

FIGHTING SPIRIT TILTS THE SCALES

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LUTON TOWN 2, NEWPORT 1

THESE were two hard-earned points for the Town, and for that alone we should be pleased. The fact remains that, as was the case on Wednesday, it needed a complete revival in the second half to secure any reward.

In fact, before the interval, I began to think that all the experiments with the square pegs in their round holes were a failure.

A moderate Newport team looked the more composed, and the inexperience of certain Town players showed itself up only too plainly.

This was so in the case of Rivers, who looked taken aback in the first half by the way in which Reynolds continually backed into him. What made it more difficult for him, too, was the fact that the referee kept penalising him for pushing.

There was some sound advice for the young centre-half from manager George Martin during the interval, with the result that he was seen in a far better light afterwards.

In fact, the whole team played with more confidence once they had gone on level terms through a well-taken penalty by John Reid, and victory was more or less sealed shortly afterwards when the embullient Moore smacked in the ball in from the edge of the penalty area.

The artistry can follow

There is no disguising the fact that this Town team has its limitations, and that it is short of basic football skill, particularly in attack. However, one thing has been achieved and that is the ability to fight back with grim determination.

This counts for a lot in the hurly-burly of the Fourth Division. The artistry if it can be called upon, can be added gradually.

Once again, I thought Thomson played an outstanding part with Jardine, who was carrying a slight injury, not far behind.

Moore was rather better at wing-half than Edwards mainly because his use of the ball was better, but Edwards did his part extremely well.

Forward, there was a lack of cohesion, with Reid standing out as the best ball player.

It was one of those touch-and-go affairs, but I think the Town just had the edge at the end by virtue of their second half supremacy.