

# 'No foul' ref under fire

THE Town thought they had earned half the six points needed for safety against Wolves, until a debatable equaliser robbed them.

Most people in the ground — and neutrals in the Pressbox were unanimous — were sure that **Steve Bull** fouled **John Dreyer** to get clear and drive in an 81st-minute goal. Unfortunately referee **Kelvin Morton** was the odd man out.

"Debatable, to say the least," said manager **David Pleat**, who had jumped out of the dug-out to remonstrate with the linesman who allowed Bull to go on and deprive the Town of the extra two points they just about deserved.

They had put Wolves under the cosh for 50 minutes before goalkeeper **Mike Stowell**, the man of the match, was finally beaten by **Phil Gray**.

Until then Wolves, in with a slim chance of a play-off place, had strolled through the game, content to defend in depth and rely on Stowell.

He made a series of fine saves, notably from Gray, **Kerry Dixon** and **David Preece**.

The worry at half-time was that having done so much attacking and got nothing, the

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Town might have to pay for it.

But they returned to the attacking routine, and Stowell made another brilliant save to deal with a right foot volley by Gray, after **Jason Rees** had created the opening.

The goal that was overdue arrived in the 50th minute, with Rees, **Scott Oakes** and **Chris Kamara** setting up Gray for a shot low into the corner of the net from about 15 yards.

But it galvanised Wolves into being more positive. **Alec Chamberlain** had to make a top class save to a free kick by **Paul Cook**, and a drive by **Paul Blades** hit the bar.

The storm seemed to have been weathered until Mr Morton failed to penalise Bull for knocking Dreyer down as they chased after a headed pass by **Andy Mutch**.

The former England striker, kept well under control by Dreyer except for that one moment, took the chance well, but it was less than justice for a Town side that had done remarkably well to bury nerves and tension.

But the result was a bitter blow to a team that was to regret those two dropped home points even more three days later after the narrow defeat at Swindon.

## Match details

**LUTON TOWN:** Chamberlain; James, Peake, Dreyer, Johnson; Rees (Telfer 85 mins), Kamara, Preece (Williams 87 mins), Oakes; Dixon, Gray.

**WOLVES:** Stowell; Simkin, Mountfield, Blades, Venus; Rankine, Downing, Cook, Denison; Mutch, Bull (Thompson, 86 mins). Other sub: Madden.

**GOALS: 1-0, 50mins:** Phil Gray, low drive from opening made by Scot Oakes, Jason Rees and Chris Kamara; **1-1 81 mins:** Steve Bull, after holding off a challenge by John Dreyer, with the Town sure that Bull fouled the defender to get clear from Andy Mutch's flick.

**OTHER ATTEMPTS:** Town seven saved and three wide; Wolves three saved, five wide and one hit the bar. Corners: 8-4 to the Town.

**REFEREE:** Kelvin Morton, Bury St. Edmunds. Had a good game except for the crucial decision to allow Bull's shove on Dreyer to go unpunished in the run-up to the equaliser.

**BOOKED:** No-one.

**ATTENDANCE:** 7,948, with only a few hundred from Wolverhampton.

**ENTERTAINMENT:** Mixed, but overall pretty good. The Town played very well and had almost all the game in the first 50 minutes, in which Wolves goalkeeper Mike Stowell was outstanding. His team didn't open up until the Town scored.