

# Hatters overcome Addicks

07/08 (CLC)

**Luton 3 Charlton 1**  
**(aet — 1-1 after 90 mins)**  
**By TOM ROSTANCE**

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MATTHEW Spring's bullet header and a tidy finish from Drew Talbot in extra time gave Kevin Blackwell's Luton side a superb win over Charlton.

Charlton boss Alan Pardew made 10 changes from the side which beat Leicester 2-0 last time out with central defender Madjid Bougherra the only player retaining his place.

But his patched-up side took just four minutes to open the scoring with the first attack of the match. Izale McLeod broke clear down the left and floated over a cross which was met by a powerful header from Bulgaria striker Svetoslav Todorov.

The ball squirmed through Hatters goalkeeper Dean Brill's legs and was turned in on a crowded goal line by Dean Sinclair.

McLeod should have doubled the lead on the half-hour mark when he was played clean through by Todorov but fired wastefully wide.

And minutes later Steve Robinson made the former MK Dons striker pay when he volleyed into the top corner after David Bell's corner was headed clear.

The home side started the second period brightly and after Spring saw his goalbound drive well blocked by Patrick McCarthy, veteran Paul Furlong went close after a solo run from the halfway line.

Darren Ambrose thought he had won it in stoppage time but the back-peddalling Brill managed to palm his looping header over from under the crossbar.

McLeod had the first chance of extra time but he curled the ball a yard wide of the far post.

And former Crewe striker Varney was left to curse his luck five minutes later when Brill somehow turned his venomous volley over the bar from point-blank range and the Hatters had the lead for the first time of the night seconds later in the 104th minute.

Substitute Darren Currie whipped in a great cross which Spring attacked with real purpose on the six-yard line to plant his header low beyond Darren Randolph.

And Talbot booked the Hatters' place in round four in the 117th minute when Bougherra slipped in possession 30 yards from goal to allow him a clear run on goal and he coolly slipped the ball under Randolph and in off the far post.