

Beresford gifts it to Wolves

06/07

Luton2
Wolves3

MARLON Beresford's howler handed promotion-chasing Wolves their fifth straight win and piled more pressure on strugglers Luton.

Wolves' first victory at Kenilworth Road since September, 1983 owed a large amount to hapless Hatters goalkeeper Beresford, who allowed skipper Karl Henry's hopeful effort from 30-yards to slip through his fingers in the 66th minute.

Earlier, Luton had shrugged off the blow of Gary Breen's 10th minute opener to take a half time lead through goals from Lewis Emanuel and Leon Barnett, but Andy Keogh's first goal for Wolves squared the match, before Beresford's late howler.

Luton's lack of defensive solidity represents a major worry for boss Mike Newell.

Wolves came into the match having

collected 13 points from their previous five league matches.

It was no surprise, therefore, to see Mick McCarthy's team swiftly take charge of the match, and they were inches away from seizing the lead in the fourth minute when Seyi George Olofinjana's rising drive from 25-yards bounced back off the crossbar.

But six minutes later, Wolves went in front, Breen escaping the marking to head Michael Kightly's free kick past Beresford.

With their first shot of the match, however, Luton equalised, although they needed a huge amount of luck to draw level in the 22nd minute.

Emanuel's low strike from 25-yards took a big deflection off Breen, giving goalkeeper Matt Murray no chance.

That slice of good fortune sparked Newell's team into life, and Wolves were stunned when Barnett rose the highest in the 45th minute to head David Bell's corner past Murray.

Wolves, perhaps chastened by strong half time words from McCarthy, regained their resolve for the start of the second period, and they were level within seven minutes of the restart.

Stephen Ward's 25-yard shot ricocheted into the path of Kightly, who was denied from close-range by Beresford's fine block, but Keogh reacted quickest to bundle the loose ball into the empty net.

The goal was tough on Beresford, but he recovered from the blow to produce a superb save from Kightly's 20-yard piledriver in the 61st minute, which seemed destined for the top left corner.

But Beresford undid all his good work with a dreadful error five minutes later, when he allowed Henry's relatively tame shot from 30-yards to squirm under his body and into the net.

The one sour note for Wolves came when Ward was carried off in the 73rd minute after falling awkwardly when contesting possession.

McCarthy high as a Kight

WOLVES boss Mick McCarthy watched Grays signing Michael Kightly produce another sparkling display and admitted the winger was performing better than he could have imagined.

"When you sign players from that level or below, of course you want them to do well and you hope they will," McCarthy said.

"From day one, I knew he could play. But I could never have expected him to be as good as he has been.

"He has been a revelation. To see someone performing like that is refreshing."

Luton manager Mike Newell said: "How disappointing can you get? I believe we have lost more leads than any other team in the league. We have only ourselves to blame. We have shown we can score goals, but we should not have to score four to win."