

Lethal Lewis!

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06/07

Andy MacKenzie reports from Hillsborough

LEWIS Emanuel's first goal for Hatters handed Town a slender victory at Sheffield Wednesday last night as Luton repeated last term's blistering start to the season.

The 22-year-old, making a return to Yorkshire after his summer move from Bradford, struck in first-half injury time to make it two wins and two clean sheets from two games for Mike Newell's side in the new campaign.

Hatters fielded an unchanged team from the side that beat Leicester 2-0 on the opening day of the season.

That meant Sol Davis - who, along with Chris Coyne, preceded the game by signing a new deal keeping him at Kenilworth Road until June 2009 - shaking off a dead leg to make the starting 11.

On an immaculate looking Hillsborough turf Hatters almost got off to a flyer 20 seconds in when goalkeeper Brad Jones blocked at the feet of Carlos Edwards from Steve Robinson's incisive pass before John Hills headed clear Warren Feeney's goal-bound follow up. Wednesday countered four minutes later when Steven MacLean fired a 15-yard effort wide.

But it was Town who should have taken the lead in the eighth minute of a frantic opening when Jones saved Feeney's volley at point blank range after Emanuel had nodded down Edwards' right-wing cross.

Richard Langley and Chris Brunt both put efforts over for either side but, as Paul Sturrock's men gradually got to grips with the game, it was home frontman MacLean who twice went close in the space of three minutes around the half-hour mark.

Firstly he saw his curling 25-yard effort from Kevin Foley's misdirected header held by Marlon Beresford and then he nodded just over the bar from 14-yards from Brunt's dangerous centre from the right.

Luton's best outlet was the lively looking Edwards who, with the beating of marker Hills, smashed a 30-yard effort into the side netting in the 33rd minute before crossing for Langley to miscue in the area two minutes later. Town were



Referee: Tony Bates (Staffs)
Attendance: 22,613

lucky not to concede five minutes before half-time when Burton O'Brien ran clear on to MacLean's through ball, only to be denied by Beresford.

Instead it was Luton who went ahead in first-half injury time when Feeney played the ball square to Emanuel, who prodded past Jones into the corner of the net from just inside the penalty area.

After the opening period's hectic beginning, the second-half began in sedate fashion in comparison with Langley's far post header wide from Davis' deep 53rd minute cross the first real chance of note.

As the game wore on Luton were content to sit deeper and deeper, soaking up the Wednesday's possession and looking to hit their opponents on the break.

And they almost did just that in the 65th minute when Edwards beat Hills yet again and delivered a dangerous cross that Jones punched off the head of Rowan Vine.

Two minutes later another Edwards dart clear saw Feeney collect the winger's over hit centre and fire in a low cross-shot.

Beresford superbly pushed away Whelan's 20-yard drive in the 84th minute as Town hung on.



FLYING HIGH: Luton's Carlos Edwards in the thick of the action during last night's big Championship match against Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough

PICTURE: Gareth Owen