



● Billy Bingham's header looked a winner for Luton. But Blackpool equalised with the last kick.

LUTON CRIPPLES HAVE A 50-50 CHANGE

By **DEREK WALLIS**

Blackpool 1, Luton 1
LUTON, who were robbed of an outright sixth round Cup win by Blackpool's last-kick goal, have three injury worries for Wednesday's replay.

Skipper Sid Owen, centre half and king-pin of the defence, has a strained groin. Right back Brendan McNally has a swollen ankle and left winger Gregory has a strained thigh. Trainer Frank King said yesterday: "All three have a 50-50 chance of playing. "I'm pleased with their progress, but I'll be able to

assess the position more accurately tomorrow."

Luton will be in a real spot if Owen or Gregory have to pull out.

The defence is built around Owen, and reserve outside left Jimmy Adam is having treatment for a pulled muscle.

Blunder

Fortunately, Luton have experienced Seamus Dunne standing by at right back.

But there wouldn't have been any need for a replay if Luton left back Ken Hawkes had not made a tragic blunder in the final seconds.

Skipper Owen could

have been forgiven if he had blown his top about the weak pass back by Hawkes that gave Blackpool the equaliser to Billy Bingham's eighty-fifth-minute goal.

But Owen, Luton manager-to-be, is not that sort of man.

He championed the blunderer at a time when Hawkes, a picture of misery, was torturing himself inwardly about his slip.

"It could have happened to anybody," said Owen. "Everybody knows how upset Ken feels.

"It was particularly bad luck because the lad had played well."

Hawkes could have

kicked the ball anywhere . . . and the match would have been over — for normal time was up and only twenty seconds of injury time remained.

Instead, centre forward Ray Charnley pounced on

the pass and squeezed the ball just inside the post.

THERE WASN'T EVEN TIME FOR A RE-START.

It was so close that Blackpool manager Ronnie Suart admitted: "I'd given it up."