



LUTON TOWN 1

Marriott 81

(4-2-3-1): Justham 7, Polls 6, Sheehan 7, Rea 6, O'Donnell 7, Lawless 5 (McGeehan 29 8), Lee 6, Green 6 (Banton 59 6), Ruddock 7, McQuoid 5 (Marriott 68 6), Pigott 6 Subs not used: Benson, King, Musonda, Howells

NEWPORT CO 1

Coulibaly 88

(4-4-2): Day 7, Davies 6, Hughes 6, Jones 6, Holmes 5, Barrow 7 (O'Sullivan 86 N/A), Elito 7, Byrne 6, Rodman 7, Boden 5 (Coulibaly 82 7), John-Lewis 6 (Morgan 64 5) Subs not used: Green, Owen-Evans, Partridge, Parselle

Att: 7,606 Rating: ★★★

Ref: Fred Graham 7/10

Feeney can relax as Exiles escape

15/16

NEWPORT COUNTY manager Warren Feeney breathed a huge sigh of relief as his side grabbed the point they needed to stay up and ended Luton Town's slim play-off hopes.

As the it turned out Feeney's men would have been safe whatever the result as York City slipped into the National League with defeat at Accrington Stanley.

But substitute Souleymane Coulibaly's header two minutes from time cancelled out fellow substitute Jack Marriott's 81st-minute opener and rubber-stamped Newport's Football League status for another year.

Feeney, who stepped up from assistant when John Sheridan left for Oldham Athletic in January, couldn't hide his delight at the final whistle.

"I'm relieved that it's done and dusted," said the former Northern Ireland international.

"You don't want to rely on other people and stay up by losing football matches."

He added: "When I first came in it was stay up at all costs.

"John has to take a lot of the credit. He put the groundwork in there for me and I just tried to carry on what he left.

"Full credit to the players as well because people don't realise how hard it is down the bottom of the league.

"They've responded and it's job done for us.

"It was a big job but it's one you're excited to do. It

By Nick Sellers

was hard to get out of but I had every belief in what John did and what I did and in the players as well."

The visitors dominated the first half against a below-par Hatters side but Nathan Jones' men improved once Cameron McGeehan replaced Alex Lawless after half an hour.

Joe Pigott headed over with the goal gaping in first-half stoppage time and clipped the bar after the break before Marriott headed home at the near post.

But Luton were denied victory by Ivory Coast youth international Coulibaly, who celebrated with a backflip after his header looped past Elliot Justham.

"I was disappointed by the performance," said Welshman Jones.

"I thought we were poor in the first half.

"We were lacklustre and it was a bit of a non-event for us really.

"The performance level was nowhere near good enough and I probably could have taken off three or four if I'd had a Fantasy Football wildcard.

"We just didn't start well and I wasn't prepared to get hit by a sucker punch early on.

"It was harsh on Alex but I needed to make a change and I thought Cameron was excellent when he came on.

"He provided that spark and energy and we definitely deserved a point."

