

LUTON LOSE NERVE, POINT

Torquay 2, Luton 2

A FINAL half hour of thrills and goals eclipsed the hard, relentless and uninteresting struggle that had gone before. Torquay began the afternoon full of promise and, helped by a strong wind, should have gone ahead in the first minute, through Alan Welsh.

But gradually the more physically powerful Luton side began to establish their authority and, with Keen and Slough controlling the midfield, they launched some fast penetrating raids of their own.

Defences, though, were generally in command and that was the way it stayed until the 63rd minute. Torquay seemed to have lost their early enthusiasm and willingness to work, but Mitchinson's header from a corner surprised and confused Luton defence.

Torquay, without a home win since early October, could not believe their luck. But their elation was shortlived, as Luton began to show the attacking strength and determination that is lifting them towards the Second Division.

In the 71st minute Harrison, found the corner of the net with a splendid shot from the edge of Torquay penalty area, and 60 seconds later, after French had made the opening, MacDonald put Luton ahead. They seemed to have the game sewn up but Torquay, taking advantage of carelessness and nervousness in the Luton defence fought back for Rudge to head the equaliser four minutes from the end.