



AFC WIMBLEDON

FORMATION: 4-3-3



SEB BROWN 9/10
Stood on the terraces back in Wimbledon's Combined Counties days and nine years later had a massive say in their promotion to the Football League. Huge hand to clear out Jason Walker's penalty. Didn't put a foot wrong in the 120 minutes.



SAM HATTON 7/10
Excellent set-piece deliveries early on and shackled Robbie Wilmoth superbly. Superb block on the line late on with Matthew Barnes-Homer looking certain to open the scoring.



JAMIE STUART 8/10
Experienced head in the Wimbledon backline and he marshalled his defence superbly all afternoon. Vital block in late goalmouth scramble in normal time.



BRETT JOHNSON 6/10
Showed great composure by bringing the ball out of the box deep into Luton's half after 20 minutes. Defended well but was walking a fine line after being booked on 33 minutes.



GARETH GWILLIM 6/10
Has been nursing an ankle injury all week so only lasted an hour. But was never found wanting when on the pitch, especially up against the tricky Claude Gnaka.



STEVEN GREGORY 7/10
If anyone was going to enjoy passing on this snooker table of a pitch it was the England C man. Anchored the midfield and broke up attacks. Needed strapping after injuring his ankle but battled on and nearly scored before being withdrawn.



RICKY WELLARD 6/10
Saw loads of the ball, often in acres of space, as Wimbledon started brightly and attacked with intent. But faded slightly as Luton took a firmer grip of the midfield and was replaced by James Mulvey.



RASHID YUSSUFF 6/10
Good opening 45 minutes. Always available to get on the ball and pass. Outwitted two Luton players with a lovely piece of skill.



KAID MOHAMED 6/10
Started the game really well with a driving run in from the left but faded as the game went on. Popped up deep in extra-time when he found space in the box. He had Terry beaten but not the post as his shot rebounded away.



DANNY KEDWELL 8/10
Who else would you want stepping up to take the decisive penalty but captain fantastic himself? Has been immense all season and when it mattered most he kept his cool to blast Wimbledon into the Football League.



LUKE MOORE 6/10
Couldn't really get into the game for the first 75 minutes, his only noteworthy was getting booked for a foul on Jake Howells. But as the game was stretched later he started to get more joy and make an impact.

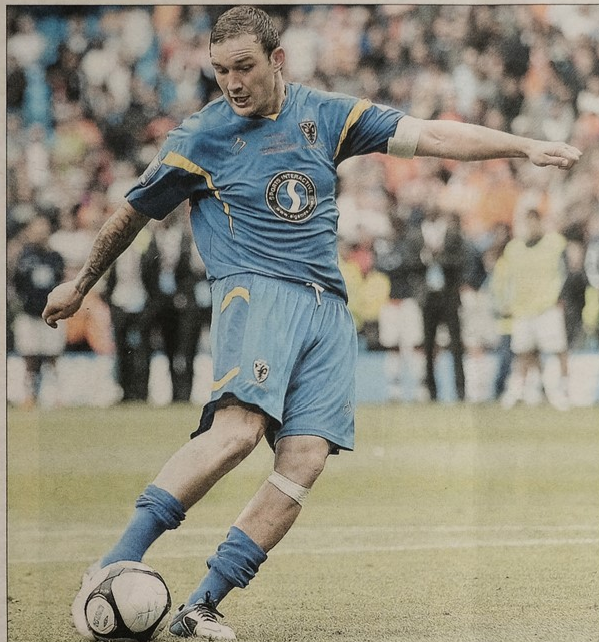
SUBSTITUTIONS
Ismail Yakubu 8 (on for Gwillim, 61)
James Mulvey 7 (on for Wellard, 67)
Lee Minshull 6 (on for Gregory, 84)
Subs not used: Jack Turner, Christian Jolley.



AFC WIMBLEDON 0

AFTER EXTRA TIME - AFC WIMBLEDON

DONS HEAD



Brown's men are spot on at Eastlands



THE NEW STAR MATCH
YES, the road to redemption was paved with goals but the journey was fuelled by supporter power.

Through the nine years of their enforced creation, the fans have supplied the rocket fuel that yesterday, gloriously, propelled the club back to the League.

From Combined Counties League to the Football League in under a decade, the second instalment of the wonderful Wimbledon story is equally as fascinating and every bit as captivating.

The Dons don't do things without drama. Wimbledon supporter Seb Brown saved in the shoot-out from Alex Lawless and then Jason Walker.

Pan's King Danny Kedwell then thrashed home the kick that finally undid Luton, meaning it's a third season in the Blue Square Bet Premier for the luckless Hatters.

The day, though, belonged to the Dons. How fitting then that it was their idol and the goalkeeper plucked from the terraces that fulfilled their dreams.

Manager Terry Brown said: "This is for them - the supporters who have had their club stolen from them and have fought to get justice ever since. "We have done it within nine years. It's a wonderful, wonderful achievement and one that will live with me forever."

Luton had the first chance of the game three minutes in. Robbie Wilmoth's corner to the back post found Sam Hatton who put it back into dangerous waters and Zdenek Kroc's connection took the ball just wide.

In similar circumstances at the other end, Wimbledon threatened. Hatton put the corner in and Jamie Stuart at the back post flashed his head in close.

Then a moment of controversy. Kaid Mohamed ran at Dan Gleeson like an express train down the track, his powerful low drive was split by Mark Tyler

LUTON TOWN 0

WON 4-3 ON PENALTIES



BACK TO THE BIG TIME!



ALMOST THERE: AFC Wimbledon keeper Seb Brown celebrates after saving Alex Lawless' penalty

only as far as Kedwell, who did what all good number nines do and put the ball in the back of the net without a moment's hesitation.

Cue wild celebration on the Dons bench. Fists clenched and jigs danced, but their party was cut short by ironic cheers from the Luton faithful - assistant referee Michael Webb's flag was raised for offside.

You could only feel for boss Brown and his colleagues but Jake Howells was in no mood to be sombre and almost hit them where it hurts within minutes.

Claude Gnaka then went about causing more problems. After 19 minutes he got the better of Hatton, drifted into the box and unleashed a powerful shot that Seb Brown did well to send over the crossbar.

Luton should have

scored after 33 minutes. Wilmoth's free-kick was deep and hard to defend against, and after Kedwell switched off for a split second it's hard to justify Gnaka missing the target from eight yards out.

The second half started as the first ended. Tackles flying, Alex Lawless joined Keith Keane in the book after taking down Steven Gregory, and Wimbledon looking more likely to break through.

By the hour mark Gary Brabin had seen enough and summoned Matthew Barnes-Homer, with Wilmoth sacrificed.

Luton started to see more of the ball, if not the chances. You could cut the atmosphere inside the City of Manchester Stadium with a knife.

Chances were at a premium but the temperature was rising.

Eight minutes from time Brabin lost his cool with referee Mr Adcock after, in fairness, a bad call. Ismail Yakubu and Johnson for Wimbledon both flung themselves at Hatton's corner and struggling Gregory from distance was only a whisker away.

Luton had their chances in an explosive finale. Hatton threw his body on the line to keep Barnes-Homer out before time stood still as Walker watched as the ball seemed to take hours to strike Brown's post and rebound into his arms.

The header was nearly perfect. From Jake Howells's close the ex-Barrow man arrowed his attempt to the bottom corner. Luck, though, was not his friend as the woodwork came to Wimbledon's rescue.

There was only one real opening in the first half of the additional 30 minutes and it came in the closing stages. Alex Lawless roamed around Eastlands like he owned the place before unleashing a 20-yard shot that, had it

boasted another few inches of accu-

racy, would have surely won the day.

The second quarter of an hour belonged to Wimbledon. Substitute James Mulvey was unchecked, controlled well but shot straight at Tyler.

It wasn't the end of the action. After Luke Moore had latched onto Kedwell's flick, the winger drew in Ed Asafu-Adjaye and delivered for Mohamed but the forward's shot rattled the post to the agony of the crowd.

Pain too for boss Brown, whose water bottle was thrown miles up into the Manchester sky in frustration. No questions about losing his cool, of course, but the Dons manager was starting to see chances go begging.

Next, Luke Moore was denied by the excellent Dan Gleeson three yards out after Kedwell's ball into the box and then Yakubu somehow missed a free header with his captain better placed. It didn't kill the dream.

Brown and Kedwell then wrote their names into Wimbledon folklore in front of their fans. Mission accomplished.



LUTON TOWN FC

FORMATION: 4-3-3



MARK TYLER 8/10
Slightly nervy opening from the experience stopper but soon settled. Saved well from Kaid Mohamed and did really well to clear a corner from under his own bar. Stayed big when James Mulvey was through in extra time. Flawless handling.



DAN GLEESON 8/10
Twice defeated at this play-off final stage with Cambridge United but was absolutely superb all afternoon. Strong in the tackle and supported the attack when he could. Long range shot early in extra-time whistled over.



GEORGE PILKINGTON 8/10
How consistent is this man? Strong as ever from the Hatters captain. Leads by example, commanded everything in the air, made vital blocks. Machine. Great penalty in the shoot-out too.



ZDENEK KROCA 7/10
Great reading of the game to intercept a through-ball that would have seen Danny Kedwell clear. Probably should have done better with an early header but shot was off target.



CLAUDE GNAKA 7/10
Frenchman brought his better game to the party and gave Wimbledon plenty to think about with some great play. Great chance from seven yards out in the centre of the goal but headed over.



ED ASAFU-ADIJAYE 7/10
Brilliant recovery when Danny Kedwell escaped his clutches in injury-time of the first 90 minutes. Quite simply, if he hadn't made the block that could have been it. Was still getting up and down the left flank in extra-time.



KEITH KEANE 7/10
This meant everything to the long-serving Hatter who was breaking into the first team as a youngster when Luton were in the Championship. Worked hard and helped control the midfield. Booked.



ALEX LAWLESS 7/10
Tasted defeat 12 months ago under the Wembley arch with York but his performance that day persuaded Luton to snare the midfielder. Goes about his business quietly and efficiently. Booked.



JAKE HOWELLS 9/10
If anyone didn't deserve to be on the losing side it's Howells. Pure class in a big game once again from the youngster. Belies his years with classy play going forward as he pros and probes.



ROBBIE WILMOTT 6/10
Luton manager to get the former Cambridge United man on the ball during their spell of first-half pressure but the winger barely got any joy out of Dons' right-back Sam Hatton before being withdrawn.



JASON WALKER 6/10
His face said it all when his close range header, which looked certain to break the deadlock, rebounded off the base of the post into Dons' keeper Seb Brown's arms.

SUBSTITUTIONS
Matthew Barnes-Homer 6 (on for Wilmoth, 61)
Adam Newton 6 (on for Gnaka, 95)
Subs not used: Kevin Pilkington, Luke Graham, Danny Crow

THE KICK THAT WON IT: Danny Kedwell strokes home the winning penalty



OH SO CLOSE: Luton's Jason Walker (No.23) hits the post with a header

PICTURES: Action Images

MATCH STATS

AFC W'DON v LUTON

2 SHOTS ON TARGET	3
7 SHOTS OFF TARGET	14
8 CORNERS	
4 OFFSIDE	1
12 FOULS CONCEDED	11
3 YELLOW CARDS	2
0 RED CARDS	0

STAR MAN: Seb Brown (W'don)
ATT: 18,195
ENTERTAINMENT: ****
REF RATING: James Adcock 8/10