

# TOWN CRISIS STORY COMPLETELY ASTOUNDS CHAIRMAN

## "RIDICULOUS TO SAY WE'LL SELL ANYONE" Board Have Never Even Discussed The Matter

by Chiltern

"COMPLETELY astounded" was the reaction of the Town F.C. Chairman, Mr. P. G. Mitchell, to the statement contained in a Sunday newspaper that the Town are facing a crisis and are prepared to consider offers for any of their players.

"What has been quoted is purely a personal point of view and entirely irresponsible," he told me on Sunday morning.

Continuing, he said, "The matter has never been discussed by the Board and as recently as after last Saturday's match when Newcastle director, Stan Seymour, asked me whether we had changed our minds about selling Gordon Turner. I said we had not."

"We are not in a position of crisis, otherwise we would not be turning down the big money Newcastle are prepared to pay for Turner."

"Certainly, we owe a bit of money, as do most clubs, but we can carry on without difficulty."

"As does every club, we receive routine enquiries about our players from time to time, and if there were an offer for a player for whom we have an adequate replacement, naturally we would think about it, because we are not a no-buy, no-sell club."

"But to suggest that we would part with anybody is completely ridiculous and I would emphasise that it was a unanimous Board decision when Newcastle were told that Turner was staying with Luton."

### Turner Refusal Was Unanimous Decision

"MAYBE if the low gates persisted for a considerable length of time, we might have to think about improving our financial position, but that certainly has not arisen."

### Arsenal Have Not Approached Town

ACCORDING to the newspaper story, Arsenal manager Jack Crayston was in touch with Luton as soon as he heard the "news."

On this, Mr. Mitchell said,

## PICTORIAL WEEK-END SPORTS SPECIAL

"Arsenal have not been in touch with us and if Mr. Crayston wishes to contact us, I am sure it will be in his own good time and without being prompted by a newspaper."

Certainly the whole story was completely out of line with what has been accepted as the policy of the club these last few years.

### Could Have Accepted "Open Cheque" Offer

HAD they wished to replenish their coffers, they could have done so at any time during the past fortnight by merely accepting the "open cheque" offer Newcastle made them for Turner and there are others they could have disposed with in the past had they been so inclined.

Yesterday the Town manager, on the Chairman's instructions, called all the players together and told them that a public denial of the story had been made.

Coming hard on the heels of the hollow home defeat at the hands of Newcastle, this story is bad propaganda for the club and, doubtless, the matter had a high place on the agenda at the Board meeting yesterday.

### Saturday's Display Bad Propaganda

MORE bad propaganda was the way in which the team played on Saturday when they were watched by their third biggest crowd of the season.

Unfortunately some of the reluctant fans who were attracted back to the terraces by the Town's recent exploits, may be inclined to withdraw their support again after this exhibition.

Was it the aftermath of the mid-week trip to Italy and the rum around they received from the Italians that caused this lapse?

Could be, and the fact is that the team never played with the assurance and confidence they have been showing recently.

### Defence Showed Gaps Continually

NOR was it a case of just one or two players being below their best.

The rot went through the whole team, with the usually so competent defence showing gaps continually and the forwards seldom out of the grip of a hard-tackling defence.

"We are outplayed on the day and Newcastle's defence is the strongest we have played against this season," said Manager Dally Duncan afterwards.

Even allowing for the splendid defensive work of the visitors, the Town forward line was so much below par as to be un-

recognisable from the one which has been moving so smoothly.

### Turner Received Little Support

ONLY Turner looked as if he might get the Town back into the game after the early blows had been struck against them, but he received so little support that he had little chance to enhance his chances of a cap.

In the circumstances, it was perhaps just as well that no England selector was there to watch.

Brown was so much in Stokoe's grip that he switched to outside-left midway through the second half, but the second occupant of the leadership, McLeod, could not effect any improvement at all.

The manly Newcastle achieved was reflected by the way in which the terraces were emptying long before the end.

### No Thrust Down Wings Or Down Middle

THERE was no thrust down the middle, nor was there any on the extreme wings except on rare occasions by McLeod, and there was not much for Adam to remember about this match which began a few hours after his wedding.

Comments should have made far more use of the fact that Scouler was more intent on an attacking role than on keeping tabs on the inside-left, who could not seem to get going at all, and frequently held up things by holding on to the ball too long.

### Scouler Caused A Lot Of Trouble

MUCH of the Town's trouble stemmed from Scouler, who was continually shouting for the ball, and when he received it set the Newcastle forwards going with pin-pointed passes, either to Mitchell or down the middle for the lively White to chase.

### Greyhound Racing

## A Winner For Every Trap At Luton On Saturday

THERE was a winner for every trap again at Luton Stadium on Saturday evening. Favourites won only three of the races, but winning prices were not high.

1. 25.07. OR 7.47.  
Betting: 2-1 Golden Sun; 5-2 THE ORPHAN; 4-1 Outcast, Shiner; 7-1 Our Bob; 10-1 Chris's Hope.

Forecast: £4/2.9.  
V (470yds)—1. HOUGHTON BOY (4); 2. Tonto (2); 3. Who Cares (1); 4. King Sol (5); 5. Dust Coat (3); 6. Poral (6); 5, 1, 2, 2, 1; 28.06. Off 8.06.

Betting: 5-2 Who Cares, Persil, 7-2 HOUGHTON BOY, 4-1 Dust Coat, 6-1 Tonto, 8-1 King Sol.  
Forecast: £2/10/9.

VI (410yds)—1. NICE FELLA (3); 2. Bally's Son (5); 3. The Dove (6); 4. Jamie (4); 5. Rock 'n' Roll (2); 6. Rumba (1); head, 1, 1, 2, 6; 24.73. Off 8.26.

Betting: 4-6 NICE FELLA, 7-2 Bally's Son, 5-1 Rumba, 7-1 The Dove, 100-8 others.  
Forecast: 10/6.

VII (470yds)—1. SQUEAKER (6); 2. Coral Bead (1); 3. Gold Star (3); 4. Bogard (5); 5. Belavista (2); neck, 8, 2, dist; 28.39; non-runner Poppy (4). Off 8.46.

Betting: 7-4 Belavista, 9-4 Gold Star, 7-2 SQUEAKER, Bogard, 6-1 Coral Bead.  
Forecast: £3/12/-.

VIII (410yds)—1. IRENE (2); 2. Smoky Joe (1); 3. Bear Brand (4); 4. Speedy Ash (6); 5. Headwind (3); 6. Blue Jet (5); 3, 2, 3, 4, 3; 24.96. Off 9.06.

Betting: 7-4 IRENE, 2-1 Blue Jet, 9-2 Smoky Joe, 8-1 Speedy Ash, 100-8 others.  
Forecast: £1/9/-.

### CHILTERN'S FORECASTS

Bradford v Stockport Co Bay v Darlington  
Carlisle U v Halifax T  
Chester v Mansfield T  
Chesterfield v Workington  
Huddersfield U v Hull C  
Oldham Ath v Scunthorpe U  
Southport v Rochdale  
Tranmere Rov v Bradford C  
York C v Crewe Alex

### SCOTTISH LEAGUE DIVISION I

Aberdeen v Kilmarnock  
Clyde v Hearts  
East Fife v Third Lanark  
Falkirk v Rangers  
Motherwell v Celtic  
Partick T v Airdrieonians  
Queen's Park v Raith Rov  
St Mirren v Dundee

### DIVISION II

Albion Rov v Dunfermline  
Alloa v Stranraer  
Arbroath v Morton  
Ayr U v Stenhousemuir  
Berwick Rov v St Johnstone  
Brechin C v East Stirling  
Cowdenbeath v Hamilton  
Dundee U v Stirling A

### DIVISION III (SOUTH)

Bournemouth v Aldershot  
Brentford v Newport Co  
Colchester U v Port Vale  
Covey C v Millwall  
Crystal Palace v Brighton  
Northampton T v Q.P.R.  
Norwich C v Plymouth A  
Reading v Exeter  
Shefford T v Gillingham  
Torquay U v Southampton  
Walsall v Swindon T  
Widford v Southend U

### DIVISION III (NORTH)

Accrington S v Gateshead  
Barrow v Wrexham

In allowing Scouler all the room in the world, the Town made a bad mistake, and they did not learn from experience.

Decline of Luton began in the seventh minute when White, who had scored only once previously this season, just Newcastle ahead, a little luckily, perhaps, as he just beat Bayham in a race for a through pass by Hughes.

### No Challenge To These Scorers

SLACKNESS in covering was responsible for the second goal 16 minutes later when there was no-one anywhere near Bell as he planted the ball into the net to mark his debut in the League team.

Nor was White challenged when he headed the third goal after 31 minutes from a centre by Mitchell which I thought Bayham might have cut out instead of remaining on his goal-line.

A couple more good chances were allowed to slip by and the Town's interval position of 3-0 down could quite conceivably have been worse.

### Historic Revival Not Repeated

SUPPORTERS with long memories probably thought back to a previous occasion when the Town were in a similar position against the same opposition and came back to win.

If they had hopes of another such revival, they were doomed to disappointment.

Although there was rather more determination than there had been, things continued to go badly wrong for the Town.

Passes consistently went astray and the way in which the Newcastle defenders came in to meet the ball broke up many a raid.

### FOR THE RECORDS

LUTON TOWN ..... 9  
NEWCASTLE UNITED ..... 3  
White (2), Bell  
LUTON TOWN: Bayham; Dunne, Jones; Morton, Owen, Pears; Adam, Turner, Brown, Clapham, McLeod.  
NEWCASTLE UNITED: Shapton; Kelly, McMichael; Scouler, Stokoe, Pears; Hughes, Eastham, White, Bell, Mitchell.  
Referee: F B Coulter, Hall. Attendance: 19,678.

Often, the Town were caught waiting for the ball, and it all added up to making Newcastle look a deal the faster side.

### Pearce Tried Hard To Infuse Life

ONE who tried hard to infuse some life into the attack during the first half was Pearce, who made several spectacular runs and was continuously in the picture.

He it was who came nearest to living up to his reputation, but he fell into the general trend of things after the interval when he was not so prominent.

Strangely ill at ease and uncertain was Owen, who was often under the handicap of facing two opponents, and he did not receive the cover he was entitled to expect from Dunne and Jones, neither of whom ever got on top of the job.

### Defensive System Went Awry

DUNNE could not cut off the service to Mitchell and Jones looked far too casual in his approach to the task of holding the speedy Hughes who was always a lively raider.

Nor was Morton in his usual authoritative form and it all

added up not so much to individual failings, perhaps, but to the fact that the whole system of defensive covering which has been so good this season, went awry.

Apart from the third goal, no one could blame Bayham for the defeat, but he did not have a lot of heavy work to do because, apart from the goals, which were all map affairs, there was not a lot of shooting from Newcastle, but even less from the Town.

### Marsh Earned Top Marks For Reserves

IN holding a powerful Tottenham Hotspur team which included Jim Hay, recent £16,000 signing from Sheffield United and experienced forwards such as Len Dugan and A.L. Stokes, the Town Reserves put up a splendid performance.

It was a hard, thrilling match in which the Town deserved their point, but it needed a fine display of goalkeeping by Marsh to enable them to keep it.

Marsh made several great saves and this was his best display since joining the club.

### Groves The Best Of The Forwards

AS a whole, the Town defence was sound, with Ahern's positional play a feature. Kelly effective and steady, Pacey again shining in defence and attack and Shanks and Hawkes linking up well on the left.

Best of the forwards was Groves, who schemed well and brilliantly cut out the opening for the second goal, scored by Leggin.

Whitty, who shows a great deal of promise and is playing more confidently than in his early matches in this team, obtained the first and received good support from his partner, Cullen.

## Situations DO arise

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## FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION I

Birmingham C v Blackpool  
Barnley v Leeds U  
Chelsea v Leicester C  
Manchester C v Wolves  
Newcastle U v Manchester U  
Nottingham Forest v Aston Villa  
Portsmouth v Everton  
Preston N.E. v Bolton W  
Sheffield W v Arsenal  
Tottenham H v Luton T  
West Brom v Sunderland

## DIVISION II

Bristol C v West Ham  
Cardiff C v Sheffield U  
Charlton Ath v Lincoln C  
Doncaster Rov v Bristol Rov  
Grimby T v Fulham  
Huddersfield T v Swansea T  
Leyton O v Notts Co  
Liverpool v Blackburn Rov  
Middlesbrough v Ipswich T  
Rotherham U v Derby Co  
Stoke C v Barnsley

## DIVISION III (SOUTH)

Bournemouth v Aldershot  
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Crystal Palace v Brighton  
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Norwich C v Plymouth A  
Reading v Exeter  
Shefford T v Gillingham  
Torquay U v Southampton  
Walsall v Swindon T  
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## DIVISION III (NORTH)

Accrington S v Gateshead  
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