

Crowd takes its frustration out on Blackwell after players fail to inspire in dreary Cup clash

Andrew keeps Town's name in the hat... just

LUTON TOWN FC

FA CUP FIRST ROUND

LUTON 1

Andrew 79

BRENTFORD 1

Ide 20

TOM LEECH
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CALVIN ANDREW'S first goal of the season made sure Luton Town's name will be in the hat for the next round of the FA Cup despite a dreadful performance against League Two Brentford.

The Bees took a deserved lead in the first half through Charlie Ide and hung on until the 79th minute when early substitute Andrew lifted the pressure on manager Kevin Blackwell with a close-range finish.

Andrew ensured there will be a midweek replay at Griffin Park but it couldn't mask the fact that a side with ambitions of playing in the Championship were second best to a team from the division below for most of the game.

"They played well, especially in the first half," admitted Luton's assistant manager Sam Ellis. "But I felt we had chances, in the first and second half to win it.

"To come from behind and get something is always a pleasing result. We're still in the hat and we'd have settled for that at half time.

"The lads who came out second half did well to get us a result. It's better than not being in the hat."

There was just one change from the side that held league leaders Carlisle on Tuesday night. Paul Furlong passed a late fitness test to replace Andrew up front.

The decision to rush the 39-year-old back from a fortnight out with a hamstring injury seemed foolish when just five minutes in Furlong limped off to be swapped for the man he replaced.

"It looks like Paul was too anxious to come back, even at his age," said Ellis.

Luton's first chance of the half came from Andrew when the striker swung a lofted cross into the area for David Bell on 16 minutes. The winger took the ball down and teased the Brentford defence across the box, before finally shooting and forcing a firm save from Simon Brown in the Bees' goal.

They may be a division apart but Bell's effort aside it was Terry Butcher's Brentford who looked more likely to open the scoring and they did, four minutes later.

A cross from the left was headed into the path of Ide by strike partner Lee Thorpe. With his back to goal Ide hooked a shot over his head and over the flailing arm of Brill to give them a lead they deserved.

Luton's lone striker formation has



CUP ACTION: David Bell tries to make a break and, below, the Hatters' goalscorer Calvin Andrew

its limitations away from home but to continue to use it at Kenilworth Road was inexcusable – and dull. Crosses and balls were pumped into the box time and time again but there was little Andrew could do on his own surrounded by blue shirts.

David Edwards, who's charged with supporting the striker in an attacking midfield role, should have grabbed the equaliser on 27 minutes but missed a sitter.

Matthew Spring's low drive into the busy box was teed up for Edwards by Steve Robinson. There wasn't a defender in sight yet from almost the penalty spot Edwards sidefooted past the post to gasps of amazement from the crowd.

Edwards' punishment was to be subbed at half time for Drew Talbot who was described as 70 per cent fit before the game.

Seconds into the restart Luton had to make an enforced and final substitution when on-loan Jaroslav Fojut went off injured.

Left back Alan Goodall came on for the Bolton defender and Chris Perry was moved to his more familiar position of centre half.

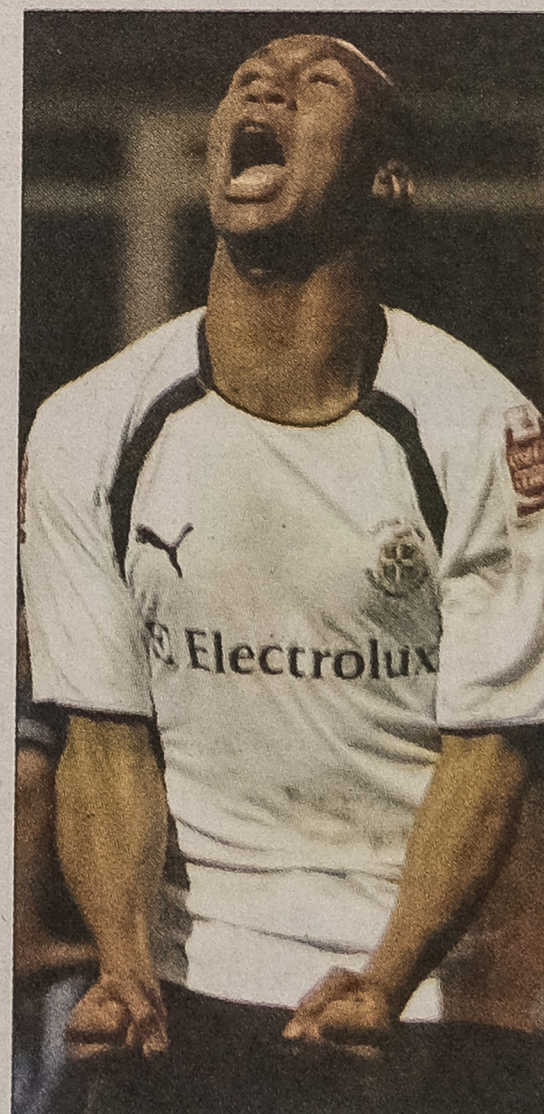
With two strikers on Hatters posed more of a threat although midway through the second half only a couple of long range strikes from Darren Currie gave Bees' goalkeeper Brown anything to worry about.

The crowd's frustrations were growing with every failed attack and a chorus of 'Blackwell out' grew louder as the game wore on.

Blackwell's players weren't helping him with an uninspiring display. It took 74 minutes to call Brown into action when the keeper had to block a near post Currie volley.

But 11 minutes from time Hatters got their act together and snatched a leveller through Andrew. The under-study took centre stage when he pounced from six yards to slide the ball in after Currie's drilled cross wasn't dealt with by the Bees' defence.

Three corners in a row deep into injury time could have given Luton an unlikely win. Talbot was inches from connecting with an over head kick and a header appeared to be handled by a Brentford player in the box but Premiership referee Andy D'Urso waved away any protests to confirm a replay.



stats corner

MAN OF THE MATCH



Darren Currie

Winger was best of a poor bunch

THE SQUAD

Brill; Perry, Coyne, Fojut (Goodall 47m), Jackson; Currie, Robinson, Spring, Edwards (Talbot 46m), Bell; Furlong (Andrew 5m). Subs: Hutchison, McVeigh

MATCH FACTS

SHOTS ON TARGET

LUTON 8

BRENTFORD 5

SHOTS OFF TARGET

LUTON 6

BRENTFORD 4

CORNERS

LUTON 8

BRENTFORD 2

OFFSIDE

LUTON 2

BRENTFORD 4

BOOKINGS

LUTON

Jackson 30, Coyne 80

BRENTFORD

Heywood 85

REFEREE

ANDY D'URSO (ESSEX)

ATTENDANCE

4,167

FOOTBALL LEAGUE ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlisle	15	8	4	3	23	11	28
Nottm Forest	15	7	6	2	25	9	27
Leyton O	15	8	3	4	23	24	27
Swansea	14	7	4	3	25	15	25
Southend	15	8	1	6	23	20	25
Brighton	15	7	3	5	19	14	24
Leeds	15	12	2	1	29	11	23
Tranmere	15	6	5	4	18	13	23
Doncaster	15	6	4	5	22	18	22
Swindon	14	5	5	4	22	15	20
Hartlepool	14	6	2	6	20	18	20
Walsall	15	5	5	5	17	17	20
Crewe	15	5	5	5	17	20	20
Huddersf'd	15	6	2	7	15	23	20
Northampton	15	5	4	6	19	20	19
Yeovil	15	5	4	6	12	16	19
Luton Town	15	5	3	7	18	20	18
Bristol R	15	3	7	5	15	20	16
Gillingham	15	4	4	7	14	28	16
Oldham	14	4	3	7	12	15	15
Millwall	15	3	4	8	13	23	13
Bournemouth	15	3	3	9	15	25	12
Port Vale	15	3	2	10	12	21	11
Cheltenham	15	2	5	8	12	24	11