



BRIAN MIGHTY: Little gives Mellon a hug

MICK TAKER:
Micky Mellon
and Iain Hume
celebrate the
Tranmere goal



A Little bit of magic

LUTON LEFT MELLON-CHOLY

MICKY MELLON was given a hug and a kiss by one of Britain's richest men after his goal knocked out Luton but the Tranmere skipper believes no-one gives them the credit they deserve.

Peter Johnson, the former Everton chairman now running Tranmere, is in the top 50 rich list and reckons his players are worth their weight in gold.

But Mellon is frustrated that Tranmere's cup record, which includes the defeat of Bolton in the third round, is not given wider praise.

Mellon thumped home a shot from 20 yards for the only goal of the game in the 81st minute of the all-Second Division tie.

It means Brian Little's men are through to the fifth round for the fourth time in five years.

And although they are struggling at the wrong end of the table, with a relegation six-pointer against Stockport tomorrow night, Tranmere turn it on in the cup.

Bolton boss Sam

03/04 (CAC)
Luton 0 Tranmere 1

Allardyce did not take them too seriously in round three and rested several key players.

And Mellon maintains: "We never get the credit we deserve, especially after beating Bolton.

"They rested a few, but still had the likes of Ibrahim Ba and Kevin Nolan playing. We are no mugs."

The Scottish striker added: "We don't mind who we get in the draw. We would fancy our chances against anyone at home.

"The chairman gave me a big hug and a kiss because it means so much for a club of our size to be in the fifth round again."

But Mellon knows that

they will be back down to earth after that.

He added: "The league is our bread and butter and Stockport is a big game. It's what our season is about."

Luton now have just the league to concentrate on, although boss Mike Newell was angry that ref Matt Messias refused to give his side a penalty when Keith Keane was bundled over.

Mistakes

"It was a nailed-on penalty - I don't need to see a TV replay to tell me that," said the former Tranmere striker. "I don't mind refs making mistakes but I don't like them being arrogant and he was arrogant."

Luton were up against it from the start with strikers Steve Howard and Steve Robinson suspended and Adrian Forbes out with a knee injury.

It left them short of attacking options and their only real chance was a header from Lee Mansell that keeper John Achterberg tipped over in the 31st minute.

Newell added: "Sooner or later the injuries and suspensions were bound to catch up with us, and so it proved."

Luton		Tranmere	
52%	POSSESSION	48%	
6	SHOTS ON TARGET	3	
4	SHOTS OFF TARGET	3	
2	OFFSIDES	2	
6	CORNER KICKS	4	
23	FOULS	19	
2	YELLOW CARDS	1	
0	RED CARDS	0	
ATTENDANCE: 8,767			
MAN OF THE MATCH: Mellon			
REPRODUCED FROM THE OPTA INDEX			