

# CHAMPIONSHIP

# SWITCH OF

## COVENTRY

### PLAYER RATINGS

**MARTON FULOP** 6/10

Steady performance but little to do on his debut

**RICHARD DUFFY** 6/10

The Welshman was helped by the return of compatriot Page

**ROBERT PAGE** 8/10

A very solid return to the heart of the back four

**MATT HEATH** 7/10

Dominated the aerial battle with Howard

**MARCUS HALL** 6/10

Wasted possession too often from promising positions

**CLAUS JORGENSEN** 6/10

A quiet return for the Faroe Island international

**STEPHEN HUGHES** 6/10

Much more effective for the home team

**MICHAEL DOYLE** 7/10

Tough-tackler relished the mid-field fight with Nicholls

**JAMES SCOWCROFT** 7/10

Was at the heart of most good things for Coventry

**GARY MCSHEFFREY** 6/10

His pace was a threat but missed City's best first-half chance

**DELE ADEBOLA** 7/10

Gave Coyne a torrid time with his pace and power

### SUBSTITUTES

Andy Morrell 6 – worked hard  
Lilian Nalis 6 – added stability

## LUTON

### PLAYER RATINGS

**MARLON BERESFORD** 7/10

No chance with the goal

**KEVIN FOLEY** 6/10

Had little to do defensively and rarely got forward

**CHRIS COYNE** 5/10

Struggled to cope with Adebola

**MARCUS HEIKKINEN** 6/10

Defended well against a dangerous front two

**CARLOS EDWARDS** 6/10

Caused problems with his long throw but beaten for goal

**AHMET BRKOVIC** 6/10

Very quiet game for the Luton playmaker

**KEVIN NICHOLLS** 7/10

The Luton skipper was a talisman for his team

**PETER HOLMES** 6/10

Saw very little of the ball but missed a great first-half chance

**DEAN MORGAN** 6/10

Luton failed to utilise his pace often enough

**STEVE HOWARD** 7/10

Somehow missed from eight yards in the first half

**WARREN FEENEY** 6/10

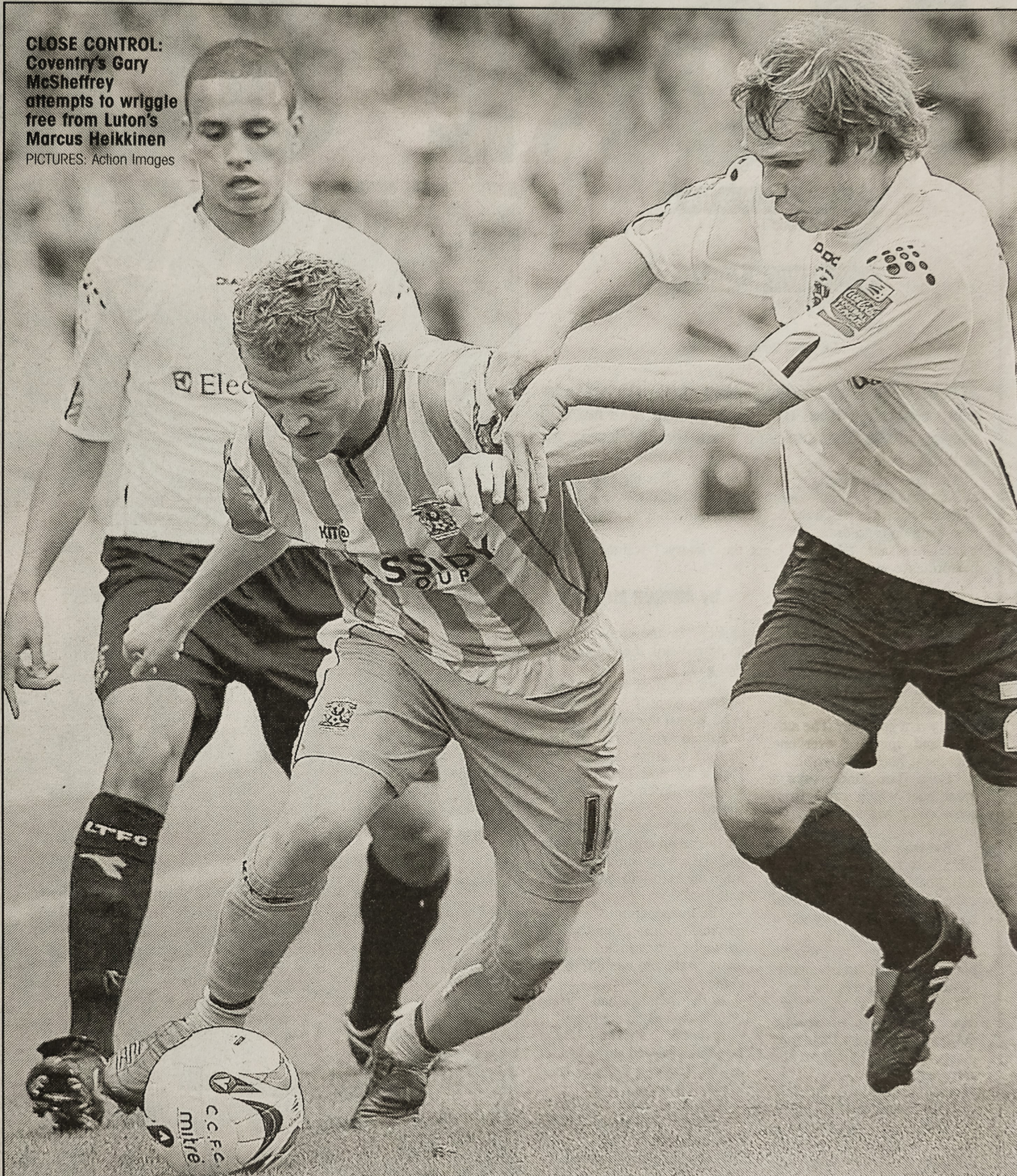
Lively throughout but Page and Heath gave him little room

### SUBSTITUTES

Enoch Showunmi 5 – little time  
Keith Keane 5 – off-day  
Leon Barnett 5 – unhappy display

**CLOSE CONTROL:**  
Coventry's Gary McSheffrey attempts to wriggle free from Luton's Marcus Heikkinen

PICTURES: Action Images



## FANS' VIEWS

**Lionel Bird, Coventry City supporter:** "We haven't filled the new stadium, the Ricoh Arena, yet – there's always loads of empty seats."

"The board need to look at the ticket prices."

"Maybe they could start a kids-for-a-quad scheme,

which might help encourage people."

"The team aren't getting the results on the pitch and the quality of the football is poor."

"There's an undercurrent of apathy amongst the fans and that's worrying."

**Natalie Cox, Coventry City supporter:** "The club are finding it hard to keep the fanbase."

"We're in relegation trouble, the team are playing long-ball football – it's hard for the fans to get excited about the football."

**John Heley, Luton fan:** "Everyone wants to get into the Premiership and it's a strong possibility."

"If we go up, I'm not sure how popular we'll be. Kenilworth Road is an old ground and fans of the big clubs might not like going there."

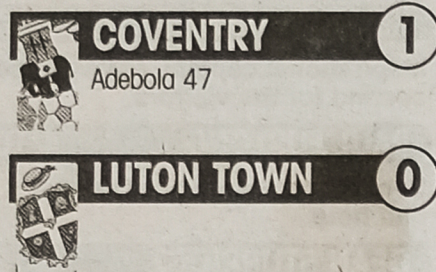
**'The players have been kicked in the teeth in recent weeks and they needed the boost that this win has given them'**

Micky Adams



# STYLE PAYS DIVIDENDS

## Adams shows soft side



Att: 22,228 Rating: ★★☆☆

By ADAM DENT

**COVENTRY City manager Micky Adams revealed a change in his managerial style helped his side to victory over high-flying Luton Town.**

The Sky Blues boss said that half-time rollickings – made famous by Sir Alex Ferguson's hairdryer technique – were now a thing of the past.

"I think the game has changed now – the players' mentality has changed and that is due to the football academies we now have. It is a personal point of view but they no longer have to do the sort of things we had to do when I was an apprentice in the game.

"The PFA says you cannot shout at the young players so it means they leave their academy years not used to what a rollicking is. It is a conscious decision I have made and, anyway, it is certainly good for the old ticker as well!"

The softly, softly approach at half-time certainly worked for the Sky Blues, as Dele Adebola scored the only goal of the game two minutes after the break.

A through ball from defender Matt Heath released James Scowcroft who turned and beat Carlos Edwards for pace.

The former Leicester City man then delivered a perfect cross to the far post for Adebola to score his sixth goal of the season and only Coventry's second win in 11 games.

Coventry carved out a couple of clear-cut chances in the opening four minutes.

Scowcroft was the architect of both. In only the second minute he pulled the ball back for Robert Page, but the defender's fiercely hit shot went just wide.

Then, two minutes later, the

|                    | DEFENSIVE BLOCK | DEFENSIVE CLEARANCE | SHOT ON TARGET | SHOT OFF TARGET | FOULS COMMITTED | FREE KICKS WON | CAUGHT OFFSIDE | CROSSES |                    | DEFENSIVE BLOCK | DEFENSIVE CLEARANCE | SHOT ON TARGET | SHOT OFF TARGET | FOULS COMMITTED | FREE KICKS WON | CAUGHT OFFSIDE | CROSSES |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|---------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|---------|
| Duffy              | -               | 4                   | -              | -               | 2               | -              | -              | -       | Coyne              | -               | 2                   | -              | -               | 2               | 2              | -              | -       |
| Page               | 1               | 4                   | -              | 2               | -               | -              | -              | -       | Nicholls           | 1               | 2                   | -              | -               | 2               | 4              | -              | 2       |
| Heath              | -               | 1                   | -              | -               | 1               | -              | -              | -       | Helikinen          | -               | 3                   | -              | -               | 2               | 3              | -              | -       |
| Hall               | -               | 3                   | -              | -               | -               | -              | -              | 2       | Foley              | -               | -                   | -              | -               | 1               | -              | -              | 1       |
| Scowcroft          | -               | 1                   | -              | 1               | 1               | 1              | -              | 4       | Brkovic            | -               | -                   | 1              | 1               | 1               | -              | 1              | 3       |
| Doyle              | -               | -                   | 1              | 1               | 1               | 1              | -              | 1       | Morgan             | -               | -                   | -              | 1               | -               | 2              | -              | -       |
| Hughes             | -               | 1                   | -              | 1               | 3               | 1              | -              | 4       | Holmes             | -               | 1                   | -              | 3               | 1               | -              | -              | 3       |
| Jorgensen          | -               | 1                   | -              | 1               | -               | 1              | -              | -       | Edwards            | -               | 2                   | -              | 1               | -               | -              | -              | 3       |
| Adebola            | -               | 1                   | 1              | -               | 6               | 2              | -              | 2       | Howard             | -               | -                   | 1              | 2               | 1               | -              | -              | 4       |
| McSheffrey         | -               | -                   | 2              | 2               | 2               | 3              | 2              | -       | Feeney             | -               | -                   | -              | 2               | -               | -              | -              | -       |
| <b>SUBSTITUTES</b> |                 |                     |                |                 |                 |                |                |         | <b>SUBSTITUTES</b> |                 |                     |                |                 |                 |                |                |         |
| Morrell            | -               | -                   | -              | -               | 1               | -              | -              | -       | Showunmi           | -               | -                   | -              | -               | 1               | -              | -              | -       |
| Nalls              | 1               | -                   | -              | -               | -               | -              | -              | 1       | Barnett            | -               | -                   | -              | -               | 1               | 1              | -              | -       |
|                    |                 |                     |                |                 |                 |                |                |         | Keane              | -               | -                   | -              | -               | -               | 2              | -              | 1       |

KEEPER: Fulop 7 saves (5 Catch, 1 Punch, 1 Parry) 45% POSSESSION 55% KEEPER: Beresford 4 saves (2 Catch, 1 Punch, 1 Parry)

former Leicester and Ipswich striker produced a wonderful dummy to allow Gary McSheffrey through inside the area but the forward blasted wastefully wide.

Luton at last began to find some sort of rhythm. Chris Coyne found an alarming amount of space inside the

Coventry area and was able to head across but Steve Howard fired over, before Warren Feeney went close.

Peter Holmes looked to have put the Hatters in front seven minutes from the interval when a Kevin Nicholls free-kick was nodded on, but he directed the ball into the side-netting.

Adebola's goal lifted the home side and the big striker set up further chances for Michael Doyle, who forced good saves out of Marlon Beresford.

Luton pushed for all their worth in the closing minutes but never seriously threatened to equalise.

Adams said: "I was very pleased with the attitude of the players as they have been kicked in the teeth in recent weeks and they needed the boost that this win has given them."

"I have always said that if you can show heart and desire in both boxes then you have a chance and that is what we did today."

Luton boss Mike Newell conceded their performance was one of their worst of the season and believed his side did not get the rub of the green from referee Mike Thorpe.

He said: "I do not know what the foul count was but I am sure we did not get many fouls compared to Coventry."

"No decision went for us and we have had him twice this season already and he has given us nothing."

"I do not care what anyone says but there is no way Coventry were better than us today but we simply struggled to put the ball in the net."

STAR MAN: ROBERT PAGE (Coventry)



**WINNER: Dele Adebola, far right, scores the only goal of the game to earn Coventry maximum points**



**BIG AMBITION: Luton Town manager Mike Newell**

## NEWELL'S BOYHOOD DREAM IS REALISED

**MIKE NEWELL has to be the first child prodigy in the history of professional football management. He surprisingly reveals that he has nursed this ambition since he was just 12 years old.**

"When I was a boy player at Liverpool, I spent six years under the shrewd eye of the late Bob Paisley and as he had replaced the city's great hero Bill Shankly I have honestly wanted to follow in their footsteps ever since I can remember," he says.

In the 28 years since he achieved his dream, Newell filled in the "lean years" as a prolific goalscorer with a plethora of clubs, which included his boyhood rivals Everton and present club Luton Town.

And in his four years as a manager, he has achieved remarkable success, winning promotion for Hartlepool and Luton and in so doing collecting the manager of the year award for last season.

At 40, Newell still retains youthful, handsome good looks but he is also inordinately proud to profess that he is as old fashioned as a pair of steel toe capped football boots when it comes to running a club.

His mandate is that managers should manage, coaches should coach and chairmen and directors should keep off the grass.

### Coaching

In short, he believes that a manager should be a dictator 'a la the late Brian Clough, but unlike 'old big'ead' he also believes that diplomacy comes into the equation, too.

On one particular topic, he is still prepared to kick diplomacy into touch, however, by proclaiming: "There is so much bullshit spouted about coaching and tactics these days. I am happy with my coach Brian Stein and would never begin to insult him by giving him anything less than a free hand."

"But when it comes to picking the team and motivating the players that is my territory."

"Opinions don't impress me, but I think experience is like gold dust. All I have brought to management is my experience of the way players like to be treated. And if I haven't learned enough about that after more than 600 games as a pro myself I don't deserve to be a boss anywhere."

Unlike role model Cloughie, Newell favours a detached approach from the bench and the touchline on match days. "As a player, if you're getting ear-ache from the bench you tend to switch off. I pick my teams and let them play, "I learned that from Bob

### PETER BATT MEETS MIKE NEWELL

Paisley. He never flinched or moved a muscle when he was watching a game. But he concentrated on the action and if anything needed saying about anyone's performance, he did it discreetly and privately.

"You don't have to go mouthing off at players to let them know that you've noticed them. As a kid under old Bob, I used to wonder if he knew I existed. But he knew alright. He used to be keen on the horses and he reminded me of a trainer as he shrewdly kept his eye on his string."

Although Newell does not 'holler and hoot' at his players too often, he confesses that it is the exact opposite where some rival managers are concerned.

Being the innate gentleman that he is, however, he does this in the privacy of his home. He explains: "I listen to every word the top managers say and when they contradict themselves or I disagree with them I shout abuse at the television. Sometimes it's so bad my mis-luck has to leave the room."

One room that Newell, himself, has no intention of vacating is the manager's office at Luton's Kenilworth Road stadium. He is convinced that he can make it to the Premiership and reasons: "I think it's more possible to work my way up as a manager than it was as a player because as a manager, I don't have any restrictions in terms of physical ability."

**'There is no way Coventry were better than us today but we simply struggled to put the ball in the net**

Mike Newell