

WEAKENED TOWN TEAMS MET CHAMPIONS TWICE

STRICKEN by illness and injuries, the Town had to meet the League champions, Manchester United, twice over Christmas with badly-weakened teams.

At Old Trafford on Christmas Day, they lacked the services of Morton, Owen and Turner, for whom Pacey, Kelly and Gregory came in, with the last-named leading the forwards and Groves and Brown flanking him.

Defeat by 3-0 was their portion and, for them, it was really one long struggle, with the forwards little in the picture, despite some very hard work by Groves and Brown.

In addition to that, as often happens when a team is up against it, they met with bad luck, as in the 19th minute when Groves was harshly penalised for a foul just inside the penalty area and EDWARDS rocketed the ball in from the spot.

There was a large slice of fortune, too, about the second goal 12 minutes later when a shot by Charlton which was going wide, was deflected into the net off TAYLOR'S back.

United were stronger all-round, but the Town kept fighting and limited them to one goal in the second half, obtained by Charlton after 70 minutes.

However, they owed quite a debt to the gallant Baynham who, although badly handicapped by a bruised thigh muscle, which forced him to give up taking goal-kicks, made a series of great saves.