



THIRD TIME LUCKY: City's Jamie Power gets his head to the ball after two other players fail to connect

Pictures: Richard Lappas

City hit back by grabbing point

01/02

EXETER City battled hard against 10-man Luton and were good value for a point in a four-goal thriller.

City produced their best performance of the season so far in a thrilling game and can count themselves unlucky not to have registered their first win of the new campaign.

Exeter boss Noel Blake had promised changes after watching his side sink to the foot of the table and Barry McConnell, Geoff Breslan, Lee Zabek and Glenn Cronin were all handed their first starts of the season.

Exeter started brightly and had two early chances to take the lead.

Christian Roberts drilled the ball into the arms of the goalkeeper inside the first minute.

Martin Barlow's cross was then volleyed narrowly wide by Alex Watson.

Luton weathered the early storm and began to look dangerous coming forward. Arjan Van Heusden superbly kept out Richard Dryden's close-range header from Matthew Taylor's free-kick.

▼ EXETER CITY 2 LUTON TOWN 2 by Vince Coulter at St James' Park

Exeter were unable to keep up the early momentum as the game entered its only scrappy period.

Watson sold Van Heusden short with a header back to his goalkeeper but the Dutchman scampered off his line to clear the danger as Stuart Douglas prepared to pounce.

Exeter conjured up a goal from nowhere on the half hour mark.

Drift

Graeme Power's long ball from midfield should have been cleared by Russell Perrett. He let the ball drift over his head and Steve Flack scampered forward and stroked the ball past Carl Emberson.

The lead only lasted six minutes. Exeter failed to clear following a goalmouth scramble and Taylor drilled the ball through a crowd of players and into the back of the net.

City could count themselves unlucky not to have been ahead at half time following their most accomplished first 45 minutes of the season.

Within a minute of

the restart Luton were reduced to 10 men when Paul Hughes was ordered off for his second rash challenge of the game on Flack.

Exeter failed to make the extra man count and the visitors went ahead in the 53rd minute.

Taylor grabbed his second goal of the match when he arrived at the far post and nodded home Douglas' cross from close range.

Exeter fought hard to get back into the game and Flack came within a whisker of equalising in the 66th minute.

He rose superbly to meet Roberts' fine cross, only for Emberson to tip the ball onto the crossbar.

Exeter surged forward and deserved to equalise in the 68th minute.

The Luton defenders panicked as Flack prepared to pounce inside the box, and as Emberson Boyce attempted to clear the ball it struck Lee Mansell and ricocheted into his own net.

Either side could have grabbed victory in a thrilling finale.

Substitute Liam George headed the ball

STAR RATINGS

Van Heusden..... ★★★
Power.....★★★★
Watson.....★★★★
Campbell.....★★★★
McConnell.....★★★★
Breslan.....★★★★
Zabek.....★★★★
Barlow.....★★★★
Cronin.....★★★★
Flack.....★★★★
Roberts.....★★★★
Substitutes: Roscoe
★★★(for Cronin, 60) Birch
(for Breslan, 73), Moor (for
Roberts, 89). Not used:
Curran, Walker.

Luton Town: Emberson, Johnson, Perrett, Dryden, Boyce, Spring, Hughes, Taylor, Mansell, Douglas (Fotiadis 56, Holmes 70), Griffiths (George 56). Substitutes not used: Ovendale, Howard.

Scorers: Exeter City – Flack, 29, Mansell og, 68; Luton Town – Taylor, 35, 53.

Bookings: Exeter City – Barlow, 81; Luton Town – Griffiths, 23, Hughes, 36, 46, Johnson, 86.

Sent-off: Luton Town: Hughes, 46 (second booking).

Referee: Brian Curson ★★★
Attendance: 3,088.

★Star Man: Steve Flack – fine goal and display



OUTNUMBERED: Exeter's Graeme Power clashes with Luton's Douglas and Hughes