

LUTON TOWN1
Howard (36)
TORQUAY UNITED.....0

Four on the trot for in-form Luton Town

BY ANDY MACKENZIE

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

Steve Howard's fourth goal of the season gave Hatters their fourth consecutive win at the start of the season - the first time the club has ever achieved such a feat in its long history.

And Howard's goal marked his eighth in successive games, again first time a Luton player has achieved such a record.

Luton began well with Chris Coyne going close with headers in the seventh and 12 minute.

Ahmet Brkovic also tested keeper

Arjan van Heusden with a 15 yard shot in the 16th minute after a sweeping move from the home side.

But it was Howard who found the net in the 36th minute heading home Keith Keane's cross from the right.

Torquay woke up after the break Jo Kuffour shot just wide in the 53rd minute 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 in the 79th minute but shot wide.

Steve Howard's fourth goal of the

campaign and eighth goal in eight consecutive starts gave Luton a memorable win.

But Torquay came 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 today.

"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.

He added: "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 finding 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."

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

LUTON		TORQUAY
55	Possession %	45
8	Corners	3
5	Offsides	6
15	Fouls	9
0	Yellows	2
0	Reds	0
4	Shots On	0
10	Shots Off	5
0	Hit Woodwork	0

LUTON: Berestford 7, Keane 7, Davies 7, Coyne 7, Davis 7, Underwood 9, Nicholls 7, Robinson 7, Brkovic 6, Vine 6 (Showunmi 81), Howard 8.
TORQUAY: Van Heusden 6, Bedeau 6, Owen 5, Woods 6, McGlinchey 6, Fowler 5 (Meirallles 45), Hill 6, Hockley 6, Phillips 6 (Akinfenwa 60), Gritton 7, Kuffour 6.