

It's Cobblers to the dissenters!

LUTON 4 NORTHAMPTON 1
KEVIN Blackwell hailed his side's perfect response to the boo boys as Luton gave the Cobblers a good shoeing live on Sky on Monday night.

Blackwell was jeered by a small section of the home crowd after comments made last week following the disastrous 4-3 Johnstone's Paint Trophy reverse at Gillingham, where Town lost despite being 3-1 up with just 17 minutes remaining.

The Hatters supporters had questioned the loyalty of some followers calling for fans to get behind the team rather than berate the players.

But after the Northampton win he refused to react to the dissenters in the Kemtsworth Road crowd, instead preferring to focus on a much-improved display that saw Darren Currie and Paul Furlong net along with two second-half Matthew Spring penalties.

Blackwell said: "I think the boys did the talking out there after what happened at Gillingham and that's all I can ask for."

"There were lessons there to be learned and the lads have done that otherwise it would have repeated itself."

"What's frustrating is that everybody expects so much from the likes of Drew Talbot, Calvin Andrew and Dave Edwards, but they're only young lads and need to be encouraged."

"It's a difficult time and period for the club, but I've spoken enough about that already. Maybe that's part of the reaction from the fans, I don't know."

"But we've been fairly entertaining at home. We've maybe had a half against Bristol Rovers and a half against Doncaster where we didn't perform and the fans are quite right to have their say."

"But on the whole people have seen



Pictures: JANE RUSSELL

PICK THAT ONE OUT: Darren Currie celebrates his classy opener

some good football and some great goals here."

It was certainly a great goal that got Luton rolling in the fourth minute as Currie, who had cleared off the line from Andrew Holt in the first minute, picked up a cross that had deflected into his path and curled home, beautifully, with his right boot from 25 yards for his second of the season.

Buoyed by the strike, Town pressed and went close through David Bell's angled drive, Furlong's diving header,

which was somehow cleared by Mark Hughes in the goalmouth, and from Talbot's glancing header.

But a 30-yard thunderbolt out of the blue from Bradley Johnson in the 23rd minute left matters even at the break.

Hatters responded after the interval as Currie's free kick saw Talbot force a handball from Hughes for Spring's first penalty in the 49th minute before Furlong got the slightest of touches to another Currie free kick to make it 3-1 in the 61st minute.

Spring then put the icing on the cake with his second of the night, sixth penalty of the season and seventh goal of the campaign from the spot in the last minute—even if he did need a huge slice of luck to see the ball trickle in off Mark Bunn.

Blackwell said: "The fact that we've had so many penalties shows that we're doing something right."

"It shows we're getting around the box and making things happen although I would like to see our approach play finished off."

Town's attacking edge was given extra bite by the return of the hard-working Talbot, who made just his fourth league start of the season.

Blackwell explained: "We started the season with Parkin and Peschisolidi, but they're both injured. "Furl's come in and been a revelation and it's now up to the younger lads like Calvin and Drew to step up to the plate."

The Luton boss revealed he had been suffering from illness in the days building up to the game and had even had to take a day off from overseeing training at the club's new base off Addington Way in Leagrave.

But he highlighted the fact that the Town's switch to a new training venue had helped Hatters secure their biggest home win of the season.

He said: "I know I keep going on about the training ground, but it's been a great move for us and there's been a real buzz about the place."

"With the other locations we've been at we haven't been able to train on Saturdays or Sundays so if we hadn't have moved we wouldn't have been able to prepare for this game in the way we did."

STAR HATTER: Darren Currie. Scored one, made two and almost added more.



MATCH ACTION



Darren Currie has to clear off the line from Andrew Holt 60 seconds in, but four minutes later he is at the other end to curl in a sublime right-foot, 25-yarder to give Town the lead.



Luton go close again through David Bell, Drew Talbot and Paul Furlong but it is the Cobblers who level with another super strike as Bradley Johnson rifles past Dean Brill from 30 yards.



Hatters come out with purpose after the break and go back in front four minutes after the restart as Matt Spring nets from the spot after Johnson handles Drew Talbot's shot.



Johnson almost makes amends with a 35-yarder which is turned over by Brill before Luton stretch their lead as Furlong gets the faintest of touches to Currie's curling free kick.



The rout is completed in the final minute as Furlong is felled by Mark Hughes in the area and Spring scores from the resulting penalty with the ball trickling over the line off Mark Bunn.

GAFFER'S VIEW

"In the first half we created four or five really good chances and we could have killed the game off earlier."

"But if football didn't have two teams competing against each other with an ebb and flow it wouldn't be interesting."

"If teams dominated for 90 minutes people wouldn't turn up to watch the matches."

"At 2-1 up I said to keep doing what we were doing, but goalkeepers have to be alert and Dean Brill pulled off a great save at a crucial time."

"If I could play all games at home under the lights I would because Luton seem to play exceptionally well

Report on www.lutontoday.co.uk



Pictures: JANE RUSSELL

