000 move from Hartlepool, but his only real contribution to the opening period came in the 28th minute when he tamely scuffed wide from 25 yards after being teed-up by Warren Feeney.

Feeney was involved again five minutes on when he did well to collect Bell's raking pass from midfield before slipping the ball inside for Morgan to run across the edge of the area and fire at Nelson from 18 yards. Moments later Town breathed a sigh of relief when Edwards gifted the ball to Sam Tillen to cross from the left and after Barnett could only head clear, Simon Cox slammed his 20-yard shot just inches over the crossbar.

Hatters started the second-half brightly with Boyd's 20-yard snapshot testing Nelson and Keane heading a Bell corner just over. So it was no surprise when Town doubled their advantage in the 52nd minute when home centre-half Karleigh Osborne completely missed Brkovic's low centre, allowing Feeney to gleefully tap home from six yards for his first goal since a 3-0 home win over Brighton way back on December 28 last year.

The hosts responded by bringing on Calum Willock for Mousinho and threatened for a period, but it was Town who should have made it three in the 67th minute when Boyd's 12-yard shot was blocked on the line by Cox after Morgan's run and cross from the left.

The drama became all too much for Bees boss Rosenior, who was shown a straight red card two minutes later after venting his frustrations on the touchline.



GOAL! Dean Morgan slots home the Hatters' opening goal in last night's Carling Cup second round tie against Brentford at Griffin Park

Picture by Gareth Owen