



Northampton Town2
Luton Town1

Sixfields, Sat, April 5, 2008
Att: 5,132 Away fans: 846

Line-ups and ratings

Cobblers (4-3-3)
Mark Bunn – made some good saves in the swirling wind
Jason Crowe – kept Emanuel and then McVeigh pretty quiet
Mark Little – more excellence from a player who will be sorely missed
Liam Dolman – late jinking run was one of the big highlights of the day
Daniel Jones – cracking ball in for the second goal and tackled well
Alex Dyer – steady display from the youngster who is really one to watch
Giles Coke – was the midfield man most willing to carry the fight
Danny Jackman – made some timely interceptions and passing was good
Poul Hubertz – was fouled and scored the penalty on a bright display
Adebayo Akinfenwa – physical play penalised far too frequently
Andy Holt – had a couple of good moments but no real impact

Substitutes

Hayes (for Dyer, 66mins)5
Burnell (for Coke, 77mins)5
Henderson (for Akinfenwa, 82mins)5
Subs not used: Dunn, Dolg

Luton

Brill, Hutchison, Parkin, O'Leary, Emanuel, Andrew, Keane, Spring, Davis (56m, Currie), McVeigh, Asafu-Adjaye. Subs not used: Goodall, Robinson, Beresford, Beavan.



Poul Hubertz

Goals

33mins: Hubertz – slammed penalty
41mins: Dyer – headed in Jones cross
90mins: Parkin – tapped home rebound

In the book

42mins: Coke – dangerous play
69mins: O'Leary – diving
90+2mins: Hubertz – dissent

Referee

Kevin Friend – not a Bayo fan6

Match stats

	Cobblers	Hatters
Shots on	8	11
Shots off	4	8
Blocked	2	3
Corners	5	4
Fouls	14	10
Offside	3	4

Fans vote

Vote for your player of year

THE end of the season is nigh – and you can have your say over who has been the Cobblers player of the season.

The Chron is currently collecting votes from supporters for the player of the year – and if you haven't voted yet there's still time.

Either email the name of your choice to fans@northantsnews.co.uk or go to our website www.northamptonchron.co.uk and click on the player of your choice.

Have your say – this is your chance to recognise your star player of the season!

Dyer's Town boost

Debut strike as Cobblers keep their hopes alive

Jefferson Lake on
Cobblers 2
Luton Town 1



STUCK IN THE MIDDLE – Sam Parkin, who spent a season on loan at the Cobblers from Chelsea, is sandwiched as he tries to help Luton attack at Sixfields on Saturday

EXCEPT for the weather, this match had all the components of a classic end-of-season dead rubber.

In conditions more suited to a time of the season when teams hopes are still high, Poul Hubertz and Alex Dyer hammered a nail in the lid of Luton Town's league one coffin.

Two goals for former Sixfields loanee Lee Barnard in Southend colours at Crewe give the Hatters a stay of execution.

So while the home side did chalk up a modicum of revenge for the ill-tempered 4-1 defeat at Kenilworth Road earlier in the season, they did not send their opponents down.

The scorers will both retain fond memories of this game; Hubertz because he won and confidently converted a penalty and Dyer because it was his first goal in senior football.

It is perhaps just as well Dyer was withdrawn before he had a chance to lay claim to the man-of-the-match bubbly.

At 17, the midfielder would have either had to pass it on or let it mature until next season. Neither of the men on the scoresheet, though, was really in the frame for the award.

Mark Little was, and there will be romantics among the Cobblers faithful who will have named him as such in their private polls on his final appearance for the club.

The side's supporters are right to get misty-eyed about Little – he is a fantastic talent and one who could have a massive future in the game. But for all his attributes, even Little was outdone on Saturday, and by a man who shares his Christian name.

Mark Bunn had a night to forget in Bedfordshire six months ago, conceding four and falling victim to some entirely unnecessary games-

manship from a certain Luton midfielder.

The ghost of that game was exorcised here – Bunn made three great stops in tricky, windy conditions.

The best of the bunch was the one which got the loudest cheer – a firm wrist on Matthew Spring's dipping shot from long range.

When asked about his display, Bunn adopted a modest stance, and when asked about Spring, the goalkeeper said: "I didn't speak to him in the game. I don't really know him to be honest and we just stayed away from each other."

And he added: "I don't think we're happy with our overall performance but we got the three points so that's the main thing."

"I made a few good saves and they turned out to be crucial so I'm pleased to have played my part."

Bunn's role in the game began on 15 minutes when Calvin Andrew found space for a distance shot that had plenty of power but no direction – at least it will have warmed the keeper's hands on a bitterly cold afternoon.

Star man

Mark Bunn

Unlucky not to get a clean sheet in difficult conditions



ond half and on another day I think we could have turned it around and won the game.

"Everyone is very disappointed that we have lost the game but we can take a lot of satisfaction out of the second half performance."

Luton Manager Mick Harford: "We had 11 players on the pitch today who didn't deserve to be on the losing side. We are very disappointed."

"Today we must have created 20 chances and their goalkeeper is man of the match. "I thought we controlled the game from start to finish. We set our team out and dominated."

Luton Striker Sam Parkin: "I think we had the better of the sec-

touches and that allowed them to get on the front foot."

Mark Bunn: "We played quite well in the first half but then in the second half it was quite difficult because of the wind."

"But we got the win and that's the main thing."

"They beat us twice at their place and it was a nice feeling to get a win against them."

"It makes it quite sweet for me but what happened at theirs wasn't a big issue, it's just what happens on a football pitch. I put it to the back of my mind."

Mark Little: "I thought at the

Big match reaction

Stuart Gray: "The pleasing thing was we didn't play particularly well but we still came away with the three points."

"The conditions were pretty dreadful but we never got the ball down and played."

"Mark Bunn made some good saves and he kept us in it at times. "Because we could play higher up the pitch in the first half we were able to get the ball into Bayos feet and play from there."

"With the wind we weren't able to do that. Bunn was taking goal kicks and they were going about 25 yards."

"We didn't really adapt to that very well, we were taking extra



GOODBYE – Mark Little says his farewell after his loan spell expires



WELL DONE – Alex Dyer is congratulated on his goal for the Cobblers on Saturday PICTURES: PETE NORTON