

BRAVE BARBER CAN'T HOLD THE ORIENT

The
Duckworth
verdict...

TWO goals in 15 minutes dashed the Hatters' hopes at Brisbane Road this afternoon.

Orient's Gerry Queen scored after 67 minutes. Then in the 82nd minute Barrie Fairbrother made sure of victory with a fine header.

Goal-hungry Orient, just two points behind Luton had been kept at bay by the Hatters — thanks to some fine work from substitute goalkeeper Keith Barber, standing in for the injured Graham Horn.

Making his debut for Luton was record-signing Alan West, who signed for £80,000 from Burnley on Thursday. He came into the side at No10 and young Peter Cruse was left out of the first 11 and given the job of substitute.

There was a late shock for Luton when goalkeeper Graham Horn had to drop out at the last minute. He explained just before the kick-off: "I hurt a shoulder late in the match at Grimsby and I failed a fitness test yesterday afternoon."

Keith Barber stepped in to take over the position he lost after the first match of the season.

Jimmy Ryan, who injured his neck against Swindon last week, returned. Gordon Hindson was left out.

Orient had new goalkeeper John Jackson from Crystal Palace in the side. He replaced old servant Ray Goddard.

With Luton and their London rivals pushing and jostling each other in the top places of the Second Division, a large crowd was expected for today's match.

But when the teams ran out there were still huge gaps on the terraces.

Two fouls were given against Orient in the very first minute. The first was obstruction on Butlin and the second a push on Jim Ryan by Downing.

Shanks' free kick from the second passed across the penalty area unchallenged. But from Aston's throw, West got his first touch and showed

**Orient 2
Luton 0**
**By ROGER
DUCKWORTH**

some delicate footwork to get in a shot that was blocked.

The match was televised by ATV for transmission tomorrow afternoon.

But the first shot came from Orient skipper Allen, who was wide with a low effort after Queen had pushed the ball back from the penalty box.

After five minutes the attendance picked up and looked a lot healthier.

From a Shanks free kick Anderson jumped well to nod the ball into the goalmouth. But John Ryan could not get there soon enough and was unable to turn the ball into the net.

The action flicked back to the other end and Barber made two good saves — one a dive among the feet and the second a flying fist-out.

Splendid

Orient might have had a goal when full-back Payne answered Queen's call for the ball with a splendid centre which was headed wide.

Then Barber made a superb flying save to a header from



Bullock following a good left-footed free kick from Walley.

John Ryan recovered quickly from a defensive mistake and conceded a corner which was again well fielded by Barber.

West again looked a good player when he went off on his own on the left but Aston could not make enough ground to get on the end of his cross.

There was another good save from Barber who dived smartly to collect a low shot from Downing.

And Faulkner did well with two headed clearances after a rare mistake by Thomson.

In the 21st minute a delightful ball out of defence by Jimmy Ryan should have given Butlin the first goal of the match.

But after winning the race into the penalty box he stopped to take aim instead of hitting the ball on the run. He was robbed by Hoadley.

Troubled

Another Walley free kick troubled the Luton defence and Barber made another diving stop after Fairbrother got in a low header.

In the 26th minute Luton almost caught Orient napping when Garner nipped through to get in a low shot which was scrambled off the line by Heppolette.

Luton were obviously going to be happy with a draw and for most of the time they played only two men up front — Butlin and Aston. Even so, Orient continued to look the more dangerous when moving forward.

And in the 35th minute

Barber saved Luton again with his best effort of the match. Hewentfulllengthtohislefttoprevent a fierce shot from Fairbrother sneaking inside the right hand post. And Thomson was in smartly to hack the ball away for a corner.

Brave

Six minutes before half-time the Luton goal had a rare escape. John Ryan put it in danger when his intended pass back to his goalkeeper went yards adrift for a corner. The cross found Bullock who powered a header against the left hand post. With Queen charging in to finish it off, Shanks made a brave diving header to shunt the ball out of his path.

Moments later Aston got in another cross but John Ryan's intended left-footed volley ended up with the ball screwing off the outside of his boot and a good chance was gone.

Then West decided on a long shot which bounced awkwardly in front of the diving Jackson and the ball went for a corner. From this Anderson had a header nodded away from under the bar.

HT: Orient 0 Luton Town 0

Then there was a fantastic incident. The Luton goalmouth looked like a battlefield of hacking feet as Orient tried to force the ball over the line.

Fairbrother, Heppolette and Queen all went close but it was the bravery of Barber that kept Luton in the game.

He made two tremendous saves at the feet of forwards and then palmed one effort on to the post before being awarded a free kick.

Some good football by Luton ended with a throw on the left which Garner hurled into the goalmouth. Butlin's first attempt to nod it on failed but he got a second bite and from his cross, West almost screwed the ball home.

Then Barber missed a right-wing corner which was fortunately headed behind for another flag kick by Faulkner.

Barber again did well for Luton after Bullock had turned quickly past John Ryan and banged in a first timer which the Town goalkeeper did well to get behind.

But he was finally beaten in a minute later by a fine low shot from Queen. One effort had been blocked and the ball found its way back to the former Palace man who hit it hard and low from the middle of a crowd of players near the edge of the box.

Fairbrother clinched the victory for the Londoners eight minutes from the end when he headed in a fine cross from Walley.

MATCH DETAILS

ORIENT: Jackson, Payne, Downing, Allen, Hoadley, Walley, Fairbrother, Brisley, Bullock, Queen, Heppolette. Sub: Harris.

LUTON: Barber, Shanks, Thomson, Anderson, Faulkner, Garner, Jim Ryan, John Ryan, Butlin, West, Aston. Sub: Cruse.

REFEREE: Mr R. Challis (Tonbridge, Kent).

Queen in the 67 minute

FAIRBROTHER (82 minutes)

Attendance: 11,135



Luton's Garner makes a desperate lunge in an attempt to clear from Downing