



HAT'S THE WAY:
Liam Hatch turns
away after scoring
the winner
PICTURE: Gareth Owen

LIAM SEALS IT FOR HATTERS

IF BARROW'S management team had had their way, Craig Nelthorpe would be on their books after impressing during a loan spell.

Instead he came back to haunt them after opting to join Luton's promotion campaign.

He only came on for the last 13 minutes but he sent over a crucial cross that was headed from under the Barrow bar by Paul Jones.

And it was from the resultant corner that the Luton winner came – captain Kevin Nicholls sending over a fizzing corner kick from the right and Liam Hatch stooping to head home in the 83rd minute.

Hatters boss Richard Money was delighted. "It was a good victory," he said. "It isn't easy to win here and that was a really big result for us. We did it just about perfectly.

"We started really brightly and in the second half the longer it went on you were just hoping we could get a goal and we did that.

"We had a few good chances early in the first half but a 0-0 wouldn't have been the worst result in the world. But it was a great ball

By Bob Herbert 09/10

in from the corner and a great header from Hatch."

Barrow joint boss Bayliss said he was devastated for his players. "There was nothing much in the game. Neither side was good enough to win it," he said.

"The sides cancelled each other out and it was going to take a mistake to settle it. It was a tough game but we switched off and were not strong enough at a set piece and that was it.

"Luton are a big side with some fantastic individuals and they will be in the play-offs. So I am gutted for the lads that they didn't come away with a draw. The lads are devastated.

"We knew Luton would be up for the game and I am proud of the way our lads performed. Their attitude was spot on and there were no complaints about the performance. But we switched off for one set piece and that was it."

The Hatters started brightly and George Pilkington had a free header but sent it straight at the keeper. Then Tim Deasy had to

race out of the Barrow goal to rob Hatch before Barrow striker Nick Chadwick saw a shot curl just wide.

It looked as if Claude Gnapska had found the way to goal as he dribbled past two defenders on the by-line as he cut in from the right but Deasy fisted out his shot and then Asa Hall put the rebound over the bar.

When Hatch got clear he smashed his shot into the side netting and Deasy could only watch as a Tom Craddock shot went inches over.

At the other end Jones had a header punched out; a Paul Rutherford shot was blocked and Mark Boyd put the rebound well over; and then a Jason Walker shot from a cross by Simon Spender brought out a great save

MATCH STATS

BARROW v LUTON

2 SHOTS ON TARGET	4
5 SHOTS OFF TARGET	8
3 CORNERS	6
1 OFFSIDE	4
7 FOULS CONCEDED	15
1 YELLOW CARDS	2
0 RED CARDS	0

STAR MAN: Claude Gnapska (Luton)
ATT: 1.5/9
ENTERTAINMENT: ★★★★★
REF RATING: Paul Curry 8/10

BARROW 4-4-2: Deasy 6; Spender 6, Pearson 7, Bolland 6 (Jones 11, 7), Jellyman 7; Rutherford 7, Bond 6, Boyd 6, Logan 6 (Wiles 82, 6); Walker 6 (Blundell 85, 6), Chadwick 7. Subs not used: Tomlinson, Powell.
LUTON 4-4-2: Tyler 6; Keane 6, Kovacs 6, Pilkington 7, Murray 7; Gnapska 8 (Nelthorpe 77, 6), Nicholls 6, Hall 6 (Howells 67, 6), Newton 6 (Nwokoji 57, 7); Craddock 7, Hatch 7. Subs not used: Gore, Jarvis.

from Mark Tyler.

Chadwick strove hard to get Barrow moving as an attacking force but strike partner Walker got no joy due to the close attention of George Pilkington and Freddie Murray.

It meant they tried to rely on long range efforts and they lacked accuracy and Luton keeper Tyler was happy to see them go sailing high over the bar as the Hatters comfortably held on for their six successive away clean sheet.

Luton always seem to have more options when going forward and substitute Mark Nwokoji was a real threat when he came on and he smartly tricked Jones only for Deasy to have his shot well covered.