

NEVER MIND LET'S GET THE

Top two give fans a Trophy to savour

By **STUART HAMMONDS**

AFTER the second episode of what will now be a four-part series between Non-League's top two teams, albeit not at full-strength for the FA Trophy, all the talk was about replays and an absence of extra-time.

Let a neutral tell you straight; if Tuesday's game at Kenilworth Road is half as good as this one, it will be worth the admission fee whatever the arguments about the value of Non-League's flagship cup competition.

"A classic cup tie, I enjoyed it," declared Luton boss John Still. He called the end-to-end, incident-packed third round tie the exactly right.

Cambridge fought back from Ryan Innes and Alex Wall goals down to earn the re-match they didn't want, thanks to Tom Ellison's first of the season and a debut equaliser from Ashley Chambers.

The recent capture by York scored three times against the Hatters in the Minstermen's 2011-12 promotion-winning campaign, the third, painfully, in the play-off final. In a blistering second half performance from Richard Money's side, Chambers - not cup-dod, like fellow Friday signing Matthew Barnes-Homer - could have had a hat-trick.

Ditto Nathan Arnold over the entire 90 minutes, with the pair

JUST IN TIME: Luton keeper Elliott Justham keeps out Greg Taylor. Inset: Alex Wall puts Luton 2-0 up and, bottom, Cambridge's Tom Bonner is treated for a suspected broken ankle

PICTURES: John-Patrick Fowler



MATCH STATS

CAMBRIDGE V LUTON

12	SHOTS ON TARGET	4
9	SHOTS OFF TARGET	4
10	CORNERS	3
0	OFFSIDE	3
0	FOWLS CONCEDED	10
1	YELLOW CARDS	4
0	RED CARDS	0

STAR MAN: Nathan Arnold (Cambridge)
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ENTERTAINMENT: *****
REF RATING: Simon Bennett 6/10

CAMBRIDGE: (1-4-2) Sullivan 6, Roberts 6 (Chambers 48, 65, Miller 6, Bonner 6 (Chambers 31, 7), Taylor 7, Hughes 7, Spillane 7 (Clark 6), 16, Barry 6, Davis 7, Arnold 8, Elliott 7. Subs not used: Cookson, Norris.

LUTON: (1-4-2) Justham 7, Longden 6, Innes 8, Charles 6, Howells 7, Whalley 7, Ferdinand 7, Simon 7, Wall 6 (Chambers 48, 65, Wall 7 (Innes 88, 8), Cullen 6. Subs not used: Gordon, King, Chabala.

one, after capitalising on Anthony Charles' error straight from the restart and coolly finishing inside the box.

"Anyone that had any suspicions about how we treat this competition should have been here," said Money, who would prefer it to be played in midweek with extra-time and penalties.

"We got the second and knew it would mean a possible replay. We

did everything we could to go and get the winner, and just didn't get the breaks."

They certainly didn't when Liam Hughes' injury-time free-kick struck the inside of a post, but unlike in the previous round when Luton had agreed with Wrexham to play extra-time - as the rules allow if both sides concur in advance - the tie was destined for a replay.

"We wanted extra-time, and you'll have to ask them why they turned it down," said Money, whose



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JOHN STILL,
 Luton manager



RICHARD MONEY,
 Cambridge manager

THE BOSSES, REPLAY ON!



team were due to play a rearranged league game at Brintree on Tuesday. "The biggest concern is that if we get a bit of rain, we don't play Tuesday. Then we go from week-to-week again, losing matches - which is something we can ill-afford."

"I took a lot of criticism for speaking out. People are entitled to their opinion, as am I. But we now see the problems that can be created."

Luton boss Still saw his side take the lead with Crystal Palace loanee Innes' fourth-minute header from Shaun Whalley's free-kick providing the game's first debut goal.

Charles should have doubled the advantage eight minutes later, but Cambridge had two clearer penalty appeals turned down before John Howells was penalised, handsily, for blocking Arnold's shot with a hand as he slid on the stroke of half-time.

Taylor hit the post from 12 yards, then - three minutes after the interval - Wall headed in Kane Ferdinand's cross following a mistake by Michael Spillane.

"I didn't say 'No' to a replay, and no-one asked me," said Still. "I would have said 'No', but the club made that decision. At the time it possibly suited Wrexham and ourselves. It probably didn't suit us today because game-time for some of our players at the moment is a plus."

The ex-Dagenham boss made ten changes from the team held at Lincoln last week, and he added: "We've made our normal FA Trophy changes and I think a lot of players will grow for that and get a

bit of fitness. We've got to recover now for Tuesday."

The final word goes to Money: "A lot will be said and written about the relative starting line-ups, but only four of ours have been regulars this year," said the former Luton boss.

That score was actually 143 starts and 42 sub appearances in the Cambridge line-up against 50 and 33 in Luton's, but there is still nothing to choose between two scintillating Sky Premier squads. Here's to the replay!