

Ugly scenes as Hatters crash

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MORE than 100 furious Luton fans called for the club's board to resign and some made threats of violence during the 2-0 home defeat by Ipswich.

Police were called to quell the tension as supporters voiced their fury at chairman Bill Tomlins.

This was the Hatters' sixth successive Championship defeat and left them staring at relegation — two days after the sacking of manager Mike Newell.

After an uncertain start, Luton came close in the 13th minute when Clarke Carlisle, who is on loan from their bitter rivals Watford, struck a fierce shot from the edge of the penalty area which Lewis Price did well to tip over.

Ipswich skipper Jason de Vos was off the pitch for 12 minutes after sustaining a facial injury, leaving Ipswich with only 10 men for a significant spell.

However, six minutes before half time, Luton were punished when Alex Bruce volleyed Gary Roberts' free kick against the bar, and Alan Lee was quickest off the mark to head in the rebound.

Just after the break, a group of six supporters turned towards the directors' box, chanting "sack the board" and "Tomlins out", and substitute Matt Richards' 62nd minute goal — a volley from close-range following Fabian Wilnis' cross — served only to increase their fury.

Stein calls for patience

CARETAKER manager Brian Stein urged the Luton fans to show patience after the home defeat by Ipswich.

"We are expected to compete with clubs like Derby, Wolves, Sheffield Wednesday and Sunderland, but we can't," he said.

"We are Luton Town. We can't spend £2million or £3million on one player."

Stein added: "Players do not go on the pitch to make mistakes. They work their socks off all week and give 110 per cent.

"When you lose, of course you are upset."

Ipswich boss Jim Magilton said: "It was pretty lively, but the importance of the three points overrode everything else for us today.

"It was a gritty performance, and we got our just rewards."