

Town's League Cup match a drab affair

By CHILTERN

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LUTON TOWN'S first round League Cup match at home to Second Division Charlton Athletic, last night, proved a disappointing affair in the first half.

Defences were on top, and there was not much happening in either goalmouth to thrill the crowd.

Problems facing Manager Allan Brown were largely resolved when three of his four injured wing-halves reported fit, so that he included McDermont and Moore, and named Slough as substitute.

TEAMS

LUTON TOWN: Read; Hare, Jardine; McDermont, Branston, Moore (J); French, Allen, Green, Rioch, Whittaker. Substitute, Slough.

CHARLTON ATH: Wright; Curtis, Kinsey; Reeves, King, Halom; Peacock, Campbell, Went, Moore (G), Glover. Substitute, Firmani.

Referee: K R Wynn, Wolverhampton.

The crowd, which included a contingent from Charlton, was smaller than had been hoped when play began, although people were still coming in quickly.

In a brisk start, both teams looked dangerous without being able to carry their raids to the ultimate, both defences covering well.

The closest threat to goal came when Went swung at a corner from Peacock, and fortunately for the Town Branston was in the line of flight.

GREEN IN THE PICTURE

Green, playing against his old colleagues, twice impressed with his quickness, and sparked off what could have been a decisive raid, had not Rioch's pass been intercepted.

Good work by Glover, who beat Hare and McDermont in quick succession, enabled Graham Moore to have a crack at goal from about 20 yards, but the ball flew too high.

Similarly, McDermont was too high following a corner by Whittaker. In going for the ball, Green collided with King, and needed attention to his left knee.

Green, from just inside the penalty area, then missed a good chance, laid on by Rioch, skying the ball over with his left foot.

NOT MUCH PUNCH BY EITHER SIDE

Neither team was showing much punch in front of goal.

All the same, the Town had a close call when Glover floated across a centre that was deflected awkwardly in striking McDermont. Read had to punch hurriedly for a corner, from which Peacock met the ball on the volley and slammed it too high.

So far, we had seen more speed than accuracy, which I suppose added up to a typical cup-tie.

Meanwhile, Green, still troubled by his injury, came to the trainer's bench for plaster to strap up his knee.

CHARLTON LOOKING DANGEROUS

Charlton were now looking the more dangerous, and Read pushed out a strong first-time drive by Peacock

right, which was cleared finally by French, deep in his own penalty area.

A MATCH FOR CHARLTON

Certainly, the Town were matching their Second Division opponents, but for all that, it was not very bright entertainment.

King received a gash over his left eye, though not serious enough for stitches.

Rioch was spoken to by the referee for pulling down Graham Moore in relentless fashion, and there was another hold up while the Welsh international was given attention.

Luton's Moore then made a mistake in the penalty area which could have been costly, but for quick reaction by McDermont, who gave away a corner.

Just before half-time Rioch came through with a typical burst, which he ended with a pass to French, but Whittaker made a hash of it as it came over. Half-time:

LUTON TOWN 0
CHARLTON ATH. 0

Four minutes after half-time, Charlton took the lead through CAMPBELL, who met a centre from Peacock with his head to flash the ball into the net off the inside off a post.

The Town hit back to win a corner, for which Branston went up. It was followed by another on the left, from which Branston was unlucky to find his header hitting King.

The Town were really in full cry now, and Charlton's goal had a narrow escape as the ball missed the post by inches.

A brilliant run by Rioch nearly brought the equaliser. Green met his centre, but Wright was able to scramble the ball away, and Allen, following up, just could not force it in.

The Town were fighting tooth and nail and Wright saved brilliantly from Allen.

It was nearly all Luton now and Wright again saved Charlton with a spectacular

save from Whittaker.

With 20 minutes left, the Town deservedly drew level when ALLEN picked up a loose ball, pivoted quickly, and cracked a shot low past Wright.

Result:

LUTON TOWN 1, CHARLTON ATH. 1

Replay next Tuesday, at 7.45 p.m.

