



JACK KELSEY, Arsenal's goalkeeper, leaps backwards to push a shot from John Groves, Luton's inside left, on to the bar. But the ball rebounded to Bob Morton, who slammed it into the net. What are Evans and Charlton, Arsenal backs (on the left), doing? Their attention was to guard the goal!

The 4-goal touch of lordly Luton

Luton 4, Arsenal 0: by JOHN THOMPSON

THERE was proud flourish in the play of Luton Town that contrasted vividly both with the homeliness of their ground and the poverty of ideas shown by their fashionable opponents. Luton's football has developed an aristocratic air that stems from confidence in their own craftsmanship.

While Arsenal plodded along with desperation, some bewilderment, and undeniable spirit, Luton darted across the mud in the most unexpected directions and were never surprised by anything.

Arsenal were orthodox; Luton improvised brilliantly, adapting themselves with perfect judgment to the sway of the game that fluctuated excitingly.

Luton's triumph was decided by the power of their wing halves, Morton and Pearce.

Their enterprise should have been an example to Goring and Holton. The Arsenal halves were outclassed both in defence and attack.

The comparison is perhaps unkind, for no club in the country can have a finer pair of wing halves than these Luton masters.

Oddly enough Arsenal had more of the play in the second half when their team was reorganised because of a groin injury to right-back Charlton.

The changes, which included a move by dashing Le Roux to centre forward, did not appear to handicap Arsenal at all and for the first time they had at least as much of the game as Luton did.

Too obvious

Arsenal's trouble was that their moves could usually be anticipated by the quick-thinking Luton players.

Towards the end Luton added inevitably to the two goals they had scored in the first half.

John Groves hit one from a chance carved by Brown in the 82nd minute and Brown completed an interrupted hat-trick by emerging from a mass of opponents to slam the ball into the net 20 seconds from the end.

Brown's first goal, a low shot made on the turn from a pass by Groves, had been scored in the 24th minute.

His second, just reward for a magnificent display, came after a pod by Groves had sent the ball bouncing back from the Arsenal crossbar.

Most of Luton's chances sprang from the tenacity of Brown's dribbling and the spectacular progress made by Morton and Pearce.

On the left wing McLeod was too elusive for Charlton, and Turner artfully added to the pressure on harassed centre-half Dodgin.

But Arsenal had their moments. One shot by Herd struck the Luton bar, and Baynham splendidly saved a fine shot by Bloomfield.

Ten minutes from time Arsenal were still fighting steadily, and a header by Vic Groves was pushed over for a corner by Baynham.