



LUTON 3 SOUTHPORT 1

Fleetwood 4, Rendell 48, 54 (pen)

Parry 45



HATTERS RESPONSE DELIGHTS BUCKLE

Scott's double wins it

12/13

MATCH STATS

LUTON v SOUTHPORT

8	SHOTS ON TARGET	2
3	SHOTS OFF TARGET	3
4	CORNERS	5
6	OFFSIDE	4
9	FOULS CONCEDED	6
2	YELLOW CARDS	1
0	RED CARDS	0

STAR MAN: JJ O'Donnell (Luton)
ATT: 5,696

ENTERTAINMENT: ★★★★★
REF RATING: Brett Huxtable 6/10

LUTON: 4-3-3: Tyler 7; Henry 6, Essam 6, Ainge 7, Howells 7, Lawless 6, Kasim 5 (Rowe-Turner 79, 6), O'Donnell 8, Fleetwood 7 (Shaw 87, 5), Rendell 7 (Robinson 90, 5), Gray 6. Subs not used: Walker, Brill.

SOUTHPORT: 4-4-2: McMillan 6; Parry 6, Lynch 5, Smith 5 (James 46, 5), Grand 5, Lever 6, Poku 6, Moogan 5 (Willis 72, 5), Whalley 7, Ormond 6 (Benjamin 79, 6), Ledsham 6. Subs not used: Akrigg, Hibbert

PAUL BUCKLE called his side's second-half performance "electric" as Luton made comfortable work of beating Southport.

Before the game, Buckle told his side to get at the visitors early and his words had the desired effect when Stuart Fleetwood curled home after just four minutes.

Southport pulled one back before the break, but the hosts' pulsating second half display – and Scott Rendell's finishing – was enough to give them the win.

Buckle said: "We started well and got on the front foot, but the equaliser made life difficult.

"Maybe we thought it would be easy, but we showed character after the break – we knew we could play better.

"I didn't mince my words at half-time. I was loud but constructive – I told them to put crosses into the box and make some tackles.

By Tom Ambrose

"We knew this crowd would get behind us and in the second half we were electric."

The Hatters got off to a flyer as Fleetwood curled home from the edge of the area.

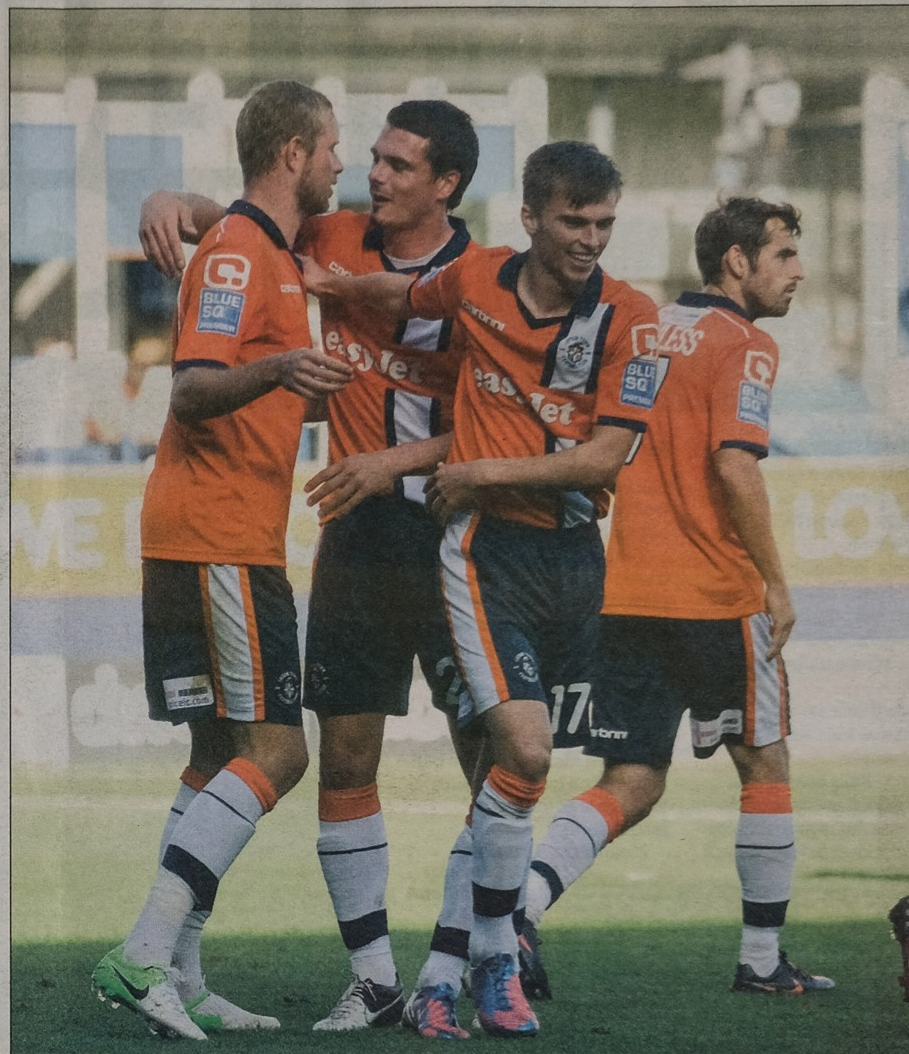
JJ O'Donnell almost doubled their advantage moments later, forcing Southport's Tony McMillan into a save low to his right.

A delay for a change of linesman appeared to give Southport heart as they started to pressurise the Hatters. And a cross from Shaun Whalley almost forced Luton's Connor Essam into an embarrassing own goal.

Chris Ormond came close to equalising from the resulting corner but Southport made their dominance tell soon after.

Andrew Parry picked up the ball in midfield, advanced towards goal and finished low past Mark Tyler.

Luton appeared to be fired up



THREESY DOES IT: Scott Rendell is mobbed after his second, and Luton's third

PICTURE: Gareth Owen

for the second period and within three minutes, intelligent play from Fleetwood set up Rendell to slot beneath McMillan from point-blank range to give Luton the lead once again.

Southport barely had time to catch their breath when Jake Howells' jinking run resulted in Fleetwood being bundled to the ground by Chris Lynch. Rendell pumped the resulting spot kick

high and central, leaving McMillan with no chance.

On 69 minutes, Southport's Lynch mistimed his jump but Fleetwood saw his effort well saved by McMillan.

And it could have been worse for Lynch five minutes later when O'Donnell's cross nearly forced an own goal.

Southport's Steven Tames made a late chance for himself but could

not make it count – the missed opportunity summing up the thoughts of his manager, Liam Watson.

He said: "We can't afford to give away sloppy goals like we did today. "At half time we were in the game and probably the better team, but we shot ourselves in the foot with kamekazi defending – we had young players out there who looked their age today."