

Yet Another Draw To Add To The List

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 0 SHEFFIELD WED. ... 0

Following their latest division of the honours, the Town firmly established their right to the title of "draw specialists," for this took their total to 15, the highest in the four divisions.

It was a match which brought fresh honours for the defence, and further disappointments for the attack, which again failed to produce the goals.

Yet, there was a time early in the game when the Wednesday goal seemed in imminent danger of falling, for the Town made another bright start and caused real anxiety among the Wednesday defenders.

Luck in the way the ball ran in front of goal was not with them again though and the expected goal did not come.

Although the Wednesday settled down gradually, they seldom held real threat to the Town defence which was equal to everything which came its way.

Before the interval, there were obvious signs that there was more than an outside chance of the Town appearing in a goalless match for the fourth week in succession and so things turned out.

The second half was grimly contested with much of the play in midfield, with the Town having slightly the better of it and Gardiner was unlucky with a shot that went off McIntosh's hands on to a post.

Only a last-minute dive enabled the goalkeeper to reach at full stretch a low shot from Kiernan, but taking the game through, there was a scarcity of shots that looked likely to bring goals.

There were even fewer from the Wednesday than those which the Town were able to make and if there were to be a goal, then it seemed that the Town, for all their failings in the front line, would be the team to get it.

Certainly, they did not suffer by comparison with the Wednesday, for the Town's defence was more compact and less liable to be drawn out of position.

Owen, about whose fitness there was a doubt until Saturday morning, gave another grand display in which he achieved a mastery in the centre of the field and left few 'loop-holes' for McJarrow.

A head injury in the first half which necessitated the insertion of two stitches, did not cut down Aherne's effectiveness in the slightest, and he played magnificently throughout and shut out Marriott almost completely.

EFFICIENT DEFENCE

Cooke, too, was successful against Rickett, and with Watkins and Shanks making valuable, hard-working contributions, the defence fitted together like a jigsaw puzzle, with the result that Hughes had a quiet sort of afternoon.

Best of a forward line which showed more constructive ideas than the Wednesday's, but lacked the vital finishing power was Stobbart, who controlled the lively ball well and showed clever footwork.

Yet, there were times when he made a pass when a shot was the more obvious move, and this was a failing revealed by other members of the line.

Kiernan had only a moderate game which was interspersed with bright bits of work and well-judged passes, and Glover showed considerable improvement in the second half, after a very moderate start.

Had Gardiner received the ball more often, he might have settled down quicker in his new role, but he did show signs of doing so as the game wore on, and he was unlucky not to score.

Nothing much went right for Taylor for a long time, and while he distributed the ball fairly well in the second half, it was not too happy a return for him.

LUTON TOWN: Hughes; Cooke, Aherne; Watkins, Owen, Shanks; Glover, Kiernan, Stobbart, Taylor, Gardiner.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY: McIntosh; Kenny, Bannister; Gannon, Packard, Witcomb; Marriott, Henry, McJarrow, Tomlinson, Rickett.

Referee: G. L. Iliffe, Leicester.

Attendance: 15,273.