

TOWN REACH CHRISTMAS TARGET

BRILLIANT FOOTBALL BROUGHT GREAT WIN AT HULL

Quality Of Their Passing Was Almost Bewildering

By Chiltern

HULL CITY 0, LUTON TOWN 4

In not quite the fashion that they anticipated, the Town reached their target of three points for the holiday matches by a great performance before a record-for-the season crowd of 39,843 at Boothferry Park on Monday.

The score speaks for itself in that it in no way exaggerates the Town's superiority and their display had the Hull fans asking: "What went wrong on Christmas Day that our team gained a draw?"

A moot point that, indeed, but probably the answer lay in the different style adopted by the Town and the fact that they snapped up chances of the type they missed in the previous encounter.

Their display was ahead of that they showed in their previous best away win at Nottingham a fortnight ago, for Hull were opposition of slightly tougher calibre, and to break down this rugged defence four times was something that had the locals amazed.

After the forwards' failure in the home match, there had been some deep thought and a deal of discussion on the way to break down this defence.

Conclusion that was reached was that success lay partly in the use of the through ball past Franklin and in quick movement of the ball such as that which blasted the Forest so thoroughly.

Allied to that was complete determination on the part of the players to wipe out the memory of that disappointing first match, and the bite and fighting spirit they showed even when they had built up an unapproachable lead was something that had to be seen to be believed.

For a long time, too, they had to fight, for Hull, encouraged by his big crowd, were in the game with a real chance until 10 minutes after the resumption, and then the Town sealed their victory by scoring twice in the space of three minutes.

BEAT THE OFFSIDE TRAP

First, after 55 minutes, TURNER, timing his dash to a split second, beat the offside trap by just that margin in fastening on to a grand through pass by Cummins, and he skilfully drove the ball into the farthest corner of the net as Teece came out.

Three minutes later, MORTON took advantage of hesitation by Franklin and Neal to nip in between them, emerge with the ball and shoot past a vastly surprised goalkeeper.

It had been MORTON, too, who had laid the foundation of his victory by giving the Town the lead after 17 minutes when he simply pounced on the ball after a miskick by Neal, went on with a clear field and drove it past the diving Teece.

Danger time for the Town came between these two periods, and was most marked for about a quarter of an hour before the interval and in the first few minutes after it.

Then, the defence stood steady against the best the Hull forwards could produce, and Baynham made magnificent saves from Downie and Ackerman.

There was a close call when Ackerman missed the far post by

inches with a low shot, but, in the main the defence was equal to all that was demanded of it, which was as well, for an equaliser, and the encouragement it would have brought from the crowd, might have made things a good deal different.

Last chance for Hull really came when Baynham made a superlative save from a header by Downie following a corner, and the last half an hour was merely a formality so far as the result was concerned.

The Town used it to play some brilliant football, in which they found each other with quick passing in almost unrunny fashion, which drew spontaneous applause even from the partisan and very disappointed Hull fans.

Turner had a goal disallowed for offside, a hairsbreadth decision this must have been, and then had a big share in the goal which completed the scoring 13 minutes from the end.

This counted as the first for CULLEN in the League team this season, and he banged the ball into the net from point-blank range after Morton had sent away Turner, who outstripped the defence and, in doing so, got himself at an impossible angle near the post.

FARE WAS NOT APPETISING

Luton Town "A" 1, Chelsea "A" 3

This Metropolitan League game at Kenilworth-road on Monday was not very appetising holiday fare.

Luton "A," too near the bottom of the table for comfort, had enough of the play to earn at least a point from the League leaders, and until seven minutes from the end it looked as if they would hold out and draw.

At half-time Chelsea had a 1-0 lead, but this flattered them as the Luton forwards made several good openings only to fail when they got within scoring range.

TINDALL, the visitors' centre-forward, opened the scoring in the 34th minute, and NORMAN equalised after a scramble in front of the Chelsea goal a few minutes after the interval.

The game degenerated after this and there were long periods of scrappy, aimless play.

Then in the last minutes of the match Chelsea got on top and scored twice through SILLETT and TINDALL.

Although they scarcely deserved to be beaten, Luton were not impressive. There was too much "tip-tapping"—especially by the defence—and a tendency to pass backwards instead of forwards.

There was a failing shared by all departments.



Bob Morton

So, he merely pulled the ball back to Cullen, who accepted his gift chance with high glee.

Right through the match, the Town played the more progressive, accurate football. They were faster on the ball, always came in to meet it and were altogether more constructive despite the fact that Hull included Wilf Mannion for the first time.

On this occasion, "The golden boy of football" had rather a tarnished look, for, after some initial sparkle, he faded out and was given little opportunity by the close marking of the Town defenders.

In fact, Hull must have been casting envious glances at the inside-left on the other side—Cummins—who had one of his best games since he joined the Town.

Always in the thick of things, Cummins used the ball brilliantly and teamed up splendidly with Cullen, who gave his most satisfactory outside-left performance so far.

Much of their inter-passing had the Hull defence completely baffled, while, in the middle, the thrust and speed of Morton was something with which they could never completely cope. Franklin was certainly not the master this time and Morton was a constant source of danger.

There was a moment of anxiety just before the end when in trying to compete a hat-trick he came out from a tussle with Teece limping and went off the field limping, but it proved to be nothing worse than a kick on the

NO JOY FOR RESERVES

For the Reserves, called upon to play two away games, it was a disappointing Christmas in that they failed to gain a point—losing rather unluckily by 3-2 at Norwich on Christmas Day and going down 2-0 against Bristol City on Monday.

At Norwich, with a re-organised defence in which Jones was at centre-half, Dallas at right-back, Hawkes deputising for Thompson, and Kelly at right-half, they were three goals down before they had settled down.

There followed a fine rally in which Allen (penalty) and MacEwan put them within measurable distance of gaining the point they deserved.

The experiment with Jones was continued on Monday, but it was not a success because he is not sufficiently strong in the air, a big disadvantage so far as a centre-half is concerned.

In both games, the forwards over-used the short pass, and there was not sufficient thrust in the finishing. Allen was the best forward in both matches, in the second of which Thompson returned for Hawkes and Taylor was at outside-left for Petersen.

They had their chance at Bristol before the City gained their two first-half goals.

side of the knee and he was quickly all right again.

The thrustful, hard-working Turner was another success in what amounted to a five-star forward line, completed by Davies, who showed that he has completely recaptured his form, and there was a deal of danger from this side of the field.

Nor was there the slightest suspicion of weakness in defence where Owen was again in masterful mood and Shanks gave a non-stop display in which he seemed to be attacking and defending at the same time.

Early on, Pemberton was not altogether sure of his tackling against Mannion, but he settled down finely and his distribution was excellent. In fact, the forwards received a very good service and they thrived on it.

By consistently making certain that he was in the tackle first, Dunne blotted out Ackerman completely, and as Aherne had a similar hold on Atkinson, the threat from the wings was cut down to negligible proportions, and both earned top marks.

Behind them Baynham did his share in this famous victory by at least three top-class saves when Hull were at their most dangerous, and this was another display that ranks as high as the two previous ones he gave on opponents' grounds.

HULL CITY: Teece; Whitnall, Neal; Horton, Franklin, Durham; Atkinson, Downie, Crosbie, Mannion, Ackerman.

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

Referee: F. L. Overton, Derby.

SMALL BEER AFTER THE CHAMPAGNE

Lethargic Town Drop A Home Point To Hull City

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 1, HULL CITY 1

After the vintage brand of champagne they have been producing recently, it was very small beer, mostly of the flat variety that the Town had as a Christmas Day aperitif for 15,853 fans.

Result was that they began the holiday on the wrong foot by dropping only their third home point of the season and they missed numerous opportunities of sealing the fate of a Hull team who relied to a remarkable extent on the soundness of their defence.

The game as a whole lent support for those who feel that Christmas Day could well do without football and it often happens that the combination of a match played on this day and a morning kick-off, produces the lethargic sort of affair we saw.

Where the Town made their biggest mistake was in not relying on their previous progressive attacking football to find the gaps in the visiting defence.

Instead, they were much too elaborate in midfield, tended to make two or three passes when one would have been more valuable and accurate and, altogether, did not impress as a team that has been very much among the goals.

Not that the chances did not crop up. They did in reasonable abundance and before Hull had taken a surprise lead in the 26th minute, Turner and Cullen had each missed one.

The former swung wildly at a centre from Cullen with the defence all over the place and failed to make contact, while Cullen, going on with Hull appealing for offside, delayed his shot so long that the situation was retrieved at the cost of a corner.

SIMPLE GOAL FOR DOWNIE

Then, came the biggest shock of the game when DOWNIE made a harmless looking shot from near the edge of the penalty area and was probably as surprised as anybody when the ball landed in the back of the net.

Baynham must take the blame for this happening, for he went down too early near the foot of the post and, after having the ball in his grasp, let it roll under his arm into the back of the net.

An error by the goalkeeper who, unfortunately in the circumstances, has not yet been able to show the home fans the tremendous form he has been producing in away games.

This goal failed to have the livening up effect that might have been expected but it was followed by a deal of Town pressure in which Morton was unlucky with a fine, low shot that missed by inches.

Teece was kept fully occupied, but was helped considerably by the fact that the Town's shooting was nothing like so accurate as it has been.

With Turner producing a great drive and Teece an equally good save, the second-half opened on a rather more encouraging note, but for a long time it was merely a flash in the pan.

The passing which had never been good, degenerated even further and even the switching of Cullen and Davies failed to bring about the desired effect.

When the long delayed equaliser did come after 67 minutes, there were fond hopes that the Town would draw confidence from it and go on to complete the victory that the run of the play should have brought them.

Using the long ball for once, Cullen made the goal possible with a centre that TURNER, near the far post, headed neatly into the net.

It did bring something of a revival, limited in its effect and only Turner seemed to be liable to pull the game out of the fire.

He had claims for a goal turned down when Teece fell on his shot on the goal-line. Neal made a similar last ditch save by stopping a Turner header and the only variation was a tremendous drive by Davies that Teece did well to turn over.

As for Hull, they were not much in the picture as an attacking force and apart from the liking of Ackerman to make unexpected shots, there never seemed much danger of them scoring again. Yet, Ackerman did have a great chance just before the end.

Nearest to his recent form in this sluggish Town attack was Turner, who was always the man from whom Hull had most to fear, though there were several flashes by Cummins who produced brilliant footwork at times.

Had the rest of the line provided maximum support for these two, then the issue would never have been in much doubt. For Morton, there was his least impressive performance since he was converted into a leader, mainly because of the grip Franklin took upon him.

FRANKLIN THE CORNER STONE

Franklin was the cornerstone of this rugged defence and Morton seldom found a way in which to round him.

Davies had one of those days on which very little goes right and made little progress on either wing. Strangely, Cullen was more effective when he was on the left, but he was inclined to keep the ball too close and was too often caught in possession.

There was over-much running with the ball by the line as a whole and far less use of the open spaces than there should have been.

There was little fault to find with the defence, for Baynham had not much to do and Dunne and Aherne were mostly on top of the wingers.

Both full-backs tried to drive on the forwards in the second-half and there was much of this, too, from Shanks, who turned in a most whole-hearted display.

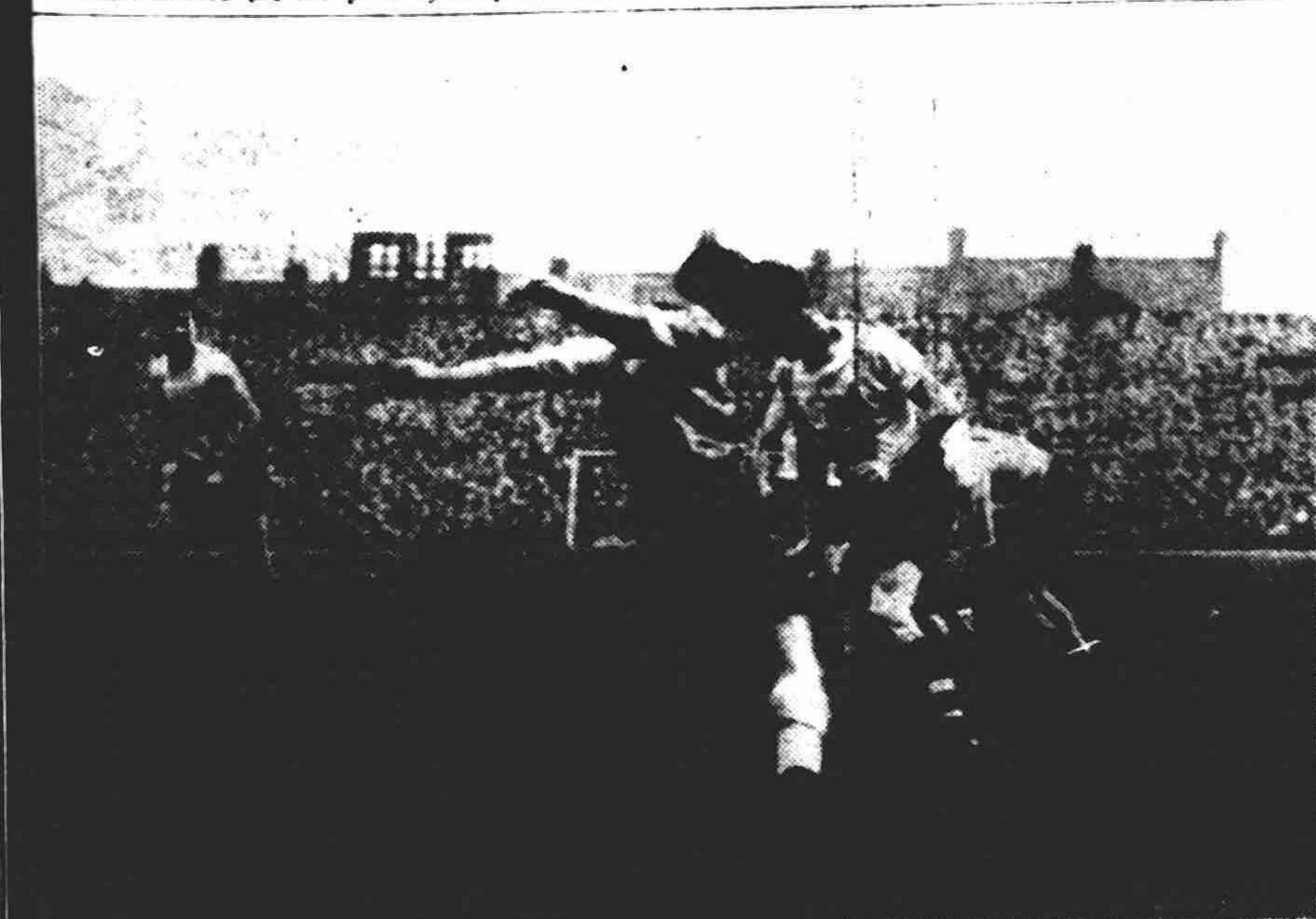
Apart from a tendency to lay off Crosbie in the early stages which might have been dangerous had the centre-forward been in better shooting form, Owen was much on top of his job.

Pemberton rather removed the memory of much good play before the interval by the way in which he fell away afterwards when his passing was most erratic.

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

HULL CITY: Teece; Whitnall, Neal; Horton, Franklin, Durham; Atkinson, Downie, Crosbie, Jensen, Ackerman.

Referee: F. L. Overton, Derby.



Bob Morton, on the left, awaits the outcome as George Cummins uses crafty footwork to outwit a defender in the Christmas morning match against Hull City. R5554K