

TOWN ALL AT SEA AS LIGHTS GO OUT AT POMPEY

THIS sorry match came to a dramatic halt in the 71st minute when the generator-powered floodlights, which had flickered throughout the second half, finally failed. A nearly finish would have been a blessing to all concerned.

Luton were unchanged from the side that beat Port Vale in the cup on Wednesday.

Peter Anderson, the Town's leading goalscorer, continued at centre-forward, with Tom Finney helping him out up front. And again Don Shanks, right-back until the turn of the year, was given a mid-field role with John Ryan playing in the defence.

Manager Harry Haslam gave Shanks a pre-match brief to mark tightly the clever Norman Piper, the England under-23 midfielder man, who passed a fitness test for a hamstring injury yesterday.

Former Luton forward Brian Lewis, who now plays in midfield for Pompey, was substitute.

At centre-forward they had Welsh international striker Ron Davies, who also used to play for Luton, and on the right-wing was former Arsenal misfit Peter Marinello.

Return

For Luton goalkeeper Graham Horn it was a return to base. The big keeper was on loan at Portsmouth when Luton bought him somewhat suddenly from Arsenal last season.

In spite of the weekend's gales and torrential rain, the Portsmouth pitch looked in amazingly good condition.

Goalkeeper Horn got an early feel of the ball when full-back Collins banged over a hopeful cross which went straight to the Luton keeper.

Then a high cross from Pompey's other full-back Roberts caused Horn a little bit more trouble. He caught it under the crossbar but

Portsmouth 0

Luton 0

By ROGER

DUCKWORTH



The first serious shot of the match came from the best of the two strikers, as Peter Anderson took the ball on his left foot and hit a low shot which Horn went full length to tip round. But the Luton defence was well up to the corner and cleared quickly.

From the clearance, Finney went through cleverly and was unlucky when the ball bobbled as he hit it and it went well wide.

Mr Kirkpatrick kept the laughs going with some clever back-heeling to dictate the position of dead-ball situations.

When Pompey were awarded a free-kick, it was hit into the goalmouth by Roberts, but

well to knock the Irishman's first-footed ball clear personally, he ran into trouble and Thomson was forced to foul Marinello on the edge of the box. From the free kick Manley was yards wide with his left foot.

Then John Ryan won the applause of the Portsmouth crowd after beating Reynolds in a long chase back and turning cleverly to clear. But

VERDICT

This afternoon Luton were again victims of the generator game. In the 71st minute the Fratton Park floodlights flickered out and referee Roger Kirkpatrick sent the players to the dressing room.

to give the game a 3pm kick-off. Just why this match could not have started at 2pm like the majority of the rest of today's League games, I don't know.

But before the lights went out, both sides had enjoyed periods of control and Luton can consider themselves downright unlucky to be plunged in the dark.

For although they weren't at their best, they were just about getting on top.

A breakaway run by Aston was turned from



PETER ANDERSON
... felled this time

the tall Faulkner stepped in quickly to head clear.



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