

# Late Goal Meant Yet Another Drawn Game

*By Chiltern*

LUTON TOWN ..... 2 MANCHESTER CITY 2

Of the Town's last five home League matches four have been drawn, but this one against Manchester City should not have ended in this fashion, for until midway through the second half the Town held a two-goals lead.

In yielding that, they missed a magnificent opportunity of making certain of two precious points which they had richly earned on the run of the game, for they outplayed the City for long periods.

In fact, they might easily have had this game sewn up by half-time, for they gave the City defence a terrific hammering in the first half and should have been ahead by more than one goal at the end of it.

That was obtained by DAVIE in the 38th minute, when he promptly headed goalwards when the ball reached him from Trautmann's two-handed punch, and the ball rolled into the net before the defence could recover.

Showing much of the decisiveness and accuracy in the mud that they produced against Portsmouth, the Town gave a splendid display in the first 45 minutes, and it was mainly due to the daring saves of Trautmann that the City escaped so lightly.

When a delightful movement begun by Davie and carried on by Havenga gave MOORE the opportunity to mark his debut with a goal 12 minutes after the resumption, the Town seemed to have placed themselves out of danger.

## **GIFT GOAL FOR SMITH**

It was a bad goal from the Town's point of view that renewed the City's hopes 25 minutes from the end when Sireten and Owen went down in a heap after the ball had come through the middle and Westcott was harassing.

The ball ran loose to SMITH, who calmly tapped it into an empty net. Even that appeared unlikely to have any effect on the ultimate result, and the Town had chances to make certain that it did not.

These were not accepted, but with the minutes going, the Town still seemed to be good winners when the final shock came.

That was four minutes from the end when the defence faltered again, and when the ball came over from Alison, SMITH headed it into the net to pull the game out of the fire for the City.

Even after that, the Town had the opportunity to recover the lead, for Stobbart carved

out an opening for Moore, whose first-time shot from fairly close range went straight at Trautmann.

So, there it was—a case of a first-rate display not producing a full yield mainly because of a couple of defensive errors that cost two goals.

There was nothing suggestive of a relegation team about the Town's form, with the forwards constantly worrying the City defence, mainly due to the prompting of Stobbart and Davie.

This pair impressed as the most effective inside forwards the Town have had for a considerable time, and in this alone, there is bright hope for the future.

Considering that he was stepping into a much higher grade of football and into a strange team, Moore had a successful first appearance and the fact that he was quickly on the target was good news from the Luton point of view.

He is a strongly built player who should be able to take to a conclusion the service provided by the inside men.

Both Glover and Havenga did much that was good and the forwards were a deal more dangerous and played more effective football than did the City front line.

The annoying part of this match from the defence's standpoint was that they might so very easily have come through with a clean sheet, for they were seldom in real trouble.

Those two errors spoilt what was otherwise a splendid afternoon's work, though perhaps in each case they were a trifle unlucky.

For the most part, the half-backs had a grip on things in the middle of the field, with Owen holding Westcott in a firm grip, and Morton turning in some strong, consistent work.

Watkins was at his best for three-quarters of the game, but faltered at times in the closing stages and it was not until then that Clarke really found a way of overcoming Cooke, who was well on top of his job.

So was Aherne against whom Alison rarely had the slightest chance and it really was a pity that the defence should have to come in for blame for the loss of this point.

There were long spells when Streten was largely a spectator. Most of his work lay in leaving his goal to pick up through passes and, in this phase, he did not look so confident as usual, though the bad state of the ground may have had something to do with it.

**LUTON TOWN:** Streten; Cooke, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Watkins; Glover, Stobbart, Moore, Davie, Havenga.

**MANCHESTER CITY:** Trautmann; Branagan, Westwood; Spurdle, Rigby, McCourt; Alison, Paul, Westcott, Smith, Clarke.

Referee: L. D. Thompson, Worksop. Attendance: 12,087.