

# Pressure mounting on Hatters

ANOTHER FINE MESS AS STANLEY INFLECT MORE MISERY ON TOWN'S LONG-SUFFERING FANS

## LUTON TOWN FC

LEAGUE TWO  
**LUTON TOWN** 1 09/09  
 Hall 34,  
**ACCRINGTON STANLEY** 2  
 Mullin 16, Gornell 54

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**ACCRINGTON** Stanley, who are they? Just ask Luton Town.

Readers of a certain age will remember the Lancashire side for the milk television advertisement but the club which became the laughing stock of the 1980s had the last laugh yesterday.

Goals from Paul Mullin and Terry Gornell either side of Asa Hall's fine volley gave the underdogs the win and condemned Luton to another home defeat.

The previous weekend's last minute loss to Darlington was harsh but inevitable so Mick Harford shuffled his pack for the visit of Accrington.

One change was forced – Claude Gnaka was serving a suspension so centre half Ian Roper was included in the line-up for the first time since his nightmare debut on the season's opening day defeat to Port Vale.

After looking so shot-shy against the Quakers, Harford gave mid-week loan signing from Middlesbrough Tom Craddock a start up front.

However, the change of personnel did not prove an instant remedy to Hatters' stuttering form when Stanley took a shock lead 16 minutes in.

Individual defensive lapses have been Luton's Achilles heel this campaign and this time it was Harry Worley's turn to slip up. His headed 'clearance' put Accrington winger James Ryan in the clear and he wasted no time delivering a teasing ball across the six-yard box. Mullin had the easy job of brushing the ball into an empty net.

With so few travelling Stanley fans an eerie silence fell on Kenilworth Road as Luton again were slow out of the blocks. The immediate response appeared to be to indulge in a pointless game of head tennis as Hatters pumped long ball after long ball into the box that the Accrington pairing of Colin Murdoch and Keiran Charnock repelled with ease.

The direct route did give Hatters their first chance of the half when from a long punt from Conrad Logan Luton finally had a sight of Kenny Arthur's goal. Craddock should have hit it first time but drifted wide and drilled his shot into the side netting.

The long-suffering Luton fans were treated to the goal of the afternoon when Hall notched his third of the season. From the left Jake Howells dinked the ball into the area for Hall who, side on to goal, looped a volley over the goalkeeper and into the bottom corner of the net.



**HALL ON THE BALL:** Asa Hall's excellent goal was all in vain for Hatters

Michael Spillane – in the unfamiliar role of right back – carried out his new role diligently and provided an inviting cross for Hall on the penalty spot who should have done better with a sidefoot effort.

There was more shuffling at half time as Chris Martin moved to the left wing and early first half substitute Wayne Andrews partnered Craddock in attack.

A change of the offence, but in defence the problems were still there. Gornell wriggled free of Roper and Logan had to be quick off his line to smother the striker's route to goal on 51 minutes. But four minutes later the Hatters goalkeeper was let down by his back line when Stanley reclaimed the lead ten minutes after the restart.

From a free kick John Mullin picked out his name-sake Paul who headed across goal to the far post. Luton defenders watched on helplessly as Gornell was criminally given all the time in the world to take the ball down and smash in from close range.

The home crowd had to wait until the 84th minute for something to cheer and it should have been the equaliser. Craddock showed a glimpse of the play he's

capable of, dribbling past two Stanley defenders before sliding the ball across Arthur and the goal. Andrews, who was also making his Luton debut, deserved to score on workrate alone but he stumbled into the pass and skewed his shot wide.

Arthur came to his side's rescue two

minutes from time when he saved Hall's volley with his feet as Hatters tried to muster a strong finish. But Craddock summed up Luton's torrid afternoon when he stepped up to take a free kick on the edge of the box. The striker sent the set piece miles over with the last kick of the game.

## The stats

### FOOTBALL LEAGUE TWO

#### Yesterday

|              |   |                |   |
|--------------|---|----------------|---|
| Aldershot    | 1 | Brentford      | 1 |
| Bradford     | 2 | Gillingham     | 2 |
| Dag & Red    | 1 | Bury           | 3 |
| Exeter       | 0 | Grimsby        | 0 |
| Lincoln City | 3 | Chesterfield   | 1 |
| Luton        | 1 | Acc'ton St'ley | 2 |
| Morecambe    | 1 | Rochdale       | 1 |
| Notts County | 1 | Macclesfield   | 1 |
| Rotherham    | 3 | Barnet         | 4 |
| Shrewsbury   | 4 | Bour'mouth     | 1 |
| Wycombe      | 1 | Darlington     | 1 |

**Sunday, 19 October 2008**

Chester v Port Vale

#### THE SQUAD

Luton: Brill; Spillane, Roper, Worley, Howells; Jarvis (McVeigh 71), Hall, Keane, O'Connor (Andrews 24); Craddock, Martin. Subs: Brill, Davis, Patrick.

## LEAGUE TWO TABLE

| TEAM            | P  | W | D | L | F  | A  | W | D | L | F  | A  | GD  | PTS |
|-----------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1 WYCOMBE       | 11 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 8  | 4  | 3 | 2 | 0 | 5  | 1  | 8   | 23  |
| 2 BURY          | 11 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 6  | 3  | 3 | 3 | 0 | 13 | 8  | 8   | 22  |
| 3 SHR'SBURY     | 11 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 19 | 3  | 1 | 3 | 1 | 5  | 5  | 16  | 21  |
| 4 DAG & RED     | 11 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 14 | 5  | 3 | 0 | 2 | 9  | 6  | 12  | 20  |
| 5 BRENTFORD     | 11 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 8  | 2  | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4  | 3  | 7   | 20  |
| 6 BRADFORD      | 11 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 12 | 8  | 3 | 0 | 2 | 9  | 7  | 6   | 20  |
| 7 EXETER        | 11 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 7  | 5  | 3 | 1 | 1 | 8  | 6  | 4   | 18  |
| 8 GILLINGHAM    | 11 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 1  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6  | 16 | -1  | 17  |
| 9 DARLINGTON    | 11 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 8  | 5  | 2 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 7  | 7   | 16  |
| 10 ALDERSHOT    | 11 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 12 | 9  | 1 | 0 | 4 | 5  | 10 | -2  | 15  |
| 11 NOTTS COUNTY | 11 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 6  | 1  | 3 | 1 | 7 | 7  | 1  | 1   | 14  |
| 12 ROCHEDALE    | 11 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 6  | 6  | 1 | 4 | 1 | 7  | 7  | 0   | 14  |
| 13 LINCOLN CITY | 11 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 9  | 7  | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4  | 6  | 0   | 13  |
| 14 MACCLESFIELD | 11 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 7  | 15 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 6  | 9  | -11 | 13  |
| 15 CHESTERFIELD | 11 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 6  | 2  | 1 | 3 | 8 | 11 | -6 | 11  |     |
| 16 AC'ON ST'LEY | 11 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 8  | 2  | 0 | 4 | 6 | 9  | -5 | 10  |     |
| 17 PORT VALE    | 10 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 5  | 11 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 7  | 6  | -5  | 10  |
| 18 CHESTER      | 10 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 7  | 7  | 1 | 2 | 2 | 6  | 12 | -6  | 10  |
| 19 BARNET       | 11 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5  | 8  | 2 | 0 | 4 | 7  | 15 | -11 | 10  |
| 20 MORECAMBE    | 11 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 7  | 9  | 0 | 3 | 2 | 4  | 10 | -8  | 9   |
| 21 GRIMSBY      | 11 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 2  | 6  | 0 | 3 | 3 | 3  | 13 | -14 | 5   |
| 22 ROTHERHAM    | 11 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 8  | 1 | 3 | 1 | 4  | 3  | 7   | 2   |
| 23 BOUR'MOUTH   | 11 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4  | 4  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8  | 13 | -5  | -7  |
| 24 LUTON        | 11 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8  | 10 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4  | 4  | -2  | -18 |

## Post match...

HATTERS boss Mick Harford had set his side the target of six points from the double home header of Darlington and Accrington Stanley and couldn't hide his anguish at recording zero.

Hatters' points deduction looms larger with every game that passes and the manager admitted: "It was hugely disappointing. We didn't start well – we looked sluggish. Over 90 minutes we could have dug something out but we didn't."

"Overall it's a low. We should be beating teams like this."

"We're asking boys to do the jobs of men. We'll just have to take it on the chin and keep battling away."

"We'll have to get points elsewhere. It wasn't the greatest game – we were negative in possession."

On the performance of new-boy Tom Craddock Harford said: "I thought Tom worked hard. He's a good runner but we need better possession if we're going to get the best out of him."

Injuries hang over the club but Frenchman Claude Gnaka will return for the mid-week game against Grimsby Town.

"Claude will be back in the team for Tuesday night's game on that performance," said Harford. "Now Garreth (O'Connor) has pulled up injured but I'm not going to harp on about injuries. Every club gets them."

On the match up with the Mariners' former Luton manager Mike Newell, Harford responded sharply: "We're playing Grimsby Town, not Mike Newell."

Thirty-year-old Wayne Andrews was forced into the action early on his Hatters debut when O'Connor limped off midway through the first half.

The former Watford player joined the club as a free agent and is looking to put himself back in the shop window, as well as play his part in the great escape.

"The boys just told me that today was an 'off day' but it's still hugely disappointing," he said.

"I left Coventry City in the summer and I was injured in March so I'm trying to get back into the game. I'm here til the end of January."

## MAN OF THE MATCH



**ASA HALL**

Goalscorer was the best of a bad bunch

## MATCH FACTS

### SHOTS ON TARGET

LUTON 3 ACCRINGTON STANLEY 4

### SHOTS OFF TARGET

LUTON 7 ACCRINGTON STANLEY 2

### BOOKINGS

LUTON: - SPILLANE 61

ACCRINGTON STANLEY: - CHARNOCK, 19, GRIFFITHS, 63,

REFEREE: Jarnail Singh (Middlesex)  
 ATTENDANCE: 5,492