

WINNER CAME TWO MINUTES FROM TIME

More Gallant Work By The Town's Defence

By Chiltern

BURY 0 LUTON TOWN 1

This was the Town's fifth "double" of the season and although the manner in which they completed it was somewhat fortunate, it would have been a great pity and an injustice had their gallant defence, after such a fine display, had to finish on the losing side. And that might very well have been their portion, for Bury had by far the more scoring chances and although some of their efforts were attended by misfortune, they could scarcely complain of bad luck in view of the openings they failed to accept.

Nobody could have expected a classic from this meeting of teams who had nothing to lose or gain, but obviously some of the home fans did judging by the disparaging remarks made about the Bury forwards, and by the fact that the slow handclap broke out more than once.

It was that lifeless sort of game that induced criticism, for neither set of forwards really showed much in the way of constructive ideas, though in Pearson, Bury had an inside forward who made good use of the ball, but there was not a great deal of response to his clever prompting.

For the fact that the Bury attack was so ineffective at close quarters, due praise should go to the Town defence, who withstood a real battering at times in the first half, particularly during the period immediately before the interval.

During that spell Pearson headed against the inside of the post and the ball most fortuitously came back into play. Maybe the solid way in which they were opposed discouraged the home forwards, for they were never so thoroughly on top after the interval when the Town, more ably led by Scott who had changed places with Turner, had a bigger share of the play, yet without looking a really forceful line.

SWITCHES WERE THE FASHION

Forward switches were much in the fashion on both sides and Imlach and Simm changed places during the second half, after which the latter was unlucky with a drive that went over off the bar with Streten beaten for once.

The Town followed suit, with Davies and Mitchell changing over and it was this new formation which brought them the only goal two minutes from the end.

Davies made a long centre from the left which went over to Turner, who hooked the ball back to MITCHELL, and he scored with a powerful right-footed drive that went in off the inside of a post.

That apart, there was not a lot of dangerous shooting by the Town, though Scott gave Goram one hot handful in the first half and, later, Mitchell had a couple of ferocious drives charged down.

Only possible reaction to the showing of the Town forwards was one of disappointment. Cohesion and quickness of movement were lacking again and the determined Scott was the one to pose most problems to the home defence.

Turner had a thin time in the middle, was a little more successful at inside-right and, although Cummins did some hard work, he was again guilty of over-elaboration and inaccurate passes.

Only fleetingly did Mitchell come into the game as a potential threat and Davies, although working hard, found progress rather difficult to make and there was not a lot of support for either.

In defence, Morton played an outstanding part by taking a complete grip on Kelly, but there was not the slightest

suggestion of a weak link in the rearguard, and Downie had a very good first appearance at left-half, where he worked unceasingly, as did Shanks, who was constantly breaking up raids.

Jones and Aherne were much in command of the situation even under the heaviest pressure, and Streten, always supremely confident, was in unbeatable mood.

BURY: Goram; Fairclough, Massey; Daniel, Hitchen, Bardsley; Imlach, Clarke, Kelly, Pearson, Simm.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Jones, Aherne; Shanks, Morton, Downie; Davies, Scott, Turner, Cummins, Mitchell.

Referee: W. Clements, West Bromwich. Attendance: 11,018.