

HARD BATTLING TOWN FULLY EARNED A REPLAY

By Chiltern

65/66

LUTON TOWN 1, BRIGHTON 1 (F.L.C.)

MMARTIN'S militants! That is a pretty fair summing up of the Town team that fought its way to a League Cup replay against last season's Division IV champions, Brighton, at Kenilworth Road on Wednesday.

With what can only be described as a patchwork team, which looked even more strange when Woods withdrew shortly before the match because of injury, the Town battled away to the end and thoroughly deserved another chance.

Yet, in the early stages, the portents did not look at all good. In fact, that is probably an under-statement, because Brighton seemed in a hurry to put the memory of their bad start behind them and threatened to overwhelm the Town defence.

Before CASSIDY swept a centre from Gould into the net in the fourth minute, Collins had shot just wide, but gradually the defence gained confidence, settled down and took a firmer grip on the Brighton attack.

However, the much changed attack showed little sign of being skilful enough to break down the compact visiting defence though Powney was lucky to be directly in the way of a fierce drive from Read made on the volley.

To counter that, Tinsley made a brilliant diving save from a shot by Davies that went through a crowd of players and also smothered one from Cassidy.

MORE OF A SPEARHEAD

With Gibson operating as more of a spearhead than he had previously, more was seen of the Town attack in the second half and they should

have had a penalty early on when Gibson's feet were hooked from under him.

Such determination did the Town show that Brighton's defence became heavily and frequently engaged in staving off danger. Gibson brought Powney full length, Thomson saw a long range effort miss a post by inches and Harber missed a good chance by shooting not only too soon, but straight at the goalkeeper.

Once again, Thomson floated the ball dangerously close to the goal and there were other near misses before, with only three minutes left, GIBSON saved the day by flashing the ball into the net from close range after Read had headed a long through pass down to him.

HARD-FOUGHT CUP-TIE

Only 3,758 saw this hard-fought Cup-tie which was

punctuated by stoppages for minor injuries and free kicks for minor offences, but although there were one or two isolated cases of loss of temper, nothing vicious went on, and the referee did not have to take any stronger action than some admonitory finger-wagging.

By the end the enthusiasm of the Town fans was considerable, and those who took the trouble to attend must have felt that they had their money's worth.

Important thing about the Town's showing was the all-out fight and determination they showed, a continuation of which should quickly start earning them League points.

Biggest eye-opener, perhaps, was the way in which Rivers took his unexpected chance. After a tentative start, he settled down to play a positive part and did extremely well against an experienced centre-forward in Jack Smith.

EDWARDS ASSERTIVE

Another reserve called into rare first team action was Edwards, and in the comparatively unaccustomed position of right-half where he was strong and assertive.

Moore completed a good half-back line and, behind them, Thomson and Jardine were in indomitable mood.

Lack of pattern in attack was compensated for by the courage shown, and although Read has considerable limitations as a centre-forward, at least the visiting defence could not afford to neglect him.

Gibson added the desired punch and Reid, although his passing again tended to go astray, slotted in well in mid-field.

It would have been better if Harber had been brought into the game more instead of giving so much of the ball to the inexperienced Slough who tailed off after a fairly promising start.

LUTON TOWN: Tinsley; Thomson, Jardine; Edwards, Rivers, Moore; Slough, Gibson, Read, Reid, Harber.

BRIGHTON: Powney; Hopkins, Baxter; Davies, Brown, Turner; Gould, Collins, Smith (J), Cassidy, Goodchild.