Bury Scare For Town

LUTON'S 3–0 LEAD NEARLY LEVELLED

But Forward Changes Gave Extra Punch

[*By Chiltern*]

LUTON TOWN ..... 3 **BURY** 2

FROM a team coasting along to an easy victory the Town found themselves struggling to hold on to two points at Kenilworth-road last night when Bury, after being largely ineffective in attack, hit back to score twice in the last 18 minutes.

Facing arrears of three goals they were given a gift chance in the 72nd minute and the direct threat to the Town's comfortable lead did not come until two minutes from the end. Then Bury scored again but it was too late for them to carry a gallant rally to a successful end.

Despite the narrowness of the victory these were two welcome and well-deserved points. After a shaky sort of start the Town, with a re-modelled forward line and less accent on the Continental style, settled down to be the much more cohesive and dangerous.

Some chances were missed, and indeed the Town could have been sauntering along with a big lead.

The alterations to the forward line could be regarded as a success, with both Cummins and Mitchell fitting in reasonably well.

Most threatening forward was Adam, who showed more confidence in his shooting with marked advantage to himself.

Pye used the ball well, particularly in the second half, but Turner had a somewhat quiet game. Not until the last stages was the Town defence in any sort of trouble.

Owen had buttoned-up the middle completely. Dunne and Aherne cut out the wingers and Morton was in rare form, with Smith effective in a rugged sort of way.

Streten partly retrieved the mistake that cost the first goal with a blinding save from Kelly—all in vain as it happened because it was from the corner which followed that the second goal came.

There was no disputing the fact that the Town deserved the points, but they could so easily have been deprived of one, and this Bury team, remembering what happened last week, must be late goal specialists.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Dunne, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Smith; Mitchell, Turner, Pye, Cummins, Adam.

BURY: Goram; Fairclough, Massey; May, Neilson, Bardsley; Simm, Clarke, Kelly, Pearson, Law.

Referee: W. Clements, of West Bromwich.

Bury, who were without both their first choice full-backs, Wilson and Redman, because of injury, gained the advantage of playing with the sun at their backs.

In a scrappy sort of opening both teams found difficulty in controlling the light, bouncing ball, and there was a lot of faulty passing.

Kelly missed a possible chance by blazing wide from an angled position and the best of the early efforts for the Town came from Adam, who once forced Goram to dive to the foot of the near post to keep out a low drive.

Pearson twice went close for Bury, and Mitchell shot wide after the right wing had functioned smoothly.

MANY SHADOWS

Pye was trying hard to get the Town attack moving, but was being well marked and given little room in which to work.

After 25 minutes the Town took the lead through TURNER, who accepted a close-range chance by flashing the ball low past Goram into the far corner.

It was a well-worked goal which began when Morton swung over the ball from near the touch-line. Cummins, although challenged by Fairclough, managed to nod the ball into the open space for Turner.

Play livened up after this with the Town showing more cohesion and pressing hard for a time.

They had reverted largely to their old attack style with Pye playing further forward than has been the case recently.

Dunne had a shot deflected for a corner by Bardsley who, just previously, had been spoken to by the referee for a foul on Pye.

NO MISTAKE

Play still ran in the Town's favour and eight minutes from half-time Neilson brought down Adam inside the penalty area.

Unhesitatingly, the referee awarded a penalty kick and MITCHELL made no mistake to put the Town two up.

Adam was injured in the incident but recovered after attention.

Bury were little in the picture as an attacking force and Pye went near to adding to the Town's lead with a cross-shot that Goram just managed to push to safety.

Just before half-time, when Bury attacked in force, Aherne saved a probable goal by throwing himself at the feet of Clarke, who had been left with a fine chance. Half-time:

LUTON 2
BURY 0

First chance of the second half fell to Bury, following a free kick by Law with which Clark just failed to connect.

Showing improvement, Bury had a large share of the play for a time, and Simm sent just over the bar.

The Town hit back and Goram saved somewhat luckily with his foot from Adam who closed in on to a finely-executed overhead pass from Pye.

Again Pye made an opening, this time for Turner. He had nearly swept past the oncoming Goram when he was pulled down heavily.

To everybody's surprise the referee gave a free kick a yard outside the penalty area, when it seemed certain that the offence had taken place inside.

A beautiful movement after exactly an hour led to the Town going further ahead through ADAM.

Morton came though strongly before switching the ball out to Mitchell who swept across a low centre.

Turner, swinging at the ball, missed it completely, but Adam was behind him to accept an easy chance.

Bury's stock declined again after this, though May tested Streten, and Neilson headed over from a corner after Owen had sent the ball over his own bar.

Most of the constructive football was coming from the Town forwards and Adam gave Goram another difficult task with which to cope.

BURY GET A GOAL

The smooth path the Town were cutting towards victory was upset a little in the 72nd minute when KELLY reduced Bury's arrears.

He was left with a simple opportunity when Streten fumbled the ball in collecting a back pass from Morton.

At the other end in quick succession Pye and Adam missed chances.

Despite some varied attacks there was not much fear of Bury rallying successfully, and the nearest approach to a goal was when Turner brought Goram to full stretch with an excellent shot.

Two minutes from the end Bury obtained a second goal through PEARSON, who headed in a corner by Simm after Streten had made a brilliant save from Kelly.

Attendance: 13,653.