

Gary makes England case

87/88

MABBUTT ... winner

ANOTHER authoritative performance from the reliable Gary Mabbutt, culminating in a spectacular 52nd minute winner, allowed Spurs to finish their season with a rare victory.

More importantly, the home skipper's display should convince England manager Bobby Robson that his key utility man cannot be left out of the European Championship squad.

With Luton lacking six first-team regulars, the game was like an exhibition match: tedious in the first half, when both sides overused the offside ploy, but more interesting later when the midfields started stringing passes together.

Mabbutt's goal was just the trailer Tottenham directors were needing to convince fans to shell out up to £504 for a season ticket next season. From fully 30 yards he shot past Andy Dibble, who is

Tottenham Hotspur.....2 Luton.....1
By BRIAN SCOVELL

being offered a contract to stay at Kenilworth Road.

The goal brought an appreciative roar from the Shelf area of the ground where the standing customers had earlier been berating chairman Irving Scholar over his plans to replace the standing accommodation with executive boxes.

There was also warm applause for Clive Allen, replaced in the 68th minute by 20-year-old former Northern Ireland youth international Philip Gray. Allen was playing his last match for Spurs — quiet even by his often anonymous standards — before his £1 million transfer to Bordeaux.

One of the few times he was noticed came in the 30th minute when he missed a cross from the right, allowing Steve Hodge to shoot against Dibble's body. Hodge followed up to score.

Luton's 37th minute equaliser has to go down to slackness in the Spurs defence. As Grimes advanced at speed no-one tried to tackle him and, after exchanging passes with Meka Nwajiobi, he shot past Bobby Mimms.

At the end about 500 fans stayed on the Shelf to express their displeasure. But the plans to rebuild have not been confirmed.