

... ALL ON THE DAY DOCHERTY DROPPED KEVAN

Chelsea3 Luton1

THIS was Chelsea chief Tommy Docherty's longest hour. It was shared by 21,000 suffering fans last night—before a penalty goal finally ended their pent-up frustration amid a gigantic roar of relief.

That penalty, by Tambling, put Chelsea 2—1 ahead against bottom team Luton. They scored again to scramble back on top of Division II.

But what a day for Docherty! In the afternoon he dropped Derek Kevan, his £40,000 centre-forward buy of 18 days ago . . . and set England Under-23 goalkeeper Peter Bonetti to join him on the sidelines.

It was a bold move to halt Chelsea's drastic slide. Docherty's fingernails must have been bitten to the elbow before he was proved not only brave but wise.



I have seldom seen a team have so much of a match as Chelsea wrested from Luton—and seldom seen so many shots bounce off bodies or flying heels as in this incredible Stamford Bridge siege.

After 23 minutes in which Venables hit a post, and Bridges and Moore hit everything else in sight except the net, Chelsea scored.

It was a great goal, made by Blunstone, Tambling and Bridges, before Blunstone finished the move.

Within six minutes Luton were level. Goalkeeper Dunn fumbled a shot from Luton's best forward, Dave Pacey, normally a wing-half, and Turner hit the equaliser.



Luton seldom fought out of their box after this, though the wise heads of Baynham, Bramwell and Morton looked capable of weathering the storm.

Chelsea seemed to be battering on a white wall of flailing bodies, with Bridges missing most only because he tried most. Even so, I counted five times he failed to score from within six yards, once hitting a post.

A penalty looked more and more Chelsea's last chance. Finally one was given against Bramwell for handling as he cleared Murray's attempt off the line (67 mins.). Tambling took it neatly and calmly, and at last Chelsea were ahead to stay.

Tambling's goal nine minutes later, brilliantly taken though it was, merely confirmed this.

Manager Docherty gave this reason for dropping Kevan: "He's not used to our ways—he needs to sit and watch for a few games to see what we require."

CHELSEA.—Dunn; Harris, McCreddie; Venables, Mortimore, Upton; Murray, Tambling, Bridges, Moore, Blunstone.

LUOTN.—Baynham; Daniel, Bramwell; Morton, Kelly, Lownds; Chandler, Davies, Pacey, Turner, Jardine.

BRIAN JAMES