

Robinson the light in the gloom

Blackpool o Luton 1

LUTON stole the points courtesy of a Steve Robinson wonder goal in a 1-0 win in a dreary match played out in even drearier conditions at Bloomfield Road.

The visitors ruined Blackpool's unbeaten 10-game run with a classy first half display.

The Hatters created five chances in the opening 25 minutes with playmaker Adrian Forbes forcing a save from keeper Brad Jones early on.

Jones saved again soon after and then found himself in the wrong position when Steve Howard headed wide.

The goal came before the break when Robinson curled home an arching 25-yard shot.

Blackpool looked a different side in the second period, dominating possession without ever looking like scoring.

But defender Steve Elliot saw his shot saved and loan signing Simon Johnson fired in a 30-yard piledriver inches wide three minutes from time.

Hatters manager Mike Newell was delighted with his side's performance.

"We created a lot of chances early on and we had to make sure we took one of them or the game may have gone against us," he said.

And he was full of praise for Robinson's wonder goal which sealed the win.

"It was a lovely goal," he said.

"Robinson is the sort of player that can do that and he's just finding his full fitness after injury. He will keep improving."

Blackpool manager Steve McMahon felt his team could have shown more desire.

"We put a lot of effort in and I was disappointed with the first half, especially the first 20 minutes," he said.

"We were very apprehensive and the tempo was never the best in the world.

"The physio will be the hardest man at work this week as we look like the walking wounded, which forced me to put out a relatively inexperienced side."



STEVE ROBINSON