

Hatters lifted by gifted win

Luton 1 Tranmere 0

07/08

TRANMERE goalkeeper Danny Coyne presented Luton with an early Christmas gift, with a blunder that allowed Dave Edwards to give the Hatters a vital win.

Coyne dropped Matthew Spring's cross in the 69th-minute and the onrushing Edwards smashed home from two yards out.

The win lifted administration-hit Luton off the bottom of the League One ladder and boosted their hopes of avoiding relegation.

Tranmere were also in giving mood at the other end of the pitch as Andrew

Taylor spurned a great chance to level in the 70th-minute, side-footing wide from eight yards after Chris Shuker's cross.

Edwards should have made it 2-0 in the 72nd-minute when he found himself all alone to meet David Bell's cross on the right, but the midfielder got his header wrong, nodding into the turf to allow Coyne to gather.

Luton needed a superb save from Dean Brill to secure the win when the goalkeeper blocked Gareth Taylor's 10-yard drive seven minutes from time.

Luton head coach John Carver welcomed the good fortune that handed the

Hatters victory.

He said: "We never seem to get goals like that so it makes a change for luck to be on our side for once.

"We knew that if we could put a bit more pressure on their back four it would pay off."

Tranmere boss Ronnie Moore defended goalkeeper Coyne after the game.

He said: "We did everything right and never looked like we were going to concede a goal.

"That's the thing with goalkeepers, when they make a mistake it can cost you dearly. Luton didn't hurt us at all. In the end we punished ourselves."