



LUTON TOWN 2 DORCHESTER 1

Gray 30, Lawless 88

Pugh 71



12/13
(FAC)

ALEX LAWS DOWN THE LAW FOR HATTERS

Buckle's boys through against familiar foes

By Stuart Hammonds

LUTON survived a scare to reach the third round in the second meeting of two teams who have spent almost as much time together as the 'I'm a Celebrity' contestants this week.

Midfielder Alex Lawless laid down the 'law of the jungle' with what proved the 68th-minute

winner for the Blue Square Bet Premier title favourites, who had led through Andre Gray's first-half opener.

Dorchester, the Conference South side who held the Hatters to a 2-2 FA Trophy draw in midweek and will return to Kenilworth Road for a replay this Tuesday, hit back through Arnan Pugh's 71st-minute goal and took the tie right to the death.

"I'm absolutely delighted and

very proud that we're in the third round," said Luton boss Paul Buckle. "A lot of upsets will have happened today and I'm just glad we're not one of them."

"We started the game really well and were disappointed not to be more than one up at half-time. In the end, it looks like we've had to hang on but any team will have a spell and we invited it."

"Dorchester are a good side, they've already beaten League opposition. But we've shown enough character to hold on and get through."

Luton controlled the first half and when they eventually took the lead on the half-hour, the goal was all of Gray's own making.

Centre-half Dean Bedworth carried the ball forward and played Gray in to the left byline, and the England C man – with seemingly nowhere to go – headed back towards the penalty spot.

He held off two challenges, staying on his feet when many might have gone down, to swirl and shoot low into the bottom corner for his sixth of the season.

If O'Donnell and Lawless went close to doubling the advantage at half-time approached, while Dorchester – 28 places below the Hatters in the Pyramid – had shown none of the slick football that took them past League Two



MATCH STATS LUTON v DORCHESTER

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

STAR MAN: Mark Tyler (Luton)
ATT: 3,287

ENTERTAINMENT: ★★★★★
REF RATING: Carl Berry 7/10

LUTON: 4-4-2: Tyler & Henry 2; Kovacs 7, Blackwell 7, Lacey 66, Howe-Turner 6, Lawless 7, O'Donnell 6, Murphy 60, Smith 7, Howells 7, Rendell 6, Gray 7. DORCHESTER: 4-5-1: Matthews 7, Walker 6, Clough 7, Pugh 7, Martin 6, Gosling 6, Nicholas 6, Jermy 6 (Thompson 72, 6), Griston 7, Garcia 6, Malsom 46, 6, Watson 6. Subs not used: Cottenden, Colson, Smeeth, Morgan, Walker-Harris.

Plymouth in the first round. But the introduction of left winger Sam Malsom as a half-time sub gave them some zip.

Ashley Nicholas twice tried his luck, Jamie Gleeson's header went close and Charlie Clough – who netted the last-minute Trophy leveller four days earlier – likewise as the Magpies finally had a go.

Even then, they needed veteran

goalkeeper Jason Matthews' reflexes to defy his years as Gray burst through on the hour, but he could do nothing about Lawless' clincher eight minutes later, the Welshman flashing his drive across keeper from the right side of the area and inside the far post.

Dorchester were back in it three minutes later when Pugh got on the end of a well-worked corner routine, and Luton had to call on their own evergreen goalie, Mark Tyler, to produce top stops to keep out Malsom – twice – and a clean-through Ben Watson.

The Magpies were giving it

everything and no-one more so than Jake Gosling, the first-round matchwinner on loan from Exeter, who twice shot from distance before Tyler again had to get down low to his right to keep out sub Dan Thompson's injury-time volley.

"One or two of the younger lads were a bit overawed, but I'm proud of the way we played in the second half and we're unlucky not to get anything out of it," said Magpies boss Phil Simkin.

"Their goalkeeper was unbelievable. We'll come back on Tuesday and have another go at getting past him!"



GROUP HUG: Luton celebrate Andre Gray's opener