

ASTON OFF AS TOWN TRIUMPH

LUTON winger John Aston was sensation-ally sent off by Bristol referee Eric Read as the Town cruised to an emphatic victory.

Goals from Anderson, Buckley (pen) and Ron Futcher had put Luton well in command, when Aston was sent off after a clash with Ian Britton.

Britton also became the fourth player to be booked — Chelsea's Cooke and Droy and Luton scorer Buckley were the others to incur the referee's displeasure.

The lunatic fringe were at it again before the start of today's match. In spite of an appeal in the programme by Town manager Harry Haslam there were several scuffles before the start and several young spectators were escorted from the ground.

As the teams came out there was a procession of fans from the Oak Road end along the Bobbers Stand side to the Kenilworth Road end.

And as it fizzled out, one of the yellow clad Luton stewards was led across the pitch by an ambulanceman with blood running down from a cut in his head.

This morning's rain had stopped, but in spite of this there did not seem to be the size of crowd that was expected before the kick-off.

There were still open spaces at both ends of the Bobbers Stand, but the rest of the ground looked fairly full.

Both sides were unchanged and Luton had Brian Chambers back as substitute in place of defender Steve Litt, who did the job last week.

Too hard

After a short free-kick Luton bounded on to the attack with a good through-ball from sweeper Paul Futcher. It was just too hard for his twin brother Ron and goalkeeper Sherwood collected the ball.

This was followed by a good dash on the left by Alston, which won a corner off Droy, but the flag kick was cleared by centre-forward Maybank, who had fallen back to help.

In early Chelsea attacks the Luton defence looked cool and collected, and even when Charlie Cook tried a long range shot, there was no panic and the ball was allowed

Luton 3 Chelsea 0

By ROGER DUCKWORTH

through to goalkeeper Barber, who ran out to make a safe catch.

Some of the early tackling by Chelsea was a bit rough and ready, and both Ray Wilkins and Maybank were penalised.

A short corner from Aston on the right seemed a good idea at the time, but John Ryan was too early with his shot from 18 yards, which went well wide.

In the sixth minute Cooke was booked for saying something to the referee in an off the ball incident.

In the eighth minute the first real shot in anger came from Alston, after Aston had ridden two Dempsey tackles and got the ball over. Sherwood made a good save.

Wasted

And a minute later Andy King charged through to shoot wide. There was certainly plenty of enthusiasm in the Luton camp.

Anderson was playing some good football and after falling back into defence, he found King with a good pass, but the referee got in the way, allowing Ray Wilkins in for a shot which Barber did well to save.

But after collecting a bad clearance from Graham Wilkins, Luton skipper West wasted the chance by stubbing his shot wide.

Another bad Chelsea clearance was latched on to by Aston but his low pass across the goalmouth was reached by Sherwood before Ron Futcher could get there.

MATCH DETAILS

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

CHELSEA: Sherwood; Graham Wilkins, Sparrow, Bason, Droy, Dempsey, Britton, Ray Wilkins, Maybank, Swain, Cooke. Sub: Ron Harris.

REFEREE: Mr E. Read (Bristol)

GOALS: Anderson 27min
Buckley (pen) 46min
Ron Futcher 57mins

ATT: 19,024

There was some more splendid, attacking football from Luton when Paul Futcher got a great pass via Anderson to Aston, and Alston headed the winger's cross back into the goalmouth. There was a rare old tussle before Luton were thwarted.

The Luton roars continued when Aston supplied another centre which was beaten away, and Buckley put the ball back across the face of the goal for King to head into the, middle and Anderson to shoot just wide.

In the 21st minute Steve Buckley was booked for a late tackle on Bason.

A couple of minutes later the Luton crowd shouted for the name of Maybank to be taken after he had hauled Paul Futcher off the ball as he was tidying up a mix up between John Ryan and Faulkner. The referee took no notice.

Deflected

Luton were again unlucky in the 26th minute when a low shot from Anderson was deflected on to a post by Droy with Sherwood well beaten. The ball went out of play.

ANDERSON's reward came from the corner. The ball was lobbed over from the left by West, Faulkner hit the foot of the right-hand post with a header and Anderson darted in to score his first goal of the season.

A minute later Ron Futcher just failed to get in a shot as an



Action at Kenilworth Road this afternoon

effort from Alston flashed past him in the box.

Luton's ambitions continued and a great long shot from King hit the top of the crossbar and skidded over. A minute later Ron Futcher went just wide with a header.

Chelsea also had their moments and after a good clearance by Faulkner, Maybank collected the throw-in and shot wide with his left foot.

A mistake by Paul Futcher, who tried to overdo the short stuff in his own goalmouth, led to a couple of Chelsea corners but Faulkner was in superb form in the air, clearing them both decisively.

More aggression by Ron Futcher gave Aston the chance to shoot, but his effort was caught by Sherwood, who had to move quickly to his right.

A good overlap by John Ryan brought Luton a right-wing corner. Aston's first effort was headed for a second corner by Dempsey and this in turn brought a fine shot from Alston, which was well saved by Sherwood.

HT 1-0

The second half started with a penalty for Luton. Ron Futcher was tripped by Bason in the box and BUCKLEY scored from the spot.

The penalty goal was greeted by a blue toilet roll hurled on to the field at the

Kenilworth Road end where the Chelsea supporters were gathered.

When the ball went into the open terrace for a goal kick, the idiots standing there, refused to return it and Luton had to send on another ball.

After a hard shot by Alston had been deflected, the ball ran free to Ron Futcher on the right and he crashed a hard shot just a foot or so over the Chelsea crossbar.

In the 55th minute Droy became the third booking of the match when his name was taken for a foul on Buckley in the Luton penalty box.

West injured both a shoulder and a leg after being tackled hard by Bason and looked in considerable pain as he received treatment in front of the main stand.

Cleverly

The free-kick brought Luton's third goal. It was taken by Buckley and the ball was cleverly knocked across the goalmouth by Alston for RON FUTCHER to score.

In the 62nd minute former Chelsea skipper Ron Harris went on for full-back Graham Wilkins, who had been hurt earlier in a collision with Aston.

West was still having trouble with his shoulder injury and was doubled up with pain after trying a crossfield pass. In the 66th

minute he had to be replaced by Chambers — luckily another midfield player.

West was given a great ovation as he was led to the dressing room.

John Aston had the ball in the Chelsea net with a close-range shot, but his celebrations were cut short by an offside flag.

In a quick break, Swain was a bit too fast for Faulkner but his shot went over the top with Barber well positioned.

In the 73rd minute Luton's star winger John Aston was sent off after having his name taken following a fracas with Britton. Britton was left lying, face down on the turf as the referee called Aston across to him. Britton was also booked.

And then the Chelsea fans, who set fire to a special train from Luton last season, invaded the pitch and the referee was almost forced to abandon the game.

Luckily, the police and stewards eventually cleared the pitch and Mr Read restarted the game.

The Verdict...

COCKY, confident Luton answered the call for a goal from manager Harry Haslam today, when they swept to a sparkling victory over classy Londoners, Chelsea.

It was their second home victory in two appearances.

The only blot on the match was the sending off in the second half of winger John Aston, who retaliated in an incident involving Chelsea's Britton.

Both were booked — and so were Chelsea's Cooke and Droy and Luton's Buckley.

But it was never a dirty game. And Luton won it on merit. Right from the first whistle they played some marvellous attacking football, which delighted their followers and gave them high hopes for the coming season.

Towards the end a couple of idiot fans ran on to the pitch and one of them was dragged off by Chelsea's Droy.

And a posse of policemen and yellow-coated stewards fought to keep the Chelsea fans off the pitch, but they eventually broke through and charged down the centre of the field.

With only a few minutes left the referee did not know whether to abandon the game or to keep it going.

These were the most amazing scenes I have ever seen on a football field.

The lunatics who charged on to the field were finally dispersed and as several were led from the ground the players, the referee, Chelsea manager Eddie McCreadie and Luton coach Roy McCrohan had a brief meeting on the pitch before Mr Read was able to restart the match.

He finally got it under way again with a dropped ball and the game stuttered to a close.

One steward was obviously badly hurt and carried half conscious around the pitch.

This was a fine performance by Luton, with the Futcher twins outstanding in both defence and attack.