



■ Adam Locke, who was in the thick of the action against Bury, puts through a cross



■ Alan White put in a determined effort for Hatters



■ Phil Gray at full stretch to win the ball for Hatters



■ Matthew Taylor tussles for the ball

# Shakers rattle and roll Luton

Lennie Lawrence, who picked a team to keep Bury at bay, saw his side thwarted by a watertight home defence and a great goalkeeping performance.

The Town's reinforced defence, on the other hand, was pierced by a piece of individual brilliance from Adrian Littlejohn just after the hour mark that proved to be the winner.

Despite the game being played in windy conditions with sleet, rain and shine at different times, on a pitch made bare and bumpy by a groundshare with Swinton Lions rugby league team, it was an entertaining match.

The Hatters certainly had their chances — Stuart Douglas in the eighth minute and Adam Locke ten minutes into the second half being denied by two match-winning saves from 22-year-old Paddy Kenny in his first season as premier keeper for the Shakers.

He was, by common consent of the Gigg Lane press box, the man of the match.

Mind you, Kenny would have had to excel himself had Luton been awarded what was a certain penalty with a quarter of an hour to play. Locke threatened on the right of the box and cut back inside Paul Williams, who clearly handled to stop the

**Bury 1 Luton Town 0**  
Report by **BILL COLE**  
Pictures by **ANDY HANDLEY**

Luton midfielder turning clear on goal just six yards out.

But it went unseen by referee Mr Robinson who gave a goal kick instead despite appeals by the Luton players.

In reply, Bury only had themselves to blame for not scoring before they did. Ian Lawson got clear during a good spell for the home side, but just when he looked certain to score past a stranded Nathen Abbey he stood on the ball as a Town defence swooped for a clearance.

Good work from Matthew Taylor set Douglas on his way to goal early in the game. But before he could get the ball completely under control after a heavy challenge by Danny Swailes, Kenny was out in the striker's face to block his close range shot.

Lawson then fired in a cross from the Bury left wing and Abbey fumbled. He recovered, however, to grab the ball just before it crossed the line.

At the other end, Douglas did well to scoop a cross from Gray over his shoulder. It beat Kenny but went inches over to land on the top of the net and Abbey then had to concentrate hard to prevent a Swailes power drive from putting the home team in front.

Both sides had chances in injury time in

the half. Gary Doherty, then Douglas from a long ball, but Kenny's footwork was good enough to carry him back for a high catch under his crossbar.

Then Doherty had to get back at great pace to produce a brilliant tackle that prevented Lawson giving Bury a lead from right through on goal.

The Hatters came out with sleeves rolled up for the second half. Determined work by Alan White, who was preferred in the defensive starting line-up to top scorer Liam George, made a great run across which Douglas was inches short of converting before a quickly taken free kick led to Luton's best chance of the game.

Marvyn Johnson was set free in the box and his cross was thumped in from eight yards out only for Kenny to produce a wonderful point-blank parry.

Then came the winning goal. Douglas misheaded a throw-in back into Town territory, wrong-footing his defence, and the ball was switched to Littlejohn who made a yard of space in front of Gavin McGowan to fire through the defender's legs across Abbey and inside the far post.

Try as they did after that, with Bury constantly looking like folding at any time, Luton simply couldn't break the Bury defence down.

**Luton:** Abbey, McGowan, (Boyce 72) Doherty, Watts, Johnson, White, (George 67) Spring, Taylor, Locke, Gray, Douglas (Fotiadis 61).

**Attendance:** 3760.