

BAYNHAM

BOOSTS

LUTON

by GRAHAM BUXTON

Luton 1 Southend 0

IT'S a long time since cheers rung out for the home team at the end of a match at Kenilworth Road. They were, perhaps, tinged with relief that the long-delayed victory had been achieved and with admiration for the display of Ron Baynham.

Veteran of many Cup battles Baynham, sole surviving member of Luton's 1959 Cup Final team suffered semi-concussion in the first half and yet went on to give the finest exhibition of goalkeeping seen on the ground this season. Yet he had come back after being dropped for three matches.

Despite Baynham's great display, Southend should kick themselves for losing interest in the Cup and manager Ted Fenton was the first to agree.

"The ball has been hitting the back of the net for us but today it just would not," said Fenton. As he looked back on the game his brow furrowed as he thought of the shot by John McKinven which thudded against the foot of the post. There was another occasion when star forward Malcolm Slater had a shot hooked off the line by McBain.

At that point Luton, with their defence looking uncertain, appeared to have little hope of figuring in tomorrow's second-round draw.

Mis-kick

The only score came from left-half John Bramwell and a lucky affair it was. After 31 minutes the ball was half cleared from a corner and Bramwell swung at it from 25 yards. Had he managed a full-blooded drive it is unlikely that he would have scored. As it was, he half hit the ball which bounced wide of the unsighted McKechnie, who dived much too late.

After that it became a question of whether Luton could hold out in the face of sustained Southend pressure. With Slater and McKinven creating fine openings the Luton defence was hard pressed.

Then, as if discouraged by their lack of success, Southend fell away and some thrusts by Riddick, Harbor, and Whittaker suggested that all is not well with their defensive set-up.

And so on to the thrilling final minutes of this grimly fought battle with Baynham risking further injury to keep out the desperate Southend forwards.