

A boos problem

THE RESULT at Highfield Road in midweek had also been unkind to a team that deserved at least a point, although it did not produce the sustained pressure we saw against Norwich.

The Town had a very good first half and were unlucky to be only one goal ahead at the interval. The only criticism was that they did not have as many goal attempts as their possession and swift passing warranted.

Home fans booed their team at half-time and manager Terry Butcher gave them a verbal going-over in the dressing room. The supporters had every right to complain, he said.

The second half was vastly different. Coventry raised the pace, chased the long ball in determined fashion and profited from two isolated defensive slips.

The turning points were two

COVENTRY C 2 LUTON TOWN 1

refereeing decisions: Peter Jones of Loughborough turned down what looked like justified appeals from the Town when Kingsley Black was clear and tripped from behind by Trevor Peake near the edge of the box. It looked like a ref being frightened to show a 'pro foul' red card so deciding that there was no offence.

A penalty in the 28th minute would have put the Town in a position to go two up after Graham Rodger had converted John Dreyer's thundering far post cross 17 minutes before.

Coventry did get a penalty in the 60th minute, courtesy of a mistake by Rodger, although Alec Chamberlain insisted that he made a clean challenge at Kevin Gallacher's feet as he chased a bad back pass. Brian Borrows converted the spot kick and seven minutes from time Andy Pearce

headed the winner from a long free kick by Ray Woods.

MATCH DETAILS

TOWN: Chamberlain; Johnson, Rodger, McDonough, Dreyer; Pembbridge, Beaumont (Farrell 87 mins), Preece; Elstrup, Dowle, Black. Other sub: Harvey.

COVENTRY: Ogrizovic; McGrath, Pearce, Peake, Borrows; Emerson, Gynn, Woods; Gallacher, Regis, Smith. Subs, not needed: Hurst and Clark.

GOALS: Graham Rodger's first for the Town, 11 minutes; Brian Borrows penalty for Coventry, 60 minutes; Andy Pearce for Coventry, 83 minutes.

OTHER STRIKES: Town two saved and four wide; Coventry three saved and six wide. Corners: 6-2 to Coventry.

ATTENDANCE: 9,521, Coventry's lowest of the season.

REF: Peter Jones, Loughborough.

BOOKINGS: Alec Chamberlain, dissent over the penalty, and Lars Elstrup for a foul.

ENTERTAINMENT: Nice first half, shame about the second.