

TEAM ON SATURDAY

After three hard-fought matches in six hectic days comes the inevitable counting of the cost in terms of injuries, with the Town, though they have almost a crop of minor injuries, rather better placed than their Blackpool Cup rivals, who look like having to do without their captain, Harry Johnston, for the fourth meeting.

Nevertheless, Manager Dally Duncan was not in a position yesterday to make any decision on his team for the vitally important League tussle with Rotherham United on Saturday and has deferred selection until to-morrow.

Members of the Cup team who required treatment on Tuesday were: Aherne (bruised toe), Davies (bruised ankle), Owen (bruised leg) and Jones, who felt some knee trouble during Monday's match.

Of these, Jones is the most serious but, yesterday, the manager said that he hopes that all will be fit by Saturday.

Davies, after treatment to his ankle, Aherne and Owen were able to join the party that played at Huddersfield yesterday.

With their promotion bid very much in the forefront of their minds, the Town are not in the same position as Blackpool, who can afford to rest slightly-injured players from League matches because they have no championship pretensions now and nothing to worry about so far as relegation is concerned.

Nothing Less Than A Win Will Do

FOR the Town, every League match they play is as keen as a Cup tie, especially with the promotion struggle in the Second Division so wide open, and they cannot afford to do anything else but win over Rotherham, who are only a point behind them.

So, it can be taken for granted that the Town team will be as little altered as the injury position allows and that, if this clears up completely, there will be no changes.

Routine upsetting though these continuous Cup replays are, the Town need every point they can get hold of at this stage, if they are to be in the hunt at the end of the season.

Arrangement Gives Them Breathing Space

FROM this point of view, the arrangements of the third replay for Monday suited them, for it has given them some breathing space before this important League game.

Unofficial assumption at Villa Park on Monday was that the next replay would have to be this week, on or before to-day, and there was earnest consultation of the F.A. Cup rules before the date could be fixed.

In them, the possibility of a third replay is not mentioned specifically, but the rule affecting a second replay says, "It must be replayed not later than the following Monday," and it was on this that the Town and Blackpool based their decision when they came to a mutual agreement.

Position Was Put To Football Association

BEFORE any announcement was made, though, they phoned the Football Association, put the position to them, and received permission for the match to be staged on Monday.

What happens on Tuesday at Wolverhampton does not suffice to

FOILED AGAIN!



Both goalkeepers have made some great saves during the Luton and Blackpool Cup tie "marathon." This picture shows, Farm, the Blackpool goalkeeper, stopping a hard header from Mitchell as Gordon Turner dashes in during a Luton raid in the second replay at Villa Park on Monday

who will be keyed up to take at least one point from their Luton visit, and they will fancy their chance after beating Nottingham Forest 3-0 last Saturday.

In an effort to boost their promotion bid, Rotherham paid a big fee some weeks ago for Henderson, an inside right from Third Lanark.

He has brought added craft to their front line which was not over-impressive when the Town were beaten 2-1 at Millmoor early in September.

Marksmanship Of Ronnie Burke

NOTABLE absence from their line-up is Gladstone Guest, their captain who has groin muscle trouble which kept him out last Saturday and his place at inside left is being filled by a local player, Denis Churms, who has been on Rotherham's books for four seasons.

Former Town amateur, Ronnie Burke, has been brought into the attack with such success this season that he has obtained 23 goals from 14 matches.

Team: Outlines: Selkirk, Johnson; Marshall, Noble, Williams (D); Grainger, Henderson, Burke, Churms, Wilson.

Reserves' Chance Of Two More Points

FOR the Town Reserves, favourably placed near the top of Division II, a visit to Craven Cottage to meet Fulham, who are next to bottom with a meagre six points from 14 matches.

On form, the Town should pick up two more points here but, at this stage, it is impossible to forecast what their probable team will be.

John Groves, now demobilised from the army, will be considered for a place at inside-forward, and there may be another outing, too, for the young amateur, Alwyn McGuffie, who played brilliantly for the "A" team on Saturday.

Vauxhall Alterations After Heavy Jolt

AFTER their heavy jolt at Ware last Saturday, which brought to an end their long unbeaten run in the Spartan League, Vauxhall Motors are making three changes for their home match with Histon on Monday.

Two of these are in attack and bring in as partners on the right wing, Dolan and Todd.

The former has had a spell on the injured list and Todd has been in the team for most of this season. They replace Firmin and Morgan, and the other change is at left-half where Soper comes in for Bunning.

Team: D. Johnston; J. B. Burgess, K. Starling; J. O'Neill, R. Noble, H. H. Soper; T. Dolan, G. Todd, W. Lawrence, R. Brandham, E. James.

Confidence Is Back In Kent's Camp

SIX points from the last three matches in the South Midlands League has restored completely the confidence in the Kent team, and they are hopeful of success when they entertain Potton United at Wallingford on Saturday.

For this test, Kent's, with Reg Noble still unavailable because of illness, continue with an unchanged team.

R. Testingham; W. Day, A. Stoddard; W. Meyrick, H. Naylor; H. H. Soper; T. Dolan, G. Todd, W. Lawrence, R. Brandham, E. James.

The Reserves will also be facing a stiff test at Bedford St. Cuthbert's, who are certainly one of the best in the league.

What happens on Saturday at Wolverhampton does not suffice to

Unchanged Rotherham Will Be Kept Up

TO get back to the rather more mundane, but equally important matter of the Second Division, the Town will find themselves facing on Saturday by an unchanged Rotherham United.

Schoolboys Can Feel Proud Of Themselves

LUTON SCHOOLBOYS have shown consistently good form to reach the last 16 in the English Schools' Shield competition, and it is a feat of which they can be justly proud.

The next round will see them at Swansea where they will meet the holders of the trophy—probably in the last round.

Swansea have a great record in the Schools' Shield for they have won it twice since the war. The present team is tough and clever, and knows how to fight back when things are not running their way.

This was instanced in the last round when they beat Luton 4-1. At half-time, Swansea were a goal down, but they fought back, and were deserving winners.

Incidentally, all eleven members of the Swansea side who drew with Luton in the League game at Vetch Field last Saturday have all, at one time or another, played in the Swansea Schoolboys' team.

CLOSING BLACKPOOL ANOTHER REPRIEVE



Both goalkeepers have made some great saves during the Luton and Blackpool Cup tie "marathon." This picture shows, Farm, the Blackpool goalkeeper, stopping a hard header from Mitchell as Gordon Turner dashes in during a Luton raid in the second replay at Villa Park on Monday

Defences Still On Top In Prolonged Cup Battle

By Chiltern

BLACKPOOL 1 LUTON TOWN 1

Remarkable tribute to the power of both defences is that in 330 minutes of stern Cup football in this tie that is rapidly passing from the serial stage and assuming the proportions of a saga, is that only four goals have been scored.

On the other hand, this could be taken as a reflection on the finishing of both forward lines, who have not shown sufficient capacity for snapping up their scoring chances. Had either been able to do so, there would not be the necessity for yet another hard struggle at Wolverhampton on Monday.

Although by virtue of the fact that they have twice been relieved by a goal in the dying stages of the game when their situation looked desperate, Blackpool can count themselves fortunate to still hold an interest in the competition, they could claim with some justification that they have scarcely had the rub of the green at Villa Park on Monday.

For one thing they will claim as vehemently as did the Town's equaliser as the legacy of Morton's ebullience in the first tie, that they scored in the first half, and will also point to the handicap they have taken in the second half through an injury to Johnston.

Yet, it was their captain, hobbling painfully, though not a complete absentee at centre-forward, who gave them the right to a fourth attempt to knock out the Town with a much finer goal than the first, just when the strong Luton contingent among this crowd of 31,663 (receipts £4,600) had made up their minds that it was a waste of time for them on Saturday week.

Though they were pressing quite steadily and frantically switching players' positions in an endeavour to equalise, Blackpool could have had little hope of doing so at that late stage, especially with the Town defence playing so capably.

As it turned out, it was a mistaken policy on the Town's part to concentrate on holding during the last 10 minutes the slender advantage they had, but the match of this character, the temptation to play "safe" is always great.

This late tendency to put too much weight on a defensive cobbled Blackpool to rally, but the Town looked as safe as houses until there came that fateful corner by Matthews.

JONES NEARLY PRESENTS IT

As the ball came over, Mudge detected it and sent it to JOHN STON, who from point-blank range, blazed it just the diving Streten, with the rush of Town defenders a fraction too late to touch it.

Afterwards, Streten said that if he had not dived and obscured the view of Jones, the right-back, he was standing on the goal-line might have been able to chest the ball away. As it was, it brushed his side on its path to the net.

Pandemonium broke out among the watchers of the tangling favours and 22 leg-weary players began the extra half-an-hour when Blackpool, more confident after their goal, decided the more favourable in attack.

Both the Town's goals against Blackpool have been obtained by CUMMINGS and the one he gained in this match was a deftly taken kick when he fastened on to a beautiful through pass by Morton.

Close up to him as he got the ball under control, was Farm, but he hitly side-stepped the goal-keeper, before smashing the ball into the roof of the net with his left foot to put the Town ahead after exactly half-an-hour.

There was a lull for a time when Blackpool were threatening to take command though, earlier, the Town, playing fast, open football in attack, had been near to capitalise on the strong crowd-haul Blackpool defence and both Turner and Mitchell had missed possible chances.

There had been, too, a tremendous drive by Watson, Farm just pushed over the top but, to set against this, there were brilliant saves by Streten from Mudge, Brown and Perry.

Narrowest escape, though, came when Matthews shot some-what unexpectedly and the ball dropped out of Streten's hands over the line, so Blackpool claimed.

Not that there was much chance for anyone to estimate whether the ball had crossed or not, for Jones was on the spot to kick away and remove the cause of argument.

INJURY TO JOHNSTON

Right on half-time, Mitchell should have increased the lead and the battle went on through the second half with Blackpool suffering a severe blow when Johnston was injured in a tackle with Jones after 57 minutes.

First he went to outside-left, then switched to centre-forward, but first Brown, then Taylor, at right-half.

After this, the Town were on top, without really promising to get the goal that would have banished Blackpool's Cup hopes completely, and then came the Scarsiders' final rally, the equaliser and another grilling half an hour that tested the stamina of every player.

Both teams had the chances at various times during this match to clinch the game, Blackpool coming mostly from their close passing which was in marked contrast to much of the open football that the Town played.

Streten's quick approach work was good and made the Blackpool defence, without Johnston in the middle this time, look less than at Luton, their lack of finishing power was disappointing.

While Moore is doing much foraging and is most harassing and dangerous when he is brought through on the wings, sufficient shooting is not coming from the centre-forward position, and there was less than there should have been from the line as a whole because there was no one to strike the form he has been showing in recent matches.

Forward honours were shared by the industrious, clever, Cummings and Davies, who was always willing to chase anything and kept Garrett fully occupied.

There was a somewhat patchy display from Mitchell, who could well have been the match-winner had he made the most of his chances and exploited to the full his speed against Shimmwell.

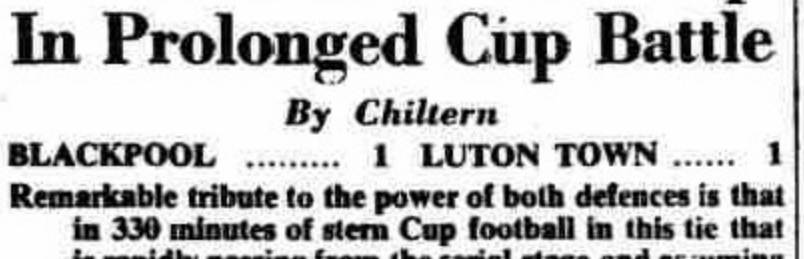
Hard though Mudge tried, he seldom found a way down the middle, and time and time again Owen's head or feet cleared his lines under pressure.

The reputation he has gained for being one of the strongest, cleverest wing-halves in the country with another brilliant performance in which he took a leading part, and played his forwards with much good material. Some sort of honour for Morton is overdue.

Completing a strong half-back line was Watkins, in quite his best form, and he caught Taylor in possession many times.

Behind him Aherne repeated his previous tactics against Matthews

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LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

FA. CUP—3rd Round—3rd Replay MONDAY NEXT, (JANUARY 25th)

on Wolverhampton Wanderers' Ground KICK-OFF 2 p.m.

BLACKPOOL V. LUTON T. Tickets for Stand Seats on sale from Noon To-day, (Thursday)

at the Kenilworth Road Office CENTRE STAND 8/6 WINGS 7/-

Pay at Turnstiles (No Tickets) Enclosure 3/6 Behind the Goals 2/- and 1/9

The above are usual Cup-Tie Prices for this Ground P. COLEY, Secretary

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ZOO COMPONENTS obtainable at Department Stores, Toy Shops, etc.

A NEW CONSTRUCTIONAL CRAFT Toy animals, birds and reptiles made from selected timber offcuts. No other material required but sandpaper, liquid glue and enamel colours.

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LARGE FLAGON 10/9 equal to 14 Bottles
HALF FLAGON 5/5

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Bottled and guaranteed by Big Tree Wine Co., London, S.W.1

Luton Greyhounds

RUNNERS AND SELECTIONS FOR SATURDAY

6.30—(440 yards): 311 Cheviot, 225 Darnley, 345 Kent, 323 Zia-Zia, Express, 324 Vico, 323 Zia-Zia, reserve 54 The Hunter.

6.50—(440 yards): 126 Chance, 143 Little Patsy, 314 Mary's Son, 645 Phillips' Pet, 113 Short Head, 5 Snapper.

7.10—(440 yards): 155 Bessie Lou, 44 Kilmecrae, 104 Lila, 632 Red Seal, 56 Hester, 483 Pet Lip, 632 Red Seal.

7.30—(440 yards): 255 Black Jack, 116 Lucky, 314 Mary's Son, 645 Phillips' Pet, 113 Short Head, 5 Snapper.

7.50—(440 yards): 155 Bessie Lou, 44 Kilmecrae, 104 Lila, 632 Red Seal, 56 Hester, 483 Pet Lip, 632 Red Seal.

8.10—(440 yards): 155 Bessie Lou, 44 Kilmecrae, 104 Lila, 632 Red Seal, 56 Hester, 483 Pet Lip, 632 Red Seal.

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11.10—(440 yards): 155 Bessie Lou, 44 Kilmecrae, 104 Lila, 632 Red Seal, 56 Hester, 483 Pet Lip, 632 Red Seal.

THROUGH TO THE LAST 16

Luton Boys Facing A Welsh Trip Now

Luton Schoolboys 2

West Bromwich Schoolboys 1

To qualify for a place in the last sixteen in the English Schools' Shield Competition is no mean achievement, and that is just what the Luton Boys have done.

They were beaten by a stronger, faster and fitter side and the home side dictated play, especially in the second half.

They gave as good as they received in the first half, when Lawrence hit the crossbar and James missed a good chance, but Ware pressed and LONG gave them the lead.

ONCE they had taken their goal and HIBBERT made in three before the interval.

Second half goals were scored for Ware by GOODEY (2) and LONG (2).

Ware are due to meet Bishop Auckland in the Amateur Cup on Saturday. If they reproduce the form they showed against Vauxhall they could easily spring a surprise.

Rugby

NOT AT THEIR BEST, BUT O.L.s WON

Aylesbury 3, Old Lutonians 9

Old Lutonians were deserving victors at Baginbun's Field, Aylesbury on Saturday, when they bested the home side by two tries and a penalty goal to a try.

Play was generally fairly even but once again the Old Boys' forwards failed to find their best form and Aylesbury saw more of the ball from both tight and loose scrums.

Opening with the wind and sun behind them, Old Lutonians were unable to make much headway against a determined Aylesbury, but did succeed in remaining in the home half for long periods.

The only score in this half came when Adams kicked a penalty.

Changing round to face the elements, Old Lutonians gave little for the first half of play, but Edmonds changed the face of the game when, breaking round the blind side of a loose scrum, he was able to "make" a try before kicking ahead. Cato touched down.

With the clock at 6-0, the home team fought back. From one clean heel the Aylesbury stand off cut through the centre three-quarter touched down. They were unlucky to lose their kick but the upright especially as an early penalty kick was similarly missed. Middlebury play resumed and Thorpe kicked for the touch line. Adams' kick into the wind lost form.

A second chance came to Thorpe almost immediately when he intercepted inside his own half, but the previous run had slowed him up and he was caught. Following this effort Fenmore broke loose with the ball at his feet only to lose control within feet of the touch line.

LUTON WERE IN GOOD FORM

Luton 13, Queen's Works 6

The weather was brisk and breezy for this morning match at Stockwood last Saturday—and so was the rugby.

Luton quickly went ahead when Cope touched down after good

SW