

TOWN CLAIMED ANOTHER GOAL

Referee Ruled That Ball Did Not Cross The Line

By Chiltern

THE point over which controversy raged at the end of the match at Filbert-street on Saturday was whether the Town had scored a fourth goal which would have made the score 4-4 some 10 minutes from the end. From the Town players who were on the spot during the desperate melee in which Brennan sent in a header which appeared to cross the line, came an emphatic "Yes," but the referee ruled against them. So slipped by the Town's chance to pull off as spectacular a recovery as was ever seen in the Cup competition.

WAS too far away from the incident to be able to judge. But, in the dressing room afterwards, Brennan, Kiernan and others averred that the ball was at least a foot over the line when McGraw pushed it away.

What a feat it would have been had the Town been able to level matters after being 4-1 in arrears. Scarcely anybody on the ground gave them a chance of survival when the fourth City goal came from a penalty five minutes after the interval. Well though the Town were playing, they did not look likely to whittle down this substantial lead, and people were beginning to say that the match of the year had flopped.

Thunderbolt For The City

THE first thunderbolt burst around the City's ears eighteen minutes from the end when Waugh came along with a brilliant dribble and a perfect centre and Arnison's head did the rest.

That, we thought, was no more than the Town earned, but the City were not unduly worried, until two minutes later Brennan crashed the ball into the top of the net following a corner which Hall helped on with his head as it came across.

This brought a completely different situation altogether.

Breakaway Goal Dashed Hopes

"COULD the Town do it?" was the anxious question on the lips of the thousands of

Luton fans, and as the team drew themselves together for a gigantic effort, it looked as if they would at least force another bout of extra time.

There was a distinctly worried look on the faces of the City defenders, and they called back all their forces into their penalty area.

Only the wingers remained up-field, and then in the midst of this excitement, Leicester broke away and scored the goal which broke all the tension.

It came so suddenly as to be almost unbelievable, for the Town had got right on top then, and it seemed to be merely a case of whether the City could hang out until the final whistle.

Griffiths Took His Opportunity

VILLAIN of the piece was Jack Lee, who for some reason or another was lurking in the outside-left position. He picked up a long clearance and chased down the wing as fast as his legs would carry him.

Then he swung in a high centre in the best outside-left tradition, but which did not, at first, threaten to bring real danger.

Over towards the far post the ball came, and it seemed to me as if both Streten and Cooke hesitated for a split second, and that gave Griffiths, facing the ball and watching it all the time, his chance.

He came racing in from the wing and cracked in a tremendous low drive taken on the volley, and the ball bulged the net in the opposite corner of the goal.

Penalty Claim Was Disallowed

LUCKY? Maybe, for the ball might have gone anywhere after he had hit it, but a brilliantly taken goal for all that.

With only eight minutes to go, that was virtually the end, but even then, the Town's bad luck was not through, for a clear case of handling in the penalty area was allowed to pass.

Even at that late stage another goal might have set the Town alight again, for once again there was no knowing the limit to which these lively forwards might reach.

The writing was on the wall for two shaky defences from the first minute when the Town got away to a flying start with a goal by Brennan, who flicked a pass from Small into the narrowest possible space between McGraw and the post.

Town Away To A Flying Start

THAT was the sort of start the Town had been dreaming about all week, and everything seemed set fair for them, especially as the forwards were playing football of the highest class.

Could they during the first 20 minutes have managed to score the goals which their brilliant moves promised, then they might have been home and dry.

Gradually, however, the City achieved the smoothness which had been lacking earlier, and began to carry more and more threat in their attacks.

Incidentally, the biggest slice of luck Leicester had in this match was when they won the toss and set the Town defenders to face a blinding sun.

City Made The Most Of The Sun

WHETHER any of the three first half goals came as the result of the handicap under which the Town were labouring is difficult to say, but it did not ease their task of holding the lively City attack.

Leicester showed a nice appreciation of the conditions in the first half by pushing high passes down the middle of the field which kept the Town defenders looking into the sun almost continually.

Still, things were still looking fairly good for the Town until the 27th minute when that man Lee popped up to secure the equaliser when he just beat Streten to a pass from Chisholm.

Three Goals In A Quarter Of An Hour

AFTER that, things began to happen with dramatic suddenness with the net result that in a little over a quarter of an hour the City had turned arrears of 1-0 into a 3-1 lead.

Lee began it with that opportunist goal, but I shall never quite understand how the second came.

One second, the Town were threatening to regain the lead and only a grand save by McGraw prevented them doing so and the next second the ball was in the Town net.

From the clearance, the ball went down the centre of the field and Griffiths sized up the situation, and raced down the middle. The defence was wide open, and the winger, unmarked, shot past Streten as the goalkeeper came out.

Down-The-Middle Pass Worried The Town

IN this instance, as in others during the first half, it seemed that the Town defence was too far up the field and so wide apart as to give a "thin red line" look about it all.

They seemed totally unable to combat the down-the-middle pass, and it was another of this variety which led to the third goal with only three minutes of the first half left.

This time, Chisholm went through on his own but was fortunate to have a second chance after his first shot had rebounded off the post.

Even worse followed five minutes after the resumption when Hall's leg brought Griffiths down full length in the penalty area after he had dribbled past Cooke, and Lee made no mistake from the spot.

Arnison's Successful Return To The Team

PETER SMALL began as if he would be the match-winner, and he often gave Scott an uncomfortable time by the use of his speed.

There were occasions, though, when lack of ball control beat him, and he wasted some openings by running the ball too far.

Still, he always required careful watching, and so did Waugh, who often sparked on the other wing and had the beating of Jelly.

Arnison played as if he had never been out of the team, and led the line with cleverness and resource.

"Better Football Team Lost"

ONE remarkable feature of the game was that the Town in the face of all these disasters, never forsook their football, and they made many friends by the quality of their play.

Their former manager, Ned Liddell, who was there on Brentford's behalf, said after the match, "The better football team lost," and this seemed to be the general impression among the "neutrals."

Definitely the Town gave a display of first-class football, and their tactics were in sharp contrast to the first-time stuff produced by the City.

Not that their style was not effective — it was, and they exploited the down-the-middle gap

Gaps Appeared In The Defence

THE speed and strength of the City inside trio was often too much for the Town defence, and this, added to the resource and enterprise of Griffiths, was the main reason for the Town's dismissal.

The Town battled on desperately against odds, but they failed to close the gaps which were particularly noticeable in midfield, and again the City forwards were left with too much room in which to work the ball.

Hall must be regarding Lee in much the same way as Gager came to think about Lowrie, and he simply could not hold him, especially when the ball was on the ground, where the centre-forward held a tremendous advantage.

Mulvaney Deserves More Outings

STRANGE that the defence after so many splendid games should have found such difficulty

in holding this City attack, but they will not be the only ones to feel the lash, for Leicester have combined speed, dash and finishing power to a high degree, and they will trouble the best of defences before this season is out.

Mulvaney had a baptism of fire, but did sufficient to show that his promotion was not unwarranted, and Adam was not so prominent as in the first match.

Certainly Mulvaney gave signs of nervousness in the first half, but he was playing on after the interval, and deserves further chances.

Griffiths Always A Handful

COOKE found Griffiths an altogether more dangerous proposition than he was the previous week, and the outside-right has just about played himself into the Welsh team.

Cooke played bravely, and stuck to Griffiths gallantly, but always found the winger's speed a trial.

Watkins added constructive skill to the middle line, but was not quite forceful enough in defence, though he might well make this position his own. Always he was seeking to use the ball, and Kiernan found an adequate service from him.

Gardiner Trailed The Wandering Revie

AFTER a week of doubts, Gardiner was able to turn out, and he gave a good enough account of himself, and was most assiduous in the way he trailed the wandering Revie, who could never be pinned down to one position.

Streten had a difficult task because he was so often left facing trouble in the shape of a City forward coming through, but he did not impress me as being in top form.

He was guilty of some unusual errors of judgment, though most of those which occurred in the first half could be put down to the sun. At the same time, he was not the confident Streten we have come to know.

Irish Cap For Bob Brennan?

ONCE again, main honours go to the forwards with Bob Brennan installing himself firmly in the inside-left position which he may occupy in the Irish side next month.

He and Kiernan played brilliantly. (Continued in Next Column)

CHILTERN'S

F.A. CUP: SIXTH ROUND

Brentford v Leicester City
Hull City v Manchester Utd
Portsmouth v Derby County
Wolves v West Bromwich

DIVISION I

Arsenal v Bolton Wanderers
Birmingham City v Charlton Ath.
Blackpool v Preston North End
Chelsea v Stoke City
Everton v Burnley
Middlesbrough v Manchester City
Sheffield Utd v Aston Villa

DIVISION II

Blackburn Rovers v Tottenham H
Bradford v Grimsby Ta
Cardiff City v Plymouth Argyle
Chesterfield v Coventry City
Lincoln City v Sheffield Wednesday
Luton Ta v Nottingham Forest
Q.P.R. v Fulham
Southampton v Barnsley

DIVISION III (SOUTH)

Aldershot v Northampton Ta
Brighton v Southend Utd

(Cont. from Preceding Column)

liant, polished football and instigated move after move which extended the City defence to the full.

Again, the Irishman was on the mark with his shooting, and Kiernan was unlucky in this department with several pile-drivers which missed narrowly.

Kiernan did much as he pleased with the opposition in the second half when he beat man after man by sheer delicacy of footwork, and played a leading part in the Town's great rally.