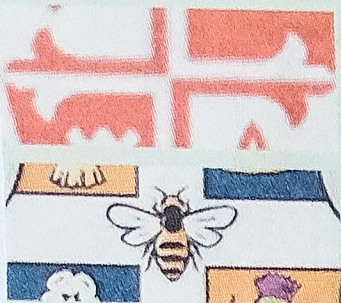




WOKING 0

LUTON TOWN 1

Cullen 35

13/14
(FAC)



GHOSTING IN:
Luton's Mark Cullen
hammers in a
header to give the
Hatters victory

PICTURES:
David Holmes

HATTERS OFF THE MARK

By John Whitbread

LUTON TOWN took down big boys Wolves and Norwich City last season – and the FA Cup kings are off and running once again.

John Still's men may have found it much tougher than in the recent 4-0 Conference romp at Kingfield.

But in the end the form book told as the in-form Hatters earned a place in the FA Cup first round – while under pressure Woking went out at this stage for the third year in succession.

Luton put the romance in last year's Cup by reaching the fifth round and becoming the first Non-League team to claim a top-flight scalp since 1989.

With no fewer than six changes it was no surprise they missed some of the fluency that has seen them win six and draw two of their last eight games – scoring 24 goals in the process.

But, as so often happens when you are out of luck and fortune, a Woking side who has failed to score in almost seven matches were unable to capitalise on much greater possession.

Satisfied Luton boss Still said:

"You've got to be happy when you come away from home in the FA Cup and get a result against a team from the same level.

"I just changed the team around a bit to give some of the squad players some much needed time on the pitch but when you do that you run the risk of losing a bit of cohesion. Even so, we have gone back to not conceding which is great.

"Above all, however, Jonathan Smith really drove us on, he has great industry and energy for us."

Luton began strongly and it looked as though they might get a penalty after six minutes when he went down dramatically under pressure from Jack Parkinson. Instead referee Colin Lymer booked the Luton player for diving.

Giuseppe Sole had two great chances to open the scoring for Woking around the half-hour mark but put both wide.

Luton again appealed for a penalty when Shaun Whalley went

down under a challenge from Josh Payne. Within seconds they were ahead when from the resultant corner, swung in by Jake Howells and Mark Cullen out jumped everyone to head home.

It was now Woking's turn to scream at the referee when Sole was brought down in full flight by Anthony Charles but he only received a yellow card.

Woking tried hard to get back into the game in the second half but Elliott Justham saved well from Kevin Betsy as Luton showed great composure in holding them at bay.

Woking manager, Garry Hill said: "I cannot criticise my players for lack of effort and desire.

"Our big problem is clearly in the final third and when we get an opportunity the goalkeeper makes a world class save or we miss the chance.

"I'm sure if one goes in off a knee or a backside it will be the answer we need."

MATCH STATS

WOKING v LUTON

4	SHOTS ON TARGET	5
5	SHOTS OFF TARGET	5
4	CORNERS	7
5	OFFSIDE	5
5	FOULS CONCEDED	5
0	YELLOW CARDS	1
0	RED CARDS	0

STAR MAN: Jonathan Smith (Luton)
ATT: 1,452

ENTERTAINMENT: ★★★★★
REF RATING: Colin Lymer 6/10

Woking: 4-2-3-1: Beasant 6, Newton 6, McNamee 7, Parkinson 6, Nutter 6, Payne 7, Ricketts 8, Goddard 6 (McNamee 68, 6), Williams 6 (Sutherland 74, 6), Betsy 6, Sole 6 (Frith 81, 6).
Subs not used: Howe, Salmon, Wright, Beccles
Luton: 4-4-2: Justham 7, Henry 6, McNulty 7, Charles 6, Howells 6, Whalley 6, Robinson 6 (Parry 80, 6), Smith 8, Martin 6 (Gray 74, 6), Cullen 7, Benson 6.
Subs not used: Taiwo, Tyler, Wall, Stevenson, Vianna