

Howard's way ^{03/04} proves enough

Luton3

Howard (6,23), McSheffrey (14)

Hartlepool2

Clarke (40), Robinson (71 pen)

Half-time: 3-1

Attendance: 5,515

LUTON: Beckwith 6, Foley 7, Coyne 6, Boyce 7, Neilson 5 (Davis 86), Bayliss 6, Spring 6, Hughes 6, Pitt 7 (Brkovic 90), Howard 7, McSheffrey 7 (Crowe 75). **Subs not used:** Hillier, Brill. **Booked:** Bayliss, McSheffrey.

HARTLEPOOL: Provett 6, Clarke 7, Westwood 6, Nelson 6, Barron 6, Robson 7, Tinkler 5 (Istead 63), Strachan 6, Humphreys 6, Gabbiadini 6 (Henderson 84), Robinson 6 (Boyd 75). **Subs not used:** Williams, Jordan. **Booked:** Clarke.

Luton	Hartlepool
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58	Possession %	42
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8	Corners	4
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2	Yellow	1
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0	Red	0
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8	Shots On Target	5
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9	Shots Off Target	2
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NEXT FIXTURES

Notts C (a) 06/09

Oldham (h) 06/09

Plymouth (a) 13/09

Grimsby (h) 12/09

McSheffrey then delivered the free-kick from which Howard headed his fourth goal of the season on 23 minutes and he was denied a hat-trick three minutes later when another header came back off the bar.

Hartlepool were given hope when Darrel Clarke capitalised on Luton's indecision following a free-kick which was deflected into his path.

The second half saw Hartlepool stir themselves, with Richie Humphreys going close before Alan Neilson conceded a penalty and Paul Robinson converted.

Luton hung on, though boss Mike Newell admitted: "We were sweating at the end."

Newell, who was sacked as Hartlepool manager after leading them to promotion last season, said he knew his old team always posed a threat.

"I know that from my experience last season that even at 3-0 the game wasn't really over," he said.

"At half-time, my worry was that our lads might take their foot off the pedal but I have to say that I am delighted with the overall performance. And I am sure we deserved the points."