LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

## Town Player Watch

# Forbes gets back into the action

HATTERS leading goalscorer Adrian Forbes returned to the Luton starting 11 for the first time in three months against Bristol City on Saturday.

Fit-again Forbes, 25, came in for Enoch Showunmi as boss Mike Newell aimed to stop the rot of seven league games without a win.

Here's how the winger turned striker fared...

- Minutes on pitch: 82
- Passes to Luton: 4
- Passes to Swindon: 3
- Pass completion rate: 57 per cent
- Tackles won: 5
- Tackles lost: 2
- Free-kicks won: 1
- Free-kicks conceded: 4
- Headers won: 4
- Headers lost: 6
- Shots on target: 0
- Shots off target: 0
- Shots blocked: 0
- Dribbles ball retained: 1
- Dribbles ball lost: 3
- Offsides: 4

VERDICT: Forbes produced a typically energetic display despite being some way short of full match fitness. The ex-Norwich man showed plenty of desire, but often found himself not directly involved in the action as shown by his low number of passes, above. Forbes' best moment came in the 34th minute when he delivered an inch-perfect ball behind the City defence for Ahmet Brkovic, but the Croat chipped wide.

The 14-goal hitman was warmly applauded for his efforts when he made way for Enoch Showunmi.

NEWELL'S VERDICT: "He's not match fit, but what I'd seen of him coming on in the last three or four games wasn't what I was after so I thought we'd throw him on from the start and let him run himself into the ground. Then you still have the threat of Enoch to call on coming off the bench."

GOAL: Emmerson Boyce appeals as his headed effort is snatched from behind the line by Bristol City goalkeeper Steve Phillips.

# Luton edge thriller!

## Keane's last gasp winner

**HATTERS 3 BRISTOL CITY 2**

TEENAGER Keith Keane picked the perfect moment to register his first senior goal for the Hatters in an enthralling encounter on Saturday.

Battling Luton raced into a two-goal lead against third-placed Bristol City thanks to strikes from Steve Howard and Emmerson Boyce.

But the Robins pulled back to 2-1 through Christian Roberts' volley to set up an unforgettable last four minutes.

With Town fans howling for the final whistle, Danny Coles headed City level a minute into injury time and it appeared that Hatters had fallen to their last-minute goal curse yet again.

But with the three minutes of added on time having already passed, Keane popped up with his late, late winner to send Luton fans wild and keep the Town's slender play-off hopes intact.

On conceding another late goal, Hatters Director of Football Mick Harford said: "I think everyone thought it was over. There were a few people starting to leave the ground as I looked around.

"I thought everyone had given up, but we deserved it over the 90 minutes.

"It was a fantastic save by the goalkeeper from Howie's header and Keith was first to react. Over the last seven or eight games there have been a lot of turning points, but I think there will be a lot of twists and turns over the remaining games yet."

While many in the ground had kissed goodbye to Luton's promotion hopes after the Coles goal, Town boss Mike Newell certainly hadn't.

He said: "I had a funny feeling after they scored that we could still win it. There are times you think 'we're never going to score today', but even as late as it was I still thought we had a chance.

"The lads have taken so many knocks in the last months with not just late goals, but goals at the death that I felt we deserved that little bit of luck."

Further fortune to go Luton's way on the day was referee Michael Jones' decision to rule that Boyce's 56th minute header had crossed the goal-line after the ball had rebounded off the post.

While Newell admitted he couldn't see the incident clearly, Bristol boss former Hatter Danny Wilson was more vocal. He said: "Any sort of ball player will know the bounce and spin of a ball and the trajectory it came back off the post it's impossible it crossed the line."

Hatters made three changes from the Swindon defeat; Adrian Forbes, Ahmet Brkovic and Keane in for Michael Leary, Enoch Showunmi and Lee Mansell.

City started much the better with Tony Rougier outstanding on the right. He set up Roberts and Mickey Bell for efforts saved by Morten Hyldgaard in the first minute and 15th minute. And Rougier's dangerous 11th minute cross almost sparked a spectacular own goal from Sol Davis, but the ball flew over.

Lee Peacock also headed just over for Bristol in the fifth minute, but it was Luton who took the lead when Steve Robinson's inswinging 26th minute free-kick was flicked home by Howard.

Brkovic then lobbed wide after being sent clear by Forbes eight minutes later.

Howard went close after the break before another Robinson free-kick saw Chris Coyne head across goal and Boyce nod in off the post before City keeper Steve Phillips cleared behind the line.

Roberts latched on to Tom Doherty's chip and as Boyce stood off, volleyed home from 15 yards in the 59th minute.

City levelled when Coles headed in Brian Tinnion's injury time corner. Boyce then cleared off the line from Marc Goodfellow before Howard's header from Robinson's free-kick produced a superb save from Phillips and Keane mis-hit his volley into the ground and up and into the net off a post.

**STAR HATTER:** Steve Howard. His best Luton performance for some weeks.

### MIKE NEWELL'S VERDICT

"THEY started much the better side and I don't know if our lads believed we could win.

"After the disappointment of Monday perhaps they thought we were in for another one here.

"It took the goal to give them belief, but there were still doubts at half-time.

"We went two up and you think 'you have a chance', but with the way we've been conceding late goals you're never home and dry.

"We faced another good side today and you can see why they are up there. They hold the ball up well and have a threat up front.

"But we got a result today and it wasn't about the performance."

### HATTERS

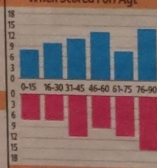
| Luton | 3-2 | Bristol City |
|---|---|---|
| Howard 26, Boyce 56, Keane 90 | | Roberts 59, Coles 90 |
| Hyldgaard | | Phillips |
| Coyne | | Bell 86 |
| Davis | | Carey |
| Foley | | Hill |
| Boyce | | Butler |
| Keane | | Coles |
| Robinson | | Wilkshire 57 |
| Nichols | | Doherty |
| Brkovic | | Roberts 73 |
| Forbes 82 | | Peacock |
| Howard | | Rougier |
| Showunmi 84 | | Tinnion 57 |
| Davies | | Goodfellow 73 |
| Mansell | | Miller 86 |
| Bell | | Burnell |
| Leary | | Stowell |

| | Luton On Target | Luton Off Target | Bristol City On Target | Bristol City Off Target |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Corners | 2 | 7 | 4 | 6 |
| Offsides | 5 | 9 | 9 | 17 |
| Fouls | 18 | 17 | 7 | 11 |
| Booked | Brkovic | none | Rougier | none |
| Sent Off | none | | Coles | Atkinson |
| Attendance | 6,544 | | | |

| Where Scored For/Agt | | |
|---|---|---|
| 6 yd | 15 | 20 |
| 18 yd | 41 | 32 |
| Outside 18 yd | 8 | 8 |

| How Scored For/Agt | | |
|---|---|---|
| Shots | 34 | 21 |
| Headers | 19 | 22 |
| Volleys | 5 | 8 |
| Penalties | 3 | 6 |
| Free Kicks | 1 | 1 |
| Own Goals | 2 | 2 |

Avg Goals FOR in 1st half, Goals AGAINST in stoppages




| Goals in last 10 mins | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Goals Scored | 7 | Goals conceded | 12 |
| Points won | 3 | Points lost | 13 |

| Luton Town's Scorers | Lge | CC | FA | LDV | Tot | Gms | Gls/Gm |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Adrian Forbes | 9 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 14 | 28 | 0.50 |
| Steve Howard | 11 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 37 | 0.32 |
| Gary McSheffrey | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 19 | 0.47 |
| Enoch Showunmi | 7 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 27 | 0.30 |
| Emmerson Boyce | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 46 | 0.11 |
| Tony Thorpe | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 1.00 |
| Michael Leary | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 18 | 0.17 |
| Peter Holmes | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 20 | 0.15 |
| Lee Mansell | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 23 | 0.13 |
| Kevin Foley | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 34 | 0.09 |
| Steve Robinson | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 47 | 0.06 |
| Chris Coyne | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 49 | 0.06 |
| Russell Perrett | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 0.33 |
| Kevin Nicholls | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 19 | 0.11 |
| Matthew Judge | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0.50 |
| David Boyles | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 0.14 |
| Alan Neilson | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 13 | 0.08 |
| Courtney Pitt | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 14 | 0.07 |
| Keith Keane | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 15 | 0.07 |
| Paul Hughes | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 24 | 0.04 |
| Matthew Spring | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 30 | 0.03 |
| Ahmet Brkovic | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 39 | 0.03 |

| Last 6 League Games | | |
|---|---|---|
| Opponents | H/A | Score |
| Bristol City | H | 3-2 |
| Swindon | H | 0-3 |
| Tranmere | A | 0-1 |
| Hartlepool | A | 3-4 |
| Oldham | H | 1-1 |
| QPR | A | 1-1 |

| Fouls & Offsides | |
|---|---|
| Avg Fouls/game | 13.76 |
| Div 2 Rating | 23 |
| Avg Offside/game | 4.67 |
| Div 2 Rating | 24 |

Rating of 1 = team averaging fewer fouls/offsides in all and 24 = worst

| Top Scorers in each Category | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Headed Goals | Howard | 4 | Volleyed shots | 5 players | 1 |
| Long Range Shots | Howard, McSheffrey | 2 | Penalties scored | Nicholls | 2 |
| Inside 6 yards | Howard | 3 | Scored 1st Goal | Howard | 7 |
| Shots 6-18 yards | Forbes | 6 | Gls in Last 10 mins | 7 players | 1 |

| Swings | |
|---|---|
| Won when behind | 3 |
| Drawn when behind | 6 |
| Lost when ahead | 4 |
| Drawn when ahead | 6 |

| Set Piece Goals | |
|---|---|
| Scored from Corners | 8 |
| Scored from Free Kicks | 11 |
| Conceded from Corners | 7 |
| Conceded from Free Kicks | 6 |

| Attendance Figures | |
|---|---|
| Highest Attendance | 8,499 |
| Lowest Attendance | 5,002 |
| Ave Attendance | 6,294 |

If at first you don't succeed, try, try then try