

ALFRETON 0 LUTON TOWN 5

Gray 10, 15, Benson 13, Guttridge 18, Lawless 67

13/14

LUTON SURGE ROUTED BY A

AS REDS ARE 5-STAR SHOW

HATS THE WAY:
Paul Benson coolly
chips in the second
and Alex Lawless
fires the fifth, below
PICTURES: Gareth Owen

Law left floored by duo

By **KEVIN MILES**

VERDICT: It may have been billed as a top-six clash, but the sides were poles apart as Luton impressed with a top quality display to send a chilling message to their title rivals

A HUGELY impressive Luton Town produced a stunning first-half display to blow play-off hopefuls Alfreton away and continue their march towards the top of the table.

Four goals in eight blistering first-half minutes – including two from star striker Andre Gray – put the Hatters out of sight and took them to within a point of league leaders Cambridge.

"It was a very, very good performance from us," beamed boss John Still, whose side are now unbeaten in 14 Skirill Premier matches.

"Some of the movement was

"Luton are the best we have seen this year, the best we have come against by a long, long way. We have no complaints whatsoever."
NICKY LAW,
Alfreton manager

"It was a very, very good performance from us. Some of the movement was outstanding and there were some really well-taken goals."
JOHN STILL,
Luton manager



IN HIS STRIDE: Luke Guttridge bursts through to round keeper Ross Atkins and make it 4-0

MATCH STATS

ALFRETON v LUTON

1	SHOTS ON TARGET	6
9	SHOTS OFF TARGET	9
3	CORNERS	5
4	OFFSIDE	3
13	FOULS CONCEDED	11
3	YELLOW CARDS	0
0	RED CARDS	0

STAR MAN: Luke Guttridge (Luton)
ATT: 1,279

ENTERTAINMENT: *****
REF RATING: Simon Bennett 5/10

ALFRETON: (4-4-2) Atkins 6; Wood 7, Westwood 6, Wyke 6; Franklin 7, Shaw 6 (Wishart 72, 9); Taylor 6 (Kempson 21, 7); McGrath 7; Meadows 5; Clayton 6 (S. Atkins 60, 9); J. Atkins 7. Sub not used: Hooper.
LUTON: (4-4-2) Tyler 6; Henry 7; McNulty 7; Mawson 7 (Davis 6, 11); Griffiths 6; Lawless 7; Ruddock 8; Smith 7; Guttridge 9; Benson 7; Gray 8. Subs not used: Howells, Justham, Whalley, Robinson.

showed great awareness to pounce on defensive hesitancy and net from an acute angle from wide out left after Atkins failed to reach a through ball from Gray.

Shell-shocked Reds boss Nicky Law responded by sacrificing Alastair Taylor for an extra central back on just 21 minutes with Darren Kempson coming on to tighten things up.

In fact, it worked a treat as the Reds recovered and had a great chance of their own to pull a goal back – Kempson powering a header from a John McGrath free kick narrowly wide.

The hosts continued to fare better in the second half, putting Luton under good spells of pressure but they could not find the incisiveness needed to seriously trouble keeper Mark Tyler.

And Luton wrapped up victory on 67 minutes when Alfreton lost possession in the centre of the park and the ball was quickly transferred to Alex Lawless who fired past an exposed Atkins.

Reds boss Law made no excuses afterwards, admitting, "We came up against a side who were good everywhere you need to be and we were poor where you don't need to be."

"They are the best we have seen this year, the best we've come up against by a long, long way."

"Fair play to them, we have no complaints whatsoever, we have been given a real lesson in power, pace and athleticism."

