

TOWN INJURED LIST IS STILL A WORRY

BROWN STOOD DOWN LAST NIGHT

By Chiltern

WITH the crowded Easter programme looming uncomfortably near, Town Manager, Dally Duncan, yesterday was studying an injured list of worrying proportions.

To complicate the issue, too, he had to find a team to go to Reading last night in the final of the Southern Floodlit Cup and has to raise another for tomorrow night's Football Combination match at Southend.

Further injuries in these games would certainly make things difficult for the Town over the weekend.

LAST night, the problem was solved by choosing the team that lost to Manchester United, with the exception of Allan Brown, who blistered a foot on Saturday and was allowed to travel back to Blackpool after the match and is having treatment there.

There seems no doubt about him being fit for the first match of the holiday programme with Bolton Wanderers at Burnden Park on Friday.

To replace him, the manager called on John Groves, and there was something of a scare yesterday morning when Reg. Pearce was having treatment for a slightly-damaged ankle.

Owen Is Back In Light Training

HOWEVER, he reported fit after a test, otherwise the Town would have been in something of a fix because Ray Smith was out of the running with a heavy cold and there was no other readymade deputy on hand.

Of the first team players who are out of action, Sid Owen has begun light training, but trainer Jack Crompton told me that he could not come into consideration until Saturday and then it would be very doubtful about him being able to return.

George McLeod is making a good recovery from his pulled muscle, is in light training and should be available for Friday.

Seamus Dunne May Begin Today

SO far, Seamus Dunne has had treatment and rest for the damaged ankle which was much better yesterday and he may start some training today, but he, too, must be in the doubtful category for at least the first of the holiday matches.

Bud Ahern has to have another check by a specialist on his ankle this week and Wally Shanks is due to have the plaster taken off his foot tomorrow.

Of the others, Jim Pemberton and George Cummins, both out on Saturday because of slight strains, should be fit for tomorrow.

Five Games Without A Goal Now

NOT a very happy position to be in before a holiday programme, especially as the team is

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stalwarts in Owen and Dunne, the Town kept out the United attack which included two players who had not been in the Spanish match.

Indeed so little shooting was there from either team that another goalless draw seemed to be very much on the cards at half-time.

Without showing much punch, the Town had contrived to look slightly the more dangerous, but the times that they looked likely to score were few and far between.

Cullen was unlucky with a drive that lifted just over the bar, but there were few other memorable efforts.

First Goal Came As A Surprise

CERTAINLY, United during the first half did little to bear out their great reputation and they looked like a team that had gone stale.

There was a bit more life about them in the early stages of the second half but, even so, it was something of a surprise when United took the lead after seven minutes.

A cross-field pass from Edwards to Goodwin began it and the latter's lob eluded Kelly.

Taylor was on the spot to breast the ball down and crash it firmly past Baynham.

After that, United seldom looked like losing the two points that just about assure them of the title again.

Vain Efforts Of Morton And Pearce

MORE assured after their goal, they coasted along comfortably enough, despite the great efforts of Morton and Pearce to get the forwards on the move with some menace.

However, this rarely happened, although Brown and Davies switched and apart from a header by Davies and a longish shot by Adam, there was not a great deal for Wood to worry about.

With 14 minutes left, Taylor did it again to finally seal a victory which had not really been in danger.

This time it followed a free kick well placed by Berry after Kelly had fouled the centre-forward.

Changed Defence Was Adequate

OVER came the ball, Kelly was badly positioned and

For The Records

LUTON TOWN 0
MANCHESTER UTD. 2
Taylor (2)

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; McNally, Jones; Morton, Kelly, Pearce; Cullen, Turner, Davies, Brown, Adam.

MANCHESTER UTD.: Wood; Foulkes, Byrne; Goodwin, Blanchflower, Edwards; Berry, Violet, Taylor, Charlton, Scanlon.

Referee: P. G. Brandwood, Kidderminster. Attendance: 21,227.

Taylor was able deliberately to head it well out of the reach of Baynham.

The goals apart, the Town's changed defence did an adequate job, with Morton and Pearce taking a lot of the strain in the middle of the field.

Pearce played an outstanding part once again, being in the thick of it all the time and certainly not suffering by comparison with England's left-half, Edwards.

In his new role of captain, Morton tried desperately hard to drive on the attack and was often to be found in the opposing penalty area during the second half.

Turner Not Looking Much Like Scoring

BUT it was all in vain, because there was little response from the men in front.

Of them, Turner is in a bad spell, and seems to have lost a deal of his confidence.

Maybe a goal or two would restore that, but he is not looking much like getting the ball into the net these days.

Better service from the wings would help the inside trio, but Cullen could not make much of Byrne and, as usual, held things up and was not fast enough to outpace the England left-back.

Adam was more successful, and his finishing was rather better than has been the case in the past, but he was scarcely consistent.

Davies Tried Hard In The Middle

PUT in once more in an attempt to solve the centre-forward problem, which it seems certain must be tackled by the Town before the start of next season, Davies was a trier all the way and was a bit unlucky not to be a scorer.

However, the support that came his way was somewhat meagre, and, in any case, this policy can only be short term, because outside-right is not only Davies's natural position, but his best.

Apart from a few glimpses he gave us of accurate distribution and one or two flashes of clever footwork, Brown was again disappointing to the home fans.

Brown Not Liking The Conditions

OBVIOUSLY the blisters from which he was suffering must have been something of a handicap, but he is patently not liking the hard grounds and has not managed to suit his style to the changed conditions.

As a line, the forwards are not moving quickly enough. There is far too much hesitation, and the inside-forwards tended at times to bunch too close together.

With the service they received from behind they should have done better, even allowing for the fact that United's defence covered well and Blanchflower had a tight grip on the middle of the field.

Full-Back Switch Was A Success

EXCEPT that he was involved when both the goals came, Kelly came through quite capably, but the power of Owen's heading was missed.

Obviously because it was thought that the great danger would come from the right, the Town manager pitted the more experienced Jones against Berry, a move that came off very well because little came from the United's right wing, and Jones gave a cool, capable performance.

So, too, did McNally in the first half when he cut out Scanlon who, however, came much into the picture afterwards.

Size Of The Crowd Was A Shock

SCANLON found that he had the beating of McNally on the outside and was one of the successes of the reserves brought into the champions' team.

For Baynham, there was not a great deal to do, but he impressed with the way in which he dealt with high centres.

To officials, the attendance was

not only a disappointment, but a shock.

They had been thinking along the lines of a record crowd and one wonders just why local fans failed to be pulled in by the glamour of the Busby Babes.

There were quite long queues when the gates were opened, which seemed to indicate a large crowd, but in the last half an hour before the kick-off there was only a trickle of people going to the ground and the extra 18 stewards provided were unnecessary.

Reserves Deserved No More

A 2-1 defeat at Leicester on Saturday was about all that the Town Reserves deserved—in fact they were lucky to get off so lightly, for there were glaring weaknesses in attack, and distribution by all departments and holes in the defence.

Only Stretton, Hawkes and Thompson played up to form, and there were no faults to find with these three, but McGuffie was a lot below par, Len Smith failed to come in to meet the ball, and Ray Smith, while enthusiastic in everything he did, was unable to get a real grip on the game.

Attack Had An Off Day, Too

THE attack was a case of "the least said the better." Pounder scored a good goal from 12 yards range, but did not look the part of an inside-forward; Gregory hit the woodwork once, but could not really get into the game; and Groves was again too slow and deliberate.

Wingers McQuillan and Legate did not receive a lot of service, and neither was given much scope by experienced full-backs.

Leicester scored first when Mellor beat Len Smith and shot from 10 yards; then came Pounder's equaliser, but Moran restored Leicester's lead with an unstoppable shot from the edge of the penalty area just before the interval.

Chiltern's Forecasts

DIVISION I

Arsenal v. Charlton Ath.
Birmingham C. v. Leeds Utd.
Barnley v. Manchester H.
Cardiff C. v. Tottenham H.
Chelsea v. Everton
Manchester Utd. v. Sunderland
Newcastle Utd. v. Aston Villa
Portsmouth v. Wolves
Preston N.E. v. Blackpool
Sheffield Wed. v. Luton T.
West Brom v. Bolton W.

DIVISION II

Bristol R. v. Blackburn R.
Bury v. Lincoln C.
Doncaster R. v. Port Vale
Grimsby T. v. Rotherham Utd.
Huddersfield T. v. Swansea T.
Leicester C. v. Bristol C.
Leyton O. v. Fulham
Liverpool v. Notts. Forest
Middlesbrough v. Sheffield Utd.
Notts Co. v. West Ham
Sheff. C. v. Barnsley

DIVISION III (SOUTH)

Aldershot v. Crystal Palace
Bournemouth v. Reading
Brentford v. Exeter C.
Brighton v. Norwich C.
Gillingham v. Coventry C.
Ipswich T. v. Plymouth A.
Millwall v. Colchester Utd.
Shrewsbury T. v. Northampton T.
Swindon T. v. Southampton
Torquay Utd. v. Newport Co.
Walsall v. Q.P.R.
Watford v. Southend Utd.

DIVISION III (NORTH)

Accrington S. v. Workington
Bradford C. v. Darlington
Chester v. Gateshead
Chesham Utd. v. Wrexham
Hartlepool Utd. v. Bradford
Mansfield T. v. Crewe Alex.
Oxford Ath. v. Scunthorpe Utd.
Southport v. Derby Co.
Stockport Co. v. Barrow
Tranmere R. v. Halifax T.
York C. v. Rochdale

SCOTTISH CUP FINAL

Kilmarnock v. Falkirk

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

DIVISION I

Ayr Utd. v. Queen's Park
Celtic v. Airdrieonians
Dundee v. East Fife
Hibernian v. Dunfermline
Motherwell v. Aberdeen
Queen of South v. Hearts
St. Mirren v. Partick T.

DIVISION II

Albion R. v. Dumbarton
Cowdenbeath v. St. Johnstone
East Stirling v. Dundee Utd.
Forfar Ath. v. Clyde
Stenhousemuir v. Berwick R.
Stirling A. v. Hamilton
Stranraer v. Brechin C.

SELECTIONS

TEN HOME.—Arsenal, Manchester Utd., Huddersfield, Leicester, Stoke, Brighton, Ipswich, Bradford C., Hartlepool, York.

FOUR AWAY.—Tottenham, Nottm. Forest, Southampton, Derby.

THREE DRAWS.—Preston v. Blackpool; Exeter v. Fulham; Tranmere v. Halifax.

JOAN'S BOY A 7-1 WINNER ON SATURDAY

Joan's Boy, 7-1 winner of the fourth race, caused the only real surprise at Luton Stadium on Saturday.

There was a dead-heat for second place in the sixth race, when Snob and Gusto passed the post simultaneously—four lengths behind Bill Bogeys, who was an easy winner.

1 (410 yds)—1, HIGH TENSION (6); 2, Boston Brownie (4); 3, Plasterer (5); 4, Ray's Girl (1); 5, Rose Bud (2); 6, Arthur's Blackie (3); 21. 2, 2, 4, 8; 24.47. Off 6.42.

Betting: 5-2 HIGH TENSION. 3-1 Boston Brownie, 4-1 Plasterer, Rose Bud, 5-1 Ray's Girl, 8-1 Arthur's Blackie.

Forecast: £1 4s. 6d.
11 (470 yds)—1, PIXIE (4); 2, Outcast (2); 3, Smoky Joe (1); 4, Normal Service (3); 5, Black Stick (6); 6, Running Water (5); 2, 10, 4, 1, 4; 27.75. Off 7.01.

Betting: 5-2 PIXIE, Black Stick, 4-1 Normal Service, 5-1 Smoky Joe, 6-1 Outcast, 10-1 Running Water.

Forecast: £2 15s. 3d.
111 (410 yds)—1, TOMMY (4); 2, Gaynor (3); 3, Wings (5); 4, Stormy (6); 5, Pluto (1); 6, Peace (2); 1, 6, 2, 2, 2; 24.18. Off 7.21.

Betting: 5-2 TOMMY, Gaynor, 3-1 Wings, 7-2, Stormy, 10-1 others.

Forecast: £1 6s.
IV (470 yds)—1, JOAN'S BOY (3); 2, Our Bob (6); 3, Badger (2); 4, Rambler (1); 5, Farm Baby (5); 6, King Sol (4); 5, 1, 1, 5; 27.41. Off 7.42.

Betting: 5-2 Our Bob, 3-1 Rambler, 7-2 Farm Baby, 4-1 King Sol, 7-1 JOAN'S BOY, 10-1 Badger.

Forecast: £3 10s. 9d.
V (410 yds)—1, CONNIE'S FRIEND (6); 2, Ribbon (1); 3, Epping Lad (2); 4, Nice Fella (5); 5, Black Rose (3); 4, 7, 1, 1; 23.51; non-runner Lena's Pride (4). Off 8.0.

Betting: 4-5 CONNIE'S FRIEND, 3-1 Ribbon, 6-1 Epping Lad, Nice Fella, 8-1 Black Rose.

Forecast: 11s.
VI (470 yds)—1, BILL BOGEYS (2); 2, Snob (4) and Gusto (6), dead heat; 4, Texas (5); 5, Peter Black (3); 6, Front Page (1); 4, dead heat, 3, 3, 3; 27.62. Off 8.22.

Betting: 4-5 BILL BOGEYS, 5-1 Texas, Front Page, 8-1 Gusto, Peter Black, 10-1 Snob.

Forecast: 12s., 9s. 3d.
VII (470 yds)—1, FAWN JIM (3); 2, Ginger Pop (1); 3, Bela-

vista (4); 4, Patch (2); 5, Scurry (5); 6, Nigger Boy (6); 4, 1, 1, 2, 1; 27.75. Off 8.42.

Betting: 2-1 Nigger Boy, 5-2 FAWN JIM, 7-2 Belavista, 4-1 Ginger Pop, 6-1 Scurry, 10-1 Patch.

Forecast: £1 17s.
VIII (410 yds)—1, PLEASE SIR (6); 2, Rabbit (1); 3, Lobby Lud (5), reserve; 4, New Paint (3); 5, Nick (4); 6, The Maid (2); head, 2, 6, 2, 4; 24.27. Off 9.01.

Betting: 7-4 Rabbit, 9-4 PLEASE SIR, 4-1 Nick, 6-1 Lobby Lud, 8-1 The Maid, 10-1 New Paint.

Forecast: 17s.

RUNNERS AND SELECTIONS FOR LUTON TONIGHT

7.30 (410yds).—13 Bogard (April 9, to 1, 24.59); 415 Little Noddy; 153 Mickey Drip; 12 Old Fella; 555 Rammy Boy; 645 Twink; reserve 6 Not So Rough.

7.50 (470yds).—551 Betty; 356 Drummer Boy; 244 Sunblast; 23 Lemmy; 546 Pancho; 535 R.W.; reserve 364 Mitei.

8.10 (410yds).—1 Black Rem; 222 Easter Bonnet; 263 Learner; 552 Husky; 5 Phil; 215 Sandman; reserve 134 Phadadi.

8.30 (470yds).—214 Batterino; 553 Curry; 231 Peter Pan; 612 Squaker; 213 Very Useful; 411 Whistler.

8.50 (410yds).—4 Basher's Pal; High Speed (Mar 26, to 2, 24.51, April 2, to 2, 24.11, April 9, to 1, 23.88); 321 Kingsfear; 66 Loraine (Mar 23, to 1, 24.32); More Sauce (April 4, to 2, 24.22, April 6, to 3, 24.27); Tonto (April 4, to 3, 24.13, April 9, to 1, 24.34).

9.10 (470yds).—615 Banner; 4 Charcoal; 22 Cter Mems; 111 Golden Sun; 111 Old Timer; 516 Tiger Lily.

9.30 (470yds).—142 Adios; 112 Bonum; 221 Pip-Emma; 223 Rinky; 165 The Pup; 436 Valant; reserve 112 Pan-Yan.

9.50 (410yds).—April (April 4, to 5, 24.74, April 6, to 1, 24.64); 665 Booster; 5 Fur Muff; 613 Mariner; Old Nick (April 4, to 5, 24.75, April 9, to 4, 24.60); 425 Tony Token; reserve 465 Kismet.

SELECTIONS

7.30—Old Fella (Bogard, Little Noddy).

7.50—Pancho (Drummer Boy, Betty).

8.10—Black Rem (Phil, Easter Bonnet).

8.30—Whistler (Peter Pan, Very Useful).

8.50—Kingsfear (More Sauce, Loraine).

9.10—Golden Sun (nup) (Banner, Tiger Lily).

9.30—Bonum (Rinky, Valant).

9.50—Mariner (Tony Token, April).