

# Norwich glad to get a draw

AFTER a result that did little for either side's lingering European ambitions, Norwich boss Ken Brown was the happier of the two managers at Carrow Road.

He had been glad to stay in the game for the first 45 minutes, when the Town outplayed the home side without adding the goal-punch that could have settled it.

Yet it took two good saves by Les Sealey to prevent Norwich snatching the points when they had much the better of things after the interval.

Away points are always welcome, but it was galling for Town fans to see so much early supremacy fail to make the decisive impact.

The heartening feature was that the defence, so often suspect in the past when under pressure, came through a testing second half.

Paul Elliott and Clive Goodyear took care of almost everything down the middle. The only time they were in trouble Elliott pulled down Dave Bennett on the edge of the box, and escaped with a booking.

The defender who made the biggest impression was Mitchell Thomas. The wily Mick Channon, still frisky and goal-hungry at 35, tried all his considerable skills in the attempt to get round the back of the Town defence.

Thomas's stern tackling and positional sense kept the old England man out to such good effect that Channon's frustration produced the second booking of the afternoon. Referee Mark Scott had at times been kind to Thomas as the Luton man's tackles bit hard, but Channon's retaliation more than set the record straight. He earned a caution for a mean tackle that was over the top and late after Thomas had robbed him yet again.

With Kirk Stephens holding Norwich's attempts to

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**NORWICH CITY 0  
LUTON TOWN 0**

make progress down that flank, the Town's bonus in the first half was overwhelming control of midfield.

Paul Walsh played deeper than usual, and Mal Donaghy, Raddy Antic and Frank Bunn provided the springboard for regular attacks throughout the first 45 minutes.

Brian Stein alternated between centre and flank, and Trevor Aylott took most of the central weight, and it was a distinct disappointment that the Town's pressure threatened so much more than it achieved.

Walsh induced panic every time he took men on, but he missed two of the chances the Town created, being too slow to connect with a superb return pass and later shooting wide, with Aylott the man who made both openings.

At half-time the Town had denied Norwich a single shot on target, while Chris Woods had been in slight trouble against Aylott, Donaghy and Bunn. He had also watched with relief as Donaghy and Goodyear supported attacks and shot wide from 20 yards.

After the break Deehan dropped deeper for Norwich, Channon began to deliver passes earlier to try to cut out Thomas and Jon Rigby to hustle Elliott and Goodyear out of their stride.

The Town's midfield was shaded out of it, and they were lucky that several chances Norwich created fell

to full-back Greg Downs, whose shooting bothered spectators at the top of the stand more than Sealey.

The goalkeeper made a brave save at Rigby's feet from a near-post cross by Peter Mendham, then stuck out a leg to keep out a drive by Deehan. The only other worrying moment was when a corner to the near post was headed towards the other corner by Aage Hareide and Thomas's head made the save.

## DETAILS

**TOWN:** Sealey; Stephens, Elliott, Goodyear, Thomas; Donaghy, Antic, Bunn; Stein, Walsh, Aylott. Sub: Moss, not used.

**NORWICH:** Woods; Haylock, Watson, Hareide, Downs; Mendham, Bennett, van Wyk; Channon, Deehan, Rigby. Sub: Farrington, not used.

**GOAL ATTEMPTS:** Town seven saved and nine wide; Norwich six saved and seven off target. Corners: 9-5 to the Town.

**REFEREE:** Mark Scott, Nottingham.

**ATTENDANCE:** 14,181.

**ENTERTAINMENT:** Plenty of attacking to enjoy despite the blank scoreline.