

Hatters respond to blast

04/05

Luton 3
Hartlepool 0

LEAGUE One leaders Luton continued their flying form at the top of the table with their sixth successive victory at Kenilworth Road.

Goals from Steve Howard, Ahmet Brkovic and Gary McSheffrey gave the Hatters a 3-0 triumph against Hartlepool.

But the home side were forced to work hard against a lively looking Pool team, who went close on a number of

occasions in a strong first half performance.

Alan Pouton, Eifion Williams and Joel Porter all went close in a five minute spell early on. And Williams again should have scored in the 34th minute when Dino Seremet misjudged a long throw and the Hartlepool man put wide from 15 yards when faced with an open goal.

Instead it was Luton who took the lead against the run of play when Howard headed in Steve Robinson's corner for his sixth goal of the season in

the 36th minute.

Brkovic made it 2-0 in the 51st minute, firing home after Rowan Vine's shot had been saved. And substitute McSheffrey sealed the win six minutes from time, running through the visitors' defence before slotting home.

Luton boss Mike Newell praised his players for responding to his half time blast.

He said: "What was said in the dressing room stays in the dressing room, but we weren't happy at all with our first half performance so you can

imagine what it was like.

"But the players responded well after the break and gave us everything we asked of them."

His counterpart, Neale Cooper, admitted his side paid a heavy price for their wasteful finishing.

"I thought we had eight good chances in the first half but we only hit the target twice and that's not good enough," he said.

"We played some good stuff in the first half, but in the second half they were the hungrier."