



FC HALIFAX 2 LUTON TOWN 0

Roberts 18, Gregory 69

13/14

A GRAY DAY BUT LETHAL



MAKING MY
MARCI
Roberts gives the
Shaymen the lead
PICTURES
Gareth Owen

Shaymen continue home run



By ADAM
CHESHIRE

VERDICT: Fortress Shay came up trumps again but this result, while it pushes FC Halifax into the play-offs, does nothing but delay Luton Town's title celebrations.

LEE GREGORY came out on top in the Skirill Premier's top goalscorer showdown, as Andre Gray and champions-elect Luton Town put in a shot-shy performance.

The pre-match hype surrounding the top two goalscorers – both on 28 league strikes before this highly-anticipated encounter – did not disappoint as Gregory netted a composed second half strike to seal three valuable points in FC Halifax's play-off push.

The 2-0 victory left the Shaymen in fifth and winning manager Neil Aspin sang his side's praises.

"We were the better team today from start to finish and we deserved the win," he said.



"I wouldn't swap Lee Gregory for anyone else, it is as simple as that. His all-round play is vital and it was the icing on the cake for him to get a goal."

NEIL ASPIN,
FC Halifax manager



"It was a tough game. We have played a team with a great home record but I don't think we played as well as we could have done and we got beat."

JOHN STILL,
Luton manager

FOR HATTERS LEE STRIKES



MARKSMAN: Lee Gregory nets the second goal for FC Halifax

"I thought the players were fantastic and they responded to the big match atmosphere and occasion. I couldn't be more proud of what they have achieved today."

"Luton are having a fantastic season and they deserve to be top of the league but in a one-off game we played better than them today."

"Andre Gray is having a terrific

season and he showed with his pace that he was a threat but I wouldn't swap Lee Gregory for anyone else, it is as simple as that. "His all-round play is vital for us and it was the icing on the cake for him to get another goal."

Marc Roberts gave the home side a deserved lead on 18 minutes when he rose highest to nod in

Adam Smith's floated corner.

The excellent Matty Pearson – partnered in midfield by the even better Lois Maynard – then saw a ferocious drive whistle narrowly over as Luton strived to keep alive in what was turning into an epic contest.

However, backed by 1179 travelling fans, a succession of

MATCH STATS HALIFAX v LUTON

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

STAR MAN: Lois Maynard (FC Halifax)
ATE: 3.586

ENTERTAINMENT: *****
REF RATING: Karl Evans 7/10

FC HALIFAX: (4-2-3-1): Glennon 7; Bolton 7; Ainge 8; Roberts 8; McManus 7; A Smith 8; Wilson 8; Marshall 7; Maynard 9; Pearson 8; Crowther 7; Jackson 7; Gregory 8. Subs not used: Senior, Lowe, C Smith.
LUTON: (4-4-2): Tyler 6; Henry 6; Franks 6; McElroy 6; Griffiths 6; Lawless 7; Ruddock 6; Maynard 5; (Cullen 6; St. McGeehan 5; Robinson 6; Benson 5; Gray 5; Rooney 7; 6. Subs not used: Charles, Shaw, Justham

corners threatened to get the Hatters back on level terms before Gray wasted two clear-cut opportunities.

Luton's leading marksman was then seemingly hauled down by former Hatter Simon Ainge at the start of the second half but referee Karl Evans waved away the strong appeals for a penalty.

The runaway leaders were then left stunned when Gregory expertly slotted into the bottom corner following a defensive mix-up to put him clear at the top of the charts.

Visiting boss John Still insists "team ethic" is more important as his side, 13 points clear at the top, look to clinch the title.

He said: "He scored a goal but personal things don't really worry me too much. As far as I am concerned, team ethic from us is our strength."

"If Andre gets 30 goals then I will be delighted. But if he gets 27 and we still go up then I will still be delighted."

"It was a tough game. We have played a team with a great home record but I don't think we played as well as we could have done and we got beat."

"We haven't lost many this season. I never get too high with success and I never get too low with failure. We just didn't play well today."

"It's been a really unbelievable season. We're still in a great position. Onwards and upwards."