

# SUB BUSBY NIPS IN TO SAVE TOWN

LUTON TOWN 1

CHARLTON 1

**SUBSTITUTE** Viv Busby came on midway through the second half and saved Luton the ignominy of losing at home to bottom-of-the-table Charlton Athletic. As it is they can hardly be satisfied with only one point.

Luton kept the side that won a point at Sunderland last week, which meant there was again no place for the Town's most expensive signing David Court.

Busby took Jack Bannister's substitute spot — and early indication that Town manager Alec Stock intended to adopt an attacking policy.

Charlton, Division Two's bottom club, made several changes in attack. Denis Bond, the ex-Spurs man, returned after an absence caused by a strained muscle, and Plumb and Treacy came into the attack at the expense of Hunt and Davies. Former Watford striker Barry Endean kept his place.

## Cheer

The Luton fans gave a special cheer to skipper Mike Keen, who was kidnapped yesterday in a students' Rag Week stunt but was released unscathed after a couple of hours.

Luton nearly went ahead in the eighth minute. A delightful dummy from Givens set up Jimmy Ryan but the winger tried to beat one man too many before getting in a shot.

In the end he had to push the ball back to Hoy whose powerful shot went fractionally wide.

Then Wright had to receive treatment. He caught a high cross by John Ryan under the crossbar — and received a hefty knock from the airborne Macdonald.

It looked as if Wright had also sustained a face injury, but he continued after treatment.

Luton's attack went off the boil for a while, but then Slough created an overlap on the left, a move which ended with Went handling in the area. The referee decided it was an unintentional offence, however.

Shortly afterwards came the worst miss I have ever seen.

Moore slipped up as he tried to clear a left-wing cross,

By **ROGER DUCKWORTH**

leaving Plumb alone on the six-yard line with the ball at his feet.

But the centre-forward blinded it over the Oak Road enclosure — to a roar of disbelief from a relieved Luton crowd.

## Injured

Then loose marking by the Luton defence let Peacock through. But he too wanted too much time and with Read narrowing the angle well the left-winger mis-hit his shot and Nicholl cleared from the goalmouth.

Further intelligent play by Jimmy Ryan set up Anderson in the 11th minute — and he should have scored his first league goal. But he didn't connect properly and the ball as scrambled away by Reeves.

In the 15th minute Hoy was led to the dressing room holding a bloodied swab to his face. He was apparently injured in an off-the-ball collision.

Even with only ten men Luton continued to attack — but there was nobody in the middle to capitalise when Macdonald swept a firm cross over from the left.

Went exploited the hole in midfield where Hoy should have been by sending away Peacock on the right but Keen and Slough cleared the danger.

Hoy returned in the 21st minute sporting a large white plaster across his nose, which he occasionally dabbed with a swab.

A good build-up by Luton — involving Anderson, Slough and Hoy — seemed to have "goal" stamped on it, but the final pass went astray.

**HT: Luton 0, Charlton 0**

Luton started the second half where they had left off in the first — attacking strongly.

But Macdonald miskicked from the edge of the box, and then Givens bravely chased through after a long through ball and just managed to get his head to it — only to divert it into the arms of Wright.

## Unlucky

Givens then headed on a long throw in from Keen, but Jimmy Ryan could not quite reach the ball, and again the frustrated Luton fans were disappointed.

The Irishman was unlucky when Shipperley hauled him off the ball near the penalty spot — but the referee must have been looking the other way.

And a minute later, it looked as though Went had handled the ball in the area, but Mr Thomas decided the offence was outside the box. From the free kick, Givens had a low shot saved.

Then Wright was pulled up under the four-steps rule. He was booked for arguing with the referee — who had been more than kind to Charlton.

Keen took the free kick two yards inside the box. He rolled the ball across to John Ryan whose first-timer went over the bar.

Shortly afterwards Hoy was booked for a bad foul on Bond.

Luton continued to press



Givens wins this one — with no end result — as Keen looks on

## MATCH FACTS AT A GLANCE

**Luton:** Read; John Ryan, Slough; Hoy, Nicholl, Moore; Jimmy Ryan, Givens, Macdonald, Keen, Anderson.  
**Sub:** Busby.

**Charlton:** Wright; Curtis, Bruck; Reeves, Went, Shipperley; Bond, Treacy, Plumb, Endean, Peacock.  
**Sub:** Warman.

**Referee:** Mr C. Thomas (Treorchy).

**WENT** (Charlton) 68 mins

**BUSBY** (Luton) 75 mins

**Attendance:** 15,262

but their shooting was off target. Hoy volleyed one effort right into Oak Road — to moans from the crowd.

Luton were jolted in their tracks in the 68th minute when Charlton were awarded a penalty for a John Ryan trip on Peacock. Went placed the kick neatly past Read, who dived the right way.

Hoy, his face still splattered with blood, was taken off. Busby substituted.

Busby soon missed a easy chance, but he made up for it in the 75th minute when he headed Luton back into the game. Jimmy Ryan crossed from the left, Keen nodded the ball back into the middle, and Busby beat Macdonald in a desperate race to nod the ball home.

There was further tremendous excitement when Busby sent Macdonald away. Wright made a good diving save and then there were amazing scenes in the goalmouth as four Luton players all had shots blocked.

There was no stopping Busby. He dribbled his way through a penalty area of flailing legs but saw his shot blocked on the line.