

Blackpool collapse

BLACKPOOL 1 LUTON 3

HATTERS forced a second-half Blackpool collapse in more ways than one as they made it five League One wins out of five on Saturday.

Steve Howard's 10th goal in his last nine Luton starts and an Ahmet Brkovic brace saw Luton bounce back from a goal down to win 3-1.

But it was Howard's and Brkovic's two strikes within a minute just before the hour mark that brought the house down – quite literally.

Travelling Hatters fans celebrated with such vigour that part of the temporary, unroofed away stand collapsed, forcing hundreds of fans to be evacuated from their seats.

Three Town fans fell under the stand when part of the wooden flooring gave way, but luckily there were no serious

injuries. Fellow supporters pulled the trio back to safety while police and St John's Ambulance staff quickly moved in to seal off the area.

People in the immediate vicinity were moved from the dangerous stand to spare seating along the touchline.

On the field, Luton started with the same side that beat Torquay 1-0 at Kenilworth

Road the previous Saturday. But Hatters got off to a poor start when Rob Edwards' fourth minute free-kick was nodded down by John Murphy and Scott Taylor reacted first to fire home from 10 yards.

With Town struggling to keep the ball, Blackpool almost made it two when Taylor lobbed Marlon Beresford, but the ball drifted wide.



STAR HATTER

CHRIS COYNE: Hatters tightened up after a slightly shaky opening and Coyne was a tower of strength at the heart of the defence.

Alongside the also impressive Curtis Davies, Coyne won virtually every challenge he threw himself into, helping to keep the home side at bay.



NEWELL'S VERDICT

"WE'VE deserved to win each of the five games we've played in.

"We're trying to play it down that we're top of the league, but there comes a stage where the results are no longer a fluke.

"The players need to believe in themselves because we certainly believe in them."

Hatters stepped up a gear after the break and Steve Robinson and Paul Underwood both went close before Howard nodded home Rowan Vine's cross-shot in the 59th minute.

Seconds later Brkovic met Howard's flick-on, rounded Lee Jones and slotted home.

Beresford saved superbly from Michael Flynn before Brkovic's second at the death.



AHM SO HAPPY! Two goal Ahmet Brkovic celebrates his match-winning double at Blackpool on Saturday.