

QUICK GOALS SANK TOWN

ARSENAL 3, LUTON TOWN 0

Three goals of amazingly simple quality in a spell of 13 minutes soon after the start of the second half, combined with an injury to Groves who spent the last 28 minutes off the field, effectively settled any hope the Town may have had of avoiding defeat on their first League visit to Highbury.

Groves received concussion due to the cumulative effect of being struck on the back of the head by the ball in the first half and a knock when going up to head the ball just before the third goal came.

Not that the injury had any effect on the final result—those hammer blows by the Arsenal forwards had already settled that.

With the strong wind behind them in the first half, Arsenal missed so many opportunities and they had so little cohesion that the slow hand-clap broke out on two occasions.

Best of the Town's first-half work was done in midfield, where they moved smartly and made more accurate use of the ball than did their opponents.

LACK OF PUNCH

Big failing, though, was the almost complete lack of punch and only seldom was the Arsenal defence in any sort of serious trouble. Once Kelsey saved at point-blank range from Adam and the Town felt themselves ill-used when the referee refused them a penalty for hands by Evans.

With the score-sheet blank at half-time and the Town having the advantage of the wind behind them to come, prospects looked reasonably bright if the forwards could discover some finishing power.

However, it was Arsenal, playing better against the wind than they had with it, who did that and they were a goal up four minutes after the re-start when Baynham pushed out a cross-drive by Tapscott to **HOLTON**, and all he had to do was to cap the ball through.

A mistake by Jones was the initial cause of the second goal 10 minutes later and **HOLTON** was again left with a simple chance, this time from Clapton's pass. Town appeals for offside were waved aside.

Three minutes later, the Town's discomfiture was completed when Holton eluded Kelly, brought the ball along the dead line and laid on a chance that **HAVERTY** could scarcely miss.

NO PROSPECTS AFTER THAT

And that was really that, for although the ten men fought hard enough subsequently, there was

never much prospect of them improving their situation and Kelsey brought off one good save from Gregory.

If the Town thought they should have had a penalty earlier, Arsenal certainly did when Shanks pulled down Tapscott.

Surprisingly, the referee awarded an indirect free-kick on the six-yards line and the Town managed to steer clear of danger from this.

Some of the trouble during the defence's bad spell emanated from the fact that Kelly began to be drawn out of the middle and could not recover quickly enough. Otherwise, he maintained a grip on Holton and both Morton and Shanks were forceful wing-halves.

Although he did not have much trouble from Clapton, Jones was inclined to be too adventurous in his own penalty area and confidence of this sort can be carried to extremes.

The tricks of Haverty did not make much of an impression on Dunne and, the manner of the first goal apart, Baynham did nothing to deserve the criticism that was heaped upon him in certain quarters.

Groves was doing very well, using the ball capably, until he went off, but Cullen was not so successful as in the previous match, and there were few chances for Gregory.

Little came from Davies and Adam's lack of finishing ability was again noticeable. In fact the trouble with the whole line was that it had no punch with which to finish off the neat work in approach.

ARSENAL: Kelsey; Charlton, Evans; Goring, Dodgin, Bowen; Clapton, Tapscott, Holton, Bloomfield, Haverty.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Jones; Morton, Kelly, Shanks; Davies, Cullen, Gregory, Groves, Adam.

Referee: E. T. Jennings, Stourbridge. Attendance: 45,968.