

Hats off to brilliant Bell

Luton 3 Gillingham 1

LUTON warmed up for their Carling Cup clash with Premiership Sunderland with a comfortable 3-1 win against Gillingham.

Town went ahead after 17 minutes when David Bell cut inside two men and brilliantly fired into the bottom left corner from 20 yards.

The Hatters should have doubled their lead three minutes later when Dave Edwards shot straight at Simon Royce, but instead, Gillingham levelled in the 22nd minute when Mark Bentley headed in Nicky Southall's corner.

Luton then regained the lead five minutes later when Paul Furlong netted his first for Town with a diving header.

They wrapped up the points when Bentley needlessly shoved over substitute Paul McVeigh in the box and Matthew Spring scored from the spot.

Luton manager Kevin Blackwell said: "It should have

07/06
been over by half-time really. After 35 or 40 minutes it could have been four or five.

"We worked the ball superbly and played some really good stuff. Overall I am very pleased with the performance, but I know we could still do a lot better.

"But what gave us the win were the front two — everything we did started from Furlong and Talbot.

"We worked hard in training on closing down higher up the pitch and in upping the tempo and they did that for us during the game."

Gillingham boss Ronnie Jepson said: "We never got out of the blocks but we weren't helped by having to make changes at the last minute.

"When you look at the size of Luton's squad compared to ours, we ended up with youth team players on the pitch at the end.

"We had people playing out of position but we can't use that as an excuse — the performance just wasn't good enough."