

Hatters must focus

09/10
LUTON TOWN 1
Newton 22

BARROW 0

Blue Square Premier
Kenilworth Road

BY TOM LEECH

KILLING teams off still appears to be Luton's weak point in the Blue Square Premier but manager Mick Harford insisted he has faith in his misfiring front line.

Hatters dominated proceedings against Barrow but had to rely on Adam Newton's fortunate strike in the first half to secure the points after wasting chances in front of goal.

Harford admitted his concerns but fully expects his strikers to come good. He said: "Overall we can be better especially in the final third. We were solid defensively, I don't think Mark Tyler had a shot to save."

He added: "It was bizarre, from all the chances, all the efforts on goal, all the positions we got ourselves in we ended up winning with a fluke goal."

Town's match winner admitted after the game that the goal was meant to be a cross, but he said three points were the key after losing their first match of the season last week against Oxford United.

"It was nice to bounce back as a team after Tuesday night's disappointment," said the ex-Peterborough United man.

"I thought we took the game to Barrow in the first few minutes we can play that way and we set our own standards. We've got to turn possession into more goals but we'll settle for the three points."

The main culprit for wasting chances on Saturday was Tom Craddock. The Teesider has still weighed in with four goals in nine games so far this season but spurned two one-on-one chances with Barrow keeper Tim Deasy.



JOY BOYS: Luton celebrate after Adam Newton's lucky goal from a cross

His manager said: "Their keeper made two great saves, but I believe in strikers and I believe in Tommy.

"You've got to keep playing him because he keeps making chances and he keeps getting in there and he'll start scoring sooner or later."

And Harford was boosted by the return from injury of summer signing Liam Hatch. The big centre forward is exactly what Luton's attack has been missing but the manager insisted he won't walk straight back into the starting line-up with veteran Kevin Gallen impressing.

"Everytime Kevin puts a shirt on he looks like one of our best play-

ers," added Harford. "He's 33, he's played every game this season and in a 90f heat he was excellent. There is competition for places with Kevin, Tommy, Hatchy, (Steve) Basham and Rio's (Ryan Charles) fit now so he's come into the fray.

"We've got a decent forward line to choose from and I've got to find the right formation to stick the ball in the net."

■ Saturday's Blue Square Premier clash with York City at Kenilworth Road has been rearranged to Tuesday, October 20.

Police asked for it to be postponed due to fears of a political

march this weekend - despite a Home Office ban.

It gives the Hatters time to prepare for a busy end to the month. Three games in a week against Wrexham, Cambridge United and Stevenage will test their mettle in this division but Newton relishes the task ahead.

Adam Newton said: "We'll use the week professionally, rest injuries and train well.

"We'll look forward to next Tuesday which will be difficult but we're going for the win. The games come thick and fast in this league and long may that be the case because as long as we're playing well, games won't be a problem."