



■ **POSITIVE** – Diamonds boss Brian Talbot

Losing boss Brian remains upbeat

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BOSS Brian Talbot remained positive over Rushden & Diamonds' promotion prospects – despite the derby defeat to Luton Town.

They dropped to ninth place in Nationwide League Division Three after losing 1-0 at Kenilworth Road with Dean Crowe scoring the 30th-minute winner which lifts the Hatters into second spot.

Talbot said: "All in all there were a lot of positives to come out of Saturday's game. We have come to maybe the hardest place anywhere in this league away from home with a terrific

BY MAR LEA

atmosphere. Our fans were tremendous and I thank them for that.

"We are very disappointed that we haven't got something from the game.

"If Luton are one of the favourites for promotion then we can look forward to a good second half in the season.

"We didn't do enough because we didn't score. But performance-wise I was very pleased.

"We deserved at least a draw and maybe it should have been 0-0. The

only disappointing thing is that we didn't work their keeper enough or force him to make a lot of saves.

"At the end we had a tremendous chance. Garry Butterworth was unlucky with the bounce because the ball bobbled up for him.

"But it was nice to have Duane Darby, Andy Burgess and Michael McElhatton back on the pitch after their injury problems.

"It's good news for Macca who has been out for ages. I don't think he's ready to start a game yet and, hopefully, he can do that in the next few weeks."

■ **Report and pictures – SoM 4&5**