

RYAN'S DOUBLE IS TOWN'S FACESAVER

The Duckworth verdict...

WE'LL give both sides the benefit of the doubt and say that it was the pitch that caused such a poor display of football.

It was like a farmer's field through the middle. But Forest were poor and Luton were worse.

You wouldn't think the Town were pushing to get into the First Division. This afternoon they had the greatest difficulty in putting two passes together.

In fact, Forest, pushing them for the third promotion spot, looked the more determined and ambitious side.

Signal

They seemed to have more idea than the Town who got bogged down in midfield and lacked bite in attack. For a moment it looked as if things might improve when substitute Butlin went on for Finney but it didn't.

Leading goal scorer McKenzie put Forest ahead with a classy overhead kick in the 12th minute. Right from the restart Jimmy Ryan equalised. And it looked as if that would be the way it stayed.

But in the 72nd minute the Town stood watching while Richardson scored the second. And with five minutes to go centre-forward Martin very nearly got a third.

But Luton's face was saved when two-goal Ryan thrashed in an injury-time penalty for hands by Cottam. Luton will never be so lucky.

A CLIFFHANGER penalty from Jimmy Ryan could not win Luton the match against Nottingham Forest this afternoon... but it did save some face.

Ryan scored the Town's first goal in the 13th minute — just after Forest opened their account through McKenzie.

But Jimmy's double could only give one point to the home team after Forest's Richardson sent home a fine low shot in the 72nd minute.

What a wonderful day it was for a football match. Bright sunshine and a blue sky welcomed the players on to a pitch that had dried amazingly well following the quagmire of earlier in the week.

And what a day it was for 19-year-old Steve Litt, who made his league debut for Luton at centre-half.

Litt came into the Luton side in place of John Faulkner who got a heavy kick on an ankle at Portsmouth last week.

The inexperience of Litt showed in the first minute when he allowed a high cross from the right to go across the Luton goalmouth untended. But Garner was quick to cover him and pass on a few words of advice.

First shot of the match came from Lyall who tested Horn with a hard left-footer. The Luton keeper sprang spectacularly to his left and caught the ball in midair.

But Litt was given confidence a couple of minutes later when he went high above Martin to head clear decisively.

Forest had a fair following at the match and the travellers from the Midlands were not too happy with a tackle by Finney on their centre-half

Luton 2
Nottm Forest 2
By ROGER DUCKWORTH

Cottam which ripped a huge hole in the Forest man's sock. Referee Jack Taylor was not very impressed either and had a quiet word with the Luton forward.

There was early shakiness in the Town's defence and both McKenzie and Bowyer were allowed in for free shots at the Luton goal.

Leading marksman McKenzie then carved Luton up on the left, and there was some indecision between John Ryan and Finney before the ball was knocked clear.

Then a Lyall free kick from near the left-hand corner flag turned the Town defence inside out. Goalkeeper Horn was bundled off the ball, but with Martin nipping in for what should have been a goal,

Luton Town: Horn, John Ryan, Thomson, Shanks, Litt, Garner, Jimmy Ryan, Finney, Anderson, West, Aston. Sub: Butlin.

Nottingham Forest: Barron, O'Kane, Winfield, Chapman, Cottam, Richardson, McKenzie, Lyall, Martin, Jackson, Bowyer. Sub: Sorella. Attendance: 11,888

Referee: Mr J. Taylor (Wolverhampton).
McKenzie (Nottingham Forest) 12th minute
Jim Ryan (Luton Town) 13th minute 90 mins (pen)
RICHARDSON 72nd min. (Notts Forest)

Horn recovered and took the ball off the Forest man's foot.

In fact it took Forest just 12 minutes to go ahead. A long throw from Lyall on the left was headed into the Luton goalmouth and McKenzie scored with a perfectly executed overhead kick from about six yards.

But straight from the kick-off Luton equalised. A mistake by Winfield on the edge of the box was quickly spotted by Jimmy Ryan and he darted in to shoot first time past Barron.

But the Luton defence was still in a real mess. And it looked even worse when John Ryan, Shanks and Litt all let McKenzie squirm past them from the left. Luckily for



Great stuff, Jim. Alan West (left) runs in to congratulate goalscorer Ryan (7) Picture TERRY RICHARDS

times as the Forest forwards again began to threaten.

HT: 1-1

Luton were still having trouble when it came to cohesion, and passes from both West and Thomson ended up in no man's land in the middle of the Forest half.

After Garner had been penalised for pulling McKenzie by the shirt, Forest nearly went ahead again. Lyall's free-kick was nudged on by Martin's knee, and Horn did well to get across his goal in time to catch it.

At the other end a determined run by Anderson came to nothing, and one felt that Luton might have done better to use the wings more where the going was firmer.

Both sides were having trouble in the middle of the field. The pitch was extremely heavy.

There was a bit of a tussle between Aston and Jackson, both of whom were on the ground and Mr Taylor awarded the free-kick, from just inside Luton's half, to Forest. Full-back O'Kane thumped it into the middle, but Litt headed clear.

West chased a long cross from Jim Ryan with a deal of energy and won a corner off Lyall. The flag kick from Aston on the right was an inswinger, and after West had got in a shot, he went flying following a tackle.

But the referee would have nothing to do with Luton's appeal for a penalty. He indicated in no uncertain terms that he felt West had dived.

Quarter of an hour in the second half heralded the first appearance of a trainer. The Forest man had to go on to attend to Jackson.

Centres from the right by John Ryan and Shanks were both challenged by Aston, but



Jimmy Ryan sneaks a yard off a Forest defender and puts Luton level

THE FASTEST GUN IN LUTON

AUTO CARE (Luton)

Unit 15, Lye Trading Estate
137-141 Old Bedford Road, Luton
Tel: Luton 413217

We will kill your car problems... FAST. No matter what your trouble is. We specialise in engine repairs and servicing. Engine and body conversions. Spraying. Insurance claims, etc. In fact anything to do with cars. We collect, deliver and estimate FREE!

YOUR BENEFIT

AUTO CARE

UNIVERSITY

Under the agreement with GRA made last year, the club would receive in the region of £70,000 — ten years' rent in advance.

Terms to insist on better

Cameras + Audio

No 1 Arcade Centre
Luton Tel: 30378

TOPSHOP 73 WINNER