

DEFENCES WELL ON TOP AT CAMBRIDGE

78/79

WITH BOTH defences well on top of forwards who were short of imagination and penetrating power, Saturday's 0-0 draw at Cambridge was poor entertainment.

The Town deserved their point, and might easily have taken both, because they were the more positive side after the interval.

Cambridge, one of the league's youngest clubs, looked like a team determined not to make the mistake of other newcomers, who have sprinted through the fourth and third divisions then slumped after a brief spell in the second.

At the slightest hint of danger they pulled men back into defence, and their determination to give nothing away was underlined by the role given to Tom Finney. He is remembered from his Luton Town days as a sharp penalty area goal-

poacher, but he spent much of Saturday's encounter in midfield.

He and Derrick Christie played just behind Bill Garner and Alan Biley, but the tactics showed little sign of getting through an impressive Town back four.

Stephens, Aizlewood, Turner and Price were all in commanding form, and David Lawson, in goal because Jake Findlay was injured, had a fairly easy afternoon.

His only serious scares came when he dropped a cross, but recovered quickly, and in the last minute, when he had to bring off a tremendous diving save to hold a pile-driver from Christie.

At the other end, Malcolm Webster

was also rarely troubled. Neither side could create much in midfield, but there were encouraging signs for the Town that Bob Hatton and Steve Taylor were gaining a better understanding of each other's play.

Both looked more menacing that the Cambridge front line, and Hatton came close to scoring in the first half when his header from a corner by Davis Moss was blocked on the line by full-back Lindsay Smith.

But Cambridge had similar luck later, when Turner blocked a shot from Christie after Lawson had bravely beaten out a shot by Biley.

In the end, the Town dropped a point

rather than won one, because Ricky Hill fashioned a lovely chance for himself in the 73rd minute. He collected the ball in midfield, was given space to break forward, and realised that the goalkeeper was well off his line.

Carefully Hill chipped the ball over Webster's head, but fractionally wide of the post.

MATCH DETAILS

LUTON TOWN: Lawson; Stephens, Aizlewood, Turner, Price; Donaghy, Hill, West; Hatton, Taylor, Moss. Sub: Stein, not used.

CAMBRIDGE UTD: Webster; Smith, Stringer, Fallon, Spriggs; Leach, Cozens, Christie, Finney; Garner, Biley. Sub: Buckley, not used.

REFEREE: Peter Richardson, Lincoln — stood too far off the action, and left too many decisions to his linesmen.

ATTENDANCE: 8,125, well above average for Cambridge thanks to a large following from Luton.

GOAL ATTEMPTS: Town five off target and one saved; Cambridge four off target and three saved.

ENTERTAINMENT: At least it was better than going shopping on a Saturday afternoon.