

WERE OFF THE MARK

LUTON TOWN 1

HULL CITY 1

The Christmas Day meeting between these teams at Kenilworth-road produced a different story altogether, with the Town a lot below their best and the forwards both inaccurate in their approach and remiss in their finishing.

Even so, despite their obvious shortcomings, which was due in the main to mistaken tactics which led to them keeping the ball too close consistently, they had sufficient scoring chances to have made sure of two points.

On the run of the play, victory for the Town should have been certain, for the Hull attack had not a lot to commend it, and made little or no impression on the Town defence.

The goal they obtained was of the type that should never have happened, and it produced a shock in the 26th minute, when DOWNIE hopefully tried a shot from what could not be regarded as other than slightly optimistic range.

Baynham, who seemed to have it covered, went down too soon, and the ball rolled under his arm as he was full-length near the post and went on into the net—an unfortunate mistake.

CHANCES WERE MISSED

Before that happened the Town had had chances of making a flying start, particularly when Turner swung at the ball and missed completely, and Cullen delayed his shot too long when he went through with Hull asking for an offside decision.

Morton, too, was remiss on one occasion, but the most singular feature was the way in which passes went astray and the fact that the Town were making too many passes in order to make ground and had little to show for it in the end.

When the second half began the Town were still that goal in arrears, and in an endeavour to bring about an improvement they switched Davies and Cullen.

This did not have the desired effect, for Cullen could rarely pass Neal, and Davies had a completely off-day. Result was that with danger not coming from the extreme wings, there was persistence in trying to force a way down the middle, where Franklin was the master.

Morton, in fact, had an unproductive time, especially when he tried to beat Franklin, and that left Turner and Cummins as the chief hopes of a revival.

Soon after the interval, TURNER raised these with a tremendous shot that brought a dazzling save from Teece, and he it was who headed the equaliser after 67 minutes from a long centre by Cullen.

After that there was a lot of pressure by the Town, in which Turner twice went near to giving them the lead, and Davies had a great shot finely saved by Teece.

HAD MUCH MORE

OF THE PLAY

So, from a game in which they had by far the greater share of the play and infinitely the more chances, the Town had to be content with a point—an acute disappointment for the 15,853 spectators.

Turner was the best of the forwards, and certainly had a more accurate idea of where the goal lay than his colleagues, but there was a deal of good work by Cummins, who, however, sometimes attempted a little too much.

All in all, this game, that was often dull, was typical of what often occurs on Christmas Day, when there is usually an unnatural kick-off time. The atmosphere is never quite the same, and the football suffers as a result.

But that could not excuse the spate of inaccuracies, particularly in the use of the ball, and there was little that was reminiscent of the streamlined work that we had seen in the second half at Nottingham the previous week.

Really there was not a great deal for the defence to worry about, for little of a constructive nature came from Hull, and Baynham had little to do, though he made one splendid save when Hull were still leading and Owen nearly headed into his own net in an attempt to clear.

Owen held Crosbie without difficulty, and Shanks had the better of the tussle with Downie. Dunne and Aherne were consistent and confident, but Pemberton fell away a great deal after a good first half, and his distribution of the ball went all awry.

LUTON TOWN. — Baynham; Dunne, Aherne; Pemberton, Owen, Shanks; Davies, Turner, Morton, Cummins, Cullen.

HULL CITY. — Teece; Whittall, Neal; Horton, Franklin, Durham; Atkinson, Downie, Crosbie, Jensen, Ackerman.

Referee for both matches: F. L. Overton, Derby.