

TURNER'S GOALS HELP TO END TOWN'S BLANK SPELL

Extra Punch Brought To Attack By Inclusion Of George McLeod By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 4, CHARLTON ATHLETIC 2

THESE were welcome points to end a rather depressing run by the Town, who were superior to struggling Charlton, but had something of a fright in the early part of the second half.

In the end, they were indebted largely to the opportunism of Gordon Turner, who ended a blank spell that has lasted some weeks, with a fine "hat trick" in the course of which he took his total of League goals for the Town to 101.

No other Town player since the war has accomplished this feat and that Turner has again found his shooting boots is an encouraging sign, especially in view of the nearness of the Cup-tie.

Not since they did so at Wolverhampton and came away without even a point, had the Town scored as many as four goals in a single match and it might very well have been more.

A bad piece of mishandling by Duff enabled them to take the lead in the 14th minute when CULLEN shot during a melee and the ball spun out of Duff's hands to bounce over the line.

That lead lasted exactly a minute and then a crisp movement left STEWART with a chance to beat Streten for his first goal in League football.

After that, though, the Town gained the upper hand and five minutes later, TURNER made no mistake from the penalty spot after McLeod had been badly brought down.

TURNER'S 100th goal came

after 31 minutes with a beautifully placed header from a centre by Jones who had come through on the right wing.

The crowd were getting ready to cheer another goal when Morton produced a tremendous drive that Duff saved brilliantly but the Town were comfortably placed by half-time.

However, there was some anxiety in the early part of the second half when the Charlton forwards began to move more smartly and the two-pronged thrusts down the middle of Ryan and Summers looked dangerous.

RYAN it was who put Charlton firmly into the game again after 65 minutes and the Town's lead seemed more than a little precarious at that stage.

Then it was TURNER to the rescue again four minutes later when he beat Duff with a shot taken on the volley from McLeod's centre.

Charlton had defensive weaknesses that were not really exploited to the full, but there was more punch about the Town front line, due in no small measure to the introduction of McLeod.

Working all the time and showing football ability in addition to dash, he made a most successful debut as a leader.

TOOK SOME OF THE WEIGHT

Turner stole the limelight with his finishing, but Morton worked hard at inside-left, taking much of the weight off his inside colleagues and, even he looked at times as if he were playing out of position, as, of course, he was. This is an experiment that can be said to have been successful.

Not so much thrust as had been expected came from the wings where Gregory failed to cash in on an obvious weakness at right-back, but, at the same time, he looked a potential scorer more than once and it is scorers the Town are looking for. On his return, Cullen had only a moderate match against that accomplished defender, Hewie.

In fine form again, Streten made several superb saves during the times that Charlton were threatening and Jones and Aherne kept the extreme wingers very quiet.

While Jones carried coolness to extremes at times, he was an able deputy for Dunne, and Owen, although worried occasionally by the dash of Summers, especially when Ryan was coming through, too, was a fine mainstay.

Neither Pemberton nor Shanks consistently gained a grip on the middle of the field and their distribution was often faulty.

Some surprise was occasioned in the early part of the second half when the floodlights were switched on, but for only six minutes, because there was an objection by the Charlton manager, Jimmy Trotter, on the grounds that there had been no agreement to use them.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Jones, Aherne; Pemberton, Owen, Shanks; Cullen, Turner, McLeod, Morton, Gregory.

CHARLTON ATH.: Duff; Campbell, Hewie; Chamberlain, Upton, Cox, Lawrie, Ryan, Summers, Stewart, Kinsey.

Referee: A. A. Howlett, Swindon. Attendance: 9,907.

Other Critics:

KINDER TO THE TOWN

Critics were kinder to Luton after Saturday's victory over Charlton. But, at the same time, they took into account the fact that Charlton look certainities for relegation and did not provide the reshuffled Town attack with a very severe test.

There was praise for McLeod, and Turner had a good "press" after scoring his 100th League goal for Luton.

Here are some quotes:

"A 'hat-trick' by Gordon Turner, the Luton inside-right, was the high-spot of this drab game. Luton, who have also fallen away badly, were not unduly bothered." Sunday Dispatch.

"Luton's win was less decisive than the final score would suggest." Sunday Times.

"Best Christmas present Luton could have had was the return to scoring form of their inside-right, Gordon Turner, who literally blasted Charlton out of this match with a 'hat-trick.'" News of the World.

"Luton still have their problems. But the experiment of introducing McLeod at centre-forward paid off; his dash had an unsettling effect not only on Upton but on the Charlton defence as a whole." Sunday Express.

"Turner revelled in the mud and the slithering Charlton defence had a worrying time with him." Sunday Pictorial.

"Charlton cannot point to this six minute spell of artificial lighting as an excuse. They were outclassed and looked certainities for the Second Division next season." Sunday Graphic.

"Forward, it was good to see Gordon Turner find his goal touch again, and he recorded a 'hat-trick.' George McLeod, too, was a success at centre forward, and led the attack with more spirit than has been the case in recent weeks." Empire News and Sunday Chronicle.