

# Late goals sink unlucky Hatters

## Newell upbeat despite surprise defeat

05/06

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Crewe hit back to level.

Lunt floated in a free kick and Billy Jones punished Luton for failing to clear with a neat finish into the bottom corner from 12-yards.

Luton were again quick out of the blocks at the start of the second half.

Morgan's shot was blocked by Stephen Foster and Sol Davis stung Williams' hands with a 30-yard rocket before Steve Jones responded for Crewe with a shot he dragged narrowly wide.

The same player then headed Anthony Tonkin's cross wide, while Williams held Brkovic's overhead kick at the other end.

Luton substitute Enoch Showunmi replaced Feeney in the 69th minute and forced Williams into another save with a 25-yard shot and within seconds Howard let fly from similar distance, but the home goalkeeper was again equal to it.

Steve Jones and Peter Holmes, for the visitors, skewed long-range shots, but with the game seemingly heading for a stalemate, Lunt found himself unmarked in the penalty area to head home substitute Rodgers' cross.

And with the clock ticking down, Varney converted Tonkin's pinpoint cross to make sure in the 90th minute.

There was still time for Howard to volley narrowly over the crossbar and Showunmi to test Williams again with a cross-come-shot in the dying seconds but there was no way back for Luton.

TWO late goals in as many minutes from Kenny Lunt and Luke Varney secured lowly Crewe their second win of the season and sent high-flying Luton crashing at Gresty Road.

Luton showed their attacking intent from the kick-off and after Crewe goalkeeper Ben Williams held Dean Morgan's snap shot in the third minute, he denied the visitors again with a fine double save soon after.

First he parried Warren Feeney's effort and then managed to keep the ball out with his feet from Steve Howard's goalbound header after Carlos Edwards had clipped the ball back into the danger area.

Crewe enjoyed an equal share of possession without threatening, but then Lunt almost put Dario Gradi's side ahead with a thumping 20-yard shot that hit the crossbar.

Morgan saw Williams save well again from another shot just inside the penalty area, but the lively Luton midfielder made sure in the 29th minute to put the visitors ahead.

Ahmet Brkovic crossed for Morgan, who this time made Crewe pay with a neat finish.

But just as Luton appeared to have taken control,

MIKE Newell tried to look on the bright side after his Luton side's superb start to the season was dented by a defeat at Crewe.

He said: "Sometimes you need a defeat like this to be taken down a peg or two.

People's expectations have grown to a massive extent since we came into this division.

"We're 13 games in and people expect us to come to places like Crewe and win.

"We could have done that if we had taken our chances but we didn't kill them off.

"Teams can stay in a game if that happens and then come back and beat you."

Crewe boss Dario Gradi admitted the win had lifted the gathering gloom at Gresty Road.

He said: "This is a massive relief for everyone at the club from the fans up to the board.

"We huffed and puffed and they were the better team in the first half, but we stayed in there and got the result we deserved in he end.

"We got on top and it was great to see Kenny Lunt scoring that goal for us."