

CENTRE-HALF PROBLEM FOR TOWN

OWEN OUT, HALL IS DOUBTFUL

Laurels For Arsenal Their Lucky Cup Win

By Chiltern

Injuries from the Cup-tie with Arsenal on Saturday leaves the Town with one big problem for the home League game with Doncaster Rovers tomorrow afternoon.

to play at centre-half?" was the question Peter Dally Duncan was asking himself yesterday, the unfitness of Owen, combined with the fact that Hall is a very doubtful starter, leaves the problem most complicated.

ed a kick on the Saturday match with Wat- last Saturday week drop out of the Kenilworth-road for Sunday and is to test this morning. it was thought that against him being out since there is bruising near the

how long Owen will of the side is not sure it is regarded as he will be able to for Saturday's visit

Out For Rest Of The Season

on-starter to-morrow, is Roy Davies, for this season has the ankle injury on Saturday.

of 23 minutes from was obvious that there serious damage and amon showed a frac- just above the ankle detained in hospital evening.

at least two months s fit again, which off for the rest of his campaign.

ton May Be At Centre-Half

he worst happen and declared unfit, then move is that Bob take over at centre-

I mean a chance for younger wing-halves, Smith, whose only in the League Doncaster earlier this

morning, Dally Dun- got far enough to announce names, but is that if Morton to the middle Charlie

Watkins will be switched to right-half, especially as Peter Doherty is likely to be at inside-left.

Turner Likely To Gain A Place

AS for the forward vacancy, this is likely to be filled by George Stobbart going to outside-right again and Gordon Turner being brought into one of the inside-forward positions.

Possibly there will be a disinclination to move Jack Taylor from inside-right, so Turner will probably have to figure on the left.

These suggested arrangements were only in the discussion stage yesterday and the team will not be announced until late this afternoon at the earliest.

Hugh McJarrow cannot be considered for inclusion because of his toe injury and he has an appointment for further examination at the hospital on Thursday.

Doncaster Match Is Vital

ONE hopes that no reaction will set in after the Cup defeat, for the Town need League points to consolidate their League position and there is quite a vital look about to-morrow's match since Doncaster are one of the clubs actively engaged in trying to stave off relegation.

Doncaster are not announcing their team until later this morning, but yesterday it was stated that "there will not be many changes from the following": Hardwick; Rouse, Graham; Jones, Paterson, Miller; Calverley, Lawler, Adey, Doherty, Tindill.

Reduced To 9½ Fit Players

THOUGH they have been given them in one or two places, Arsenal get no laurels from me or from the great majority of the Town supporters for their victory on Saturday.

To beat a crippled team and

nor to be able to take the lead until the Town were reduced to 9½ fit players is not a convincing way in which to gain a place in the semi-finals.

Were Arsenal lucky? Of course they were and the Town were the unluckiest team in the world not to set up a new record for the club.

Owen's Injury Opened The Way For Arsenal

TURNING point of the whole match, of course, was the injury to Owen just before half-time.

This had the result of upsetting the compact Town defence which had had such a tight grip on an Arsenal attack that was completely lacking in ideas during the first half.

Goring received a talking to from the referee for his foul on Owen—the second he had had for fouling the centre-half—and Luton gained a free-kick, but that was inadequate compensation for an incident that opened the gate to an Arsenal victory.

Should Owen Have Been Moved?

IF, as reported in one London newspaper, Goring could not understand what the crowd were booing about, the Arsenal captain, Joe Mercer, seemed to be under no such illusion for he waved an admonitory finger at the centre-forward who was then switched to inside-right.

Discussion since the match has ranged largely on whether Owen should have been moved from centre-half for the second half for which he returned with his ankle heavily strapped outside his boot.

Reason for that somewhat unorthodox treatment was that Owen knew that he would not be able to get his boot on again because of the swelling, if he had taken it off at half-time.

"I Will Keep Going," Said Owen

ADVISABILITY of a switch was discussed during the interval, but Owen said, "I will keep going."

There was an alternative plan had he broken down completely, and that was to bring Morton into the middle and move Taylor to right-half.

Although Owen was by no means a passenger, he had only one effective foot which, apart from preventing him from using his right foot in tackles and for kicking, handicapped him on the turn.

No one will ever know what would have happened had changes been made, but they might well have had an upsetting effect on the whole team.

The Outstanding Player On Field

OWEN kept going pluckily, but was only a shadow of the brilliant player he was before the interval when he was the outstanding figure on the field.

"The best centre-half in England," was the description of him I heard during the interval and it was well deserved.

Had Owen not been injured, I think that Arsenal would have had all their work cut out to score even one goal and that they certainly would not have won this tie without the necessity of a replay which the Town earned, crippled by injuries as they were.

Manager's Move Was Decisive

HAD they been able to remain at full strength the great probability is that one of the biggest football sensations of the year would have burst over Arsenal's head, but Tom Whittaker went a long way to gaining eventual success by altering his forward line for the second half.

The strong Roper was much more successful in the middle than Goring had been, though, of course, his task was rendered easier by Owen's injury.

Matchwinner in the end was Cox whom I once saw knock Chelsea out of a semi-final with an opportunist effort.

Gem Of A Goal From Moore

HIS first goal after exactly an hour restored the Arsenal equilibrium since it equalised the gem of a goal headed by Bernard Moore in the eighth minute.

If ever Arsenal had a shock it came to them when Moore's head steered the ball wide of Swindin from Mitchell's centre and the applause that greeted it suggested that Bedlam had been let loose.

Right until that fatal 60th minute, the Town kept their heads in front and deservedly so against an Arsenal side that was sluggish and which had its attack thrown out of gear completely by the brilliance of the Town's half-back line.

Was Cox Offside For First Goal?

MY immediate reaction when Cox received the pass from

FOR THE RECORDS

LUTON TOWN	2
Moore, Mitchell (pen.)	
ARSENAL	3
Cox (2), Milton.	
LUTON TOWN.—Streten; Cooke, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Watkins; Davies, Taylor (J), Moore, Stobbart, Mitchell.	
ARSENAL.—Swindin; Barnes, Smith; Shaw, Daniel, Mercer; Cox, Milton, Goring, Lishman, Roper.	
Referee—R. J. Leafe, Nottingham.	
Attendance.—28,433, receipts, £6,159, (both records).	

which he scored the first goal was that he was offside and, looking back, I have an idea that the referee gave a glance at the linesman from whom no signal came.

Angles on a football field are apt to be misleading, of course, but there certainly seemed a suspicion of offside about it, though there was no appeal from the Town defenders.

Cox's shot from an acute angle went in between Streten and the near post and the goalkeeper obviously erred in leaving such a gap.

Second Started A Spate Of Scoring

PROBABLY Streten expected something similar when the second chance fell to Cox 17 minutes from the end, but this time the right-winger turned outside-left aimed for the other corner and Arsenal were in the lead for the first time.

Streten said afterwards that he touched both shots, but could not deflect them.

The second goal was the start of a spate of scoring that was followed by a third Arsenal goal from Milton and by a penalty taken by Mitchell, who again showed how accurate he is from the 12-yards spot.

Three Goals After Davies's Departure

THE penalty was awarded for hands against Daniel, and all three goals came after Davies had been carried from the field, which left the gallant Town facing a handicap that no team in the world could have overcome.

Full marks to them, though, for their great fight and a full measure of praise for having come so close to proving that outsiders' chances cannot be neglected.

To me, Arsenal were disappointing, and apart from a hectic first five minutes when they seemed to be trying to settle the issue once and for all, they produced little bearing the hallmark of class before the interval.

Inside-Forwards Were Rather Disappointing

CERTAINLY, there was better football from them in the

second half, when their accurate passing drew admiration and might have acted as an inspiration to Taylor and Stobbart, neither of whom used the ball well.

The Town's inside forwards were rather disappointing and Taylor, from whom so much was expected, was so well watched by Mercer that he had few opportunities to show his shooting power.

Too often Taylor took the ball too close to this great left-half, and he was frequently caught in possession. Stobbart beat Shaw cleverly at times, but his distribution let him down.

Tom Whittaker Liked Moore

BEST of the Town forwards were Moore, who earned some admiring remarks from Tom Whittaker afterwards, and Mitchell, who led Welsh international Barnes something of a dance in the first half.

Moore was a frequent danger to Arsenal's defence, but after the interval was ploughing much of a lonely furrow.

Davies was doing quite well until his most unfortunate injury, which looked to me to be a pure accident.

Great strength of the Town's team was in the middle line. Owen's brilliance has already been noted, and Morton and Watkins vied with each other for the highest honours.

Wing Halves Broke Up Attack After Attack

TIME and time again, they broke up Arsenal raids by stout, accurate tackling and both played magnificently.

Aherne contributed a sound, effective display, too, but Cooke, after navigating the first half without mishap, found Cox too slippery for him when the Arsenal changes were made, and it was down this wing that the danger emanated and the three goals came.

Cooke is still uncertain in his timing and has not regained full confidence.

Though Streten received some blame, this was more than balanced by the praise he was given for a fine, acrobatic display and he made some magnificent saves, some of which almost brought down the house.

Reserves' Rally Brought Point

THE Reserves hit back hard to gain a Combination Cup point at Birmingham after being 3-1 in arrears.

Shanks and Taylor (A) got the goals that enabled them to draw and the only goal of the first half came from a penalty taken by Sexton.

On the whole, the Town put up a solid display with Baynham, Dunne and Kelly shining in defence and Cullen and Shanks forming a most progressive wing partnership.

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Chiltern's Forecasts

DIVISION I

Bolton W. v. Chelsea
Burnley v. Derby C.
Charlton Ath. v. Manchester C.
Fulham v. Arsenal
Manchester Utd. v. Wolves
Middlesbrough v. Blackpool
Newcastle Utd. v. Portsmouth
Preston N.E. v. Aston Villa
Stoke C. v. Huddersfield T.
Tottenham H. v. Sunderland
West Brom v. Liverpool

DIVISION II

Birmingham C. v. Sheffield Utd
Brentford v. Swansea T.
Cardiff v. Barnsley
Doncaster R. v. Bury
Everton v. Luton
Leeds Utd. v. Blackburn R.
Leicester C. v. West Ham
Nottm. Forest v. Coventry C.
Rotherham Utd. v. Hull C.
Sheffield Wed. v. Q.P.R.
Southampton v. Notts Co.

DIVISION III (SOUTH)

Aldershot v. Millwall
Bristol R. v. Southend Utd.
Colchester Utd. v. Port Vale
Crystal Palace v. Bristol City
Exeter C. v. Northampton T.

DIVISION III (NORTH)

Accrington S. v. York C.
Barrow v. Darlington
Bradford v. Tranmere R.
Carlisle Utd. v. Bradford C.
Chesterfield v. Southport
Grimsby T. v. Gateshead
Halifax T. v. Scunthorpe Utd.
Mansfield T. v. Lincoln C.
Rochdale v. Chester
Stockport C. v. Hartlepool Utd.
Workington v. Oldham Ath.
Wrexham v. Crewe Alex.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

DIVISION "A"

Aberdeen v. Motherwell
Airdrieonians v. Partick T.
East Fife v. Dundee
Hearts v. Stirling A.
Queen of South v. Hibernian
Rangers v. Morton
St. Mirren v. Celtic
Third Lanark v. Raith R.

DIVISION "B"

Alloa v. Queen's Park
Arbroath v. Stenhousemuir
Ayr Utd. v. Dunfermline
Clyde v. Dumbarton
Cowdenbeath v. St. Johnstone
Dundee Utd v. Albion R.
Falkirk v. Forfar Ath.
Hamilton v. Kilmarnock

SELECTIONS

TEN HOME.—Bolton, Burnley, Tottenham, Cardiff, Nottm. Forest, Sheffield Wed., Bristol R., Plymouth, Chesterfield, Grimsby.

FOUR AWAY.—Blackpool, Millwall, Brighton, Oldham.

THREE DRAWS.—Charlton v. Manchester C.; Exeter v. Northampton; Accrington v. York.

FOOTBALL

LUTON TOWN F.C.
The League — Division II
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12th
LUTON TOWN
v.
DONCASTER
ROVERS
Kick-off 3 p.m.

ADMISSION: Centre Stand 6/-;
Stand & Enclosure 3/6, Boys 2/-;
Ground (under cover) 2/-; Ground
(Kenilworth Road) 1/6, Boys 1/-.