

HATTERS KO BRAVE BOLTON IN THRILLER

72/73 (FAC)



ALAN GARNER

JOHN ASTON

HATTERS hero Alan Garner headed Luton into the next round of the Cup this afternoon — with his first goal of the season.

The Town, living up to their away record, went ahead just before half time. And they clinched their first Sixth Round appearance in the FA Cup for 14 years.

But Bolton, bucking for promotion in the Third Division, battled bravely before the final whistle ended their Wembley hopes.

Thousands of fans queued for an hour and a half before the start outside Burnden Park.

Bolton 0 Luton 1
By ROGER DUCKWORTH

Inside the ground the biggest crowd since Manchester City's league cup visit last season basked in beautiful sunshine.

Luton, of course, had Willie Carrick in goal, in spite of splashing out some £20,000 on Graham Horn this week.

His predecessor Keith Barber, his broken leg in plaster, sat in the stand with last week's debut boy Derek Hales.

Don Shanks returned at right-back with John Ryan back in the midfield. But Viv Busby, on the verge of a return to first team action had to settle for the No 12 shirt.

Bolton centre-forward Roy Greaves won a battle for fitness after a stringent test this morning so Ian Seddon had to be content with the substitute's track suit.

There was trouble in the cover stand behind one of the goals before the start but police moved in swiftly to quieten the fans.

And the bother was soon forgotten when Luton came out first in their new tangerine strip to take a bow from the centre circle.

The big Luton following gave them a great roar but it was disappointing to see the Hatters' fans throwing toilet rolls at Bolton keeper Charlie Wright before the start.

Yesterday's snow left the pitch slippery and within

seconds of Bolton kicking off it was obvious the players were going to have trouble keeping their feet.

The match started at a terrific pace, however.

Bolton won the first corner, but Jimmy Ryan was in smartly to hook the ball clear.

The first real shot came from Luton. Jim Ryan ran the ball clear and sent Aston away on the left. Aston slipped the ball inside, Hindson stepped over it and John Ryan's shot from outside the box flashed a couple of yards wide.

In the fifth minute Aston had the ball in the net but he was ruled off-side.

Full back McAllister was warned after a bad trip on Jim Ryan who took a knock on his ankle. And he was injured again in a collision with Rimmer as Bolton, under pressure from Aston, pushed the ball clear.

Then it was the Town under pressure as Bolton attacked enthusiastically from the right wing. But the two corners they won were hacked clear.

And from a free kick for a foul on Waldron by Moore the ball was pushed by Greaves to McAllister who flashed a left-footer just wide of the post.

Collision

Then Butlin was hurt after colliding with the Bolton goalkeeper and it was some time before he was able to continue.

Luton worked their way back into the game and Aston did well to cross the ball from the left, only to see John Ryan completely miss his kick from the edge of the box.

The referee stopped the match temporarily and spoke to Bolton manager Jimmy Armfield after more trouble among the fans.

Several policemen were called in and a number of youths evicted.

It was impossible to know whose fans they were because both teams usually play in black and white.

In the 25th minute Don Shanks saved the day for Luton when he leapt high on the goal line to head away a deflected shot from Greaves. It was a magnificent piece of anticipation.

A well-won corner quickly taken by Thomson produced a flashing centre from Hindson but Wright made a diving save to Butlin's header.

Bolton did most of the

attacking in the first half hour but when Luton were awarded a free kick for a foul on Aston by McAllister, Hindson thumped it over the crossbar.

There was a flange-up between the normally placid Aston and Nicholson. It started with a bit of shirt

MATCH DETAILS

BOLTON: Wright, Ritson, McAllister, Rimmer, Jones (P), Waldron, Nicholson, Jones (G), Greaves, Lee, Phillips.
Sub: Seddon.

LUTON: Carrick, Shanks, Thomson, Slough, Garner, Moore, Jim Ryan, John Ryan, Butlin, Hindson, Aston. **Sub:** Busby.

Referee: Mr D. Smith (Stonehouse).

GARNER (Luton)
in the 43rd minute
ATTENDANCE 39,556

pulling and developed into a wrestling match before the referee and Luton skipper Bobby Thomson broke it up.

No one was booked however.

Then a good ball through the middle could well have brought Bolton a goal but Thomson swept across the penalty box to clear the ball from the on-rushing Greaves.

Some good work by Jim Ryan and a half-blocked shot by Slough produced a corner for the Hatters.

It was taken from the right hand flag by Aston and suddenly it was Bolton's turn to defend desperately.

Luton won a second corner and from this, again taken by Aston, Garner headed them into a one goal lead.

Immediately after Luton went ahead, Carrick was in all sorts of trouble after leaving his line.

HT: Bolton 0 Luton Town 1

The two sides sparred for opening encounters in the second-half, and Carrick was in action again when he ran out of his goal to save the day after a free-kick by McAllister.

Another Bolton free-kick was pushed across the Luton goal by Greaves but there was no one there to turn it into the net.

Scrambled

Luton survived and began to build an attack from the right. Jimmy Ryan won a corner which was again taken by Aston and Butlin's header was scrambled clear.

Shanks very nearly got Luton's second goal with the best shot of the match. From a good 30 yards he brought a good save out of Wright who just managed to finger the ball over the crossbar.

And then another good long ball into the goalmouth from Jimmy Ryan was caught by Wright.

Back came Bolton and a volley from Greaves went over the top.

Another left wing corner by Bolton caused the Town some problems but Butlin had dropped back into defence and he headed crisply clear.

In a single incident McAllister and Greaves went down injured after tackles from Moore and Shanks.

McAllister looked in some trouble as he had treatment and the referee awarded Bolton a free kick a couple of paces outside the 18 yard line.

The free kick was hit at goal by Greaves but deflected wide off one of his own players and Luton were grateful to clear by way of a twice taken goal kick.

In the 68th minute Aston was booked for an attempted trip on Waldron.

Luton very nearly went further ahead, again from an Aston Corner, in the 73rd minute. The flag-kick was headed towards his own goal by Nicholson and Waldron had to head clear off the line.

VERDICT

By ROGER DUCKWORTH

THEY booed John Aston all afternoon and eventually niggled the Luton winger into a second half booking.

But in the 43rd minute Aston floated over the corner from which Garner headed Luton into the sixth round of the FA Cup for the first time since they reached Wembley in 1959.

Apparently Aston's only crime was that he used to play for Manchester United. And down the road at Bolton they don't think much of the Old Trafford club.

This was a rip-roaring cup tie in which the excitement never waned. Today there was no difference in divisions between the two sides. They were both cup fighters.

Bolton, in fact, did most

of the attacking but the Luton defence was in fine form and the Town always looked the more controlled side.

In goal Carrick looked a bit stretched at times as he dealt with high crosses. But late in the second half he made an opportune save at the feet of Lee to keep Luton ahead.

The Luton back four of Shanks, Garner, Moore and Thomson will never have a harder afternoon. Shanks and Thomson, particularly, produced superb displays.

Luton kept their wingers wide and whenever either escaped it was a signal for goalmouth thrills.

Throughout the match oozed tension and this was not even relieved by Luton's goal which only served to make Third Division Bolton all the more determined to reply.