

SKY HIGH TOWN'S HAPPY NEW YEAR

COVENTRY 0 LUTON 1

HATTERS HELPED themselves to a happy New Year by recording their first ever Division One victory at Highfield Road.

Les Sealey and Steve Foster were the New Year's Day stars in a resolute display, crowned by Brian Stein's winning goal.

With Ricky Hill still sidelined by a knee ligament injury, manager John Moore named an unchanged side from the line-up which started the 2-2 draw at Forest on Sunday.

Robert Wilson had recovered from the knock he received in that game and took over from Mark Stein, who reverted to substitute.

By DOMINIC BIGGS

Mick Harford made his second appearance of the season, with Les Sealey and Ashley Grimes returning to face their former club on a ground where Luton had still to win a First Division game.

The Sky Blues, at seventh in the table



● Sealey — return.

starting one place ahead of the Hatters, began in confident style.

But a nervous-looking Luton soon settled and Nicholas produced a long shot and Harford a header.

Coventry's Dave Phillips should have put the home side ahead after being put through by Bennett, but with only Sealey to beat he shot wide.

Bennett was too high with a header, before Phillips contrived to scoop another close range chance over the bar.

Newell bought a brilliant point-blank save from Ogrizovic in the 28th minute, but Luton were under siege again when Phillips' shot was kicked off the line by Donaghy and Sealey had to save the second effort.

As the skies opened Harford's volley from

Grimes' pass blasted just over, then Gynn forced Sealey into action again at the other end.

Four minutes from half-time Rob Johnson found Stein on the edge of the Coventry penalty area and he curled a brilliant left-footed shot into the bottom corner of the net.

Luton survived a strong penalty appeal at the start of the second half, following a challenge on Bennett. The same player was denied five minutes later when Sealey blocked the way to goal.

Harford eased another spell of resourceful Luton defending, with a 55th minute shot that strayed just wide.

As signs of despair showed in the home team, Hatters tipped the balance of play.

However, Regis broke through, only to delay and squander the opening 20 minutes from time.

COVENTRY: Ogrizovic, Borrows, Pickering, Emerson, Sedgley, Kilcline, Bennett, Phillips, Regis, Gynn, Houchen. Sub: Painter. **LUTON:** Sealey, Breacker, Johnson, Nicholas, Foster, Donaghy, Wilson, Stein (B), Newell, Harford, Grimes. Sub: Stein (M).



● The welcome sight of Mick Harford, back from injury, in action against Forest. Report inside.