

TOWN STORM IN -THEN HANG ON

LUTON 2 BOLTON 0

LUTON roared into the match bent on revenge. They stormed ahead through Chris Nicholl and followed up with a superb goal from Don Givens. The football was magnificent.

It was a rather different story after the break, however, and the crowd became restive as Town seem to lose their way on the well-worn path to goal.

Luton signalled their intent of revenge right from the first minute when a right-wing move sparked off by Macdonald sent Jimmy Ryan away.

His short ball to the near post at the Kenilworth Road end was narrowly missed by the intruding Givens.

But before the cheers had died there was a scare at the other end — for Luton. John Moore was under pressure from Phillips as he guarded a long through ball back to Read and the final push back to his goalkeeper was harder than Read expected and he had to dive sharply to reach it.

It took Luton just nine minutes to get back on the goal trail. David Court pushed a good through ball for Macdonald to chase and he won a corner off Hurley.

Distracted

Centre-half Chris Nicholl went up and stood on the goal line in front of Boswell and when Court curled the flag kick across Givens and Macdonald distracted the Bolton defence while NICHOLL coolly turned the ball into the net with his head.

A couple of minutes later, the Luton defence showed some indecision and John Ryan pushed the ball to Phillips. With his view of the goal blocked he hit a clever "banana" shot which bent appreciably and Read had to be alert to catch the ball.

But Luton were obviously on top. There were exciting runs from both Macdonald and Givens, with Jimmy Ryan putting in plenty of the spade work.

The Luton goal came under severe pressure from a corner kick and Williams fired in a terrific shot which Moore was brave to block.

In the 20th minute, Roger Hoy had wretched luck when his powerful drive from some 25 yards bent the Bolton crossbar back. Luton kept

possession and a neat header from Givens found Macdonald who shaved a post with a shot which he had to swivel 180 degrees to get in.

Luton were turning on some terrific football and with 22 minutes gone DON GIVENS scored a goal the like of which you will have to go a long way to see repeated.

It all began back on the half-way line with Jimmy Ryan. He held the ball well then released it at just the right moment for the overlapping John Ryan.

He made ground before snapping across a delightful centre at which Givens, sprinting into the goalmouth launched himself and he was just about horizontal when his head bulleted the ball past Boswell for Luton's second goal.

Givens was in a mean mood and he brought the crowd to their feet again in the 27th minute as he had Boswell clawing the ball out of the air at full-stretch from another terrific drive.

Amazed

There followed a period of intense, searching football in which Luton kept on top as they explored various routes into their opponents' territory.

A great piece of determination by Byrom three minutes before half-time should have brought him a goal. There was a lack of decision from Nicholl, Moore and Read, and the Bolton man was allowed to dribble through before John Ryan gave them a corner.

From this there was more luck for Luton when an attempted clearance from Moore landed right in the arms of the amazed Read.

HT: Luton 2, Bolton 0

There was still fight in the Bolton ranks early in the second half but Luton came back when John Ryan belted the ball high over the top from

a good position. Then Givens failed to get any power into a nother shot.

Even so much of the earlier sting went out of the game and the crowd began to get restive. Hoy and Keen were working hard in midfield but fewer and fewer chances were being presented to the Luton attack.

Bolton were unlucky on a couple of occasions after good work by left-winger Taylor.

A Macdonald-Givens move petered out feebly, and obviously displeased at what was going on on the field, town manager Alec Stock strode purposefully around the touchline and took a place in the trainers' box.

The crowd called for a spire of spectacles for referee Gow when he waved play on after Macdonald was heaved off the ball by his shirt in the penalty box. There was obviously an infringement and the Luton centre-forward's shirt was ripped down the back — as Givens's had been earlier.

The ball had not been running kindly for Macdonald and after a splendid sprint he surged past Hurley, cut inside and then with a goal looking on, he stubbed the ground as he shot from a good position and the ball trickled away.

There was an angry moment when Manning chased Hoy a good 40 yards to retaliate after being tripped and the referee spoke to them both before awarding a dropped ball. In this, Hoy fouled Manning and from the free-kick Read made a flying save to a splendid drive from Farrimond.



Bolton goalkeeper Boswell dives to save at the feet of Luton's Macdonald in the match at Kenilworth Road this afternoon