

Luton pull two out of the hat

by PETER BROOKE

Reading 1 Luton 2

A FIGHTING comeback by struggling Luton after spending most of the game penned in their own half brought them two shock goals in the final 10 minutes and shattered Reading's undefeated run at home since March.

Full credit to Luton for conjuring up two unexpected points as if out of one of their famous hats. But Reading should have had the points safely tucked away long before Luton's final burst.

When the home forwards were on target they found former England goalkeeper Ron Baynham in confident form.

Top marks to Luton full-backs Alan McBain and Fred Jardine and centre-half Graham Caleb for fine defensive work under almost constant pressure.

But this game was hardly an advertisement for the "Clean Up Soccer" campaign. It was littered with petty fouls and referee Mr. George Powell, of Newport, dealt out warnings to ten players.

Reading started as though they were going to notch a cricket score. Baynham took the ball off Webb's toe in the opening seconds and then recovered to fist clear from leader Pat Terry, Reading's most dangerous forward.

Overworked

Luton's defence was overworked as the home forwards maintained the pressure.

Twice the ball was rammed into the Luton net after 20 minutes by Terry and Shreeves—but both were disallowed for offside despite Reading protests.

Terry had a fine header stopped on the goal-line by McBain and it was not until the 44th minute that Reading finally scored.

Little inside-left Dougie Webb ran on to a Terry pass and his 20-yard shot just touched Caleb's foot before looping over Baynham's head.

Reading lost their edge in the second half, but it appeared they would hold their slender lead. Then, in the 81st minute, up popped pocket-sized inside-forward Billy Harber in the penalty area.

He took a pass from Lowndes and clipped a low shot past Wilkie for his first League goal.

Then, three minutes later, Reading's defence stood still as David Pleat scuttled down the right wing and crossed to the far post for Riddick to head the winner.

It was Luton's first win in the Third Division since September 5, and a fine going away present for manager Bill Harvey, who resigned yesterday after three years with the club, but was in charge of the team for this match.