

TOWN ROSE TO THE OCCASION AGAIN

[By Chiltern]

GRIMSBY TOWN 0 LUTON TOWN 2

The Town's capacity for rising to the occasion, which has been evident in previous meetings with relegation rivals, was seen again at Blundell Park on Saturday when they beat a poor Grimsby team in comfortable style.

Those two precious points were gained without the Town striking the best form of which they are capable, but, for all that, they were never in real danger of defeat.

In a scrappy sort of game, very nearly all the good football came from the Town, who had the more constructive ideas, were quicker on the ball, and were much more impressive in their finishing.

Much over-anxiety could be perceived in the play of both teams in the first half during which Grimsby had more of the play, without ever appearing likely to turn their advantage to account.

A lot of their attacks were launched in a haphazard way and their weak finishing spoilt what openings were worked out.

The remainder fizzled out against the strong work of the Town defence and it was not altogether surprising when Luton drew first blood six minutes before half-time.

This all-important goal came from TAYLOR, who also obtained the first at almost the same stage of the match with Chesterfield the previous week, and it had a really settling effect on the Town.

LIGHT BALL WAS TROUBLESOME

Like Grimsby, they had been worried by the antics of the light ball, something completely strange to them after weeks of playing in the mud with a ball like lead.

A long free-kick by Cooke was the forerunner of the success, and after Pemberton had had a shot beaten down, Moore, pushed the ball to Taylor who beat Hayhurst with a hard drive from just inside the penalty area.

After that, apart from some desperation measures by Grimsby in the last five minutes before the interval, it was easy for the Town.

In the second half they struck

much better form than they had shown previously, with the forwards getting more of the ball and continually opening up problems for a not-oversafe home defence.

Not unexpectedly the lead was increased 12 minutes after the restart by PEMBERTON, who thus had the distinction of scoring his first goal in League football.

There had been a distinction for Taylor, too, in that his success was the fiftieth League goal of the season for the Town.

Taylor had a hand in the second goal as well, for he sent Stobbart away, and when Hayhurst failed to gather the high centre, Pemberton was on hand to slam the ball into the net.

Although there was plenty of time for a fighting rally by Grimsby to materialise, it never looked likely to do so, and the Town did most of the pressing and had the chances to increase their lead.

STRONG TACKLING BY TOWN

Grimsby's efforts at retaliation nearly all broke down against the Town's strong tackling long before the danger area had been reached.

For the Town defence, the match was a triumph in that they prevented a goal being scored for the second week in succession.

Owen never gave Bloomer the slightest chance to repeat his scoring feats of earlier in the season on his return to the team, and Cooke's hard tackling put the left wing out of joint.

Shanks had a particularly good match, Watkins was effective, and the quick tackling of the Town defence was one of the features.

There was some uneasiness in the first half at the apparent ease with which McStay was rounding Lake, but the left-back got over a sticky patch and did very well after the interval.

Few shots of a difficult nature reached Streten, who had by no means a busy afternoon.

With Taylor the most effective forward on this occasion, the right-wing was a forceful combination with Stobbart too fast and clever for Harnby.

Moore held the line together well and although scoring chances did not come his way, he was always working and harassing.

After a very quiet first half, Davie was more in the picture without being so dangerous as he has been in recent games, and Pemberton again did a competent sort of job at outside-left with rather limited material.

GRIMSBY TOWN: Hayhurst; Moody, Harnby; Scotson, Duthie, McKenzie; McStay, Squires, Bloomer Lloyd, Maddison.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Cooke, Lake; Watkins, Owen, Shanks; Stobbart Taylor (J), Moore, Davie, Pemberton.