



**LUTON TOWN 5**  
Goalies 7, Howells 19, Walker 39, Drury 69 (goal), Atieno 76

**HISTON 1**  
Murray 43



# IT'S STILL A BOX DRURY!



By **Stuart Hammonds**

**THE NEW STAR MATCH**

**ANDY DRURY** understood why **Crawley** are prepared to raid their **Project Promotion** fund for him by scoring one and creating the other four as Luton went nap against Histon.

The Hatters' new signing from Barrow, Jason Walker, nestled on his elbow as Hatters ensured they cling onto the leaders' controls, leapfrogging into second spot with a seventh win in nine league games. But it was Drury, for whom Luton's hierarchy have issued a firm hands-off to the preying Sussex club this week, who once again walked off with the sponsors' man-of-the-match bubble after another show of champagne football. Drury's early free-kick teed Claude Gnopa up and he then played the probing ball that led to right-back Jack Ainsley's mistake for Jake Howells' second.

He put Matthew Barnes-Homer in behind to cross for Walker's 39th-minute header, then won and converted a penalty for number four before sliding a perfect ball through for Taiwo Atieno to make it five.

"It was a crucial three points," said Luton manager Richard Money. "It was a game we were always very wary of with it being the fourth game in nine days. You can't keep taking the horse to the wall, as they say."

"It was a comfortable victory but a day where I think the body was willing, but the mind not quite as bright and sharp as we'd like."

"But we've got a real goalkeeping threat and were able to get the goals at the right time. "Jason gives us something different. He's a little bit more aggressive in the air than any of the others."

"He's a real handful. He holds it up well, his movement is good and from

what I've seen of him today and from what I know of him, he's going to be a real good asset for this football club, both in the short-term and long-term."

Walker might have had a goal before he managed his 12th of the season, just 42 seconds had gone when he dragged a right-foot shot wide, and six minutes later he was at the centre of the Hatters' opener.

The striker robbed the ball off Histon's dwelling debutant Ainsley in the corner, then drove a free-kick from the leeward lozenge. Drury's invigorating delivery was seen in the bottom corner of the criminally free head of Gnopa, playing at right-back.

Walker had a couple of headers at goal before Howells capitalised on another moment of Ainsley hesitation — this time the 20-year-old defender intercepted Drury's through ball but turned straight into Histon, who sid-

ed his past the crashing Joe Welch. Then came the moment Walker would have dreamed about on Friday night.

He helped Mack Tyler's low kick out wide to Drury, the winger diverted it to Barnes-Homer who stood a delicious cross up to the far post for the Cambrian to nod over the line.

Histon grew into the game and pulled one back when Antonio Murray, having started the move with a nutmeg on Zdenek Kroc, steered his shot past Freddie Murray's despairing dive to the impressive Lee Wootton — who had fired two earlier shots wide — weighted a ball into his path.

The Stretts, who had only lost one of their previous six matches, played some neat football immediately after the break, but the traffic was soon heading back towards their goal necessarily.

Substitute Atieno scored a couple

of chances and Drury likewise before both eventually made it onto the scoresheet.

Drury was first in the 69th minute, twisting *Ainsley* this way and that before being headed just inside the box. His fifth strike of the campaign followed from 12 yards.

Then he found Atieno, who tricked his way inside Benny Clemens and fired past Welch from 18 yards.

The Histon keeper, who had pulled off a wonder save to deny Ainsley just before the hour, was stretched off after colliding with the same player just before the end.

"That's fairly the injury man's serious. "He was just a bit dizzy and at 5-1 there was no point in taking a risk," said his manager, Dave Livermore.

**STAR MAN:** Andy Drury (Luton)  
**APR 5, 2003**  
**ENTERTAINMENT** ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦  
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## MATCH STATS

### LUTON V HISTON

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| 17 SHOTS ON TARGET | 2  |
| 3 SHOTS OFF TARGET | 3  |
| 4 CORNERS          | 4  |
| 8 OFFSIDE          | 1  |
| 11 GOALS CONCEDED  | 11 |
| 1 YELLOW CARDS     | 3  |
| 0 RED CARDS        | 0  |

**LUTON:** 4-2-3-1: Taylor 6, Gnopa 6, Howells 19, Walker 39, Drury 69, Murray 43, Barnes-Homer 43, Tyler 4, Kroc 4, Welch 19, Atieno 76, Ainsley 4, Stewart 5, Corrie 2, Hall 2, Smith 4, McQuinn 1, Cleary 8, Whitton 7, 8, Murray 7, Atieno 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**GNAP HAND:** Luton's Claude Gnopa celebrates after (inset) climbing highest to score his side's opener against Histon

PICTURES: Gouth Owen

## Livermore ponders a defensive record

Histon manager Dave Livermore made his Stutes debut at centre-half in last week's game with Kidderminster. For the trip to Kenilworth Road, where he played eight games on loan from Brighton in 2005-06, he left himself out and could only look on as his

**What they said...**  
backline struggled.  
The 30-year-old admitted: "We gave them every goal today. That's probably the most disappointing thing. "We came here with five across the middle to make things difficult for them. The

game plan was to silence the crowd and hopefully go in at half-time 0-0 and have them on their backs. "But when you play 4-5-1 and then make the errors that we did for the goals, the game plan goes out the window." Luton boss Richard Money was delighted Taiwo Atieno

got on the scoresheet after his two-goal FA Cup show against Corby in midweek. "It was a class finish from Atieno," he said. "He's come on again and might have had two or three. It's important for strikers to get goals and three in two games will help his confidence."