

CRY THAT HAS NOT BEEN ANSWERED YET

More Accuracy In Their Finishing Is Town's Need

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 2 NOTTS COUNTY ... 1

There was not a great deal in this success to re-awaken the waning enthusiasm of the Town fans, reflected in the downward trend of the attendance, but there could have been if several relatively simple scoring chances had been accepted.

All through this season the cry for more goals has been one that has been answered only seldom and certainly was not in this match, even though the narrow victory completed a double over the struggling County.

It was struggling Luton on this occasion, too, fighting, first of all, to take the lead after chances had been frittered away, and then to regain it after losing their narrow advantage somewhat unluckily while Shanks was off the field with a thigh injury.

Apart from shots by Johnston, Coole and Taylor, with which Streten dealt most capably, the Town had by far the better of the opening stages, and their first goal, most neatly headed by DAVIES from Cullen's centre after half an hour, was much overdue.

This followed closely on the heels of a bad miss by Turner, who, left with only Bradley to beat, shot the ball against the goalkeeper.

Not until a minute from half-time were the County really dangerous, and then some slack marking allowed Crookes and Wylie to come through with the ball, and from the latter's cross TAYLOR smartly tapped the ball over the line for the equaliser.

At that stage, with the return of Shanks somewhat uncertain, the immediate future did not look altogether cheerful for the Town, but happily Shanks was able to come back with his colleagues after the interval.

SOON RETURNED TO HIS OWN POSITION

At first he went to centre-forward, with Scott at outside-left and Davies at left-half, but as he moved about so he lost his limp, and after five minutes was able to resume at left-half.

The early part of the half brought no noticeable improvement in the finishing of the Town forwards, for Turner blazed the ball over the bar from a good position, and then shot straight at Bradley after the goalkeeper had done exceptionally well to keep out a drive by Downie.

From the second rebound, and a more difficult position, Cullen put the ball outside, so that the County had a three-fold escape in a matter of seconds.

Looming close was the possible loss of another home point when the reprieve came 20 minutes from the end when DOWNIE got up high to head downwards a cross by Cullen.

Faced with an awkward ball, Bradley half saved, but it spun away from him and crossed the line, despite the efforts of a defender to clear. Just to make certain, Scott banged it into the back of the net.

Immediately afterwards came a shock for the Town, when the County went too close to equalising for comfort, when Crookes shot hastily into the side-net after Streten had had to push out a centre from the right.

Just as well from the Town point of view that the County did not reach equality again, for their forwards did not suggest that further goals were within their compass.

Some of the Town's approach

work was meritorious enough and accurate enough to produce the chances for half a dozen goals, so that it remains the finishing as the department in which decisive improvement is necessary.

NOTHING GOES RIGHT FOR TURNER

Having one of those spells when just nothing goes right for him in this line is Turner, the chief offender in the matter of missed chances in this match, and he is lacking both accuracy and, perhaps, a streak of luck in his shooting.

Pick of the forwards was Downie, by reason of his good distribution and ability to open out the play, but there was a deal of dash and enthusiasm from Scott which even the experience of Leuty could not blunt entirely.

More shooting from the centre-forward position is desirable, though not the best of openings came Scott's way.

Cullen centred the ball more often and more accurately than did Davies, particularly in the second half, but earlier the left-winger had raided with quite an amount of success.

From Hall there was another strong, assured game which left few loopholes for Johnston, and Morton and Shanks usually held the upper hand in the middle of the field, too. Shanks had a nasty knock on the thigh, and it was quite a plucky effort to return so promptly.

Aherne was the better full-back because he was more confident in his kicking than his partner, Jones, and marked his winger more closely.

Streten's chief contribution to this victory came when he made a couple of fine saves early on, but he was not really extended afterwards.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Jones, Aherne; Morton, Hall, Shanks; Cullen, Turner, Scott, Downie, Davies.

NOTTS COUNTY: Bradley; Southwell, Deans; Adamson, Leuty, Chatham; Coole, Taylor, Johnston, Wylie, Crookes.

Referee: R. J. Burgess, Reading.

Attendance: 14,623.