

LUTON'S PLOY COMES A CROPPER

Roger Duckworth's VERDICT



LUTON will want to say that the difficult conditions caused by the high wind stopped them playing good football this afternoon. I will agree that it made it difficult, but I will disagree with their defensive tactics which they thought would win them a point.

The Luton attack hardly flowed throughout the afternoon and until Bolton scored through Greaves, with ten minutes to go, Luton looked happy to be spoilers.

This is no good. When you are on the threshold of the First Division you've got to be able to play better football than this — even if there is a bit of a wind blowing.

The first half was desperate. Even though Luton had the wind behind them they rarely put anything together and they paid for this in the second half when Bolton began to press and eventually scored.

It would be hard to offer any great words of congratulation to the Luton attack. Those must be saved for Alan Garner in defence and Alan West in midfield.

Luton had their biggest away following of the season, and it was a sad sight to see yobbos in the Town's colours being heaved out of the crowd by dis-helmeted policemen after Bolton had scored.

**SUSPECTED
BROKEN
LEG FOR
LUTON RESERVE
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A LATE unexpected goal from Bolton this afternoon upset Luton's plans of going a point nearer the First Division.

The Town seemed to be content to plod their way through this rather boring match in the hope that at the end of it the points would be shared.

Luton's fans expected much more of their heroes, and some of them, no doubt frustrated enough, let their tempers get the better of them and had to be sorted out by police.

The Luton party arrived in Bolton's Trinity Street Station about half an hour late because of hooliganism on the train.

This is something Luton are not used to, but with promotion a real possibility, extra fans turned up and the train was bulging with more than 500 people.

On the journey some lunatic opened a door and the train steward had to pull the communication cord. That caused a ten minute hold-up.

Luton were unchanged after last week's great win over Orient, but Bolton made a couple of alterations I had suspected yesterday.

Left back Tony Dunne was relegated to substitute with Peter Nicholson falling back into defence and Alan Waldron going into midfield.

But the biggest name in the Wanderers' side was that of Peter Thompson the former Liverpool and England winger.

Bolton were first to show with Ritson, Byrom and Garry Jones working the ball through, but Anderson had fallen back quickly to sort it out.

John Ryan assisted West and Anderson in a well intentioned move, but a run from Butlin came to grief when the ball went out of play for a goal kick.

In the third minute Bolton's Byrom was booked after a foul on Anderson. The Luton player went in with his head low and staggered away from the challenge holding it.

Goalkeeper Horn had to come out quickly after Waldron and Nicholson had done well with a free kick. The move was helped by Thompson, but there was no real

danger to the Luton goal with Garner covering well.

Aston took play to the other end with a right wing run and won a corner from what would have been a good cross. It was headed behind by Paul Jones and Jim Ryan took the flag kick from the other side of the field only for West to shoot about 20 yards wide.

In the eighth minute a slip by Horn almost let in Bolton. A long free kick from McAllister on the left was headed fractionally over the bar by Paul Jones with the Luton goalkeeper all at sea.

Luton hit back with another strong run from Aston on the right. Butlin got his head to the cross, but it was deflected for a corner. Aston took it, but it was belted into touch by Ritson.

An obstruction by West on Waldron gave Bolton a free kick from the right just outside the box. Butlin fell back to head it away.

Neither side could seem to get into any rhythm, but Butlin again had to fall back to concede a corner with his head which was cleared.

While this was going on there was a disturbance in the crowd behind the trainer's enclosure. Bolton manager, Jimmy Armfield, wearing a track suit and complete with



JOHN BYROM
Booked for a foul



BARRY BUTLIN
Scraped the bar

Bolton 1 Luton 0
By ROGER DUCKWORTH

Bolton: Siddall, Ritson, Nicholson, McAllister, Paul Jones, Waldron, Byrom, Garry Jones, Greaves, Whatmore, Thompson. Sub: Dunne.

Luton Town: Horn, John Ryan, Thomson, Anderson, Faulkner, Garner, Jimmy Ryan, Husband, Butlin, West, Aston. Sub: Hindson.

Referee: Mr D. Turner (Cannock).

Greaves (Bolton) 80 mins

Attendance: 15,616

73/74

pipe, indicated to the police where the trouble was.

Meanwhile Byrom was cutting in from the right and his fierce shot was deflected for a corner by Horn who dived well.

Police moved in under the centre of the main stand, and on the pitch Bolton centre forward Greaves was most aggrieved at a trip by Jim Ryan.

A long centre from Ritson was punched clear by the alert Horn, but the Bolton fans did not like the fact that Luton were awarded a free kick for a foul by Greaves on the Luton goalkeeper.

In spite of all the desperate midfield action there were few goal chances at either end and the first 20 minutes were poor fare for an expectant crowd.

But there was more for them to boo at when Horn plunged out of his goal to stop a shot from the left, and he hurt Garry Jones in the process.

Some tremendous football by Bolton's Thompson ended with Waldron streaking away on the right. Faulkner was in quickly, but his pass back to Horn went behind for a corner.

From the corner, taken by Waldron, Thompson hit a

dipping shot that went just wide of the right hand post.

Luton were playing with a strong wind behind them and Horn's clearances were going deep into the Bolton half. But in spite of this Luton's attack was unable to put anything together, and centre half Jones had a field day mopping up under their noses.

Horn had to fight hard to list another corner away this time from the left, and he was grateful of the big boot of West which punted the ball again deep into the Bolton half.

Nothing went right for Luton in attack. All they seemed to do was chase long balls from midfield and they never got near controlling them or looking like scoring.

HT: 0-0

Early in the second half Bolton appeared to have a better use of the prevailing wind than Luton had in the first.

Horn made a good catch to a cross from the right, but then Faulkner came into his own with two solidly headed clearances.

But Bolton continued to show the more ambition of the two, and both Thomson and John Ryan were called on to do some cool work in defence, under heavy pressure, before clearing.

In the 53rd minute Butlin climbed high to a good cross from Aston. And under close marking from two defenders got in a header that scraped the Bolton crossbar and landed on the top of the net.

A couple of minutes later Luton had a let off when Garry Jones guided a header, from a Ritson cross, straight into the arms of Horn.

After Butlin had had a goal disallowed for dispossessing Bolton goalkeeper Siddall unfairly, Luton's Horn was extremely lucky at the other end.

He mis-hit a clearance and when Byrom hit the ball back at goal, he fell down as the ball bounced towards him and only caught it with a last minute desperate lunge.

And at the other end a well directed header by centre forward Greaves was punched clear by Horn who was fouled when the ball came back into the goalmouth.

As the wind deceived player after player, Horn saved Luton with a save to a tricky bouncing header from Byrom. But in Luton's favour there had been some energetic play from Garner and West to foil the home side's build-up.

A cross from the left by Aston gave Jim Ryan a chance. He tried a clever oblique shot which gave Siddall a bit of bother, but Bolton counter-attacked, and at the other end Horn made a good save to a header from Byrom, tipping the ball over the top.

Thompson took the corner on the left, and the ball came back to him before he knocked it into the goalmouth for Greaves to score with a good header.