

WELL-REHEARSED PLAN PAID A DIVIDEND

By CHILTERN

EXETER CITY 1, LUTON TOWN 1

THESE days, the tactical plans that can be adopted by particular teams vary not only week by week, with the variation of home and away games, but can be different in consecutive away matches, too.

Evidence of this was seen at Exeter on Saturday when the Town earned a second Cup-tie against the City by the use of a system that can best be described as 5-2-3, but about which there was a certain amount of fluidity, apart from obvious signs that the plan had been well rehearsed.

There was no doubt that a good deal of work had been put into the preparation for this vastly important occasion by Allan Brown, who had got his team well drilled and in a confident frame of mind.

So, the result was not only well deserved, but a tribute to the foresight of the manager, who was very well pleased with the outcome.

One of the features of the first half when the Town produced form in advance of anything they had shown away from home previously, was their intelligent running off the ball and the way in which they kept possession in midfield.

Indeed, they made the Exeter attack look a very hum-drum affair, and could have been more firmly ahead at the interval than the 1-0 lead that they enjoyed.

GREAT DRIVE BY WHITTAKER

That was given them in the 22nd minute by WHITTAKER, who scored with a great drive from the edge of the penalty area after Rioch had placed to him a free-kick awarded for a foul on Pleat.

Several times Riddick came through from behind, notably when corners occurred, and it was following one of these that he nearly increased the advantage because his header was stopped on the line by Smyth.

So little real threat did the Exeter forwards carry that it seemed as if that one goal might well be sufficient until the City were awarded a free kick, which the Town thought should have been the other way, and from this, well played by Ley, KEELEY got a close-range shot through a crowd of players for an equaliser.

Even though there was much tension, some of it, no doubt, self induced, for the Luton supporters in the closing stages, Exeter did not really look as if they could get the winner and that nearly fell to the Town when a header from Pleat bounced on top of the bar.

EVERY PLAYER DID HIS PART

Basically, this was a fine team effort, with every player doing his part, and there was a solid look about the defence which left none of the gaps which were so apparent in the first half at Barrow. Riddick, brought back to centre-half immediately the game began, held McLean, and Moore did

a valuable job as the sweeper up.

There was plenty of doughty tackling by Thomson and Slough, Jardine hinted of better things in store after his rather moderate run, and Conboy often came through dangerously.

Not in his usual front running role, Rioch was nonetheless eminently successful in midfield and the responsibility for most of the raiding devolved on Pleat, Whittaker and Johnson.

Pleat battled away courageously in the middle, Whittaker always required careful watching and Johnson showed signs of real, latent ability which will begin to blossom once he gains experience.

EXETER CITY: Smout; Smyth, Ley; Wilkinson, Harvey, Blain; Godfrey, Keeley, McLean, Thompson, Buckingham. Substitute: Kennedy.

LUTON TOWN: Read; Thomson, Jardine; Conboy, Moore, Slough; Johnson, Pleat, Riddick, Rioch, Whittaker. Substitute: King.

Referee: D. W. Smith, Stonehouse.

Attendance: 4,704.