

Sports News



● TAKE THAT: Brian Stein shoots for goal in the second half at Bramall Lane.

LATE BLOW AS VICTORY

AFTER GETTING within two minutes of their first away win of the season, Luton Town came home from Sheffield with renewed optimism about their chances of pulling clear of the relegation threat.

In the two previous games we had seen sweet football that looked encouraging enough to give us all a lift.

At Bramall Lane it was a day

The First Division

	HOME					AWAY				
	P	W	D	L	F	P	W	D	L	F
Leeds	18	7	2	0	16	6	4	4	1	16
Man Utd	17	6	3	0	17	3	5	2	1	11
Man City	18	4	1	3	11	10	5	1	2	13
Arsenal	17	6	1	2	18	9	2	3	2	15
Sheff Wed	18	6	1	1	20	10	2	3	4	9
Aston Villa	18	5	1	3	14	9	3	2	4	11
C Palace	17	4	2	3	13	15	4	1	3	14
Norwich City	18	4	4	1	11	8	2	4	3	12
Liverpool	16	5	2	1	12	7	1	3	2	5
Everton	18	5	3	1	15	7	2	1	6	9
Chelsea	18	3	4	2	15	13	3	3	3	10
Nottm F	17	5	1	2	19	13	2	1	6	11
Coventry	18	5	1	4	13	6	2	1	5	7
Oldham	17	4	4	1	18	13	2	0	6	8
Tottenham	15	2	0	4	8	8	4	2	3	14
Wimbledon	18	4	1	3	14	10	1	2	5	8
West Ham	18	2	2	4	8	10	2	4	3	11
Notts Co	18	3	1	5	11	17	2	2	5	8
QPR	18	1	4	4	9	14	3	2	5	7
Sheff Utd	18	3	2	3	11	11	1	1	7	13
Southampton	18	2	2	5	5	16	2	2	5	9
Luton Town	18	2	3	2	9	9	0	1	8	3

Teamwork rewarded THE FA YOUTH CUP

LUTON TOWN 1 ASTON VILLA 0

THE CHANCE to avenge an unlucky cup defeat in a more important tournament has been lined up by the Town's youngsters by a solid team job done with some style and determination against Aston Villa at Kenilworth Road.

Drawn at home again

They have earned a home tie in the third round of the FA Youth Cup next Monday against Norwich City, the team who put them out of the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup in a tough replay at Carrow Road.

Villa were fancied as likely FA Youth Cup winners. But the Town youngsters were in very determined mood, and got into a shape and pattern in which good teamwork excelled.

David Greene and Richard Philp were the mainstays of a defence which had the

right mix of determination in the tackle and willingness to go forward.

The attack had to fight against good opposition, but Scott Goodfellow, who idolises Mick Harford, showed touches the big man would have admired.

With both teams playing well, clear chances were rare, and the Town's best in the first half was made by overlapping left back Aaron Skelton. He went forward and hit a tremendous deep cross. Paul Murray came in on the blindside to meet it, but put his header wide.

Centre-forward Paul Newman, small and quick, was the foil for a lot of Goodfellow's work, and the combination set up the winner in the 50th minute. Goodfellow won a header 25 yards from goal to send Newman scurrying through on

his own. The goalkeeper brought him down, and Matthew Holtham despatched the penalty.

A solo run by Murray almost made two, but after doing the hard bit to clear the chance he hammered the drive wide.

Over the bar

Villa were restricted to long range shots. Town youngsters settled to contain the inevitable late thrust, and the narrow another goal again came at the end when Andrew Elliott's corner was Greene smashing in a downward header powerfully that the ball bounced over the turf and over the bar.

TOWN: Hancock; Holtham, Greene, Skelton; Murray, Rogers, Philp, Newman.

Brian Swain reports

snatched their late equaliser, and that was a major disappointment for me.

The other was that once more a late equaliser was conceded, and from a corner that need not have been given away.

In a stadium full of noise, Richard Harvey heard no shout of advice from a colleague as United mounted their late assault. He gave away a corner when he had time to turn and clear if only he knew it.

United boss Dave Bassett knew it too. He said his worry at the break was that his team had been all over the Town in the first half without scoring, and it was pretty certain that the flow of the game could not continue to be so heavily in favour of United for the whole 90 minutes.

Half each

And when the Town started to play at both ends of the park, United were second best.

"We won a half each," said Bassett, and I wouldn't disagree with that.

The Town should have been further ahead by the time United

Real bonus

With everyone piling in to meet it, Ian Bryson's goal from Paul Beesley's near-post flick-on was the only blemish on the Town's best defensive show of the season so far.

It was a determined and defiant effort by every man in the team, and came against the odds.

Scott Oakes and Des Linton were out through injuries, and while we knew Julian James

Town match verdict ★★★★★



● AND THAT: Mick Harford gets in a header which flew just wide.

SO CRUEL VANISHES

Pictures: Josh Levy

over a sharp low cross which ought to have been converted. But Telfer miskicked, barely seven yards from the target.

But the left wing pressure got its reward five minutes after Preece's arrival.

It looked like a lost cause when he chased Kamara's pass down the inside left channel.

He caught the ball by flinging himself full length, feet forward, to hook it into the centre, and the home defence was all over the place.

Rebounds

Campbell's shot was charged down, and so was Stein's drive from the rebound.

But the ball bounced out to Telfer, on the edge of the area in the inside right position, and he smashed a right-foot thunderbolt into the roof of the net.

United, past-masters at digging their way out of relegation graves, responded with fierce effort which looked to be coming to nothing, and the first away win of the season was in sight until they won their tenth corner of the game.

Variety

He added greater variety to Town attacks, and he and Pembroke put increasing pressure on United's right.

Pembroke got down the flank and whipped

Gruesome

Whitehouse knocked it in to the near post, and a mob competed for the touch. Paul Beesley got the important one, and most people in the ground, including the home manager, thought he had scored, but the official verdict later was that Ian Bryson had got the last touch from a range of one yard.

Not for the first time this season it was gruesome luck for the Town. But it was certain that they well deserved only their second away point of the season, and Mr. Bassett for one will not be surprised if the Town do a Sheffield this season.

A year ago United, like the Town today, were four points adrift of the field. They were safe in 13th place by the end of the season.



● DEBUT MEN: Steve Sutton, above, man of the match in the first half, and glad to be back in the First Division. Jamie Campbell, below, in his first league game, has John Pemberton worried about the marking.



THE SEASON SO FAR

THE TOWN'S record in league and cup competitions to date:		
Barclays League Div One		
● Results, Town scorers, attendances and league position:		
August		
17 West Ham (a) 0-0	25,079	—
21 Coventry (a) 0-5	10,084	—
24 Liverpool (h) 0-0	11,132	—
27 Arsenal (a) 0-2	25,898	21
31 Chelsea (a) 1-4 (Gray)	17,457	22
September		
4 Southampton (h) 2-1 (Gray, Harvey)	8,055	19
7 Wimbledon (a) 0-3	3,231	20
14 Oldham (h) 2-1 (Harford 2)	9,005	17
17 QPR (h) 0-1	9,185	19
21 Man Utd (a) 0-5	46,491	21
28 Notts Co (h) 1-1 (Gray)	7,629	20
October		
5 A. Villa (a) 0-4	18,722	21
19 Sheff Wed (h) 2-2 (Harford, Nogan)	9,401	21
26 Norwich (a) 0-1	10,514	21
November		
2 Everton (h) 0-1	8,002	21
16 Tottenham (a) 1-4 (Harford)	27,543	22
23 Man City (h) 2-2 (Harford, Dreyer)	10,031	22
30 Sheff Utd (a) 1-1 (Telfer)	21,804	22
APPEARANCES, including as sub in brackets: 18 each by Dreyer and Pembroke; Chamberlain 17, Peake 14; Stein 12(3); Preece 12(2); Rodger 11(1), Telfer 9(3), Gray 9(2), Harvey 9(1), Harford 9, McDonough 9; Nogan 4(8).		
The Rumbelows Cup		
Round 2(1):		
September		
25 Birmingham (h) 2-2 (Gray, Nogan)		
Round 2(2):		
October		
9 Birmingham (a) 2-3 (Gray 2)		
APPEARANCES, including as sub in brackets: Two each by Chamberlain, Telfer, Rodger, Salton, Allpress, Pembroke, Preece, Telfer and Gray. Stein 1(1). One each by Peake, Harvey, Dreyer, Rodger and Harford. Nogan (2), Salton (1).		
GOALS: Gray 3, Nogan 1.		
Zenith Data Systems Cup		
Rd 2: Oct 22 Ipswich (a) 1-1 Telfer (lost on pens)		
5,750		

THE FULL MATCH DETAILS

Sheffield Utd 1 Luton Town 1 (Half-time: 0-0)

TOWN: Sutton; James, Peake, Dreyer, Harvey; Telfer, Kamara, Pembroke, Campbell, Stein, Harford (Preece 74 mins). Other sub: Salton.

UNITED: Tracey; Pemberton, Gayle, Beesley, Gage; Bradshaw (Lake 75 mins); Gannon (Hill 80 mins); Hoyland, Whitehouse; Deane, Bryson.

GOALS: Paul Telfer, his first in the league, 79th minute shot into the roof of the net from the edge of the box after drives by Jamie Campbell and Brian Stein had been blocked; Ian Bryson for United, 88 minutes, after Paul Beesley flicked on a near-post corner by Dane Whitehouse.

OTHER GOAL ATTEMPTS: Town four saved (all in the second half) and six by United seven saved and seven wide. Corners: 10-1 to United.

FREEKICK: Mike Reed, Birmingham; too finicky, and caused more stoppages than necessary.

BOOKED: Brian Gayle and Dane Whitehouse of Sheffield, for handball and a foul on Paul Telfer, for a foul.

ATTENDANCE: 21,804, and the Luton following was magnificent in its efforts to win on a team that may be down but is definitely not out.

ENTERTAINMENT: not a sparkling football occasion, but nearly perfect for Town fans when the first away win since last March was so nearly achieved.