

Time tactics cost Luton

Huddersfield 1
Luton 1

04/05

STRIKER Luke Beckett punished Luton's time wasting to secure a deserved equaliser for the home side in the fourth minute of stoppage-time.

Beckett, on loan from Sheffield United, lobbed Marlon Beresford from 20-yards after table-topping Luton spent most of the second half defending their lead.

But the visitors were made to pay for time wasting as Beckett tucked away his fifth goal in four games since joining Huddersfield last month.

The effort cancelled out a disputed first half opener from Luton's Ahmet Brkovic.

Home fans thought the Croatian and Steve Howard were both offside, but Suffolk-based referee Mick Thorpe waved play on and Brkovic nipped in to score from close-range.

Luton manager Mike Newell suggested he may defend underfire goalkeeper Beresford by sending the Football Association a video tape of his side's controversial draw.

Beresford looks set to face disciplinary action from the game's ruling body after allegedly directing a tirade of foul-mouthed abuse at referee Thorpe as he left the pitch at the end of the game.

The former Burnley player was incensed at the six minutes and 45 seconds of stoppage-time added on

to make up for Luton's second half time wasting.

When the final whistle sounded Beresford stormed over to Thorpe and started ranting at him.

Newell said: "Beresford told me in the dressing room that the referee will report him. But I can understand his frustration as the referee was poor and his assistants doubly poor.

"I've a good mind to send a video of the game to the FA to see what they make of it. None of the officials were capable of refereeing a football match.

"We thought we had done everything we needed to do and felt we had the game sewn up.

"It's therefore very disappointing that we dropped two points by conceding a goal so late."

Delighted Huddersfield manager Peter Jackson will attempt in the coming week to sign Beckett for another month.

"Six or seven clubs came in for Beckett but he chose to come here and has done incredibly well. He has been a great signing for us," said Jackson.

Late substitutions left the home side with four strikers on the pitch in the closing stages as Town sought an equaliser during frantic spells of pressure on Luton's goal.

It paid off and Jackson added: "The players gave everything in that spell. Things have gone against us in stoppage-time quite a lot recently so it was really good for us to score late this time."