

COMPLETE FAILURE BY TOWN FORWARDS Game Was Never One To Cause Enthusiasm

By Chiltern

SS/56

Chelsea - - - - 0 Luton Town - 0

THERE was warm applause for Ron Baynham as he ran from the pitch at the end of the Town's goalless draw at Stamford Bridge yesterday, and he certainly deserved it.

He, more than anyone else, was responsible for the Town earning a point against the run of the play, for he was in peak form and stopped everything that Chelsea could hurl at him.

For the Town, it was largely a defensive battle with this department, especially the middle line, taking a full part.

Because of the weakness of the forward line they did not get much in the way of a respite from start to finish, and Chelsea are probably still wondering how they failed to win this match.

A large portion of the reason was the gallant Luton defence, but a lot of it could be traced to wild shooting.

As for the Town forwards, they had the sort of afternoon they will want to forget.

The newest formation simply failed to click. They rarely got out of the grip of the Chelsea defence and there were few constructive movements.

Yet, in the closing minutes, the Town could have saved the other point when a couple of snap chances befell them, but I do not suppose they will claim they were ill-used on that account.

It was never a game to cause much enthusiasm and nearly all of what excitement there was occurred at the Town end.

Whereas the Town contented themselves with resting Davies and giving Pemberton his first match of the holiday—in partnership on the right wing with Cullen—Chelsea made sweeping changes.

These brought in Larrie, Nicholas, Lewis, Brabrook and Tindall for Willemse, Dicks, McNichol and Stubbs.

There were also positional switches by Sillett and Bentley.

The pitch had been heavily watered.

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

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

Referee: F. B. Coultas, Hull.

OPEN GOAL MISSED

Chelsea were the more dangerous early on and only a glorious save by Baynham prevented them from taking the lead. Brabrook drove in and the goalkeeper, at full stretch, pushed the ball on to the post and collected a rebound.

The Town forwards found progress difficult to make and Chelsea continued to have far more of the play.

Baynham stuck out a foot to prevent a centre by Brabrook reaching the oncoming Bentley, before Brabrook missed an open goal when he intercepted a back pass from Kelly and then rolled the ball wide of the post.

penalty area line when Morton fouled Blunstone.

If there were an offence, it was certainly inside the area.

Sillett's shot cannoned off the defensive wall and Baynham finally relieved the danger by making another fine catch during the scramble.

With the Chelsea pressure mounting again, Tindall had a shot kicked off the goal-line by Morton after Baynham had come out for a corner and, challenged, could not retain his grip on the ball.

Baynham plucked out of the air a swinging centre by Blunstone. The Town forwards, having shown a little more life in the early part of the second half, had faded out again.

Appeals for a Chelsea goal went unheeded when the ball looked as though it very well might have been over the line when Baynham saved a cross from Lewis.

For a change, Robertson was brought into action by Gregory, then got in the way of a shot by Groves.

Somebody in the crowd behind the Town goal threw a bottle on to the running track when there was disagreement about a linesman's award of a goal kick to the Town.

BAYNHAM APPLAUDED

It was practically all defence for Luton and Tindall missed a great chance by shooting wildly. Corners at the Town end were frequent and these were mostly cut out by Baynham who was often applauded.

Then, after all this pressure, came a breakaway in which the Town got their best chance so far, but Robertson, narrowing the angle, smothered Adam's shot, and then Pemberton blazed into Robertson's arms.

These were rare forays by the Town, and it was mostly Chelsea calling the tune.

More Chelsea pressure followed, and Dunne, standing on the goal-line, shifted away a header by Bentley from Lewis's corner.

Back in defence, Cullen was injured but was able to continue after attention.

In almost the last minute, Baynham pushed out a centre by Tindall, and in a brief visit to the other end, Groves shot wide.

Result:

CHELSEA		0
LUTON		0
Official attendance:		26,364.