

Forbes wraps it up for Luton

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By Nicholas Harling

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LUTON increased the pressure on Tranmere to find a new manager – and quickly – by scoring twice in eight minutes midway through the second half last night to reach the dizzy heights of 10th in the Second Division, not bad for a club in receivership and suffering under a transfer embargo.

Tranmere, under the caretaker management of John McMahon, who also manages their youth and reserve teams, had looked for the most part every bit a side that had won only once in 10 league games.

Their brief post-interval improvement brought an equaliser from Chris Dagnall, his first league goal, but they left Kenilworth Road still looking for their first away win. "We were very very poor," McMahon said. "I'm disappointed in the lads. The work rate was OK, but there was no quality at all."

The game took an eternity to get going. There had been many bookings as chances all for Luton – during the opening half-hour but then the hosts suddenly came to the fore.

After Gareth Roberts had cleared off the line from Chris Coyne, John Achterberg almost cost his side a goal, falling untidily with a back-pass from Tyrone Loran. The goalkeeper retrieved the situation as Gary McSheffrey headed in, but he could do nothing about Russell Per-

rett's towering header from Matthew Spring's 45th-minute free kick near the corner flag.

Tranmere's sudden burst of energy on the resumption had its reward in the 54th minute. Roberts, who had just tangled with the first of three pitch invaders, sent over a deep cross which Simon Haworth returned into the middle for the 17-year-old Dagnall to turn in from barely a yard out.

Luton's response was almost immediate. McSheffrey squeezed his sixth goal of the season in off an upright after 64 minutes and then Adrian Forbes rammed in a third goal after Coyne had nodded back Spring's corner.

Luton (4-4-2): Beckwith; Boyce, Perrett, Coyne, Davis; Foley, Spring, Hughes, Pitt; Forbes, McSheffrey. **Subs:** Robinson, Showunmi, Mansell, Brill (g), Leary. **Booked:** Forbes, Perrett.

Tranmere (4-4-2): Achterberg; Taylor (Allen 46), Loran, Connolly, Roberts; Hume, Harrison, Mellon, Nicholson; S Haworth, Dagnall. **Subs:** Jones, R Haworth (g), Navarro, Hay. **Booked:** Taylor, S Haworth, Mellon, Loran, Harrison, Allen.

Referee: G Hegley (Herts).

Table

	HOME							AWAY							Pts
	P	W	D	L	F	A		W	D	L	F	A	GD		
Brighton	12	5	1	0	12	3		2	2	2	9	7	11		24
QPR	12	4	2	0	14	1		2	3	1	10	8	15		23
Port Vale	12	5	1	0	14	6		2	1	3	6	9	5		23
Sheff Wed	12	2	3	1	10	8		4	0	2	9	6	5		21
Hartlepool	12	3	3	0	12	1		2	2	2	12	12	11		20
Bristol City	12	4	1	1	11	3		1	4	1	5	5	8		20
Swindon	12	3	2	1	13	7		2	3	1	9	8	7		20
Barnsley	12	3	3	0	7	3		2	1	3	7	11	0		19
Plymouth	12	3	2	1	12	8		1	4	1	9	8	5		18
Luton	12	4	1	1	13	7		1	2	3	6	11	1		18
Colchester	12	3	2	1	7	5		2	1	3	8	11	-1		18
Oldham	12	3	1	2	12	9		1	4	1	11	9	5		17
Bournemouth	12	2	4	0	9	7		2	1	3	5	6	1		17
Wrexham	11	2	2	2	5	6		3	0	2	6	6	-1		17
Grimsby	12	2	1	3	10	7		2	2	2	6	12	-3		15
Rushden & D.	12	2	2	2	10	10		2	0	4	9	12	-3		14
Blackpool	11	2	0	3	6	8		2	2	2	8	13	-7		14
Brentford	12	2	1	3	5	11		2	1	3	5	8	-9		14
Tranmere	12	2	2	2	9	7		0	3	3	4	10	-4		11
Peterborough	12	0	2	4	9	13		2	2	2	5	6	-5		10
Notts County	12	1	2	3	7	8		1	1	4	4	14	-11		9
Stockport	12	0	3	3	6	10		1	2	3	7	11	-8		8
Wycombe	12	1	2	3	8	12		0	2	4	5	11	-10		7
Chesterfield	12	0	3	3	4	8		0	3	3	3	11	-12		6