



LUTON TOWN 4

Gray 16, 55, 78, Guttridge 51

HYDE 1

McNulty 45 (o.g)

ANOTHER GRAY DAY FOR HYDE

Andre's treble is torture

By Greg Stanley

13/14

IN-FORM Andre Gray is living proof that hard work pays off, after breaking back into Luton's starting eleven.

Gray suffered what manager John Still described as a 'slow start to the season', but a string of good performances recently has seen him become a key member of the side.

His importance was evident here, against strugglers Hyde where his electric pace and lethal finishing helped him net a hat-trick in a 4-1 victory at an atmospheric Kenilworth Road.

Hyde went into this game on a woeful run of ten straight defeats, with no goals in six games, but an unexpected win on this ground last season meant there was reason to be optimistic for Scott McNiven's side.

Yet last season's result would've been a warning to the home side against complacency, and they started the game in a determined fashion with Gray controlling an early cross from defender Scott Griffiths, before rolling a composed finish with his right foot into the bottom corner after 16 minutes.

But from then on in, the first half was tightly contested as Hyde's back five absorbed pressure, before launching counter attacks towards their 30 travelling away fans.

Those same fans were cheering on the stroke of half time when Josh Brizell's long diagonal ball was headed into his own net by Steve McNulty, a well deserved equaliser for the visitors, whose quality of finishing let them down according to boss McNiven.



MATCH STATS

LUTON v HYDE

7	SHOTS ON TARGET	2
7	SHOTS OFF TARGET	7
6	CORNERS	6
4	OFFSIDE	4
8	FOULS CONCEDED	4
0	YELLOW CARDS	1
0	RED CARDS	1

STAR MAN: Andre Gray (Luton)
ATT: 7,081

ENTERTAINMENT: ★★★★★

REF RATING: Dean Treleaven 7/10

LUTON: (4-4-2): Tyler 6, Henry 7, Griffiths 7, McNulty 6, Lacey 8, Parry 7 (Robinson 81, 5), Smith 7, Guttridge 8 (Whalley 72, 6), Lawless 6 (Cullen 87 5), Gray 9, Benson 7. **Subs not used:** Charles, Justham.

HYDE: (5-3-2): Carnell 6, Brizell 7, Mainwaring 6, Haining 6, Ashworth 5, Tomsett 6, Poole 5, Blakeman 6, Almond 6, Gray 7 (Devaney 66, 5), Collins 6 (Spencer 66, 6). **Subs not used:** Hughes, McNiven, Dieservuwe.

THREE-SY PEASY: Andre Gray after his third goal and the other scorer Luke Guttridge, inset PICS: Gareth Owen

"We played some great stuff in the first half, we had four or five really good chances and could've gone in at half time with more than a draw," he said.

"But that's the way it's going for us in front of goal, and there's always the possibility Luton are going to go and finish their next chance."

And finish their next chance they did. Good interchange between Luke Guttridge and

Gray put the striker on the byline, this time pulling it back across goal for Guttridge who was left with an easy finish.

Less than five minutes later, Gray was back on the score-sheet, controlling another cross but on this occasion rifling home a left foot half-volley to score the goal of the game, just before Hyde's Ashworth saw red for bringing Gray down as the last man.

Still was full of praise for his hard working striker, who completed his hat-trick and Luton's second half domination with a poachers effort on 78 minutes.

He said: "Andre did really well today, he started the season slowly and he knows that."

"We took him out of the team, but he's worked really hard in training and now we're seeing what we've known all along that he's capable of producing."

