

Phew! Bingham, you so nearly had your chips

Luton 0, Manchester United 0. By BILL DAVID

ONLY three weeks to Wembley and how near Luton's Irish winger Billy Bingham came to being sent off in this match. For Bingham was a distinctly lucky man when referee P. G. Brandwood appeared to change his mind.

How did it all happen? It was after 40 minutes that a throw-in down on the left corner found Bingham in a clash with Joe Carolan.

The referee was quickly on the spot alongside Bingham and pointing to the players' entrance. Bingham must surely go. It looked a certainty. But then, after Bingham had remonstrated, the referee appeared to change his mind and settled for taking the names of both the Irishman and Carolan.

The referee seemed to completely forget the throw-in that should have followed and awarded a free-kick—to Luton!

I thought he lacked control throughout this game, which demonstrated frayed tempers from the time that Fred Goodwin started exchanging heavy tackling with George Cummins.

Before this, United had had it all their own way with some delightful midfield football which sadly lacked the finishing power of Bobby Charlton.

It was certainly not pretty to watch a Cup-final side being toyed with as Luton were in the first half-hour.

It was a different story on the turn-round, however, and where Albert Scanlon had been such a danger before he was now well held by Brendan McNally.

No progress

Not even Albert Quixall could make progress down the middle, where Bob Morton took him in charge after falling back to take the place of Dave Pacey, who had gone up to centre-forward with a cut head.

Harry Gregg rose to great heights when Luton stormed to the attack, and two saves, first from Pacey and later from Brown, who also hit the bar, were out of this world.

Gregg was beaten three minutes from the end by Pacey's cross-shot following a great through-ball from Cummins, but it was ruled offside.

LUTON. — Baynham 7; McNally 6; Hawkes, K., 6; ★GROVES 8; Kelly 5; Pacey 6; Bingham 6; Brown 7; Morton 6; Cummins 6; Hawkes, B., 5.

MANCHESTER UTD. — ★GREGG 8; Greaves 6; Carolan 7; Goodwin 6; Foulkes 7; McGuinness 7; Bradley 6; Quixall 7; Violet 7; Pearson 6; Scanlon 7; Referee: P. G. Brandwood (Kidderminster), 4.