

Luton's party people put bank for Histon building

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By
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'ARE you Watford in disguise?' was the cry from the Luton fans behind Wes Foderingham's goal when he picked the ball out of the net for the third time yesterday.

How Histon would love to have the resources of the Hatters' Championship-based arch rivals.

But the Stutes did receive one final big pay-day thanks to the travelling hordes from Bedfordshire, who brought a carnival atmosphere to the last Blue Square Bet Premier fixture to be staged at the Glass World Stadium for the foreseeable future.

In his programme notes, Histon manager David Livermore spoke of his admiration for the club's board following the reduction of the near-£11million debts to around the £85,000 mark.

But he reiterated to Stutes supporters the lack of funds available to him in the summer for strengthening his squad in the league below.

So the likes of Daniel Sparkes, Zak Mills and Jim Stevenson, as well as other youngsters Lewis Taaffe and Jay Dowie – all of whom were in the 16-man squad – will be given another chance to prove they are the future of the club next term.

While the future was being thought of in the red and black half of the pitch, the orange and white half of the Glass World Stadium yesterday was a throwback to days gone by at the Abbey Stadium.

Luton boss Gary Brabin, Paul Carden, Dan Gleeson and Robbie Willmott were all in attendance, meaning a distinctly amber-and-black flavour flowed through the visitors' line-up. There was another familiar face in the Luton team, Ed Asafu-Adjaye, the defender lining up against the side he turned out for on loan earlier this month.

It was Asafu-Adjaye's former colleagues who started the game brightly, largely thanks to Antonio Murray's clever positioning. The captain constantly found himself with time to get his head up and bring team-mates into play, with Omer Riza's cross-shot striking a post and Sparkes testing Kevin Pilkington with a volley.

The Stutes oozed confidence, but they were brought down to earth in the 12th minute when Lee Smith's mistake resulted in Amari Morgan-Smith rounding off some clever build-up play.

The breakthrough sparked a conga in the away end, but Smith would have silenced them if he had made amends with a stinging drive which Pilkington did well to keep out.

It did not dilute the party atmosphere among the visiting fans – Brabin giving the

LEE-PING: Histon's Lee Smith tries to lift the ball over Luton keeper Karl Pilkington
SPO730984



► Pictures: Keith Heppell

They went 3-0 up and didn't break sweat – boss

DAVID Livermore is getting fed up with sounding like a broken record after bemoaning Histon's defensive frailties again after the defeat by Luton.

The Stutes' manager was furious with his back five for gifting the Hatters their opening three goals.

Livermore was pleased with his team's attacking display, but that counted for nothing.

"The disappointing thing is

Luton didn't have to work for their first three goals, they were gifted them," said Livermore.

"I'm sure they will do well in the play-offs, but it's disappointing they didn't have to break into a sweat to go 3-0 up.

"As crazy as it sounds, I thought we had the better chances. We've competed well against a top team for long periods.

"But the way we conceded those three goals wasn't good enough.

It's getting boring talking about the same things after every game. We looked dangerous on the attack, which was good to see. But if you're going to give goals away like that you're not going to win football matches, and it's the reason we're getting relegated."

Luton's Amari Morgan-Smith, who got the Hatters' first goal of the afternoon, was taken to hospital as a precaution after problems caused by his asthma.

wave they requested, only to be thanked with cheeky chants about his waistline.

The Stutes began to go off the boil, but one bright spot was the performance of Dee Okojie. The right-sided midfielder has not had many chances to prove himself this season, but he was full of running and kept Asafu-Adjaye on his toes.

However, Histon do not have the finishing power Brabin's charges have in their lockers – illustrated by Riza's horrendous blast over the bar from close range – and Luton went further ahead when indecision from Foderingham, Lanre Oyebanjo and Remy Clerima presented



BLOCKED:
Omar Riza
is foiled
SPO730974

Matthew Barnes-Homer with a chance he was never going to miss.

The half-time tea had barely had time to get down when Alex Lawless' corner was met with a downward header at the far post by substitute Claude Gnaka, who scored with his first touch two minutes after replacing Willmott.

Histon's heads did not drop and Clerima kept breaking out from defence, Mills got forward to support Sparkes down the left flank and Murray continued to pull off a killer pass. From one, Riza could not get himself set after bursting through and a fine chance went begging. After Lewis Taaffe