

Howard tells Frank he's sorry



Ouch: Howard and Talia collide

LUTON striker Steve Howard has apologised to Frank Talia for the challenge which split the Wycombe keeper's head open during last week's blood-and-thunder clash at Kenilworth Road.

The burly frontman caught the Wycombe glovesman with a flailing arm midway through the first half as they both went for a high ball during Blues' 1-0 defeat.

The bandaged Talia was left with blurred vision and needed six stitches inserted above his eye after the match.

Howard was booked in the incident but afterwards Wycombe's Aussie keeper was happy to give him the benefit of the doubt.

Talia said: "He spoke to me afterwards and apologised. He said he caught me with his wristbone.

"He says it was not intentional and if it's not intentional I haven't got a problem with that.

"He came up gave me a hug and a handshake at the end and said he didn't mean it and that was nice to see."

Talia admitted he didn't feel 100 per cent throughout the match.

He said: "I had to try and get through the game as best I could. I wasn't seeing right or feeling right, but we didn't have a sub keeper and I knew I had to get on with it."

But there was nothing wrong with Talia's vision when he twice foiled Howard with full stretch saves.

In the first half, he got down low on his near post to push Howard's daisy-cutter out for a corner and then in the final minute, he arched his back to tip the striker's goalbound header over the bar.

The bloodied keeper was only beaten by Matthew Spring's 56th minute close-range effort which was enough to separate the teams and inflict a first defeat in five on Wanderers.