



LUTON TN 1 GRIMSBY TN 1

Lawless 76

Southwell 54



BOSSSES HAPPY TO DRAW ON POSITIVES Managers take heart

MATCH STATS

LUTON v GRIMSBY

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

STAR MAN: Alex Lawless (Luton)

ATT: 5,662

ENTERTAINMENT: ★★★★★

REF RATING: Seb Stockbridge 7/10

LUTON: 4-4-2: Brill 6; Lawless 8, McNulty 6, Rowe-Turner 7, Griffiths 7; Martin 8, Taiwo 6, Smith 5, Robinson 7; Shaw 7 (Wall 67 6), Gray 6 **Subs not used:** McFarlane-Barnes, Ainge, O'Donnell, Walker
GRIMSBY: 4-4-2: McKeown 7; Wood 5 (Hutton 68 5), Miller 6, Ford 6, Thomas 6; Taylor 6 (Niven 68 5), Thanoj 7, Artus 6, Southwell 7; Hearn 6, John-Lewis 6 **Subs not used:** Fleming, Naylor, Hannah

JOHN STILL appeared confident for next season after seeing his Luton side hold promotion-chasing Grimsby in front of the television cameras on Friday night.

Dayle Southwell poked home to give the visitors the lead early in the second half, before Alex Lawless capped an impressive showing by equalising on 76 minutes.

And Still was left satisfied with the Hatters' efforts, even if they are only playing for pride.

He said: "I was pleased with the performance tonight, the team performance as a whole, but a lot of individual performances too.

"We were poor at Gateshead, but it's not about losing - everybody loses games of football - it is how we respond to that.

"We played some good football and at a great tempo today and maybe we should be putting away a few more of our opportunities.

By Tom Ambrose

"It is a glimmer of what this side can achieve, but that is still to come - gradually people are understanding what is required of them."

And it was Luton who had the better of the early stages, with Jon Shaw's third-minute strike taking the combined efforts of the Mariners' defence to clear off the line.

Five minutes later, Shaw was threatening James McKeown's goal again but his shot curled wide of his right post.

Andre Gray's trickery almost paid off after cutting in from the left, but his shot was expertly blocked by Grimsby's Bradley Wood after 23 minutes.

The visitors soaked up all the pressure and could have hit Luton with a sucker-punch seven minutes after the interval.

Andi Thanoj's fierce drive fizzed past Dean Brill but rattled against the underside of the bar, before Lenell



LUCK'S OUT: Luton's David Martin goes for goal. Inset: Grimsby celebrate

PICTURE: Gareth Owen

John-Lewis mistimed his header following up.

But the missed opportunity mattered little when two minutes later Southwell scrambled the ball home, despite the hosts' last-ditch attempts to clear off the line.

A goal down, Luton began to display the early industry that created chances aplenty in the first half without bearing fruit.

And the equaliser did come four-

teen minutes from time when full-back Lawless controlled in the box before smashing into the top corner.

Luton could have won it late on, but Gray could only glance his headed effort wide of the post.

The result takes Grimsby's unbeaten run to seven matches, leaving joint-manager Paul Hurst with cause for optimism with the play-offs on the horizon.

He said: "I was more interested in

the performance than the result tonight.

"We are looking at how players perform regularly and there are places up for grabs when it comes to the play-offs.

"We had the opportunity to rest a few players this evening and some of our lads needed that.

"After half-time we took control and, at one up, we probably ought to have put the game out of sight."