

Tubbs holds Hatters to hand Whites timely boost



SALISBURY CITY 1

Tubbs 43



LUTON TOWN 1

Gallen 27

09/10

SALISBURY overcame the blow of a ten-point deduction following their entering into administration to produce a superb display against promotion favourites Luton Town, earning a point from a hard-fought game.

Delighted boss Tommy Widdrington commented: "They showed us in the second half that they're a slick side but I thought we were excellent from the off and took the game to them – something they might not have expected. I thought we had strength in areas where we can exploit them.

"It was another game where we could have been leading by half-time. But give them credit, Mick Harford shook them up and they had the lion's share of possession in the second half.

Luton Town manager Mick Harford shared a different view of the game, adding: "I thought we dominated from start to finish. Obviously,

playing at home, they're going to get a few breakaways but we didn't defend as well as we should have done.

"We got in some tremendous positions in the second half but when they got men behind the ball we didn't have the necessary quality."

A large crowd saw the home team start with a flourish and on 19 minutes Luton keeper Mark Tyler was in action, somehow keeping out a close range finish from Chris Flood following Danny Webb's low cross.

By Alec Hayter

Three minutes later the impressive Matt Tubbs, who netted a hat-trick in Monday's game at Hayes & Yeading, sent a glancing header narrowly wide of the post.

But perversely it was the visitors who went ahead five minutes later when Adam Newton slipped past defender Danny Spence to deliver a ball into the box where Kevin Gallen could not miss from two yards.

The remainder of the half saw Salisbury trying to get

back on terms and only a great block from defender Alan White denied the irrepressible Tubbs on 38 minutes.

It was Tubbs, however, who got his side back on terms with three minutes of the first half left when his superb finish beat Tyler all ends up to see Luton concede their first goal in 492 minutes of football.

The second period saw the Hatters come

out all guns blazing and in a five-minute spell Gallen, Newton and George Pilkington all went close but Salisbury weathered the storm and on 57 minutes Webb was unlucky to see an immaculate lob from the edge of the box skim the bar.

Luton's Tom Craddock could only put his effort at keeper James Bittner as the visitors pressed in the final stages, although Salisbury might have nicked it in a final flurry when substitute Luke Ruddick sent a 25-yard effort over the top.

MATCH STATS

SALISBURY v LUTON

4 SHOTS ON TARGET 2

7 SHOTS OFF TARGET 7

2 CORNERS 7

4 OFFSIDE 0

15 FOULS CONCEDED 13

2 YELLOW CARDS 1

0 RED CARDS 0

STAR MAN: Jamie Turley (Salisbury)

ATT: 2,044

ENTERTAINMENT: ★★★★★

REF RATING: G Jerden 6/10

SALISBURY: 4-4-2: Bittner 6, Clohesy 7, Anderson 6, Turley 8, Prosser 7, Sinclair 6 (O'Hara 90, 6), Clarke 7, Tubbs 7 (Glover 89, 6), Webb 6, Flood 6 (Ruddick 85, 6), Spence 6. Subs not used: Osman, Porter

LUTON: 4-4-2: Tyler 6, Gnakpa 6 (Hall 54, 6) White 7, Blackett 67, 6), Pilkington 7, Murray 6, Newton 7, Nicholls 7, Keane 6, Jarvis 7, Gallen 7, Craddock 7 (Basham 85, 6). Subs not used: Gore, Donnelly