

03/04

# Howard stunner sinks Posh



STEVE HOWARD

## Peterborough 1 Luton 2

**IN-FORM** striker Steve Howard spearheaded Luton's 2-1 victory at Peterborough with a stunning goal.

Howard fired his third goal in the space of a week midway through the first half to set play-off chasing Town on their way.

Howard smashed a thunderous drive beyond keeper Mark Tyler and the points were in the bag when Ahmet Brkovic doubled the lead with a free header.

But Calum Willock ensured a grandstand finish when he netted after being picked out by Adam Newton's cross from the right.

Posh loan signing Guy Branston almost became a hero on his debut when he popped up in the penalty area in stoppage-time, but he could only steer his shot into the side-netting.

Luton manager Mike Newell confessed to more than a little relief at the sound of the final whistle following his side's win.

The Hatters dug deep and showed sufficient defensive character to survive a late onslaught from Barry Fry's battling team.

Newell said: "We certainly rode our luck near the end and I endured a 15 minute heart attack on the bench!

"But we hung on for what was only our third away win of the season, and after our defeat in midweek it was a good result and one that keeps us in the top six, although we know we must do better on the road.

"In the first half we played well and passed the ball confidently. After the break we didn't, and although our second goal came at a good time, conceding one at the other end almost straight afterwards wasn't too clever."

Posh have won only twice in front of their own fans all season and manager Fry admitted that was nowhere near good enough.

He said: "David Farrell livened things up for us but we should have scored a couple of goals from situations where there were chances just two or three yards out.

"I still feel Luton were lucky to go away with three points, but we simply must start winning games and the longer the season goes on the harder it is to gain points."