



# LUTON TOWN 1 PORTSMOUTH 1

Rooney 13

Taylor 36

Att: xxxx Rating: ★★★ Ref: Darren Deadman x/10

14/15

## WHAT THEY SAID...

**LUTON** first team coach Hakan Hayrettin said: "We'll take a point – obviously we didn't start as well as we could have but we got stronger as the game wore on.

"Overall we've had two tough games in three days and its a good return. We got a good goal, they came back in the game, second half I thought we were much, much better."

**PORTSMOUTH** manager Andy Awford said: "I thought we we deservedly level at the break.

"It was a determined, resilient Pompey performance today to earn a well deserved point. We've had two good away performances."

**ROO BEAUTY:**  
Luton's Luke Rooney  
watches as his shot  
puts Luton ahead

PICTURES: Gareth Owen



# NINE IN A ROW ELUDES LUTON

By Mike Simmonds

**L**UTON dropped points at home for the first time since September 13 after they were held to a draw by struggling Portsmouth at Kenilworth Road.

The Hatters had won their previous eight matches in front of their own supporters.

But, despite being cheered on by their biggest gate this term of 10,071, they couldn't see off dogged opponents.

Pompey had the better of the opening exchanges as Ryan Taylor's deflected shot was easy for Mark Tyler, before Marcus Bean's audacious volley flew well over the bar.

However, the Hatters settled down and started to impose themselves on proceedings.

Andy Drury's goalbound shot, following a lovely passing move, was bravely blocked by Paul Robinson before John Still's side took the lead on 13 minutes.

Shaun Whalley did well to prod the ball over the top of the visiting defence and Luke Rooney found



the bottom corner with an instant volley for his fifth goal of the season.

Mark Cullen sent a shot wide on the turn following Whalley's incisive run, before Pompey showed signs of life when Nigel Atangana fired at Mark Tyler.

The Luton stopper then did superbly to tip over Johnny Ertl's long-range dipping volley from 20 yards, but he was beaten on 36 minutes by a scrappy leveller.

Jed Wallace's hopeful cross caught out the Luton defence and, as they failed to clear their lines, Ryan Taylor turned home from a yard out for his first goal since October 7.

Atangana then set up Andy Barcham for a glorious chance to

make it 2-1 immediately afterwards, but he sidefooted wide of the mark from ten yards.

In the second half, Luton threatened first as Andy Drury slipped Cullen through and his low shot was stopped at the second attempt by Paul Jones.

Drury then set off on a mazy run and his chip was easy for the Pompey keeper.

Jonathan Smith then looked for his second goal in three days, after netting at Wycombe, sending a left-footer on the run well off target.

The Hatters rang the changes as Ross Lafayette and Ricky Miller came on, while they almost took the lead once more on 70 minutes

when Griffiths raced to the byline and his cross was met by Harriman. However, Jones saved down low.

Luton's efforts were coming mainly from range, too, as Rooney stabbed wide from outside the box.

Town continued to huff and puff late and Drury sent a free kick from a dangerous position over the bar. Then, Miller teed up Smith for an effort that was deflected wide.

Miller thought he had won a penalty in stoppage time when he tumbled under a challenge, but referee Darren Deadman gave nothing.

Pompey's players were met with boos by their own fans as, on a late break, they opted to play keep-ball rather than go for a winner.

In the end, spoils were shared.

**TAYLOR-ED FINISH:**  
Luke Taylor strikes to give Pompey a point

**STAR MAN**  
PAUL ROBINSON  
Portsmouth

**LUTON:** (4-3-3): Tyler 7, Hamman 7, McNulty 7, Wilkinson 7, Griffiths 7 (Howells 81 5), Doyle 7, Smith 7, Drury 7, Whalley 6 (Lafayette 60 5), Rooney 6, Cullen 6 (Miller 71 5) Subs not used: Franks, Justham, Stevenson, Connolly  
**PORTSMOUTH:** (4-4-2): Jones 6, Webster 6, Robinson 8, Devara 7, Shorey 7, Wallace 7, Ertl 8, Bean 6, Barcham 6 (Dunne 76 5), Taylor 6 (Westcott 81 5), Atangana 6 (Holmes 90 N/A) Subs not used: Whalmough, Chorley, Storey, Poke.