

BOSS FUMES AT DEFENDERS

JUST WHEN he thought he had solved one problem for Luton Town, manager **Lennie Lawrence** reacted furiously after another cropped up at Griffin Park.

The Town were 2-1 ahead with ten minutes to play, and five goals scored in two games was a very encouraging statistic.

But then the defence, so often the best part of the Town's game, fell apart through basic errors, and our dreams of seeing the first Town victory of the league season vanished.

"We got ourselves into a winning situation, then threw it away," said an angry manager.

"We can't even claim to be unlucky, as we had been sometimes in the past. We pressed the self-destruct button, and got what we deserved.

"We were outplayed in the first half, but in the second we controlled the game, and made enough chances to have made it 2-0. But then we were undone by three defensive errors. Suddenly we made Brentford look like a team of internationals."

Brentford were workaday footballers, and well short of the Town in terms of skill and individual talent, with **David Oldfield** having his best game for a long time.

Darren Patterson returned alongside **Steve Davis** in the absence of **Marvin Johnson**, but eventually it was Davis's hesitancy which led to the dramatic turn-around of the game.

Ian Feuer made a flying fingertip save when **Paul Abrahams** hit a cracking drive, but having eased their way towards the interval comfortably, the Town were given a marvellous boost two minutes before the break.

Oldfield cut in from the left, and bemused Brentford skipper **Jamie Bates** brought him down in a mistimed attempt to tackle.

It was a clear penalty, and **Tony Thorpe** stepped up to convert his second of the season with the minimum of fuss.

Oldfield, put clear by **Gary Waddock**, made another determined run and **Kevin Dearden** made the best save of the match, diving to shove the ball round the post. From the corner **Kim Grant**, who had a

**BRENTFORD 3
LUTON TOWN 2**

very quiet game, saw a header cleared off the line.

It came as a major shock when the Town's control slipped in the 65th minute. **Ceri Hughes** gave the ball away in midfield, and Brentford rapidly shifted it down their right. Taylor fed **Carl Asaba**, but with **Davis** shadowing him there seemed little danger. But the Town skipper failed to take positive action, and **Asaba** helped himself to an equaliser.

Three minutes later the Town lead was restored when **Thorpe** had a shot charged down on the edge of the box. **Hughes** was in the right place to despatch an early shot, and a deflection was enough to give **Dearden** no chance.

Town fans expected to see their side shut up shop as we reached the last ten minutes. Instead, a long ball forward led to the Town defence getting into a tangle from **Lee Harvey's** cross, and **Bates** atoned for his penalty tackle with a simple header.

Worse followed two minutes from time, when **Gus Hurdle** threw in a long diagonal cross and Taylor was left to stand and wait for it, then direct a good glancing header into the bottom corner.

Twenty minutes earlier, at 2-1 to the Town, visiting fans seemed to have reason for their chant of "We're going up..."

After the final whistle Luton Town were stuck in the bottom three, still without a point, putting on extra pressure last night for the trip to Ashton Gate, to meet a Bristol City side also looking to break its duck.

LUTON TOWN: Feuer; James, Davis, Patterson, Thomas; Alexander, Thorpe, Waddock, Hughes; Grant (Guentchev 77 mins), Oldfield.

BRENTFORD: Dearden; Hurdle, Ashby, Bates, Anderson; Abrahams (Hutchings 74 mins), Smith (Harvey 74 mins), McGhee, Bent; Asaba, Taylor.

ATTENDANCE 5,404.

*FOR Brian Swain's report of last night's Hatters match at Ashton Gate, Bristol, don't miss tomorrow's Luton News and Dunstable Gazette.



OUT OF THE FIRE: Marvin Johnson who missed Brentford with a knee illegament injury and bruising