

MacEwan And Groves Are In

OWEN UNLIKELY TO PLAY AT FULHAM

Taking a realistic view of the situation by not placing too much emphasis on last Saturday's 3-1 victory, Manager Daily Duncan has decided on two forward-line changes for what is likely to be a very difficult match with Fulham at Craven Cottage on Saturday.

These result in the recall to the team of Peter MacEwan and John Groves to the centre-forward and inside-left positions respectively, and mean that Terry Kelly and Charlie Watkins lose their places.

FOR Groves, this is a re-appearance on the League scene after an absence from it since the match at Ipswich on August 28. He had played in the first three matches this season and was unlucky to be left out, almost entirely because the Town's style in attack at that particular time, did not suit his play.

Groves is the scheming, ball player type of inside forward and, earlier in the season, what the Town was looking for was an inside forward of the fast ranging, scoring type because Jesse Pye was then lying deep in the Continental fashion.

But for an injury suffered in the Reserves and which caused him a lay-off of nearly six weeks, Groves might well have been recalled to the side before this.

Groves Teams Up Well With Adam

NOT until last Thursday, at Northampton, was he able to resume, but he has shown that he is thoroughly fit again and resumes what has been previously a very successful wing partnership with Jim Adams.

In fact, the winger has played best when teamed up with Groves and there should be more threat from this flank than there was last Saturday.

From Watkins' point of view, there is more than a little bad luck about his omission, for he willingly took over a position, other than his own, and will be twelfth man to the first team this week.

Choice of MacEwan for Kelly is not unexpected, for Kelly has not really shown that he can fill the bill and it was always intended that the South African should have a chance to take over as leader.

MacEwan Has Plenty Of Enthusiasm

ONE thing that MacEwan's inclusion will bring is extra dash and his enthusiasm and challenging powers could well have an upsetting effect on the Fulham defence.

If he can only ally accuracy in finishing to his great dash and energy, then he can make a success here and, assuredly, the Fulham defenders will know that he has been playing against them.

It will be up to his colleagues to serve up the right sort of stuff that has rarely come the way of Kelly whom the passing over will not harm, for he will now be able to gain experience in the Combination which will stand him in good stead in the future.

Return Of Owen Is Most Unlikely

EXPECTATIONS are that the Town will again have to do without their captain, Sid Owen, who is still having treatment for the thigh injury he pulled at Bristol and has been unable to resume full training.

The odds are heavily against him being able to make a re-appearance in this match and the onerous task of keeping a grip on Bedford Jezzard will almost certainly fall on Leslie Hill, who made such a good job last Saturday after an uncertain start.

With this game behind him, Hill will be better equipped to face as difficult an assignment as there is in the Second Division these days, and on what sort of a grip he can obtain on Jezzard may turn the Town's chances in this match. Certainly, his first-time clearances will be a decided asset.

Big Following To Fulham Expected

SO, the likelihood is that the Town will line up like this:

Stretton; Dunne, Abernethy; Morton, Hall, Shanks; Davies, Turner, MacEwan, Groves, Adam.

For this, their first London visit this season, and one of only two they are due to make in the League, the Town are certain to take their biggest following so far, and they will do extremely well if they can take a point from this formidable combination.

Past results on the ground are against them, but, surely, having played 13 matches this season without finishing level, a draw is due for the Town and such a result would cause a good deal of satisfaction.

Hill's Injury Is Fulham's Only Worry

ONLY team anxiety for Fulham, who have struck the winning path again after a spell of four consecutive defeats, concerns the right-half position.

Here, Jimmy Hill, whom Luton know so well, particularly from his Brentford days, is a very doubtful starter because of an ankle injury received at Ipswich last Saturday.

Manager Frank Osborne told me yesterday, "At this stage, it seems almost certain that Hill will not play."

Smith, who has been in at right-half several times this season, stands by as the deputy, otherwise an unchanged team will be fielded.

This will include former Town player, Gordon Brice, reinstated last week after a spell out of the side, during which he asked to be placed on the transfer list.

Town Know All About Fulham's Attack

IF Hill is out, then his support to the forwards will be missed, but, even so, how to stop this all-star Fulham attack is likely to be the Town's biggest problem on Saturday.

In Robson, Jezzard and Haynes, they have what is probably the most menacing inside trio in the Second Division, and they are backed up by two effective wingers in Stevens and Mitten.

Both Jezzard and Haynes have played for England recently, and this line can be a prolific-scoring combination, as the Town discovered last season when they were beaten 5-1 at Craven Cottage.

Weak spot in the Fulham team is the defence, which can be, and has been, broken down this season.

Black; Cheshall, Lawler; Hill or Smith; Brice, Lowe; Stevens, Robson, Jezzard, Haynes, Mitten.

Always A Tussle Between These Teams

OF Saturday's visitors to Kenilworth-road in the Football Combination, Norwich City Reserves, many fans have already had a glimpse this season, for they were here for a floodlit match only a few weeks ago.

On that occasion, the Town won narrowly after a great struggle, but that did not prevent Norwich from finishing at the top of their section of the Combination Cup, and there is always a rare tussle between these two teams.

Kelly for MacEwan at centre-forward and Allen for Groves at inside-right are the only changes the Town are making from the team which drew at Charlton.

Bayham; Jones, Thompson; Smith; Cullen, Allen, Kelly, Cummins, Taylor.

Vauxhall Changes For Senior Cup-Tie

A START is being made on the Bedfordshire Senior Cup

Greyhound Racing

FORECAST OF £14 14s. 9d.

LUTON ON TUESDAY

THE totalisator forecast in the third race at Luton Stadium on Tuesday was £14 14s. 9d. Reason for this was that Pipe Down, a 100th chance, finished second to Care Not (7-2).

In the fifth race Ida won at 10-1.

I (410 yds)—1, WEE CHRIS (4); 2, Sporting Express (3); 3, Needy Friend (6); 4, Jumbo (2); 5, Nancy (5); 6, Shamrock (1). 24.7, 23.1, 1.1, 24.98, Off 7.40.

Betting: 9-4 Needy Friend; 7-2 WEE CHRIS; 4-1 Sporting Express; 5-1 Shamrock; 8-1 Jumbo; 10-1 Nancy.

Forecast £2 8s. 3d.

II (470 yds)—1, DORY'S PET (4); 2, Bantam (6); 3, Gay Lord (3); 4, Dale (1); 5, 27.87, Non-runner: Queen (2). Off 8.01.

Betting: 2-1 The Builder; 7-2 DORY'S PET, Dale; 4-1 Bantam, Gay Lord.

Forecast £2 1s. 9d.

III (410 yds)—1, CARE NOT (6); 2, Pipe Down (2); 3, Lynne (1); 4, Marble (4); 5, Wendy (5); 6, Swan Song (3). 3.2, 2.2, 2.6, 24.62, Off 8.21.

Betting: 2-1 Wendy; 7-2 CARE NOT; 4-1 Marble, Swan Song; 7-1 Lynne; 100-8 Pipe Down.

Forecast £14 14s. 9d.

IV (410 yds)—1, OUR TAN (4); 2, Whitelea (1); 3, Polite (5); 4, Gay Linda (6); 5, Casey's Drum (3). 2.5, 4.8, 23.98, Non-runner: Warrior (2). Off 8.41.

Betting: 5-4 Whitelea; 4-1 OUR TAN; Casey's Drum; 5-1 Polite; 8-1 Gay Linda.

Forecast £1 11s. 3d.

V (470 yds)—1, IDA (1); 2, Corn Silk (3); 3, Snob (5); 4, Blue Cross (6); 5, Hypon (4). 5.4, 2.2, 27.45, Non-runner: Very Game (2). Off 9.02.

Betting: 2-1 Corn Silk, 3-1 Snob, Blue Cross; 4-1 Hypon; 10-1 IDA.

Forecast £3 13s. 3d.

VI (410 yds)—1, TAFFY (6); 2, Pan-Yan (1); 3, Cobby (2); 4, Envious (5); 5, Office Boy (4); 6, Jackie (3). 6.1, 1.1, 24.22, Off 9.22.

Betting: 5-4 TAFFY; 7-2 Envious; 4-1 Office Boy; 5-1 Pan-Yan; 8-1 Cobby, Jackie.

Forecast £1 1s. 3d.

VII (470 yds)—1, JOYFUL (2); 2, Longfellow (1); 3, Plasterer (5); 4, Summer Time (3); 5, Clearasmud (6); 6, Wallflower (4). 6.5, 5.2, 27.40, Off 9.42.

Betting: 5-2 JOYFUL, Plasterer; 7-2 Summer Time; 4-1 Longfellow; 6-1 Wallflower; 8-1 Clearasmud.

Forecast £1 9s. 9d.

VIII (410 yds)—1, RODNEY (5); 2, Kid-Kat (6); 3, GO SLOW



PETER MACEWAN and JOHN GROVES who are recalled to the Town's first team in place of Terry Kelly and Charlie Watkins.

competition on Saturday and Vauxhall Motors, whose Cup-fighting experiences this season have been most unhappy, are hoping for better things when they entertain Bedford-avenue.

They do so without Tony Gregory, the Youth international, who is playing for Vauxhall against Limbury Old Boys in the F.A. Youth Cup on Saturday.

His place at centre-forward in the senior team will be taken by W. Sturtin, who has had considerable experience in this grade of football, and a move to gain more experience in attack is that which restores Gordon Todd to inside-right in place of Sinfield.

Humphrey Has Asked For A Rest

AFTER a patch in which he has been much below form, J. Humphrey has asked for a rest and his place at centre-half will be taken by G. Allen.

For Johnston, this will be his last game before he joins the R.A.F. on Monday.

Team: D. Johnston; J. Burgess; W. Lawrence; J. O'Neill; G. Allen; A. Morgan; T. Dolan; G. Todd; W. Sturtin; R. Brandham; L. Franklin.

The pairing of Vauxhall and Limbury O.B. in a match that will be played on Vauxhall's ground on Saturday afternoon, should provide a real local derby struggle, for Limbury have a very useful side.

The Town are also due to play in the Youth competition at Kenilworth-road on Saturday morning, with the kick-off timed for 11.30 because of the distance Holbeach have to travel.

From MacEwan there was plenty of dash and fight, but his finishing was below par, too, and he missed the best chance when he struck the cross-bar with Reed hopelessly placed.

Yet, had the goals come, there would have been a lot to be pleased about, for there was certainly constructive ability in attack, but a decided inclination to over-elaborate, too.

Only goal for the Town came in the 17th minute when DARELL deflected a shot by Pemberton into his own net and this equalised an effort by BARRY from Tucker's centre after five minutes.

In defence, the Town were very strong, with Baynham giving a perfect exhibition of goalkeeping, and there was good cover for him. Thompson was again in fine form and was the better full-back, because Jones was again inclined to be a little too cool.

Pemberton was outstanding in the middle line, but there was a useful performance from Dallas, who kept a tight grip on Charles, and a good deal of hard work from Smith.

Most of the football came from the Town and it was a performance that augured well for the future—if the finishing power can be found.

CHARLTON ATH. RES.: Reed; Darvell, Ellis; Booker, Jago, Pemberry; Lucas, Lumley, Charles, Barry, Tucker.

LUTON TOWN RES.: Baynham; Jones, Thompson; Pemberton; Dallas, Smith; Cullen, Groves, MacEwan, Cummins, Taylor.

FOUR MORE TEAMS MEET WITH FIRST DEFEAT

Shocks In The Luton League: New Premier Leaders

Four unbeaten records were shattered in Luton and South Beds League on Saturday with the result that, in the five divisions, there are now only seven teams who have yet to sample defeat.

Somewhat surprisingly, Caddington lost their record in a home match with Glendale and that, combined with the fact that Stopsley had no match, brings new joint leaders of the Premier Division in Woburn Athletic and Pioneer Corinthians.

Woburn hold the advantage in that their eight points have been secured from a match fewer than have been played by the Corinthians, who nevertheless are showing a marked improvement this season.

Too, are Luton Social, who, along with Glendale, might well join the leaders soon. Things continue to run badly for the champions, Napier Sports, though, and they are still looking for their first point, as are Eaton Bray, who met with their sixth consecutive defeat.

In Division I, Bells Park have established a very useful lead and, with several teams without matches on Saturday, Luton Town "C" thanks to a "hat trick" by Loveday, climbed into second place.

Shock in Division II was the fall from grace of Warden Hill, who had conceded only one goal in their four previous matches, and the leadership here is taken over by Luton Social Reserves, who have full points from five games.

Hard on their heels are Sundon Park. They spoil the 100 per cent record of Davis Athletic by piling on seven goals against them and they look as if they will gain the most prolific scorers in the League this season.

Two teams in this Division opened their accounts for the season—Old Lutonians and Hunting Percival both won against fellow-sufferers at the foot of the table.

Hunting Percival Apprentices did not expect an 8-1 defeat when they met Boys' Brigade O.B., and, as a result of their setback, Hayward Tyler now have a clear lead of two points in Division III, where Barton Rovers look as if they might be a team to watch.

Nothing is stopping the progress of Sundon Park Reserves in Division IV and, in winning their sixth consecutive match, they boosted their goal average to 32-2.

PREMIER DIVISION

LUTON SOCIAL 3 Glendale, Geary Hamphrey, Napier Sports 2. (Noble 2, Cook).

PIONEER CORINTHIANS 6 (Parrott 1, Phillips 2, Rawson), TOTTERHOE 1 (Pinchin).

CADDINGTON 1 (Thorne), GLENDALE 3 (Evans 2, James).

EATON BRAY 3 (Burrow 2, Banks), WEST PARK 5 (Smith 2, Wesley 2, Tomlin).

DIVISION I

HOCKLEFFE 1 (Wood, Scott, Brook), LUTON LTD. 2 (HOSPITALS 0), ELECTROLUX 1 (Olney), SHILLINGTON 1 (Day).

LEAGRAVE B.L. 2 (Fensome), CONTON BELLS PARK 5. (English, Elcock 2, (Bland, Winkham), LAPORTE 2 (Hosier, Buckingham).

LUTON TOWN "C" 3 (Loveday 1), STOPSLEY RES. 0.

SUNDON PARK 7 (Dixon 3, Smith Meehan, Wood, Clayton), DAVIS ATH. 0.

ROBIN HOODS 4 (Knapton 3, (Hosier 1).

DIVISION II

WARDEN HILL ATH. 1 (Milton), OLD LUTONIANS 5 (Parrott 3, Abbott, Rowlands), SPANDIT SPORTS 1 (Brice).

R.A.F.A. 1 (Chapman), LUTON SOCIAL RES. 3 (Jackson, Lavender, Ward).

GLENDALE 2 (B. Jones 2, SKEFFO ATH 4 (Douglas, Pearce, Ellington, opponent).

LEAGRAVE PRESS 3 (Shufflebottom, opponents 2), CADDINGTON "B" 2 (H. Austin 2, D. Ginger 2, opponents 2).

HUNTING PERCIVAL 2 (Warne, Sutton), COLINDALE ATH. 0.

DIVISION III

WALCOT ATH. 2 (Holdstock, McLeod), SUNDON O.B. 6 (Smith 4, Hillyard, Hawkes, Brandham).

BIDWELL 2 (Chart, Tomlin), HAYWARD TYLER 4 (Simpson 2, Newton Hutchins).

LUTON BREWERY 0, SHAW AND KILBURN 7 (Hicks 2, Gibbs 2, Owen 2, Mills).

LEAGRAVE B.L. "A" 3 (Collins, Miller, Jackson), BARTON ROVERS 6 (Hosier 3, Glennister).

R.A.F. O.N. WOODWORKING 2 (Turner 2), ALLIANCE FOUNDRY 2 (Gilliver 2).

HUNTING PERCIVAL APP 1 (Beasley), BOYS' BRIGADE O.B. 8 (Clifton 1, Payne 2, C. Jones, Young, Glenister).

DIVISION IV

BOYS' BRIGADE O.B. RES. 1 (Lake), VILLA ROVERS 3 (Band 2, J. Smith).

LAPORTE RES. 0, ROOTES SPORTS 5 (Stevens 2, Rankin, Adams, Struthers).

TOTTERHOE RES. 0, GIDAN ATH. 5 (Radon 4, Young).

SUNDON PARK RES. 4 (McCormack 2, Dawson 2, Cook), LILLEY RANGERS RES. 0.

Light rain made both ball and pitch very greasy, and the running and handling of both sets of three-quarters was first-class, considering the circumstances.

Grim defensive play was the order of the day, and although play was generally open, most movements were brought to a halt by fine covering and determined tackling.

Pakes touched down before the interval after Walters had gone close, and Heame added the extra points from a wide angle.

Both lines had some narrow escapes in the second half, and it was not until 15 minutes from the end that the Lutonians clinched the issue, Fensome brought a tackle raid to a premature end with a fine tackle inside his own "25". The ball rolled clear and Walters, using his speed to good account, took the ball at his feet and raced the length of the field before touching down. Heame converted.

Walters touched down again in the closing stages.

The American team put up a hard

GOALS WERE ONLY REDEEMING FEATURE

Otherwise, Town's Attack Had Disappointing Day

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN ... 3 PLYMOUTH ARGYLE 1

Time was when the Town were playing good football without getting the results they deserved. Now, judging by what happened in this match at Kenilworth-road on Saturday, they are achieving results without reaching anything like their previous standard of play.

So, despite that string of seven consecutive home League victories, there can be no complacency about the situation and there are serious problems in attack which must be tackled quickly.

The one redeeming feature in this drab exhibition was the manner in which the Town took their second half goals, which provided some of the few occasions on which the forward line could be said to have functioned smoothly.

Before the interval it had been a tale of almost unmitigated tedium, with neither side showing much constructive idea in attack and even less sign of finishing power.

At half-time there was deep thought about the advisability of switching Morton into the forward line, which showed the measure of dissatisfaction felt, but, wisely, as things turned out, it was decided not to make a switch.

Instead, instructions were given to Morton to do all the attacking he could from his normal right-half position, and he followed them to such an extent that he had a great deal to do with the first two goals.

THE DECISIVE FACTOR

In fact, it could be said that the driving power of Morton was the decisive factor in this match.

From his centre, flicked on by Turner's head, ADAM gave the Town the lead in the 56th minute with a shot taken on the volley and which he only half hit. However, the effect was good enough, for Major was left helplessly placed.

Eighteen minutes later Morton again became an emergency outside-right to make a centre that DAVIES put into the net with a beautifully timed header, challenged though he was by Robertson, and when, four minutes after that, Davies laid on a chance for TURNER to drive the ball past Major, the Town were in a position that had seemed near-impossible earlier.

One commendable feature about Plymouth was their refusal to give up the fight, despite the fact that they were virtually reduced to 10 men by an injury to Langman just before the interval.

For most of the second half he was nearly a passenger at outside-right, with Ludman taking over the leadership.

Their spirit enabled them to gain a consolation goal five minutes from the end, when PORTEOUS made a shot about which he could not have been particularly optimistic.

Stretton seemed certain to save, but the ball swerved in its flight and, in his attempt to change direction quickly, the goalkeeper slipped on the greasy surface, and so the Town's blank sheet was spoilt.

CENTRE-FORWARD PROBLEM

One of the problems besetting the Town is the centre-forward position, where Kelly did not look any too happy, even when due regard is paid to the fact that the best of service did not come his way.

Nor was there the constructive skill needed at inside-forward, where Watkins' foot (to long to make use of the ball, and Turn was the most successful of the trio.

By far the more effective winger in this match was Davies, who had a particularly good second half, during which he had a hand in all three goals.

On the other wing, Adam had

an off-day for he found Ratcliffe a rare stumbling block, partly because he did not vary his tactics sufficiently.

There could be much more satisfaction about the defence, despite the absence of Owen, for whom Hall, making one of his now-rare appearances in top-class football, proved to be a most adequate deputy once he had got the feel of things.

Backing him up were two strong wing-halves in Morton and Shanks, and, with Dunne and Abernethy both in top form, there was little scope for a very moderate Plymouth forward line.

Given the captaincy for the day to mark his 25th League appearance for the Town, Stretton had a quiet afternoon, for Plymouth's shooting generally was not accurate enough to cause him much difficulty.

LUTON TN: Stretton; Dunne, Abernethy, Morton, Hall, Shanks; Davies, Turner, Kelly, Watkins, Adam.

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE: Major; Ratcliffe, Morgan; Tilley, Robertson, McShane; Tadman, Dews, Langman, Porteous, Anderson.

Referee: G. McCabe, Sheffield. Attendance: 15,059.

S. Midlands League CHAMPIONS WERE SURPRISED

Beaten At Home By Lowly Potton

When top-of-the-table meets bottom-of-the-table in any league, the result is generally a clear-cut victory in favour of the team at the top.

That is why Potton United caused the surprise of the day in the South Midlands League Premier Division on Saturday when they beat Sheffield Town.

Sheffield, the title-holders, had played five games without defeat; Potton United had played only two, but were without a point, and they fought back to win 4-1 away from home and after being a goal in arrears in the first minute.

Dunstable Town and Cranfield, two more teams in high positions in the Premier Division, were defeated by Marston Shelton and AC-Delco respectively.

The four teams who are making the running in Division I—Langford, Hunting Percival, Luton Town "B" and Electrolux—all won their matches, and there were two welcome points for Davis Athletic, who showed something like the form of last season when they beat Queen's Works 7-2.

Top two teams in Division II, Bedford St. Cuthbert's and Shillington Athletic, were without games, but the results in the three matches played went according to the form book.

In the Reserve Section, Wootton Blue Cross now have a clear lead with two points more than Potton United. Here, Marston Shelton beat Flitwick Athletic to gain their first points of the season.

PREMIER DIVISION

AC-Delco 1, Cranfield United 1, Rizelewood Town 1, Hutton 1