



GOOD POINT:
Matthew Barnes-Homer celebrates his goal for Luton

PICTURE: Gareth Owen

GOAL FAMINE GOES ON

By Bob Herbert

BARROW'S goalless run goes on. It is now 402 minutes since they last found the net.

But they had the high-riding Luton Town hanging on at the end.

The Barrow second half performance certainly surprised Luton Town boss Richard Money.

"I wasn't expecting that," he said afterwards.

"We were very good in the first half, moved the ball well and we should have come in comfortably in front. It should have been two or three. Fortunately the one goal proved enough.

"They had the wind behind them in the second half and on that pitch it wasn't easy to move the ball.

"They kept getting behind us in the second half, spinning us around and we kept getting deeper and deeper.

"It was a big three points. Maybe the second half display was because we appear to have been on the road for a long time.

"It is a bit like going round the world visiting Darlington, Gateshead and now Barrow in ten days. Four points from all that travelling is no disaster.

"I was able to freshen things up eventually - that is the benefit of having a strong bench."

Barrow skipper Paul Jones put his side's problems down to a lack of confidence.

"Things were going well when we went seven games unbeaten but now we are not getting the goals."

The central defender added: "I should have had one myself in the last minute but my backheader went over the bar because I didn't know where the goal was.

"We can't buy a result at the moment. We are not making too many chances. We are doing a lot of huffing and puffing but there is no end product."

Luton called the tune in the first half and a Jake Howell's shot was well taken by home keeper Alan Martin. Then Paul Edwards got in a very timely tackle as Claude Gnaka threatened to break clear.

It was not until the 37th minute that they broke the deadlock. Andy

Drury cut in from the left and his inch perfect pass was met on the edge of the box by Matthew Barnes-Homer and he steered the ball home.

It would have got worse for Barrow but for two great Martin saves to efforts by Gnaka and Drury.

But the second half was a different tale. Barrow's Jason Walker fired in a shot that curled inches wide and then when he hammered in a free kick, it brought a great save out of Hatters' keeper Mark Tyler.

Andy Cook put a couple of long range efforts wide before Walker fastened onto a pass and tried to chip the keeper. Tyler managed to get his fingertips to the ball only for it to fall to Paul Rutherford, but his header lacked power and was cleared.

And then in the final seconds came the agonising moment for Jones as his flicked backheader went inches over the bar.

MATCH STATS

BARROW v LUTON

5	SHOTS ON TARGET	3
7	SHOTS OFF TARGET	5
5	CORNERS	5
2	OFFSIDE	3
8	FOULS CONCEDED	12
2	YELLOW CARDS	0
0	RED CARDS	0

STAR MAN: Andy Drury (Luton)
ATE: 1,416

ENTERTAINMENT: ★★★★★
REF RATING: T Harrington 7/10

BARROW: 4-4-2: Martin 7; Spender 6, M Pearson 7, Jones 8, Edwards 7, Rutherford 6, Hulbert 6, Owen 7, Wainwright 6; Walker 7, Cook 7 (Forrest 78, 6). Subs not used: S Pearson, Bolland, Boyd, Blundell
LUTON: 4-4-2: Tyler 7; Gleeson 6, G Pilkington 7, Kroka 7, Murray 7; Keane 6, Howells 7, Gnaka 7 (Poku 67, 6); Drury 8; Crow 6 (Morgan-Smith 60, 6); Barnes-Homer 8 (Atieno 75, 6). Subs not used: Blackett, K Pilkington