

HERO FINNEY SAVES THE HATTERS



High-flying Luton striker Barry Butlin leaps for another unsuccessful goal attempt

WHAT A thriller . . . Tom Finney saved the day for Luton with a 75th minute equaliser at Kenilworth Road this afternoon.

Big spenders Portsmouth went ahead after 17 minutes. Then two goals in two minutes put Luton one up. Pompey equalised — and went ahead. Then the fans went wild when Finney made it 3-3.

Saddest man of the day was Alan Garner. He was cheered for a fine goal — then he gave away a penalty — and Pompey's second goal.

Luton's newest star Tom Finney was quickly into action and in the first minute sent Jimmy Ryan clear with a delightful pass. Butlin just missed the cross.

Aston chased the ball and was fouled. From Thomson's free kick Finney went close.

A minute later Butlin should have scored when he collected a bad goalkick from Tilsed. But he rolled the ball wide with only the keeper to beat.

Finney looked dangerous in the box and after going close he was stationed right on the goal line after Butlin robbed Tilsed. But the centre-forward's cross smashed into the side netting.

At the other end Horn produced a fine save to block Hiron's long shot.

Then a lovely ball from Aston was well controlled by Finney who gave Jim Ryan a chance with a pass to the near post. But his shot was saved.

**Luton 3
Portsmouth 3
By ROGER
DUCKWORTH**

Then with Faulkner running about with one boot in his hand, after a clearance, Lewis fired a shot over the top. Even the referee had to laugh when the Oak Road crowd held on to the ball until Faulkner was ready to continue.

In spite of the earlier excitement in the Portsmouth goalmouth, it was the Hampshire side which took the lead in the 17th minute.

Marinello's corner kick was touched on by Wilson to Kellard who pushed the ball through a crowd of players from the edge of the box.

MATCH DETAILS

LUTON TOWN: Horn, Shanks, Thomson, Anderson, Faulkner, Garner, Jimmy Ryan, John Ryan, Butlin, Finney, Aston. Sub: Cruse.

PORTSMOUTH: Tilsed, Roberts, Wilson, Piper, Stephenson, Hand, Marinello, Kellard, Davies, Lewis, Hiron. Sub: Reynolds.

Attendance: 11,552

KELLARD (Portsmouth) 17 mins

THOMSON (Luton) 33 mins

GARNER (Luton) 35 mins

LEWIS (pen) (Portsmouth) 57 mins

DAVIES (Portsmouth) 63 mins

FINNEY (Luton) 75 mins

Duckworth's verdict

With an appreciative crowd roaring them on Luton rallied late in this Kenilworth Road thriller.

Both thrills and goals came thick and fast and I don't think a soul left before the final whistle. It was great stuff.

Luton who have accumulated the scoring habit in recent matches found themselves behind after just 17 minutes against expensive Pompey. That came when Kellard

scored from a Marinello corner.

But already Luton had promised goals with near misses from Finney and Butlin.

Then Luton went ahead, Thomson slammed in a spectacular goal and Garner added a second by heading in a corner.

Following a senseless handling offence by Garner Lewis equalised from the penalty spot and the game see-sawed yet again when Davies



headed Pompey's third.

But Luton's goal scoring find from Ireland, Tom Finney, put it all square again in the 75th minute with a fine goal.

Thomson and Faulkner were outstanding in Luton's defence while Jimmy Ryan was their best forward.

In the 24th minute Portsmouth got a free-kick on the 18-yard line. The ball was lobbed over the defence by Piper and Horn made a spectacular diving catch.

Five minutes later Luton might have gone further behind when Piper's cross was almost caught by Davies before going out of play.

Lenient

Three thirty came and went without any explosion but in the 33rd minute Thomson blasted Luton back into the game with a fine goal. The ball was won in the air by Garner and it bounced clear to the Luton skipper who crashed it into the net with his left foot.

The goal caused some tension on the field and wingers Jimmy Ryan and Marinello were involved in an incident which had to be sorted out by players and the referee.

Mr Hall did not bother to produce his book. From the free kick, which went to Luton, the Hatters won a corner. Aston pushed over an inswinger and Garner, standing right on the line, headed past Tilsed.

A minute later the referee was again lenient when he let Portsmouth go away with the ball after a blatant piece of shirt pulling by Hand on Butlin.

Luton really began to turn it on again and a long cross from Thomson brought Aston another corner on the right and this was banged clear by Wilson.

Marinello burst through the middle but Garner did well to block his shot.

HT: Luton 2 Portsmouth 1

The first corner of the second half was won by Portsmouth, but it was wasted by Marinello. Then Butlin and Anderson fought their way through but a rather sharp back pass to Finney fooled the Irishman.

Hiron looked disgusted when Jimmy Ryan went flying under his body check but the Luton winger had to have some treatment for a knock in the face and he looked to be in some trouble — in spite of Hiron's protest that he was mucking about.

But from the free kick, pushed to Jimmy Ryan by Thomson, the winger lobbed the ball into the crowd.

Davies put the ball into the net after beating Horn in the

duced half-chance for Faulkner but yet again the effort went just over the top.

Tackle

After taking a couple of heavy tackles Jimmy Ryan again managed to get the ball across into the Pompey goalmouth but an overhead kick by Finney went wide.

Then Jimmy Ryan sent Aston away on the left and he cut inside to shoot but the ball went straight at Tilsed.

But the miss was costly for Luton when Portsmouth ran clear to take the lead. Marinello pushed the ball out to Piper on the right he crossed and Davies headed past Horn.

Two scrambled efforts by Finney and Aston and a shot from Shanks failed to put Luton back on terms.

Keeper Tilsed and full-back Roberts had to have treatment by both trainers for arm injuries.

A good run by Anderson gave Finney possession to the

left of the box but his shot was five yards wide.

Luton equalised when Finney darted in to smash a pass from Butlin into the goal following some good work by Jim Ryan.

Then Aston just failed to get to the ball following an Anderson Butlin move.

air but the referee was right on the spot and ruled that the Luton keeper had been fouled.

Luton were striving to deliver the killer punch but after some good work by Aston the Luton winger shot over the top.

In the 56th minute Garner needlessly handled the ball in the box and the referee awarded Pompey a penalty. It was taken by former Luton man Lewis who scored inside the left hand post, despite a fine effort by Horn.

A minute later Stephenson was booked for a bad tackle on Jimmy Ryan.

Then a fine dribble and cross by Jimmy Ryan pro-