

MAN OF THE MATCH



Dean Brill

Two great saves, deserved to be on winning side

THE SQUAD

Luton: Brill; Jackson, Perry, Keane, Davis (Andrew 85); McVeigh (O'Leary 81), Spring, Bell, Emanuel; Charles (Talbot 68), Parkin. Subs: Hutchison, Currie

MATCH FACTS

SHOTS ON TARGET

LUTON 7 CHELTENHAM 4

SHOTS OFF TARGET

LUTON 8 CHELTENHAM 3

CORNERS

LUTON 9 CHELTENHAM 4

OFFSIDE

LUTON 4 CHELTENHAM 3

BOOKINGS

LUTON CHELTENHAM
Spencer 52

ATTENDANCE

6,087

REFEREE

ANTHONY TAYLOR
(GREATER MANCHESTER)

FOOTBALL LEAGUE ONE

Brighton	2	Swindon	1
Bristol Rovers	2	Huddersfield	3
Crewe	3	Hartlepool	1
Gillingham	2	Bournemouth	1
Leeds	2	Walsall	0
Leyton Orient	0	Carlisle	3
Luton	1	Cheltenham	1
Oldham	1	Millwall	1

Played Friday			
Northampton	1	Nottm Forest	2
Southend	1	Swansea	1
Yeovil	2	Doncaster	1

FOOTBALL LEAGUE ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swansea	38	23	9	6	68	33	78
Carlisle	37	21	8	8	56	34	71
D'caster	38	20	8	10	55	34	68
Nott'm Forest	37	16	14	7	51	27	62
Southend	38	17	8	13	59	50	59
Tranmere	39	16	11	12	46	37	59
Brighton	38	16	10	12	50	42	58
Walsall	37	14	14	9	44	32	56
Leyton O	39	15	11	13	43	50	56
Leeds	37	20	9	8	59	34	54
Oldham	39	14	12	13	45	37	54
North'ton	39	14	12	13	50	47	54
Huddersf'd	39	16	4	19	42	56	52
Hartlepool	39	14	7	18	57	57	49
Swindon	38	12	12	14	49	49	48
Yeovil	39	13	9	17	33	47	48
Bristol Rvrs	36	11	12	13	38	41	45
Millwall	39	12	8	19	39	53	44
Cheltenham	39	11	11	17	34	52	44
Crewe	39	10	13	16	37	53	43
G'llingham	38	10	9	19	36	63	39
Luton	38	10	9	19	38	52	29
B'mouth	39	11	6	22	49	67	29
Port Vale	39	6	8	25	37	68	26

Late equaliser dents slim survival hopes

LUTON TOWN FC

LEAGUE ONE

LUTON

Parkin 24

CHELTENHAM

Gillespie 80

1

1

07/08

TOM LEECH

at Kenilworth Road

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STEVEN GILLESPIE'S goal ten minutes from time took the wind out of Luton Town's sails as the Hatters dropped two points in their forlorn bid to escape relegation.

Sam Parkin marked his recall to the team with a goal to give Luton a deserved lead but Gillespie rescued a point for fellow strugglers Cheltenham when he took advantage of a rare Keith Keane mistake.

Draws are not enough for Luton at this stage of the season and after last week's victory over Oldham back-to-back wins would have given them the slimmest of chances to avoid the drop.

The hail, snow, rain and wind made for a dreadful start to yesterday's game.

It was difficult enough to see a team-mate let alone pass to one and open to the elements at Kenilworth Road the football suffered.

The sun did eventually break through the grey clouds and after 15 minutes Parkin should have done better when Ryan Charles' dummy gave him a clean sight of goal.

In the mud the ball ran away from Parkin who had to slide in to connect. With no power his effort didn't worry Shane Higgs in the Cheltenham goal.

The atrocious weather did have its uses and played a part in Luton's opener on 24 minutes. David Bell can take a decent corner but this seemed to be suspended in mid-air – perfect for the unmarked Parkin who powered his header past Higgs from close range.

Cheltenham heads dropped and Luton took control. A second goal before half time would have killed off the Robins and Hatters twice came close.

Charles got on the end of a Lewis Emanuel cross that went inches past the post and Craig Armstrong almost gave Luton a helping hand



GET IN: Sam Parkin rises to head the Hatters into a first half lead against Cheltenham yesterday

when his clearance from Bell's free kick looped up over Higgs and had to be tipped over the bar.

With the wind behind them Hatters should have turned the screw after the interval. Instead they invited Cheltenham back into the game. Brill did his best to contain them with two fantastic saves early on in the second half.

First he had to be at full stretch to keep out David Bird's flighted free

kick which he palmed over the crossbar. Then he pulled off an instinctive one-handed save from Robins' burly lone striker Damian Spencer from point-blank range.

There was a let off for the home side on 75 minutes when Ashley Vincent missed a sitter. Bird's cross from the byline was hooked over Brill and Vincent only had to head into an empty net but meekly put the ball over.

His embarrassment was spared somewhat when Bird's pass was adjudged to have gone over the line, but it was a warning that Luton did not heed when ten minutes from time Gillespie struck.

Keane gambled with a tackle on Vincent who dodged him and put the ball through. With the Luton skipper out of position Gillespie ran clear and buried the ball under the on-rushing Brill.

Post match reaction...

HATTERS boss Mick Harford expressed concern for Drew Talbot after the striker was stretchered off in the 88th minute of yesterday's game after stretching for a ball.

"I send Drew my best wishes," said Harford. "I hope it's not as bad as it looks but he's in the dressing room now receiving oxygen."

Harford was at a loss to explain his side's second half display adding: "We're very disappointed.

It should have been over by half time. Cheltenham set out for a point today and that's what they got. They're one of the most negative sides we've come across.

"I thought we deserved a victory after our first half performance but I said to the players at half time that we needed to win ugly.

"We created a lot in the first half but little in the second. We're 14 points adrift now and a draw is no good."

Winger Lewis Emanuel insisted the team would pick itself up for the trip to Millwall on Monday.

"We didn't lose so we can take that from the game," he said. "We're going to Millwall in a positive frame of mind."

Emanuel was due to sign for Yeovil on transfer deadline day before Harford took over.

"A new manager usually means a new start. The gaffer's given me a chance and I'm trying to take it," he said.