

Search for elusive victory goes on

Leicester	1
Luton	1

LUTON substitute Dean Morgan spoiled Leicester winger Mark Yeates' dream debut at the Walkers Stadium as both sides' search for a victory continues.

Morgan, an eighth minute replacement for the injured Lewis Emmanuel, powered David Bell's 33rd minute free kick from the right into the top corner leaving Foxes keeper Paul Henderson with no chance, cancelling out Yeates' opener.

The loan signing from Tottenham had earlier taken just six minutes to open his City account with what was their 100th goal against the Hatters.

Yeates was the first to react to Iain Hume's parried shot, tapping into the unguarded net from the edge of the box after the Canada international had scampered clear of the hapless Hatters rearguard.

The result leaves Luton, now seven league games without a win, just one point clear of the drop zone, while City, themselves seven without a victory in all competitions, remain three points clear of a relegation spot.

Despite being 11 games without a win on their travels, it was Mike Newell's side who made the more promising start, with another debutant, Bjorn Runstrom, inches away from meeting Matthew Spring's inviting cross.

But Leicester, who had won just one of their last six Championship home games, began to take charge, with fleet-footed Foxes youngster Yeates opening the scoring with their first real chance.

Hume, City's top scorer this term, was close to adding his ninth Championship goal of the season when his 25-yard shot curled inches wide with Marlon Beresford beaten.

And soon after Rob Kelly's team again came close from long-range as Alan Maybury's 27th minute drive flew just over the bar from 22-yards.

Another Premiership loan player, Fulham forward Runstrom also came close to marking his debut with a goal.

The Sweden Under-21 striker could have had a hat-trick in the opening 45 minutes, with the best chance volleyed over the bar when the ball fell to him unmarked on the left side of the six-yard box. But Runstrom's blushes were saved when Morgan headed home to leave the scores tied in an even encounter at the halfway stage.

Leicester's other debutant, Geoff Horsfield, began to make an impression after a quiet opening period but the striker's penalty claims were waved away by referee Mike Thorpe after he collided with Russell Perrett inside the area.

The Sheffield United loan signing demonstrated his considerable aerial prowess moments later, instantly controlling a long ball on his chest before laying the ball off to the oncoming Hume, whose crisp half-volley was palmed away by Beresford for a corner.

The Foxes' loan pair almost combined on the hour mark when Yeates' inswinging corner found Horsfield, but the former Fulham forward's towering header sailed over the bar.

Luton had chances of their own, with Perrett unable to divert his back post header goalwards from Bell's teasing centre.

And Kevin Foley's flick header from Steve Robinson's cross was close to creeping inside Henderson's far post.

The final quarter delivered little in the way of goalmouth action but the Foxes almost stole the three points deep into injury-time when Beresford somehow smothered the ball after an almighty scramble as Leicester's 13-year search for a home win over the Hatters continued.

Kelly sets the mark for Foxes survival

LEICESTER manager Rob Kelly has set his side a 16-point target from their next 16 games to secure their Championship status for another season.

He said: "Myself and my players have to approach the remainder of the season knowing we need a minimum of 16 points from our remaining 16 games.

"You saw today there's going to be a lot more games in this division between teams at the wrong end of the table scrapping away.

"I didn't think there was a lack of effort or commitment from either side, they both battled.

"I can understand the supporters' frustrations. We just have to focus and make sure we win football matches."

Luton manager Mike Newell insists his team have nothing to fear once their injury worries subside.

He said: "If you look at the bottom half of the table, there's a lot of clubs that could get dragged into this.

"There are 15 games to go, it's an awful long time — a third of the season.

"We're not kidding ourselves, we're not playing great, or anywhere near as well as we can play but that's because we're short of players.

"When you've got all your players fit you pick the players who are in form. At the moment we are having to pick the players who are fit.

"There's miles to go. I'm not looking or thinking about relegation. I know that when we have our players fit, we are capable of winning."