

Fulham Were Lucky To Escape So Lightly

[By Chiltern]

LUTON TOWN 2 FULHAM 0

Billington, Cooke (pen.).

The Town took adequate revenge for an earlier defeat at the hands of Fulham, but most of the 17,350 spectators came away with the idea that the Londoners had been let off lightly.

Certainly, Luton had sufficient of the play to have built up a commanding lead, but, as it was, it was not until 15 minutes from the end that Cooke converted a penalty to disperse most of the doubt remaining in the minds of their supporters.

Until that point there was always a chance that a sudden Fulham raid might rob the Town of a well-earned point.

There was much brightness and good football in the first half exchanges, and after Duncan and BILLINGTON had had the mortification of seeing shots crash against the woodwork, the latter neatly turned a Duncan centre past Ratcliffe.

SAMPLE FROM FULHAM

It was not until near the interval that Fulham's forwards really gave a true sample of what they could do, and in the closing minutes there were one or two anxious moments.

The Town began the second half with a rush, and kept their opponents penned in for some time. Soo found bad luck dogging him when he headed against the bar, and Billington twice got the ball into the net, only for the decision to go against him.

Other chances were allowed to slip by, notably by Daniel, and it was not until the penalty incident that the lead was increased. Freeman handled somewhat unnecessarily, I thought, and COOKE made no mistake from the spot.

SCRAPPY SECOND HALF

Once again Fulham came back strongly towards the end. There was a stoppage when smoke from a neighbouring chimney obscured a large part of the ground.

Beasley missed a chance in a life-time, and then added to the marks on the woodwork with a header. The second half tended to scrappiness.

The Town forwards played some smart football in midfield, but much of their confidence seemed to leave them at close quarters. Waugh was quite the pick of the attack.

Billington had some bad luck with his shooting, and Daniel was prominent for his hard work and clever play in midfield. Duncan made the first goal, but was less in the limelight than usual in the second half. Driver is still much below the form of which he is capable.

The reorganised defence did all that was asked of them, and it was good to see Duke in such a safe mood. Brice was most effective as Gager's deputy, and Lake had quite a good match.

Cooke showed a repetition of his recent grand form, and Soo and Gardiner were efficient and strong in all they did.

LUTON TOWN: Duke; Cooke, Lake; Soo, Brice, Gardiner; Waugh, Daniel, Billington, Driver, Duncan.

FULHAM: Ratcliffe; Freeman, Lewin; Wallbanks, Watson, Taylor; Buchanan, Nelson, Grant, Beasley, Shepherd.

Referee: B R Baker, Westcliff.