

City make good of extra-time

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Bristol City 1 Luton 1

PETER Beadle scored a last-gasp equaliser as Bristol City extended their unbeaten run in the league to 12 games after the 1-1 draw with Luton.

Steven Howard's 11th goal of the season on 53 minutes appeared set to send City to only their second defeat of the season at Ashton Gate before substitute Beadle drilled home a low right foot shot with the last kick of the game after Sol Davis had been dismissed for the visitors.

The home side were quickest out of the traps but Robins supporters were stunned to silence when Luton went ahead in the second half.

Howard was the man who scored it, heading the ball home with ease after being left completely unmarked following Dean Crowe's cross.

Tommy Doherty came within a whisker of equalising when his brilliant right foot volley struck the woodwork while Carl

Emberson made an excellent save to keep out Liam Rosenior's powerful left foot shot from 20 yards.

But City responded admirably and deservedly levelled matters at the death when Beadle latched on to a pinpoint Mickey Bell delivery.

Angry Luton players claimed they were robbed of a surprise win at Bristol City by the amount of stoppage-time added by referee Mark Cooper.

Cooper stunned visiting fans by ordering an extra five minutes when City were becoming increasingly dominant.

It proved costly for Luton, with Davis sent off and Beadle's equaliser scored in that time.

Luton manager Joe Kinnear declined to speak to the press afterwards but striker Tony Thorpe, captain against his former club, said: "The lads are absolutely gutted. We felt the referee added far too much time.

"There were no complaints about the sending-off and in all honesty Bristol

deserved at least a point. We had defended well and the job seemed to have been done well.

"I don't know where the referee got five minutes from. We feel robbed because City are a very good side and it had taken a big effort to protect our lead."

Davis was given a straight red card after he had lashed out at winger Scott Murray but then compounded the offence by hitting out at Doherty as he walked off.

Bristol City manager Danny Wilson said: "It was a clear red card. Kinnear will have arguments about the time added on but not, I think, about the sending-off.

"Luton's goalkeeper was taking a long time over every goal kick and that may have been in the referee's mind.

"We just kept going. It was a very unlucky day for us in front of goal and that, rather than poor finishing, was why we had to wait so long for a goal.

"But credit to the lads for never giving up. It's not the first time this season we have shown that sort of spirit."