

ANDERSON'S GOAL CLINCHES REPLAY

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(SLC)

LUTON DROVE up the Motorway to the First Division last night and came back from Birmingham with a League Cup replay.

They must now be favourites to go into round three after being ahead for 46 minutes at St Andrews.

Newly-promoted City certainly don't look a First Division power yet, and as they were contained by Town, the Blues had to suffer at the hands of their crowd.

Even so, Luton found it hard to keep sustained attacks flowing. They tried, but were often driven straight back from where they had come.

And in the end, Luton's heroes of the night were the members of the back four. Bobby Thomson, captain for the occasion against his old club, had an outstanding match. Garner, Faulkner and John Ryan were not far behind.

Keith Barber had another splendid night in Luton's goal. In the second half he kept Luton in the competition with saves from Hope and Pendrey.

By ROGER DUCKWORTH

Birmingham 1, Luton 1

And in the first he made a brilliant double effort at Latchford's feet following Hope's free kick.

Latchford was Birmingham's biggest threat, and Faulkner had one of his best matches so far in keeping the bearded centre-forward relatively quiet. But Latchford equalised for City in the 54th minute, and 20 minutes later bent the crossbar with a tremendous left foot shot.

Garner did a fine job in marking the highly-rated Trevor Francis while John Ryan, who beat a groin strain to play, coped, for most of the time anyway, with the wiles of little Gordon Taylor.

Smiling

Peter Anderson, returning after missing Saturday's match because of dental trouble, popped up with Luton's goal after only eight minutes.

John Aston aimed a free kick for his head from the left of the penalty box, and Andy headed it crisply past Cooper, who looked surprised and moved slowly.

Anderson had his customary terrier-like game, and the skill of Fern and the hard work of

Halom kept Luton smiling in midfield.

It was Luton's attack that found it hardest going. Busby's power was manacled by veteran Roger Hynd, and Busby did not beat him comprehensively until five minutes from the end.

Aston found young Dave Howitt too tenacious to beat regularly, but the Luton winger gave a determined performance. So did Jimmy Ryan, who had two shots saved.

But do not blame Luton for not being able to do just as they liked with Birmingham. They did their best — and they did it their way — by going forward whenever possible.

Now the onus is on Birmingham to take the open fight to Kenilworth Road a week tonight. Luton, I think, will win it.

A draw was something manager Harry Haslam did not want. "I wanted to beat them first time," he told me. "But I suppose it's better than losing.

"I thought we did well in defence, and their manager, Fred Goodwin, praised Garner and Faulkner for the way they

bottled up Latchford and Francis. When we cut off their supply of through balls we hit their weakness," he added.

But Mr Haslam was delighted with the general showing of the team. Afterwards he had no hesitation in naming the same side to travel to Nottingham Forest on Saturday.

Last night, Luton never had it as easily as they did against Huddersfield. They had trouble getting many shots in, but their ideas were right.

MATCH DETAILS

BIRMINGHAM: Cooper; Howitt, Want, Campbell, Hynd, Harland, Pendrey, Francis, Latchford, Hope, Taylor (Burns).

LUTON: Barber; John Ryan, Thomson, Anderson, Faulkner, Garner, Jimmy Ryan, Fern, Busby, Halom, Aston. Sub: Slough.

REFEREE: Mr C. Fallon (Blackpool).

ATTENDANCE: 20,962

GOALS: Latchford (Birmingham) 54th minute.

Anderson (Luton) 8th minute.



Anderson's flashing header puts Luton one up against Birmingham — more pictures P21