

Haslam smiles as Luton end that home jinx



LUTON MANAGER Harry Haslam was naturally relieved to see the end of the run without a home win for four months. But he had to wait a long time before he could relax as Luton looked anything like breaking down Fourth Division strugglers Crewe.

Haslam ordered his men to all-out attack before the kick-off, but they were shocked to be on the receiving end for the first half. So much were Crewe on top that their manager, Jimmy Melia, said: "We played so well we should have been two goals up at half-time."

● JIMMY RYAN . . . his goal was a big relief for Luton fans.

Gerry Humphreys, in particular, caused a lot of trouble to the home defence.

He was not frightened to have a go and had Luton keeper Keith Barber caught out with a rasping drive, which was just wide of the near post.

Further efforts were to follow from him, and he forced Barber to save again as Luton continued to struggle under heavy pressure.

Luton's attacks were negligible, but they remedied this after the interval when full-backs Bobby Thomson and John Shanks started to push forward.

INTENTION

Crewe, who were obviously intent on a replay, fell into deep defence, but the Luton attack was still not firing on all cylinders.

Steve Litt, their 18-year-old midfield man making his first-team debut, was a little over-eager to get among the goals. His forays up field left his defenders with a big gap to cover.

But, apart from this, he came through well.

Litt was replaced by substitute Gordon Hindson 20 minutes from time after the youngster received a knock on an old knee injury.

Luton did not look at all happy until the 71st minute when they broke the ice with Don Shanks pushing up with the attack, sending a through ball to Jimmy Ryan, who headed home.

The relief was tremendous and

by PETER GILL

Luton 2 Crewe 0

for the first time, Luton played like a Second Division side.

It was no surprise when they put the end to Crewe's hopes six minutes later when Barry Butlin headed home a cross by Alan Slough.

Haslam's summing up of the victory was: "When the first goal came it killed the tension that has been causing all the trouble and they started to play."

LUTON. — Barber; Shanks, Thomson, Slough, Garner, Moore, Ryan (Jim), Litt, Butlin, Ryan (John), Aston, Subo Hindson.

CREWE. — Crudgington; Low, Kelley, Bradshaw, Nicholls, Peat, ley, Nicholl, Humphreys, Riley, Sub: Fairhurst.



Goals that won back Luton's pride



Luton's two goals. Above, Jimmy Ryan heads the first and, below, Barry Butlin scores the second