

'Awayday point is all part of the strategy'

Salisbury City 1 Luton Town 1

AWAY draws are all part of Town's promotion plan, according to veteran striker Kevin Gallen, *writes Mark Wood.*

The 33-year-old showed his poacher's instincts to net the first goal of the day against Salisbury City at the Raymond McEnhill Stadium on Saturday, but the Hatters had to be content with a point following City danger man Matthew Tubbs' fine equaliser on the stroke of half time.

Luton dominated the second half but spurned several good chances and, although a 1-1 draw was probably the right result, Gallen thought the Hatters deserved more.

He said: "I thought we were good enough for three points. We've had the majority of the second half and had some good chances and I thought we deserved to nick it.

"A point away from home, and to win our home games has been the plan all season.

"Eight games unbeaten and we are third in the table and there's a long way to go with 36 games still left."

Gallen felt Luton should have made more of their second half onslaught and was disappointed he didn't make more of a gilt-edged opportunity supplied to him by winger Adam Newton.

He said: "In the first 10 to 15 minutes we have had a couple of good chances. I had a header that shaved the post and Newtons should have hit the target.

"We just didn't get that bit of a rub of the green or the final ball today."

On his own chance, he continued: "I didn't really expect it. I expected him to roll it in. I was dis-



GET IN THERE: Goalmouth action from the Salisbury game. Picture by Gareth Owen

appointed to see it roll wide of the post and spin on the grass just wide of the post."

But he was pleased to have netted his second goal of the season, saying: "I saw Newtons had done ever so well and got to the byline and I made a beeline for the back post hoping he would put it there. It was a nice little goal."

Town named an unchanged team from the side that beat Crawley Town 3-0 the Tuesday before. After Newton had blazed over early on and Jamie Turley had headed straight at Mark Tyler, the Whites should have taken the lead on 20 minutes.

STAR HATTER: Keith Keane. Dominated play from both midfield and the back.

cross.

However, the Hatters snatched the lead against the run of play on 27 minutes.

Newton brilliantly turned Daniel Spence inside out on the right before driving towards the byline, and his low angled cross was on a plate for Gallen to slide in at the far post.

Salisbury, though, always looked dangerous going forward with Tubbs to the fore.

The lively striker fired just wide of an open goal with 10 minutes of the half left and was then denied by a great block from Alan White before he got his reward with two minutes of the half left.

Flood's brilliant slide-rule pass put Tubbs in the clear and he made no mistake as he hammered past the helpless Tyler from just inside the box.

Reinvigorated Hatters made a great start to the second half as they lay siege to the Salisbury goal, and could have taken the lead three times in the opening few minutes.

Gallen headed Newton's cross just wide, while the winger mis-hit his shot from just a few yards out seconds later when well placed.

George Pilkington then powered a header just over the bar from Kevin Nicholls' corner, before City regained a foothold in the game.

Webb saw an opportunistic chip drift just over the bar on 57 minutes as Luton began to wilt.

Like so often this season they seemed reluctant to shoot when well placed, although Rossi Jarvis was unlucky to see his curler go wide with 20 minutes left after some patient build-up play.

Cradock had an effort easily saved late on, while sub Luke Ruddick fizzed a long-range shot just over on the final whistle, as Town had to be content with a point.