

Penalty decision baffles managers

Luton 1 Macclesfield 0

09/09

A CONTROVERSIAL penalty from Tom Craddock (*Pictured*) was enough to hand Luton a first victory over Macclesfield and continued their late bid to beat the drop.

Craddock blasted home from the spot in the 68th minute after referee Andy Hall had bemused both sides by ruling that Jordan Hadfield had fouled Asa Hall in the box.

Macclesfield had come the closest to breaking the deadlock in a first half of few chances when Nat Brown smashed a volley against the crossbar from 10 yards in the 31st minute.

Luton also hit the woodwork four minutes before the break when visiting goalkeeper Jon Brain punched a Kevin Nicholls corner against the top of his own crossbar.

The Silkmen had started the second period the better of the two teams with Gareth Evans ending a 30-yard run with a 20-yard shot at Dean Brill in the 54th minute.



But Luton took full advantage of the penalty decision as Craddock claimed his 10th of the season to give his side back-to-back league wins for the first time this campaign and leave them 11 points from safety.

Luton first-team coach Kevin Watson admitted the Hatters had no idea why they had been awarded the penalty.

When asked about the penalty decision, Watson said: "Tom Craddock broke down the side and drove into the box but from where we were standing we couldn't see what it was given for.

"The linesman put his flag across his chest and Nico (Kevin Nicholls) said it was for handball, but perhaps it was a shove on one of our players who was running in, I don't know."

Macclesfield manager Keith Alexander was left furious with the decision.

He said: "I've got absolutely no idea why it was given and I don't think anyone else in the ground has either.

"We were hanging in there and were well worth a point and then you get that."