

Anglo-Italian Cup

MANAGER David Pleat was not too desolate about the exit from the Anglo-Italian Cup after only two poorly-attended preliminary round games.

He felt sorry for his players, who had done more than enough to win in everything bar putting the ball into the net. **Phil Gray** could have had a hat-trick with a little change of luck, **Damien Matthew** was robbed of a home debut goal by a post, and strong penalty appeals were turned down in a late rush of attacking.

The Town poured on the pressure for the last half-hour, after **David Preece** had gone on in place of Matthew, but could not add to **Steve Claridge's** 62nd-minute equaliser. Wayne Allison had fired the visitors into the lead after 55 so-so minutes.

The consolation for a manager

LUTON TOWN 1
BRISTOL CITY 1

worried stiff about financial problems was that the club will not have to make two trips to Italy for midweek games, which would almost certainly be money-losers, and could also be expensive in terms of injuries to a small squad.

Match details

TOWN: Petterson; Linton, Salton, Dreyer, James; Rees, Matthew (Preece 57 mins), Kamara, Campbell (Oakes 57); Claridge, Gray.

BRISTOL CITY: Welch; Mitchell, Thompson, Bryant, Scott; Mellon, Harrison (MacIntyre, 80 mins), Reid, Edwards; Dziekanowski (Bent, 72 mins), Allison.

GOALS: Wayne Allison, sharp strike from Bristol City's first corner,

in the 55th minute; Steve Claridge, deflecting header, after John Dreyer, at the back of the penalty area, headed forward from a corner by David Preece.

OTHER ATTEMPTS: Town six saved, 11 wide and one hit a post; City three saved and four wide. Corners: 12-3 to the Town.

REF: Michael Reed, Birmingham. Had a fair game, but the Town were sure he should have given them an 80th-minute penalty when Martin Scott seemed to trip Steve Claridge to stop his run for goal.

ATTENDANCE: 2,538, lowest first team gate at Kenilworth Road since a visit by Bristol Rovers in 1933.

ENTERTAINMENT: Cracking stuff in the last half-hour, when the Town just about tore City to shreds, but did not have the luck or sharp finishing needed to put the winning touch to some excellent team play.