

Luton pay for moment of madness

Steve Thomson sees how Burnley gained a welcome success

A MOMENT of madness could herald another season-long struggle for survival at Luton. Cast in the role of Mad Hatter was American international goal-keeper Jürgen Sommer, who contrived to let in a bizarre goal of Heath-Robinson construction to hand Burnley a 1-0 win.

Fearing his momentum would carry him out of the area, Sommer dropped the ball like a ticking bomb, Adrian Heath pounced and crossed and Liam Robinson plunged the detonator.

No wonder normally loquacious Luton manager David Pleat looked fit to explode afterwards, bemoaning "one incredible mistake" by his defence and "five goal-line clearances" which denied his attack. Pleat's frustration was understandable.

It must be galling to see a nearly good side become a potentially very poor one for the want of a couple of signings which the club cannot afford.

Glass-fronted executive boxes line one side of Kenilworth Road making it look more like a shopping arcade than a football ground but significantly many of them were unoccupied on Saturday.

Loan recruit Gary Waddock acquitted himself well enough on his debut but Luton looked desperately one-paced at the back.

Luton Town: Sommer; James, Greene (Thomas 71), Peake, Johnson; Telfer, Waddock (Dixon 81), Preece, Marshall; Hartson, Oakes. **Sub:** Barber (g). **Booked:** Waddock.

Burnley: Russell; Parkinson, Davis, Winstanley, Vinnicombe; Harrison, Harper, Randall, McMinn; Heath, Robinson. Subs not used: Gayle, Deary, Siddall (g). **Goal:** Robinson (44). **Booked:** Harrison, Robinson.

Referee: S Dunn (Bristol).