

LAST HOME MATCH WAS DREARY

TOWN FORWARDS HAD A DEPRESSING DAY

Dare's Late Goal Meant Points For Brentford

By Chiltern

It was a pity in view of the brilliant displays the Town have given this season that they should sign off before their own supporters with such a dreary showing as they produced against Brentford. Led by a team that was only in the moderate category they failed completely to attain cohesion in attack and it was the inability of the forwards to reach an understanding that led to this very unexpected home defeat.

The final whistle came as a relief, for the football played by both teams suggested that the season had lasted a lot too long. Perhaps, with their promotion as good as finished and secured of third place anyway, some of the "needle" had gone out of the Town's play and there was not the fight and determination we have seen in the recent weeks. Nor were the spoiling, solid defensive tactics of Brentford calculated to make this a game of the ordinary, but the Town had themselves to blame.

Switching Of Pye Not A Success

SWITCHING of Pye to inside-left to allow Moore to lead the attack was not a success, for the former was expected to general in the middle of the field and mould the line together.

Unfortunately, he had an off day, produced little of a constructive nature and, as a result, the line had no guiding influence. Many must have felt sorry for Moore having one of his rare first team chances in his proper position, for he received little valuable material and was closely watched by the stalwart

A Move That Nearly Brought Goals

THERE was plenty of dash and drive from Moore and he was dangerous several times in the first half when he worked his way down the right wing and this move should have brought a goal on two or three occasions.

Once, Monk kicked off the goal-keeping with Newton badly placed. Otherwise, the Town rarely looked like getting goals.

What shooting there was came from Turner who, however, was little in the game and not much came of his mid-work.

Maybe the wingers did not

receive all the service they merited, but neither could escape the attentions of close-marking opponents.

Few Movements Of A Clear-Cut Nature

MITCHELL was rarely out of Monk's grip, and Cullen spoilt a lot of his work by attempting too much and holding the ball too long.

Hard tackling, good covering and safety-first clearances by the Brentford defenders was too much for the Town forwards, who made few movements that were clear-cut enough to leave them with reasonable scoring chances.

Although they had more of the play than Brentford, much of what they did was ineffective, and they seldom looked even a shadow of the fast-moving combination they have been for the greater part of this season.

Did Not Look Like Being Beaten

NATURALLY, the liveliness of the ball did not make their task any easier, for it took them that little extra time to get the ball under control, and that was sufficient for the Brentford defenders who were always coming in to meet it.

Yet, this was never a match that the Town looked likely to lose until Dare obtained the only goal five minutes from the end.

He nipped through after Latimer had lifted the ball over Owen's head and took his chance quite cleverly.

Hooked The Ball Over Baynham's Head

PERHAPS mistakenly, Baynham left his goal, and the ball was hooked over his head to drop under the bar.

Even so, he might have been beaten just as easily had he

stayed in goal, and this was one of those split-second decisions that went wrong.

This was the only suggestion of a blemish on Baynham's display, for he made some great saves in the first half, particularly a couple on his left side when he caught the ball while at full length.

Always he looked sounder than Newton, who invited disaster at times by the way in which he punched the ball.

Newton Cracked A Bone In A Finger

EXAMINATION after the match showed that Newton had cracked a finger, an accident that occurred midway through the second half when he saved at point blank range as Turner came in from the wing with the ball.

Another casualty was Ledgerton, who fell heavily on his back twice and was not able to do much in the closing stages.

A gash just above the eye caused Owen to have a stitch inserted at the finish, but the damage is not serious and he was able to play at Bedford last night.

Same Attack Was Retained

MOST people expected something of a forward re-shuffle for this match, but the manager chose the same attack perhaps in view of the fact that the rain yesterday morning meant that the going was better.

On how they shaped last night will depend whether the same formation will be retained for the visit to Doncaster on Thursday.

It is not known yet whether Roy Davies will be fit for this match in which there will be a lot less interest for Luton fans than if things had worked out otherwise.

Owen Dominating At Centre-Half

THERE was little wrong with the Town's defence as a whole on Saturday and Owen was again in dominating mood in the middle of the field.

Apart from some uncertainty in his kicking, Pemberton gave another cool, stylish display and effectively shut Bloomfield out of the game.

Dunne's kicking was not always accurate either and he had some early trouble from Ledgerton who threatened on a couple of occasions early on, to repeat his scoring effort of last Wednesday night, but after the winger's first shake-up, Dunne was more or less in complete control.

Rugby

NO LUCK FOR LUTON TEAMS

Aylesbury "Sevens" Won By Oxford

Both Old Lutonian teams competing in Aylesbury Rugby Club's seven-a-side tournament on Saturday were knocked out by Aylesbury "B" team.

In the first round Old Lutonians' "A" beat Leighton Buzzard 8-3, and in the second round they overcame Old Southfieldians' "A" 10-3. In the semi-final, however, they lost to Aylesbury "B" 6-0.

Old Lutonians' "B" team, after beating Amptill 8-3 in the preliminary round and Chiltern "A" 5-0 in the first round, went down 3-0 to Aylesbury "B" in the second round. Unfortunately the Old Boys were unable to field their strongest sides, as several of their star players were either unavailable or on the injured list.

Luton's "A" team went out in the first round to Old Southfieldians "A" 11-8 while Luton "B" were knocked out in the preliminary round by Aylesbury "B" 6-0.

Winners were Oxford, who beat Aylesbury "A" 15-0 in the semi-final and Aylesbury "B" 35-3 in the final.

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CHILTERN'S FORECASTS

F.A. CUP FINAL

Bolton v Blackpool

DIVISION I

Portsmouth v Middlesbrough

DIVISION II

Huddersfield T v Plymouth

DIVISION III (SOUTH)

Colchester U v Norwich City

Bournemouth v. Q.P.R.

Brighton v Gillingham

Torquay U v Coventry City

FRIENDLY MATCHES

Millwall v Manchester U

Stockport County v Chester

SCOTTISH MATCHES

Rangers v Partick Thistle or Queen's Park

Third Lanark v Celtic or Clyde

Kilmarnock v Ayr U

FOR THE RECORDS

LUTON TOWN 0

BRENTFORD 1

Dare

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Pemberton; Morton, Owen, Shanks; Cullen, Turner, Moore, Pye, Mitchell.

BRENTFORD: Newton; Monk, Munro; Harper, Bragg, Coote; Bloomfield, Godwin, Dare, Latimer, Ledgerton.

Referee: E. S. Vickery, Bristol.

Attendance: 15,826.

Distribution Could Have Been Better

THERE was not the same mastery at wing half as there has been and Morton was below his best form.

Neither he nor Shanks used the ball as well as they can and this was another factor that contributed to the poor day which the forwards experienced. Shank's defensive work was good and he was always busy.

So, Brentford repeated their League win at Luton of last season and, up to Saturday, they had gone eight matches without a victory which does not improve the situation from the Town's point of view.

Gift Goals Against The Town "A"

THE Reserves had a day off and to complete a sad sort of picture, the "A" team went under at Horsham by 3-0.

Two of the goals were in the nature of gifts. The first followed a bad goal kick by Williams that struck Rackley and bounced to the home centre-forward, who had the easiest task in the world.

Then Folwell in attempting to clear, stumbled and the ball bounced into his own net off his leg to put Horsham well on the way to two points.

From the Town there was some clever midfield play, but it was not rounded off by punch in front of goal.

Two Newcomers Were On Trial

ON trial for the Town were two amateurs from the Sheffield area, James Witherford, a 22-years-old inside-right who stands 6 feet and weighs 12 stone.

He showed fine ball control, cleverness in approach, but had not the finishing power.

Next season he will be playing for Norton Woodseats, a prominent northern amateur club, and the Town have invited him down for a further trial.

Other newcomer was a 20-years-old centre-forward, also from Sheffield, Tom Webster, a whole-hearted trier, who will also be given another outing next season.

Town C.C. Off With Two Victories

TO the new cricket season, the Town made the best possible start, with comfortable victories by both first and second teams over Tring Park.

Playing away, the first team dismissed the opposition for 63, thanks to good bowling by Terry Matthews, Glyn Owen and John Oliver and despite the fact that Ron Gardiner, prolific wicket-taker last season, was not playing.

Victory was gained by eight wickets and, afterwards, there was a brisk innings of 47 by Billy Hammond, who hit 20 runs off one over.

Fine All-Round Feat By Randall

WINNING margin of the second came at Wardown was by five wickets and the star of this display was Doug Randall, who followed up a fine piece of bowling in which he took 6 for 51, by making the first half-century of the season for the Town.

There was a highly promising

LUTON TOWN F.C.

FOOTBALL

THURSDAY, 30th APRIL

Combination Cup

LUTON RESERVES

COVENTRY CITY

RESERVES

Kick-off 6.15 p.m.

ADMISSION: Centre Stand 2/-; Wing Stand and Enclosure 1/6; Boys 1/-; Bobbers' Stand 1/3; Boys 10d. (separate entrance); Ground (not covered) 1/-; Boys 9d.

innings from Brian Taylor, who was mostly in the Strollers last season and, after a bad start in which two wickets fell for only six runs, there was a steadiness about the batting that augurs well for the future.

Slice Of Bad Luck For Tom Clark

BAD luck for the local-born Surrey cricketer, Tom Clark, on the eve of the first-class cricket season is that he broke a small bone in the back of his hand whilst playing in the Oval trial on Saturday.

The second ball of his innings was a full-toss from pace bowler Stuart Surridge, of which Tom lost sight and it struck him on the back of his left hand.

The injury is likely to prevent him from playing for three weeks or a month and means that he will miss playing for Surrey against the Australians.

Luton Teams In Cup Final At Leighton

TWO Luton teams, Vauxhall Juniors and Luton Hotspur, will contest the final of the Creamer Cup at Bell Close, Leighton Buzzard, on Thursday next, and a closely-fought struggle is expected.

The new trophy stands over two feet high and this and the finalists' plaques will be presented after the match.

K. Burton, of Berks and Bucks F.A., will have charge of the game and the linesmen will be C. Horne and J. Johnson, both of Bedfordshire.

Boys' Club's First Boxing Show

CONTESTS at Luton Boys' Club amateur boxing tournament at Luton Drill Hall on Friday will consist mainly of meetings between boxers from two strong clubs, St. Albans City A.B.C. and Finchley A.B.C., with several local boys appearing in supporting bouts.

Members of Luton Boys' Club under their instructor, Pat Hinds have been training very hard in preparation for their contests and are hoping to give a good account of themselves in their first own club show.

CRICKET IN BRIEF

TRING PARK 63 (J. W. Mewha 11; T. D. Matthews 5 for 27; J. G. Owen 3 for 23; J. A. R. Oliver 2 for 10); LUTON TOWN 64 for 2 (J. A. Muse not out 24; F. Winstanley 24).

TRING PARK II 103 (J. Goodman 34; F. Plummeridge 23; D. S. Randall 6 for 51); LUTON TOWN II 148 for 6 (D. S. Randall not out 50; B. J. Taylor 29; F. W. J. Webb 24; R. Malpass 2 for 41).

WATFORD TOWN 121 (L. Marlborough 38; A. Yates 34; M. Ralph 4 for 20; H. Hayhurst 3 for 31); VAUXHALL MOTORS 126 for 8 (C. Bradbury not out 45; S. Spary 26; P. Buckingham 26; C. Ward 5 for 45).

DUNSTABLE TOWN II 151 for 9 (S. Knowles 47; P. Potts 28; A. Faulkner 20; E. Little 3 for 15; G. Harmer 3 for 31); LEA GRAVE 139 for 9 (G. Harmer 26; R. Wood 24; L. Palmer 4 for 28; A. Eyles 3 for 31).

EVERSHOLT 93 (C. Brown 21; B. Masis 4 for 19); BEDFORD RAMBLERS 56 (Bennett 28; K. Cousins 6 for 31).

HEXTON 26 (C. Poulter 5 for 8; R. Spencer 3 for 8); OLD LUTONIANS 126 for 5 (B. V. Sealy 36; E. Bell 26; R. Spencer not out 24; C. Desborough 2 for 22).

Darts

AREA FINALISTS

SEEK

CHAMPIONSHIP

Finalists from each area who will compete in the grand final of the Wells and Winch Area Darts Championships at the Drill Hall, Biggleswade, on May 14, have now been announced.

They are as follows: Bedford—Dolphin, Bedford and White Lion, Wootton; Biggleswade—Plough, Biggleswade, and Red Cow Langford; Luton—Midland Hotel, Luton, and High Town Club, Luton; Cambridge—Fountain, Barrington and White Hart, Chatteris; Hertford—Red Lion, Ware, and Duncombe Arms, Hertford; Hitchin—Crown, Stotfold, and Tabulator Sports Club, Letchworth; Huntingdon—The Institute, Brampton, and Sun Inn Huntingdon; Sandy and Potton—Old Beerhouse, Caldecote, and Royal Oak, Potton.


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