

Town slam four in seven mins.

By CHILTERN

67/68

BEFORE their biggest crowd of the season—14,973—Luton Town made an amazing finish to their home match with Swansea last night.

With only 14 minutes left the score sheet was still blank, but in a remarkable burst of scoring the Town got four goals in seven minutes.

After their bad patch, Swansea changed their inside-forward trio completely, and the veteran Welsh international Ivor Allchurch was among those omitted.

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

SWANSEA TOWN: John; Evans (R), Gomersall; Jones, Purcell, Davis; Humphries, Williams, Todd, Screen, Evans (B). Substitute: Grey.

Referee: C. H. Nicholls, of Plymouth.

The crowd was of Cup-tie proportions.

There was a shock at the Town end when Williams came through strongly, forcing Read to go full-length to push the ball out.

There was more concern when Read failed to intercept a centre by Humphries, and then Williams was only inches too high with an overhead shot.

TOWN BECOMING OVER-ANXIOUS

The Town replied by winning three corners in quick succession, but were giving me the impression of being over-anxious in front of goal.

The narrowest escape so far though, came at the Town's end when Screen, from the inside-right position, missed the far post by inches. Evans (B), closing in, failed to apply the finishing touch, possibly in the belief that the ball was going in anyway.

It was exciting cut-and-thrust stuff.

Swansea's turn for anxiety came when John went full-length to keep out a well-directed header by Allen and then had to claw out a power drive by Slough.

Then, Buxton pulled back the ball for Rioch, but he could not quite reach it. Buxton regained possession, though only to send his shot tantalisingly wide of the far post.

TOWN SLOW TO SETTLE DOWN

For all that, the Town had not yet settled down into their usual smooth pattern, and seemed to be finding Swansea more formidable and lively opposition than expected.

Swansea were dangerous in their snap raids, and at times the ball crossed the Town goal in dangerous fashion.

The game continued to be a story of near-misses at each end, and Read did well to get down to a drive by Screen.

Just before half-time, Moore had to receive attention for a facial injury. Half-time:

LUTON TOWN ... 0

SWANSEA TOWN 0

There was no slackening in the pace—and no increase in the steadiness of either team in front of goal. Williams headed just over in a mass Swansea raid, and John was in action from a header by Allen.

HINT OF PANIC BY SWANSEA

The Town were now pressing at their favourite Oak Road, and were harrassing the Swansea defence. John went down in a hurry to keep out a shot by Buxton, and then came the first hint of Swansea panic when the ball was hustled for a corner.

From this, Buxton got his head to the ball, but the admirable John was well positioned again.

The Town seemed now to be taking a grip, though a sharp raid by Swansea brought a looping shot by Williams that narrowly missed the post.

A dingdong struggle it certainly was, and the Town crowded back to the attack again with Branston going up deep into the Swansea penalty area for a corner, but all in vain.

A CLOSE CALL FOR SWANSEA

The Town appealed for a penalty when a Swansea defender appeared to handle, and then came a tremendous escape for Swansea.

First, John pulled down Buxton's shot from under the bar, and finally Slough shot a mere inches wide when a goal looked on the cards.

With 20 minutes left, Swansea were taking up deeper defensive positions, though Whittaker missed a chance to put the Town ahead, shooting weakly with his right foot.

TOWN AHEAD AT LAST

At last, the Town went ahead through FRENCH, who slammed the ball in from what Swansea claimed to be an off-side position, after Slough had pushed the ball through.

Three minutes later BUXTON increased the Town's lead, and again there were appeals by Swansea.

After 81 minutes RIOCH got a third goal from a free-kick, and a minute later BUXTON added a fourth.

Result:

LUTON TOWN 4

SWANSEA TOWN 0