(cac)



by Mel Henderson

SUB Scott Rendell's late clincher sent non-league Luton Town into round five - and the celebrations stretched all the way to the West Indies.

Chairman Nick Owen left on Friday for a two-week Caribbean cruise, where he is delivering motivational speeches on a luxury liner, and would surely have cracked open the bubbly on hearing of his team's heroics.

Boss Paul Buckle, already soaked with champagne from the celebration party that kicked off in the away dressing room, grinned: "I've got 45 texts on my phone. I'm sure at least one of them is from the chairman.

"This means so much to the club. They have had some really bad days



at Luton over the years. I'm thrilled for everybody - the board, the players and especially the fans. We had 4,500 here today and they were a big part of

"When the lads went out and saw our supporters I looked at their faces and could see what it meant to them to have that fantastic backing."

The Luton chief saw journeyman Rendell slide in to prod the ball over the line in the 80th minute and consign Norwich to a humiliating exit at the hands of a team 85 places below them in the English football pyramid.

Buckle said: "I've worked with Scott before - I had him at both my previous clubs, Bristol Rovers and Torquay. The guy's a class act. His goal record at our level is phenomenal and he also does a lot of selfless running

"He showed what I've known all sunk in yet. It was an incredible along - that he doesn't need too many performance by my boys. chances to score.

Buckle's braves coped with everything Norwich could throw at them before delivering the KO blow. All three subs played a part, Stuart Fleetwood launching the move by

sending JJ O'Donnell scampering down O'Donnell got to the line and cut Premier League outfit. the ball back for Rendell, who slid in

Buckle said: "I don't think it's quite

Embarrassing

"The most pleasing thing for me is that we not only defended really well but created chances as well." Luton, who sent Wolves packing in

round three, stepped up a gear to inflict an embarrassing defeat on the

any stage. The Hatters banked £250,000 just Norwich boss Chris Hughton, a But Norwich-born goalkeeper Mark

to beat the ponderous Ryan Bennett reaching round four and added a team-mate of Buckle's at Brentford and stab the ball high into the net from further £90,000 in prize money for in the early 90s, said: "It's a big shock yesterday's victory. Add their share of but we didn't deserve to lose. We had a Carrow Road full house and the our chances but didn't take them. As jackpot to come if they earn a plum a team we were very poor and it's an

draw in the next stage and they are awful day for us." laughing all he way to the bank. Hughton made seven changes from Buckle said: "Maybe the directors the side crushed 5-0 at Liverpool seven will find me some cash to spend on days earlier, but insisted: "I picked a new players. I'd dearly love a team that should have been good Premiership club in the next round. enough to win."

To be fair to Hughton, his team "This win was no fluke. It's not as created enough chances to establish if we were hanging on for dear life at at least a three-goal lead by half

Carrow Road. He brilliantly parried rebound Ronnie Henry blocked.

Ineffective

On-loan Tottenham striker Harry Kane fluffed a chance and before the interval Leon Barnett should have ball over the home defence and netted. His header came back off a Lawless, whose goal beat Wolves, post and when the ball struck his leg volleyed just wide. it looked to be going in - until Alex

Lawless booted off the line. Hughton sent on Grant Holt for the enjoyed a slice of luck in stoppage REFEREE: A Marriner

he was 15, relished his first return to burly striker made a quick impact. Barnett pumped the ball forward.

a Simeon Jackson drive and when Holt nodded down and Elliott Bennett Andrew Surman pounced on the tried his luck with a cute overhead kick that flew straight at Tyler. Then Tyler produced the best save

of the game, hurling himself to his right to push away Holt's header. In the 79th minute Rendell lifted the

But within seconds the visitors struck the killer blow, although they

Turner seemed to handle in the box but ref Andre Marriner confirmed it was Luton's day as he waved away Norwich's protests.

NORWICH: Rudd 6 - *MARTIN 7. Barnett S, R Bennett S, Garrido 6 – E Bennett 6 (Hoolahan, 7)mini), Fox 6, Howson S, Surman 5 (Pilkington, 75mini) – Jackson S, Kane S (Holt,

Authon: "TYLER 8 – Henry 7, Kovacs 7, Rowe-Turner 6, Taylor 7 – Lawless 7, Smith 6, Mendy 6 (O'Donnell, 68mins, 7), Howells 7 – Shaw 6 (Rendell, 75mins), Gray 6 (Fleetwood,





Non-League Luton cruise past Norwich as

This is where we all want to be.