



● A Grimsby defender clears as Luton's Tommy McKechnie falls after narrowly failing to beat groping goalkeeper Malcolm White at Kenilworth-road.

COME ON LUTON, GIVE DAVIES THE SUPPORT HE NEEDS!

Luton Town 2 Grimsby 2: by GRAHAM BUXTON

WHEN there is a trump card available and you do not play it, the majority of people are voted out of the best card schools. Luton had a trump in centre forward Ron Davies. But they failed to make the best use of his skills, and may go down to the Third Division as a consequence.

It would serve them right too, for when they had overcome the shock of a goal by Cliff Portwood in the 12th minute and hit back with two by Davies after 29 and 40 minutes they seemed set for a decisive win.

If two headers by Davies, both of which hit the bar, had counted, Luton might have shown more imagination. Instead they allowed Grimsby to improve beyond recognition.

Grimsby switched their wingers Fred Jones and Brian Hill to marked effect, and their second-half display entitled them to a point.

The equaliser, 16 minutes from the end, was a thunderbolt of a drive by George McLean from a sharp angle.

Grimsby, by and large, did not look relegation material. Apart from the liveliness of Jones and Hill on the wings, McLean worried Dave Pacey by his habit of lying deep, and it was Luton's tragedy that two mistakes by Pacey led to goals.

Yet I wonder whether Pacey can be wholly blamed because one of Luton's handicaps these days is the failure of their full backs to turn quickly and provide the cover that any centre half is entitled to expect.

Perhaps the defence which has let in eight goals in three matches would improve if there was greater strength at inside forward.

Both Tommy McKechnie and Alwyn McGuffie were too slow and took too long to use the ball.

Grimsby, with £10,000 Ron Foster from Leyton Orient at inside left, looked good at times, and the defensive play of Don Donovan and Keith Jobling got them out of trouble time and again.

Goalkeeper Malcolm White also looked 100 per cent, and his certainty was matched by that of Ron Baynham, who is having a great season.

But the man of the match was Davies, who took his tally in the last three matches to six goals. He can be Luton's best £10,000-buy for years—if he is provided with better inside forward support.

Considering the lowly situation of the two sides, this was by no means a bad game. On this showing these teams are not the worst in the Second Division by a long chalk.

But Luton do need to go into the market for an inside forward. Grimsby may have solved their worries by signing Foster. Luton at the moment just do not have an answer to their problem.