

Brentford trust in their defence

Brentford 1, Luton 0

BOTH sides persisted in exaggerated defensive tactics although Brentford, probably feeling safe with the only goal in their pockets, forced 'keeper Read to a couple of saves in the closing minutes.

Brentford threw in utility player Higginson at inside forward and although he worked hard he made no impression on the defence that rarely broke into a forward trot.

But it was Higginson who paved the way for the goal that counted.

Higginson missed his kick and the ball spun to Cobb to score from five yards out.

With the accent on defence wingers were non-existent and keepers Brodie and Read had long spells of idleness.

Yet three goals came almost in the opening five minutes. Gelson for once

took off from his rooted spot in the Bees' backyard and hit a drive at Read from close range.

Higginson also found Docherty with a neat flick but the home leader gently lobbed the ball at Read.

Rioch, one of the few players who showed any idea of prising open a packed defence had Brentford floundering with a sizzling through ball. Pleat raced on to it but with Brodie falling he shot over the bar.

Whittaker, Luton's ex-Arsenal winger, spent most of the match bunched in the middle with the rest of the pack.

He got few chances to show his speed and shooting power but late in the game cracked a free kick against the bar.

Lawther missed a simple chance near time falling over the ball with only Read to beat.