

LUTON TOWN 1 BLACKBURN ROVERS 1

THIS was poor fare to put off before the crowd and scarcely an encouragement to those who were present to forsake other pursuits for football on future Bank Holidays.

For Blackburn there was the excuse of their imminent appearance at Wembley, but the Town, in their difficult circumstances, could have been expected to have put up a more full-blooded resistance.

Maybe they were suffering from the hangover of their atrocious display at Burnley, but even seven changes failed to bring back the confidence and punch which is so badly lacking.

In for their first appearances in League football went two youngsters, Albert McCann and Mike Collins. Of the two, the former looked the more ready for this class because, although out of his normal position, he worked the ball cleverly in the first half.

Gradually though the service he received diminished, and something similar happened to Bingham, appearing on the left wing for the first time since joining the Town.

Yet BINGHAM gave the Town every chance of going on to victory, because he scored after only three minutes with a high shot from McBride's pass that Bray helped into the net as he attempted to head away.

However, the Town failed to press home their advantage against half-cock Blackburn, who were obviously razor keen to keep out of injury trouble.

CHANCES WENT ASTRAY

There was little threat from the Cup Finalists, but, although the Town had more of the play, their finishing was not crisp enough, and several half-chances went astray.

Off-side tactics worried them, too, especially two or three dubious decisions when attacks were developing well and play was on dull, unexciting lines.

Blackburn looked anything but Cup Finalists and seemed destined to go down to their third defeat of the week-end until 18 minutes from the end.

Then a more determined than usual attack found a gap down the Town right flank and

DOBING, from a quite acute angle, slammed the ball past Baynham into the far corner of the net.

By that time the Town attack had degenerated so much that there was not the slightest hope of them regaining the lead and the match petered out on the dull note that pervaded it almost throughout.

Forward failings were again the Town's chief trouble with neither Turner nor Cummins really impressing himself on this game and all McBride's fire and dash amounted to not very much in the end, though he gave Jones his most difficult tasks.

A somewhat jaded-looking Bingham, who collected more than his share of bruises during the week-end, did not look too happy on the left wing and switched to his old position during the second half.

With Kelly in the middle there was a more solid look about the defence, but Collins made only a moderate debut, even though Douglas was well below his England form.

Pacey, in adventurous mood at times, had quite a useful match and the new full-back partnership of McNally and Daniel could well settle down, though the former was somewhat harassed by McLeod and Daniel wasted quite a number of balls.

There could be no complaint about Baynham, who was well in command of the situation but, in general, this was a match the significance of which will be forgotten soon, except that it was another point thrown away.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; McNally, Daniel; Collins, Kelly, Pacey; McCann (A.), Turner, McBride, Cummins, Bingham.

BLACKBURN ROVERS: Jones; Bray, Whelan; Clayton, Woods, McGrath; Isherwood, Dobing, Dougan, Douglas, McLeod.

Referee: H. Horner, Coventry.
Attendance: 14,167.