

Hatters record start

Luton 1
Torquay 0

04/05

LUTON enjoyed a record-breaking day after a 1-0 win over newly-promoted Torquay.

Steve Howard's fourth goal of the season gave the Hatters their fourth consecutive win at the start of a new campaign for the first time in their history.



STEVE HOWARD

Howard's goal marked his eighth in successive games, another first.

Chris Coyne, twice, and Ahmet Brkovic tested visiting goalkeeper Arjan van Heusden early on, but it was Howard who headed home Keith Keane's cross in the 36th minute.

The Gulls woke up after the break with Jo Kuffour shooting just wide

before Martin Gritton was denied a run on goal by a superb Curtis Davies challenge.

Brkovic and Paul Underwood threatened for Luton before Kevin Hill ran clean through for the visitors late on before shooting wide.

Luton boss Mike Newell was satisfied with his team's win although Torquay went close to sneaking a point when substitute Adebayo Akinfenwa burst through in the last minute only to roll his shot agonisingly past the post.

Newell said: "We have to learn to kill teams off before the end, and it was never really that comfortable.

"They set their stall out and made it difficult for us, and for all the play we had in the first half, we didn't test their keeper until about 25 minutes in.

"We gave the ball away too cheaply in the second half, and we've got to learn how to keep possession better.

"It was a bit nervy again at the end, and that seems to be par for the course at the moment. We don't always play well at the start of the season, but it's about grinding out results, and that's what we've done.

"We're delighted to be top, and delighted results wise, but nobody's getting carried away, and it's clear we've still got a lot of work to do."

For Torquay, the loss marked their third defeat on the spin, but boss Leroy Rosenior still saw plenty of positives for his side.

He said: "I can't fault the efforts of the players. We wanted to keep things tight, and still be in with a chance come half time, and that was what happened.

"We changed things around in the second half, and although it kept breaking down too much in the final third, it was a lot better.

"The players never put their heads down, and if they keep on doing that, then we've not a chance. Sometimes you need a bit of a break to get it up and running, but you have to work hard for those breaks and we're going to keep working hard."