

Mission virtually impossible

BOURNEMOUTH 1
Hollands 29

LUTON TOWN 1
Hollands og 11

League Two
Dean Court

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LUTON TOWN are now in crisis after this draw. A large crisis.

In fact it's a 12-storey crisis with a magnificent entrance, carpeting throughout, 24-hour maid service and an enormous sign on the roof saying THIS IS A LARGE CRISIS.

This was Luton's 11th draw this season making them stalemate specialists, which come May will not be good enough.

This was a game that they had to win to close the gap. Yet again, they took the lead through a Danny Hollands own goal and promptly relinquished it to the same player.

At least they are no worse off than when they began last night, due to their nearest rivals drawing, but Luton have now failed to beat any of their fellow League Two strugglers.

The commitment and effort was there but results are all important and this one showed that while their survival bid may not be mathematically over it is looking like a mission that not even Tom Cruise would choose to accept.

Of course, until the proverbial fat lady has started signing it's not

over, but it's going to take the most cunning of plans to navigate their way to safety now.

There were three changes from the weekend. New boy Mark Bower made his debut after joining on loan from the Bantams, while Kevin Nicholls made his first start since recovering from injury. Sunday Waisu replaced the suspended Chris Martin.

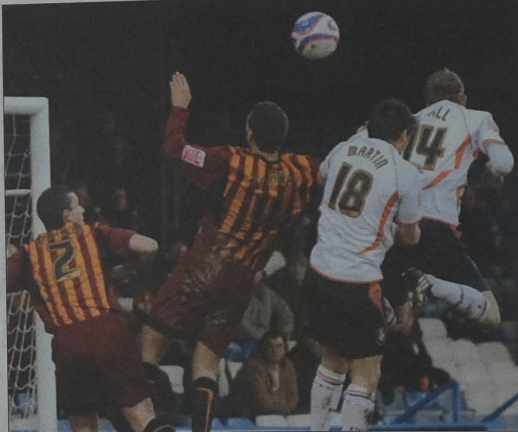
After the furore over referee decisions during the controversial 3-3 draw against Bradford City Premiership official Steve Bennett took charge – his first game in League Two since the beginning of the 2006/07 season.

Luton were ahead on 11 minutes when Bower picked out Sam Parkin closing in on the near post. The big target man headed back into the danger zone where Danny Hollands fluffed his lines to see the ball bobble over the line.

The midfielder made amends, scoring at the other end on 29 minutes. Town keeper Conrad Logan looked to have dealt with a dangerous Jake Thompson, but in pushing the ball away from two Cherries forwards he set up the onrushing Holland, who dispatched from 18 yards despite the Irishman getting his fingertips to the drive.

Almost inevitably with these two teams scrapping for their lives it was fast and frantic, though there was little in the way of goal threat and they went in all square at the break.

Ten minutes in and it was looking ominous for the Hatters with the



SUNDAY SCORES ON SATURDAY: Hatters' Sunday Waisu heads home against Bradford City in a game where the referee incensed players, managers and fans – see inside

home side dominating.

Hearts were in Luton mouths just after the hour when Pitman delivered a devilish free-kick to the far post which striker Steve Fletcher was only inches away from.

The striker was looking dangerous and were it not for Ed Asafu-Adjaye's being in the right place five minutes later it wouldn't have taken a genius to work out where

his fearsome drive was heading.

There was little occurring in the Cherries half and it wasn't until the 86th minute that Luton had a decent effort from Kevin Gallen which almost nicked.

He smashed the ball from 20 yards only to see Alan Connell clear off the line. Parkin then saw a curling effort rise agonisingly over but as the pressure on both grew neither could find a winner.

LEAGUE TWO TABLE

1	Wycombe	27	7	5	1	20	9	6	6	2	14	9	16	50
2	Brentford	26	7	5	1	22	9	5	5	3	13	11	15	46
3	Bury	28	8	2	4	21	12	5	5	4	18	16	11	46
4	Darlington	26	8	4	2	26	12	4	4	4	17	13	18	44
5	Dag & Red	27	7	3	2	30	10	5	4	6	22	20	22	43
6	Shrewsbury	27	10	1	2	29	7	1	9	4	11	14	19	43
7	Gillingham	27	8	4	2	25	9	4	3	6	13	27	2	43
8	Rochdale	26	8	4	2	29	14	3	5	4	16	19	12	42
9	Bradford	27	6	7	1	25	15	5	2	6	19	17	12	42
10	Exeter	26	5	4	4	17	16	6	3	4	17	14	4	40
11	Lincoln City	27	4	7	2	19	12	5	2	7	15	19	3	36
12	Aldershot	26	7	6	1	25	18	3	0	9	12	25	-6	36
13	Notts County	28	4	5	5	15	18	3	6	5	19	26	-10	32
14	Macclesfield	26	5	2	7	16	26	4	3	5	16	22	-16	32
15	Chesterfield	25	3	4	5	19	19	5	3	5	22	19	3	31
16	Port Vale	27	5	2	8	17	25	4	1	7	14	20	-14	30
17	Morecambe	26	4	5	3	16	13	2	5	7	11	24	-10	28
18	Accrington	26	5	2	6	18	17	2	4	7	11	22	-10	27
19	Chester	27	4	3	6	19	17	2	4	8	11	31	-18	25
20	Rotherham	26	6	3	3	17	12	5	4	5	15	16	4	23
21	Barnet	27	1	5	7	10	23	3	5	6	18	27	-22	22
22	Grimsby	26	2	5	6	14	18	2	4	7	10	25	-19	21
23	Bournemouth	27	5	5	4	14	11	5	1	5	16	28	-9	11
24	Luton	27	4	5	4	23	22	3	6	5	14	22	-7	2

LUTON: Logan, Roper (Davis, 51), Nicholls (Henderson, 67), Waisu, Parkin, Hall, Asafu-Adjaye, Jarvis (Howells, 84), Spillane, Bower, Gallen
Subs not used: Brill, Gnackpa,

Referee: Steve Bennett (Kent)

Attendance: 5230 (Luton 609)

■ Luton Town hope to bring Middlesbrough's Tom Craddock to Kenilworth Road on a two and a half year deal subject to a medical and Football League approval.