

Dazzling Enoch's star of the show

Luton Town 3
Blackpool 2

GOALS from Emmerson Boyce, Peter Holmes and Enoch Showunmi gave Hatters their first double of the season.

Despite being in complete control, the Hatters twice pressed the self-destruct button, giving away a penalty and a sloppy late goal.

Rookie Showunmi was again the Hatters hero with a sublime finish for his goal and a clever pass for Luton's second to set up the win that keeps them firmly in the play-off shake-up.

With St Patrick's Day approaching Luton fans were treated to the Dookinella Memorial Pipe Band to gee them up, and the Hatters responded by being on-song for the first 45 minutes.

On a more sombre note there was a minute's silence for the victims of the massacre in Madrid on Wednesday - beautifully observed by both sets of fans.

Hatters, who beat Blackpool at Bloomfield Road with a wonder goal from Steve Robinson, made just one change from the side that drew at Barnsley, Peter Holmes replacing Ahmet Brkovic on the left wing.

Luton's early dominance should have been rewarded with a penalty on nine minutes. From Morten Hyldgaard's free kick Steve Howard's flick on released Enoch Showunmi, who looked to have rounded goalkeeper Phil Barnes before being sent tumbling.

Referee Steve Tomlin saw nothing wrong and gave a goal-kick. In fairness the big striker was heading away from goal but Barnes certainly did not claim the ball.

On the quarter-hour mark, Showunmi

How they stand

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Plymouth	36	21	10	5	72	32	73
Bristol City	36	19	11	6	49	27	68
QPR	35	18	12	5	64	34	66
Swindon	35	17	9	9	57	42	60
Brighton	36	16	9	11	52	37	57
Luton	34	15	11	8	55	46	56
Hartlepool	35	14	11	10	55	46	53
Bournemouth	35	14	11	10	43	37	53
Port Vale	35	15	7	13	57	51	52
Wrexham	35	15	6	14	41	44	51
Barnsley	36	12	13	11	42	44	49
Sheffield Wed	36	12	12	12	41	46	48
Colchester	34	12	9	13	35	44	45
Rushden & D	36	12	8	16	53	55	44
Blackpool	35	12	8	15	42	49	44
Tranmere	35	9	14	12	40	51	41
Chesterfield	35	10	10	15	37	53	40
Grimsby	36	10	10	16	45	64	40
Oldham	35	8	15	12	48	49	39
Peterborough	36	9	12	15	45	48	39
Notts County	36	9	9	18	41	58	36
Stockport	36	7	14	15	47	60	35
Brentford	36	9	7	20	37	59	34
Wycombe	36	4	14	18	37	59	26

again locked horns with Barnes, this time causing the 'keeper to spill a cross. The ball fell to Sol Davis who went down under a challenge but the referee played the advantage when Howard gathered the ball on the edge of the box. Howard fired just wide.

Luton were not to be denied and on 24 minutes they got the opening goal. A Steve Robinson free kick eluded everyone in the box but captain Chris Coyne, up from defence, tricked his way into the 'Pool area before drilling across goal. Players were lining up shoot. Kevin Nicholls blasted into a mass of defenders and the ricochet fell to

Peter Holmes, whose shot took a touch from Emmerson Boyce six yards from goal. It was Boyce's fourth goal of the season.

Howard, in particular, could have increased the lead before the break. From a corner he beat Barnes but not manager's son Stephen McMahon, who cleared off the line.

Seconds before the break, Robinson's incisive through-ball found Howard, whose sliding shot produced a great block from Barnes.

Blackpool's first shot took 40 minutes in coming and then it was high and wide from Tony Dinning.

The second half picked up where the first left off with the Hatters well on top.

Howard headed wide, Showunmi's lob went just over and a Boyce header was saved but on 66 minutes Luton did increase their lead.

As a Hatters attack ended Blackpool defender Simon Grayson dallied on the ball. He did not bank on Showunmi taking the ball off his toes before threading a ball through for Holmes, who marked his recall with a fine finish into the bottom corner.

After denying Hatters a clear penalty, the referee deemed Boyce's innocuous challenge on Richard Walker to be illegal and Dinning made no mistake on 69 minutes.

It gave Blackpool a lifeline they didn't deserve but justice and Luton's two-goal advantage were restored on 74 minutes with a superb piece of skill from Showunmi.

Howard was brought down on the edge of the box and with the normal dead-ball specialists Robinson and Nicholls hovering over the ball, no-one expected Showunmi to execute a curling left effort that gave the 'keeper no chance.

Back came Blackpool five minutes later when the Hatters defence looked on as second half sub Matthew Blinkhorn raced through unmarked to volley past Hyldgaard.

The shock comeback was almost complete when Blinkhorn found the net but it was ruled offside.



MATCH FACTS



Luton Town: Hyldgaard; Keane, Coyne, Boyce, Davis; Nicholls, Robinson, Hughes, Holmes; Showunmi, Howard.
Subs: Brill (gkpr), Davies, Leary, Mansell, Brkovic

Referee: Steve Tomlin (East Sussex)

GOALSCORERS:

Luton: Boyce (24), Holmes (66), Showunmi (74)
Blackpool: Dinning (69 pen), Blinkhorn (79)

SHOTS ON TARGET

Luton: 9
Blackpool: 3

SHOTS OFF TARGET

Luton: 8
Blackpool: 3

CORNERS

Luton 5
Blackpool: 1

OFFSIDE

Luton: 6
Blackpool: 4

BOOKINGS

Luton: Nicholls (46), Hughes (81)
Blackpool: Sheron (30), McMahon (46)

ATTENDANCE: 6,343

HATTERS STAR MAN: ENOCH SHOWUNMI

Big striker's invention up from was the deciding factor

Division Two results

Brentford	0	Stockport	2
Grimsby	1	Bournemouth	1
Hartlepool	1	QPR	4
Luton	3	Blackpool	2
Oldham	0	Colchester	0
Peterborough	6	Wrexham	1
Plymouth	2	Swindon	1
Port Vale	1	Brighton	1
Sheffield Wed	2	Barnsley	1
Tranmere	2	Chesterfield	3
Wycombe	1	Notts County	1



■ Action from yesterday's five-goal thriller with Blackpool. Peter Holmes (above) fires in the Hatters second and Steve Howard (right) challenges for the ball with Phil Barnes

