

DEREK'S DEBUT

GOAL NOT ENOUGH



Number one man — Hales hits his debut goal



Hales and Butlin through but no goal this time



That great feeling — Hales salutes his, and Luton's first goal

NEW BOY Derek Hales smashed home an 11th-minute goal at Kenilworth Road this afternoon. But his joy was short-lived.

For Luton, after losing to bottom-of-the-table Brighton last week, saw their slender lead disappear when lowly Cardiff equalised early in the second half.

It was an important day for Luton, who had to play reserve keeper Willie Carrick following the training accident in which Keith Barber broke a leg. And the Town were also without full-back Don Shanks who had flu.

But Derek Hales, substitute at Brighton last week, made his first full game appearance.

And it was a happy return for Viv Busby, out of action since October following his knee operation, who was substitute.

The Cardiff side was racked with injuries and manager Jimmy Scouler was forced to make a number of changes.

Before the start Harry Haslam was presented with a gallon bottle of whisky after being nominated Bells Second Division manager of the month.

He received his prize in the middle of the pitch helped by comedian director Eric Morecambe.

The match started in bright sunshine and Luton were soon on the attack.

The Cardiff defence was shaky early on and they were thankful that the whistle blew before Hindson thumped a 25-yard drive into the net.

Brilliant

But when Cardiff won their first corner Carrick showed some inexperience when he failed to gather Vincent's flag kick. Fortunately for Luton it shot straight across the face of the goal.

Hales put in some strong running and from one of his characteristic dashes Murray was forced to concede a corner which Irwin did well to fist clear.

In the eighth minute Carrick pulled off a splendid save to keep the scores level when he went full length to palm a strong header from Showers round a post.

Then in the 11th minute

debut boy Derek Hales smashed Luton into the lead.

A fine shot from Aston was brilliantly stopped by Irwin before Cardiff scrambled a corner.

It was chipped into the box by Aston. Hales got a foot to the ball but his first shot hit a post. He had beginner's luck when it bounced straight back to him and he belted it through a crowded goalmouth into the net.

Luton played some well-controlled attacking football.

Slough worked hard up front for Luton and his persistence was rewarded with a header which Irwin held safely.

Scooped

With 20 minutes gone a shot from Butlin beat Irwin and bounced off a post to Hales. But his shot from a yard out somehow went over the bar and he held his head in anguish at missing his second debut goal.

Then it was Cardiff's turn. A free kick came at Carrick out of the sun and Showers was allowed to get a foot to it but he too scooped it over the crossbar from close in.

Luton went off the boil for a few minutes and Cardiff got more into the game with the help of a couple of corners.

But Slough was doing a good job for the Town and dominated the midfield.

A nice bit of football between Hindson and Hales and some good footwork by Butlin gave the centre-forward a chance but his shot lacked power and Irwin got behind it.

With a minute to go to half-time Irwin pulled off another fine save when he turned a fierce drive from Butlin round a post.

HT: Luton 1, Cardiff 0

A corner early in the second half pulled Carrick out of his goal. Kellock had no joy with an appeal for a penalty following a smart tackle by Garner.

But Cardiff equalised five

minutes after half-time when a corner from Vincent was headed down in the goalmouth by McCulloch and steered past a hesitant Carrick by centre-forward Woodruff and a minute later McCulloch burst through himself to fire a left-footer just wide.

Luton found it very difficult to get any urgency back into their game while Cardiff began to do more of the running.

Carrick was forced to make a good diving save at the feet of Woodruff to keep the Welsh at bay.

Spark

Hindson hit back with a nice chip into the box but again it was knocked clear and Jimmy Ryan ended the raid by flapping the ball into the Kenilworth Road terrace.

Two good centres from Hindson and Thomson put some spark back into the Luton attack but Murray beat Butlin in the air to concede a corner which was all too easily cleared.

A back header from Garner might well have given Luton victory but Irwin was on hand to make a good save with just three minutes to go.

And it was the same Luton player who saved Luton's bacon with a timely tackle on McCulloch who had broken clear on his own to chase a good through ball.

It's even going . . .

A goal by Chatterton right on the half-time whistle put Slough Town on level terms in the Amateur Cup quarter final.

Blyth Spartans goalkeeper Varvill pulled off great saves from Reardon and Eaton while O'Sullivan hit the bar. In the 19th minute Blyth took the lead through Allan Young.

ALL THE MATCH DETAILS

LUTON: Carrick; John Ryan, Thomson, Slough, Garner, Moore, Jimmy Ryan, Hales, Butlin, Hindson, Aston. Sub: Busby.

CARDIFF: Irwin; Dwyer, Pethard, Phillips, Murray, Morgan, Kellock, McCulloch, Woodruff, Showers, Vincent. Sub: Rees.

Referee: Mr M. Lowe (Sheffield).

HALES (Luton) 11 mins

WOODRUFF (Cardiff) 50 mins

ATTENDANCE 10,442

VERDICT

By ROGER DUCKWORTH

For 15 minutes the Cardiff defence was as unstable as their league position. Luton cashed in with an 11th minute goal from Derek Hales, playing his first full league game.

But Luton let the Welshmen off the hook and ironically it was Hales who did so.

In the 20th minute he blinded the ball over the crossbar when it would have been easier to score.

Five minutes after half time Woodruff scored after McCulloch headed down a Vincent corner and from then on Luton rarely looked like establishing their superiority.

Cardiff pulled themselves together at the back and Luton were banging their heads against a wall. One of those situations arose when there always looked more blue and yellow Cardiff men than black and white Luton players.

Luton lost their snap in attack and with it the backing of their supporters, who had been so keen to urge them to victory in the first half.

John Moore had a solid game in Luton defence and I am sure Hales is booked for a promising career.

With four minutes left he had the ball in the net a second time but it was quite rightly disallowed for a foul on the goalkeeper.

Alan Slugh had a rip roaring first half and Hindson played some controlled football from midfield. But once they had equalised Cardiff bottled it up at the back and Luton found it impossible to pierce the blanket defence.

Garner did well in Luton's defence and towards the end deprived Cardiff of a shock away win with a perfectly timed tackle on runaway McCulloch.