

# OFF TARGET AND JUMPY

LUTON TOWN 1, HULL CITY 2

72/73

**TOWN Manager Harry Haslam is presented with big problems following the Town's disappointing failure at home to Hull City on Saturday.**

This was the fourth consecutive home match without a victory, in the course of which they have dropped five points, and conceded eight goals. It is a record contrasting sharply with their successful performances away from home.

And on all four occasions, costly errors in defence have let opponents off the hook and given them the opportunity to salvage some reward when the Town should have kept the points in the bag.

It was the same story on Saturday, and the subject as to what is going wrong at the back must have featured highly on the agenda of the lengthy inquest conducted in the dressing room by Harry Haslam.

Added to this, the Town are still missing too many chances in front of goal, although admittedly there is

## Town defeat themselves

time the Town defence was at full stretch, and their "old enemy," uncertainty, began to show.

The damage was done in midfield, where Ken Knighton, who is rated up north as the best midfield man in the Second Division, forced the Town men out of the game and started to press home the Hull attacks.

A goal to Hull looked on the cards, but when it came in the 56th minute it was more the result of the Town's disorganisation than Hull's own efforts.

Even so, opportunist **KEN HOUGHTON** must be given credit for taking his chance well. The damage was done by Pearson, who drew Alan Garner over to the left with a good run through, and then pulled the ball back into the space for Houghton to run on to it and bang home first time.

It was **HOUGHTON** who gave Hull their first away victory of the season 20 minutes from time with another well taken goal, but even Terry Neill admitted that he should not have been allowed to score that one.

A long clearance by the Hull goalkeeper, Wealands, seemed to cause all sorts of trouble among the Town defence, who were circling and scampering for position without getting in a tackle

minute with a superb diving header.

Coming in by the near post, he threw himself at a good cross by Jimmy Ryan and headed the ball in through the narrow gap between the helpless Wealands and the post.

Without doubt, Halom is the most consistent in-form player on the Town's books this season, and has more than answered the critics who gave him such a rough time last season.

Playing in midfield, as opposed to his role as leader of the attack last season, he has been the main driving force behind the team. Not only is he the Town's leading scorer with nine goals — two

There was some resolute work in the Hull defence by Kaye, who added to the spurs he had earned with that third-minute goal save, but it looked only a matter of time before the Town would increase their advantage.

It was not until shortly before half-time that there was any real reply from Hull, but they came close to getting on terms in the last minute of the half when Holme headed just over the bar in a snap raid.

There was a pep talk for Hull at half time from their player-manager Terry Neill. He said afterwards: "I thought we were unlucky to be behind at the interval, because we were playing the better football, but something extra was needed. I told the lads to show greater effort in the second half."

Hull responded to his call, because they started to press forward immediately after the interval, and for the first

on Houghton, and he was allowed to bring the ball forward before scoring with a fine drive that gave Barber no chance at all.

The Town fought hard to get back into the game after this, but the shock reverse had obviously taken a lot of the stuffing out of them, and they did not really look like scoring again.

Gordon Hindson, who took over from Fern in midfield, did not have a happy game and was called off 10 minutes from the end, when young Les Harfield, close-season signing from Southampton, came on for his first League appearance in the Town's colours, but there was little time left for him to show his paces.

With only five minutes left, Hull also brought on their substitute, Wilkinson, for their hero of the piece, skipper John Kaye, who limped off with a painful-looking leg injury.



Vic Halom scored his 9th league goal this season.

### LINE-UP

**LUTON TOWN:** Barber; John Ryan, Thomson; Anderson, Garner, Slough; Jimmy Ryan, Hindson (Harfield), Fern, Halom, Aston.

**HULL CITY:** Wealands; Banks, Beardsley; Kaye (Wilkinson), Neill, Knighton; McGill, Houghton, Pearson, Holme, Butler.

Referee: S. J. Kayley, Preston.  
Attendance: 11,560.



● Reserve player **LES HARFIELD** came on as substitute for Fern against Hull City for his first League appearance in the Town colours.

more than he scored all last season as striker — but he tops the Second Division list.

His goal on Saturday put the Town's tails up, and they really pressured the Hull defence for the remainder of the half, with Jimmy Ryan, who had a goal disallowed for offside, Anderson and Fern all testing Wealands to the full.

### Halom's goal

This miss proved to be expensive in the end, but it did not appear so costly early on, because it was cancelled out when **VIC HALOM** put the Town ahead in the 10th