

Town earned attractive replay

72/73
(FLC)

BIRMINGHAM CITY 1, LUTON TOWN 1

IT IS always an exciting prospect to get a First Division side on your own ground for a Cup-tie, and little short of a shock victory, which seemed to be on the cards at one stage at St. Andrews on Tuesday night, could have suited the Town better.

They will entertain Birmingham at Kenilworth Road on Wednesday night in this second round League Cup replay and will be hoping for a following approaching the size of the 20,962 crowd that watched them on Tuesday night.

Certainly the Town more than deserve to be in with a second chance, and on the evidence of this first meeting they can go into the next game confident of making progress in the competition at the expense of the "Blues," who seem to have lost most of the steam that carried them to promotion last season.

In fact, in the first half Birmingham looked a very dejected lot with no real spirit, and a section of their crowd registered their disapproval as they tramped in

By **ERIC NORRIS**

who was made the Town's skipper for the night against his old club, and he sent Aston away with a fine through-pass.

The winger was obstructed on the edge of the penalty area, but placed the indirect free-kick accurately to the head of Anderson, who powered it into the net.

After this the Town maintained their tactics of pushing forward all the time, but Roger Hynd had the shackles well and truly on Viv Busby, and it was against this rock that a lot of promising moves came to grief.

Where Luton had the advantage over Birmingham was in midfield, and at the back, where the back four of John Ryan, Bobby Thomson, Faulkner and Alan Garner never put a foot wrong.

SUBDUED

Trevor Francis, making his return to the Birmingham side, was kept very subdued by the Luton men, and had only one opportunity to show his speed and shot in the first half, but wasted this by being well wide of the target.

The Town's only real danger in this half came when Anderson was penalised for pulling Campbell's shirt just outside the penalty area and Hope hammered in a great drive that Barber did exceptionally well to save.

Barber was in superb form generally, but had less to occupy him than Cooper, who had to move smartly to the edge of his area to cut out a promising long-range shot by Halom.

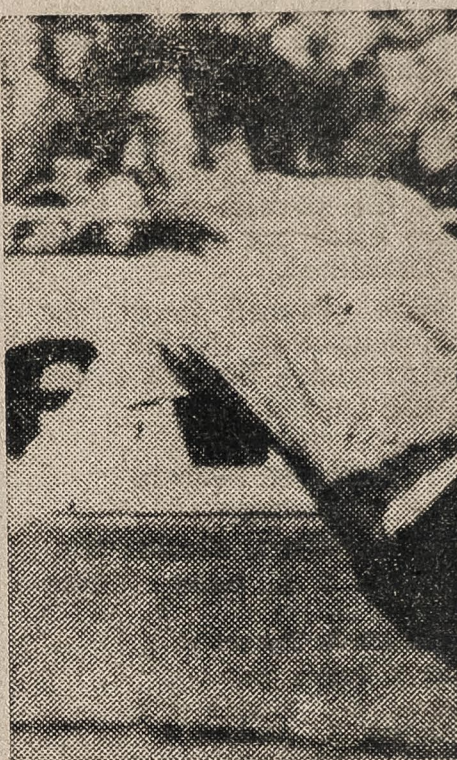
Birmingham were also in trouble when John Ryan took them by surprise with a fast 60-yard sprint down the wing, but he ran out of steam just as he was getting

to the centre in, and it was there that he was

More was seen of Birmingham as an attacking force after the interval with their chief danger man, Bob Latchford, showing signs of things to come when he fully tested the alert Barber with a header from a free-kick by Taylor.

The Town went through a sticky period at this stage and Pendrey made a powerful drive from long range that was deflected wide before Barber again excelled in going full length to keep out another fine effort by Pendrey.

Birmingham's equaliser in the 54th minute came unfortunately just as Luton were beginning to push for-



● Peter Anderson put the Town ahead in the eighth minute with a great header.

ward and build up their own attack again, seemingly having weathered the storm successfully.

EQUALISER

As the Town attack built up Rodney Fern, seeking to send Jimmy Ryan away, unfortunately only succeeded in kicking the ball against the winger's backside and it was picked up in midfield by Pendrey who set up the chance for LATCHFORD to hammer it into the roof of the net.

In the 68th minute Bir-

Replay seats

STAND TICKETS for Wednesday's replay against Birmingham City are now on sale at the club's offices in Kenilworth Road.

They are 85p for the centre stand and 70p for the wing stands. Season ticket holders may have a claim to their own seats at a cost of 85p, and have until Monday to claim them. The kick-off will be at 7.30 pm.

tingham brought on their substitute Burns for Taylor, but the Town defence held out magnificently as the home side went for the winner.

There were only two more anxious moments for them before the replay was in the bag. That was when Barber dived at the feet of Campbell, and after a lethal drive by Letchford had rebounded off the crossbar.

But before the teams do battle again, the Town face another trip to the Midlands on Saturday to take on Nottingham Forest who are so far unbeaten on their return to the Second Division.

But although they have managed to avoid defeat, the Forest goal output has not been high, and the Town will go into the match confidently.

Although he has not finally announced his side, it is unlikely that Haslam will interfere with the team that



● Keith Barber pulled off some brave saves when Birmingham hit back in the second half.

did so well at Birmingham on Tuesday.

TEAMS

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

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

Referee: C. T. Fallon, Blackpool.
Attendance: 20,962.

Ken Brooker scored 1-0-15
Holmes, returning 59-38,
is his fastest of the season
Queen won him the Row-
2-28-26.
Goodman 2-18-06, Dick
Fulham 50, ruined by a
CC, and Colin Chapman,
Bliss, won in 1-45-34,
the juniors' 42 mile event,
and Pendrey made a powerful
drive from long range that
was deflected wide before
Barber again excelled in
going full length to keep out
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