



GRIMSBY TOWN 2
Connell (pen) 30, Cummins 71

MARINERS



GETTING SHIRTY:
Matthew Barnes-Homer
with Grimsby's
Lee Ridley

PICTURES: Graham Quinn

Money furious at spot-kick decision

LUTON boss Richard Money criticised Lancashire referee Jeremy Simpson after a penalty decision he labelled 'shocking' set opponents Grimsby on their way.

Money said: "The referee let us down with the penalty decision - if that's a penalty, we should have had four last

What they said...

week. We should have had one in the second-half here. "I don't think the scoreline reflects the game in any way shape or form. "For an hour we played more than well enough to get three points - until their

second goal. Mark Tyler had one shot to save.

"We've lost our way a little bit after a solid start but I have faith and belief in these players."

Grimsby boss Neil Woods said: "We didn't have a weak player out there at all today. "We got a break with the

penalty. If it had been given against my team I wouldn't have been happy.

"But we took it and were a lot more composed in the second half. It's a good win for us and just shows how important the victory against Histon was as well because it's pushed us up there."

LUTON TOWN 0



PUT LUTON ALL AT SEA



By Dave Pye



GRIMSBY proved they might just have the X-factor this season after they passed their Saturday evening

screen test against Luton to move into the Blue Square Bet Premier's top four.

It was prime time viewing for a noisy home crowd as the Mariners beat last year's play-off semi-finalists 2-0 thanks to Alan Connell's first-half penalty and Micky Cummins' first goal for the club - a header 19 minutes from time.

A second successive home win for the side relegated from the Football League in May took them above the Hatters and to within three points of pacesetters AFC Wimbledon.

But it could have been so different had Richard Money's side made the most of their early dominance.

It was the Hatters who were sharpest early on, veteran Kevin Gallen threatening within the first few minutes.

First he saw a low-free-kick saved by debutant Grimsby loan keeper Richard O'Donnell and then sent a close-range effort on the turn whistling over the bar.

Claude Gnaka was also lively, sending in several dangerous crosses from the right wing.

The Grimsby defence stood firm to keep the door closed on Money's men.

Once they settled their opening night nerves, Neil Woods' side



SPOT ON: Grimsby's Alan Connell scores from the penalty spot

started to push Luton back with top scorer Alan Connell causing concern for the visiting backline.

He was thwarted on 29 minutes when he collected a neat little turning ball from Lee Ridley to get a shot away before keeper Mark Tyler got down well.

But, just 60 seconds later, he beat the big stopper from the penalty spot after Shane Blackett was deemed to have handled in a crowded box, much to the disbelief of the Luton players.

They complained, Grimsby were delighted, and the home crowd roared their approval when their new striking icon buried his spot-kick low to Tyler's right into the bottom corner on the half-hour.

It was a lead very much against

the run of play in the first-half but the Blundell Park faithful weren't complaining.

Luton could have been level in stoppage time had Mark Hudson not been in the right place, guarding the left-hand post when Gnaka's header from a corner looked to be heading in before the Grimsby man headed clear.

After the break, Grimsby looked brighter but could still have been pegged back eight minutes in.

Hatters hitman Matthew Barnes-Homer was still seething after being denied what he thought was a penalty for holding in the box as he tried to turn when he saw a low drive come back off the base of the post. He picked Darren Kempson's pocket and advanced in from the

left to beat O'Donnell at his near post but not the woodwork.

Grimsby kept their lead and tried to increase it through left-sided midfielder Bradley Wood but his right-footer was simple meat and drink for Tyler.

The home crowd were encouraged, though, and as the final quarter of the crunch game at the top of the table edged closer, they raised the noise level.

And their faith was rewarded when Irish midfielder Cummins doubled their lead on 71 minutes.

A drilled corner from Lewis Gubern found Cummins unmarked and he planted a smart header into the top corner back across a helpless Tyler to seal the

MATCH STATS

GRIMSBY v LUTON

5	SHOTS ON TARGET	4
3	SHOTS OFF TARGET	7
2	OFFSIDE	2
6	CORNERS	9
8	FOULS CONCEDED	11
2	YELLOW CARDS	2
0	RED CARDS	0

STAR MAN: Darren Kempson (Grimsby)
ATT: 3,822

ENTERTAINMENT: *****

REF RATING: Jeremy Simpson 5/10

GRIMSBY: 4-4-2: O'Donnell 6, Bore 8, Watt 8, Kempson 9, Ridley 8, Gubern 7, Eagle 90, 61, Hudson 8, Cummins 7, Wood 8 (corner 79, 71), Peacock 7, Connell 6. Subs not used: Garner, Samuels, Croudson.
LUTON: 4-4-2: Tyler 7, Gleeson 7, O'Flickington 7, Klocak 7, Blackett 7, Gnaka 9 (Alano 79, 6), Murray 8, Keane 7 (Besta 56, 6), Newton 7, Gallen 8 (Crow 61, 7), Barnes-Homer 8. Subs not used: Besta, Crow.