

Bell and Furlong tame Black Cats



JOY: David Bell and Paul Furlong celebrate against Sunderland

TOWN boss Kevin Blackwell has spoken of his delight at avenging last term's final day 5-0 mauling by Sunderland. 07/08 (wc)

The Black Cats arrived at Kenilworth Road in midweek in the Carling Cup just over three months after that game.

And this time Roy Keane's men crumbled as Luton put on a super show to win 3-0 thanks to Paul Furlong's brace and David Bell's thumping free-kick.

Blackwell said afterwards: "That goes some way to repaying the fans for the final game of last season. To get beaten 5-0 on your home soil is never easy to take. But that was a terrific performance from a very good Luton side.

"They made a few changes, but it was still a strong Sunderland side and Roy will admit that we were worthy winners."

Last season's debacle in May saw thousands of Sunderland fans invade Luton's ground to celebrate their team returning to the Premier League as champions while Town suffered relegation to League One.

Blackwell said: "It was like someone winning the lottery and coming to your place to celebrate when you have the losing ticket.

"It's bad enough to lose, but having the party at your place only makes it worse.

"Sunderland deserved it that day and a lot of our youngsters were taught a lesson, but they've shown that they've learned from that."

The win was also significant for Hatters coach John Carver, who was in the dug-out for Newcastle in Ruud Gullit's last game in charge of the Magpies in 1999 when they lost 2-1 to the Wearsiders, their arch-rivals.

Carver said: "It was pretty embarrassing for us last season. Myself and Kevin had only been here for a few weeks.

"It hurt to lose 5-0 and we had a point to prove last night. If you looked at the sides you would not have been able to tell which was the Premier League side.

"That's what was pleasing from my point of view, but also the fact that I am black and white through and through.

"I'm only disappointed there weren't as many Sunderland fans there for this game than the final game of last season."