

LUTON0

BARNSELEY1

Kay (90)

BY JAMES TAPSFIELD

IF the fans were expecting a Christmas cracker between two teams in the play-off zone they were let down badly.

Barnsley left it late to clinch their fifth away win of the season, having wasted a huge amount of possession with woeful finishing when they should have buried Luton.

Antony Kay netted the overdue 88th-minute goal to complete a miserable afternoon for Luton, who never got going and showed little of the form which had seen them put together a run of six League games without defeat.

Barnsley should have been well clear by the interval after pressing forward without producing the final flourish they needed.

Steve Carson saw a close-range shot blocked by defender Emerson Boyce and Jon Walters forced a finger-tip save out of Marlon Beresford.

But failure to deliver a telling blow kept Luton in the hunt.

The Hatters found a little more form after the break but were no more impressive in front of goal than Barnsley and were eventually undone by a

Kay steals victory for Barnsley

late attacking burst. Beresford pulled off a tremendous save from Paul Warhurst a minute before Luton conceded their tenth corner of the game. Carson took it and Kay scrambled in the winner at the near post.

Barnsley manager Gudjon

Thordarson said: "We deserved the win. We were the stronger side in the first half, although Luton came at us in the second.

"It was always going to be very, very tight and although we left it late, it doesn't matter when you score to win

the game. I thought we could have done better in attack, but you have no complaints when you get the three points."

Luton boss Mike Newell said: "If you don't play well, it's very difficult to get a result. This was always going to be a tight game but Barnsley deserved to win it.

"We didn't play well and if you keep giving corners away, sooner or later, you pay."

LUTON		BARNSELEY	
47	Possession %	53	
3	Corners	10	
12	Offsides	8	
11	Fouls	17	
1	Yellows	1	
0	Reds	0	
4	Shots On	6	
2	Shots Off	7	
1	Hit Woodwork	0	

LUTON: Beresford 8, Foley 6, Coyne 8, Boyce 6, Davis 6, Spring 6, Robinson 7, Brkovic 6, Mansell 6, Forbes 6, Howard 6.

BARNSELEY: Ilic 7, Ireland 7, Monk 7, O'Callaghan (Warhurst 36), Austin 7, Hayward 7, Burns 7, Carson 7 (Neill 90), Kay 8, Betsy 7, Walters 6 (Rankin 73).