

LUTON'S FIGHTING HEROES

IT was a bit of a day for Luton in general and John Aston in particular, was Saturday. John sorted out his difference with manager Harry Haslam and scored a goal. Luton won a point and went to the bottom of the First Division.

Luton also had their biggest crowd of the season and a dose of crowd aggro which usually misses Kenilworth Road because of the small gates.

SPURS 1 LUTON 1

By ROGER
DUCKWORTH

Then, yesterday morning Harry Haslam took a team to Bergen to play the Norwegians for charity.

But, of them all, Aston's goal was the most important. It came three short minutes from the end of a match in which Luton were always as good as their posh London neighbours.

It's like changing your car to keep up with the whoosits, and the Luton manager brought in different players on Saturday to put down the famous London club.

John Aston smacked in the goal after having a grand

match, and Rod Fern, who seems to have almost a folk-hero image with the Luton crowd, played some exciting football before thumping goalkeeper Pat Jennings out of the way to allow Aston to cash in on a Mike England mistake.

Throughout Luton played some good football, and they could have been a couple of goals to the good at half-time. But things don't go like that when you are on the skids.

For once Luton put on the sort of performance they have been keeping for away games for their own crowd. And it was appreciated.

If they can play as well as this every week they won't go down.

Hindson, who I thought was Luton's best player, and Anderson, might have given Luton a lead. But Northern Ireland goalkeeper Pat Jennings had an inspired afternoon.

Superb

West and Chambers played it hard in midfield, and it was from this department that much of Luton's good stuff emanated.

At the back, Garner did a superb job, and Litt sorted out Chivers for most of the afternoon. He let him go once and the big England centre-forward scored — from a Coates cross which Barber couldn't reach.

Don Shanks gave another ruthless performance at right-back, but Bobby Thomson doesn't look to have regained full fitness after his injury.

Big Chiv headed in his goal in the 67th minute, and it had Luton struggling. After looking just as good as the Londoners, Luton started to retreat under pressure, and it looked as if they had had it.

This would have been a pity after all their good football. But they had the character to keep trying. With only three minutes left, Welsh centre-half Mike England mis-kicked in the box, the ball went straight up in the air. Fern prevented Jennings grabbing it, and Aston scored.