

Luton close

71/72 (FAC)

West Ham 2 Luton 1: by JOHN JENKINS

ENGLAND SKIPPER Bobby Moore was carried off 10 minutes after the start of this pulsating Cup battle. He damaged a nerve in his right ankle in a tackle with Vic Halom and was taken to hospital, but an X-ray showed no bones broken and he should soon be back in action.

West Ham began as if they would tear Luton apart. Trevor Brooking went clear on the left wing and centred for Geoff Hurst to head crisply into goal after only 91 seconds.

It should have been 2-0 in the next attack when Hurst turned the ball wide from five yards.

Despite the absence of Moore, Hammers were a class above Luton and in the 24th minute Harry Redknapp cleverly pulled the ball back from the corner flag to Hurst.

His header was palmed out by Tony Read, but Clyde Best smashed the ball into goal.

It looked just a question of how many Hammers would score. But no team managed by Alec Stock ever quit. And I've seen them all — Yeovil, Orient, Q.P.R. and Luton.

HEADER

At half-time Alec and his coach Jimmy Andrews ordered: "Keep it simple . . . you're not beaten yet."

And early in the second half a short corner by skipper Mike Keen to Gordon Hindson proved it. Hindson swept the ball into the middle and Don Givens headed gloriously into the roof of the net.

Luton now swept forward knowing they had nothing to lose. They found an extra yard of speed and an extra ton of heart. Their supporters urged them on, drowning the home fans, whose team had lost the initiative.

Not even a penalty award 20 minutes from the end could revive Hammers.

It looked as manager Stock said: "A pretty anaemic decision for a Cup-tie"—a John Moore tackle on Brooking from behind without disturbing his balance.

Hurst stepped in to take the kick and Reed swooped to his right to save the shot. Reed looked to be on the move before Hurst shot—but justice was done.

JUST OVER

Keen hit a screaming 30-yard shot inches over and Hindson smashed a shot against the woodwork. "That was heart-breaking. We deserved a goal then," said Stock later.

Hammers broke away as Luton failed to score and Redknapp went as close to scoring as he has been for two seasons when he hit a post from a pass by Best.

But with Chris Nicholl giving Hurst far less room in the second half, Luton's whole performance was transformed.

Stock just about summed it up when he said: "It was a royal Cup-tie. Everything that the Cup is all about."

WEST HAM.—Ferguson; McDowell, Lampard, Bonds, Taylor, Moore, Redknapp, Best, Hurst, Brooking, Robson. Sub: Eustace.

LUTON.—Read; Ryan, Slough, Keen, Nicholl, Moore, Anderson, Court, Halom, Givens, Hindson. Sub: Shanks.