



Hutchison hits Blackpool's opening goal

ASTON HITS A CRACKER TO SAVE TOWN

VERDICT

A LUTON goal after only three minutes set the tempo for another most enjoyable match at Kenilworth Road.

Two lively teams did their best to play attacking football from start to finish and provided a match as bright and warm as the afternoon.

Blackpool hit back twice through Hutchison and Ainscow to take the lead off Luton but Aston made it all square with a pearl of a goal five minutes before half time when he bulged the net from outside the box.

Everything considered Luton were a bit on the lucky side to go in all square against a Blackpool side that always looked to have more ability to retain possession.

Luton's efforts came in fits and starts and they never had full control of the midfield.

Best display

Even so, there was some splendid performances. Aston and Jim Ryan did a lot of good and there was always the big heart of Halom backing up anything that Luton did.

In defence, John Faulkner, whose place was thought to be in jeopardy this week, gave his best performance of the season while left-back Thomson gave another cultured display.

But we sure see life at Luton. The Town's vowed intent to provide attacking football often leaves them exposed at the back giving the opposition the chance to find gaps. Because of this, Luton have become masters at hurried stop gap tactics, which both Slough and Thomson showed to good effect.

By **ROGER DUCKWORTH**

Luton 2 Blackpool 2

A BRILLIANT goal from Luton's leading scorer John Aston gave Town a share of the spoils in a cracking game at Kenilworth Road.

Coventry boss Joe Mercer was in the stands to see Tom Hutchison, the man he wants to sign, score a fine first half goal. But the Blackpool winger limped off after 66 minutes following a tackle by Thomson.

With an attractive match last week to look back on and a beautiful sunny afternoon to go out in, one would have thought that the fans would have returned in their thousands. But, ten minutes before the start, there were vast dismal gaps on the terraces.

By **ROGER DUCKWORTH**

compose themselves, Burns and Barton compiled a move on the left which looked dangerous until Thomson stepped in. The Seaside then attacked on the other flank, but Hutchison and Parker messed it up between them to give Luton a goal kick.

In the 14th minute Aston was most unlucky not to put the Town further ahead. He collected a good pass out on the left and fairly thrashed it at the Blackpool goal where Burridge made an excellent save.

But two minutes later Blackpool equalised through HUTCHISON with a goal that brought a great big smile to the face of Joe Mercer who was watching him from the stand.

A ball from the left was headed away by Halom but it was shunted back to the Blackpool winger who thrashed in a shot off the underside of Barber's crossbar giving the Luton 'keeper no chance at all.

Luton's rhythm seemed to have been badly jolted by that equalising goal and only five minutes later Blackpool took the lead.

Barton did all the grafting and his pass into the middle should have been cleared by Anderson before AINSCOW joyfully scooped the ball into the net.

Halom tried to do something about Luton's plight cutting inside at speed to try a left-footer. But it was going wide and Burridge got behind it anyway.

This must have given Luton the impetus they needed for they got back on terms a couple of minutes later with as good a goal as we have seen all season from the Town.

A good pass from Anderson found ASTON free on the left and from near the corner of the penalty box he let go a brute of a left-footer which seared past Burridge into the far corner of the goal.

A couple of minutes later Aston very nearly put Luton back on top but his overhead kick lacked conviction and Burridge saved easily.

HT: Luton 2 Blackpool 2

Luton were soon back in the thick of things. A ball into the goalmouth by Anderson was



Alan Slough leaps to head Luton's first goal

headed on by Jim Ryan and some hard work by Fern gave Halom the ghost of a chance. But he was foiled when Burridge dived at his feet to turn it into a corner.

More exciting attacking football from Luton ended with Aston cracking in another accurate left-foot shot which Burridge was pleased to be behind. It came from a splendid move involving Aston, Halom, Fern and Anderson.

became intense but enjoyable. Both teams played some excellent football which the crowd appreciated.

Hutchison received a second injury when he was taken in a strong tackle by Thomson and again had to have treatment. He was finally taken off after 66 minutes to give Fuschillo a run.

In the last minute a good cross from John Ryan was headed at goal by Busby. It looked like Luton's winner until Burridge twisted himself across the face of the goal to make a super human stop.

MATCH FACTS

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

BLACKPOOL: Burridge, Hatton, Bentley, James, Suddaby, Barton, Hutchison, Suddick, Parker, Ainscow, Burns. Sub: Fuschillo.

REFEREE: Mr B. Gow (Swansea).

SLOUGH (Luton) 3 mins

HUTCHISON (B'pool) 16 min

AINSCOW (B'pool) 21 min

ASTON (Luton) 40 min

Attendance: 12,073

In the 54th minute, Jim Ryan missed a golden opportunity to give Luton the lead again. A high cross from Aston was punched out to Burridge, under pressure by Halom, to the winger who slapped it wide of the empty net.

With both sides probing for another goal, the match