

04/05

Hatters win Howard's way

Luton 1
Blackpool 0

STEVE Howard's early strike was enough to sink Blackpool and edge nervy Luton a step closer to promotion.

Luton's leading scorer netted his 21st goal of the season with a simple header from Peter Holmes' corner early in the first half.

Another goalbound effort from Howard was blocked by Blackpool veteran Simon Grayson and Kevin Foley saw his shot well saved by visiting goalkeeper Lee Jones.

But Luton lost their way in the second half and were lucky not to have Sol Davis sent off for his challenge on Keigan Parker as the Blackpool striker ran in on goal.

The introduction of Enoch Showunmi and new signing Warren Feeney put the

snap back into Luton's play with the latter seeing his shot creep wide.

Blackpool should have grabbed a point deep into added time, but the unmarked Parker blasted over the crossbar.

Luton boss Mike Newell conceded his side were not at their best, but insisted results were all that matter at this stage of the season.

Newell admitted: "We weren't at our best at all, but the result was the important thing. You will get games like that over a season where you just have to grind out a result.

"It's not about impressing people now, it's about getting ourselves over the finishing line. If people want to be impressed by us they should look at what we have done already this season.

"We're getting close to promotion now and if Tranmere are going to catch

us they are going to have to win all six of their remaining games, which is a big ask to be honest."

Blackpool boss Colin Hendry was unimpressed by the decision to only hand Davis a yellow card when he hauled down Parker when he was clean through on goal.

"The referee saw it and it was his decision, but on another day that could have been red," he said.

"I don't want to talk about refereeing decisions, but Parker was through and about to pull the trigger only to be denied that opportunity.

"I was disappointed in the way we conceded the goal, but at the end of the day we gave a good account of ourselves against the league leaders who look like being promoted and that's a good yard-stick for us for next season."