

# Brill is spot on as Nicholls sees red

## Barnet 1 Luton Town 1

A LUCKY guess helped Dean Brill pull off a brilliant penalty save as ten-man Luton claimed a hard-earned point at Underhill on Saturday, writes Mark Wood.

The Hatters shot-stopper produced a magnificent full-stretch save to his right late in the second half to deny former Town hotshot Paul Furlong from the spot.

Luton had gone in 1-0 down at the break after a poor first half performance only for Rossi Jarvis to level the scores soon after the break with a fine job.

However, a harsh second booking for skipper Kevin Nicholls curtailed Town's push for victory as they ultimately failed to settle for a share of the spoils.

Brill, 23, admitted he had struggled to recall where Furlong used to put his penalties in training and felt that the penalty should never have been given against Sol Davis.

He said: "You always look to the linesman as it was on his side. The linesman had let it run out as though it was a goal-kick. It was soft, but that's football."

"Before he took it I couldn't remember where he went."

"It's a guessing game. I got a bit lucky. It was a nice height - but always enjoyable."

And he also believes that Nicholls should never have been sent off after clashing with Yannick Bolasie late in the game.

Brill added: "He just said nothing happened. It was a coming together on the ground and it shouldn't have been a sending off."

"I don't know if Nico's got a name for doing it, but he's not that sort of player."

Barnet bossed the first half against a defensive looking Luton side.



Town, though, looked to have taken the lead on 12 minutes when the Bees failed to deal with a Nicholls free-kick. Asa Hall and David Livermore both went close before Michael Spillane rammed home from close range - only for the goal to be ruled out by the linesman's flag.

Barnet were then denied by the woodwork on 16 minutes when Bolasie showed great pace on the left before letting rip from 30 yards. His effort deflected off Spillane and dipped over the beaten Brill, but fortunately for the Hatters the ball glanced the top of the bar on its way over.

Albert Adomah, Kenny Gillet and Adam Birchall all had chances for Barnet before Birchall made amends for his miss with a goal on the stroke of half time.

A good free-kick from Gillet found

Gary Breen unmarked at the far post and while Brill managed to push his firm header on to the post, the ball ran across the face of goal for Birchall to tap home from just a few yards out.

The Hatters showed far more purpose in the second half and, after Tom Craddock had missed out from Nicholls' through ball, Jarvis made no mistake from Spillane's fine pass as he lobbed home past Lee Harrison.

Substitute Ian Henderson looked lively after his introduction and his effort was smuggled behind on 65 minutes following a lovely flowing move involving Craddock, Hall and Jarvis.

Joe Tabiri flashed a daisy-cutter just wide following a poor Henderson

pass, while Barnet were awarded a dubious penalty by controversial Northamptonshire referee Dean Whitestone with 15 minutes left.

Adamah tumbled under a power-puff challenge from Davis as he looked to be turning away from goal, but Davis' blushes were saved thanks to Brill's fantastic stop.

Henderson had a fierce drive beaten away by Harrison, before Nicholls was harshly shown a second yellow card after clashing with Bolasie, who was also booked.

Hall twice and Craddock both flashed efforts wide in the closing stages, while only a great block from George Pilkington denied Furlong from troubling Brill as this dead rubber finished in stalemate.

## WHAT MICK MADE OF IT



SOME "outrageous" decisions cost Town dear according to Luton manager Mick Harford as they drew 1-1 at Barnet.

The Hatters boss admitted he was disappointed by his side's first half performance, but after a much-improved second half show he felt Luton should have claimed all three points.

And he was left to bemoan some more controversial officiating that saw the Bees gifted a soft penalty and captain Kevin Nicholls sent off for a second booking.

Harford said: "Barnet were very back to front. Paul Furlong, who is a very good player, played well today. First half we didn't play particularly well and I was disappointed with the first goal we conceded just before half time."

"We had a chat at half time. We didn't really have any threat going forward in terms of pace or people running behind."

"Second half we felt we completely controlled the game and should have run out winners."

"But having created the better chances after the break, Harford believes Albert Adomah cheated to get Barnet's penalty."

He said: "I think what galvanised us a little bit was the penalty and penalty save - it was never a penalty. It's another outrageous decision. The guy's cheating and fallen over."

However, Harford was full of praise for substitute Dean Brill's penalty stop, saying: "It was a fantastic save."

And he was also incredulous about captain Kevin Nicholls' second yellow card - which resulted in his dismissal - after a coming together with Yannick Bolasie.

He said: "It was nothing. The players shook hands as they got up. There was no malice when they fell to the ground. There was a bit of pushing and shoving."

And Harford was full of praise for substitute Ian Henderson and Luton's travelling army of fans, adding: "Henderson came on and made some good runs."

"It just shows we are not a relegation team. I would just like to say a big thank you to the fans that turned up."

## Harford turned down Newcastle

HATTERS: Luton boss Mick Harford has revealed that he turned down the chance to join old friend Joe Kinnear at Premiership side Newcastle earlier this season.

He was also given the opportunity to manage another unnamed club, but rejected the chance.

He said: "Joe asked me to go and help him. I've got a lot of respect for Joe. He is one of my greatest friends, a good man."

"But we've got a job to do here."

## Can they finish in style? - the 2008/09 season so far.....

| AUG     | Opponents          | Score | Scorers                                          | Att    | Pos |
|---------|--------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------------|--------|-----|
| Sat 9   | PORT VALE          | 1-3   | Parkin 35                                        | 7,149  | 24  |
| Tue 12  | PLYMOUTH (LGCP)    | 2-0   | Jarvis 15, Plummer 77                            | 2,682  | 24  |
| Sat 16  | Gillingham         | 1-0   | Parkin 3                                         | 5,339  | 24  |
| Sat 23  | NOTTS COUNTY       | 1-1   | Martin 49                                        | 6,085  | 24  |
| Tue 26  | Reading (LGCP)     | 1-5   | Charles 81                                       | 7,498  | 24  |
| Sat 30  | Exeter City        | 1-0   | Parkin 47                                        | 5,328  | 24  |
| SEP     |                    |       |                                                  |        |     |
| Sat 6   | Macclesfield       | 1-2   | Charles 90                                       | 2,349  | 24  |
| Sat 13  | ALDERSHOT TN       | 3-1   | Spillane 17, Hall 89, Martin 90                  | 2,029  | 24  |
| Sat 20  | Rotherham          | 0-1   |                                                  | 4,095  | 24  |
| Sat 27  | CHESTER CITY       | 1-1   | Hall 41                                          | 5,731  | 24  |
| OCT     |                    |       |                                                  |        |     |
| Sat 4   | Bradford City      | 1-1   | Spillane 86                                      | 13,083 | 24  |
| Tues 7  | BRENTFORD (JP2)    | 2-2   | Martin 39, 55 (won 4-3 on pens)                  | 2,029  | 24  |
| Sat 11  | DARLINGTON         | 1-2   | Gnakpa 31                                        | 5,560  | 24  |
| Sat 18  | ACCRINGTON         | 1-2   | Hall 34                                          | 5,492  | 24  |
| Tue 21  | Grimsby Town       | 2-2   | Craddock 24, 90                                  | 4,021  | 24  |
| Sat 25  | Bury               | 2-1   | Craddock 35, Roper 44                            | 3,052  | 24  |
| Tues 28 | BOURNEMOUTH        |       | ABANDONED DUE TO SNOW                            |        | 24  |
| NOV     |                    |       |                                                  |        |     |
| Sat 1   | Shrewsbury         | 0-3   |                                                  | 6,188  | 24  |
| Tue 4   | Walsall (JP3)      | 0-1   | Jarvis 90                                        | 1,844  | 24  |
| Sat 8   | ALTRINCHAM (FA1)   | 0-0   | Davis 6, McVeigh 41 (Luton won 4-2 on penalties) | 3,200  | 24  |
| Sat 15  | DAGENHAM & RED 2-1 |       |                                                  | 5,402  | 24  |
| Sat 19  | ALTRINCHAM (FA1R)  | 0-0   |                                                  | 2,397  | 24  |
| Sat 22  | Rochdale           | 0-2   |                                                  | 2,901  | 24  |
| Tue 25  | BRENTFORD          | 0-1   |                                                  | 5,248  | 24  |
| Sat 29  | Southend (FA2)     | 1-3   | Spillane 80                                      | 4,111  | 24  |
| DEC     |                    |       |                                                  |        |     |
| Tues 2  | BOURNEMOUTH        | 3-3   | OG 18, Gallen 56, McVeigh 83                     | 6,773  | 24  |
| Sat 6   | BARNET             | 3-1   | McVeigh 11, Martin 15, OG 88                     | 5,636  | 24  |
| Sat 13  | Wycombe            | 0-0   |                                                  | 2,907  | 24  |
| Tue 16  | COLCHESTER (JP4)   | 1-0   | Gnakpa 30                                        | 2,638  | 24  |
| Sat 20  | MORECAMBE          | 1-1   | Spillane 51                                      | 5,664  | 24  |

**STAR HATTER** Ed Asafu-Adjaye. Has become so consistent.

| DEC    | Opponents        | Score | Scorers                           | Att    | Pos |
|--------|------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|--------|-----|
| Fri 26 | Cheshfield       | 2-2   | Craddock 56, Roper 90             | 4,243  | 24  |
| Sun 28 | LINCOLN CITY     | 3-2   | Martin 31, 33, Roper 50           | 8,643  | 24  |
| JAN    |                  |       |                                   |        |     |
| Tue 13 | Chester City     | 2-2   | Martin 22, Emanuel 27             | 1,652  | 24  |
| Sat 17 | Darlington       | 1-5   | Martin 30                         | 3,319  | 24  |
| Tue 20 | Brighton (JP5F1) | 0-0   |                                   | 6,127  | 24  |
| Sat 24 | BRADFORD CITY    | 3-3   | Hall 5, 90, Wasiu 37              | 6,053  | 24  |
| Tue 27 | Bournemouth      | 1-1   | Hollands og 11                    | 5,230  | 24  |
| Sat 31 | BURY             | 1-2   | Hall 36                           | 5,545  | 24  |
| FEB    |                  |       |                                   |        |     |
| Sat 14 | Dagenham & Red   | 1-2   | Henderson 58                      | 2,310  | 24  |
| Tue 17 | BRIGHTON (JP5F2) | 1-1   | Craddock 2 (won 4-3 on pens)      | 8,711  | 24  |
| Sat 21 | SHREWSBURY       | 3-1   | Craddock 15, Parkin 35, Hall 73   | 5,661  | 24  |
| Tue 24 | Accrington       | 0-0   |                                   | 1,033  | 24  |
| Sat 28 | Port Vale        | 3-1   | Hall 43, Gallen 52, Martin 63     | 5,689  | 24  |
| MAR    |                  |       |                                   |        |     |
| Tue 3  | GILLINGHAM       | 0-0   |                                   | 5,739  | 24  |
| Sat 7  | EXETER CITY      | 1-2   | Craddock 39                       | 6,460  | 24  |
| Tue 10 | Notts County     | 2-0   | Martin 25, Craddock 45            | 2,886  | 24  |
| Sat 14 | Aldershot Town   | 1-2   | Craddock 35                       | 3,098  | 24  |
| Tue 17 | GRIMSBY TOWN     | 2-1   | Bower 45+2, Hall 89               | 5,363  | 24  |
| Sat 21 | MACCLESFIELD     | 1-0   | Craddock 69                       | 2,599  | 24  |
| Tue 24 | MORECAMBE        | 2-1   | Martin 43, Gallen 59              | 2,599  | 24  |
| Sat 28 | ROTHERHAM        | 2-4   | Martin 42, Hall 70                | 5,975  | 24  |
| Sat 31 | ROTHERHAM        |       |                                   |        | 24  |
| APR    |                  |       |                                   |        |     |
| Sun 5  | SCUNTHORPE (JP)  | 3-2   | Martin 32, Craddock 70, Gnakpa 95 | 55,378 | -   |
| Sat 11 | Lincoln City     | 0-0   |                                   | 4,664  | 24  |
| Mon 13 | CHESTERFIELD     | 0-0   |                                   | 6,494  | 24  |
| Sat 18 | Barnet           | 1-1   | Jarvis 49                         | 2,808  | 24  |
| Sat 18 | WYCOMBE          | 0-1   |                                   | 6,553  | 24  |
| Tue 21 | ROCHDALE         |       |                                   |        | 24  |
| Sat 25 | ROCHDALE         |       |                                   |        | 24  |
| MAY    |                  |       |                                   |        |     |
| Sat 2  | Brentford        |       |                                   |        | 24  |