

Howard the top Hatter

04/05 (FAC)

Southend 0
Luton 3

LUTON moved comfortably into the second round with a comprehensive 3-0 win over Southend.

The outcome was never in doubt after Steve Howard struck twice in the opening quarter-of-an-hour.

In the 12th minute Howard side-footed home from close-range after Ahmet Brkovic had an effort charged down — and three minutes later he unleashed a powerful shot from 12 yards after Steve O'Leary and Rowan Vine had combined to create the chance.

Brkovic, released by the creative

Vine, then produced some trickery before rounding goalkeeper Bart Griemink and slotting home Luton's third in the 33rd minute.

Southend, challenging strongly for promotion a division below their opponents, had gone into the match on the back of six successive home victories.

But even though they enjoyed just as much possession as Luton after the break, they seldom looked like getting the better of a solid defence.

The nearest they came was in the 64th minute, when Adam Barrett had a close-range effort cleared off the line by Chris Coyne.