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07/08 (FAC)

Defenders to the fore to seal cup replay win

BRENTFORD 0 HATTERS 2

Mark Wood reports
from Griffin Park

SKIPPER Chris Coyne did his best to help ease Hatters financial woes by heading the opening goal past Brentford to send Town on a potentially money-spinning FA Cup run.

And Polish centre-half Jaroslaw Fojut then weighed in with a second just after the hour as Hatters battled to victory and a second round tie against Nottingham Forest at Kenilworth Road.

In came Chris Perry, Don Hutchison – who played for less than half an hour before pulling up and being replaced by Darren Currie – and Drew Talbot for Keith Keane, Marc Wilson and Paul McVeigh, while there was a surprise place for fit-again striker Paul Furlong on the bench.

The game got off to a bitty start with free-kicks constantly breaking up the flow of the game.

But Luton should have taken the lead on 14 minutes when David Bell's curling cross somehow found its way through to Matthew Spring at the far post.

Having taken a touch with his chest Spring was left with only Clark Masters to beat, but he hit his shot into the floor and the grounded keeper somehow managed to turn it around the post.

Glenn Poole's 30 yard drive whizzed over Dean Brill's bar four minutes later, but both sides were



Picture by Gareth Owen

SKIPPER SCORES: Captain Chris Coyne's header from a Currie corner leaves Brentford keeper Clark Masters stranded and puts Hatters in the lead

STAR HATTER: Jaroslaw Fojut. A clean sheet and a goal, what more can you ask?

Referee: D Drysdale Attendance: 2,643 (350 Luton)

lacking the composure to carve out any clear cut chances.

Calvin Andrew, brimming with confidence having hit two goals in three games, made a forceful run on

29 minutes, holding off the attentions of Darius Charles before firing well over from 20 yards.

A mazy run from Bell on 33 minutes took him past several players and he deserved better than to see his stinging effort deflected behind for a corner.

Luton grabbed the lead with nine minutes of the half left when Coyne challenged for Darren Currie's dangerous corner and saw his header hit the net.

But the hosts responded immediately with Sammy Moore's long-range effort dipping just too late and Thorpe's close-range header forcing a decent stop from Brill.

Hatters could have made it 2-0 in the third minute of injury time when Bell created room with a clever turn and picked out Talbot with his cross, but the striker could only direct his header straight at Poole.

The Bees went straight for the jugular after the break and only

Brill's legs kept out Glenn Poole's rasping drive.

Moments later Poole fired a dangerous free-kick just over the bar, although a fingertip of the flying Brill may well have helped the ball on its way.

Having weathered the Brentford storm Luton made it 2-0 on 61 minutes. Bell headed a corner back into the box and the ball was only cleared as far as Fojut whose shot into the ground looped over the despairing dive of Masters.

Currie whipped in a free kick on 74 minutes which almost brought goal number three, but the sliding Coyne could not quite connect at the far post.

With 11 minutes left Drew Talbot was terribly unlucky not to endorse his claims for a regular starting spot with a goal.

After good hassling by Currie, Bell burst down the right, beat his man, and pulled the ball back for Talbot,

but the striker's calm finish rebounded off the left-hand upright and away.

Changes to Luton's personnel meant Chris Perry had to be pushed into central midfield and he got right into the role on 91 minutes when his firm strike from the edge of the box forced Masters to make a save.

BRENTFORD



Unused subs: Brown, Oyeberjo

LUTON TOWN



Unused subs: Goodall, Furlong