

Bath sink closer to the drop

11/12



LUTON TOWN 2

Kovacs 17, Watkins 81



BATH CITY 0

HATTERS boss Gary Brabin felt his side took the foot off the pedal during their home win over rock bottom Bath City on Saturday.

It took Luton just 17 minutes to break the deadlock, thanks to a towering header from Janos Kovacs, but as the home fans waited for an avalanche of goals against a side who had lost their last eight matches, it never materialised.

Instead, it needed a fine volley with nine minutes remaining from substitute Adam Watkins, fresh from scoring for England C in midweek, to ease the tensions that were lingering over Kenilworth Road.

Brabin said: "I was delighted we won, we kept another clean sheet and showed some good bits at times.

"I thought we started bright and once we scored the first goal it was like it was going to be too easy. Then we stopped as a team doing the good habits that we're trying to instil in the group and at times looked sloppy because of it."

Defeat means the Romans are now 11 points from safety with 11 games remaining but manager Adie Britton will fight on.

He said: "When you lose games of football and have a very, very bad run which we've had, it's very easy to just change everything you do and change for the sake of change.

"We've improved the football team for the last six to seven years, but we clearly

By Mike Simmonds

have problems defensively this year. We just need to be a bit more clinical as a side."

Luton had come close early on with John Paul Kissock and Greg Taylor flashing shots narrowly wide from the edge of the box.

The visitors had a great chance on 15 minutes though when George Pilkington gifted possession to Sean Canham, but he fired straight at Mark Tyler.

Town opened the scoring on 16 minutes when the unmarked Kovacs netted

with a firm header from Welsh U-21 international Jake Howells.

The game never sparked into life though and Marley Watkins' wayward shot for Bath and Alex Lawless' flicked header at Glyn Garner were the only real chances of note.

After the break, there remained precious little goalmouth excitement at either end.

Neither side looked like scoring until 70 minutes when Willmott's deflected cross was palmed on to a post by Garner and Crow's follow-up was cleared off the line by a mixture of keeper and defender.

Victory was secured on 81 minute though when Watkins completed a fine individual week, finding the bottom corner with a left foot volley.

Fellow sub Stuart Fleetwood almost made it 3-0 but his diving header was superbly saved by Garner as Town continued to consolidate their play-off place.

MATCH STATS		
LUTON v BATH		
5	SHOTS ON TARGET	1
8	SHOTS OFF TARGET	2
4	CORNERS	2
1	OFFSIDE	4
10	FOULS CONCEDED	12
1	YELLOW CARDS	1
0	RED CARDS	0

STAR MAN: Janos Kovacs

(Luton)

ATT: 5,745

ENTERTAINMENT: ★★★★★

REF RATING: R Whitton 6/10

LUTON: 4-1-4-1: Tyler 6; Taylor 7, Keane 6 (Boucaud 66, 7), Pilkington 7, Lawless 7; Crow 6; Willmott 5, Howells 6 (Fleetwood 82, 6), Asafu-Adjaye 7, Kissock 7 (Watkins 55, 7); Kovacs 7. **Subs not used:** McAllister, O'Connor. **BATH:** 4-5-1: Garner 7; Stonehouse 6, Jones 7, Connolly 6, Hogg 5 (Shepherd 23); Preece 6, M Canham 6, Watkins 6 (Murray 67, 7), Burnell 6, Gallinagh 6; S Canham 6. **Subs not used:** Rollo, Cook, Doherty.

