

LATE TREWICK GOAL SHATTERS THE TOWN

A LATE goal from Jeff Trewick shattered Luton's hopes of a deserved point at The Hawthorns.

After West Brom's Robertson and Tony Brown had been denied by the woodwork, England youth international Trewick beat Barber after 75 minutes with a low shot, which ironically went in off a post.

Town had looked like getting a point a fast flowing game in which they had had their fair share of chances.

Luton's first away game of the season saw them against high-class opponents — on paper anyway — at the Hawthorns this afternoon.

Although West Brom are still without a win, having lost at Southampton last week and drawn at home to Chelsea during the week, they boasted a host of famous names.

They were led out by former Leeds midfielder star Johnny Giles, who has taken over as player-manager, and at centre-forward they had former England World Cup star Geoff Hurst.

Luton sported the one change we had expected. Paul Futcher, available again after suspension, came back into the defence in place of Steve Litt, who was a bit unlucky to end up as substitute today.

But with a good win against Hull last week already under their belts, the Town travelled to the Midlands today with plenty of confidence.

Shortly before the start two stupid youths ran on to the pitch wearing West Brom colours and pranced around in the penalty box before forcibly holding up the hands of Hurst and Giles, both of whom were obviously not a bit interested in the attentions of the daft couple.

And then another one, a kid of no more than 14, jumped over the barrier and danced truculently in front of a policeman in the goalmouth into which West Brom were kicking in.

The first tackle of the match came from John Faulkner, who bowled Hurst over in the centre circle to give West Brom a free-kick in less than ten seconds.

But Luton were immedi-

ately on to the attack and a through ball from West was well taken by Alston, who teased the West Brom defence, before getting in a shot which Osborne had to dive to stop.

And then a short free-kick by West was pushed to John Ryan, who rattled the hard shot painfully against the thigh of Giles. But Luton's ambitions came to an end in this instance when Ron Futcher fouled the Albion goalkeeper.

The first corner went to West Brom when Faulkner headed behind a good centre from Johnston. The flag kick was well caught by Barber, under pressure from Robson, who had come into the side in place of the suspended Cantello.

In the fourth minute Trewick was allowed through all on his own, when King hung back to play him or side, with the rest of the Luton team advancing. It looked a certain goal but Barber came out fast to make a brilliant stop.

Luton replied through King, who followed a good pass from Anderson and almost caught Osborne with an overhead shot from about ten yards.

The Ron Futcher just failed to get a foot to a clever through pass from King and again Luton's chance of an early goal was gone.

A good build up between Aston and West provided another fleeting chance for Ron Futcher. He turned well with the ball, but his low shot from some 18 yards lacked power and caused Osborne few problems.

Barber was brought into the game again to stop a good hard shot from Johnston and he did well to hang on to it with Hurst following up.

After 14 minutes Alston got in on the act again and sent the Albion defenders the wrong way with one of his clever turns, but then he put his shot over the top.

MATCH DETAILS

ALBION: Osborne, Nisbet, Wilson, Robson, Wile, Robertson, Trewick, Tony Brown, Hurst, Giles, Johnston. Sub: Alistair Brown.

LUTON TOWN: Barber, John Ryan, Buckley, Anderson, Faulkner, Paul Futcher, King, Alston, Ron Futcher, West, Aston. Sub: Litt.

REFEREE: Mr H. Hackney (Barnsley).

TREWICK (75 min)

ATT: 13,875

75/76



West Brom 1 Luton 0
By ROGER DUCKWORTH

The first quarter of the match saw some fine attacking football from both sides and from the West Brom point of view, Johnston was again unlucky with a hard rising shot that went just over the top. Even so, Barber was well placed.

A splendid run through the middle by Trewick ended with a pass out to Johnston on the left and a cross which the onrushing Robson headed wide. This was yet another example of the sort of game we were being served up.

In an incident, which I did not see, Ron Futcher collected a cut on the back of his head and he had to borrow a sponge from the bench with which to stem the flow of blood, which was turning his blond hair red.

The cut was obviously not as bad as it looked for he carried on and still went up to head the ball with a willingness that belied all appearances.

From an Aston corner on the right Alston ducked low to get in a header which went just over the top.

That man Johnston turned up again on the West Brom left-wing with another daz-

ling run that had the Town defence stretched. Luckily Barber was again in good form and collected the cross cleanly from over the heads of two West Brom forwards.

Another good run for Luton by West turned the tables, and it was only a well-timed tackle by Robertson which prevented Ron Futcher collecting the ball on his own in front of goal.

The Luton build up became more laboured and Anderson seemed to be having some trouble in getting to grips with his best form. Even so, there was plenty of running from Ron Futcher and whenever Aston got into things, he looked dangerous.

When Faulkner was injured after being fouled by Hurst, the referee would not allow him to have any treatment and made Luton take the free-kick straight away with Faulkner hobbling.

After 35 minutes Ron Futcher might have done better with a chance after John Ryan had beaten the defence with a clearance and Futcher had chased into the box. But with Aston running

through he tried to place the ball just inside the righthand post and put it wide.

A well taken free kick by West into the goalmouth and a good challenge by Anderson presented Alston with a half chance, but the ball would not drop quickly enough for him, and he poked it through the defence just wide of a post.

A minute later Luton had a second free kick from a similar position, but though John Ryan's hard shot looked crisp enough, it was well wide of the target.

A bad clearance by Paul Futcher went straight to Johnston and you can't do that sort of thing with a winger like this. He raced for the Luton penalty area and put a good shot just over the top.

Just before half-time Aston fell back to turn a goal attempt by Tony Brown into a corner, but Wile headed the flag kick yards wide — much to Luton's relief.

HT: West Brom 0, Luton 0

Andy King put in a run but tried to go one man too far and could not get in his shot from inside the penalty area.

Splendid tackles by Faulkner and Buckley on Nisbet and Hurst prevented West Brom from scoring ten minutes into the second half. The home side called for a penalty for the first — by Faulkner — but referee Hackney would have none of it.

A minute later a great run by Alston ended with him narrowly failing to get the ball to Ron Futcher in the goalmouth, but his efforts certainly silenced the West Brom followers.

After Paul Futcher had been upended by Robson and no foul given, Trewick went through and got in a shot but like most of the other efforts it was over the top.

Further efforts to make an opening for Luton by Aston, West and John Ryan were all frustrated either by bad direction or good tackles.

After Barber had made his first mistake — in the 67th minute — following a left wing corner, Faulkner was on hand to thump clear the ball that the goalkeeper had fumbled.

The stalemate was ended quarter-of-an-hour from the end when TREWICK, who had a splendid game, scored with a long low shot which went in off the left hand post with Barber moving late.

The
verdict...

LUTON fully deserved a point at the Hawthorns this afternoon. And they looked like getting it for most of the game.

But with 15 minutes of probing and covering by two inventive sides, West Brom took a lead through John Trewick and Luton's hopes took a dive.

There was a lot of good football served up, and if a bit of needle crept in it was because of enthusiasm rather than malice.

Both sides had their chances but neither looked like accepting them until Trewick popped up with that late goal.

By scoring he made up for a miss in the 4th minute when Barber made a splendid save after Trewick had beaten Luton's off side trap.

Luton never quite dominated the game from midfield, and it was because of this that their strikers did not get the chances they would have liked.

But they still had their moments. A tremendous run by Alston was foiled at the last minute and then goalkeeper Osborne, a loyal servant to West Brom over the years, made the save of the match, when he launched himself to cut out a cross from Ron Futcher, which was destined for the head of Aston.

And we must not forget the fact that West Brom hit the post twice through Brown and Robertson but even so, Luton could have come out with a point — and have been quite entitled to it.