



The Chef serves up brace of goals

Luton Town 3
Wycombe Wanderers 1

LUTON deservedly won all three points in this Beds-Bucks derby with a magnificent 15-minute burst late in the game.

Local bragging rights looked to be heading Wycombe's way after a dubious penalty decision gave Wanderers the lead but two goals from Gary McSheffrey and a Russ Perrett bullet header pushed the Hatters further up the Division Two table.

Wycombe, now under the stewardship of John Gorman, sacked Lawrie Sanchez last week and are hoping the change in manager will kick-start a season that has seen Wanderers prop up the table.

Hatters boss Mike Newell was more concerned with how his side would survive the loss of last season's top scorer Steve Howard.

The big striker is out for two months and Adrian Forbes continued to partner McSheffrey up front.

Steve Robinson came in for Kevin Foley for his first home start of the season – the Northern Ireland international still having a lot to prove after joining a year ago from Preston.

Rob Beckwith was out serving his one-match ban for his dismissal at Oldham, and in came the youth team's 17-year-old Dean Brill.

A familiar face returned to Kenilworth Road on the bench – Nathan Abbey, the shot-stopper drafted in at the last minute for some much-needed cover. He is on a week-to-week contract.

Brill, no doubt feeling pre-match nerves, probably wanted the ground to swallow him up inside the first minute.

The young goalkeeper gave his clearance straight to Michael Simpson whose audacious 40-yard lob hit the underside of the



■ Courtney Pitt works hard to win the ball

bar and was cleared by Perrett.

Luton dominated the first half but could not convert possession into goals.

The best chance fell to Forbes on 23 minutes. Robinson, looking out of sorts on the right wing, headed a through-ball for Forbes to beat his marker for pace but a

great one-handed save from Frank Talia denied the striker.

Two minutes into the second half Luton were the victims of a what looked like a dive from right back Daniel Senda and Wycombe took the lead against the run of play.

An innocuous challenge from Courtney Pitt in the penalty box was deemed a foul by the linesman and the referee pointed to the spot.

Luton could feel doubly hard done-by as the penalty-taker, Steve Brown, was fortunate to still be on the pitch after a series of fouls.

With Wycombe playing five in midfield, Luton were running out of ideas when Newell made a double switch, bringing on Lee Mansell and Enoch Showunmi for the ineffectual Robinson and hard-working Forbes.

But Luton's equaliser was as much due to luck as any tactical masterplan. Sol Davis whipped in a low cross that two defenders missed before Andy Thomson's

clearance cannoned off McSheffrey's boot and nestled in the bottom corner.

Luton were back on top and looked likely to score more goals. After seven corners the home side made the eighth count when Matt Spring found Perrett in Howard territory at the back post and the lofty defender made it two goals in as many games.

The best was still to come. A minute from time McSheffrey picked up the ball on the edge of the box and ran across the edge of the area, keeping defenders at bay before unleashing with his left foot a peach of a shot into the top corner. It sent the crowd into raptures.

Newell was critical of Wycombe's spoiling tactics.

"They came to frustrate us. It seems people come to Luton with a point to prove," said Newell.

Commenting on Brill's performance, which got better as the game went on, Newell added: "I am very, very pleased with Dean. He really is one for the future."

Luton Town: Brill; Boyce, Coyne, Perrett, Davis; Robinson (Mansell 74m), Hughes, Spring, Pitt; Forbes (Showunmi 74), McSheffrey. Subs not used: Hillier, Leary, Abbey

Referee: Richard Beeby (Northampton)

GOALSCORERS:

Luton: McSheffrey (75, 89), Perrett (84)
Wycombe: Brown (47 pen)

SHOTS ON TARGET

Luton: 8
Wycombe: 6

SHOTS OFF TARGET

Luton: 10
Wycombe: 2

CORNERS

Luton: 8
Wycombe: 1

OFFSIDE

Luton: 2
Wycombe: 1

BOOKINGS

Luton: Perrett (55)
Wycombe: Brown (7), Ryan (67), Branston (71) Harris (73)

ATTENDANCE: 5,695

HATTERS STAR MAN: GARY MCSHEFFREY

"The Chef" served up a tasty performance and a mouthwatering second goal

Division Two results

Barnsley	P	Wrexham	P
Brighton	3	Grimsby	0
Colchester	1	Blackpool	1
Luton	3	Wycombe	1
Notts County	0	Bournemouth	1
Oldham	2	Port Vale	1
Plymouth	6	Tranmere	0
QPR	P	Brentford	P
Rushden	2	Chesterfield	1
Swindon	1	Stockport	2

How they stand

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brighton	13	8	3	2	24	10	27
QPR	12	6	5	1	24	9	23
Port Vale	13	7	2	4	21	17	23
Sheffield Wed	13	6	4	3	20	15	22
Plymouth	13	5	6	2	27	16	21
Hartlepool	13	5	6	2	25	14	21
Bristol City	13	5	6	2	17	9	21
Luton	13	6	3	4	22	19	21
Oldham	13	5	5	3	25	19	20
Swindon	13	5	5	3	23	17	20
Bournemouth	13	5	5	3	15	13	20
Barnsley	12	5	4	3	14	14	19
Colchester	13	5	4	4	16	17	19
Wrexham	11	5	2	4	11	12	17
Rushden	13	5	2	6	21	23	17
Grimsby	13	4	3	6	16	22	15
Blackpool	12	4	3	5	15	22	15
Brentford	12	4	2	6	10	19	14
Peterborough	13	2	5	6	15	20	11
Stockport	13	2	5	6	15	22	11
Tranmere	13	2	5	6	13	23	11
Notts County	13	2	3	8	11	23	9
Wycombe	13	1	4	8	14	26	7
Chesterfield	13	0	6	7	8	21	6



■ Hatters ahead: Russ Perrett celebrates his goal