

Promotion drive goes on

A BIG improvement in the second half saw the Town move up into the top four of the Second Division by disposing of a mediocre visiting team.

York had kept clean sheets in their four previous outings, and although they never looked like scoring their first-half defensive defiance looked capable of sneaking a point.

The Town made it look all the more likely by a very poor per-

LUTON TOWN 2 YORK CITY 0

formance in the first 45 minutes, with passes going astray as they sank to York's dreary level.

But it was a different story after the break, with the smallest league gate of the season so far lifted from its torpor by Dwight Marshall's third goal in three starts.

Ceri Hughes started to buzz in midfield, and once Marshall

broke the deadlock the game was all over.

Mitchell Thomas attacked to the by-line and beat a defender with neat skill.

The cross was hit to the far post, where Tony Thorpe's header was parried, with Marshall knocking in the rebound.

It lifted the tension, and 22 minutes later the best move of the game brought its reward. Graham Alexander put a raking crossfield ball to Paul Showler

on the left wing, and his cross on the run was perfect. It flew too high for Marshall to reach, but Thorpe was on the spot to poach his 13th goal of the season.

Said Lennie Lawrence: "It was not quite a crisis of confidence in the first half. We had emphasised the importance of defensive solidity, but our passing left a lot to be desired.

"After the break we were still solid, and that gave us chances to win the game.

"Ian Feuer had only one save to make, and it was pleasing that we created three or four chances and put two of them away."

THE SECOND DIVISION

	HOME							AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Brentford	22	6	5	0	23	13	5	2	4	12	10	40	
Millwall	22	8	2	1	18	9	3	5	3	14	13	40	
Bury	21	8	3	0	17	5	3	3	3	9	11	39	
Luton Town	21	9	0	2	19	6	2	4	4	15	19	37	
Burnley	22	9	0	2	22	11	2	4	5	8	11	37	
Chesterfield	21	6	2	2	12	8	5	2	4	10	8	37	
Stockport	22	6	3	2	12	7	4	3	4	17	18	36	
Watford	21	4	5	2	11	10	5	4	1	13	8	36	
Wrexham	20	6	3	0	16	9	3	5	3	11	13	35	
Crewe Alex	21	9	0	2	23	7	2	1	7	6	14	34	
Bristol City	21	7	2	2	25	7	2	4	4	11	16	33	
Bristol Rov	22	6	3	2	16	10	1	4	6	6	13	28	
Shrewsbury	22	4	3	4	11	14	3	3	5	15	19	27	
York City	21	4	3	3	13	11	3	2	6	10	18	26	
Blackpool	22	3	6	1	13	10	2	4	6	9	14	25	
Walsall	21	6	3	2	15	7	1	1	8	6	18	25	
Gillingham	22	5	2	4	15	13	2	2	7	6	14	25	
Preston	22	6	3	2	15	11	1	1	9	6	16	25	
Bournemouth	22	4	1	6	11	14	3	3	5	9	13	25	
Plymouth	22	3	6	2	10	10	2	2	7	14	21	23	
Peterborough	22	2	5	4	23	21	2	3	6	9	20	20	
Notts County	21	3	3	4	11	10	2	2	7	4	13	20	
Wycombe Wdrs	22	4	2	5	9	10	0	3	8	8	23	17	
Rotherham	21	3	4	4	8	8	0	2	8	10	25	15	

Midweek match details

LUTON TOWN: Feuer; James, Davis, Johnson, Thomas; Alexander, Hughes, McLaren, Showler; Thorpe, Marshall (Grant, 74 mins). Unused subs Guentchev and Linton.

YORK CITY: Clarke; McMillan, Tutill, Barras, Murty; Stephenson, Pepper, Pouton (Randall 65 mins), Himsworth (Atkinson 65 mins); Tolson (Cresswell 74 mins), Bull.

THE GOALS: Dwight Marshall 47 mins, from the rebound after Mitchell Thomas crossed and Tony Thorpe's header was parried by the goalkeeper; Thorpe, 69 mins, instant shot from Paul Showler's centre on the run.

OTHER STRIKES: Town four saved and six wide; York one saved and five wide. Corners: 7-3 to the Town.

FOULS: 14 by the Town, 7 by York. **OFFSIDE:** Town twice, York 11 times.

BOOKED: Steve Davis, foul on Gary Bull.

REFEREE: David Orr, Iver.

ATTENDANCE: 4,401, lowest league gate of the season so far.

ENTERTAINMENT: First half dreadful; second a little better, with the result and fourth place in the table very nice.