

Lawless demands more from Town

by Mark Wood

01582 798517 mark.wood@jpress.co.uk

**Blue Square Bet Premier
Luton Town 2 (1) Bath City 0 (0)**

MIDFIELDER Alex Lawless admitted Town's players expected more from themselves as they laboured to a 2-0 victory over rock-bottom Bath City at Kenilworth Road on Saturday.

An indifferent refereeing performance hampered the Hatters who prevailed thanks to Janos Kovacs' header and substitute Adam Watkins' thumping left-foot volley as they condemned Bath, who haven't won away all season in the league, to a ninth-straight defeat.

Dissatisfied Lawless revealed: "We'd like to think we'd be beating them by quite a few goals, but football isn't as simple as that.

"Especially when they are down the bottom fighting for their careers, points, everything. They really battled.

"I think everyone is fully aware it (the expectancy) is the case as well.

"We would like every game to be perfect if we could or as close to it as we can.

"There's still a lot of games left and we are still fighting for promotion and will do everything we can to get as close to the expectations."

While he was never in doubt that Luton would triumph Lawless admitted it took Watkins' strike from his cross to seal the points.

He said: "I think we were always confident we would come out on top. I heard one of their players saying 'keep going we are more than in this game,' and they were when there's one goal, but the minute he scored the goal their heads went down.

"From training I'm used to seeing Adam doing stuff like that. It was a great time for it to go in as well.

"It's always nice to contribute to a goal whatever it might be.

"It's nice for Adam as well, especially on the back of scoring in the week for England."

Kovacs was the only change from the team that beat Gateshead 2-0 in the FA Trophy last week, replacing Shane Blackett.

Pictures by Joanna Cross



STRUGGLE:
Town labour
to victory over
Bath City at
the weekend

John Paul Kissock fizzed just wide from 25 yards out after four minutes before Greg Taylor dragged just past the post.

Keeper Glyn Garner spilled a Robbie Willmott shot, but there was no-one to turn home as Town completely bossed possession.

The Hatters were almost hit with the ultimate sucker punch on 14 minutes when captain George Pilkington was robbed by Sean Canham but he could only roll a tame effort at Mark Tyler.

Town deservedly took the lead three minutes later when Howells whipped a corner into the six yard box and an unmarked Kovacs powered his header into the net.

The home side went close again midway through the half when Taylor's goalbound effort was deflected wide by an unaware teammate Danny Crow.

Overplaying and failing to do the simple things though meant the Hatters stuttered going forward as Watkins lashed over and Alex Lawless glanced a free-kick straight at the keeper.

Bath caught Luton napping in stoppage time when an offside Gethin Jones directed his header just wide as Town looked far from secure.

The second half continued in much the same vein as Crow fired a snapshot straight at Garner five minutes in.

Watkins' introduction pepped the Hatters up, while Keith Keane could only spoon an effort from the edge of the area well over.

Luton twice went close in a matter of seconds on 72 minutes. Willmott's cross was deflected goalwards and a scrambling Garner was able to palm the ball on to the near post.

Crow stroked the rebound towards the gaping net, but somehow found the only man on the line who cleared, despite claims it had gone in.

Kovacs was then nonsensically booked for a perfectly-timed challenge before referee R Whitton, who looked hopelessly out of his depth, failed to punish an awful lunging challenge on substitute Andre Boucaud.

Town made the game safe though when Lawless' cross was headed as far as Watkins who met the clearance with a sweet left-foot volley that flew into the bottom corner.

Full-back Ed Asafu-Adjaye produced a great block to deny Chris Shepherd while the final minutes saw Willmott come to life.

His first cross was behind substitute Stuart Fleetwood while the striker's close-range header from the second was met by a great point-blank save from Garner.

In stoppage time Watkins released Fleetwood but he could only blast over as Town triumphed.