



Forbes grabs Cup glory for Hatters

Bradford City 1
Luton Town 2

AN Adrian Forbes brace earned a First Division scalp as the Hatters outplayed Bradford City to go through to the fourth round of the FA Cup.

Forbes even had the luxury of a last minute penalty miss. Such was the dominance of Luton that they were not threatened until the final, thrilling 15 minutes.

Forbes put the Hatters 2-0 up before Andy Gray's penalty seven minutes from the end added to the tension.

Jubilant Hatters fans were grateful that the Yorkshire frost relented sufficiently for the pitch to be passed fit at 10am and can now look forward to the possibility of a dream tie.

Manager Mike Newell is again hoping for a big club in the next round. "As we are still in administration we need that big pay day away from home," said a happy Hatters boss.

After making hard work of non-league Thurrock in the first round, Hatters easily disposed Rochdale in the second with a 2-0 win.

Fingers were crossed when the Hatters went into the hat for the third round for an away-day at Anfield or Old Trafford.

Instead fate dealt Luton a date at the newly-renamed Bradford & Bingley Stadium – hardly a glamour tie.

But Bradford, now under the stewardship of ex-Manchester United legend Bryan Robson, were certain to provide Mike Newell's men with a difficult task.

Pre-match favourites Bantams were in the Premier League just four seasons ago and still possessed experienced professionals such as David Wetherall, Peter Atherton and Dean Windass.

Bradford are currently lying second from bottom in Division One and until last week's 1-0 victory over Coventry City had not scored in 480 minutes of football and Robson's record stood W2 L5.

Newell named the same starting XI for the fifth game in a row but dropped Enoch Showumni from the bench and recalled Michael Leary as a substitute.

The game was also a homecoming of sorts for Marlon Beresford, the 'keeper was



■ Adrian Forbes puts the Hatters two up at Bradford City

drafted in as cover at the beginning of the season but left the Bantams in October to establish himself as a No 1 in his own right at Kenilworth Road.

Bradford looked worried early on by Luton's energy and a Robson-esque performance in midfield by Steve Robinson.

The midfielder covered every inch of grass in the first 45 minutes and had Luton's first chance on 17 minutes when he dispossessed midfielder Tom Kearney 40 yards from goal and released a stinging low drive that Bradford 'keeper Alan Combe took two attempts to save.

Two minutes later Luton took a deserved lead. Kevin Foley cut out a Bradford pass and turned defence into attack with a long ball to Steve Howard.

The striker won the header and then chased his own flick-on before giving a perfectly

weighted pass into the area for Adrian Forbes to slide home from eight yards.

Luton were in complete control and further long-distance efforts from Matt Spring and Lee Mansell, that were well saved, underlined their dominance.

The Hatters were unlucky to only go in one ahead when that man Robinson had a goal-bound free kick tipped on to the crossbar on 38 minutes.

Luton picked up the second half where they had left off in the first, grabbing a second goal on 47 minutes.

Robinson's curled free kick into the danger area was attacked by Steve Howard. The ball fell to Forbes two yards out and he slammed it high into the roof of the net.

Bradford introduced Ben Muirhead early in the second half and he was to be the main threat with a succession of mazy runs and his shot on 71 minutes was their best chance so far. It forced a good save from Beresford.

Fifteen minutes from the end, Bradford finally got into gear. On 76 minutes Windass headed against the crossbar from a corner and two minutes later Mark Bower's volley was cleared off the line from Ahmet Brkovic.

On 83 minutes Bantams got a lifeline when Windass, whose theatricals throughout earned the chant of 'cheat' from Hatters fans, ran across Sol Davis in the box and true to form went down, winning Bradford a penalty.

Striker partner Andy Gray made no mistake.

As Bradford piled on the pressure, Luton held firm and Forbes could have completed a hat-trick in injury time.

Foley's big-boot clearance was pounced on by Howard, who danced past two defenders before being hacked down by Bower's trailing leg.

Forbes sidefooted a weak penalty straight at Combe.

Luton Town: Beresford; Foley, Coyne, Boyce, Davis; Mansell, Spring (Holmes), Robinson, Brkovic; Howard, Forbes. Subs not used: Brill, Hillier, Leary, and Crowe

Referee: Mark Clattenburg (County Durham)

GOALSCORERS:

Bradford: Gray (pen, 83m)

Luton: Forbes (19, 47)

SHOTS ON TARGET

Bradford: 3

Luton: 5

SHOTS OFF TARGET

Bradford: 8

Luton: 3

CORNERS

Bradford: 8

Luton: 3

OFFSIDE

Bradford: 5

Luton: 7

BOOKINGS

Bradford: Armstrong (29)

Luton: Robinson (82)

ATTENDANCE: 8,222

HATTERS STAR MAN:

STEVE ROBINSON

Captain Marvel style performance in the mould of Bryan Robson

How they stand

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Plymouth	25	15	7	3	59	25	52
QPR	25	13	9	3	46	20	48
Bristol City	24	10	10	4	31	19	40
Barnsley	24	11	7	6	32	28	40
Brighton	24	11	5	8	37	27	38
Swindon	25	10	7	8	35	31	37
Wrexham	24	11	4	9	30	26	37
Luton	24	10	7	7	37	35	37
Port Vale	23	10	6	7	32	30	36
Colchester	24	10	6	8	27	31	36
Hartlepool	24	9	8	7	36	30	35
Rushden & D	25	10	5	10	41	37	35
Blackpool	23	10	3	10	29	33	33
Bournemouth	25	8	8	9	29	31	32
Sheffield Wed	25	7	10	8	30	33	31
Tranmere	24	7	9	8	26	34	30
Grimsby	24	7	8	9	29	35	29
Oldham	25	6	10	9	37	40	28
Brentford	25	8	4	13	26	30	28
Peterborough	24	5	9	10	28	34	24
Stockport	24	4	10	10	30	40	22
Notts County	24	5	6	13	22	39	21
Chesterfield	25	4	9	12	19	37	29
Wycombe	25	4	7	14	28	43	19

Division Two results

Oldham	1	Brentford	1
Plymouth	7	Chesterfield	0
QPR	1	Rushden	0
Swindon	2	Bournemouth	1
Wrexham	1	Sheffield Wed	2
Wycombe	4	Grimsby	1



■ Happy Hatter: Adrian Forbes goes to celebrate much to the chagrin of referee Mark Clattenburg