

BAYNHAM IN GREAT FORM

CHELSEA 0, LUTON TOWN 0

Had the "knockers" who have been advocating the replacement of Baynham in the England team by Matthews, of Coventry, been at Stamford Bridge on Monday, they would have been given every reason to have a complete change of mind.

Watched by an England selector, Baynham turned on a five-star performance which should be sufficient to ensure his appearance at Hampden Park on Saturday week.

In fact, there were many occasions when he alone stood between Chelsea and goals, and his brilliance drew round after round of applause from the crowd, culminating with a big reception as he left the pitch at the end.

His performance brightened up what was otherwise a dull afternoon, in which Chelsea spent about 80 per cent of their time banging away in the attempt to gain the goal that proved to be so elusive.

CHELSEA'S BAD SHOOTING

Had they really had a marksman of quality, the probability is that even Baynham could not have saved the Town from defeat, but much of the enthusiasm which the introduction of reserve team players infused came to nought because of a crop of bad shooting.

As for the Town, the number of worthy shots could be numbered on the fingers of one hand. Deep thought fails to bring back the memory of more than four—all in the second half.

Two of these came from Gregory and, then, in the closing minutes the Town could very well have snatched victory for both Adam and Pemberton had chances but were foiled by Robertson.

That apart, the forward line had little to commend it. Groves, who had been suffering from concussion only 48 hours before, was the not very good best of a poor bunch.

The wingers could not get on at all, Pemberton looked out of his element and even his distribution was inaccurate and Gregory was blotted out by Wicks.

Throughout, there was such a lack of life and method that the Chelsea defence could afford to almost walk through the match.

NO REST FOR TOWN

DEFENCE

Not so that of the Town. With the ball coming back at them continually, they had little in the way of rest and it was a back to the wall battle almost from start to finish.

Apart from Baynham, Morton and Shanks, both covering a tremendous amount of ground, were outstanding and Kelly, in a purely stopping role, was most effective, but he still lacks constructive ability.

All the half-backs fought with everything they knew and the main danger in the second half seemed likely to arise from the amount of room Jones tended to give Lewis who came as near as anyone to scoring with a cross shot that Chelsea claimed had crossed the line as Baynham saved, but the referee disagreed.

Dunne, who was able to match Blunstone's speed for a long time, seemed to tire midway through the second half and, fortunately for the Town, the winger was not at his incisive best and the danger from this quarter was not so great as had been expected.

Other narrow escape which the Town had in the second half came when in a tackle with Morton, well inside the penalty area, Blunstone fell full length and the referee awarded a free kick on the penalty area line, amid the jeers of the crowd.

CHELSEA: Robertson; Harris, Sillett; Nicholas, Wicks, Casey; J. Lewis, Brabrook, Tindall, Bentley, Blunstone.

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

Referee: F. B. Coultas. Hull.

Attendance: 26,364.