

Another point - and it might have been two

TORQUAY 1, LUTON TOWN 1 By ROGER DUCKWORTH

.0005!

SWINDON won 2-1 at Crew yesterday to inch fractionally above the Town on the average. They are a mere 56th better.

Today Luton had to enter. They visit Mansfield on Monday and entertain Southport on Tuesday.

Watford entertained Crew today, are at home to Hartlepool on Monday and travel to Plymouth on Tuesday.

Swindon were at bottom of the table. Shrewsbury this afternoon, have a free day on Monday and entertain Burnley on Tuesday.

The following table does not include today's games.

WATFORD	37	22	9	6	40	24	32
SWINDON	38	22	7	9	38	31	31
LUTON	38	21	8	9	42	24	31
PLYMOUTH	38	17	11	11	47	40	43
SHREWSBURY	38	16	7	13	36	28	43
TORQUAY	38	16	10	12	48	24	42
BRIGHTON	42	15	12	15	46	37	42

but was foiled by Donnelly

And each side won a corner in a tension-packed two minutes of injury time.

TORQUAY: Donnelly, Benson, Basher, Davis, Young, Morgan, Cane, Stubbs, Kitchener, Ridge, Barnes, Sub. Scott.

LUTON: Davie, Douglas, Bannister, Keen, Slough, Moore, McBurnett, Lewis, Allen, Birch, Jardine, Sub. Potter.

REFEREE: E. Wallace (Swindon)
ATTENDANCE: 31,240

POST 5-4-69

IMAGINATION, flair and the will to win. These admirable traits were all shown by Luton last night when they all but knocked spots off Torquay for what would have been their surprise win of the season.

The fact that Luton drew 1-1 keeps them in the hunt for honours. Before the start a point was the most they could have hoped for against Allan Brown's well-placed side.

With the team they fielded Luton would not have dared to expect a win. With injuries forcing them to play a defender on either wing they looked set for a grim struggle against the tide.

They must take every credit for a courageous performance in which they gave the seasides the runaround for all but 20 of the 90 minutes. The Town found their confidence in the early minutes when they realised they had more skill at hand than Torquay, who could always be hurried into making mistakes.

And when Billy McDerment, substitute for much of his career at Luton, headed them into a ninth-minute lead, Luton looked home and dry.

They had their scares, of course, and goalkeeper Sandy Davie was called upon to do some brave work in the goalmouth, for which he received praise on the back from an audience and a mighty kick on the head from Robin Stubbs.

a free kick. McDerment, well out, stuck his head out and the ball arrowed towards the top corner. Goalkeeper Donnelly helped it into the net with a despairing fist as he realised it was not, after all, going over the top.

This was the break Luton needed. They began to play cool football — the sort they usually reserve for home matches. A large section of the Oak Road choir had travelled down, and gave lusty support as well as taunting the Torquay fans into replying.

Trouble

It all helped the atmosphere, but some of the singing was far from polite. We cannot pin the obscenities on the Luton fans, as Torquay have been having

foisted drive. It was one of those goals you enjoy seeing go in — whoever you are supporting.

None faulted

Luton came back again and Torquay centre-forward Bill Kitchener, who hails from Arlesey, had to fall back into defence to help out. Not a single member of the Luton team can be faulted. All played with the sense of responsibility born of wanting to show their old boss just how good they are. They also want promotion — that's obvious.

Slough had another outstanding night at centre-half and received good support in the back four from Dougan, Bannister and Moore.

Jardine joined in with enthusiasm in both departments and Allen, Slough and Lewis all caught the eye. Lewis received a kick on the ankle but by the time the Luton party left the coast it was not known whether or not he would be fit for Monday's match at Mansfield. Manager Alec Stock put a phone call through to Luton asking Ian Buxton to be on standby.

Torquay manager Allan Brown said afterwards: "Luton completely dominated the first half but we came back a bit in the second. But this Luton side is full of skill. It will do well."

There was a nail-biting finish when Birch embarked on a great run through the middle



BILLY McDERMENT
first goal for Luton

Trouble with this, too, and have threatened to close down the stand where it comes from — behind one goal.

No difference

Had that been the case, the whole of the game that the referee called off with some 10 minutes to go. The referee called off the game that the referee called off with some 10 minutes to go. The referee called off the game that the referee called off with some 10 minutes to go.

Luton Spartans' efforts to improve their position came to an end as four goals were scored in the first half. The referee called off the game that the referee called off with some 10 minutes to go. The referee called off the game that the referee called off with some 10 minutes to go.