



LEAGUE TWO

LUTON TOWN 0 BURTON ALB 1

Palmer 79

MATCH STATS

LUTON v BURTON

0	Shots on target	6
9	Shots off target	8
2	Corners	4
0	Offside	2
9	Fouls conceded	6
1	Yellow Cards	0
0	Red Cards	0
45	Possession %	55
Att: 8,680 Rating: ★★		
Ref: Andrew Madley 7/10		

LUTON TOWN

FORMATION: 4-4-2

ELLIOT JUSTHAM (7)
Solid and unlucky a cruel deflection took Palmer's late effort beyond him

MICHAEL HARRIMAN (8)
A constant bundle of energy both going forwards and defensively

LUKE WILKINSON (6)
Looks past recent poor form and contained the front-line for the majority

STEVE McNULTY (6)
In control for long periods until Burton took the one clear-cut chance they had

SCOTT GRIFFITHS (7)
Missed a marvellous chance with the scores goalless, blazing over

ALEX LAWLESS (5)
Plenty of effort but did not quite have guile to get the better of defence

NATHAN DOYLE (7)
Took the sting out of the visitors' attacks and kept possession moving well

CAMERON McGEEHAN (6)
Never got the better of Burton's midfield duo who used all their experience

JAKE HOWELLS (5)
Bar one cross in the second period was forced inside too often

PAUL BENSON (7)
Led the line valiantly and his partnership with Lee impressed early on

ELLIOT LEE (6)
Declared himself fit to play and linked well with Benson

SUBSTITUTES

CULLEN 5; FOR LEE (60)
ODUWA 5; FOR LAWLESS (67)
GUTTRIDGE 5; FOR HOWELLS (67)
NOT USED: LACEY, HALL, KINSELLA, KING

BURTON ALBION

FORMATION: 4-4-2

JOHN McLAUGHLIN (6)
Quiet afternoon due to Town's profligate finishing

PHIL EDWARDS (7)
Kept Howells quiet as the Brewers never really looked like conceding

SHANE CANSDELL-SHERIFF (7)
Stood firm in face of aerial onslaught, repelling anything Town threw at him

JOHN MOUSINHO (7)
Skipper led his troops well as Burton contained Luton with relative ease

DAMIEN MCCRORY (7)
Compact display as he never let Lawless or Oduwa get the better of him

LUCAS AKINS (5)
Saw little of the ball and when he did, could not fashion anything meaningful

ROBBIE WEIR (6)
A calming presence as he broke up play and passed effectively

TOM NAYLOR (6)
Put in a hardworking display but offered nothing spectacular

MATTY PALMER (7)
The one sight of goal he had, he took, albeit with the aid of a deflection

STUART BEAVON (6)
Held the ball up well, but never really looked like hitting the target

ADAM MCGURK (6)
Got little change out of Town's defence but stuck to the task

SUBSTITUTES

JOHNSTONE 6; FOR BEAVON (58)
EL KHAYATI 6; FOR AKINS (68)
STEWART N/A; FOR MCGURK (88)
NOT USED: SLADE, HARNES, MAYNARD, SHEARER

HASSELBAINK HAPPY WITH UGLY WIN AS LUTON FADE

Palmer is Burton Albion's hero



FLOORED: Elliot Justham is beaten by Matty Palmer's deflected strike

Star Game

By Mike Simmonds

IT WAS far from pretty but Burton Albion manager Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink admitted he couldn't care less as his Brewers took another step towards promotion.

The visitors were never in top gear throughout this match, but Matty Palmer's deflected winner on 79 minutes proved the difference as Burton set their sights on League One.

And while it was a hard slog, Brewers boss Hasselbaink was quick to praise his side's professionalism in getting over the line.

"Luton are fighting for their lives, they're playing for this wonderful crowd who are going to be their 12th man," he said. "I think at stages we controlled the game, they had no chances, or maybe a 50-50 one."

"It was a tight game as it's always going to be, and you know that we can score at any moment, especially when we have runners forward."

"The position that Matty was in, that's the position we want him in, in front of goal, and shooting at goal."

"It was a professional performance and we needed to be professional, needed to be right, needed to be very disciplined and hard to beat and I think we were that. I'm delighted with three points."

Meanwhile, for Luton boss John Still it was a case of missed opportunities as his side lost further ground in the play-off race.

PROMOTION BECKONS FOR THE BREWERS

BURTON Albion showed exactly why they are on their way to League One this season with victory at faltering Luton Town.

The visitors were never anywhere near top form during the encounter at Kenilworth Road, but

Match Verdict

grabbed another crucial three points courtesy of Matty Palmer's deflected late strike.

Luton, who are still in

with a shout of the play-offs deserved at least a point for their efforts, but against an almost impregnable Brewers defence, never really tested keeper Jon McLaughlin.

The result means

Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink's side are now just one win away from finally reaching the third tier of English football and could well secure their place at home to Carlisle next weekend.

For Town though, a tenth defeat in 12 games was yet another hammer blow to their hopes of a top-seven berth.

Such is the nature of the division though, they are somehow not out of contention just yet.



LEAP: Denny Johnstone hurdles the challenge of Steve McNulty

Still said: "We had three great chances, they had one deflected shot, what can we do about that?"

"We've played well, had chances, haven't won, but that's football. I'm really pleased with how we played and disappointed not to have got something from the game.

"We wanted to come out and attack and I think we did. I actually thought we ground them down, the movement for Scott Griffiths' chance was fantastic.

"If I look at the 90 minute game, playing a team that's in good form and in good spirits. To limit them to very little, I was very pleased."

After Adam McGurk directed his header wide from Lucas Akins' cross, it was the hosts who easily had the better chances in the opening period.

Paul Benson put a volley over the top, while Michael Harriman fired into the side-netting and then Elliot Lee's attempt couldn't trouble Jon McLaughlin.

Alex Lawless' low curler was also narrowly wide of the mark as Burton took a while to get into their stride. When they did, Phil Edwards' long-range attempt was easily fielded by Elliot Justham, before the Luton keeper claimed Akins' drive from 20 yards.

Just before the half-time whistle, the Hatters had another fine opening when Jake Howells' free-kick was met by Lee at the far post, but he nodded into the crowd.

In the second period, McGurk headed straight at Justham, with Howells then bursting down the wing as Paul Benson's toe-poke was deflected behind.

Full-back Griffiths then had a marvellous opportunity after a neat move on the left, finding himself one-on-one with McLaughlin, only to fizz over the top.

McGurk's free-kick located Justham's gloves, while Burton sub Abdenasser El Khayati arrowed wide shortly after coming off the bench.

Luke Guttridge then dragged off target at the other end, with his miss proving crucial as moments later Palmer was left in acres of space to fire past Justham, with Hatters' fans screaming for an offside flag that never came.

Luton still could have rescued a point though, but top scorer Mark Cullen could only loft his shot over as the Hatters were beaten on home soil for the fourth game running.

Results elsewhere mean Burton could be promoted the next time they take the field, but after such a magnificent start to the campaign, Luton are faced with the very real prospect of another season at this level after promising so much.

PICTURES: Gareth Owen

