

The game runs in line with the form book

By CHILTERN

67/68

LUTON TOWN were not expecting to surrender their hundred per cent home record this afternoon against **Workington**, a side with one of the worst away records in the Fourth Division, and the game began according to form with the Town going ahead after only two minutes.

Alan Slough was the scorer, with an opportunist goal after challenging work by Buxton. This was just the sort of start which might have the Town off on another goal-spree.

Because of the weather, this was the Town's first full match for over a fortnight. They fielded the team that won the last two matches and there was a good-sized crowd, despite the difficulties caused by the Corporation busmen's dispute.

Workington, not having a productive time on their return to the Fourth Division, lacked their player-coach Bobby Brown at centre half and their leading scorer, George McLean.

The pitch, after its soaking these last weeks, had recovered well, though it was still very soft.

Winning the toss, Branston chose to attack the Oak Road end.

A GOAL IN TWO MINUTES

Within two minutes they were a goal up, through **SLOUGH**, who thus added to his growing reputation as an acceptor of snap chances. The ball came to him inside the penalty area after Buxton had challenged Tugman for a fine centre by Whittaker.

This success obviously whetted Slough's appetite, because he came through strongly again, and this time his drive was deflected for a corner.

When Workington made ground, Moore pushed Braydon in the back, but the free kick was cleared promptly by Branston.

Whenever the Town forwards moved as a line, they

were purposeful and dangerous, especially as Slough was continuing to be a driving force behind them.

WORKINGTON SHOW PROMISE

Workington showed some promise by the way in which they moved the ball about, and it required a first-class save by Read, throwing himself full-length to his left, to keep out a cross shot by Trail.

The Town broke away, and the opportunist Buxton was desperately unlucky with a shot that hit the near post and went across the face of the goal.

At this stage the Town were rather struggling to find fluency. Things looked more promising when Buxton laid on a pass for Rioch to race through to bring Ower to full-length, and when shortly afterwards a similar move saw Rioch fire just over the angle of the woodwork.

Generally, however, the Town were moving smoothly only in spasms, mostly on the left flank, where Jardine was doing a useful backing-up job.

AN ESCAPE FOR THE TOWN

The Town had an escape when Kirkman worked the ball cleverly to Brayton whose high centre beat Read. He pushed at it but could not stop it, and it was as well that Dougan was handily placed to clear.

After the Town's bright start, they had fallen away, though there seemed no threat to their narrow lead. Workington were defending solidly and driving off the Town's attacks.

A chance to equalise fell to Kirkman inside the penalty area but he drove his shot too high.

Ower made hard work of stopping a long shot from Moore. He allowed the ball to break away from him, and Buxton, following up quickly, all but managed to beat him to it.

PENALTY AREA PILE-UP

Four minutes from half-time there was a three-man pile-up in the Town penalty area, affecting Read and Branston of the Town, and Geidmintis, of the visitors. The Workington player came off best, for the Town players needed more attention.

Branston seemed to be in some trouble. Allen fell back and Branston went to outside-left before finally being led to the dressing room by trainer Dennis Evans. Half-time:

LUTON TOWN ... 1
WORKINGTON ... 0

There was an encouraging cheer from the spectators when it was seen that Branston was leading the Town out for the second half, obviously having fully recovered.

The Town resumed with a swift attack led by Buxton and Allen, and finally Ower just managed to whip the ball away from Whittaker.

This was one day when when Rioch was much off the beam with his shooting, and he sent the ball yards too high after Ryan had got it across at the second attempt.

He tried to make amends

TEAMS

LUTON TOWN: Read; Dougan, Jardine; Slough, Branston, Moore; Ryan, Buxton, Allen, Rioch, Whittaker; Substitute: McDerment.

WORKINGTON: Ower; Oglvie, Butler; Kirkman, Tugman, Middlemas; Geidmintis, Brayton, Tinnion, Spratt, Trail. Substitute: Flynn.

Referee: Mr. W. S. Castle (Sedgley).

with a dribble half the length of the field but was finally robbed inside the Workington penalty area.

ANOTHER GOAL FOR THE TOWN

Buxton then made a brilliant run, beating three opponents to lay on a perfect pass for WHITTAKER. It was a fine chance, and the left-winger made the most of it with a searing cross drive that simply rattled into the back of the net with Ower hopelessly placed. This was after 52 minutes.

The Town nearly got a third goal when Allen went up high to meet a long cross by Slough, the ball going just over the bar with Ower badly positioned.

There was action for Read in picking up a low shot by Trail. Whittaker replied with a

Alan Slough snapped up a chance to give the Town the lead after only two minutes.

sparkling run, but his centre was cut out by Ower.

Workington now threw everything into attack, but their weak finishing never really suggested much danger to the Town, who hit back to increase the lead in the 64th minute with another goal by WHITTAKER.

It was an opportunist effort which Whittaker took brilliantly as Tugman and Ower dithered about which of them should clear a bouncing ball in front of goal.

Workington were still fighting, and Spratt suddenly came through to crash the ball inches wide. But the Town were now looking more like

their customary selves, and had run into form after a disappointing first half.

With the Town now looking eager for more goals, Buxton

How the goals came

SLOUGH for Luton after 2 minutes
WHITTAKER for Luton after 52 minutes.
WHITTAKER for Luton after 64 minutes.
RIOCH for Luton after 84 minutes

was unlucky to miss by inches with the Workington defence dithering.

Ower then turned the ball for a corner to keep out Slough.

With six minutes left Rioch drove the ball home after another mistake in the Workington defence.

In the closing minutes the Workington defence was almost over-run.

Result:
LUTON TOWN ... 4
WORKINGTON ... 0

