

Luton regain pole position

04/05

By John Roberts

TORQUAY UNITED	1
LUTON TOWN	4

LUTON TOWN came from a goal down to reclaim leadership of League One after overcoming Torquay United with a powerful display at Plainmoor.

Luton were comprehensively beaten at home by Barnsley on Good Friday and manager Mike Newell needed a performance to show rivals Hull City that they were still fighting for the title.

"I am delighted with the performance," said Newell. "It was not the start we wanted but I always felt we were in control."

The game started badly for the visitors with relegation-threatened Torquay taking a shock lead after five minutes. Adebayo Akinfenwa reacted quickest to score his 13th goal of the season after Marlon Beresford had stopped Jo Kuffour's effort.

But Newell's men made the breakthrough on 22 minutes – captain Kevin Nicholls equalising with a short-range effort – and then began to show their potential.

Luton were ahead on 31 minutes, midfielder Kevin Foley tucking the ball past Andy Marriott, and then extended their advantage five minutes into the second

half when Steve Howard forced home his 20th goal of the season.

Torquay were given a glimmer of hope on 59 minutes when Paul Underwood handled in the penalty area, but Akinfenwa's spot-kick was saved by Beresford.

Rowan Vine, a thorn in Torquay's side all afternoon, secured the points for Luton in the 72nd minute, reading Howard's dummy before firing past Marriott.

Torquay United: Marriott; Canoville (Constantine 69); Woods, Taylor, Woodman; Bedeau (Phillips 46); Russell, Hill, Brown; Akinfenwa, Kuffour (Gamer 54). **Subs:** Villis, Abbey. **Booked:** Hill, Gamer, Akinfenwa.
Luton Town: Beresford; Foley, Perrett, Davies, Davis; Brkovic, Holmes, Nicholls, Underwood (Mansell, 72); Vine, Howard. **Subs:** Seremet, Hillier, Leary, Andrew. **Booked:** Perrett, Nicholls.
Referee: R Oliver (West Midlands).