

United hammer hard-up Luton

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STEVE BRUCE, penalty hero of Manchester United's midweek Cup Winners' Cup triumph in Montpellier, added two more goals to his haul yesterday.

Lucky Luton were clinging on to a point until the 47th minute when Bruce dived in to head home Lee Sharpe's corner.

It was Bruce's 14th goal of the season — nine from the penalty spot — and it won a hearty vote of thanks from Les Sealey, who fell victim to a cruel bounce from the much-criticised Old Trafford pitch when Luton equalised in the 34th minute.

Sealey had David Preece's 30-yard shot covered, but the ball hit a divot and bobbed over him.

United had taken the lead in the seventh minute when Sharpe's corner produced a barrage of shots, ending with Bruce firing in.

Before Preece equalised,

Man Utd 4 Luton 1

by Derek Potter

Luton did little to suggest they could refuel their relegation fight with a first point at Old Trafford after 16 defeats.

Apart from a shot by Sean Farrell on the hour, hard-up Luton, who sold Iain Dowie to West Ham in midweek, rarely troubled United's defence.

Mark Robins snatched the third in the 70th minute after another attack by Sharpe, and Brian McClair powered into the middle to claim the fourth seven minutes from time.

MAN UTD: Sealey, Irwin, Blackmore, Bruce, Phelan, Pallister, Robson, Wallace (inj 38, sub Robins), McClair, Hughes, Sharpe.

LUTON: Chamberlain, Johnson, Harvey, Beaumont (w'drn 83, sub Rees), Rodger, Dreyer, Elstrup, Preece, Farrell, Penbridge, Black.

REFEREE: K. A. Lupton (Cleveland).