

It's the best present fans could have

VIEW FROM THE STAND

By Ron Barnett

WHAT a happy Christmas. An excellent performance against Watford followed by a great win at Southend, our favourite opponents. As well as completing our first double of the season, the victory over Southend gave us a hat-trick of wins against them this season.

Steve McGavin certainly gave us a couple of Christmas crackers. After his superb display against Watford, he laid on both Scottie's goals at Southend. I'm not sure what he got for Christmas but, I hope he's got plenty left for the New Year!

Despite missing a simple chance against Watford and a couple at Southend, Scottie is beginning to rival Mark Stallard as the club hotshot. Scottie has grabbed three goals in the four games since coming back into the side, whilst Mark has gone five league games without scoring.

After playing so well at Millwall, without any joy, it was good to see the side step up a gear against Watford. Considering the quality of the opposition, this was probably our best performance of the season. Everyone played their part and Steve McGavin and Martin Taylor were outstanding.

Both managers must have been pleased – I can't remember the last match I saw with no substitutions.

I'm sorry to report that Santa Claus didn't bring me a replica shirt. But, he did include a pair of club shorts in my stocking. I hope this will win me a few 'Brownie' points from Graham Peart.

Thanks to Basingstoke we've got a week off instead of playing Martin O'Neill's Leicester. Let's hope we can retain our new found form in 1998 and make a successful challenge for the play-offs, 14 wins and three or four draws should do us nicely!
