

FOUR BOOKED IN A SORRY TALE

By TONY QUESTED

BLACKPOOL were as weak as dishwater at Luton this afternoon, when, with more fire, they could have beaten a far-from-convincing home side.

Blackpool had four players booked, three for dissent, and if Blackpool had shown as much appetite for the Battle as they had for contesting decisions they might have escaped their comprehensive defeat.

Peter Suddaby played well in defence and Alan Ainscow worked hard up front where Blackpool were otherwise lifeless and where Mickey Walsh and Ainscow were given pathetic support.

Blackpool's midfield was a non-event with little creation and it was the weakness in this department which made it impossible for Blackpool to give Ainscow any effective support.

Blackpool gave Luton the goal which started the downhill slide, otherwise they might have done better but they seemed to lack ideas and enterprise and their lack of power completed a sorry tale.

Both sides were unchanged with Blackpool keeping the team that demolished Hull a week ago and Luton the team that lost at Fulham.

The four inches of snow which covered the pitch on Thursday and threatened the match had vanished without trace but the going was quite heavy.

Hill hammered a shot less than a yard wide after Blackpool failed to clear in the first minute.

The gate:
6,041

Ward saved from Stein after Fuccillo's cross.

Blackpool broke briefly with Tong giving an intelligent pass which Ainscow nearly reached before the goalkeeper saved at his feet.

Blackpool looked dangerous when Walsh and Ainscow both fought hard and worked the ball into the box before Luton could clear.

Ward cut out a cross from Boersma and Fuccillo wasted a fine chance by shooting into the side-netting.

Blackpool were twice lucky within the space of seconds when Ronson made a bad back pass and the ball ran loose to Hill whose thunderous shot crashed against the underside of the bar, with Ward hopelessly beaten, and flew to safety for Suddaby to concede a corner.

Blackpool were slow to react to the kick and Ron Fletcher shot against the post.

Stein headed over the bar before Blackpool replied with a rare attack. Tong shooting wide after a good move.

Blackpool could have gone ahead after Chandler won a corner which Milligan swung into Walsh at the near post. Walsh was up well to flick a header across goal but the ball flew at such speed that it eluded Suddaby coming in at the far post.

Suddaby cleared from Tong in a dangerous situation and Blackpool staged their best attacking spell.

Ronson started a run across

THE TEAMS

LUTON	BLACKPOOL
1 Aleksic	1 Ward
2 Price	2 Gardner
3 Carr	3 Milligan
4 Hill	4 Ronson
5 Faulkner	5 McEwan
6 Fletcher (P)	6 Suddaby
7 Stein	7 Tong
8 West	8 Chandler
9 Fletcher (R)	9 Walsh
10 Fuccillo	10 Ainscow
11 Boersma	11 Waldron
12 Ingram	12 Wilson

Referee: Ron Challis (Tonbridge, Kent).



	Min
WEST (Luton)	39
RON FUTCHER (Luton)	76
BOERSMA (Luton)	79
FUCCILLO (Luton)	89

take a cross but did not call and Suddaby kicked just over his own bar.

Half-time: Luton 1, Blackpool 0.

A good run by Ainscow had Luton in trouble in trouble but as he surged into the box Carr tackled and conceded a corner. Tong swung it in and Aleksic almost punched into his own net under pressure from Walsh.

Ainscow twice almost broke through and looked Blackpool's liveliest player.

Ronson was booked for a foul but although Blackpool were looking a lot sharper they were not particularly dangerous.

RON FUTCHER put Luton two up after 76 minutes and Walsh was booked for protesting to the referee although it was unclear what he was moaning about.

BOERSMA headed a third three minutes later.

FUCILLO made it four in the last minute with Blackpool's heads right down.

Result:

LUTON 4,
BLACKPOOL 0

