

Town spot on

Hatters hold their nerve as penalties settle cup tie

**Hatters 2 Brentford 2
(Hatters win 4-3 on penalties)**

SKIPPER for the night Rossi Jarvis sealed a dramatic penalty shootout win for Luton at Kenilworth Road last night, writes **Mark Wood**.

Keeper Conrad Logan produced two fantastic penalty saves before Jarvis swept home the decisive spot-kick to cap a fine fightback from the Hatters.

Luton had earlier handed the Bees a two-goal advantage with some more calamitous defending.

However, goals either side of half time from Chris Martin made sure that the game would go to penalties.

The Hatters made three changes to the side that drew 1-1 at Bradford City on Saturday. Captain Keith Keane was rested, while Sol Davis and Lewis Emanuel were both missing through injury.

That meant a first senior start for 17-year-old left-back Jake Howells and a debut for Garreth O'Connor, while Ryan Charles partnered Chris Martin in attack. Jarvis also took the skipper's armband for the first time.

Unfamiliar Luton got off to a slow start, with the visitors enjoying most of the possession until Ed Asafu-Adjaye whipped in a promising cross on nine minutes that went unrewarded.

Town then went close on several occasions in the space of a few seconds on 12 minutes.

Jarvis' free-kick caused havoc in Brentford's box and, after Asa Hall's first effort was spilled by keeper Ben Hamer, Martin was just unable to force the ball home. Michael Spillane and Hall also went close but the Hat-



ON TARGET: Chris Martin meets Ed Asafu-Adjaye's cross to score the Hatters' opening goal

Picture by Jane Russell

ters couldn't find the target.

O'Connor then should have given Luton the lead two minutes later. The debutant jinked his way past two players but with only Hamer to beat he curled his effort from 10 yards out over the bar.

But Brentford grabbed the lead out of the blue with their first shot of the game on 18 minutes. Glenn Poole took a touch 25 yards out before Glenn Poole unleashed a beautiful strike that streaked past the despairing dive of Conrad Logan.

Martin and Jarvis then combined wonderfully on 24 minutes and, though Hamer spilled the captain's effort, the visitors were able to clear the danger.

And the hosts went close again just after the hour when Spillane's searching ball picked out O'Connor in the box.

The winger took a good touch before putting in an exquisite cross for Hall, but the rangy midfielder's header skimmed the top of the bar

on its way over.

Hall went close again on 35 minutes when Hamer got nowhere near Jarvis' free-kick, but his glancing header ran wide.

However, just when it looked like Town might find a way back into the game they dropped another clanger at the back.

Spillane tried to be too cute on the edge of his own box and was easily dispossessed by Marvin Williams, who raced clear, rounded Logan, and netted his first goal for Brentford.

The Hatters refused to give up and grabbed themselves a lifeline with six minutes of the half left. Asafu-Adjaye put in a great raking cross from the right and Martin rose at the far post to head into the bottom right-hand corner.

Now on their game, Luton pushed for an equaliser.

A Claude Gnaka piledriver

forced a good near post stop from Hamer, while the Brentford stopper denied Hall another headed goal seconds later.

And Town levelled the scores 10 minutes into the second half with another well-taken goal by Martin. O'Connor whipped in a decent cross from the left and the on-loan Norwich City striker looped home his front post header.

Logan then produced a fantastic save on the hour to maintain parity after Gnaka had given away a silly free-kick on the edge of the area.

Josh Wright curled a great effort over the wall, but Logan produced a great fingertip save to turn the ball over the bar.

Town went close again two minutes later when Hamer was just able to turn Jarvis' dangerous cross round the post with Martin lurking at the far post.

At the other end Logan produced

LUTON TOWN



Unused subs: Brill, Roper

BRENTFORD



Unused subs: Bennett, Franks, Brown

Referee: J. Williamson

Attendance: 2,029 (286 Brentford)

another great stop to deny Mark Phillips on 66 minutes.

The centre-half's header looked destined for the bottom corner, only for the Luton stopper to produce a great full-stretch save low to his left.

Scott Sinclair then replaced Charles on 72 minutes to make his first team bow.

Jarvis should have given Town the lead for the first time with 15 minutes left on the clock when another O'Connor cross picked him out, but the midfielder's flick ran agonisingly wide.

And Martin was inches away from sealing his hat-trick and the tie on 82 minutes. Harry Worley's ball over the top was squared by Jarvis, but Martin could only find the side netting.

Moses Ademola fired a weak effort straight at Logan with four minutes left, while substitute Sam Wood headed Hall's header off the line in the fourth minute of injury time to ensure the game would go to penalties.

The shootout took place at the Kenilworth Road end and, even though Worley blasted his penalty well over the bar Logan produced two great stops from Wright and Craig Peadar and, with Paul McVeigh, Hall, Martin and Jarvis all netting from the spot, Luton claimed a well-deserved victory.

STAR HATTER

Chris Martin. Fine finishing from the frontman