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Last-gasp Foggo spot kick salvages City's pride

WHAT a Christmas cracker of a finish! When all seemed lost, the Canaries salvaged a point against high-flying Luton with a penalty in the second minute of injury time at Carrow Road this afternoon.

It was no less than City deserved, for after taking second place throughout the first-half and trailing to a Malcolm Macdonald goal, they asked most of the questions after the interval. Their late point-saver was reward for spirit and the ability to overcome the mediocre form that allowed the Hatters to take early control.

Both sides were bolstered by handy unbeaten runs. The Hatters, boasting the best defensive record in Division Two, needed some measure of success to maintain their challenge for the leadership. The Canaries, with ten points from their last seven outings—three wins and four draws—were aiming to keep tabs on the top bunch.

Both sides had hoped to be unchanged after 1-0 victories last week, City at Bristol and Luton

at Watford. But the visitors were forced to replace midfielder man Roger Hoy with utility player John Collins. Manager Alec Stock had high hopes of Hoy being fit after pulling a muscle at Viearage Road, and indeed had named him in the line-up. But the former Crystal Palace player was ruled out after another fitness test.

On a dull but mild afternoon all the signs were that this match would attract one of City's better gates of the season.

Norwich City—Keelan; Payne, Black, Stringer, Forbes, Briggs, Livermore, Foggo, Sub., Anderson, Paddon, Foggo. **Luton Town**—Read; John Ryan, Bannister, Collins, Nicholl, Slough, Jimmy Ryan, Court, Macdonald, Keen, Givens, Sub., Goodeve. Referee—R. Crabb (Exeter).

When Luton kicked off towards the river end, Macdonald immediately sent a long speculative kick straight into Keelan's arms. Paddon was halted by Keen as he broke down the left but a throw-in was given when some City players were looking for a free kick.

Macdonald, deep in his own half, took the pressure off with a neat piece of work but Keen sliced his clearance into touch. Black played safe and pushed over the line for a throw to Luton, even though Collins was some half a dozen yards away. Macdonald's fine screening of the ball gave him the chance to set up the ball for Court, whose long effort was easily collected by Keelan.

The City keeper was in action again moving out to collect a massive throw from Macdonald. A City move broke down in mid-field, and when they came again, Howard was forced out by sheer weight of numbers down the middle.

There was plenty of purpose about Luton's early raids, as they

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By Keith
Skipper

came in swiftly moving attacks. Smart interplay between Jimmy Ryan and Givens down the right gave the No. 7 the space in which to send over a teasing cross which Keelan did well to gather cleanly.

A long throw into the Luton goalmouth caused momentary confusion but they moved out sweetly and it took a good header from Stringer to stop another attack.

Forbes was penalised for a foul on Jimmy Ryan but Slough's free kick came to nothing.

City were finding it hard to find any rhythm and a long curling cross from Payne that went well over Read's bar was their most positive effort of the opening minutes.

But in the eighth minute, there was an amazing incident. Foggo lost the ball in the area and as John Ryan swept in to clear, he sent the ball only a couple of feet over his own crossbar. From the corner Read cleared his lines with a no-nonsense punch.

City won a free kick a dozen yards outside the Luton area, but Paddon's effort was blocked. Livermore was robbed by Collins in midfield and a neat Luton move ended with Payne forfeiting a corner as Givens screwed the ball across.

The Hatters followed up by forcing another corner on the left and in their next move they snatched the lead. Hesitancy at the back proved fatal for City as ace marksman MACDONALD nipped in to take advantage and slip the ball coolly past Keelan.

It appeared that at least two City players had the chance to clear before the Luton centre forward struck.

The visitors continued to look extremely sharp in their build-up, and Keelan was again called into action to pick a Collins centre out of the air.

Frustration

City's frustration in making so little headway showed itself clearly when Forbes, Black and Livermore gave away free kicks in quick succession, and their passing in midfield left much to be desired.

Slough earned applause with a splendid piece of defensive work after Silvester's overhead flick had left Howard with a little space in which to operate.

Macdonald's supreme opportunism was underlined again in the 24th minute. He cut inside and sent a searing left-foot drive into the side netting, with Keelan going full stretch in a bid to cover. It was obvious City would be having their work cut out keeping him in check.

Briggs paid the penalty for dallying out on the right. He had time in which to send over a cross, but waited too long and was challenged and beaten by two Luton players.

Howard did well to control an awkwardly bouncing ball down the middle, but he had no chance to get in a shot with a cluster of white shirts around him. Foggo squeezed over a centre which was beaten away and Payne's follow-up effort from long range was wide of Read's left hand post.

An uncharacteristic lapse by Luton in midfield gave City the chance to mount a snap raid but Silvester, who thought he had done enough to earn a corner, was disappointed to find that the referee had in fact awarded a free-kick against him.

Quicker

Luton, so much quicker on the ball, continued to make most of their passes tell. A long, floating cross from Keen was punched away for a corner by Keelan, and from this the Luton skipper got in a low header which was blocked a few yards from Keelan's goal and cleared without undue trouble.

With 35 minutes gone, the City forwards hardly troubled Read, and for the most part the Luton defence looked in total command when City did manage to come at them.

Despite the attentions of Forbes, Macdonald got in a useful effort after Keen had found and used space to good effect. When Read stepped out to gather a free-kick from Paddon, he appeared to take a knock in the back and after kicking the ball into touch, had to receive attention from the trainer.

Macdonald again evaded Forbes as Luton sprang into life, and City were relieved to hear the whistle blow for a foul on Keelan as the City keeper fisted clear. Paddon was forced to give away a corner on the right with Macdonald at his side and John Ryan streaked up-field to send a first-time effort into the side netting.

Silvester took a knock in the Luton area as he made a brave attempt to force a way through, and he was attended to by George Lee. Gritty work by Foggo left the way open for Paddon to try his luck, but his long shot looped well clear of Read's goal.

As half-time approached, Luton's control was not being seriously threatened and City were still unable to mount attacks of any real menace. A quickly-taken free kick almost caught City napping, Keelan having to be smartly off his line to whisk the ball away from Givens.

Macdonald again

A minute before the interval Jimmy Ryan intercepted an intended clearance by Stringer and from his cross Macdonald sent a header only inches over the bar.

When Read dived out to reach a Foggo cross, the referee ruled that a City player had impeded him. Half-time—

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England team manager, Sir Alf Ramsey, was in the directors' box, presumably to watch Macdonald. He must have been impressed by the young Luton striker in the first half.

The Canaries resumed on a slightly brighter note, and a bout of attacking ended with Livermore sending a strong, low shot which Read saved comfortably.

Forbes was awarded a free kick in the City half against Macdonald. The centre-forward was clearly unhappy about the decision. Paddon set the home fans cheering with a quick break, but he was crowded out. Even so, City were now showing much more spirit.

A sharp cross from Livermore eluded everyone and ran into touch. Then Payne pumped a long ball into the heart of the Luton defence, but after another spot of good work by him, the hooked his intended centre into the river end crowd.

Macdonald seized his chance when the ball brushed Forbes' head and ran toward Keelan's goal. The City keeper blocked a

sharp shot, but the ball ran back to Macdonald. Instead of trying at goal again, he clipped the ball across, but this time it was quickly cleared.

Foggo was tugged to the floor by Bannister only a few yards outside the Luton area, but after a series of sharp headers, the ball ended up in Read's arms.

There were loud cheers from City supporters as Anderson appeared on the touchline and came on for Briggs in the 57th minute. After a flurry of activity in the Luton goalmouth, and loud appeals for hand-ball against a visiting defender, Read pounced to avert danger only a couple of yards from his goal-line.

Luton's grip had been slackened considerably and City worked a good opening on the hour. Foggo, however, failed to connect properly with his left foot a few yards from goal and Read was faced with only a minor challenge.

Anderson was in the thick of it as the Canaries mounted another aggressive burst, but smart covering denied him the chance of a shot. Silvester and Nicholl went down in a tangle and Mr. Crabb was booed when the Luton No. 5 was awarded the free kick.

A Paddon free kick just outside the area, after hands by Slough, had Read diving to clear as the ball cannoned off a player in the defensive wall.

Brought down

City were now very much back in the reckoning and there was a let-off for Luton when a Stringer header struck the angle of the crossbar from Paddon's left wing corner.

A cheeky back heel to Keelan by Anderson relieved pressure on City after Luton had again emphasised their sharpness on the break. Again it was Macdonald who brought about the danger with a shrewd ball into the middle.

Foggo, in full flight, was brought down by Bannister, and Payne's free kick was fisted away for a corner by Read as Silvester moved in.

Luton attacks were now sporadic and City twice denied themselves reasonable chances of an equaliser with poor work in the box. Silvester just failed to connect in one instance, and headed too far forward for his colleagues in the other.

Play continued as Black lay injured, but eventually George Lee came on to give him attention. Black seemed in considerable pain and it was a minute or two before he was able to continue.

Shortly after, it was Anderson's turn to have treatment when he went sprawling into the penalty area. Mr. Crabb awarded the free-kick right on the line. Two City shots were blocked before Payne's cross struck Foggo on the legs and rolled over for a goal-kick.

At the other end, Macdonald sprang into life again with a header well over the bar.

The game had spilled over into injury time when the game took a dramatic turn. Anderson's header was clawed away by a Luton defender after a tremendous mix-up, and FOGGO stepped up to score from the spot. The game had barely restarted when Mr. Crabb blew for time. Result—

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