

Gallant Town Well Worth Their Point

By Chiltern

Hull City 1, Luton Town 1

When Bud Aherne was led off the field 20 minutes from the end of this match at Boothferry Park on Saturday with a badly gashed head, it looked as if the point which seemed to be within the Town's grasp might be snatched away from them.

With a depleted team, they had to face the full force of the City team which had just previously regained level terms after having been in arrears for 62 minutes.

However, with Shanks at left-back and Gardiner at left-half, the Town presented a very concerted front, and they played in this formation until the end, for although Aherne returned after an absence of 12 minutes, he did not resume his usual position, but went to outside-left.

So the City missed their big chance of pulling the game out of the fire, but it would have been sheer injustice to the Town had they been deprived of the point for which they fought so gallantly.

Despite considerable Hull pressure in the closing stages, the Town defence seldom seemed likely to falter, and their hard tackling and brilliant covering meant few scoring opportunities for the not well balanced Hull forward line.

It was not all Hull in the closing stages, for the Town made some snap raids which might well have regained for them the lead they took after 14 minutes.

SPECTACULAR GOAL

Scorer was GLOVER with a spectacular first-time shot from near the corner of the penalty area. He met the ball on the half-volley after Bowler had headed away from Aherne, and Bly was left helpless as the ball went away from him all the time and went into the net off the inside of the post.

This came as a distinct shock to the City, who had looked the more dangerous in the opening stages, but they rarely managed to get out of the grip of the Town defence, and Carter was the only one to cause any concern with his shooting.

Play was mostly on even lines, but Hull made a brisk start to the second half without looking potential scorers, and the nearest approach to another goal came at their end when Stobbart headed in a sharp centre from Kiernan.

The ball spun away from Bly, but Gibson was lying handy, and he kicked the ball off the line.

Goal which enabled Hull to draw level came after 66 minutes

when Greenhalgh lobbed the ball over Owen's head, and CARTER headed it well out of Hughes's reach.

A couple of minutes later came the mishap to Aherne, caused in a collision with Shanks, but the Town fought grimly under handicap and were fully entitled to the point they gained.

DEFENCE MAGNIFICENT

The defence was again magnificent, with Owen, imperturbable as ever, the sheet anchor. He gave Lee a most unhappy afternoon, and there was little danger down the middle.

Cooke and Aherne were staunch defenders, hard in the tackle and kicking a very good length throughout, which meant that both Hull's wingers were kept reasonably quiet.

Easily the City's best forward was Carter, who appeared in all sorts of unexpected places, and Watkins did very well in doing his share to prevent the inside-left from being the match-winner.

In fact, Watkins gave a very good display, and so did Shanks, resolute and hard-working as ever. The strong defence was completed by Hughes, who, while not over-worked, showed good anticipation and shrewd judgment.

The forward line scarcely gave the same satisfaction, though due allowance must be made for the advantage which the light, awkwardly bouncing ball is giving defences on these hard grounds.

GOOD IN MIDFIELD

In midfield, some delicate movements were executed by the Town forwards, but there was little evidence that anything extra in the way of goalmouth punch was forthcoming.

Stobbart was again a tremendously hard worker, often ploughing something of a lonely furrow down the middle and he represented the main danger to the City goal.

Glover's goal was a very welcome sight and a great effort into the bargain, but he did not maintain that high standard of finishing.

Gardiner tried hard with rather limited material, but did not pull up many trees, and he found little opportunity to have a crack at goal.

Both Kiernan and Taylor played some neat football in midfield, with the latter showing considerable improvement after a very moderate first half, but there was scarcely enough punch in the inside-forward positions.

HULL CITY. — Bly; Gibson (A), Neal; Revie, Bowler, Greenhalgh; Bloxham, Smith, Lee, Carter, Harrison.

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

Referee.—J G Williams, Nottingham.

Attendance.—30,000.