

Lack of attacking options could cost Bees points, skipper admits

'We have problem scoring' – Dobson



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Brentford 0 Luton Town 0
By **YANN TEAR**

BEES skipper Michael Dobson has admitted his team may struggle for goals this season, as they come to terms with life without last year's 40-goal combination of Burgess and Owusu.

Brentford's youngsters displayed their customary instinting workrate,

but seldom looked like finding the net in Saturday's sterile draw.

Boss Wally Downes had no striker on the bench to give him more options either, and he will not have been fooled by three goals at Bournemouth in mid-week.

The Bees' struggle to create decent openings for Mark McCammon and Rowan Vine was admittedly not helped by the opposition, who came to defend.

Joe Kinnear's team have made a rocky start since gaining promotion to

Division Two, and paid the Bees the compliment of sticking rigidly to a point-saving game plan.

But the spectacle was far from edifying as the Bees searched in vain for the subtlety to find a way through.

At the end of it, there was the consolation for Brentford that they had maintained their unbeaten start, even if they have surrendered the top spot to Wigan.

Yet there was also the realisation that for all their effort and territorial advantage – they forced 10 corners in the first

35 minutes – they did not look nearly dangerous enough.

And in truth, Luton came closest to sealing a win when Steve Howard crashed a close-range header against the bar when it seemed easier to score. He had been perfectly set up after Town's most accomplished player of the afternoon, Emmerson Boyce, played in a perfect cross from the right seven minutes before the break.

A fine run from Eddie Hutchinson, which ended with a shot that blazed powerfully over from 35 yards, and a Michael Dobson shot in the final minute blocked by a defender summed up a second half of few real chances.

"It's good that we remain unbeaten with another clean sheet, but we've got to get a few more goals on the board," Dobson said. "We haven't scored many, and that's what's going to be lacking this year, unfortunately. It isn't easy finding goals without strikers like Lloyd [Owusu] and Ben [Burgess] even though the lads who have come in have done well, but we must find a way to turn dominance into goals.

"Luton just sat back, and nobody got on the end of our final deliveries unfortunately. On the whole I thought we played quite well, but when you've got 11 men sitting so deep like that, it's disappointing.

"If I was in the other team and I saw a bunch of youngsters like us, I'd be thinking 'Why have we got 11 men behind the ball? Let's go at them'. It shows we've done well if people are coming here scared of us."

Bees boss Wally Downes remarked: "Luton haven't had the best of starts, and coming away to a top of the table side, they probably deserved something from the game. They didn't roll over and it was probably a fair result".
BRENTFORD: Smith P; Dobson, Sonko, Somner, Anderson; O'Connor (Williams 78), Smith J (Fullarton 78), Hutchinson, Hunt (Hughes 87); McCammon, Vine. Subs not used: Julian, Chorley. Attendance: 7,145.



NO WAY THROUGH: Bees striker Mark McCammon is foiled by Hatters keeper Ben Roberts

Picture: GERARD FARRELL