

Strugglers serve up a bore draw ^{06/07}

Burnley	0
Luton	0

LUTON halted their six-match losing run in Kevin Blackwell's first game in charge with a goalless draw against fellow strugglers Burnley, but the Hatters remain adrift at the bottom of the Championship.

The Clarets themselves are teetering above the drop zone after extending their winless run to 19 matches.

Steve Cotterill's men have now managed just four goals in 15 league games and, with Luton not having won on their travels since September, there was a certain inevitability about the final scoreline at Turf Moor.

Burnley edged the opening exchanges but with two teams in trouble at the wrong end of the table, it was no surprise that it was a scrappy affair.

The Clarets finally fashioned an opening in the 19th minute, with debutant Paul McVeigh putting Ade Akinbiyi into space, before Steve Jones beat a man and then fired straight at a defender.

Seven minutes later, a quickly taken free kick saw a cross from Burnley's Wayne Thomas fly across the box, only for another debutant Graham Coughlan to thump his shot against a defender.

Moments later, a curling McVeigh free kick was met by the head of Andy Gray, causing Luton goalkeeper Dean Brill, who was brought into the side for Marlon

Beresford, no problems.

The pattern of Burnley pressure continued after the break but Matthew Spring finally forced an opening for Luton but his perseverance and cross were wasted as Dean Morgan headed high and wide from six-yards.

As Luton continued to build momentum, Morgan flashed an effort wide, while at the other end, Thomas brought a routine low save from Brill.

Despite a spell of late pressure from the Clarets, the game ended in a poor stalemate.

Blackwell sees a glimmer of light

KEVIN Blackwell saw his side earn a goalless draw in his first game in charge and insisted he saw shoots of recovery from the Championship's bottom club.

He said: "It would have been nice to have come away with a win but I'm delighted with the attitude and they knuckled down to the shape and the system.

"The work-rate and the application, particularly in the second half was excellent."

Burnley boss Steve Cotterill said: "We knocked on the door in the first half without ever knocking it down.

"In the second half we looked a little bit lacklustre and a little bit scared.

"I don't think Luton came here to win the game, I thought they came here not to lose."