

MAN OF THE MATCH



STEPHEN O'LEARY

Put up a battle in midfield

THE SQUAD

Brill; Asafu-Adjaye, Hutchison, Keane, Davis; Currie, O'Leary, Spring, Emanuel; McVeigh (Andrew '77'), Parkin. Subs: Beresford, Jackson, Robinson, Langley

MATCH FACTS

SHOTS ON TARGET
NOTTM FOREST 8 LUTON 2

SHOTS OFF TARGET
NOTTM FOREST 7 LUTON 3

CORNERS
NOTTM FOREST 8 LUTON 5

OFFSIDE
NOTTM FOREST 1 LUTON 4

BOOKINGS
NOTTM FOREST

Asafu-Adjaye 56
LUTON
Mayo 44

REFEREE
DANNY MCDERMID (LONDON)

ATTENDANCE
17,331

FOOTBALL LEAGUE ONE

Brighton	2	Hartlepool	1
Bristol Rovers	1	Gillingham	1
Carlisle	1	Southend	2
Crewe	3	Cheltenham	1
Huddersfield	1	Tranmere	0
Leyton Orient	1	Doncaster	1
Millwall	0	Leeds	2
Nottm Forest	1	Luton	0
Northampton	2	Oldham	0
Swindon	6	Port Vale	0
Walsall	1	Bournemouth	3

FOOTBALL LEAGUE ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swansea	44	25	11	8	77	41	86
Carlisle	44	23	10	11	63	42	79
D'caster	44	22	11	11	62	39	77
Nott'm Forest	44	20	16	8	60	30	76
Southend	44	22	9	13	69	53	75
Leeds	44	25	10	9	69	37	70
Brighton	44	18	12	14	56	49	66
Walsall	44	16	15	13	50	42	63
Tranmere	44	17	11	16	50	45	62
North'ton	44	16	14	14	56	52	62
Oldham	44	16	13	15	52	44	61
Huddersf'd	44	18	6	20	47	62	60
Leyton O'	44	15	12	17	45	58	57
Swindon	43	14	12	17	59	54	54
Hartlepool	44	15	8	21	61	63	53
Bristol Rvrs	43	12	17	14	44	47	53
Yeovil	44	14	10	20	36	55	52
Crewe	44	12	14	18	46	60	50
Millwall	44	13	10	21	41	58	49
Cheltenham	44	12	12	20	39	61	48
G'illingham	44	11	12	21	42	70	45
B'mouth	44	16	6	22	60	71	44
Port Vale	44	9	9	26	44	78	36
Luton	44	11	10	23	43	60	33

Forest steal points from luckless Hatters

LUTON TOWN FC

LEAGUE ONE

07/09

NOTTINGHAM FOREST 1
Tyson 67
LUTON TOWN 0

TOM LEECH
at the City Ground

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IN the heart of Robin Hood country Nottingham Forest stole all three points with an unconvincing win to keep their automatic promotion hopes alive.

The narrow victory was daylight robbery against relegated Hatters who deserved a share of the spoils for a disciplined display.

Luton had beaten the twice European champions in the league and cup this season but Nathan Tyson's second half strike decided the third meeting of the teams.

With nothing to play for but pride boss Mick Harford made one change from the side that was beaten by Brighton.

Striker Calvin Andrew was dropped in favour of winger Darren Currie and Paul McVeigh moved up front with Sam Parkin.

The new partnership fared no better than Andrew and Parkin last week as a dull first half was played out at the impressive City Ground.

Forest fans will say they're too big for this division but on this display they're living off past glories.

Colin Calderwood's men had the better of the few chances but with the home side chasing promotion Luton could have expected a sterner test.

Kris Commons' quick turn left Keith Keane on his behind and the midfielder made room for a curling shot that had to be punched away by Dean Brill. From the resulting corner Ian Breckin's stumbled shot beat Brill but not Sol Davis on the goal-line.

That rare glimpse of excitement came after 15 minutes and there was no more action of note until the second half when Parkin's powerful header from Currie's cross went inches over the bar minutes after the restart.



SO CLOSE: Matthew Spring's shot came close to giving Hatters the lead at Forest yesterday

Hatters followed that up with an even better chance to snatch the lead on 54 minutes. Forest keeper Paul Smith spilt a corner and the ball fell to Don Hutchison at the far post.

Rather than try and squeeze in a shot the veteran wisely waited and picked out Matt Spring whose goal-bound sidefoot effort was blocked by some brave Forest defending.

When the goal did come it went to the team in red. Commons' skilful run to the byline cut Luton open and his cross picked out Gareth

McCleary at the far post.

With the ball behind him the substitute did well to head back into the area for Tyson.

The one-time Luton transfer target took three attempts to beat Brill at his near post and Keane on the line but he eventually bundled the ball into the net.

Hatters came back strongly and on 74 minutes Spring went for the spectacular 30 yards out with a dipping volley that Smith could only parry.

Parkin's chance on 83 minutes

came from a more direct route but should have put Luton level. Brill's goalkick was flicked on by substitute Andrew into the path of in-form Parkin.

It sat up perfectly for him inside the box but the striker screwed his shot wide, letting the slow-to-act Forest defence off the hook.

Two minutes from time Wes Morgan almost rubbed salt into the wounds when he met Lewis McGugan's corner with a firm header that Brill had to be at full stretch to palm over.

Post match reaction... post match reaction...post match...

It was an unhappy return to the City Ground for Hatters manager Mick Harford yesterday.

Harford began his managerial career at Nottingham Forest with a short spell at the helm and felt his former side were lucky to come out victors.

"It's very frustrating to come away with nothing," he said.

"If you were a neutral here today you would not have been able to say who was relegated and who was chasing

promotion.

"Again we we lost by the odd goal and again we didn't deserve to lose. Their goal was scrappy but when you're down the bottom the breaks don't go your way."

The Hatters more than held their own against the hosts with some neat passages of play but again lacked the cutting edge in front of goal and looked vulnerable at the back which Harford feels is to blame for Luton's abysmal away

record.

"At times we played the kind of football that I want to see Luton Town play," he said.

"I don't want to have a dig at the players we've got here who have given me everything out on the pitch but it's very difficult going into games without a recognized centre half.

"There was an imbalance in the squad when I came here and we'll have to rectify it.

"Don and Keano are doing admirably at the back and we're

not losing three or four nil, it's by the odd goal and one mistake that we're punished for."

Veteran Don Hutchison echoed his manager's thoughts adding: "The players in the dressing room are gutted. A lucky goal won it."

With two games left Hutchison insisted relegated Luton wouldn't be a soft touch.

"I've always played with pride and passion," he said. "We showed fighting spirit out there and deserved better."