



TAMWORTH 1

Mills 76

LUTON TOWN 3

Crow 38, 53, Dance 56



Brabin's on the up, but Law fumes at referee

By Michael Beardmore

UNDER-PRESSURE Luton boss Gary Brabin saw his side climb back into the Blue Square Premier play-off spots by vanquishing nine-man Tamworth – and vowed to keep them there.

Luton took advantage of the controversial early dismissal of Lambs skipper Paul Green to cruise to victory through Danny Crow's double and a James Dance strike.

Tamworth's Francino Francis also saw red in the second half although the hosts netted a late consolation through Danny Mills.

Brabin said: "We created some really good chances, played some really good football and I was delighted with the lads.

"That's the sort of performance we've been wanting for the full 90 minutes.

"We applied ourselves well from minute one and if it wasn't for their keeper it could have been a lot

more, he pulled off some fantastic saves.

"It's a really tough league but I know we've got more to offer, more of what we've showed here.

"We've got to respect the opposition but if we focus on ourselves and produce performances as consistent as this, I'll be confident we can stay in the top five."

The game turned on the 17th minute sending off of Green for a lunge on Dan Gleeson – the Tamworth man won the ball but ref Ross Joyce classed it a dangerous tackle and brandished the red card.

The one-man advantage was all the invitation Luton needed. Dance and Jake Howells both forced fine stops from Tamworth keeper Jonathan Hedge before Crow smartly hooked them in front from a far post corner on 38 minutes.

Crow fired home the killer second goal in the 53rd minute and Dance wrapped up the points three minutes later, latching on to a Howells through ball and lashing home past Hedge.



STONE THE CROWS: Luton's Danny Crow bags his first against the Lambs

PICTURE: Gareth Owen

Tamworth's miserable afternoon seemed complete when last man Francis was dismissed for bringing down Keith Keane.

It was a golden opportunity for Crow to complete his hat-trick, but the impressive Hedge saved his tame penalty.

The Lambs then pulled a goal back when Mills' shot deflected home off George Pilkington on 76 minutes, but there was no chance of a miracle comeback.

It was little consolation for Lambs boss Marcus Law – or Green and

Francis, who could now miss Tamworth's FA Cup third round clash at Premiership giants Everton unless appeals are successful.

Law fumed: "I've never ever gone in to see a referee after a game in the 15 years I've been a manager so the fact I felt I needed to speak to him says something.

"I wasn't irate or throwing teacups or anything like that. We just had a frank discussion.

"I just said to him 'don't dive into your decision, you don't need to rush into it, regardless of the pan-

tomime that's going on'.

"You've got two Luton players jumping around and appealing.

"The FA are asking us not to run around the referee and appeal – when that decision is made, that is asking for players to jump around because they get the reward.

"As for the penalty, they've gone shoulder to shoulder.

"And again the ref has dived in, not assessing the reality of the situation – if I run into Fran, I'm hitting the floor but that doesn't mean he has fouled me."

MATCH STATS

TAMWORTH v LUTON

2	SHOTS ON TARGET	9
3	SHOTS OFF TARGET	6
2	CORNERS	6
1	OFFSIDE	2
11	FOULS CONCEDED	12
0	YELLOW CARDS	3
2	RED CARDS	0

STAR MAN: Jake Howells (Luton)
ATT: 1,467

ENTERTAINMENT: ★★★★★
REF RATING: Ross Joyce 5/10

TAMWORTH: (4-4-2): Hedge 8, Habbergham 5, Kanyuka 6, Francis 5, Tait 7, Barrow 5, Courtney 5, Green 4, Thomas 6 (Reynolds 46, 6), Patterson 6 (Christie 68, 5), St Aimie 5 (Mills 68, 7). **Subs not used:** McDonald, Shariff.
LUTON TOWN: (4-5-1): K Pilkington 7, Taylor 6, Kovacs 7, G Pilkington 6, Gleeson 6, Howells 8, Watkins 7 (Kissock 76, 7), Lawless 7, Keane 7, Dance 8 (Wright 90), Crow 7 (Fleetwood 84). **Subs not used:** Tyler, Wilmott.