

WHAT MICK MADE OF IT

HATTERS boss Mick Harford was pleased with his side's performance at Millwall but admitted his team really needed victory rather than a goalless draw. He said: "In different



circumstances it's a good performance and a decent result. "I thought we dominated first half and should have come in ahead. Overall I felt we deserved a point if not a victory.

"In the second half we didn't play as well as first half. We dawdled on the ball a bit and made a few wrong decisions and didn't move the ball as quickly as in the first half.

"Just at the moment we are top in terms of chances and possession but we are not putting the ball in the net."

Harford was once again pleased with striker Ryan Charles, who went close for the Hatters on several occasions, but felt two games in three days was a lot to ask of such a young player.

He said: "He is only a baby, a YTS, and he is going to make a good pro if he carries on the way he is doing.

"It's a lot to take for a young boy, but his attitude is spot on."

Harford was also full of praise for his deputy defender Don Hutchison, who came close to giving Luton a first half lead.

He said: "Don came in and did very, very well. It was a good save, but it was in the right position for a goalkeeper."

Harford also believes his side should have won their last three games and refuses to admit defeat in their bid to beat the drop.

He added: "It's going to take a monumental effort. We will probably have to win every game to get ourselves out of trouble.

"Until it's mathematically impossible I won't give up.

"There has been an improvement recently. The football has been better. In the last three games they've proved they should be in a higher league position."



LIVEWIRE: Ryan Charles was a thorn in the Lions' side throughout the first half

Picture by Gareth Owen

KEY MOMENTS AS THE CLOCK TICKED DOWN



Zoumana Bakayogo's attempted clearance bounces off Sam Parkin's legs, but Ryan Charles' first time shot flashes just wide of the far post.



Don Hutchison does brilliantly to control Lewis Emanuel's fine crossfield pass, but Rhys Evans stands tall to beat away his powerful shot.



Former Hatter Ahmet Brkovic find space on the edge of Luton's box with some fine footwork, but crashes his effort against the bar.



Dean Brill can only push Danny Senda's dangerous low cross straight into the path of Bas Savage, who fires over from in front of an open goal.

Town all but Den for after Millwall draw

Millwall 0 Hatters 0

JEKYLL and Hyde Luton turned in another performance of two halves as they returned from the Lions' Den with just a solitary point, writes Mark Wood.

Up-and-coming young striker Ryan Charles had a handful of chances in the first half, but Luton just lacked the cutting edge to find a way through Millwall's backline.

And after the break Town were made to battle hard for a point as the Lions threatened to tear them to shreds, but they too lacked the killer instinct in front of goal.

Winger Paul McVeigh, whose recent inclusion in Luton's starting XI seems to have brought a balance to the Hatters' side, said: "I thought we probably were on top in the first half and should really have scored the goals, which would have given us a good win.

"The second half has been a disappointment for the last couple of games. That was the problem today."

And while he can't put his finger on

Luton's recent upturn in fortunes he also can't believe they are facing relegation.

He said: "It should never have happened. We can't use administration as an excuse.

"The table doesn't lie. It's going to be a mammoth task to get out of it. Until it's mathematically impossible you have to say why not. Lots of teams have got out of worse situations than we have."

And on whether he will be at Kenilworth Road next season he added: "I think every professional wants to play as high up the leagues as possible.

"When I came to Luton the last thing in my mind was that we would be relegated to League Two.

"Until I'm told different I will be here next year trying to get the club back up again."

Charles came within inches of giving Town the lead on 10 minutes when Zoumana Bakayogo's attempted clearance cannoned off Sam Parkin's legs, but the young striker's first-time effort flashed just wide of the far post.

Ryan Smith's dangerous cross

almost embarrassed Dean Brill soon after as the ball drifted right across the face of goal before Luton were able to scramble it behind.

Charles then sent a diving header straight at Rhys Evans from David Bell's dangerous inswinging cross, before the visitors had their best chance of the game on 23 minutes.

Lewis Emanuel's brilliant cross-field pass picked out Don Hutchison, but Evans stood tall to deny the veteran defender from 10 yards out.

Parkin's knock down gave Charles another great chance two minutes later, but he skewed his shot on the turn harmlessly wide when well placed.

The Lions roared with Bas Savage forcing a brilliant point-blank save from Brill - albeit from an off-side position - and Keith Keane's superb last-ditch tackle denied Lewis Grabban.

Charles flicked another header just wide in the dying moments of the half, and that was Luton's last real effort of the game as they battled hard against a barrage of Millwall pressure in the

second half.

The hosts dominated after the break with Millwall captain Paul Robinson powerfully heading over on 56 minutes, while Emanuel and Brill did just enough to deny Jay Simpson six minutes later after he had raced clean through.

All Fuseini fired over from 20 yards and Savage put his 75th minute header over the bar before ex-Hatter Ahmet Brkovic should have given the Lions the lead with 12 minutes left when he was allowed time and space in the area.

But the Croatian saw his shot cannon back off the bar and Simpson could only blast the rebound high and wide.

Savage then missed two more glorious opportunities at the death as Luton held on for a well-deserved point.

HATTERS: Dean Brill, Richard Jackson, Keith Keane (C), Lewis Emanuel, Matthew Spring, David Bell, Sam Parkin, Ryan Charles (Calvin Andrew 81), Paul McVeigh, Stephen O'Leary, Don Hutchison. **Substitutes not used:** Sol Davis, Alan Goodall, George Beavan, Darren Currie.

STAR HATTER Don Hutchison. Went close and defended well.