

# 10-man Heed shock the Hatters

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| LUTON TOWN..... | 2 |
| GATESHEAD.....  | 2 |

By JEFF BOWRON

TEN-man Gateshead pulled off the shock of the day in the Conference Premier when they held big hitters Luton Town to a draw at Kenilworth Road.

The Heed stormed into an early two-goal lead before being pegged back and then had captain Ben Clark controversially sent off.

A magnificent Gateshead were in dreamland just past the quarter-hour mark following strikes from Michael Liddle and Martin Brittain.

A pulsating first half saw Luton fight back to level and also missing two one-on-one's with Gateshead left to battle on a man light after the break.

The pivotal moment came on 34 minutes when Jon Shaw put a free close-range header wide from Brittain's cross that would have made it 3-1.

After Danny Crowe had missed a second-minute sitter on-loan Sunderland defender Liddle unleashed a 20-yard left foot shot that found the net off the far post.

Brittain's cross then struck Jake Howells' to loop over Hatters keeper Mark Tyler to stun a 6,000-strong Kenilworth Road crowd.

Matthew Barnes-Homer missed another simple chance for Luton, but immediately fed Crowe who rounded Tim Deasy to pull a goal back.

Deasy then saved from Lloyd Owusu and, after Shaw's miss, Alex Lawless free-kick hit the far post and rebounded into the net off Claude Gnagna.

Clark's harsh dismissal for a second yellow in stoppage time was the final act of a breathtaking first half.

Gateshead boss Ian Bogie spent the second half in the stand after being sent off by referee Rob Merchant for comments made to the Staffordshire official.

Gateshead defended magnificently in the second half, Luton's first effort at goal coming in injury time.

Shaw had two half chances while Deasy wasn't troubled until late in the game.

On-loan Newcastle defender James Tavernier put in a top shift but an ill-advised back-header almost put Crowe in.

The title-chasing Hatters were toothless in the second period but twice almost kicked it in injury time.

GATESHEAD: Deasy, Tavernier, Liddle, Gate, Curtis, Clark, Brittain, Turnbull, Shaw (Wake, 75), AULUGAN (Fisher, 80), Edmundsson (Baxter, 16). Subs not used: Farman (gk), Gillies.