

# Marching on

## DAG & RED 1 HATTERS 2 By Andy MacKenzie

07/08  
(FLC)

### LUTON TOWN



Unused subs: Perry, O'Leary, Brkovic

### DAGENHAM & RED



Unused subs: Thompson, Graham, Okuonghae

Referee: Mike Thorpe (Suffolk) Att: 1754

through on the break, only to fire wide with just Tony Roberts to beat. Brill was called into action again in the 40th minute with another brilliant block, this time from Glen Southam. However, two minutes later Luton took the lead when Talbot was bundled over in the box by Nurse and Spring stepped up to send former QPR man Roberts the wrong way from the spot.

Nurse went close for the hosts straight after the interval, but Town settled and grabbed a second in the 69th minute when Furlong found Talbot, who cut in from the right and hit a 22-yard effort that deflected over Roberts off Danny Foster.

But the Daggers set up a nervy finish as Chris Moore jinked into the box and crossed for substitute Stevens to prod home 17 minutes from time.

LUTON escaped a Carling Cup upset in the first ever professional game at Dagenham & Redbridge's Victoria Park last night.

Matthew Spring's 42nd minute penalty and Drew Talbot's second-half strike were enough to see off last season's Conference champions, who hit back late on through substitute Ben Stevens.

It was Town's second win in four days, but there was disappointment at yet another problem for injury-hit striker Sam Parkin, who was replaced in the first-half.

Hatters made six changes from the team that beat Hartlepool 2-1. In came Keith Keane, Lewis Emanuel, Dean Morgan, Parkin, Talbot and Don Hutchison.

The game kicked off in driving rain with Hutchison showing some neat touches in the middle of the park while the Football League new boys looked to hit lively front pair Chris Moore and Jon Nurse.

Dagenham were direct but Luton were more thoughtful and they fashioned the first opening in the 13th minute when Morgan's cross-field ball released Dave Edwards, who crossed for Parkin to hit a 12-yard shot which was deflected wide.

Hatters forced a series of corners, but the next chance did not arrive until the half-hour mark when Morgan blasted high and wide. Spectators were still waiting for the first attempt on target but they finally got some excitement as the game exploded to life in the 37th minute when Hatters had a miraculous escape.

Brill had to save instinctively from Dave Rainford's header after Sam Sloma's corner and after the ball was then smuggled off the line, Sloma's follow-up deflected off a Town defender, on to the bar and behind.

From the following corner Brill had to again superbly block from Rainford, then as Edwards cleared, Morgan ran clean



BATTLE STATIONS: Dave Edwards in the thick of the action for Hatters in last night's Carling Cup tie

Picture: GARETH OWEN