



Revival is too sharp for Spurs

TOTTENHAM 2, LUTON TOWN 2

CAREFULLY avoiding making extravagant promises, Spurs boss Keith Burkinshaw forecast that Luton Town will survive in the First Division this season.

He had seen the new boys look out of their depth for the first 15 minutes at White Hart Lane. But the threatened caning, after Spurs went two up in the 19th minute, was avoided as the newcomers very quickly began to learn some of the lessons the new season may pose.

Better teams than Tottenham may not allow such a lead to disappear, but the Town earned admiration all round for the way they refused to give in, and for the manner in which they fought back to earn a draw.

GRUELLING TEST

While they were unable to attack as consistently as they could in the Second Division, the defence and midfield came through a gruelling test.

Clive Goodyear epitomised the gritty determination to overcome adversity. Steve Archibald threatened to take him apart in a blistering Spurs opening, yet by the 74th minute the Scottish striker was mortified, substituted for the first time in his White Hart Lane career because his manager realised he was getting nowhere against the young centre-half.

Brian Horton continued the job he started last season, leading a battling recovery by example, and helping the Town to survive a strange midfield confrontation.

In that department they often looked swamped when Spurs had the ball, yet when possession was gained orange shirts appeared in strength to try to build attacks from inside the Town hall.

NEARLY CHANGED

The experiment of using Raddy Antic as sweeper worked well enough, although manager David Pleat admitted that before the Town's equaliser he was thinking of switching back to 4-3-3, with Antic in midfield, because Spurs were pushing forward so consistently.

The defensive formation suffered a torrid introduction to the First Division. Only three minutes had gone when Kirk Stephens gave the ball away to Glenn Hoddle. His pass gave Archibald a run at goal, and Goodyear had to concede a free kick on the edge of the box to stop the Spurs man. Hoddle hit the free kick to the far post and Gary Mabbutt, once a target for the Town, scored on his Spurs debut with a diving header.

Another 15 minutes of Spurs pressure went by before Horton struck the Town's first real shot at goal, a 25-yarder saved by Ray Clemence. A minute later Richard Money broke down the right to hammer in a shot which caused Clemence to make a more difficult save.

GAP APPEARED

On football skill, the Town were the equals of the home side at that stage, yet another big gap appeared for Hoddle to slot a pass through to Mike Hazard to make it 2-0 in the 19th minute.

But still the Town refused to give up, with Brian Stein's confident ball control the major unsettling factor for Spurs.

Ricky Hill matched Hoddle in midfield, and after Stephens had given Stein the chance to take a man on and shoot tantalisingly wide of the far post the goal the Town deserved arrived in the 37th minute. Stein attacked in a direct run at goal. One shot was blocked by a defender, and the second was knocked into the air by Clemence's desperate lunge. Hill got to the ball first and headed goalwards and John Lacy, trying to clear, volleyed into his own net.

It was Spurs who faced a crisis of confidence and eight minutes into the second half, with the Town breaking with deadly efficiency and David Moss working hard in midfield, the equaliser arrived. Stein took a pass by Moss near the angle of the penalty area, spurted through a square defence and left Clemence sitting down and stranded before completing a brilliant run with a shot into the empty net.

For most of the rest of the match it was heart-stopping stuff for the Town's big following as Spurs tried to break through.

Offside stopped them several times, and when Garth Crooks did beat the trap he saw Paul Miller blast wide from eight yards with the clearest chance either side had.

DETAILS

TOWN: Findlay; Stephens, Goodyear, Donaghy, Money, Antic; Hill, Horton; Stein, Walsh, Moss. Sub: Kellock, not needed.

SPURS: Clemence; Hughton, Lacy, Miller, Perryman; Hazard, Hoddle, Galvin, Mabbutt; Archibald (Brooke, 74 mins), Crooks.

THE GOALS: Mabbutt (3) and Hazard (19) for Spurs; Lacy own goal (37) and Stein (53) for the Town.

OTHER ATTEMPTS: Town three saved and four wide; Spurs 16 saved and nine wide. Corners: 10-1 to Spurs.

REFEREE: Tom Bune, Berkshire.

BOOKINGS: Money for a foul, Lacy for kicking the ball away to delay a free-kick.

ATTENDANCE: 39,180 — second only to Old Trafford on the season's opening day.

ENTERTAINMENT: Absorbing throughout, with the Town contributing handsomely to a fascinating match.



● **BLOCKED:** Frank Lampard cuts out a Paul Walsh shot.

— Pictures by John Shorthouse

HAMMERS STRIKE ON THE REBOUND

VICTORIOUS manager John Lyall had a message to lighten the gloom for Luton Town supporters after his West Ham side had spoiled Kenilworth Road's first Division One night for seven years.

The Hammers, stronger and more physical than their traditional image, rammed home a vital lesson on Tuesday evening: taking half-chances is critical in the First Division.

**Sports Editor
Brian Swain**



**reporting on
Luton Town's
return to the
First Division**

A touch of lethal finishing was the only real difference as both sides gave good entertainment. The Town missed their half-chances and West Ham grabbed theirs.

Psychology may have played a part too. Beaten at home by Nottingham Forest on the first day of the season, the Hammers, inspired by 35-year-old skipper Billy Bonds, carried more bite and determination in their efforts to make the Town feel the backlash.

Bonds, nearing Bobby Moore's West Ham record of 544 league appearances, turned in a heroic performance as the Town became hapless victims of the Saturday sting delivered by Brian Clough's men.

On balance it was no dis-

grace to lose to such relentless opposition, with the Hammers creating more clear chances, yet relying on Second Division marking to give them both goals.

The Town did well to reach half-time level, with Jake Findlay making desperate smothering saves at the feet of Paul Goddard, Sandy Clark and Francois Van der Elst. The Town's best first-half reply was a slick move involving Brian Horton, Brian Stein and David Moss which ended with Paul Walsh whipping past Alvin Martin and shooting narrowly wide.

The Town were much more in the game after the break, with Parkes going full-length to push a low shot by Moss round the post before the Hammers broke the deadlock in the 50th minute.

**Luton Town 0
West Ham 2
(Half-time 0-0)**

enough possession of the ball but failed to use it effectively.

But Lyall promised: "Luton will give performances that will give as much pleasure as ours has tonight. They're equipped to do well, and like us a year ago they will soon learn."

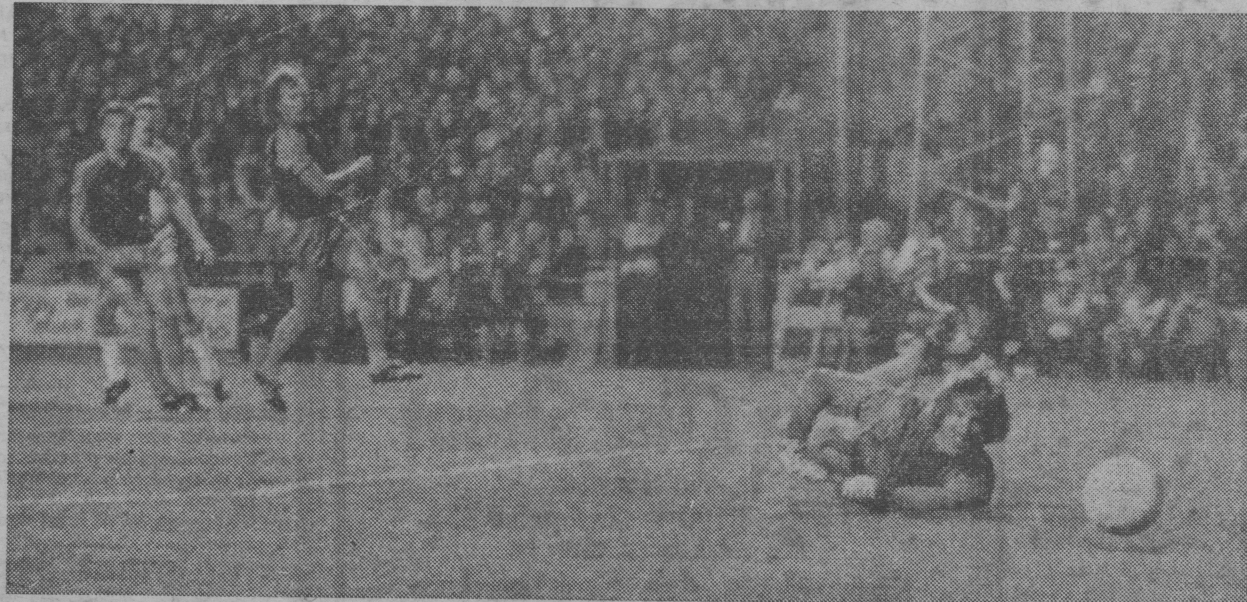
"The major difference between First and Second Divisions is that up here you get punished for half-mistakes."

"But the game was a credit to both teams. Both were going forward all the time, and it was entertainment. If there were any neutrals in the crowd, I think they'll come back for more after seeing that."

He enjoyed the skills of Ricky Hill, particularly in the second half, when the Hammers were forced to defend in depth, and with a touch of steel at times.

Ironically, it was the losing side which forced the opposing goalkeeper into the night's most vital saves in that period; and the Town fans looked expectantly for two penalties, when Frank Lampard tangled with Stein and Paul Allen collided with Hill.

Referee Alan Seville turned down both appeals, perhaps unwittingly confirming that well as the Town played in patches, it was not destined to be their night.



● **SAVED:** West Ham goalkeeper Phil Parkes goes full-length to turn round a drive by David Moss in the second half.

West Ham Details

TOWN: Findlay; Stephens, Goodyear, Donaghy, Money, Antic; Hill, Horton; Stein, Walsh, Moss. Sub: Kellock, not used.

WEST HAM: Parkes; Stewart, Martin, Bonds, Lampard; Devonshire, Van der Elst, Clark, Neighbour (Morgan, 25 mins); Goddard, Clark.

THE GOALS: Paul Goddard header, 50 mins; Billy Bonds header, 66 mins.

OTHER GOAL ATTEMPTS: Town five saved and ten wide; West Ham eight saved and eight wide. Corners: 9-3 to the Town.

REFEREE: Alan Seville, Birmingham.

ATTENDANCE: Given as 13,403 at the game.

BOOKING: Brian Horton, dissent.

ENTERTAINMENT: Nice game, shame about the result.