

Hatters cash in on poor defending

ROTHERHAM 2
LUTON TOWN 2 09/10
By Steven Chicken (EAC)

TWO PIECES of lax defending left Millers boss Ronnie Moore shaking his head.

United came from a goal down to take a 2-1 lead after needlessly conceding a penalty, but a lapse in concentration allowed Luton to grab their equaliser.

Moore said: "It was a bit disappointing to concede two silly goals. To give a penalty away like that was unbelievably naive.

"When we were 2-1 up, I was even thinking we could go on and get a third – but we've cut our own throats.

"That's the frustrating thing because I thought we were cruising. But we gifted them two goals by bad decision making."

The Millers started with all the territory and all the possession, but with 22 minutes gone, Andy Nicholas dived in on Claude Gnapska to concede a penalty, which Tom Craddock coolly dispatched.

Adam Le Fondre popped up in first half injury time to equalise, beating his man to tap in from four yards after great work down the right by Ryan Taylor and Tom Pope.

The second half saw few chances until the 62nd minute, when Gary Roberts' byline cross was met by unmarked Stephen Brogan's looping header to give the Millers the lead.

But substitute Mark Nwokeji levelled the scores 12 minutes later, springing an offside trap to race onto Kevin Gallen's through ball and slot past Andy Warrington with not a defender in sight.

Luton manager Richard Money believed it was the right result. "I thought it was another great Cup tie," he said. "That's three we've had since I've been here, all against sides in the top three of the league above us.

"The penalty was a bit against the run of play. They'd obviously had more of the ball than us. But I don't think they created any clear-cut chances.

"Bringing on Mark when we were down enabled us to be more offensive. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't – today it did."

Rotherham pushed forward in the closing minutes, with Pope's 25 yard drive going close, but Luton seemed happy to see the game out and force the replay.

STAR MAN: player (team)

ENTERTAINMENT: ★★★★★