

Hatters rated

Mark Tyler: 8 – A series of great saves, especially his first from point-blank range in the first half. However, punch for the goal could have been better.

Dan Gleeson: 7 – Sturdy showing at the back from the combative defender.

Keith Keane: 7 – Won plenty of ball in the middle but lacked the guile to break Hayes down.

George Pilkington: 7 – Reliable as ever and was never a worry.

Matthew Barnes-Homer: 7 – Put in a couple of telling crosses but his hot streak has definitely cooled.

Andy Drury: 7.5 – Provides real quality, scored his first goal for the club, but let himself down with the sending off.

Shane Blackett: 7 – Steady showing but plenty of room for improvement.

Zdenek Kroca: 7 – Dominated the aerial battles but was powerless to prevent the goal.

Adam Murray: 7 – Busied himself in the middle and saw plenty of the ball, but no cutting edge.

Jake Howells: 6.5 – Nice touches but no end product at the moment.

Danny Crow: 6.5 – Plenty of endeavour but desperately needs a goal.

Kevin Gallen (sub): 7 – Helped the ball to stick in the final third.

Claude Gnaka (sub): 6.5 – Couldn't repeat last season's decimation of Hayes.



GET IN: Winger Andy Drury celebrates his leveller on Monday, before getting his marching orders at the death for two bookable offences

Hatters	United
Shots on	7
Shots off	7
Woodwork	1
Corners	9
Free-kicks	14
Offsides	7
	3

Picture by Gareth Owen

Hatters (4-4-2): Mark Tyler, Dan Gleeson, Keith Keane, George Pilkington (C), Matthew Barnes-Homer (Kevin Gallen 55), Andy Drury, Shane Blackett, Zdenek Kroca, Adam Murray, Jake Howells (Claude Gnaka 57), Danny Crow. **Substitutes not used:** Adam Newton, Tom Craddock, Kevin Pilkington.

United (4-5-1): Lee Harrison (Josh Lennie 42), Lewis Farrell, Adam Green, Tom Cadmore (C), Adam Bygrave, James Mulley, Peter Holmes, Michael Malcolm, Jamie Hand, Bradley Pritchard, Andy Yadom (Elliott Buchanan 82). **Substitutes not used:** Charlie Wassmer, Daniel Wishart, Nathan Webb.

Referee: R Barratt.

Assistant referees: S Plane and T Curtis.

Fourth official: P Redmond.

Booked: Holmes 30; Ferrell 77; Lennie 82; Drury 85; Drury 90+3.

Sent off: Drury 90+3.

Attendance: 6,354 (Hayes 80).

Star Hatter: Mark Tyler. A string of smart saves kept the Hatters in it.

Inconsistency's a killer

Money raps penalty calls

TOWN boss Richard Money felt his side were denied a clear penalty as they were held to a 1-1 draw with Mikes Simmons.

Both Kevin Gallen and Adam Murray had good shouts for spot-kicks in the second half, but both were waved away by referee R Barratt.

Money said: "I thought it was a really good effort from the players, a really good effort. They could do no more, they kept banging on the door, one of them must have been a penalty surely."

"Hayes have flung their bodies in the way of shots, got blocks in, but I think everyone should be proud of their players' efforts."

"They kept trying to play football in the way we want to play, carved out numerous opportunities, but just didn't take a good percentage of them."

"I think everyone knows football is about creating chances, and then you've got to take those chances."

"We've carved out some really good openings and, either through poor finishing, good saves by the goalkeeper or do-or-die blocks from a defender, we could come off the pitch comfortable winners."

For the second home match running, Town were reduced to 10-men late on when Andy Drury was shown red for his second bookable offence.

After picking up a yellow for measuring how far the Hayes wall was back, he then brought down James Mulley when the midfielder was racing clear.

The Hatters boss said: "He was making a point to the referee that they're not 10 yards away and why the referee booked him I do not know."

"Then he's trying to recover a situation for us, and he's a little bit late. Again, why's he got to give him a second yellow card there I do not know. Especially when I would say a number of their defenders have given

foul after foul away all afternoon and not picked up a yellow."

The fixture last season saw Hatters race into a 7-0 half time lead, before adding one more in the second period as they thumped Hayes 8-0.

Most supporters would have pitched up at Kenilworth Road expecting an easy three points, but Money felt that was never going to be the case.

He continued: "It's very dangerous to think that and to be perfectly honest, we as a group put no significance on whether it's Hayes at home or York at home."

"We know whoever we play against cannot work any harder than they already do. We've played six games and I would suggest six cup finals."

"I don't think the other teams experience that if I'm honest. They get spells where they can have a little bit of less intensity, but we know what happens and we live with that."

Hatters now have their longest spell between games since the opening day, with six days off before their televised trip to Grimsby on Saturday.

Money was delighted to give his players a chance to recuperate and reflect on what he feels has been a positive start to the campaign.

He added: "The two objectives were to get as many points on the board as we could and get a good start which I think we've done, even though the last three games in terms of results have not been what we wanted."

"We also wanted to utilise the group and get everybody good playing time. We can now have a couple of days break and the players have earned it as we need to recharge batteries."

"It's difficult for me to explain to people how tough it is to go through six games in 16 days, it's not just the physical, but the mental side."

"It's impossible to recover energy levels in the way you want to, and now we can recharge and go again for the next block of fixtures which are equally as important."

Luton Town 1 (0)
Hayes & Yeading 1 (0)

INCONSISTENT refereeing is a real bugbear for players and supporters alike, writes Mark Wood.

The Hatters had several penalty appeals for handball turned down in the 1-1 draw against Hayes & Yeading on Monday while being given several decisions outside the area much to the annoyance of defender Shane Blackett.

The 27-year-old, who was making his first start of the season in place of injured left-back Freddie Murray, said: "It was a game we went into expecting to win. It was very frustrating."

"We just couldn't break them down and find that second goal. We pressed hard, especially second half. There were three or four cases of handball today, which we didn't get, and on another day we could have got two or three of them."

"It's the inconsistency which really annoys people. At this level you sometimes have to get used to it. Things don't always fall your way."

"The lads got very frustrated and those decisions just make things even worse."

"We still tried to play but it just didn't fall for us."

"You keep knocking on the door and you hope one will drop for you. It wasn't our day."

A string of fine saves from Mark Tyler helped to rescue a point for 10-man Town as they fought back from a goal down thanks to Andy Drury's first goal for the club.

Blackett was full of praise for Luton's shot-stopper, saying: "He has been top notch. He even got to the first one, making a punch. The guy couldn't have hit it any sweeter. Keith Keane was on the line and it's hit the bar and gone in. Sometimes you just have to hold your hands up and say it was a great strike."

The Luton keeper was in fine form throughout, pulling off nu-

merous good stops, but was arguably at fault for Hayes' opening goal as his punch lacked power.

Town pressed for a winner as the woodwork and some questionable refereeing decisions rescued Hayes, before Drury was sent off in injury time after picking up two bookings in quick succession.

Blackett said: "That was disappointing for us. Andy Drury is a good and valuable player for us. "I think he is suspended this coming Saturday and we go to Grimsby without him but we've got a strong squad."

"The first one the wall was seven or eight yards away and he counted out the 10 yards."

And on the second, he added: "I tried stopping the referee but he said he had no option and he had to go."

"He had his head in his hands and was gutted he had let his teammates down."

Town had made five changes from Saturday's 3-1 defeat at Tamworth.

Neither Zdenek Kroca or Matthew Barnes-Homer could connect with Danny Crow's fine early knockback before Tyler produced the save of the game on 12 minutes.

Blackett's header fell invitingly to Michael Malcolm, but the former Luton trialist's strike was brilliantly turned away.

A swirling wind made set-pieces difficult but Luton twice went close midway through the half. George Pilkington saw a looping header from a corner well tipped over the bar by Lee Harrison, while Barnes-Homer could only fire Kroca's knockdown just wide soon after.

United then survived appeals for a penalty on 31 minutes when Jake Howells looked to beat Adam Bygrave in the box before Barnes-Homer flicked Drury's cross straight at Harrison.

A terrible slip from Tom Cadmore then let Adam Murray in, but

he could only spoon well over from the edge of the box.

Harrison was in inspired form as he produced a great one-handed save from Crow's flick header.

Howells headed another good Barnes-Homer cross straight at Harrison before the United stopper pulled off another great stop to beat Drury's powerful drive away.

That was to be Harrison's last contribution as injury forced the keeper off and he was replaced by Josh Lennie.

United looked dangerous in possession though and Tyler did brilliantly early in the second half to turn James Mulley's curler over the bar.

The visitors snatched the lead with a fine strike on 54 minutes though.

Tyler raced off his line to punch clear a cross and, with the keeper scrambling back, Bradley Pritchard chipped expertly home.

But Luton were level on the hour. Keith Keane's free-kick eluded the throng in the box and Drury was lurking at the back post to power his header home.

A Kroca header then smacked the bar 10 minutes later and substitute Kevin Gallen's follow up was cleared despite claims it had crossed the line.

Tyler was then again at his best to tip ex-Hatter Peter Holmes' pile-driver over the bar on 74 minutes.

Town began to turn the screw and only a great block from Bygrave denied Gallen before good shouts for a penalty were turned down when Murray's drive seemed to strike a Hayes hand.

Luton laid siege to the visitors goal in the closing stages before United almost twice snatched it.

Adam Green's venomous deflected free-kick was parried by Tyler before he saved with his legs from Mulley.

Drury then received his marching orders as Town saw out the final minutes to claim a point.