

"Draw Specialists" Tag For The Town Again?

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 1 HULL CITY 1

Are the Town qualifying for the title of "draw specialists" again? It certainly begins to look that way, for this was their third match in eight days to end with honours even.

There was a time at Kenilworth-road on Saturday when a draw looked anything but likely — with the Town making one of their spectacular starts and threatening to run Hull off their feet.

Within the first half an hour they might easily have secured sufficient goals to make certain that Hull would gain no success from this game.

Apart from what must have been a bitter blow in the third minute, when MOORE scored for the Town, Hull suffered another shortly afterwards, when Gerrie was taken off the field with a head injury.

But the Town could not cash in on their numerical and territorial advantage, and Hull made a splendid fighting recovery.

True, there had been some close calls at the Hull end, and more than for Luton when the visitors' four forwards, well backed up by Harris, contrived to upset a Town defence that missed Owen badly.

CARTER'S GRAND EQUALISER

A weak clearance by the amateur, Stone, left the defence wide open and gave CARTER the opportunity to cut through to beat Streten with a hard left-footed shot that counted as the equaliser after 39 minutes.

Gerrie returned just in time to see that sparkling effort, and although he spent the rest of that half at outside-left, he moved inside midway through the second half and was quite a danger to the Town.

Both sides had scoring chances after the interval, and, if anything, Hull were the stronger in front of goal.

Too often the Town's raids came to a full-stop when they

reached the edge of the penalty area.

Well before the end, home supporters had lost hope of the Town registering a badly needed home win, for Hull's defence presented a solid, concerted front and there was always imminent danger of them snatching the winning goal during their snap breakaway.

REPLAY REACTION?

No doubt, their arduous test at Griffin Park on Wednesday had something to do with the Town's below-par display, for they began well enough, but failed to make the most of the superiority they gained.

Another factor was the absence of Owen, but that did not excuse the uneven display by the forwards.

They began brightly enough, but afterwards, the inside-forwards largely lost touch and there was not much support for Moore, who led the line well in the first half.

A switch by Stobbart and Moore for a spell after the interval, did not prove productive and neither Stobbart nor Mitchell made the best use of their opportunities.

Glaring weakness was at centre-half where Stone never got into the way of things and was beaten consistently, which meant that the others had to do much covering.

Watkins and Aherne were sound on the left flank. Morton had a most useful game, but Cooke has still not struck his best form since returning after his injury.

Quite a lot was owed to Streten, particularly in the second half, for his agility and keen anticipation and he effected several first-class saves.

LUTON TOWN. — Streten; Cooke, Aherne; Morton, P. Stone, Watkins; Stobbart, Davies, Moore, Taylor (J), Mitchell.

HULL CITY. — Robinson; Hassall, Jensen; Harris, Berry, Durham; Linaker, Carter, Gerrie, Todd, Burbanks.

Referee: S. E. Law, West Bromwich. Attendance: 16,550