

s point spoils Luton's home record



Ray Bumstead, scorer of Boscombe's equaliser at Luton and, behind him, Ken Pound who hit the post with one cracking shot.

LUTON TOWN 1, BOSCOMBE 1

BOSCOMBE, battling bravely despite atrocious conditions at Kenilworth-road today, became the first team this season to take a point away from the Luton ground. Though Luton took a 17th-minute lead and had high hopes of achieving their tenth successive home win, the Cherries hit back with an equaliser before half-time.

Ray Bumstead was the man who saved the point with a fine 39th-minute goal which wiped out the lead which centre-half Terry Branston had gained for Luton. It was a tough game in the mud and Boscombe finished with both Naylor and Hold injured.

Both sides fielded the teams which saw them to success in the first round of the FA Cup. Roy Gater, who came on during the mid-week replay against Bury Town kept his place and Lou Peters was named as substitute.

Luton included Keith Allen who, as a substitute, scored a hat-trick in the 6-1 win against Ware.

Luton: Davie; Dougan, McDerment; Slough, Branston, Bannister; French, Lewis, Allen, Rioch, Whittaker. Sub.: Sheffield.

Boscombe: Jones; White (J.), Miller, Naylor, Stocks, Gater; Bumstead, Pound, East, Hold, Bolton Sub.: Peters.

Referee: N. Burtenshaw (Gt. Yarmouth).

Heavy rain that had fallen overnight and during most of the day left the pitch in a terrible condition. It resembled a paddyfield, but it was just about playable.

The conditions created obvious hazards and this was noticeable in the early exchanges, with mistakes inevitable. Gater set up Boscombe's first notable raid but, despite a scramble around the Luton penalty area, the Cherries could not force home this attack.

Luton came away in a promising move and Whittaker had the home fans roaring with a splendid drive from the corner of the penalty box. Jones was alert to the danger and pulled off a fine save.

Bumstead tried to get another Boscombe attack going only for East to be caught offside.

It was proving difficult for players to keep their feet in the mud.

SO SIMPLE

Boscombe came away to bother the home defence and forced a corner on the right. As Bumstead swung the ball into the centre, Gater tried to hammer it home but was well off the target.

A FEW MOMENTS LATER, HOWEVER, LUTON'S DEFENCE WAS CAUGHT OUT BY A SWIFT BUT SIMPLE BOSCOMBE MOVE.

Pound pushed the ball through the centre to Hold, who raced clear of challenging defenders and got in a crisp shot from the edge of the area. Davie, however, diving to his right, pushed the ball round the post.

Pound's corner was punched out by the leaping goalkeeper and the ball came out to White whose first-time shot went past the post.

In Luton's next raid McDerment was up in support and he had the Boscombe defence in difficulties. Naylor emerged from a ruck of players to head the ball away to safety.

But the relief was only temporary, for a good centre from French led to a hectic scramble in the goalmouth with players of both sides slipping and sliding all over the area.

Miller was eventually forced into conceding a corner—this only led to Luton taking the lead.

Whittaker's corner was a good one, producing another free-for-all in front of goal, and it was **BRANSTON** who forced the ball over the line to give the home side a 17th minute lead.

FLOORED

Jones was again in action, holding a sharp header by Slough, but Boscombe came out quickly, only for Bumstead to be grounded as he was making progress on the right.

Hold just failed to connect with an attempted header near the far post from White's free-kick.

Bolton, moving out to the left, tried to work a way through the Luton defence only to be finally beaten by weight of numbers and lost possession.

Boscombe's skipper was soon back in his own penalty area, clearing up a Luton attack as Bannister attempted to force his way through.

Boscombe's next thrust ended with a speculative shot by Stocks. It was a great effort, the ball going just the wrong side of the post.

Best effort so far by Boscombe came after 25 minutes when Bolton chipped the ball in from the left and East connected with a diving header, which sent the ball curling past the post.

Luton built up a raid which looked dangerous, but Boscombe covered well in defence and eventually forced McDerment into a long range shot.

DANGEROUS

Boscombe's raids still looked dangerous and Pound emphasised this with a typically determined run on the right.

He finished with a powerful cross shot to which Hold, sliding

Highest score

BLACKPOOL 6

Best aggregate

FULHAM v HUDDERSFIELD
ARBROATH v HIBS 7

HOME WINNERS 25
AWAY WINNERS 19
DRAWN GAMES . 16

in, got a touch. The ball rolled tantalisingly across in front of goal before Davie scrambled over to gain possession as East raced in.

After 39 minutes battling Boscombe equalised. A free kick taken by Naylor inside his own half was pushed out by East to **BUMSTEAD** whose first-time shot from the right dipped into the far corner of the net beyond the reach of the leaping Davie. HT: 1-1.

Boscombe resumed in lively style and Hold, chasing the ball down the left, pulled it back sharply into the centre and forced Branston to concede a corner.

The floodlights came on as Pound took the corner, and after a scramble in the area a half-hit clearance by Whittaker enabled Gater to get in a shot which was, however, miscued.

The three front runners, East, Hold and Pound, teamed up neatly in a promising attack and Bannister was harassed into giving away another corner.

Then Whittaker, positioned by the far post, turned the ball away over the by line, giving the Cherries another corner on the right.

Luton emerged from this spell of pressure, but not before Pound had scared them with a splendid cross shot taken on the turn.

INJURIES

As Luton hit back Naylor went down injured. Then Lewis, racing through in the centre, disappeared in a flurry of red shirts. There were appeals for a penalty, but these were ignored by referee Burtenshaw—much to the crowd's annoyance.

While both Naylor and Lewis were having attention on the field, Boscombe manager Freddie Cox spoke to a linesman, apparently drawing his attention to something which had been thrown from the crowd.

In the 53th minute Naylor limped off, to be replaced by substitute Peters. Not long afterwards Hold went down in agony but was soon on his feet and back again in the fray.

In between these incidents Boscombe went desperately close to taking the lead: Pound, after working for position, turned and let loose a fine rising shot which cannoned off the woodwork at the angle of crossbar and post.

In the 67th minute Luton's defence was clearly in trouble as Davie came well out of his goal but failed to gain possession as he slid in the mud.

THE LIMPING HOLD MOVED ON TO THE BALL, BUT COULD NOT SQUARE IT TO THE UN-MARKED BOLTON IN THE CENTRE—AND LUTON BREATHED AGAIN.

DESPERATE

Boscombe were going hard for a second goal and Peters put in an angled shot which Davie reached but could not hold. The ball came out to East, who attempted to drive it into the net. Branston was there to clear off the line.

Luton made progress by way of a free kick taken from midfield. As Lewis went up for a header he was given offside.

Boscombe were not content to play for a point, and as they again moved forward in search of a winning goal White went up in support, but sent his shot over the top.

With 15 minutes remaining, Luton took off Whittaker and brought on their substitute, Sheffield, obviously with the aim of pepping up their attack during the closing stages.

Roch also moved forward in a bid to bolster the home side's finishing power. Boscombe, however, remained equally as dangerous in attack and Davie won the cheers from his supporters when he reached up to collect a menacing shot from Pound.

Luton forced two quick corners, but Boscombe came away quickly and White's cross from near the touch line was pulled down by Davie.

After 84 minutes Hold was booked following the award of a free kick to Luton. At the same time a policeman was seen escorting a Boscombe fan from the ground.

Result:—

LUTON TOWN 1
BOSCOMBE 1
Attendance: 14,150.