

VIEW FROM THE STAND

WITH RON BARNETT

Torres turns it round again

During the early stages of the Brentford game I feared I would be writing a doom and gloom column this week.

However things began to improve and we finished the first half the better side. But apart from Jermaine Easter hitting the underside of the bar, we rarely looked like scoring. In fact the game had all the hallmarks of a 0-0, not surprising really as six of our previous 18 league games against the Bees have ended goalless.

Thankfully Paul Lambert brought Sergio Torres on at half time and he increased the pace and purpose of our play. I can't understand why Sergio is not one of the first names on the teamsheet every week. He works his socks off for the team, panics the life out of defenders and entertains the punters with his ball skills. What more does Lambert want from him?

Whilst we are on the subject of team selection, when is John Sutton going to get a starting role?

As good as Easter and McGleish are as individuals, they're not working as a striking duo. Two goals between them from four games, and those were both penalties, proves the point. Sutton surely deserves the chance of playing the target man role alongside Easter.

The second half performance against Brentford was very promising and we could have easily finished comfortable winners by two or three goals. If we can maintain that form we should be able to get over our slow start to the season.

The league table is already taking shape with some of the pre-season favourites – Darlington, Chesterfield and Peterborough – occupying three of the top four spots. We need to stay in touch with these teams if we are going to make one of those precious promotion places.

Judging by his comments in his column in the Brentford match programme, fans have hit a sore point by questioning Lambert over his long distance commuting from Scotland and hands-off managerial style. Whilst it may have worked for Brian Clough and Martin O'Neill, I would suggest they would be the exception rather than the rule. In fact they have both proven to be truly exceptional managers.

As Lambert explains, his family made the decision to stay in Scotland because of their children's schooling and the youngest is just about to start school. Therefore, it is a situation that is very unlikely to change for at least ten years!

