

Win famine now at 12 games for sad Hatters

LUTON TOWN FC

LEAGUE ONE	
LUTON TOWN	0
WALSALL	1
Moore, 4	

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THERE was a dream start for Walsall debutant Stefan Moore but for Luton Town the recurring nightmare of this season continues.

There's still no win for manager Mick Harford whose Hatters side find themselves cast further adrift in the relegation zone.

March began the same way as February for the Hatters who found themselves a goal down after just four minutes.

The players looked as if no win in 12 had taken its toll and their confidence as Walsall ran riot. Keith Keane had already cleared off the line in a goal-mouth scramble before the Saddlers went ahead.

A ball over the top was played for the on-running Moore who caught the Luton defence out. In unison the Hatters' backline did their best Tony Adams impression raising their arms in the air and looking over expectantly at the linesman.

But his flag did not go up and Moore raced through, sliding the ball underneath Dean Brill who was slow off his line.

If the match had started at five past three, Hatters would have gone in at half time the happier side as once they got the early mistakes out of their system they began to get a foothold in the game.

Walsall may be chasing promotion but there was very little between the sides – both were pretty dull. Luton had the best move of the half which should have provided the equaliser on 32 minutes.

It came from terrific work from Drew Talbot who battled down the right to give Paul McVeigh room to cross. The Ulsterman delivered a fine ball into the box that Stephen O'Leary was perfectly



IN VAIN: Sub Calvin Andrew connects with a powerful header in the closing minutes

placed to smash in from six yards. Clayton Ince in the Walsall goal was relieved to see the midfielder opt for a weak side foot volley that he easily saved.

O'Leary redeemed himself at the other end, when he leapt across Moore's path to goal at the end of the half blocking the forward's threatening shot.

Just before the hour-mark, Harford

shook things up swapping Dean Morgan for Calvin Andrew. Hatters switched to three up front and when that didn't work Sam Parkin was introduced ten minutes later to give Hatters four strikers on the field.

But throwing forwards on does not guarantee goals – especially when there's scant service to them.

With ten minutes to go Matt Spring

went for broke with a rasping shot which forced Ince into a full stretch save. Spring took the corner himself and thought he'd set up the equaliser as his deep cross was headed into the net at the far post by Andrew.

The striker reeled away in celebration but the goal was ruled out for a push on Ince that was spotted by the linesman.

MAN OF THE MATCH



Drew Talbot

Still no league goal but gave everything

THE SQUAD

Brill; Jackson, Perry, Keane, Davis (Goodall 70m); McVeigh (Parkin 70m), Spring, O'Leary, Morgan (Andrew 58m); Furlong, Talbot. Subs: Currie, Charles

MATCH FACTS

SHOTS ON TARGET
LUTON 3 WALSALL 4

SHOTS OFF TARGET
LUTON 9 WALSALL 3

CORNERS
LUTON 6 WALSALL 2

OFFSIDE
LUTON 0 WALSALL 6

BOOKINGS
LUTON 0

WALSALL 0

REFEREE
JARNAIL SINGH (MIDDLESEX)

ATTENDANCE
6,157

FOOTBALL LEAGUE ONE

Friday							
Cheltenham	1	Southend	1				
Saturday							
Bournemouth	2	Hartlepool	0				
Brighton	1	Leyton Orient	1				
Gillingham	0	Yeovil	0				
Huddersfield	0	Swansea	1				
Luton	0	Walsall	1				
Millwall	0	Bristol Rovers	1				
Northampton	0	Crewe	0				
Port Vale	0	Oldham	3				
Swindon	0	Leeds	1				
Tranmere	0	Doncaster	1				

FOOTBALL LEAGUE ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swansea	33	22	7	4	61	25	73
D'caster	33	17	8	8	49	29	59
Carlisle	32	17	7	8	46	31	58
Nott'm Forest	32	15	11	6	47	23	56
Walsall	34	14	13	7	42	27	55
Tranmere	35	14	10	11	39	32	52
Southend	34	15	6	13	53	47	51
Leeds	34	19	8	7	53	29	50
Leyton O	35	13	11	11	40	45	50
Oldham	34	12	11	11	39	31	47
North'ton	35	12	11	12	42	42	47
Brighton	32	12	10	10	40	34	36
Bristol Rvrs	31	11	11	9	35	33	44
Swindon	34	11	11	12	42	41	44
Hudders'f'd	33	13	4	16	32	46	43
Yeovil	35	11	9	15	29	42	42
Hartlepool	34	11	7	16	48	50	40
Millwall	35	10	7	18	35	50	37
Cheltenham	35	9	10	16	29	48	37
G'illingham	33	9	9	15	31	49	36
Crewe	35	8	12	15	31	50	36
B'mouth	35	10	6	19	46	61	26
Luton	34	9	8	17	33	47	25
Port Vale	35	5	7	23	31	61	22

Post match reaction... post match reaction...

LUTON Town boss Mick Harford said his team's performance was 'inept' after watching them fall to yet another defeat. "We've just had a heart to heart with the players in there," he said. "In the first half they let themselves down. It was the worst start to a game I've ever seen and there was an inevitability when Walsall scored. "It's a long, long road this job. The performance today was inept. Walsall had one shot on goal all game and won." With the restrictions imposed on him when he returned to Kenilworth

Road Harford can only use the resources he's given. "The team here is nothing to do with me," he said. "I inherited it when I took over. You train them, motivate them and feel you're getting somewhere midweek then you get that. "They are feeling sorry for themselves but I've said to them – 'you are professionals, your reputations are on the line.' "There was no desire, no passion, nothing. Millwall was acceptable but this wasn't. "We had four forwards on at the end

which looked a bit messy but I had to do something." Midfielder Matt Spring (right) said: "We weren't good enough – it's as simple as that. "You can't lose as many games as we have without it affecting the players' confidence. We just need something to go for us. A lucky goal, anything to hold on to, get a result and change things. "We seem to be creating chances and not putting them away whereas at the start of the season we were creating little but were more clinical."

