

Foster rescues dreaming Luton

A RARE Steve Foster goal moved Luton away from the relegation zone on a day when too many of his team-mates seemed to be dreaming of a Littlewoods Cup Final at Wembley.

The Luton skipper was unchallenged in the 56th minute as he read the bounce from a looping corner and headed his second goal of the season.

Middlesbrough owed much to goalkeeper Kevin Poole on their first match on Luton's plastic pitch. He produced half-a-dozen fine

Luton 1 Middlesbrough 0

saves as his defenders dithered and his midfield over complicated matters.

Three times he denied Mick Harford, though the England striker did enough to show that young Middlesbrough defender Gary Pallister still has a lot to learn.

Much of the game was played out in midfield with neither attack receiving many good final through passes. Goal attempts were long distance affairs.

"There wasn't much end product but that doesn't mean it was a bad game," said Luton manager Ray Harford.

"It was good technically without much punch from either side. I like the way Boro play. If that is not the sort of football the crash bash brigade want then that's their problem."

Pallister made three early mistakes which Luton failed to turn into goals, while Poole made one splendid first-half save to stop Kingsley Black scoring.

Match Details

LUTON TOWN 1 MIDDLESBROUGH 0 (Half-time: 0-0)

TOWN: Sealey; Breacker, Foster, Beaumont; Grimes; Wilson, Hill, Preece, Black; Wegerle, Harford.
Subs: Oldfield and McDonough, not used.

MIDDLESBROUGH: Poole; Parkinson, Mowbray, Pallister, Cooper; Hamilton, Gill (Burke 82 mins); Slaven, Ripley.

THE GOAL: Steve Foster header, 55 mins, from David Preece's inswinging corner.

OTHER STRIKES: Town eight saved and four wide; Borough four saved and three wide. Corners: 5-1 to the Town.

ATTENDANCE: 8,187, a drop of 2,000 on Borough's last visit, in 1974, but 169 more than the gate for the visit last season of Chelsea, the club Borough have replaced in the First Division.

REFEREE: Brian Hill, Kettering — likes to enjoy the game, and be friendly to players. Steve Foster and Les Sealey should be grateful because both might have been booked if it had been a different ref.

ENTERTAINMENT: Very good in the second half when the Town reverted to 4-3-3 and might have won by a street but for Kevin Poole's excellent goalkeeping.