

Lawrence's lightweights 'still alive and kicking'

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LUTON supporters paraded a banner which said "still alive and kicking"... and Lennie Lawrence's men confirmed they're still very much in business.

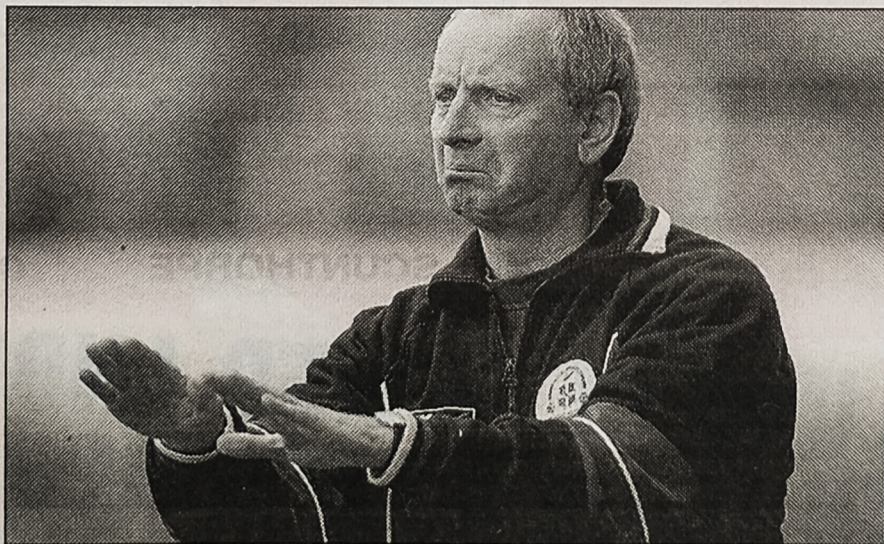
The Receivers are expected to hand back responsibility to club officials this week and Lawrence can't wait for the chance to strengthen his squad.

But the mixture of youth and experience served him well in the curtain-raiser at Meadow Lane and they fully deserved the point which came through solid defending and some woeful finishing by County.

Julian Watts, making his debut on loan from Bristol City, was a rock at the heart of their defence and the talented Kenilworth Road youngsters performed with great spirit and determination.

In fairness, they hardly created a chance although County might have been embarrassed seven minutes from time when they were caught on the break.

Phil Grav appeared to be brought



STALEMATE: Lennie Lawrence sees his Luton team fail to score

down inside the area by a desperate challenge from Mark Warren although Lawrence said: "It would have been harsh to give a penalty because I thought the ball had just run away from him."

County, who included experienced summer signings Clayton Blackmore and Craig Ramage, failed to do themselves justice until Mark Robson joined the action after 57 minutes.

At last they found someone with the

ability to open up a defence but Luton held firm.

Notts County: Ward, Holmes, Warren, Redmille, Liburd, Blackmore, Ramage, Richardson, Murray, Beadle, Stallard. Subs: Hughes, Gibson, Bolland.

Luton: Abbey, Fraser, Watts, White, Johnson, Taylor, Gray, McLaren, McIndoe, Douglas, Spring. Subs: George, Boyce, Scarlett.

Referee: A Leake (Darwen).