



LUTON TOWN 1 BARROW 0

Newton 21



WINNER: Adam Newton scores Luton's goal

PICTURE: Gareth Owen

NEWTON TIPS THE BALANCE

DESPITE Luton Town dominating their game against Barrow, they needed a fluke goal midway through the first half to claim victory.

The Hatters created plenty of chances against the Bluebirds, but failed to take any of them, and they had to rely on Adam Newton's 21st-minute cross, which evaded Barrow keeper Tim Deasy, to claim all three points.

Town boss Mick Harford admitted his side could do better, and that they must try to be more deadly in the final third.

He said: "Without being disrespectful within the first 15 minutes we could have been three or four nil up and we created chance after chance.

"It was bizarre that after all the chances and efforts we had on goal and all the possession we could have finished them off, but we ended up winning by a fluke goal.

"We are just not converting the opportunities we are creating.

"We can be better especially in the final third. We looked very solid defensively and I don't think Mark

By David Smith

Tyler had a shot to save."

Luton striker Tom Craddock twice missed out on great one-on-one opportunities, while Kevin Gallen had a close-range strike scrubbed out for offside as Luton bossed the game.

But battling Barrow held firm, even if they offered virtually nothing at the other end.

The closest the visitors came was when Town keeper Mark Tyler had to tip a wayward Mark Boyd cross on to the bar on nine minutes.

Luton were further boosted by the return of summer signing Liam Hatch who played the last 14 minutes, after recovering from an operation on a fractured ankle.

On Hatch's return, Harford said: "It's really early for him. He has been chomping at the bit for the two or three days and he wanted to get involved.

"He wanted to get involved and is a big handful and he is a player we haven't had this season."

It was largely thanks to keeper Tim Deasy that Luton's margin of

victory wasn't greater.

Barrow's number one pulled off a string of fine saves to keep his side in it, but refused to take too much of the credit and praised the workrate of his teammates.

The heroic Deasy said: "That's what my job is, I'm there to try and stop goals and shots and give 100 per cent each week.

"If I make a save I'm happy with it. But I made one save too little.

"The goal I conceded was a bit of a fluke.

Didier Droghda scored one against Hull like it, but he will take that as a goal.

"Maybe the next week I will be on the lookout for one of those strikes."

Barrow did, however, almost

MATCH STATS

LUTON v BARROW

6 SHOTS ON TARGET	2
4 SHOTS OFF TARGET	3
6 CORNERS	5
6 OFFSIDE	1
9 FOULS CONCEDED	7
3 YELLOW CARDS	1
0 RED CARDS	0

STAR MAN: Adam Newton (Luton)

ATT: 6,264

ENTERTAINMENT: ****

REF RATING: 5 W Bennett 4/10

LUTON: 4-3-3: Tyler 6, Keane 7, White 6 (Hubert 63, 5), Walker 5, Craddock 6, Hall 6, Jarvis 7, Gnappka 6 (Hatch 76, 5), Gallen 6, Murray 6. Subs not used: Blackett, Gore, Howells, Basham

BARROW: 4-4-2: Deasy 8, Spender 5, Bolland 5, Bond 5, Boyd 6 (Hubert 63, 5), Walker 5, Logan 5 (Taylor 89, 5), Pearson 5, Rutherford 6, Dugdale 5, Shaw 5 (Pogán 68, 5). Subs not used: Jones, Tomlinson

grab a share of the spoils with 12 minutes left when the Hatters went to sleep at the back.

Paul Rutherford found himself in acres of space on the right as he cut into the box and squared the ball to Jason Walker, but man of the match Newton was once again in the thick of it as he produced a great block to keep the striker's effort out.

Victory sees Luton climb back up to second in the table, leading the pursuit of runaway leaders Oxford, who followed up their 2-0 victory over the Hatters in

midweek with a win at Wrexham to go seven points clear at the top.

Barrow, meanwhile, are keeping their head above water in 17th.