

PANIC OVER-AND

LUTON

SURVIVE

CARLISLE 0 LUTON 0

A FIERY Carlisle attack today gave the Luton defence enough worries to keep an agony column in business for a month.

Time after time, in the first half especially, the Town defenders stood panic-

MATCH VERDICT

ALTHOUGH they were under heavy pressure for much of the game, Luton had their moments at Carlisle this afternoon.

With ten minutes left Court almost snatched the winner with a terrific shot from well outside the box — and in the eighth minute Busby, back from his two-month stint in the First Division at Newcastle, had the ball in the net, but his effort was disallowed for offside.

This, I thought, was harsh, but the linesman was better placed than I was.

Busby looked sharp, and once he has kindled a greater understanding with Halom this could develop into a fruitful partnership.

Luton had some real let-offs in the first half when Read underwent a shaky period and Slough and Nicholl both made clearances off the line. Slough also headed against his own crossbar.

Read recovered his composure and made some fine saves, notably to Owen and Balderstone.

But it was the Carlisle No 6, Bowles, who caused Luton most of their worries. Playing up front he frightened



By ROGER DUCKWORTH

the Town defence to death with some tricky runs and accurate passes. It was a good job for Luton that John Moore eventually tamed him.

Thankful

With Busby returning at the expense of Anderson, the Town attack had a real new look about it. Givens was given the job of playing up front, but with the Town being forced back for much of the time he spent a fair whack of the afternoon helping the defence.

With ten minutes to go Givens went off to be replaced by Hindson, but by this time Luton were looking thankful to have survived the siege and became intent on salvaging a point.

This they did, and it was mainly thanks to some capable play in midfield by Keen and Court that Luton came home with some reward.

stricken as Carlisle missed wide-open chances. But Luton held on to play some good football later and escape with a point.

Just before lunch manager Alec Stock had disclosed where he would play Viv Busby in the Town attack.

Busby, back from two months' loan at Newcastle, came in on the left wing, and Hindson, a former Newcastle player, was relegated to substitute.

With last week's home defeat against Oxford in mind, the Luton boss left out Peter Anderson and put Robin Wainwright in the No 7 shirt with a midfield role.

The Town began strongly with a bright sun in their eyes. But this did not stop a good overlap from John Ryan on the right.

Halom let the cross go past him, and a first-timer from Givens was well stopped by Ross, the former Luton goalkeeper, who had to dive far to his right.

But United hit straight back, and a corner from Balderstone on the left caused Luton a lot of bother when Read, obviously dazzled by the sun, missed the ball.

Luckily for Luton Slough was correctly positioned on the far post as he scrambled the ball away.

Snapped up

With Read off his line Martin had a fleeting chance. He recognised the situation and tried to lob the ball over Read's head, but luckily for Luton it went over the crossbar as well.

A bad ball from Keen was quickly snapped up by Bowles, but Moore was back quickly to sort out the situation, and Carlisle's cause was not helped by a bad pass into the box from Bowles.

After eight minutes Busby scored what looked to me to be a perfectly legitimate goal. But it was ruled offside.

A cross from Givens was headed down by Halom, and Busby took his chance well, slamming the ball past Ross from close in. He had started to celebrate when he noticed the linesman's flag — and, of course, any amount of protesting was useless.

In the tenth minute Wainwright was warned for a trip



Pat Morrissey challenges a Middlesbrough player in the air at Vicarage Road. Report back page.

on Ternent. But he escaped a booking, and Ternent himself wasted the free-kick which he took just outside the Luton box.

Read very nearly put his side in trouble when he threw the ball out straight to Bowles and had to go scampering back to his goal before the midfield man could make anything of the situation. It produced a corner for Carlisle, which Read punched clear.

Rebound

Despite their occasional fright, Luton played some good constructive football, and a good move by Givens created a shooting chance for Keen. But he was well out and his effort went wide.

Balderstone beat the Luton defence on the left and managed to get the ball back from the by-line with his left foot. The Luton defence was in a real mess as Slough and then Moore cut out goal attempts.

Then Read was called upon to make a good catch off the head of Owen to a hanging cross from Barton. And in the very same minute Bowles missed a glorious chance by not shooting quickly enough when he was clear through. He dallied, turned, and was robbed.

Again the Luton defence was in a real tizzy as Slough headed a corner against his own crossbar and Givens hacked the rebound clear.

Beaten

Luton had another remarkable escape in the 29th minute when Martin beat Read from the by-line and Nicholl cleared off the goal line.

Read was beaten again, this time by Train, soon afterwards, and this time it was Slough's turn to clear off the goal line.

An attractive move by

YOUR MATCH FACTS

CARLISLE: Ross, Hemstead, Gorman, Ternent, Winstanley, Bowles, Barton, Martin, Owen, Train, Balderstone Sub: Webb.

LUTON: Read, John Ryan, Slough, Keen, Nicholl, Moore, Wainwright, Court, Halom, Givens, Busby. Sub: Hindson.

REFEREE: Mr J. Wrennall (Chorley)

Attendance: 8,731

Luton ended with Hemstead clearing Halom's header from Court's cross. But Slough powered back and forced a good save out of Ross with the best shot of the first half.

HT: Carlisle 0 Luton 0

Luton, who played some good outfield football in the first half, started brightly in the second. A strong run by Busby on the right resulted in Court getting a centre in, but Halom was beaten in the air by Winstanley.

Pressure

Carlisle hit back and a good move started by Bowles was carried forward by Martin, and Owen got a good shot in, forcing Read into a diving save.

After the referee had ignored an offside flag, Carlisle won two quick corners. Luton managed to clear them both but the Town defence came under some heavy pressure.

A good run and cross by Ryan gave Busby a chance after a Winstanley mistake. He hit the ball well but Ross made a fine diving save.

A good move by Luton in the 65th minute very nearly brought them a goal. It was started by Busby, who pushed

the ball out to Keen and ran into the goalmouth to head Keen's accurate return just over the top.

Carlisle continued to have the better of things, and on one occasion Halom was easily robbed by Ternent in midfield. But the Carlisle man ran through to shoot well wide.

Carlisle had another chance when Train put Barton through. But the Carlisle winger failed to connect with the pass.

As the defence managed to hang on, Luton began to play some better football in midfield, and a splendid ball from Keen found Halom on the right. He got the ball over but there was nobody there to do anything with it.

Limping

Read had to go full stretch to make a fine save to a Balderstone corner. And when Barton ran in to have another go, Moore put in a fine tackle to stop the Carlisle man getting in his shot.

With ten minutes left Court tried a long shot, and Ross was forced to make a splendid diving save. At this time Givens, who had been limping earlier on, left the field to be substituted by Hindson.