



Town Player Watch

It's another clean sheet for Marlon

HATTERS goalkeeper Marlon Beresford claimed his fourth clean sheet from his last five games with another competent performance at Bloomfield Road.

Beresford has been in fantastic form for the Hatters since joining the Town on a month-to-month contract from Bradford.

The 34-year-old was helped by a strong defensive showing by Luton against Blackpool, but still needed to be on his toes at times.

Here's how he fared...

- Minutes on pitch: 90
- Throw/pass to Luton: 4
- Throw/pass to B'pool: 0
- Pass completion rate: 100 per cent
- Long kick over half-way: 13
- Long kick under half-way: 2
- Goal kick over half-way: 9
- Goal kick under half-way: 0
- Long kick to Luton: 14
- Long kick to B'pool: 10
- Crosses caught: 0
- Crosses dropped: 0
- Crosses punched: 2
- Shots on target saved: 2
- Shots on target conceded: 0
- Free kicks won: 0
- Free kicks conceded: 0

VERDICT: Despite Blackpool's dominance in possession, Beresford was rarely called into serious action. When the home side did threaten, Beresford saved well from both Scott Taylor's 25-yarder in the 61st minute and Simon Johnson's effort from 15-yards three minutes later.

The Luton keeper also punched cleanly from two dangerous Seaside's crosses in the final stages.

● **NEWELL'S VIEW:** "That's four clean sheets from the last five games now."

We know we can score goals and it's a great start if you can keep a clean sheet."



BOOTIFUL: Steve Robinson, wearing different boots, wheels away in delight after his spectacular winner for Luton against Blackpool.

Robbo puts the boot in

BLACKPOOL 0 HATTERS 1
A CHANGE of boot was the helping hand Steve Robinson needed to fire the Hatters into a play-off position against Blackpool at the weekend.

Just seconds after swapping his troublesome left shoe, the hard-working midfielder let-fly with his right foot to claim a spectacular 20-yard winner at Bloomfield Road.

The dipping 35th minute effort marked the 29-year-old's third goal in his last seven starts for the Hatters.

And Robinson told the *News-Gazette*: "It's just changed my boots and that was probably my first touch after running back on again. I hit it with my right though, not my left. I don't think I can kick it that far with my left foot!"

Robinson has been in fine form for the Town since slotting into his favoured central midfield role alongside Matthew Spring.

And the player who scored more than 50 goals in six years at Bournemouth is keen to continue finding the net as he

Footwear change sparks piledriver

builds on his fitness after a serious summer back injury. Robinson said: "It's nice to get back to scoring again. I've proved I can score goals before and the staff and people who know me know my best position's in the middle."

"At times you're asked to do jobs in other positions and I did it for a long time last season, but I'm not one to complain. I'd never played on the right before I came to Luton despite what was said last season."

"It's frustrating knowing that people aren't seeing the best of you. But with a small squad sometimes you have to fill in - it's a compliment that the manager feels you can play in other positions."

With Paul Hughes resuming training, Kevin Nicholls now fit again and Peter Holmes and Michael Leary also available, boss Mike Newell will have a variety of options open to him for the

two coveted central midfield slots. Robinson added: "There's going to be a lot of competition when we get every one back, but I'm sure the manager knows what his best side is."

Robinson's rasping effort was set up after Steve Howard laid off a Matthew Spring pass on the edge of the area. And the goal was enough to win Luton a vital three points thanks to a resolute team performance that shut out a Blackpool side who had won eight of their previous nine games. Howard threatened with three close range head-

ers in the first half-an-hour as Luton soaked up the hosts' pressure and then struck on the break.

Three minutes after Robinson's goal, Blackpool hit the bar when veteran Mike Sheron swivelled to shoot from 10 yards. More impressive defensive work in the second half saw Luton restrict Blackpool to two efforts from on-loan youngster Simon Johnson, one saved by Beresford the other flashing wide from 30 yards in the 88th minute.

STAR HATTER: Emmerson Boyce. Vital part of a solid defensive show.



NEWELL'S VERDICT

"WE created chances early on and we did feel it might count against us if we didn't score one sooner or later."

"In the second half they put us under a lot more pressure, but we managed to deal with it."

"They had a lot of the ball, but didn't create anything to worry us. Having

said that they did have the whole of the half."

"We didn't get the ball down and pass it as we had done earlier."

"If you keep hold of the ball then you'll have a chance and I felt we were comfortable in the first half. It was a long second half, but if it's your day then you hang on."

HATTERS

Blackpool 0-1 Luton
Robinson 35

Where Scored For/Agt	When Scored For/Agt
6 yd 6 10	
18 yd 25 17	
Outside 3 6	
18 yd 3 6	

Luton Town's Scorers
Goals: 10
Assists: 10

How Scored For/Agt

Shots	19	12
Headers	10	10
Volley	2	5
Penalties	2	3
Free Kicks	0	1
Own Goals	1	2

Goals in last 10 mins

Goals Scored	5
Goals conceded	6
Points won	7
Points lost	4

Seasonal Progress Chart

Last 6 Matches

Opposition	W/L/D	Score
Blackpool	A	1-0
Chesterfield	H	1-0
Sheff Wed	A	0-0
Wrexham	H	3-2
Bristol City	A	1-1
Peterborough	H	1-1

Fouls & Offsides

Avg Fouls/game	13.19
Div 2 Rating	18
Avg Offside/game	4.76
Div 2 Rating	22

Top Scorers in each Category

Category	Player	Goals
Headed Goals	Howard	2
Long Range Shots	McSheffrey	2
Inside 6 yards	Perrett	2
Shots 6-18 yards	Forbes	6

Swings

Won when behind	3
Drawn when behind	2
Lost when ahead	4
Drawn when ahead	2

Set Piece Goals

Scored from Corners	4
Scored from Free Kicks	2
Conceded from Corners	4
Conceded from Free Kicks	4

Attendance Figures

Highest Attendance	8,339
Lowest Attendance	5,002
Avg Attendance	5,936

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If at first you don't succeed try to win