

TOWN FAIL TO SHOW PROMOTION FORM

NEARLY SEVENTY MINUTES TO SCORE

Wild Kicking—Little Constructive Effort

NARROW ESCAPES FROM TORQUAY RAIDS

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN had beautiful weather for their home game last night with TORQUAY UNITED, a game that could not be arranged at the opening of the season owing to the Town's exemption from the Cup Competition until the Third Round.

Whether the dry spell was wanted by the players was another matter, for the going was very firm, and, therefore, was not conducive to good control.

The Town were able to recall Nelson, who had recovered from the neck injury that kept him out of the side at Swindon on Saturday, but they had to bring in Boyd for Ball at centre-forward. Ball being hopelessly out of the question owing to ankle injury.

Jack Hodge made his first appearance in the senior side, displacing Rich from the extreme right position, although the change was not made through any dissatisfaction with Rich.

Torquay had the side that beat Gillingham on Saturday, and Albert Hutchinson, who first became a professional with Luton, was at inside-left.

All the players wore black armlets as a token of esteem for the late President of the League.

LUTON TOWN.—Coen; Booton, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes; Hodge, Martin, Boyd, Roberts, Stephenson.

TORQUAY UNITED.—Maggs; Green,

Tapp; Daniels, Jones, Lievesley; Morgan, Beedall, Hunt (S. W.), Hutchinson, Dodds.

Referee: L. Boulstridge, Tamworth.

Torquay won the toss and the Town attacked from the Kenilworth-road end. There were a couple of free kicks, one to each side, in the first minute or two, and a flash on the Town left enabled Stephenson to force a corner.

This was disposed of, but the Town came again and Torquay's backs were kept busy as a result of centres into the goalmouth by Hodge and Martin.

THE FIRST THRILL

These were safely relieved and a neat piece of work by the Torquay left wing brought a centre from Hutchinson. Coen punched away.

A neat piece of dribbling by Beedall was blocked by Smith after which Booton conceded a corner. From this came a great thrill.

Dodds's flag kick swerved into goal but was punched out. A shot by Hunt rebounded from Nelson, but a magnificent shot from Beedall seemed bound for the net when Coen brought off a glorious save at full stretch.

The second flag kick by Dodds was also troublesome, but relief eventually came. Bright footwork by the Town right wing enabled Finlayson to cut clean through and shoot hard but too high.

The ball was up in the air quite enough but that was excusable to some extent. Torquay's only move for some time brought a free kick against Smith that went over the bar.

They attacked again, however and Booton kicked the ball off Hutchinson's toe for a corner. This was got away, and midfield play followed.

DESPERATE ATTACKS

The visitors defended strongly, but Maggs had to run out to take a centre from Hodge just before Boyd could reach it. Martin made a desperate effort but was forced by weight of numbers to close in.

Good work by Martin brought a through pass to Stephenson. Before the winger could get in his shot Jones booted the ball behind for a corner.

This was got away but a hot attack on the Torquay goal followed, in which Martin, Finlayson and Hodge each got the ball well in front only to see it scrambled away.

The best cheer so far came when Hodge booted through and drove in a terrific shot that Maggs saved in brilliant fashion by putting over the bar.

From the flag kick the Town left wing made desperate efforts to head the ball through but Martin finally shot tamely.

Hodge raced past the defenders again and got in a curling shot that Maggs pushed out as he was fouled.

Hutchinson was slightly hurt but soon resumed.

When Torquay had a turn the referee had a word with Hunt after a charging duel with Smith.

The visiting left had a turn and Dodds forced a corner off Booton. This was cleared, but Coen had to take a long shot from Lievesley.

BOYD MISSES A CHANCE

Boyd was put through cleverly by Roberts and appeared to have the goal at his mercy but, as Maggs came out, the centre-forward shot very tamely and the goalkeeper saved.

A fine pass by Fellowes gave Roberts and Stephenson an opportunity for one of their special runs. Stephenson broke through and shot hard, but the ball struck a ruck of players and came out. Torquay got another corner in one of

their occasional raids. This was cleared, but the Town goal had a very narrow escape indeed directly afterwards.

An awkward bouncing shot from Dodds spun out of Coen's hands right across the goal-line, but Smith raced in and sent it behind for a fruitless corner.

Torquay's right got through and Hutchinson, who had moved to the inside right position, took a pass but completely failed to get the ball across.

The Town pressed hotly for a few minutes, but the interval came.

LUTON TOWN 0

TORQUAY 0

Stephenson was very much in the picture in the first minute of the restart. First he dribbled across the middle of the field and then was up in his place to take a pass from Roberts, but his centre was blocked.

TORQUAY REFUSE TO BE DAUNTED

When Torquay had a turn, Coen had to handle twice in quick succession. The visitors refused to be daunted.

Eventually a free kick was given against Hunt and the Town took the play to Torquay territory.

Jones held up Stephenson, and there was a lot of wild kicking and little constructive effort.

Torquay seemed content to play three forwards, and they did little except boot the ball hard and run for it.

LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF A GOAL

The Town were lacking in combination, however, and there seemed little likelihood of a goal at either end.

A free kick by Booton was headed forward by Roberts, but Maggs raced out and took the ball all right.

There was practically nothing to write about, as there was little worth seeing.

Coen had to fist away, following a good centre from Dodds. At the other end there was a little tussle, in which Hodge was at a disadvantage through lameness.

During a fierce assault by the visitors Coen brought off a wonderful save, but the whistle had already gone for offside.

Torquay defended lustily, booting the ball hard.

GOAL AFTER NEARLY SEVENTY MINUTES

Fellowes forced a corner, but this was cleared. Green wisely kicked behind for a second flag kick just afterwards.

In vain the Town forwards tried to get in a shot, but at last a goal came.

The ball was booted out to the right; Finlayson managed to get in a centre from the flag.

The ball came over to Stephenson, who pushed it across goal for MARTIN to head in twenty-four minutes after the restart.

A free kick to the Town was taken by Fellowes and beat the visiting defence, but Martin failed to turn the ball past the goalkeeper. Although he was lame, Hodge did good work when he received from Martin.

Following a free kick for a foul on Finlayson, the ball came right across goal, and from Boyd's pass Stephenson only just missed.

The Torquay goal was in danger for some minutes. Eventually a shot by Stephenson was turned round the upright by one of the defenders.

The flag kick was fruitless.

Torquay were introducing plenty of vigour.

Martin was brought down badly just on the edge of the penalty area. Stephenson lobbed the free kick in but it was cleared.

LUTON TOWN 1

TORQUAY UNITED 0

Attendance, 9,600; receipts, £486 6s. 6d.

LUTON ON TOP

DIVISION III. (South)

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
LUTON TOWN	33	20	7	6	61	38	46
Coventry C.	33	19	8	6	88	38	44
Reading	34	21	12	1	75	57	43
Queen's P.R.	33	18	9	6	69	46	42
Crystal Palace	34	19	11	4	84	61	42
Watford	32	16	10	6	62	42	38
Brighton	34	16	12	6	62	52	38
Boscombe	33	13	12	8	50	46	34
Torquay United	34	14	14	6	55	52	34
Notts County	34	11	13	10	49	49	32
Gillingham	33	12	14	7	53	58	31
Aldershot	33	12	14	7	38	46	31
Millwall	33	11	13	9	46	62	31
Bristol C.	32	11	13	8	35	39	30
Cardiff C.	34	11	15	8	53	60	30
Southend	32	10	13	9	49	46	29
Clapton O.	32	12	15	6	43	47	29
Swindon T.	33	10	16	7	51	63	27
Bristol R.	33	10	16	7	50	68	27
Northampton	34	10	17	7	50	84	27
Newport	34	9	18	7	49	92	25
Exeter C.	35	7	20	8	51	77	22