

SECOND HALF BLITZ SINKS LUTON



Peter Anderson, back in the Luton side, gets in a tussle with a City defender

VERDICT

By **ROGER DUCKWORTH**

AFTER going in for their cup of tea a goal to the good, Luton crumbled to their fifth home defeat of the season.

In the end it was the defence that was at fault but it was a punchless attack that started it all.

Even Luton's goal was a scrambled effort from centre-half Garner. And why Hales was not sent on earlier, I'll never know.

It looked clear that the present attack was not going to do anything and to send a reserve centre-forward on for 12 minutes is no good at all.

Apart from two exciting runs Busby had little to offer and Aston faded in the second half.

Hindson provided some neat touches and twice he might have scored if he had been given the ball when he stood unmarked in front of goal.

Full marks to Bristol for their second half fight back. Gow nudged in their equaliser following a corner and then young Gillies playing only his fourth game for City screamed in a second from the corner of the box.

Whether Horn should have stopped this or not is debatable.

The third came when Fear beat a hesitant off-side trap and went through to beat Horn with a low shot.

And with four minutes left, Gould should have scored another. But he missed the ball on the line.

This was a poor display from Luton who from now on can hardly moan at the size of the attendances at home matches. There is not much left to fight for.

LUTON will want to forget the second half of this game as quickly as possible — for it brought them nothing but trouble after they had fought hard to secure a first-half lead.

It was Alan Garner who put the Town ahead after 34 minutes and they held on to this lead until the interval.

But then Bristol City came storming back with a three goal blitz that knocked Luton sideways.

Gow equalised after just two minutes of the second half. His goal was followed by another from Gillies a few minutes later. Fear put City 3-1 up in the 68th minute.

The Town were really back on bread and skilly this afternoon. After their sixth round FA Cup tie last week which attracted 54,000 at Sunderland, they turned out this afternoon in front of gaping terraces.

And it was understandable. Luton can no longer be considered promotion hopefuls and they are left in a vacuum of anti-climax following the cup tie.

And the team that came out bore little resemblance to the one manager Harry Haslam hinted at yesterday.

For some reason Jimmy Ryan was missing and Rod Fern, who was first said to be having the weekend off to see his new baby and then said to be substitute, turned up on the right wing.

John Moore had beaten a back injury and turned out. Derek Hales, who was not originally in the squad, turned up as substitute.

Slippery

Luton obviously had something to prove to their fans and they started strongly with Aston knocked over from the right. It bounced in front of Garner who smashed it into the net with the help of a deflection off the foot of Moore who was near the goal line.

Garner received all the congratulations, and quite rightly. But John Moore got the laughs as he ran back gesticulating that the goal was his.

Cheerful

A minute later Aston was unlucky not to make it two when his terrific shot hit the foot of a post and bounded straight out.

And a Thomson cross almost brought an own goal from Drysdale who turned it behind for Luton's seventh corner.

**Luton 1
Bristol City 3**
By **ROGER DUCKWORTH**



This morning's rain had left the pitch slippery and both sides found some difficulty in keeping their feet.

City's young centre forward Gillies made a good break on the right to win two quick corners but Luton cleared both quite easily.

A delightful left-footed cross into the box by Hindson might have had a better reception. But both Aston and Busby allowed the defence to clear without much of a challenge.

There was not a great deal to cheer in the early stages but a good ball from John Ryan in midfield sent Fern on a left wing run and Busby was fouled just outside the box.

Hindson hammered the free kick past the wall and Cashley could only palm it out. But the Luton forwards were not quick enough to nip in and make anything of the situation.

At the other end Horn dealt competently with a hard shot from Fear which he caught against his chest.

The Luton crowd became restive but their team, it seemed, could do little about it.

There was a moment of interest when Rodgers mis-

kicked as he tried to clear an Aston centre, but Cashley was quickly in to save at the feet of Hindson.

After Horn had fisted a left wing centre clear, Garner did well to block a shot from Gould who was in a good position.

The Luton crowd was quick to appreciate a smart ball from Hindson which produced a shot from Aston. Again Cashley could only block it, but Hindson could do nothing with the rebound.

Another left wing run by Aston produced a high cross. But Anderson was forced to head the ball away from him and though he recovered quickly, the ball went out of play.

A good run by Hindson, who recovered from a slip half way through, produced a through ball for Aston. The Town winger turned quickly as he entered the box, but the ball bounded too far ahead for him to get in a shot.

In the 28th minute Bristol almost went ahead. A long ball from the left was met in mid air by the diving Gould and his effort was just misdirected.

Another good move by Hindson gave Aston possession on the left. The winger banged in a hard first-timer and Collier was a bit lucky to get a foot to the ball to divert it behind for a corner.

The second half had barely got into its stride before Bristol equalised.

And what a soft goal it was. John Moore conceded a corner which Fear took from the right at the Oak Road end. It was headed on by centre-half Rodgers and Gerry Gow went in low among the feet to scoop the ball into the net.

A couple of minutes later Aston might have put Luton back ahead when he chased a through ball from Thomson and fired in a hard shot which Cashley did well to turn wide as he fell backwards.

Luton were in real trouble a couple of minutes later. Gillies went wide on the right and smashed a hopeful shot at goal. It sped past Horn and dipped under the bar to give City the lead.

Busby put in Luton's most exciting run of the match. He cut in from the left and beat two strong challenges at full speed. But he tried to go round Cashley and came to grief.

It is easy to understand why he carried on but Hindson was waiting in the goalmouth and could surely have made more of the chance.

City might have had a third in the 61st minute when Ritchie put over another fine centre for Fear. But the right winger headed feebly and Horn was allowed time to dive behind the ball.

Hales eventually took the field with something less than 12 minutes to go. He went on at the expense of Fern and the crowd expressed its dislike.

In the dying embers both sides could have had another goal. Gould missed the ball from right in front for Bristol and a header from Busby skidded past a post following an Aston corner.



Anderson again — but City keeper Cashley is well supported by his defence

MATCH DETAILS

LUTON TOWN: Horn, Shanks, Thomson, John Ryan, Garner, Moore, Fern, Anderson, Busby, Hindson, Aston. Sub: Hales.

BRISTOL CITY: Cashley, Sweeney, Drysdale, Emanuel, Rodgers, Collier, Fear, Ritchie, Gillies, Gow, Gould. Sub: Woods.

Referee: Mr J. Wrennell (Chorley)

GARNER (Luton Town) 34 minutes

GOW (Bristol City) 47 minutes

GILLIES (Bristol City) 55 minutes

FEAR (Bristol City) 68 minutes

Luton eventually went ahead in the 34th minute. Busby won a corner which Aston knocked over from the right. It bounced in front of Garner who smashed it into the net with the help of a deflection off the foot of Moore who was near the goal line.

Garner received all the congratulations, and quite rightly. But John Moore got the laughs as he ran back gesticulating that the goal was his.

A minute later Aston was unlucky not to make it two when his terrific shot hit the foot of a post and bounded straight out.

And a Thomson cross almost brought an own goal from Drysdale who turned it behind for Luton's seventh corner.

A good run by Gould gave him the chance of a shot and he had beaten the advancing Horn, but Moore was right on hand to shunt the ball behind for a corner.

Horn caught a sneaky header from Ritchie following a corner and from his throw, John Ryan broke quickly in a 50 yard dash.

Ryan did well to feed the ball inside to Aston but the winger, not for the first time, decided to go it alone rather than give the unmarked Hindson the chance of a shot. Aston's effort lacked conviction, for which Cashley was very pleased.

A good centre from Aston, which was cleared, and some good running from Busby and John Ryan put some pep into the game and the Luton crowd ended the first half on a cheerful note.

HT: Luton 1, Bristol City 0