

Forbes' Hatters-trick downs Thurrock

03/04 (GAC)

Luton 3 Thurrock 1

ADRIAN Forbes blasted Luton into the next round with a hat-trick in a 3-1 victory against brave Thurrock.

Forbes gave the Hatters a fortunate 39th minute lead when his shot rebounded into the net off the striker after goalkeeper Paul Gothard blocked his first effort.

Thurrock equalised in the 49th minute when Leon Barnett missed his kick just inside the visitors' half and former Luton trainee Cliff Akurang raced away to clip the ball beyond Marlon Beresford.

Forbes restored Luton's lead with a flying 76th minute header from Steve Robinson's cross and then tucked away a

penalty four minutes from time after Ahmet Brkovic was fouled by Dave Collis.

Luton saw more of the ball in the first half but failed to put sustained pressure on the Ryman League side.

But a shot on the turn from Forbes took a wicked deflection and forced Gothard to save at full stretch.

Luton turned up the heat in the second half and defender Emmerson Boyce saw Collis clear his low shot off the line while Lee Mansell shot over from close-range.

Thurrock refused to lie down and the dangerous Akurang forced Beresford into making a full-length save, while former Hatter Tresor Kandol missed from close-range.