

Havenga's Shots Tipped The Scales Luton's Way

Luton Town 3, Swansea Town 1

Before the Town finally made certain of the points at Kenilworth-road on Tuesday, they had some distinctly uneasy moments.

Most of these came in the first half, when Swansea had a great deal of the play and more scoring chances than did the Town.

Yet it was Luton who held the lead at the interval, through a goal scored by HAVENGA after 15 minutes.

Leading up to this was a run and centre by Glover which threw the visitors' defence into confusion and a couple of shots were beaten out before Havenga saw his chance and rammed the ball into the net.

Had Swansea been ahead at the end of the first half, the Town could scarcely have quibbled, for



Billy Havenga

the Welsh forwards were frequently dangerous and the Town were lucky to escape when Richards headed the ball against the bar with Streten beaten.

There were strong claims for a penalty for hands by Owen when Richards looked a certain scorer, but Streten emerged with the ball and the referee waved on play. Richards failed again from close range and Thomas failed to make use of quite an easy chance.

In fact, right throughout the first half the Town were struggling to hold that narrow lead, but hold it they did and they might have increased it considerably in a few hectic minutes at the start of the second half.

STRUCK THE BAR TWICE

First, Davie went through from a grand pass by Stobbart, but overran the ball just enough for Parry to snatch it away from him and then Shanks and Stobbart both hit the bar.

There was more assurance about the Town this half, especially in defence, which gave Swansea less time to develop their movements, but for all that, there were some thrills at the Town end, especially when Streten dropped the ball following a corner, but recovered magnificently to scoop it up off the line.

It looked as if the match had been clinched when **HAVENGA** stopped the run of penalty failures by scoring from the spot following hands by Kiley 20 minutes from the end.

There had to be some re-adjustment of ideas, however, when **HOWARTH**, who had changed places with Thomas, reduced Swansea's arrears with a shot from 20 yards.

The uncertainty did not last long, though, for with ten minutes left, **HAVENGA** completed a "hat-trick" and put the Town in a position of safety.

HAVENGA'S MATCH

This will go down as Havenga's match and he deserved his success for his willingness to have a crack at goal whenever the opportunity occurred. He was always on the spot when necessary and it is a long time since the Town had a winger showing such marksmanship.

Man who took the eye even more, though, was Davie, who has quickly become a prime favourite with the crowd and has settled down amazingly quickly to English football.

He was the mainspring of the front line and with Havenga formed a most menacing wing.

Shanks contributed much hard and valuable work but Glover fell back into his old habit of holding up the attack, especially in the second half, when he failed to get the ball across consistently.

Stobbart seldom got out of Kiley's grip and there was not a lot of punch down the middle.

which means that the centre-forward problem still remains.

Most of the danger in the first half came from the Swansea left wing, mainly because Wilson allowed Beech (C) to get the ball under control before making his tackle. Wilson stuck gamely to his task and did better in the second half, but the early weakness here caused the defence as a whole to look shaky.

OWEN HELD RICHARDS

Owen was worried by the dash of Richards at the start, but had much the better of the battle long before the end and the defence looked far more certain in the second half.

Morton again achieved a fair measure of success against Allchurch and Watkins played splendidly throughout and gave fine support to the men in front.

Once again, Aherne was a sheet anchor to the defence, for he seldom made a mistake, while Streten had a great game, except that it was through being too far out of his goal that he was beaten by Howarth.

That apart, he was in peak form, and made some daringly brilliant saves when the Swansea pressure was at its height. In fact, the Town owed quite a lot to him.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Wilson, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Watkins; Glover, Shanks, Stobart, Davie, Havenga.

SWANSEA TOWN: Parry; Roberts, Beech (G); Weston, Kiley, Williams; Howarth, Thomas, Richards, Allchurch, Beech (C).

Referee: A. W. Smith, Aldershot.

Attendance: 17,245.