

IMPROVED TOWN EARNED THEIR POINT

LUCK AGAINST THEM AT BOLTON

Turner Found His Shooting Boots Again

By Chiltern

BOLTON WANDERERS 2, LUTON TOWN 2

HAD the Town not gained a point at Burnden Park, Bolton, yesterday, they would have had burning thoughts about two decisions by the referee.

First was Bolton's second goal, which came 12 minutes after half-time when Hennin took a free-kick out on the right touchline for a foul by Pearce. Bang into the goalmouth came the ball and Baynham, in his usual style, went up to grab it. As he did so LOFTHOUSE hit him, down went Baynham, loose went the ball, and before the goalkeeper could recover the centre-forward forced it over the line.

In most people's opinion it was a foul and later Baynham told me that Lofthouse admitted as much afterwards.

Appeals, however, were waved aside, as they were some time afterwards when Turner seemed to have gained the equaliser when he ran on to a Cullen header from a goal-kick and smacked the ball in.

Hopkinson was beaten, but somehow the ball came back and was scrambled for a corner. So hard was the shot and so quickly did everything develop that opinions are very mixed as to whether it was a goal or not. The Town appealed that the ball had crossed the line and the referee was persuaded to consult a linesman, but after doing so stuck to his original decision of giving a corner.

Afterwards the Bolton manager, Bill Ridding, told me, "I thought the ball had hit the roof of the net," so had not the Town taken a point from this game they could have claimed to have been the unluckiest team in the world.

GREAT GOAL BY TURNER

In the end it was an astonishing goal from a free-kick by TURNER six minutes from the end that gained the Town the point they earned. It was a free-kick, two yards outside the penalty area and Bolton lined up carefully.

Some distraction was caused by Kelly coming right up into the inside-right position and by Jones

hovering around as if he might be having something to do with the kick.

Whatever it was, Turner carefully, and with astounding accuracy, lobbed the ball over the whole crowd and it got in at the angle of the woodwork with Hopkinson very late and taken completely by surprise. In fact, the first indication I had that it was a goal was the rattle of the ball against the net, and so it was for the jubilant Town officials.

To go back to the earlier events, Bolton were the stronger at the start, but Luton, after 18 minutes, broke their goal famine which had then lasted 499 minutes, with as good a goal as they have scored this season.

Adam made the early running with a pass down the wing which Pearce, coming through strongly, collected and kept going. He crossed a ball about a yard high and TURNER, racing in, took it on the drop and crashed it into the roof of the net.

BROWN MISSED GOOD CHANCE

After that the Town were on top. Brown drove just over after good work by Morton, and then missed a great chance, shooting wide after being sent through by Cullen.

In the 27th minute a scrambling goal by LOFTHOUSE put Bolton on terms. It came from a centre by Holden which bounced awkwardly and both Kelly and Lofthouse missed it in the first instance. Lofthouse was lucky to get a second chance and all Baynham could do was to stick out a speculative foot which was not good enough to prevent the ball crossing the line.

Chances to the Town came afterwards, with Turner missing one, but towards half-time Bolton were threatening to get on top and equality was about right at the end of the half.

BAD LUCK FOR DAVIES

Strange, how when a team is in a bad run, luck goes against them, because immediately before that dubious second Lofthouse goal, Davies had the cruellest luck imaginable when he suddenly let loose from 20 yards a tremendous drive. Hopkinson, unsighted, grabbed at it, could not hold it, and the ball dropped behind him and looked like spinning into the net, until the goalkeeper made a remarkable recovery and prevented the oncoming Brown from applying the finishing touch.

After the Turner disappointment and the turned-down appeal, it looked as if the Town were going down to defeat, because they lost their earlier accuracy, but Brown missed two reasonable

chances through inability to control the lively ball.

Conditions were not easy, with the ball bouncing about in a tricky sort of breeze, and considering everything it was quite an entertaining match.

Thirteen minutes from the end Brown was switched to centre-forward without noticeable effect and it was left to a somewhat needless offence to provide the opportunity for Turner to score from that remarkable free-kick.

Whichever way one looks at this it was a good performance on the part of the Town because Bolton are never easy to hold on their own ground. In addition, the Town had one or two doubts so far as fitness was concerned before the start and of course they were still weakened by the absence of key players.

Lofthouse and Holden were the danger men and McNally had a struggling sort of match against the latter because he seems to have lost his liking for getting straight into the tackle and at the moment is holding off too much. Kelly had a severe test against the England centre-forward, did well enough on the ground, but was well beaten in the air against probably the best header of a ball as a leader since Dixie Dean.

Outstanding in defence was Jones, who gave a classical display in which his casualness cropped up only on rare occasions.

Morton, "carrying" a knee on which he has fluid, was not quite his usual self, particularly in his distribution, which went all haywire for a period in the first half.

Always in the game was Pearce, who, however, was not quite so strong in the tackle as he has been in recent matches, but all the same he made a valuable contribution.

WINGERS WERE MUCH IMPROVED

Most cheering part of the forward line display was the return to scoring form of Turner, who might very easily have had four goals. Marked improvement, too, lay in the play of the wingers, with Adam qualifying for the rating of the best forward in the first half and Cullen coming in all the time looking for the ball, being more direct and showing a great deal of enthusiasm for the job.

Davies, hard though he tried, does not look the part of a centre-forward, and Brown is still bothered by the liveliness of the ball and although some of his distribution was good he missed two or three very good chances.

The attack was far more effective, though, than in recent matches. There was more method, and they created a lot of openings. In fact, they might easily have won against this hard-tackling Bolton side.

BOLTON WANDERERS: Hopkinson; Hartle, Banks;

Hennin, Edwards, Bell; Birch, Stevens, Lofthouse, Parry, Holden.

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

Referee: Mr. F. L. Overton, Derby.

Attendance: 18,000.