

SPORT AND MOTORING

Town Match Verdict ★★

TOP MEN GRATEFUL FOR SMALL MERCIES

SKIPPER Brian Horton and manager David Pleat were more cheerful than a lot of the supporters after the Town slogged through to another goalless draw at Kenilworth Road against Leicester City.

The woodwork and Les Sealey's goalkeeping robbed Leicester of the victory they deserved on the run of the play, but Horton and Pleat both took comfort from the acquisition of another point to keep the Town in a safe mid-table position.

"Conditions were terrible and we did well to get a point out of that," said Horton. "Of course we would prefer to win, but that was a game where we had to fight through every minute."

**Report by Brian Swain
Pictures: Mark Richards**

"Perhaps we have been spoiled in the past. It's nice to turn on the style and give great entertainment, but look at some of our results earlier in the season when we did that."

"We were marvellous against West Ham at home—and we lost. It was the same against Nottingham Forest. Supporters would soon get fed up if we did that all the time."

"Sometimes you struggle a bit, and then a point becomes worthwhile. But it is a little frustrating, because we still know we can do better than we did against Leicester."

The manager took a similar view, and if a team can take a point without playing up to its normal standards perhaps supporters can afford to be patient.

Certainly the goals are due to start flowing again after six blanks in the last nine games, which have yielded nine points.

The most cheering features from the mudbound draw on Saturday were Sealey's goalkeeping and the return of David Moss. He was playing his first league game in five months, and came through well despite tiring in the second half.

A lot of players looked glad to hear the final whistle. Well over an inch of rain fell on the pitch in the previous 15 hours, and it became a game for strength and power rather than touch and skill.

That gave Leicester the edge, with Kevin MacDonald



● COVERED: Brian Stein has a shot charged down.

outstanding in midfield. Luckily for the Town Leicester's finishing let them down.

Steve Lynex put an early shot wide after a slip by Clive Goodyear. Ian Wilson flicked a shot against a post after MacDonald and Gary Lineker had worked the opening, and Andy Peake drove a deliberate shot

against the post after Bobby Smith had put him through. Between those alarms Sealey saved competently from Alan Smith and brilliantly from Bobby Smith.

Paul Walsh, chosen young footballer of the year by his PFA colleagues the day after the game, struggled with Brian Stein to turn talent into positive action on the tricky surface.

The Town's only real threat was a twist and shot by Stein which produced a good save by Mark Wallington.

In view of the heavy conditions, the absence of flu victim Trevor Aylott has been an important factor in a team performance that was defiant and workmanlike, and never sparkling.

Garry Parker returned to the side with the impossible task of giving midfield the creative flair and attacking support that Ricky Hill normally provides.

The Town have a few good boys prepared to tackle men's jobs. Perhaps that is the major reason we should be appreciative of even small mercies, like home points against Leicester.

THE DRAW at Kenilworth Road pushed Leicester up a place in the First Division while the Town dropped two, to tenth.

Spurs and Aston Villa overhauled the Town

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Man Utd	32	16	10	4	63	31	64
Liverpool	32	18	9	5	51	24	63
Nottingham Forest	32	17	5	10	55	35	56
Southampton	31	16	7	8	39	29	55
West Ham	32	16	6	10	51	34	54
QPR	33	16	5	12	51	29	53
Watford	33	14	6	13	60	59	48
Aston Villa	33	13	9	11	48	49	48
Spurs	33	13	8	12	52	51	47
Luton Town	33	13	8	12	45	45	47
Arsenal	33	13	6	14	54	48	45
Norwich	32	11	10	11	35	35	43
Birmingham	33	11	8	14	33	37	41
Everton	31	10	11	10	28	34	41
Leicester	33	10	10	13	53	54	40
Coventry	33	10	10	13	45	49	40
West Brom	32	11	6	15	37	49	39
Sunderland	33	9	11	13	32	44	38
Stoke	33	9	8	16	30	54	35
Ipswich	33	9	6	18	38	50	33
Wolves	32	7	8	17	40	60	29
Wolves	32	5	9	18	25	63	24



● PRESSURE: Moss, Stein, Donaghy, Walsh and Goodyear all in attendance as Leicester beat off an attack.



● NOT THIS TIME: Brian Stein is closed down by three defenders as Leicester protect their goal.

Match Details

LUTON TOWN 0, LEICESTER CITY 0

TOWN: Sealey; Stephens, Elliott, Goodyear, Thomas; Parker, Horton, Donaghy; Stein, Walsh, Moss. Sub. Bunn, not used.

LEICESTER: Wallington; Williams, Hazell, O'Neill, Bobby Smith; Lynex, Wilson, Peake, MacDonald; Lineker, Alan Smith. Sub.: English not used.

ATTEMPTS AT GOAL: Town four saved, three wide; Leicester six saved, eight wide, two hit the woodwork. Corners: 12-6 to Leicester.

REFEREE: Alan Crickmore, Plymouth—coped with conditions better than some of the players did.

ATTENDANCE: 10,509 — second lowest of the season, but the weather was awful.

ENTERTAINMENT: Nothing like the style we have come to expect from the Town, with Leicester unlucky not to win.

BRIGHTEST SPOT: David Moss returned after being out for five months.



● NEARLY: Brian Stein gets in a shot and groans as Mark Wallington dives.