

DOUBLE IS PRIZE FOR PERSISTENCE

BATTLING for survival at the bottom of the Second Division, Bolton set the Town plenty of problems for an hour or so before the first double of the season was achieved at Kenilworth Road on Tuesday night.

In the end the Town were well worth their 2-0 victory against a side which seemed to have come to work for a 0-0, and hope to pick up a lucky break.

As Town manager David Pleat commented, it was the sort of game when we might have had a 4-0 result to cheer... or a 0-1 disappointment.

Bolton showed little attacking ambition until it was too late, yet they had missed the best chance of the game before the Town broke the deadlock midway through the second half.

Report by Brian Swain Pictures: Mark Richards

Weight of numbers stifled Town attacks for the first hour as Bolton concentrated on playing it tight at the back and throwing up a deep defensive barrier in front of goalkeeper Jim McDonagh.

It was frustrating for players and fans alike. The Town looked the better team, but patience and persistence had to be the priority.

The danger at half-time was that frustration and tension would take over, but as the non-stop attacking kept Bolton under pressure only one result looked possible.

It came as a shock in the 58th minute when Bolton mounted their first serious attack, and should have taken a preposterous lead.

They were using only two front runners, but one of them, Mick Carter, looking offside, got clear of a Town defence which had been pushed forward.

He ran on to Chris Thompson's through-pass, and was unopposed as Milija Aleksic faced him. Luckily for the Town Carter shot wide.

It came as a huge relief when Brian Stein, as persistent as any player on the field, finally got the goal

the Town needed, in the 67th minute.

Mark Aizlewood's diagonal cross from the left swerved and bounced disconcertingly for the Bolton defence, and Stein was quick to control it and lash in a cracking low shot from the edge of the penalty area for his first goal in ten games.

Stein, David Moss and Steve White all began to find a little more space, and Moss wrapped up the points with a cheeky free kick ten minutes from time.

His chipped shot from a yard outside the penalty area took a deflection off the defensive wall to leave McDonagh helpless.

Aleksic had to make a couple of saves as Bolton made their final fling, and was injured in the last minute with a dive at Wayne Foster's feet.

Mal Donaghy, for the second time in his Luton career, took over in goal, and delighted everyone except the Bolton players with a flying catch in injury time.

● **LATEST** on Aleksic's injury, and David Pleat's Viewpoint: See SportsNews 4.

Tuesday's Details

LUTON TOWN 2 BOLTON WDRS 0

Half-time: 0-0 81/82

TOWN: Aleksic (Antic, 89 mins, Donaghy going into goal); Stephens, Goodyear, Donaghy, Aizlewood; Hill, Horton, Fuccillo; Stein, White, Moss.

BOLTON: McDonagh; Whitworth, Jones, McElhinney, Bailey; Henry, Cantello, Hoggan, Chandler; Thompson (Foster, 82 mins), Carter.

THE GOALS: Brian Stein, 67 mins, turn and low shot edge of box; David Moss, 80 mins, free kick from 20 yards, deflected off the wall.

OTHER STRIKES AT GOAL: Town 11 off target and six saved; Bolton three saved and three wide. Corners: 9-6 to the Town.

ATTENDANCE: 8,889—lowest league gate since the visit of Charlton on the opening day of the season.

ENTERTAINMENT: Not the most sparkling match we have seen, with Bolton directing most of their energy into defence, and frustrating the Town and their supporters for a long time.

REFEREE: John Hunting, Leicester—missed or ignored more than he should have done, but at least he was impartial.



● **CLINCHER:** David Moss's free kick gets a deflection off Bolton number eight Chris Thompson in the wall to spin into the net for the Town's second goal.