

LUTON TOWN 3 GRAYS ATHLETIC 0

ON TARGET: Asa Hall fires Luton's third through a crowded penalty area

PICTURE: Gareth Jones

LUTON MARCH ON IN STYLE

09/10 (FAC)

LUTON caretaker boss Alan Neilson could not contain his excitement after his side's 3-0 FA Cup demolition of Grays Athletic at Kenilworth Road.

"If we can produce passing of this quality every week then we will go far this season," Neilson said.

Luton were full of attacking verve from the start and soon had Grays on the back foot.

In the third minute Kevin Gallen used his guile to find space and shoot, forcing a fine save from Preston Edwards.

"Kevin's experience is invaluable. He has been a great influence on the rest of the lads," said Neilson.

In the ninth minute the ball pinned in the area. Edwards did

By Michael Casey

well to save but Shane Blackett easily tapped in from close range.

Grays attempted to hit back and stretch Luton.

Jamie Slabber dribbled past three Luton defenders but his shot ended in the side netting.

"Our team were a little out-classed today but I was pleased at how they didn't give up. They kept running for 90 minutes," said Grays manager Julian Dicks.

Callum Reynolds unleashed a piledriver from 30 yards that Edwards did brilliantly to turn over the bar with one hand.

Another free Gallen header came and went as the veteran started to toy with Grays.

Luton's pace paid dividends in the 38th minute when Adam Newton flew down the right and produced a fine cross for hapless Petar Rnkovic to turn into his own net.

The Hatters started to play possession football as the half finished and were in total control for the rest of the game.

Asa Hall hit the bar in the 48th minute while Gallen went close again two minutes later.

Neilson got all his subs on as the Hatters started to make the game look like a practice match.

"It is a long season, so this was ideal for our fringe players to get a decent run out," Neilson said.

Grays did dig deep. Glenn Poole found space in the box to force a

fine save from Mark Tyler but weak speculative shots were the best they could muster.

It was the home side that looked the more dangerous. Reynolds rose high in the 64th minute but his header just crept over the bar.

But it wasn't until the 81st minute that Luton wrapped it up.

Asa Hall coolly picked his spot from outside the box to fire the ball home and send Luton into the first round proper of the FA Cup in fine style.

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STAR MAN: Jack Howells (Luton)
ENTERTAINMENT: ★★★★★