

Mick's sick at his frustrating finale

Brentford 2 Luton Town 0

LOWLY Luton limped to the end of the season and out of the Football League with defeat – much to the disappointment of departing defender Michael Spillane, writes Mark Wood.

The 20-year-old, who has been on a season-long loan at Kenilworth Road from Norwich City, admitted it was a bad way to sign off his Hatters career. Champions Brentford failed to live up to the pre-match fireworks but did just find the spark to see off rock-bottom Hatters.

Substitute Karleigh Osborne's late header and Adam Newton's last-minute curler snatched all three points for the Bees as Luton's 89-year stay in the Football League fizzled out.

Spillane said: "It was frustrating. We know we weren't at our best today. The pitch didn't really help us. We couldn't get it down and pass it."

"It was not a good game. It's a shame that it's my last game and I didn't enjoy it much."

The Brentford fans were really loud, but the Luton fans were unbelievable considering we had been relegated. I heard them throughout the match and even when we went behind I heard them singing.

But he admitted he would be loath to wish his time at the Hatters and would look out for their results in the future.

Spillane added: "We've had lots of highs and lots of lows. But the highs have outweighed the lows and I've had a really good season."

"Obviously Luton is my team now and I support them. I will keep looking for their results when I come in the dressing room and hope they go up."

Valiant Town battled hard, but rarely threatened against Brentford who gorged themselves on possession without creating too many clear cut



TOUGH TIMES: Striker Tom Craddock struggles to retain possession, left, and Michael Spillane plays his last game for the Hatters, above

his last game for the club, pirouetted on the edge of the box before lashing well off target.

However, Brentford's pressure paid off with 17 minutes left when two of their substitutes combined.

Town were harshly penalised on the edge of their own box and Osborne rose highest in a crowded six-yard box to power home Glenn Poole's free-kick.

Luton responded by registering their only effort on target, but George Pilkington's header from Jake Howells' corner was straight at Ben Hamer.

And in the very last minute, the Bees put the icing on their victory party. Hunt slipped Town's offside trap as he raced down the left and squared for Newton.

The winger's first touch looked to have let him down, but he kept his cool to find space on the edge of the box before curling home his effort.

Spillane hammered a late chance into the side netting, before Brentford's euphoric fans surged on to the Griffin Park pitch just before the referee's final whistle, and it took dozens of police and six horses to regain control as the Bees revelled in their title celebrations.

chances.

The Hatters named an unchanged team and formation from the side that drew 1-1 with Rochdale last Saturday.

Set-piece maestro David Hunt's long throws caused Luton plenty of problems, but it was not until the 32nd minute that Sam Wood finally tested Dean Brill when he let fly from 25 yards, but his swerving effort was well held by the Luton stopper.

Brill then had to be at his best moments later when a crisp Bees move should probably have ended in a goal.

Some lovely passing put Ryan Dickson away down the left and his

unselfish square ball found Billy Clarke, whose first effort forced a great low stop from Brill.

A fierce effort from Chris Martin was blocked on the edge of the area on 38 minutes, but in truth Brentford had bossed virtually the whole first half.

Sam Williams should have done better just before the break when Wood's through ball went straight through Keith Keane, but Town's defenders got back in numbers to clear the danger.

Hatters finally managed their first real effort of the game on 65 minutes when top scorer Martin, also playing

STAR HATTER Dean Brill. Fine one-handed stop kept Town in it.



MOURNING Luton Town boss Mick Harford marked Hatters' sad passage out of the Football League by donning a black tie.

Big Mick was left to lament two more silly goals that gifted the Bees victory, as his team failed to spoil Brentford's championship party as they ended their 89-year stay in the Football League with defeat.

He said: "It's a dark day. I've got a dark tie on today to typify that. It's a horrible feeling. I'm glad it's all over. Since we've been relegated I've been waiting for the end of the season to come."

"It's a bit of closure really. When a club is on a downward spiral it's difficult to stop it. We've reached the bottom now. It's paramount we get back in the Football League asap."

However, Harford admitted the challenge of the Conference, which is filled with former pros, will be far from easy.

He said: "We've had our day in the sun at Wembley and I've said to the players we will have more in the future. We've got players to come back into the team. It's a competitive league and a tough league and we will have to be at our best every week. Everyone will want to beat Luton – they are the big team in that league. Jake Howells has come back again and looked fit and healthy and Ryan Clarke looked lively."

And he had left to rue Luton giving away two silly goals that handed the Bees victory.

Harford admitted his side were limited to "hardly anything" by Brentford in the first half, saying: "It's a difficult situation when there is a lot of euphoria."

"There was nothing in the game and neither keeper had much to do. They were better than us in the first half, but we got to grips with it in the second."

"If we hadn't conceded the first goal I think it would have petered out to 0-0. It was a set piece that decided it. It was taken 10 yards further forward than it should have been. But that's the story of our season, giving away silly goals. But congratulations to Brentford, they are worthy winners."

Free agent Morgan wants Orient deal

HATTERS: Out of contract Luton Town winger Dean Morgan wants to make his loan switch to Leyton Orient permanent this summer.

The 25-year-old attacker has spent most of the season on loan at Brisbane Road, scoring five times in 34 games. Morgan said: "Of course I'd like to stay, especially now that Gerard Williams is staying."

"I've known him since I was 14, because he was at Colchester when I was a kid, so if he wants to keep me and they can keep me, I'll definitely consider it. My contract's finished with Luton now so I'm a free agent. We'll see what happens."

Never off the bottom – the story of Town's 2008/09 season

AUG	Opponents	Score	Scorers	Att	Pos
Sat 9	PORT VALE	1-3	Parkin 35	7,149	24
Tue 12	PLYMOUTH (LGCP)	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 (LGCP)	1-5	Charles 81	7,498	-
Sat 30	Exeter City	1-0	Parkin 4	5,328	24
OCT					
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
Sat 26	Grimsby Town	2-2	Craddock 24, 90	4,021	24
Tue 29	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
Sat 4	Walsall (JP3)	1-0	Jarvis 90	1,844	24
Sat 8	ALTRINCHAM (FA1)	0-0		3,200	-
Sat 15	DAGENHAM & RED	2-1	David 6, McVeigh 41	5,402	24
Tue 18	Altrincham (FA1R)	0-0	(Luton won 4-2 on penalties)	2,397	24
Sat 22	Rochdale	0-2		2,901	24
Tue 25	BRENTFORD	0-1		5,248	24
Sat 29	Southend (FA2)	1-3	Spillane 80	4,111	-
DEC					
Tue 2	BOURNEMOUTH	3-3	OG 18, Gallen 56, McVeigh 83	6,773	24
Sat 6	BARNET	3-1	McVeigh 11, Martin 15, OG 88	5,636	24
Sat 13	Wycombe	0-0		5,567	24
Tue 16	COLCHESTER (JP4)	1-0	Gnakpa 30	2,638	-
Sat 20	MORECAMBE	1-1	Spillane 51	5,664	24
DEC					
Sun 2	Brentford	0-2		10,223	24
DEC					
Fri 26	Chesham	2-2	Craddock 56, Roper 90	4,243	24
Sun 28	LINCOLN CITY	3-2	Martin 31, 33, Roper 50	6,843	24
JAN					
Tue 13	Chester City	2-2	Martin 22, Emanuel 27	1,652	24
Sat 17	Darlington	1-5	Martin 30	3,319	24
Sat 24	BRIGHTON (JP5F1)	0-0		6,127	24
Sat 24	BRADFORD CITY	3-3	Hall 5, 90, Wasil 37	6,053	24
Tue 27	Bournemouth	1-1	Hollands og 11	5,230	24
Sat 31	BURY	1-2	Hall 39	5,545	24
FEB					
Sat 14	Dagenham & Red	1-2	Henderson 58	2,310	24
Tue 17	BRIGHTON (JP5F2)	1-1	Craddock 2 (won 4-3 on pens)	8,711	-
Sat 21	SHREWSBURY	0-0	Craddock 15, Parkin 35, Hall 73	5,661	24
Sat 28	Accrington	0-0		1,033	24
Sat 28	Port Vale	3-1	Hall 43, Gallen 52, Martin 63	5,689	24
MAR					
Sat 3	GILLINGHAM	0-0		5,739	24
Sat 7	EXETER CITY	1-2	Craddock 39	4,460	24
Tue 10	Notts County	2-0	Martin 25, Craddock 45	2,886	24
Sat 14	Aldershot Town	1-2	Craddock 35	3,098	24
Tue 17	GRIMSBY TOWN	2-1	Bower 45+2, Hall 89	5,630	24
Sat 21	MACCLESFIELD	1-0	Craddock 69	5,363	24
Sat 28	Morecambe	2-1	Martin 43, Gallen 59	2,599	24
Sat 31	ROTHERHAM	2-4	Martin 42, Hall 70	5,975	24
APR					
Sun 5	SCUNTHORPE (JP1)	3-2	Martin 32, Craddock 70, Gnakpa 95	55,378	-
Sat 11	Lincoln City	0-0		4,464	24
Mon 13	CHESTERFIELD	1-1	Jarvis 49	2,808	24
Sat 18	Barnet	0-1		6,553	24
Tue 21	WYCOMBE	0-1	Craddock 32	7,025	24
Sat 25	ROCHDALE	1-1			
MAY					
Sat 2	Brentford	0-2		10,223	24