



Luton ponder: Just how did we lose?

● Luton inside-right Alec Ashworth is robbed by Huddersfield 'keeper Harry Fearnley as he races into the goalmouth.

Luton 3 Huddersfield 4: by GRAHAM BUXTON

LUTON players sat in their dressing-room at the end of this torrid 90 minutes wondering just how the two home points had slipped from their grasp.

There was no doubt in the minds of any of the Luton officials that this was a game they should have won, because no team which builds up a 3-1 lead should be beaten at home.

But looking back on an amazing second half which produced five goals and at least as many narrow escapes, no one could deny that Huddersfield deserved their success.

For one thing, they lasted the cracking pace better than Luton, whose middle line collapsed so that the Huddersfield forwards had yards in which to manoeuvre in the middle of the field.

They used this room to do some of the most spectacular shooting that has been seen on the ground for some time.

There were times when Ron Baynham must have felt that he had strayed on to a rifle range by mistake such was the velocity at which the ball crashed in his direction.

A dourly-fought first half in which both teams scored lucky goals gave no hint of the thrills that were to follow.

Peter Dinsdale gave Huddersfield a fortunate lead after eight minutes

and John Coddington put through his own goal just before half-time. In between, Luton missed several chances purely through lack of drive in front of goal though Tommy McKechnie hit a post.

With such ferocity did Luton begin the second half they scored twice through John Lornie and Tommy McKechnie in the first 10 minutes.

Then the crowd settled down for the expected massacre. But it never came. Before Luton could consolidate, Derek Stokes pulled the score to 3-2 and the game was wide open again.

What really rattled Luton was a 30-yard piledriver by Eire international Ron Saward that sent the ball straight into the corner of the net.

Luton never recovered from the shock. While they flagged and faltered in the heat, Huddersfield seemed to gain added strength and they took complete control.

Gaps appeared in the middle of the Luton defence, and it was by making use of one of these that Stokes got the winner with another great shot six minutes from the end.