

DEFENSIVE DEADLOCK AT BRENTFORD

By ONLOOKER

Brentford 1, Luton Town 0

Scott; Cobb, Higginson,
Docherty, Lawther, Ross.
Substitute: Regan.

LUTON TOWN: Read;
Slough, Jardine; Thomson,
Rivers, Moore; Pleat, Riddick,
King, Rioch, Whittaker. Sub-
stitute: Thear.

Referee: Mr. I. P. Jones
(Glamorgan).

Attendance: 6,770.

THIS game was a depressing experience for the considerable number of Luton fans who made the short trip to Griffin Park.

With two strong defences well on top of the respective attacks, there was little incident to cheer about, and when Brentford did break the stale-mate with a Cobb goal in the 39th minute it was of the lucky variety.

Brentford's five men up and five men back tactics may have killed the game as a spectacle, but it brought them both points, and the Town can take heart from the fact that it is going to take a very good side indeed to get goals at Griffin Park this season.

Hard though the Town strove, they just did not have the experience to break through this rock-like defence which was also adept at moving up en-bloc for the offside trap.

Whenever a Luton player gained possession anywhere near goal there were always two or three defenders converging on him to snuff out the opportunity by weight of numbers.

However the strength of the Town's own covering is not to be overlooked. When Brentford attacked with long balls upfield to their waiting forwards, Luton were quick to fall back and take up defensive positions, with the result that there was little for the Brentford fans to cheer about either.

PLEAT UNLUCKY NOT TO SCORE

In my view the Town were worthy of a point, and they came close to getting one in the second half when Whittaker hit the bar with a free kick from the edge of the penalty area after distracting the attention of the defensive wall by sending Riddick towards the far post as a decoy.

Bad passing hampered the Town, particularly in the first half, but Pleat came close to giving them the lead when a pass by Rioch split the defence and the winger was unfortunate when his shot

struck Brodie on the legs and went behind for a corner.

Had this break produced a goal it would have been a good example of the Town's new pattern of play in which they suddenly break from a deep defensive position to catch the opposing defence completely off its guard.

Brentford scored their goal in the 39th minute when the ball came across the middle to Higginson. The big inside-forward tried a close-range shot which Read seemed to have covered, but mis-kicked completely. The ball skewed across the face of the goal to COBB who smacked it into the net as Read threw himself desperately at his feet.

Read gained the admiration of the crowd for some smart saves in the second half, but generally it was a punchless performance by both sets of forwards who had got bogged down long before the end.

BRENTFORD: Brodie; Hawley, McKenzie; Crisp, Gelson,