

Facts figures

Blue Square Bet Premier

Cambridge Utd 2

Shaw 20min; Blissett 62

Luton Trn 2

Shaw 53; Taiwo 65 (pen)

Attendance: 3,217 (away 737)

Team line-ups

CAMBRIDGE UNITED

- Nick POPE
Another confident display 7
- Kevin ROBERTS
Made to work by Martin 6
- Charlie WASSMER
Prone to little errors 6
- Josh COULSON
Coped well with Gray before injury 7
- Curtis HAYNES-BROWN
Reasonable job on left 6
- Tom SHAW
Outstanding performance capped by goal 8*

- Rossi JARVIS
Dependable as ever in midfield 7

- Liam HUGHES
Solid workrate 7

- Sam SMITH
Still looked a bit rusty 6

- Tom ELLIOTT
Needed more composure at times 6

- Harrison DUNK
Made some very positive runs 7

Substitutes: McAuley (Coulson, 45+3min), Blissett (Smith, 60). Not used: Ross, Pugh, Berry.

LUTON

Tyler, Rowe-Turner, Ainge, Goodman, McNulty, Martin (Wool, 66), Smith, Taiwo, Shaw, Gray, Howells. Not used: Brill, Rendell, Robinson, Griffiths.

For the record

DISCIPLINE		G	D	L	F	A	P
Yellow cards	Kidderminster	42	24	9	5	71	38
United - Wassmer	Mansfield Trn	39	25	5	9	76	48
(Joul, 62)	Wendron	39	20	12	7	69	72
Grimsby Trn	Newport County AFC	21	8	10	10	74	53
(Joul, 66); Howells	Forest Green Rovers	40	18	10	12	59	40
(Blissett, 67); Smith (Joul, 74)	Marlow	39	16	11	12	56	33
	Marlow	40	15	12	13	60	39
	Luton Trn	39	15	11	13	57	51
	Welling	41	16	8	17	64	70
	Cambridge Utd	41	14	12	16	65	54
	Hyde FC	41	16	8	17	64	70
	Barnet Trn	38	15	7	16	53	64
	Grimsby Trn	38	15	8	16	54	65
	Grimsby Trn	41	13	10	18	59	49
	Tarporley	40	13	9	18	47	56
	Grimsby Trn	42	12	12	16	56	48
	Gainshead	40	11	14	15	49	47
	Marlow	41	12	11	18	65	78
	Southport	41	12	10	18	47	59
	Stokeport County	38	8	11	18	42	70
	Barnet	38	8	12	18	50	75
	Elstree Utd	42	5	16	21	47	72
	AFC Telford Utd	42	5	16	21	47	72

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GOAL-DEN MOMENTS: Tom Shaw fires United ahead in the first half and, inset top, Nathan Blissett heads home the second before, inset bottom, celebrating with his team-mates – but United were pegged back both times
SPO902717/902684/902680

► Pictures: Warren Gunn



IT'S BEHIND YOU: Sam Smith tussles for possession
SPO902687



's Shaw worth more than draw

Cambridge Utd
Luton Town

By Aaron Mason



"I DON'T want to say it's the story of our season, but it's the story of our season," remarked an exasperated Richard Money after watching Cambridge United held by Luton.

A draw with the Hatters would usually be viewed as a good result, but against a John Still side in transition who realistically know their chances of making the play-offs are gone, it was errors at the back which again cost United dear.

Money has been tinkering with the defence, especially in the key centre-half slots, to try to find a formula that will work, but still to no avail as the hosts once more showed a propensity for mistakes in crucial areas.

Not that United were helped by Josh Coulson – being stretched off just before half time after being caught in the face

by Andre Gray as he stooped to head a ball away.

Coulson had been coping well with Gray, who tore United apart when they lost 2-0 at home to Luton in the FA Cup last October, but it was a sickening connection that saw him sustain deep cuts and was set to rule him out of today's trip to Lincoln City.

As it was, his replacement Rory McAuley made a terrific last-ditch tackle on David Martin early in the second half, but a lack of back-up allowed Martin to recover and stand the ball up for Jon Shaw to head home unmarked for Luton's initial equaliser.

looking much the stronger force in midfield. While Jarvis went about his business with minimum fuss, Shaw was every bit the danger man.

He tried his luck with a job that Mark Tyler was comfortably equal to during United's regular bright opening spell to games, before putting Jake Goodman under immense pressure as he raced to capitalise on a long ball from Tom Elliott.

However, he settled United's nerves, playing into a strong wind, showing great technique to guide the ball into the bottom corner past the unsighted Tyler after Luton had struggled to clear their lines.

Liam Hughes again caused problems, while Harrison Dunk made a series of surging runs as United looked to largely play the ball through the visitors' ranks and exploit the likes

of Goodman and the unit that is skipper Steve McNulty.

Up front though, the loss of Michael Gash and his ability to hold the ball up is palpable.

Tom Elliott still seems to be finding his feet after returning from a hamstring injury, while Sam Smith could well fill Gash's void

who he has got back to fitness, but it is a lot to ask of a player who has had the misfortune he has suffered this season.

Nathan Blissett may have been playing his final game before returning to Kidderminster after replacing Smith on the hour, but he provided the spark United needed after Luton had

got back on terms through Jon Shaw.

Blissett may have had to wait longer than the 17 seconds it took him to become United's quickest scorer following his goal in last month's 2-1 defeat at Southport.

But he was on the field less than two minutes before nodding home Dunk's free kick to restore their advantage, only for the Hatters to hit back from the spot.

United forced the pace in the closing stages with Dunk and Curtis Haynes-Brown off target with decent chances, but it was another case of what could have been for Money's side.

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CONCERN: United players look on as Josh Coulson is treated for a head wound just before half time
SPO902728