

Hatters come out on top

04/05

Luton 1
Hull 0

A DRAMATIC last minute winner from Ahmet Berkovic meant League One leaders Luton beat second-placed Hull 1-0 at Kenilworth Road.

The Tigers seemed to have done enough to earn a point after surviving a first half barrage from the Hatters.

But Berkovic popped up at the near post at the death to head home Steve Robinson's cross for his 12th goal of the season.

Both sides were missing their respective leading scorers in Steve Howard and Stuart Elliott, but the match was not short of opportunities.

Berkovic, twice, and Robinson both went close for the host as the Hatters roared out of the blocks.

Enoch Showunmi saw a fierce

37th minute drive well blocked by Boaz Myhill and then saw his penalty appeals waved away as he fell while running for the rebound.

Stuart Green did force a close-range block from Marlon Beresford five minutes before the break but it was a largely one-sided first half.

The second period dropped in pace with the best efforts coming from long-range strikes from Green for Hull and skipper Kevin Nicholls for Luton before Berkovic's late winner.

Luton boss Mike Newell insisted his side would not get too excited despite a last-gasp winner against title rivals Hull putting them firmly in command at the top of League One.

But Newell said: "We are delighted and the lads are delighted, but we're not getting too carried away because it's only three points at the end of the day.

"The other results went for us as well. A bit of daylight has opened up at the top now and we are getting closer, but there are still 15 games left to go.

"That's a third of the season still to play and we're going to need to bring in one or two new faces to keep going."

Newell added: "We played some good football around their box in the first half, but we seemed to be looking for the perfect finish.

"Sometimes you have to take it upon yourself to have a go. But I couldn't fault any of my players, we are pleased with them all."

Tigers boss Peter Taylor said: "Luton were the better side in the first half and were sharper than us, but I thought we were excellent in the second half and were unlucky not to get at least a point.

"I am disappointed with the result, but I'm still happy with the position we're in. The last four games haven't been good enough, but I have no doubts we will come back strongly.

"The players have got to stand up and be counted and bounce back to winning ways as soon as possible, starting with the game against Wrexham."



Luton Town's AHMET BRKOVIC scores