

CUP TACTICS WIN BY A HEAD

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THE CUNNING head of Town manager Harry Haslam and a golden goal from the head of defender Alan Garner have put Luton into the last eight in the FA Cup.

For after seeing the Town's cool professional display on Saturday, when they became the first team this season to win at Burnden Park, I came away wondering how on earth Haslam had managed to persuade the whole world before the match that Luton had been the under-dogs against Bolton.

Despite their energy and hard running, Bolton had been shown that even if they are nudging the top of the Division III table, Luton's brand of Division II soccer is still, for the time being at least, too good for them.

Town supporters who were unlucky to miss the match might understand its pattern if they can remember the time Arsenal came to Kenilworth Road a couple of years ago, and stole away with a one-goal win after Luton had been their match in every department bar finishing.

That Arsenal side got its goal, and then closed ranks. It made for frustrating soccer from the home side's point of view, but it produced the right result for the visitors.

And that, in Saturday's match at Bolton which was often tough and niggly, was the way the Town ended Bolton's cup dreams.

So the result was great for Luton, and although Bolton fans claimed they were robbed, their manager Jimmy Armfield admitted after the game that Luton had done the right thing—and done it well.



MATCH DETAILS

BOLTON 0, LUTON TOWN 1

Half-time: 0-1

TOWN: Carrick, Shanks, Thomson, Slough, Garner, Moore, Jim Ryan, John Ryan, Butlin, Hindson, Aston. Sub: Busby, not used.

BOLTON: Wright, Ritson, McAllister, Rimmer, Jones, Waldron, Nicholson, Jones, Greaves, Lee, Phillips. Sub: Seddon, not used.

GOAL: Alan Garner, 43 minutes—his first goal for Luton.

REFEREE: David Smith, Gloucester—looked less like Wembley material than either team.

ATTENDANCE: 39,556—third highest of the day.

ENTERTAINMENT: Not as bright as the result, but still good value for money.

Bolton, with one of the youngest sides in the football league, bashed their heads at the brick wall of a defence that the Town threw up in mid-field and Alan Garner's brilliant header, from a John Aston corner, was enough to win the game for the Town just before half time.

Intimidation

Until then, Bolton had always been in with a chance. Their defence tackled hard, to put it mildly. They had apparently appreciated that a lot of danger from the Town would come from wingers Jim Ryan and John Aston.

And some of the early tackling was obviously meant to intimidate them: there were borderline cases in which many other referees might have produced the black book.

Instead, David Smith contented himself with a little chat here and there as players got over-boisterous.

Aston, whose very presence with the ball seemed to throw Bolton's players

and supporters into a frenzy, came in for some harsh treatment and when he eventually snapped back in a nigger with Alan Waldron, he was booked.

But Aston had already had the last laugh, with the corner that brought Luton's

goal, and it also compensated for a seventh-minute incident when Alan Slough was up-ended in the penalty area, but denied the penalty.

Earlier, Aston had headed a "goal" which was disallowed for offside. Bolton had shot their bolt by the time the goal came. Willie Carrick brought off a great save to rob Jones of a goal, and from the corner Don Shanks headed a Lee rocket shot off the line.

Carrick saves

Otherwise the Town tactics kept Bolton outside the 18-yard line, and although Carrick gave us a few heart attacks with weak goal-kicking, he more than atoned with his second-half display.

Two firm catches from high crosses did his confidence the world of good, and another save when he cut out a hard low cross into his crowded goal area was a beauty.

But all round, the game was a teamwork triumph. The back four did a tremendous job, and although Bolton exerted a lot of pressure from midfield, Barry Butlin's skill up front, even when he was on his own, helped to tip the game Luton's way.

And as Town captain Bobby Thompson pointed out after the game: "We're only two games from Wembley now . . ."

● THE GOLDEN GOAL: Alan Garner and Jim Ryan both jumped for the ball, but the defender got up highest. Bolton goalkeeper Charlie Wright wore his cloth cap to try to keep the sun out of his eyes, and later blamed the glare for missing his clearance. Below: that man Garner again, whose presence at set pieces reduced Bolton's defence to panic stations.



● Alan Slough is brought down as he goes through the Bolton defence, but claims for a penalty were turned down.