

Town Forwards Faded Out At Tottenham

By Chiltern

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	2
LUTON TOWN	1

Justice was just about served by this result, for although the Town came close to snatching a point, and, indeed were beaten by a goal which came only two minutes from the end, they would have been rather fortunate to have escaped defeat.

Which does not mean that they were not unlucky in the manner in which they lost, for when a team equalises with only seven minutes to go after having been in arrears for nearly an hour, they are entitled to expect, with some degree of confidence, to remain on level terms.

Flagging Luton hopes were raised to the heights when BRENNAN applied the finishing touch to score the goal that seemed certain to save them. The chance came when Waugh cut in when sent away with a through pass, and tested Ditchburn with a cross shot.

England's goalkeeper got down to the ball, and seemed certain to clear safely, but lost possession just long enough for Brennan to force it over the line.

The manner in which the goal came, and that it was scored at all were somewhat unexpected, for during the second half, apart from one rip-roaring shot from Owen, the Town had given little hint that they would break down a solid looking Spurs defence.

BENNETT had given Spurs the lead after 30 minutes when he just beat Owen to the ball after a corner from Cox, and drove it into the net off the inside of the post.

OWEN'S FINE ATTEMPT

Owen's second half attempt was most spectacular, for he sent the ball goalwards so unexpectedly and with such terrific force that Ditchburn was never within a yard of it. Unfortunately for the Town, it shaved the top of the bar and went over.

There was little else for the large Luton contingent to be enthusiastic about after the interval, except that they saw the defence working in its best style, and by keeping a close grip on the Spurs forwards largely negated their attempts to force a way down the middle.

Indeed, so successful had the Town defence been that another goal to the Spurs in the short space of time remaining seemed a remote possibility.

Yet it came when Nicholson was left unmarked when Cox took a quick throw in, and crossed the ball into the penalty area.

BENNETT reached it before Cooke and Watkins, and with Streten also chasing it and not getting near enough to clear, the inside left, nodded into an empty net.

That was a disappointing climax from the Town point of view, but Spurs forwards, though not playing the brand of football to be expected from a team in their high position were more lively in attack, and produced far more shots than did the Town.

With the wind behind them in the first half, the Town gave every promise in a bright enough opening, and their football was precise and clever.

Kiernan showed just how dangerous an inside forward he can be when he cut through the defence like a knife through butter, and then saw his shot pass the post with Ditchburn hopelessly placed.

LACK OF FINISH

Still, apart from a few other efforts which were not quite so accurate, there was a lack of finish about the Town's play, and they seldom looked a real force when they were inside the penalty area.

After the interval, the forwards were ragged, and to a large extent were dominated by a quick-covering defence. Passes were inaccurate, and the light ball seemed to be an insurmountable obstacle.

None of the forwards really touched his best form. Kiernan gave frequent glimpses of it especially in the first half, but little was seen of Brennan, and Arnison was mostly in Clarke's grip, though he did not have the best of support.

Small had quite a good first half, but was mastered by Ludford afterwards though the passes that came his way were not of the best. The same applied to Waugh, who at the same time, did not make the utmost use of what material did come his way.

There was no weak link in defence where Hall subdued Duquemin and was flanked by two hard-working, strong-tackling wing-halves in Watkins and Owen, of whom the only criticism can be that they were not accurate consistently in their use of the ball.

This was not the easiest of matches for Aherne to have as his first in the Town's colours, but he came through splendidly and his decisive clearances with either foot were a feature of the play. The Town have made a fine capture here if first impressions can be relied upon.

Back in his old position, Cooke gave a fine display and was so good that Jones, the Welsh International, had a poor day. All was not well with Streten's judgment, and he jeopardised his goal more than once by deciding to come out when he would have been far better off by staying at home.

Tottenham Hotspur. — Ditchburn; Tickridge, Ludford; Nicholson, Clarke, Burgess; Cox, Baily, Duquemin, Bennett, Jones.

Luton Town. — Streten; Cooke, Aherne; Watkins, Hall, Owen; Small, Kiernan, Arnison, Brennan, Waugh.

Referee: W. B. Everett, Beccles.