

IT'S LUCKY 13



MATCH STATS

LUTON v TAMWORTH

8 SHOTS ON TARGET	1
4 SHOTS OFF TARGET	3
9 CORNERS	4
3 OFFSIDE	0
12 FOULS CONCEDED	14
0 YELLOW CARDS	3
0 RED CARDS	0

STAR MAN: Janos Kovacs (Luton)
ATT: 5,633

ENTERTAINMENT: ★★★★★
REF RATING: Rob Merchant 6/10

LUTON: 4-3-3: Tyler 7; Osano 6; Watkins 16; 7; Kovacs 8; G Pilkington 7; Taylor 7; Lawless 7; Kinsack 7; McAlister 65; 6; Boucaud 7; O'Connor 7 (Willmott 90); Fleetwood 8; Howells 7. Subs not used: Crow, K Pilkington.
TAMWORTH: 4-4-2: Hedge 7; Tail 6; Green 8; Francis 6; Barrow 6; Reece 7 (St James 60; 5); Isaac 5; McKoy 6; McDonald 6 (Thomas 74; 5); Patterson 6; Marna 6 (Christie 77; 5). Subs not used: Courtney, Gudge.

JAN THE MAN:
Hatter Janos Kovacs celebrates
PICTURES: Garry Owen

AS HATTERS SURGE HOME

By Matt Badcock

KENILWORTH ROAD may have suffered a second-half power cut, but it wasn't going to take the juice out of Luton and their promotion push.

The lights went out and the scoreboard was off with someone tracking down a 50p for the meter, while on the pitch the Hatters kept up their electric run.

Janos Kovacs and a Francino Francis own goal added to Stuart Fleetwood's first-half opener to see Gary Brabin's men to a comfortable three points and stretch their unbeaten sequence in the Blue Square Bet Premier to 13 games.

There was even time for some post-match honesty from defender Kovacs, who conceded he hadn't scored the third despite an excitable celebratory dance.

Whatever the DVD shows, manager Brabin had seen enough to confirm the Hungarian can expect some stick coming his way.

"I'm delighted for Janos," said a happy Brabin. "We haven't seen it yet but judging by his reactions, dancing round like a big girl, he's definitely claiming it. I felt like putting a tutu round him!"

Tutu or not, Luton also went a way to booking their place at least at the play-off party with an eight-point cushion now between them and sixth place.

Brabin said: "I thought the lads played with a real tempo, looked really sharp and really complemented each other."

"We knew they would



POWER PLAY: Kovacs' first goal lights up Luton

make it difficult for us. We concentrated on ourselves and I thought we played really well.

"We didn't give them much time on the ball, we frustrated them, pushed them to where we thought they were weak. It worked well for us and limited their threat."

Fleetwood put in a tireless performance and he showed his desire for Luton's opener partly thanks to a touch of fortune.

Curtis Osano hit a low shot that struck Fleetwood, wrong-

footing keeper Jonathan Hedge and giving the Luton striker the opportunity to race onto the ball and squeeze home from a tight angle on 14 minutes.

It was the last act of Osano's afternoon as a hamstring injury saw him replaced as a precaution.

Tamworth arrived on the back of two good away results after picking up three points at Cambridge and a draw at Fleetwood.

New signing Jean-Paul Marna saw a sweetly struck volley that

looked destined for the net brilliantly, and bravely, headed away by Greg Taylor.

And when Kyle Patterson raced in behind, his advances were stopped by referee Rob Merchant, who decided the striker had fouled Kovacs when the slippery pitch was the more likely offender.

But Luton were seeing the majority of the ball and soon after Hedge had beaten away Aaron O'Connor's shot, the Hatters made it two.

John Paul Kinsack swung the ball into the box where Kovacs rose high to apply the finishing head at the far post in the 63rd minute.

The centre-half nearly doubled his own tally ten minutes later with a carbon copy of his first, only for an instinctive reflex stop from Hedge to keep them at bay.

That third goal didn't take long to arrive. With nine minutes left, the unfortunate Francis turned Jake Howells' headed centre over the line - with Kovacs celebrating like it was his own.

"It's very frustrating because we work so hard to stay in games and today we gave away very easy options against a very mature team," said Tamworth boss Marcus Law. "I came here wanting to win, wanting points and wanting to get it right tactically. Maybe there has got to be an evaluation of where we are personally compared to them. I suppose that is something I've got to deal with, but it's not something I want to use as an excuse because that's not the way I work."

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