

REVIVAL EXPERTS DO IT ALL TWICE



UNUSUAL: The Oak Road End's view of England goalkeeper Peter Shilton—and he had to pick the ball out of the net four times.

IT WAS a case of "Smile though your heart is breaking" for both managers at Kenilworth Road as Luton Town and Southampton knocked each other punch-drunk to earn a draw.

They were like boxers incapable of self-defence and prepared to risk permanent damage by concentrating everything on attack.

The day's winners were the freezing spectators who were given another treat of goal-mouth thrills and excitement.

The heartbreak for the Town's fans was that they had to suffer as their team once more gave visitors a two-goal start, then battled back, missed a penalty and finally had to complete a second revival in an astonishing last half-hour.

For Lawrie McMenemy, the heart-break was in seeing his team score three

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goals away from home for the first time this season and still fail to win. He wasn't too happy, either, about the way his side's two-goal lead was pegged back.

"I got uptight about the way we got ahead again with five minutes left, then lost another equaliser," he said. "But after I simmered down I remembered that Luton had missed a penalty and put a good header just past the post. They gave us a real bombardment in the second half."

The Saints boss revealed that he did everything he could to stop his team thinking they had won the game by half-time, when they were two up.

"I told them to remember Luton's game with Newcastle last season when they came back after being two down to win 3-2. I knew Luton wouldn't give up the fight."

Both managers agreed that the fans had been treated to magnificent entertainment, and Luton boss David Pleat declared that it was much too early to start worrying about league positions, with nearly two-thirds of the season still to go.

He will stick with his policy of providing entertainment and looking for goals—"We're en route to score a hundred this season . . . the trouble is there might be 150 against."

HOLD ON

Mr Pleat accepts that the goals against figure, the worst in the First Division, is too high even for his optimistic outlook, but his basic requirement is realistic enough.

He wants Luton Town to hold on to First Division status this season, and if he is still fifth from bottom when the final table is compiled he'll be happy enough.

The match was full of incident and movement and Mr Pleat's hardest job might be to convince his players not to look over their shoulders at today's league table.

He didn't think they were guilty of that against Southampton, yet the Saints had the good luck to meet the Town on a day when passing and shooting was well below the normal Luton standard.

BLOCKED

There could well have been three or four more goals at either end, including a couple before Southampton broke to score the first.

Paul Walsh put David Moss through at an angle, and Peter Shilton blocked the shot when a pull-back to the waiting Brian Stein might have made a goal a formality.

In the 26th minute Walsh made another tricky run down the right, leaving Reuben Agboola floundering. His pass went to Stein, who turned Chris Nicholl inside out to give himself a clear chance, but shot wide.

Southampton scored straight from the goal kick. Brian Horton, the hard man in midfield and very much the inspiration for the later fight-back, made a poor header on the half-way line which Dennis Rofe seized on. He fed Danny Wallace on the left wing, and pace took the winger past Kirk Stephens and Ricky Hill

Match Details

LUTON TOWN 3 SOUTHAMPTON 3

Half-time: 0-2

TOWN: Findlay; Stephens, Goodyear, Donaghy, Money (Antic, 63 mins); Hill Horton, Turner; Walsh, Stein, Moss.

SOUTHAMPTON: Shilton; Agboola, Nicholl, Wright, Mills; Williams, Armstrong, Rofe; Moran, Cassells, Wallace. Sub: Puckett, not used.

THE GOALS: Danny Wallace, 26 mins and Keith Cassells, 40 mins, for Southampton; Ricky Hill, 63 mins and Brian Stein, 69 mins, for Luton; David Armstrong for Southampton, 84 mins; Clive Goodyear for the Town, 87 mins.

OTHER GOAL ATTEMPTS: Town eight saved, seven wide, penalty hit the bar and "goal" from rebound disallowed; Southampton four saved, six wide. Corners: 6-4 to the Town.

ATTENDANCE: 11,196, second lowest league gate of the season so far. Perhaps they want results as well as entertainment.

REFEREE: Keiran Barratt, Coventry: did all he could to keep the game flowing and some fouls went unpunished.

ENTERTAINMENT: A cracking game, and BBC TV were delighted to have such quality. They, of course, like leaky defences.

and gave him the chance to shoot Southampton into the lead with Jake Findlay getting a slight touch as the ball bulleted away into the far corner.

The keeper made a good save with his leg as Steve Moran got through between Goodyear and Stephens from a pass by Steve Williams, but was beaten again five minutes before half-time. Southampton worked a rehearsed move from a throw-in which put Moran clear on the right wing. Findlay beat out the cross-shot, but as bodies flew everywhere to try to cover Keith Cassells kept calm, made space for himself, and drove a shot into the roof of the net, with Horton desperately unlucky not to make a saving header.

ROCKY

The need to push forward more often in the second half left the Town looking even rockier at the back at times. It seemed as though too many men were playing a notch below their best all at the same time, yet the combined effort and determination was enough to repair the damage.

David Armstrong missed a couple of chances, but as the Town roared into action after the break it was Moss who unwittingly sparked the revival.

Nicholl blocked a cross by Hill with his hands, but Moss smashed the penalty against the angle of bar and post. Stephens netted from the rebound with a side-footed volley, only to see his effort ruled out because Moss was adjudged to be offside, standing on the six-yard line as Shilton was beaten.

That was cruel luck, but

it served only to increase the Town's attacking energy.

CLASSIC

Ricky Hill scored a classic with a run at the defence and a left-foot shot across two defenders and beyond Shilton from the inside right position in the 63rd minute, and six minutes later came an equaliser well worth its place in the BBC "Goal of the Month" contest.

It started with Findlay making a save from a far post header by Armstrong. The ball was worked the length of the field to the left wing, via Stephens, Horton, Raddy Antic and Turner to Moss.

His centre was met by Stein with a superb header into the net.

The Town had put Antic on in place of Money after Hill's goal to try to boost attacking flair from midfield, but the idea seemed to have misfired in the 84th minute when Cassells made another quick break for the Saints. He fell, but still managed to recover in face of a challenge by Turner, passed back to Mick Mills and from his low cross Armstrong flashed a 25-yard shot into the net.

It should have been all over then, but once more the Town hit back, with three minutes to go. Turner started a cross-field move just inside the Southampton half, and Stephens carried it on to give Hill a run down the right wing.

Walsh met his hard low cross with a shot which bounced off Shilton's body, and Goodyear toe-poked in the equaliser. And if we moan about poor defence, at least it's some consolation to know that defenders can attack.

Point saves a drop

THE POINT rescued in the 87th minute by Clive Goodyear's first goal in the First Division turned out to be just enough to prevent the Town from dropping level on points with one of the bottom three teams.

They are still 18th in the table after Sunderland were

beaten at Birmingham and Norwich lost at Old Trafford. Bottom places:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Everton	16	5	4	7	25	26	19
Swansea	16	5	3	8	23	28	18
Brighton	16	3	3	8	15	24	18
Luton Tn	16	5	4	7	33	35	17
Southampton	16	4	4	8	17	31	16
Birmingham	16	3	7	6	11	25	14
Norwich	16	3	5	8	19	29	14
Sunderland	16	3	5	8	19	31	14



EQUALISER: Brian Stein is grounded and Peter Shilton is flying, but the Luton striker's header is on its way into the net to put the Hatters level at 2-2.



ONE FOR THE SCRAPBOOK: Clive Goodyear pokes home the Town's point-saver, his first goal in the First Division.

SEE SPORTSNEWS 4 FOR
DAVID PLEAT'S VIEWPOINT