

WHAT MICK MADE OF IT



GRAVEN-FACED Hatters boss Mick Harford was incandescent at referee Andy Penn after seeing his Hatters side crash out of the FA Cup at the second round stage at Roots Hall on Saturday.

Harford was fuming at the way the West Midlands official failed to acknowledge the decision of his assistant linesman Marvin Thompson in the lead up to the Shrimpers' first goal.

He said: "The linesman flagged for a foul on our player and the referee decided to ignore him for whatever reason."

"They talk about communication between referees and linesmen and referees and managers but that's just a blatant obstruction of not abiding to the rules in my opinion."

"We felt we were coping with them no problem and playing the better football, but that was the turning point."

Harford also admitted that he was distraught that Town are now out of the cup, especially after they had hauled themselves back on to level terms.

He said: "We are disappointed to be going out of the FA Cup. You know how we feel about that because, for varying reasons, we wanted to be in the next round."

"We got back to one each and maybe through a bit of naivety we let them have too much space in midfield and didn't have enough to see it out."

"We got done with a sucker punch for the third, but it was the second goal that disappointed me."

Harford revealed that striker Drew Talbot was ruled out of the encounter with a slight hamstring injury, while Ian Roper was substituted after twisting an ankle.

However, he was pleased with the return of both George Beavan and Lewis Emanuel to action.

He added: "I was delighted to see George and Lewis back in action, although slightly earlier than we wanted to."

"Some minutes on the pitch will help us and make them stronger."

Shrimpers boss Steve Tilson, though, had no qualms about his side's first goal or the result.

He said: "It was a comfortable win and it should have been more comfortable than it was."

"The linesman did put his flag up. For what he put his flag up, I don't know."

"The referee was 10 yards away and didn't see anything, so I couldn't see what he's putting his flag up for."

"For whatever reason the referee and him didn't communicate."

# Bizarre assistance is costly for Hatters

Southend 3 Luton Town 1

HATTERS have sought clarification from the FA regarding the fielding of players who are under 16 after Femi Orenuja appeared for Southend in the second round of the FA Cup on Saturday, writes Mark Wood.

The 15-year-old made a late appearance as a substitute in the home side's 3-1 victory and, although he made little difference to the outcome, the visitors felt aggrieved that they had been denied the opportunity to name Jean-Philip Yamfam in their squad for the first round clash with Altrincham.

Hatters have written to Soho Square in search of an explanation and expect to hear a response today (Wednesday).

Despite this, Southend, aided by some bizarre officiating, were worthy winners at Roots Hall as they made their higher division status pay.

A virtuoso performance from on-loan West Ham winger Junior Stanislas inspired the Shrimpers to victory, but in truth, it was an FA Cup tie filled with incident.

Linesman Thompson had a hand in both Stanislas' first goal and Michael Spillane's equaliser, but United upped a couple of gears to ease home as the Hatters missed out on a potentially money-spinning third round tie at Stamford Bridge.

Southend got off to a lively start and almost took the lead after just two minutes. Alex Revell found space in the box and his drive across the face of the goal was just turned round the post by Conrad Logan.

The hosts went close again in 12 minutes following a foul from Ian Roper. Stanislas stepped up to take the free-kick and his curling effort rustled the side netting with Logan beaten.

Town were happy enough soaking up the pressure and looking to hit their hosts on the break. Loan striker Chris Martin warmed Steve Mildenhall's gloves with a low drive on 20 minutes, while a minute later, Paul McVeigh's 35-yard effort was easily



GET THINGS STARTED: Kevin Watson propels the ball forward as Luton go on the attack during the 3-1 FA Cup defeat at Roots Hall on Saturday

saved after Ian Roper's header had sent the Irishman into space.

United though, boasting plenty of pace in their line-up, always looked dangerous and, on 28 minutes, they went close again. Kevin Betsy's through ball set Revell clear again, but the striker's effort from a narrow angle was beaten away by Logan.

Seconds later, Spillane saved the Hatters' bacon. Simon Francis led the United break and the ball eventually fell to Francis Laurent, but the Frenchman's effort was excellently blocked by the Luton centre-half.

And the hosts took the lead with a hugely contentious refereeing decision on 34 minutes. Betsy raced clear

and tangled with Spillane and Roper, causing the linesman to raise his flag.

Roper was then penalised and booked for a foul in the ensuing action - only for linesman Thompson to continue flagging before ceasing his signals before speaking to referee Penn.

From the resulting free-kick, Stanislas curled home an excellent 25-yard effort home into the bottom right-hand corner.

With seven minutes of the half left, both sides went close. Ravell could only poke Betsy's pull-back wide of the mark, while Jake Howells slashed an effort well wide when well-placed on the edge of the area.

In the closing stages of the half,

**STAR HATTER** Conrad Logan. A couple of fine saves kept Town in it

## All over by Christmas? The 2008/09 season so far...

AUG	Opponents	Score	Scorers	Att	Pos
Sat 9	PORT VALE	1-3	Parkin 35	7,149	24
Tue 12	PLYMOUTH (LIGCP)	2-0	Jarvis 15, Plummer 77	2,682	-
Sat 16	Gillingham	1-0	Parkin 3	5,339	24
Sat 23	NOTTS COUNTY	1-1	Martin 49	6,085	24
Tue 26	Reading (LIGCP)	1-5	Charles 81	7,498	-
Sat 30	Exeter City	1-0	Parkin 47	5,328	24
SEP					
Sat 6	Macclesfield	1-2	Charles 90	2,349	24
Sat 13	ALDERSHOT TN	3-1	Spillane 17, Hall 89, Martin 90	6,462	24
Sat 20	Rotherham	0-1		4,095	24
Sat 27	CHESTER CITY	1-1	Hall 41	5,731	24
OCT					
Sat 4	Bradford City	1-1	Spillane 86	13,083	24
Tue 7	BRENTFORD (JP2)	2-2	Martin 39, 55 (won 4-3 on pens)	2,029	-
Sat 11	DARLINGTON	1-2	Gnakpa 31	5,560	24
Sat 18	ACCRINGTON	1-2	Hall 34	5,492	24
Tue 21	Grimsby Town	2-2	Craddock 24, 90	4,021	24
Sat 25	Bury	2-1	Craddock 35, Roper 44	3,052	24
Tue 28	BOURNEMOUTH		ABANDONED DUE TO SNOW		
NOV					
Sat 1	Shrewsbury	0-3		6,188	24
Tue 4	Walsall (JP3)	1-0	Jarvis 90	2,029	-
Sat 8	ALTRINCHAM (FA1)	0-0		3,200	-
Sat 15	DAGENHAM & RED	2-1	Davis 6, McVeigh 41	5,402	24
Tue 18	Altrincham (FA1R)	0-0	(Luton won 4-2 on penalties)	2,397	-
Sat 22	Rochdale	0-2		2,901	24
Tue 25	BRENTFORD	0-1		4,111	-
Sat 29	Southend (FA2)	1-3	Spillane 80		
DEC					
Tues 2	BOURNEMOUTH	3-3	og 18, Gallen 56, McVeigh 83	6,773	24
Sat 6	BARNET				

DEC	Opponents	Score	Scorers	Att	Pos
Sat 13	Wycombe				
Tue 16	COLCHESTER (JP4)				
Sat 20	MORECAMBE				
Fri 26	Chesterfield				
Sun 28	LINCOLN CITY				
JAN					
Sat 3	Chester City				
Sat 10	ROTHERHAM				
Sat 17	Darlington				
Sat 24	BRADFORD CITY				
Tue 27	Bournemouth				
Sat 31	BURY				
FEB					
Tue 3	GRIMSBY TOWN				
Sat 7	Accrington				
Sat 14	Dagenham & Red				
Sat 21	SHREWSBURY				
Sat 28	Port Vale				
MAR					
Tue 3	GILLINGHAM				
Sat 7	EXETER CITY				
Tue 10	Notts County				
Sat 14	Aldershot Town				
Sat 21	MACCLESFIELD				
Sat 28	Morecambe				
APR					
Sat 4	WYCOMBE				
Sat 11	Lincoln City				
Mon 13	CHESTERFIELD				
Sat 18	Barnet				
Sat 25	ROCHDALE				