



● GROUNDED . . . Blues centre-half Roger Hynd (left) brings Luton's John Moore to a sudden halt during a Luton attack at St. Andrew's.

Vowden rams home 30-yard hot-shot

by TOM DUCKWORTH
Birmingham City 1, Luton 1

A REMARKABLE goal by Geoff Vowden which, for power and accuracy would have done credit to that great Brazilian, Rivelino, was the highlight of Blues game with Luton at St. Andrew's today.

Vowden hit a Vincent pass right-footed from 30 yards in the 24th minute and 'keeper Read was left helpless.

Until then Luton had looked the more methodical side. Tees and MacDonald failing with a couple of good chances.

Vowden's goal proved just the tonic Blues required and from that point they got steadily on top. Before the interval Hockey forced Read to make two more great saves.

● MacDonald equalised for Luton eight minutes from time with a penalty.

BIRMINGHAM CITY: Kelly; Thomson, Pendrey, Hockey, Hynd, Robinson, Murray, Vowden, Latchford, Vincent, Summerill. Sub.: Martin.

LUTON TOWN: Read; Ryan, Slough, Hoy, Nicholl, Moore, MacDonald, Court, Tees, Keen, Givens. Sub.: Bannister.

Luton almost caught out Blues' defence in the tenth minute, Hoy crossing a long, high ball which was touched on to Tees, who was in a splendid scoring position.

The centre-forward took careful aim, but his fierce, low drive hit the foot of a post, and went for a goal-kick.

Blues' defence did not look at all certain against the lively Luton attack and Tees almost got through again, being pulled up just in time when Kelly came out.

Again Tees almost got through when he chased a long ball down the middle but Hynd charged him off just in time.

Luton had certainly had the better of the first 15 minutes, their quick, accurate passing repeatedly having the Blues defence in trouble. Givens tried a first time shot from Ryan's centre, only to see it cannon off Thomson for a corner.

Over bar

Blues only threatened from the accuracy of Vincent's corner-kicks and Read had to turn another well-lighted ball over the bar.

Luton continued to play the more methodical and better planned football and Blues were unable to get into their stride. They were relying on long crosses from the wings and one of these from Murray was headed down and outside by Latchford.

Blues took the lead after 24 minutes with a remarkable goal right out of the blue by **VOWDEN**. There appeared little danger when Vincent, out on the left, squared a ball to Vowden who lay unmarked 30 yards from goal.

With a wall of defenders in front of him Vowden did not hesitate. Running in he unleashed a terrific right-foot shot which found the bottom corner of the net. Read being left helpless by the pace of the ball.

This goal livened up Blues and for the next five minutes they attacked vigorously in more of their old style.

Luton soon settled down again but the Blues defence were holding them better now. Apart from Tees shooting wide from an off-side position they were unable to get within shooting range.

Blues attacks on the other hand were increasing in intensity. Latchford beat his man beautifully to leave Hockey who had run into the open space, with a clear run for goal.

Hockey tried to lob the ball over Read's head but the goalkeeper, with a great leap, just managed to push it away with his left hand.

Livewire Hockey was in the picture again a minute later, almost scoring with a glancing header which Read just managed to push round the post.

Blues continued to pile on the pressure and, following another corner, Hynd was only a foot wide with a sharp drive from near the 18-yard line.

Blues, with Hockey and Vincent playing a major role in building up attacks, continued to attack heavily as the interval approached, and Luton were hard pressed to keep them out.

Half-time: B'ham City 1
Luton 0

Summerill and Latchford were proving a lively double spearhead. Good work by Summerill led to Latchford being pushed off the ball by Slough, a free-kick being given.

Slough was called on one side and spoken to for a foul on Summerill. The free-kick brought no reward to Blues. Read safely dealing with Vincent's high cross.

The Luton goalkeeper did well two minutes later to catch and clear a much more difficult cross from Vincent.

Blues showed no signs of releasing their grip and kept bearing down on the Luton goal. From an excellent through pass by Robinson, Summerill made a great attempt to add a second, his powerful drive flashing by the post just as he was charged off the ball.

Much of the heart seemed to have gone out of the Luton attack and Kelly was having a fairly comfortable time, apart from dealing with a long high cross from Ryan.

The second goal Blues were seeking nearly came following a good move by Hockey, Thomson and Murray. The winger scraped the outside of the far post with a cross-shot which Read completely misjudged.

Hockey always had an eye for an opening and he ran through to test Read with a long drive which the goalkeeper fumbled at the first attempt.

After 75 minutes Luton sent on their substitute Bannister in place of Tees. In the closing stages Luton tried hard to equalise and Kelly went full length to save a header from Nicholl.

Luton equalised from a penalty in the 82nd minute. MacDonald worked himself a beautiful opening and managed to get in a shot, and although the ball came out Hoy put it into the net.

The referee had previously blown for a foul on MacDonald, who had been apparently held by a Blues defender when about to shoot. MacDONALD made no mistake from the spot.

GOALS AND THEIR SCORERS

24m. B'ham 1, Luton 0. Vowden

82m. B'ham 1, Luton 1.

MacDonald (pen.)