

ASHLEY'S MISERY TALK OF TOWN

86/87
**NORWICH 0
LUTON 0**

THE bizarre sending off of midfielder Ashley Grimes provided the only real talking point for this drab and dreary game.

The Eire international was sent walking by referee Mike James in the 84th minute for "violent conduct" — towards his own teammate Rob Johnson!

The incident blew up after Norwich striker Robert Rosario was given a free header.

Grimes was seen to be arguing with Johnson and then made a heading gesture.

The referee, standing only yards away, called Grimes over, got out his book and after a short lecture pointed to the tunnel.

The decision was made even more remarkable because the midfielder had not been booked previously, though he had been lectured following a tackle on Steve Bruce.

But if Norwich thought a 10-man Luton would give them a chance of snatching a late winner they were sorely mistaken.

For the best two chances of the final five minutes fell to twin Luton strikers Mick Harford and Mike Newell.

Harford mis-hit a shot on the edge of the box when completely un-



By **MARK McKENNA**

marked while Newell took too long to get his effort in after being set free by a beautifully timed pass from Ricky Hill, and Steve Bruce got back to make a tremendous saving tackle.

Newell's miss summed up the whole game, neither side lacking commitment but they were just not able to put it together in the final third of the field.

The situation was not helped by Norwich's well organised defence or by Mal Donaghy, easily man-of-the-match, turning in yet another faultless performance at the heart of Luton's rear guard.

Both teams could do with some target practice as well since neither Les Sealey nor his opposite number Bryan Gunn had to make a proper save all afternoon.

Hill, Harford, Newell and Brian Stein all missed good chances which you would normally expect at least one of them to score with, while their opposition fared no better.

It was hard to believe that between them these teams had so comprehensively beaten Manchester United and

West Ham the week before, and you had to sympathise with the crowd when the chant of "What a load of rubbish" went up in the 73rd minute.

The game seemed to emphasise the gulf between the mechanical and methodical exploits week in, week out, of the likes of Liverpool and Everton and the likes of

Luton and Norwich who can only turn it on on the right days.

The Hatters miserable day was completed by the booking of Peter Nicholas for childish kicking the ball away as Norwich's Trevor Putney was preparing to take a free kick.

NORWICH: Gunn, Brown, Spearing, Bruce, Phelan, Butterworth, Crook, Drinkell, Rosario, Putney, Gordon. Sub: Biggins.

LUTON: Sealey, Breacker, Johnson, Nicholas, North, Donaghy, Hill, Stein, Newell, Harford, Grimes. Sub: McDonough.

● Ashley Grimes (far left) begins the long walk to the dressing room as Les Sealey (far right) races to join his team mates in a protest to the referee.