

Town's Luck Dead Out In Burnley Replay

[By Chiltern]

BURNLEY 3

(Harrison 3)

LUTON TOWN 0

GENERAL opinion about this match was that the team which scored first would pass on to the Sixth Round, and so it happened. How close the Town came to obtaining the all-important goal can be judged from the fact that, not counting the interval, they hit the Burnley woodwork twice within a matter of minutes.

The first shot came from the final kick of the first half, when Billington fastened on to the ball in mid-field, pivoted quickly, and cracked in a terrific drive that struck the top of the bar and bounced over. It looked a goal from the time the ball left his foot, and had it been inches lower nothing could have stopped it entering the net. Strong had made his effort to save and was well beaten. The other let-off came in the early stages of the second half, when, for the first time in either match, we saw the Burnley defence revealing gaps.

The Town forwards scintillated during this brief spell, and Billington's persistence made an opening for Duggan. The inside-right drove the ball hard for the only narrow opening available, and the Town players wrung their hands in despair when the ball cannoned off the foot of the post.

Had either of these shots counted, the Town would have got on top in the same way as did Burnley when they took the lead after 52 minutes in their first threatening raid of the second half.

A quick attack on the right led to Chew centring, and HARRISON'S head bobbed up at the right moment to glide the ball into the net off the far post.

Whatever hopes the Town had of a successful revival were considerably dimmed when Connelly was injured in a tackle and was forced to spend the rest of the match as a passenger on the right wing.

The Town's troubles were added to when Beach had a recurrence of his ankle injury. This actually happened before the first goal. Though he stuck to his task grimly and gallantly, the balance of the defence was upset, and Gager frequently had to come out of the middle to help cover up. Burnley were able to crowd on heavy pressure, and it really was not surprising when HARRISON increased the lead nineteen minutes from the end.

POINT-BLANK SHOTS BEATEN DOWN

The goal came from a desperate goal-line melee, during which several point-blank shots were beaten down. Harrison eventually applied the finishing touch. Bywater appealed against the goal being allowed, as he alleged that he was being held down during the scramble.

A few Town attacks never managed to shake the solid Burnley defence again, but it was poor reward for the Town's gallant struggle against odds when HARRISON made the total three eight minutes from time.

The goal came from a well-placed corner by Chew. Bywater went up for the ball, failed to hold it, and the centre-forward scored from a most acute angle.

In the first half the Town gave a very good account of themselves, and at the interval there were many willing to lay odds on extra time being necessary. Defences had been very much on top, and the Luton rearguard played with the same confidence and assurance as they did on Saturday.

Burnley had the more chances during this period, but all their bustling and top-speed tactics

failed to shake Gager and his men. The Town forwards played some good-looking football in midfield, but there was a continuing lack of punch at close quarters.

At the same time, the Town were every bit as good as their opponents in the first half and, perhaps, deserved to be a goal ahead. The misfortunes of the second half brought about their dismissal, but they were by no means disgraced, and there was much praise for their plucky fight.

GAGER IN BRILLIANT FORM

Driver did not impress as a progressive outside-right, and Duncan again showed that the hard grounds are not to his liking. He was always prone to hold up the line by too much elaboration.

Billington was easily the pick of the forwards, but once again lacked support. The only chances he had were those he created by his own genius. Duggan made quite a successful come-back, though, perhaps, he needed another game for such a serious test. However, he was a grafter throughout and was ever on the look-out for a shot.

Connelly showed much of his old skill before his injury and distributed the ball accurately. There was a tendency to over-cleverness, but he might easily have proved the match-winner.

I made Cooke and Gager the outstanding figures in defence, and the former's relentless tackling enabled him to hold his own again with Kippax. Gager was in brilliant form and so was Gardiner. Beach's effectiveness was cut down by his injury, but he did everything required of him before that happened.

Soo, despite an inclination to play too cleverly on the treacherous pitch, played an invaluable part. Bywater's judgment was at fault once or twice when it was a case of leaving his goal quickly, but at least two of his saves brought down the house. He could not be blamed for the defeat.

Attendance 28,300. Receipts £2,600.

BURNLEY: Strong; Woodruff, Mather; Loughran, Brown, Bray; Chew, Morris, Harrison, Potts, F. P. Kippax.

LUTON: Bywater; Cooke, Beach; Soo, Gager, Gardiner; Driver, Duggan, Billington, Connelly, Duncan.

Referee: Mr. H. Berry (Huddersfield).