

Penalty 'prize for the Orient

By Alan Smith

ORIENT 2, LUTON 0

IT'S NOT so very long since they were collecting cash in a bucket to keep Orient alive. But now the remarkable switchback this club rides is tossing them back towards the skies.

A splendid game, the right result—even though we had to wait for it—and Orient looked a team on the brink of breaking through.

They even had the moment of luck all good sides need when, near half-time, referee Challis didn't see Brisley punch the ball in the penalty area.

Luton boss Harry Haslam, who kept his side locked in their dressing room for an hour-long inquest, chuckled afterwards: "Of course it was a penalty. Everyone knew that except the ref."

PRESSURE

Downing confirmed: "I'll never know how the ref missed it."

All the same, I'll chip in to watch this splendid team any time.

They pressurised Luton until they broke them with two splendid goals that even the excellent Barber could not defy.

Queen scored the first from the edge of the box after Heppolette and Brisley set it up.

The second was better. Walley broke from halfway, Queen held his return pass until it seemed too late, then Fairbrother headed in Walley's final centre on the near post.

Downing said: "We were a bit lucky there, because Gerry's pass hit one of their blokes and only just got through."

ORIENT: Jackson 5—Payne 6, Hoadley 6, Walley 7, Downing 7—*ALLEN 8, Brisley 5, Heppolette 5—Fairbrother 6, Bullock 6, Queen 6.

LUTON: Barber 7—Shanks 5, *FAULKNER 8, Garner 7, Thomson 5—Ryan (Jim) 6, Ryan (John) 6, Anderson 5, West 5—Butlin 5, Aston 6.

Ref.: R. Challis (Tonbridge) 6.