



TALKING POINT

Anthony Tonkin and Robbie Willmott will miss Saturday's FA Cup, second-round tie at home to York after collecting their fifth bookings

FALL AND RISE: Danny Crow is fouled in the penalty area in injury time, above left, and steps up to score the resulting penalty, right, to clinch a draw

Pictures: Gordon McMillan (CP)

Luton Tn
Gnakpa 60 min,
Craddock 79

Cambridge Utd 2
Crow 81, 90+2 (pen)

Attendance: 7,458 (away 711)

CAMBRIDGE UNITED

Danny **POTTER** 6
Rory **McAULEY** 6
Anthony **TONKIN** 6
Brian **SAAH** ★ 7
Wayne **HATSWELL** 6
Jai **REASON** 7
Paul **CARDEN** 6
Andy **PARKINSON** 5
Robbie **WILLMOTT** 6
Chris **HOLROYD** 5
Lee **PHILLIPS** 6
Substitutes: Pitt (for Parkinson, 75 min), Crow (Phillips, 75). Not used: Walker, Coulson, Ives.

LUTON

K Pilkington, Asafu-Adjaye, Blackett, Keane, Murray, G Pilkington, Newton (Howells, 87), Nicholls, Gnakpa, Craddock, Gallen.
Not used: Gore, Burgess, Jarvis, Charles.
Referee: M Naylor
Booked: Luton - Keane (foul) 16, United - Carden (foul) 17, Tonkin (foul) 39, Willmott (foul) 74.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oxford Utd	20	14	4	2	38	14	46
Stevenage	20	11	8	1	34	15	41
Kettering	20	11	5	4	29	17	38
Mansfield	20	11	4	5	33	22	37
Norwich	21	10	7	4	30	21	37
Luton	20	10	6	4	27	20	36
Rushden & Diamonds	20	10	5	5	33	22	35
Kidderminster	20	10	3	7	28	20	33
Cambridge Utd	20	7	7	6	34	23	28
Altrincham	20	7	7	6	23	20	28
Tamworth	20	7	7	6	27	26	28
AFC Wimbledon	19	7	6	6	31	22	27
Histon	20	7	5	8	27	27	26
Crawley Town	20	7	4	9	19	28	25

United bag a point as Crow flies to the rescue with a late double

DANNY Crow emerged as Cambridge United's saviour as he came off the bench to salvage a point with his late double.

It is ironic that, after being left out of the side due to his goal shortage, Crow should then come on and bang in two in the last nine minutes to hand the visitors a draw they scarcely deserved for long periods of the game.

But few will argue against the fact that, for his recent workrate in the side, he deserved his break and it could not have come at a more high-pressure stage of the encounter, particularly with his equalising penalty in injury time.

United looked down and out at 2-0 behind after Tom Craddock's wonder strike doubled Luton's lead on 79 minutes.

However, the parallels with the recent home clash were astonishing.

Martin Ling's side appeared to think they had that game sewn up after going 2-0 ahead with the Hatters down to 10 men at the interval, only to lose 4-3 following a car crash of a second half.

Luton similarly seemed to feel they had done enough to take the three points, and on their display up to that stage it would be difficult to argue otherwise.

In the last 10 minutes though, United could have snatched it as they rapidly

Luton Tn
Cambridge Utd

By AARON MASON



went through the gears, while Luton struggled to get out of neutral.

Had Chris Holroyd, usually a safe bet from the spot, put away his penalty as well, the visitors would have been celebrating a smash-and-grab success.

The game had begun in relatively entertaining fashion despite the heavy rain that came with kick-off, with Jai Reason going close following a terrific run.

While United are rarely negative, one could sense they would be happy if the match stayed goalless for a lengthy spell, purely to quieten the fickle home faithful.

Perhaps the main concern in the first half was a lack of movement, cutting down the options available to the man on the ball.

One example saw Reason look to launch a counter-attack, only to then have to try to play the ball back with Luton players bearing down on him, all because he had no-one making a run for him.

As a result, both Holroyd and the

recalled Lee Phillips found themselves isolated.

It is fair to say Danny Potter was not tested by the hosts before the break, but Brian Saah was forced to show his League class on several occasions with seemingly casual but desperately needed tackles or clearances.

Robbie Willmott forced Kevin Pilkington to punch over his corner at the start of the second half.

But Luton began to really take charge of the game, lifted by the roars of the home crowd.

The pressure told when Kevin Nicholls' free kick was shinned home from close range by Claude Gnakpa on the hour.

Craddock got in the way of a deflection from Nicholls' corner on the line, just as a Luton defender had blocked a similarly goal-bound Shane Blackett header in the first half.

A mistake by Rory McAuley allowed Adam Newton the chance to run through on goal, only for the home winger to somehow fire wide soon after.

Discarded duo Crow and Courtney Pitt came on for Phillips and the disappointing Andy Parkinson 15 minutes from time, but the switch appeared academic once Craddock lashed home a 20-yard missile after good work by Newton

Crow had other ideas and, inside two minutes, he gave United hope by nodding home after Pilkington could only parry Robbie Willmott's drive.

Both the home side and their fans were stunned, and the panic soon led to Reason being brought down in the box by former United defender Fred Murray.

The celebrations by some United players at the spot-kick award proved to be premature when Pilkington guessed the right way to save Holroyd's penalty.

But, despite such a let-down, the momentum was all with Ling's side with the Hatters having let them back into the game.

And, with the clock ticking down the dying seconds of stoppage time, Potter launched a free kick from his own half into the opposition box.

George Pilkington headed it against his own post as he attempted to clear and, with Crow lurking ready to fire, he was crudely upended by Nicholls.

The referee pointed straight to the spot and Crow showed plenty of bottle to send Kevin Pilkington the wrong way with almost the last kick of the game.

The home fans' earlier chant of "2-0 and you messed it up" - to paraphrase it for a family newspaper - could not have been more apt.



ALL LEGENDS TOGETHER: Cambridge United greats Dion Dublin, left, and John Taylor flank England's most capped footballer, Peter Shilton, at the first of a series of sporting dinners organised by the club.

Shilton spoke about his career, including being on the receiving end of Maradona's infamous "hand of God", to 150 guests at Cambridge's Crowne Plaza hotel.

Comedian Geoff Jukes also performed at the event, which raised money for the club and for Breast Cancer UK.