

LUTON OUT- AND BOBBY CARRIED OFF

Hurst raced at the ball and really hit it hard. But Read must have seen the save that Gordon Banks made to Hurst some weeks ago and he hurled himself to his right to block the penalty kick.

With 12 minutes to go, Luton built up another good attack and after some clever work by Slough, Hindson slammed a powerful shot against the angle of the post.

With five minutes left Nicholl had a drive deflected for a corner and two minutes later Hurst headed wide when he might have made the game safe.

With one minute left Best pushed the ball through the legs of both Ryan and Moore before passing to Redknapp who hit the foot of a post with a shot and banged the rebound wide.

71/72
(FAC)

WEST HAM 2 LUTON 1

By ROGER DUCKWORTH

WHAT A MATCH! Luton came within an ace of forcing a replay; Tony Read made a fantastic save from a Geoff Hurst penalty — and Bobby Moore was carried off on a stretcher.

First-half nerves cost Luton two goals — from Hurst and Best, but Givens pulled one back after the break. Moore, who was in collision with Halom, was taken to hospital for an X-ray on an ankle injury.

You could feel the electric atmosphere before you even got into Upton Park. Thousands of Luton people came to cheer Second Division Hatters.

Both teams are enjoying good runs in the League at the moment and both were unchanged for this afternoon's third round tie.

Luton approached the first nervous minutes with aggression and good work by John Ryan and Vic Halom on the right wing had to be broken up by Brooking.

Alan Slough switched play to the other touchline but his good run was ended by Bonds who timed his tackle perfectly and came away with the ball before being fouled by Hindson.

But the match was only two minutes old when West Ham grabbed the lead.

Thrilling

Brooking was sent away on the left by Bonds and his accurate centre beat the Luton defence and England's Geoff HURST was on hand to nod the Hammers ahead off the underside of the crossbar.

Luton hit straight back and in the very next minute they could have equalised. Keen sent Anderson away on the left but Givens could not quite get to his good centre.

And the thrills continued when Clyde Best bemused the Town defence and his weakish shot was deflected on to a post and out of play off a Luton defender.

And Luton were nearly in further trouble when a Best corner from the left was nudged on by Bonds and Hurst volleyed over the crossbar from right in front of the goal.

It was interesting to see that



West Ham's Billy Bonds outjumps Givens, but heads over

John Moore had been given the job of marking Hurst, while Nicholl took best.

Bobby Moore was injured in a collision with Halom and was rolling on the ground in apparent agony as play went on before he could have treatment.

And when the trainer eventually got to him he looked in even more trouble as he received his treatment.

Moore off

Moore was carried to the side of the field on a stretcher and examined by the club doctor before being taken to the dressing room. Substitute Eustace took his place.

Moore's injury came in the 9th minute but the game was 13 minutes old before he left the scene surrounded by a bank of photographers. Moore was later said to have an ankle injury.

As the game went on West Ham continued to go forward and Slough did a good job of halting another dangerous run by Bonds.

Both Slough and Givens

were guilty of some bad passing, but Anderson and Hindson worked hard to take Luton forward before Robson spoiled it all.

Read, who had already done some good catching, was forced to make a fine save to cut out a well-placed free-kick from McDowell.

Luton were given a free-kick near the left-hand corner flag following good work by Hindson and Slough. Keen banged it into the middle but Ferguson beat Halom in the air.

West Ham's second goal came in the 25th minute. A strong run from Redknapp on the right produced a good cross which Hurst headed at goal. Read was only able to push the ball out and BEST ran in quickly to bang the ball hard into the net from close in.

The persistence of Anderson won Luton a corner off Taylor and from it Nicholl's powerful header was headed round a post by McDowell.

Bonds and Hurst caused more havoc in the Luton

penalty box and John Moore was grateful to hack clear for a corner. It was well headed away by Nicholl.

A neat move on the left between Halom and Slough produced a centre which flashed across the goalmouth and Court was only fractionally out with a desperate dive.

Read dropped a short free kick from Hurst and as Luton hearts pounded John Ryan ran in to concede yet another corner.

Pressure

A dive by Court put a Best corner behind and Read caught the second one to ease some considerable pressure on the Luton goal.

In a goalmouth scramble, Hindson was hurt after he, Halom and Anderson had all fought for possession before Givens shot over.

HT: West Ham 2, Luton 0

West Ham began the second half where they had finished off in the first and with only a minute gone Best escaped the clutches of John Ryan and

passed to Robson, who got in a first-time shot from close in. Read made an excellent diving save to keep Luton in the game.

Hammers kept piling forward. Robson mis hit a shot from a ball that came over his head, and then Best nearly hit the corner flag with a left-footed effort.

Keen won a Luton corner following a terrific crossfield move by Hindson. And from it GIVENS headed Luton back into the game.

The corner was quickly taken by Keen. Hindson flashed over the centre and Givens nodded the ball home.

Luton won another corner after Anderson had sent the defence the wrong way with a header. Hindson took it on the right but Nicholl headed over.

Just wide

Luton's goal gave them real heart and for a spell they began to take over. A centre from Givens brought a spirited fight from Halom and the ball ran free to Court who smashed a tremendous left-footer just wide.

In the 61st minute Keen very nearly levelled the score. A strong run by Ryan gave the Luton skipper possession just outside the box and his terrific drive whistled over the crossbar.

Then a clever free-kick by Hindson found the head of Nicholl on the right but his effort was cleared.

After a long chase with Best, John Ryan put into his own net but the West Ham man was off-side.

In the 70th minute West Ham were awarded a penalty for a trip by John Moore on Brooking. The West Ham man was trying to keep the ball in play as Moore went for the ball from behind.

Geoff Hurst took the penalty and for the second week in succession Luton keeper Tony Read made a fantastic save.

MATCH FACTS AT A GLANCE

WEST HAM: Ferguson, McDowell, Lampard, Bonds, Taylor, Moore (Bobby), Redknapp, Best, Hurst, Brooking, Robson. Sub: Eustace.

LUTON: Read, John Ryan, Slough, Keen, Nicholl, Moore (John), Anderson, Court, Halom, Givens, Hindson. Sub: Shanks.

Referee: Mr K. Burns (Stourbridge)

HURST (West Ham), 2 mins

BEST (West Ham) 25 mins.

GIVENS (Luton), 53 mins

Attendance: 32,099

VERDICT

By ROGER DUCKWORTH

LUTON were desperately unlucky not to get a replay out of this FA Cup third round tie at Upton Park.

Trailing by two goals at half-time they began to realise that West Ham were only human after all.

Don Givens headed a 53rd minute goal to put Luton back in with a chance and there was nothing to choose be-

tween the two sides in the second half.

Tony Read became Luton's hero for the second week running when he made a fantastic save to a Geoff Hurst penalty, and inspired by this Luton powered forward in search of an equaliser.

Keen and Court both went close with rising shots, and in the 78th minute Hindson slam-

med a great shot against the post.

In fact, it was Court and Keen who inspired Luton. They worked tirelessly in midfield, while Nicholl was outstanding at the back.

Up front Luton always had Hindson, whose scheming and intelligent running with the ball gave Town the confidence they needed.

But in the first half



West Ham had looked a class ahead of Luton, who seemed a bit overawed by it all.

With five minutes left Nicholl slammed a shot at goal and somehow it was deflected over.