



CHEERS: Heikkinen is the toast of Luton after scoring the fourth during the five-goal rout of Leeds

CARVED UP

Bates ready to name boss after Hatters humiliation

AFTER branding Leeds' players "st", the club's latest humiliation cannot have been a huge surprise to chairman Ken Bates.**

But after four successive defeats under caretaker John Carver, Bates is now under huge pressure to act decisively and name a new permanent boss following Kevin Blackwell's sacking a month ago.

With the club 23rd in the Championship and just a point off the bottom, last term's play-off finalists are already locked in a dog-fight.

And the financial repercussions of another relegation have got Bates in a cold sweat – even though he lives in Monte Carlo.

But despite Bates' outspoken criticism of the club's players, midfielder Eddie Lewis insists there is enough talent and desire in the squad to arrest their decline.

American Lewis, 32, said: "These are difficult times and it is going

**Luton 5
Leeds 1**



**By
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to take a serious commitment from everyone to get it right. The aim at the start of the season was definitely promotion but we didn't start particularly well and have managed to find even worse form since then.

"The players are desperate to put things right. It is down to us and we need to find a way because it is the players' careers that are at stake. But we are very confident we can turn things around and it is a strong group of guys.

"We are working hard – if it was down to effort we would be in a better place than we are now. Just nothing seems to be going our way."

Lewis was an integral part of last season's successful side which finished

fifth and reached Cardiff. But this term's poor start cost Blackwell his job last month and Lewis is at a loss to explain the team's demise.

"What has changed from last season is the million dollar question," added Lewis. "We have much the same squad and there haven't really been a great many injury problems either.

Leeds never looked like winning after Carlos Edwards finished from

IN A SWEAT: Leeds stand-in boss John Carver (inset) and chairman Ken Bates



a tight angle to put the hosts ahead in the 12th minute after a defensive mix-up.

Leeds defender Hayden Foxe – making his first league start in nearly three years after an ankle injury – headed an equaliser before the break from a corner.

But the visitors fell apart after the re-start when Rowan Vine and David Bell both scored in quick succession.

And a Markus Heikkinen header made it 4-1 before Edwards turned in Vine's deflected cross to complete Leeds' misery late on and lift Mike Newell's side into the top six.

"I'm very surprised what has happened to Leeds," said Hatters ace Dean Morgan.

"Five years ago they were in a Champions League semi-final, so I don't know what has happened behind the scenes."

Midfielder Bell added: "The gaffer told us at half-time the game was there for the taking and we went out and took it."