

Frustration all round

Midweek match details

LUTON TOWN 0 BURY 0

TOWN: Feuer; James, Davis, Johnson, Thomas; Alexander (Marshall 75 mins), Hughes, Waddock, Kiwomya; Fotiadis (Oldfield 59 mins), Thorpe. Unused sub Patterson.

BURY: Kiely; West, Locketti, Armstrong, Butler, Reid (Johnson 21 mins); Daws, Hughes, Johnrose; Battersby (Carter 83 mins), Jepson. Unused sub Randall.

GOAL ATTEMPTS: Town five saved and six wide; Bury not one on target, three wide. Corners: 9-2 to the Town.

FOULS: Town 11, Bury 16. Offside: Town once, Bury twice. Booked: Bury's West, Butler, Battersby and Johnson, three for fouls and one for encroaching.

REFEREE: Andrew D'Urso, Billericay. A real Essex man.

ATTENDANCE: 7,769, with only a handful of them from Bury.

ENTERTAINMENT: Very poor, with Bury content to defend in great numbers. They came to stop the Town scoring, and did it because they were good professionals and the Town were short of wit and creativity.

TWO more home points dropped made it frustration for players, coaches and one of the biggest crowds of the season as leaders Bury killed the game and went home with the draw they wanted.

They are also the only team to keep two clean sheets against the Town.

But a couple of days later the Town's point looked a lot better, because when Watford lost at home to Chesterfield it turned out to be the one that ensured a play-off place at the very least.

'Boring, boring, Bury' shouted the fans as the visitors played eight at the back and relied on the big boot and aimless hope for attacking.

"It was disappointing

that we couldn't break them down," said Town boss Lennie Lawrence. "In the first half we lacked quality in the final pass or cross. Then in the last 15 or 20 minutes we lost it a bit, and started to get too frustrated and angry with ourselves.

"Bury set their stall out to stop us playing and I can't blame them. It's a style that will probably take them to the championship.

"But I think we would be the better-equipped team to cope with the First Division."

Bury's point ensured them a top two finish, but if that was genuine championship football, many of us will be pleased to settle for second place, and enjoy a bit of skill and flair with it.