



"I have a saying 'Winners find a way' – and we've proved so far this season we are winner. We are finding a way to win."
JOHN STILL,
 Luton manager



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ANDY SCOTT,
 Aldershot manager

13/14

PERFECT TIME KNOCKOUT

McGeehan bags late winner



By **STUART HAMMONDS**

VERDICT: To borrow a boxing phrase, Luton always go the distance. They won't need to in the title fight, but Aldershot's battle against the drop will go right to the bell.

JOHN STILL watched his Luton side beat battling Aldershot by little more than a points-margin – then compared them to champion boxer Carl Froch.

A boxing fan who used to draw on the late Frank Black, a close friend who trained world champions including Joe Calzaghe, Frank Bruno and Jim Watt, as part of his backroom team when Dagenham & Redbridge won the Conference, Still knows the knockout blow in this year's title fight is close.

With second-placed Cambridge beating Southport 3-1 and Andy Scott's relegation-threatened Shots comfortably holding them at arm's length, it was potentially a few rounds further away going into the final five minutes at Kenilworth Road than it is this morning.

But after 18-year-old Cameron McGeehan's scrappy winner, home victories against Tamworth and Braintree in the next week will secure the Hatters' return to the Football League after five years.

It could even be sooner should a Tuesday triumph be followed by defeat for Cambridge at in-form Woking 48 hours later.

"People thought our form had slipped a bit," said the 63-year-old, whose team were recording a fourth win in five matches since Woking ended their 27-game



IN WHERE IT HURTS: Cameron McGeehan's scores Luton's late winner

unbeaten stretch last month. "In the last four games, not including today, we'd averaged 2.25 points per game and that is unbelievable.

"It's even better now with this win and at this stage of the season, that form is outstanding.

"We played really well first half, not so well in the second. Andre Gray might think he should have scored. Paul Benson should have scored.

"Mark Tyler had to make a great save at the end, but that's the only one he's really had to make so...we won...and we are getting closer!"

Benson looked to have given the Hatters a first-half lead, only for an assistant's flag to rule it out for off-side.

Their only other shot on target before the goal was when Gray latched onto Alex Lawless' through ball, only to find visiting keeper Glenn Morris in top form.

The Shots were always a threat on the break, especially Adam

Mekki. He twice fired straight at Tyler, once in each half, before substitute Jordan Roberts volleyed wide from Bradley Bubb's deflected cross in the 79th minute.

Six minutes later Luton had their breakthrough, sub Jake Howells crossing low for Norwich loanee McGeehan, who initially mis-kicked but threw his head in where it hurts to nod over the line at the near post.

"I have a saying 'Winners find a way' – and we've proved so far this season we are winners," added Still.

"I know that the Carl Froch fight against George Groves, the referee stopped it and a lot of people felt he shouldn't. But he's the champion and he found a way.

"Whether it was the right way or not, I don't know. But at the moment we are finding a way, and I hope that continues."

Scott, whose team have won just once in their last six matches, hopes to find a way out of their cur-

rent position in the bottom four to avoid a second successive relegation.

The deserved a point, but couldn't find a way past Hatters centre-half Steve McNulty and evergreen goalkeeper Tyler, whose reactions were razor-sharp deep into injury-time when Harry Cornick's cross was diverted goalwards by Fraser Franks' outstretched leg.

Scott said: "When you come to Luton and the fans clap you off, that tells you everything you need to know about your performance, and it doesn't happen often.

"They know their football at this club. They've seen a lot of ups and downs and they understand what a good team is – good organisation and work ethic – and they've seen that today with a bit of quality as well.

"Obviously we were down, but that performance gives us a lift and we need to take it with us on Tuesday to Alfreton."

MATCH STATS

LUTON v ALDERSHOT

2	SHOTS ON TARGET	3
4	SHOTS OFF TARGET	5
8	CORNERS	5
6	OFFSIDE	0
9	FOULS CONCEDED	8
1	YELLOW CARDS	2
0	RED CARDS	0

STAR MAN: Steve McNulty (Luton
 ATT: 8,558)

ENTERTAINMENT: ★★★★★

REF RATING: Simon Bennett 6/10

LUTON: (4-3-3) Tyler 7, Henry 7, McNulty 8, Franks 7, Griffiths 7, McGeehan 7, Mpanzu 6 (Robinson 68, 6), Lawless 6 (Howells 82, 6), Rooney 7 (Cullen 75, 5), Gray 7, Benson 6. **Subs not used:** Shaw, Justham.

ALDERSHOT: (4-4-1-1) Morris 7, Gibbs 7, Phillips 7, Oastler 6, Butler 7, Rowlands 6 (Cornick 88, 5), Oyeleke 7, Stanley 7, Molesley 6 (Roberts 70, 5), Mekki 7, Scott 6 (Bubb 57, 6). **Subs not used:** Williams, Gerrard.