

152
LUTON'S TIME-OUT: FURY AT GOAL IN ADDED EXTRA MINUTES

Hero Beadle

Picture: GEORGE PHILLIPS/PA



GETTING CLOSE: Luton defender Chris Coyne, right, keeps a tight reign on Bristol City striker Lee Peacock during the fiery 1-1 draw

BRISTOL CITY1
Beadle (90)
LUTON TOWN1
Howard (53)

By John Whiston

ANGRY Luton players claimed they were robbed of a surprise win by referee Mark Cooper's liberal stoppage time allowance.

The West Midlands official stunned visiting fans by ordering an extra five minutes at the end of a second half which saw City becoming increasingly dominant.

It proved very costly for Luton, who had Sol Davis sent off in the added time and

conceded a last-gasp equaliser to Peter Beadle.

Visiting boss Joe Kinnear declined to speak to the press afterwards, but was visibly upset and annoyed.

Striker Tony Thorpe, captaining the side against his old club, said: "The lads are absolutely gutted. We felt the ref added far too much time.

"There were no complaints about the sending off and, in all honesty, Bristol deserved at least a point. We had defended capably, and the job seemed to have been done well.

"I don't know where the ref got five minutes from. We feel robbed, because City are a very good side and it had taken a big team effort to protect our lead." Substitute Beadle was City's

hero with a volley from Micky Bell's corner.

There were 95-and-a-half minutes on the clock when the ball hit the back of the net.

Luton had been leading through Steve Howard's 53rd minute shot from eight yards, but were let down by Davis in a dramatic finale.

The full-back not only lashed out irresponsibly at winger Scott Murray to earn a straight red card, but then compounded the offence by hitting out at Tommy Doherty as he walked off.

City boss Danny Wilson said: "It was a clear red card. Joe Kinnear will have arguments about the time added on, but not I think about the sending off. Their keeper was taking a long

time over every goal kick, and that may have been in the referee's mind.

"We just kept going. It was a very unlucky day for us in front of the net and that, rather than poor finishing, was why we had to wait so long for a goal.

"But credit the lads for never giving up. It's not the first time this season that we have shown that sort of spirit."

City hit the woodwork three times, through Lee Peacock in the first half, and Doherty and Beadle in the closing stages when they laid siege to the Luton goal.

When Peacock had a late effort ruled out for offside it seems that it wasn't City's day. But Beadle had other ideas.