

focus on the Cup



**BOURNEMOUTH 1
LUTON TOWN 1**

By ROGER DUCKWORTH

Weather delays Stock's replay reshuffle plans

69/70
(FAC)

LUTON TOWN manager Alec Stock is in a dilemma. He's caught between the devil of disappointment and a sea of mud. And as a result he does not intend to pick his team for tomorrow's FA Cup, first round, replay against Bournemouth at Kenilworth Road, until tomorrow morning.

Mr Stock's disappointment came on Saturday with the Luton showing at Bournemouth. After the match he indicated to me that there would be changes.

He said that he hoped Mike Harrison would be fit, and that he would still find a place in the side for John Collins, who did fairly well in the midst of mediocrity.

Would this mean giving Malcolm Macdonald a rest? "You can speculate on that one," he told me.

But this morning Mr Stock had to back-pedal a bit. Not that he was backing down — but the sudden appearance of winter put a completely different complexion on things.

He was hoping that Harrison and Chriss Nicholl would return. "But I can't consider anyone who's not absolutely fit," he said this morning. "We are going to have a heavy pitch and mud. Because of that we want to start with only those

who are definitely 100 per cent fit."

Nicholl now looks like a non-starter, but there is still hope for Harrison. The left winger was having a tough work-out in the gym this morning, and the Luton manager was giving him until tomorrow morning to report fit.

Hopes are high that Graham French will have recovered from the blow on the head that made him miss the second half of the disappointing match at Bournemouth on Saturday.

Saturday's starter was a poor affair, which generated little "fever" among the sparse crowd. The match was as lukewarm as the atmosphere.

Saved!

Luton were saved with a goal on the stroke of half time by John Collins. He was the only Luton player to look like scoring, and in the second half he had a lone attempt at goal, which was also well-taken and went close.

That was about the extent of the Luton ambitions. When they lost left winger French at half time with concussion, Luton were almost down to 4-4-2.

Fred Jardine appeared, and did a good job on the left, but despite his grim determina-

tion to make something of the situation, Jardine was restricted to three running centres, one of which brought the second goal effort from Collins. Jardine impressed with his industry.



GRAHAM FRENCH
... concussion

So, for much of the piece, Luton were restricted to two forwards — Tees and Macdonald — neither of whom looked like succeeding in the goalmouth. Luton can thank providence that French provided their goal-winning centre with his last kick of the match.

Luton were pushed back for most of the first half by Bournemouth, who are some 20 places inferior to the Town in the Third Division. They say the Cup is a great leveller. Whatever you think of these

annual adages, the seashiders certainly gave Luton the run-around in the first half. They could, perhaps, see a chance of glory after going ahead in the 10th minute through Trevor Hartley.

With the Luton defence running around playground fashion, Bournemouth full back Gulliver, who had a splendid match, sent MacDougall away in an orthodox run down the right. He crossed simply, and Hartley shot. His effort was blocked by Davie, but Hartley ran on to the rebound to score.

In spite of this, there were few thrills. It became a bit like American football, with two sets of athletes facing two sets of athletes. There was a lot of pushing and scrambling as both gangs fought for speculative "up and unders".

Admittedly Luton were better in the second half when Keen took a firmer grip on things, but Keith Allen was about the only Luton player to show much in the way of adventure.

Shaky

In goal Davie performed well, as did full backs Bannister and Ryan. But Terry Branston, coming in for the injured Chris Nicholl, was a bit shaky at times, and, as a result, upset the equilibrium of sweeper Alan Slough.

Luton tried to play in the style that has brought them so much success away from home this season, but they didn't click until the second half, and then they couldn't create real chances — or cash in on the half chances.

Macdonald found that little was going right for him, though his enthusiasm rarely failed. He tried hard to find cohesion with Tees, who was having the same sort of trouble.

Aggression

For Bournemouth, centre forward Jim White, normally a full back, showed surprising aggression in the middle, and provided the Luton defence with a bit of a battering.

Luton were grateful for some hard work from Collins, though some of his passing left a bit to be desired. Another good point about Luton was that everyone was ready to drop back and help out when necessary.

They looked better in the later stages as Keen and Collins, always helped by Allen, tried to salvage something from the ashes, but all in all this was a frustrating match.

There was some smart tackling from Bournemouth who, on the whole, looked more wide-awake than their opponents. Their outstanding forward was Hartley, whose speedy running caused Luton no end of bother.

MATCH DETAILS

LUTON TOWN: Davie; Ryan, Bannister; Keen, Branston, Slough; Collins, Macdonald, Tees, Allen, French (Jardine, second half).

BOURNEMOUTH: Baker; Gulliver, Foote; Summerhill, Stocks, Powell; Hartley, MacDougall, White, Hold, Meredith. Sub: Rowles.

REFEREE: M. Kerkhof (Bicester).

ATTENDANCE: 7,362.

GOALS: Hartley (Bournemouth 10 min), Collins (Luton, 45 min).