

WANDERERS FAILED TO STOP BOLTON'S CUP HOPE

Fought Hard Without Shaking Referee

LUTON TOWN

BOLTON'S DOWN-THE-MIDDLE TACTICS WERE EFFECTIVE—

But Their One And Only Goal Was Hardly Deserved On Run Of Play

LUTON TOWN 0 BOLTON WANDERERS 1

By Chiltern

AFTER a morning of doubt and uncertainty about the possibility of playing the Town's Cup-tie with Bolton Wanderers at Kenilworth-road this afternoon, things turned out a lot better than seemed likely to be the case first thing this morning. Then the pitch was covered by five inches of snow, and it was a great effort on the part of voluntary workers to manhandle this quantity and make the pitch playable.

Among the volunteers were a number from Bolton who, having travelled all night, were at the ground early and willingly gave a hand to ensure them seeing a match after their long journey.

By mid-day strenuous effort had satisfied the referee that the pitch was fit for play, but a further snowstorm threatened to sabotage it after all. Happily, this cleared up, and by the time the game started the weather was fine and there was a near-blue sky.

The pitch presented a piteous look, with snow falling in places, but many patches in which the grass, or rather the mud was showing.

The referee was full of praise for the job that had been done this morning and the fact that the game was delayed until a quarter of an hour before the start.

Despite the doubts there was a big crowd, which did not look as if it was even approaching the record just before the start, and there were some 25,000 in the game again.

Other parts of the ground were well filled, and there were some 25,000 in the game again.

REFUL AT ATMOSPHERE
Bolton had brought a crowd estimated at 2,000, and three special trains arrived in Luton at 10.15 and 11.0.

Nothing went on until 12.15, and there was a sort of atmosphere of expectancy.

At 1.15 the match started, and it was found it necessary to make late changes, and to change in red, and to wear Derby County's and choice colours of navy-blue.

The Town were barely recognisable in their new colours and something of an innovation was caused by the referee in wearing a white shirt.

However, the England centre-forward could not gather the ball and Baynam cleared by throwing himself full-length at it and snatching it from the feet of Moir.

GRAND TACKLE

This seemed to encourage Bolton, and only a scant tackle by Owen stopped Lofthouse in full flight when a most accurate long pass by Holden had found him right on the penalty spot.

More action at the Bolton end brought a terrific lunge by Turner, who did not connect with the ball, which was kept at the visitors' end for some little time.

Morton was particularly prominent for the Town with his staunch work, and several times he set attacks going, only for them to fizzle out against hard tackling and good covering by the Bolton defenders.

The Town still had a slight advantage, and if Moore had been able to control a pass from Turner, the centre-forward might have developed for Bolton.

As it was, Hartle was able to touch the ball back to Hanson, who cleared it with plenty of time to spare.

Then followed a well developed Bolton attack in which the ball moved right across to Holden, from whose centre Langton has a terrific drive beaten down.

Still the danger was not cleared for the ball came across again, and Aherne nipped in quickly to boot it into touch and foil Holden in the same moment.

NEED ATTENTION

Holden was shaken up in doing so, and had to have attention from the trainer, as did Langton, but both were soon all right again.

There was not much in it now and both teams were finding the conditions tricky, and all against accurate football.

Best chance for Bolton so far, and it was a result of another long down-the-middle pass, this time by Wheeler, left Moir in a good position, but he sliced his first drive, the wrong side of the post.

He had posed the main danger to the Town so far, and it looked as if Bolton were pinning a good deal of their hopes on Loft-house again.

A free kick, followed by a corner, took the Town on the attack again, and Bolton returned to the pitch the goalmouth high with his head.

How The Goal Came

LOFTHOUSE for Bolton after 32 minutes.

quite a quarter of an hour. On the other hand, the Town forwards were not causing Hanson much trouble.

SUCCESSFUL BREAKAWAY

Then Bolton broke away to take the lead through MOIR after 32 minutes.

It was the down-the-middle threat which we had seen early in the half that brought the reverse.

Lofthouse began the movement with a pass to Moir, and then ran on past Owen to take the inside-right's head-high pass and met it squarely with his head to nod it into the corner of the net, well out of the reach of Baynam, who made a despairing effort.

The goal was scarcely deserved on the run of the play, but it was a very opportunistic effort, and finely taken by England leader.

Right from this the Town bit back and Mitchell struck Hanson's legs during a hot attack.

This setback was a disappointment to the Town fans, but the Town forwards had not been injured at close quarters, and were too prompt to break down when the penalty area was reached.

It was a struggle on hard-fought lines now, with both defences mainly holding a grip.

Bolton were playing with rather more confidence in their goal, and Langton was found completely unafraid by a canny pass by Moir. He made poor use of his opportunity, though, for the ball went straight to Morton, who cleared with all the ease in the world.

APPEALS TURNED DOWN

Loud Town appeals for a penalty when Turner went full-length inside the forbidden area were turned down by the referee, who came in for some boobying from the crowd.

Baynam picked out of the air a cross by Holden, and the Town, although fighting back hard, were not making difficulties often for this tightly-packed Bolton defence. Turner tried to pop in for one of his unexpected goals when Moore crossed the ball low. He was heavily tackled by Moir, but in any case the whistle had gone for offside.

Hanson did extremely well to snatch the ball away from Turner's feet by the near post after Mitchell had crossed it low and the Town were looking, but more menacing than had been the case for some considerable time.

This was followed by a raid by Bolton in which Holden's attempt to have a shot at goal finished a lot nearer the corner flag. Half-time.

LUTON 0 BOLTON 1

It had been a somewhat exciting first half for a Cup-tie, due, no doubt, to the difficult conditions, and one had the feeling that the Town were trying to play a bit too much football at close quarters.

Bolton began the more strongly in the second half, and twice the ball was swung into the goalmouth, to be cleared eventually by Watkins in clever style.

When the Town retaliated, the passing broke down at the critical moment, and then when found Mitchell with a wide-thrust pass. Following that, Turner's strong attempt to break through was prevented by the staunch Barrass, who now had a plaster right across his forehead.

A mistake by Owen following a goal by Hanson, was followed through Lofthouse, from whose pass Moir was left with an opportunity that looked like bringing a second goal. Aherne raced across to get a foot to the ball and allow the Town to breathe again.

Mistakes, of course, were frequent and inevitable on this going, and Wheeler made a hash of a clearance by sending the ball straight to the hands of Jones, who, however, was hanging on too long and was robbed.

A nicely-judged pass by Pye went Cullen away, and Hanson punched one-handed. Turner went in to try to connect with his head.

OWEN THERE

Mitchell made an opening for Pye, who was baulked at the last minute when Barrass shot out at leg and the centre-forward was able to only half hit his shot, which Langton picked up with no trouble at all.

Bolton were dangerous, again with that down-the-middle thrust to Lofthouse, who recovered more quickly after going down in a heap with Jones, and then made a bee-line for goal, only to collide with Owen.



BOLTON WANDERERS

Bolton looked to the referee, who made no sign.

There was not much sign of a Town equaliser, and still the forwards were breaking down repeatedly when they reached the region of the penalty area.

Best shot of the half came from Langton. Baynam went full-length to stay away for a corner, which was quickly cleared by Owen to Cullen, and the Town forwards went moving in better style.

In a tussle between Moore and Moir, a goal-keeper to Bolton resulted.

When Watkins tried a near-goal tackle on Langton, Bolton gained an obvious free kick, from which Langton himself swung in a first-time shot from the edge of the penalty area that Baynam had well covered.

The Town were fighting but just could not pull this steady Bolton defence out of position.

ILL ADVISED

Quicker passing might have done the trick, but too many of the Town forwards were running with the ball and being caught with it.

The Town fans were looking in vain for a rally, but Bolton were having a little more of the play now and gained a corner when Owen inadvertently ran the ball over the line.

From this, Langton, who was wandering into the middle now, was wandering into the middle now.

Langton had changed places with Hanson who had a very unproductive time so far.

Best effort for the Town came when Mitchell beat Hartle and cut in through Lofthouse, from whose pass Moir was left with a goal kick.

A little lower and it could have brought trouble, but Langton and Hanson resumed their original places and the next incident was a goal-keeping incident.

This brought the Town a free kick a dozen yards outside the penalty area, but Pye placed it tamely, bang into the hands of Hanson, who did not even have to move.

Wheeler had a long shot saved by Baynam, and then Turner, finding his attempt to break through the packed defence unavailing, switched the ball quickly out to Cullen, who, shooting as he was tackled by Higgins, sliced the ball wide.

In this tackle Higgins was injured, and there was a hold-up while he received attention.

There was a crude clearance by Barrass who banged the ball into the crowd when no particular danger threatened but the centre-half was playing a masterly part and Pye was having little scope.

Mitchell gained a free kick

than to delay long enough for Aherne to tackle.

Morton raised the Town's hopes with a strong run and passed to Turner, who slipped the ball out to Cullen. He was quick of the most what hope there was by pulling the ball badly wide.

TOWN SWITCH

A quarter of an hour from the end came a switch that showed just how desperate the Town were feeling about the ultimate result.

Turner was pulled back from inside-left to right-half, Moore moved across to take his position and Moir went in as partner to Cullen.

This was obviously designed to bring more punch, which had been badly lacking this afternoon, into the forward line.

It had no immediate result for Baynam was next in action, cutting out spectacularly a high cross by Holden, but then the strong Morton got the ball in midfield, and, having slipped it to Cullen, cleared the most effective Town raids this half.

From Pye it went on to Moore who nodded it back in the direction of Morton, and Higgins put behind to get out of trouble.

The corner brought an escape for Bolton for the ball went out to Mitchell standing on the edge of the penalty area and his terrific right-footed shot just topped the heads of Hanson well beaten, and the goal.

LAST BID

The Town were pulling themselves together now for a last bid and Bolton were switched back to the edge of the penalty area in a defensive with a vengeance.

This spasm faded out and Bolton came back smartly, without really promising to increase their desperation.

Turner cleared near goal after Jones had half stopped a cross by Langton and from the new right-half the clearance Pye rounded Barrass, only for the centre-half, lying prone on the ground, to stop the ball with both hands.



Jones's free kick was easily headed away. The goalkeeper was running out for the Town fans.

And they could not get even within shooting range now.

Just before the end the Town had a corner which was headed away to Jones, who, taking aim from 20 yards, sent the ball flying wide of the post.

The referee was looking at his watch now and it looked as if the Town's Cup hopes had come to an end.

Hanson was back helping out the Bolton defence, and in a great late bid Mitchell had a shot ricochet for a corner. Before this could be taken, the Bolton trainer had to come on to attend to Barrass, who, however, was quickly able to get back on his feet.

Result: LUTON TOWN 0 BOLTON WANDERERS 1

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