

match Shrewsbury not forget!

LUTON WING-HALF SCORES ONE FOR EACH SIDE

By ROGER DUCKWORTH
Luton 2 Shrewsbury 2

LUTON TOWN'S proud home record came within an ace of being shattered by lowly Shrewsbury this afternoon. Only an 88th minute goal by Slough saved the day.

It was ironic that Slough should grab this goal. For soon after the start of the second half he stunned the Kenilworth Road into silence when he put through his own net.

Collins grabbed Town's first goal and Roberts put Shrewsbury back in the lead.

It was a beautiful day and a short-sleeved crowd gave Luton plenty of encouragement to increase their unbeaten home league record.

The Luton side was unchanged from that which scored a fine 3-0 win at Southport during the week. This meant that goalkeeper Hartley had worked wonders in getting some new grass to grow in the goalmouths.

Shrewsbury were also unchanged from the side that drew 3-3 at Bournemouth on Wednesday.

The Luton pitch was looking a treat and groundsman Eddie Hartley had worked wonders in getting some new grass to grow in the goalmouths.

Shrewsbury are managed by Harry Gregg, the former Manchester United goalkeeper who was involved in the tragic Munich air crash in which many of his colleagues died.

Luton went forward right from the kick-off when a long ball into the middle from full back Dougan was challenged for by centre forward Tees. Goalkeeper Phillips just got there first.

Undaunted

And in the same minute Shrewsbury stole a chance when a long pass found inside forward Dennis Hawkins in good position, but he seemed rather surprised and wasted his effort by shooting high and wide.

The referee had a word with Macdonald and Moore after some pushing and pulling.

In spite of the close attention he was receiving, Macdonald sparked the next dangerous looking Luton attack. He sent Keith Allen and French continued it and the ball came back to Macdonald in the middle. But he was unable to turn and shoot in the crowded penalty area.

Shrewsbury showed that they were far from daunted by the Town's impressive record. And when French made an error in heading back in his own penalty area Bridgwood collected the ball and shot over from a position where he could have done better.

A midfield foul on Tees by Wood resulted in Keen's free kick being well caught by goalkeeper Phillips.

The Town almost went ahead in the seventh minute. A long throw by Macdonald was headed across the goalmouth by Allen and Wood fractionally beat Tees to the ball right underneath the crossbar and managed to nod it over for a corner. This proved fruitless.

Headed over

Luton had what appeared to be a legitimate claim for a penalty turned down by Mr Paine after Tees had been bowled over in the goalmouth by Moore as he challenged for Collins's cross.

And a minute later Keith Allen rose high above every body to head over yet another good centre from Collins.

Another foul by Wood, this time on Macdonald, created another Luton chance. Bannister's free kick was half-heartedly cleared and Keen sent the ball back into the goalmouth for Macdonald to head straight at Phillips.

The over-enthusiastic Moore angered the crowd and the Luton players — again when he came up behind Tees and kicked the Luton centre forward. Luton got a fruitless free kick and Moore escaped without even a talking to.

Next Shrewsbury player to commit an indiscretion was full-back Gregory who fouled French. This time he did get a talking to but again Bannister's free kick came to naught.

Luton were clearly getting on top. French outstripped his three markers and won a corner. From this Allen sent a header flashing against the crossbar and the Shrewsbury defence was in a real tangle for a spell before it managed to clear.

TEAMS	
LUTON:	Davie; Dougan, Bannister; Keen, Nicholl, Slough; Collins, Macdonald, Tees, Allen, French. Sub: Sheffield.
SHREWSBURY:	Phillips; Gregory, Fellows; Moore, Wood, Pountney; Roberts, Bridgwood, Harkin, Hawkins, Meredith. Sub: Moir.
GOAL SCORERS	
SHREWSBURY own goal (Shrewsbury)	53 mins
COLLINS (Luton)	54 mins
ROBERTS (Shrewsbury)	79 mins
SHLOUGH (Luton)	88 mins
Referee: Mr R. A. Paine (Hounslow)	Att: 15,396

got a talking to but he obviously refused to take any notice for in the next minute he had his name taken for persistent infringement of the rules.

Collins had a good shot turned round for a corner when he raced on to a back header from Tees. French's corner was deflected for another one. From this Phillips failed to gather properly but got hold of the ball as he fell at the second attempt under threat from Tees.

At the back Nicholl was winning everything in the air and with Allen and Keen grafting midfield Davie had very little to do in the Luton goal in the first half hour or so.

From a French corner a solid header from Macdonald was deflected over the top from the head of a defender. This effort deserved better fortune but served to show that Macdonald is still hungry for goals.

Luton's eighth corner almost produced the much threatened first goal. French hurried it across and a Tees header was hastily scrambled off the line by a full-back. A minute later — the 34th — the Luton centre-forward saw another header brush past the outside of a post following a good free kick from French.

Pressure

As the Town continued to surge forward French fought into a shooting position and then slipped the ball to Collins. The linesman's flag was raised for offside but the referee ignored it and Phillips made a rather lucky save.

Town's next chance came when Tees put a neat short centre in, Macdonald went up for it and deflected the ball, putting Allen off. Allen managed to get his head to the ball but by this time it was in the wrong place and goalkeeper Phillips easily collected.

With some brief pressure Shrewsbury won a couple of corners on the right but French fell back and won a goal kick in the easiest of ways — just



Football ballet... Town inside forward Malcolm Macdonald and a Shrewsbury defender in a scene that would do credit to Rudolph Nureyev!

tapping the ball against the legs of Roberts to give Luton possession.

Two minutes before half-time Jack Bannister produced perhaps the best shot of the match. Towering into the penalty area he hit a hard, rising left-footer which was only six inches over the bar.

The duel between Tees and Wood continued and the Luton centre-forward was brought crashing to the ground right on the edge of the penalty box by his mentor.

Keen took a short free kick into the box and there was absolute chaos before Shrewsbury scrambled the ball away for a corner. From this Tees got in another cracking header which was well gathered by Phillips.

Well inside the same minute Macdonald burst back on to the scene and cleverly got the ball on to his left foot before unleashing a terrific drive that again shaved the crossbar. It seemed that Luton could do everything except get the ball into the net.

HT: Luton 0, Shrewsbury 0

Early in the second half Shrewsbury were presented with a chance that they really had no right to. Centre-forward Harkin got the best of a free kick decision between himself and Nicholl when, I believe, it should have gone the other way.

Sensation

Fellows' free kick was headed across the goalmouth and presented some danger before John Collins cleared. Dougan showed intelligence in spoiling the possibility of Shrewsbury taking a quick free kick just outside the box.

But the Town were soon on the way back. A flashing centre from French was well collected by Phillips and then Allen went close.

Eight minutes after the

interval the match erupted in a sensational manner.

Right against the run of play Shrewsbury right-winger Roberts jinked off down the right. He appeared to have done too much but he cut back towards the corner flag and put across a good centre which anyone of five Luton defenders, strung across the face of the goal, should have cleared.

But Davie committed himself and dived for it. The ball struck SLOUGH'S head and the unlucky Town right-half deflected the ball into his own goal.

There was abject silence over Kenilworth Road. But the crowd need not have worried. Within a minute Luton were back on terms from a good goal slotted home by right-winger COLLINS.

Bravery

From the kick-off the ball went down the right and Tees pushed across a low centre. It was met by Allen who generously slipped it forward and there was Collins, ready, willing and able to pick his spot and put the scores level again.

Within two minutes of Luton equalising, Shrewsbury centre-forward Harkin was led off and manager Harry Gregg and the visitors' trainer looked at what appeared to be a cut head before the Shrewsbury leader was taken to the dressing room.

It was some minutes before substitute Moir appeared on the touchline and then he had to wait for another period before the ball went out of play so that he could be given permission to take the field.

With the Town waiting for the offside whistle — which never came — Hawkins chased a long ball into the area and it took some good timing and some bravery by Davie, who sped out of his goal to collect the ball off Hawkins' feet.

The excitement increased as Town roared back into the

attack and following good work by Tees, Macdonald had three determined efforts at goal, none of which were successful.

Shrewsbury were far from on the losing end of things at this time. Some brief laxity by the Town defence allowed substitute Moir to get in a brilliant header from a corner and the ball smashed against the Luton crossbar.

Great run

With 11 minutes to go that unbeaten record began to look very shaky indeed as ROBERTS the nippy Shrewsbury right-winger, cracked in a splendid goal after a dazzling run.

It all began in the Shrewsbury half of the field when the Town stood back expecting a tackle by Wood on Tees to be blown up. But the whistle never came. The ball was shoved out to Roberts who sped for goal and beat Davie with a cracking right-foot shot from some 15 yards.

A shocking foul by full-back Fellows on Macdonald on the grandstand touchline angered everybody. But anger was not the answer. Luton were trailing and they could not afford to let clashes of personality affect them at this stage.

With just two minutes to go ALAN SLOUGH made amends for his earlier error when he hurled himself into the goalmouth to head the equaliser — an equaliser that will never be more welcome.

A long ball from the right was headed on across the goalmouth and Tees and French rose for it together to send it back into the danger area. There was some hesitancy and Slough catapulted himself at the ball to head it over the line.

The match came to a close in some amazing incidents with the Shrewsbury defence kicking the ball clear out of the ground at every occasion.



Tense moment in the Shrewsbury goalmouth. Luton launch an all-out attack but, somehow, the visitors cleared