

THIS TROUBLE COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED

If A Stronger Line Had Been Taken Earlier

By *CHILTERN*

LUTON TOWN 2, CHELSEA 1

IF a match is allowed to get out of hand as was this one at Kenilworth-road on Saturday, it is only to be expected that something serious will happen in the end.

And so it proved, with this rough and tumble, hurly-burly affair ending with John Sillett being sent off the field with a bare minute of extra time for injuries remaining.

He incurred the displeasure of the referee by committing a bad foul on Bingham, but the unfortunate part was that Mr. Stott did not take a stronger line earlier on.

Chelsea's tough tackling produced several situations that merited strong words of warning from the referee who, however, was content with finger waving in admonishment and that did not have the necessary restraining influence.

The roughness reached its peak in the second half, and the sending off incident was not the first time that Bingham had been badly shaken up.

Just why Chelsea should descend to these sort of tactics when there is obvious football ability in the side is difficult to fathom and that they should be beaten was exactly what they deserved.

Yet, with the Town forwards shaken out of smoothness and accuracy by the Chelsea plan of campaign, it seemed for a long time that they would have to be content with a point.

EARLY SUCCESS

Yet, they had started well enough with a goal by BROWN in eight minutes, scored from close range after Matthews had saved well from Turner, and Adam had re-crossed the ball.

One or two chances went astray and Chelsea equalised after 23 minutes when Peter Sillett placed a free-kick unerringly into the goalmouth, where Baynham lost possession of the ball as he was charged by Block.

The winger centred quickly and TINDALL was on hand to head through.

Yet, with any luck, the Town would have been ahead at half-time, because the Chelsea goal had some narrow escapes, particularly when Peter Sillett cleared off the line from Turner and when Brown and Cummins hit the woodwork just before half-time.

Again, after the interval, there was a goal-line clearance, this time by John Sillett, from Brown, and the decider did not come until 19 minutes from the end.

Then, CUMMINS became the match-winner with a lob from

20 yards that passed over the head of Matthews."

The very way in which this match was played meant that good, constructive football received little encouragement. From the Town there were genuine attempts to do so, but the spoiling tactics of the Chelsea defenders presented real difficulties to them.

SPRIGHTLY BINGHAM

At the same time, the forward line moved well on occasion, with Bingham again in such sprightly form that he could have been brought more into the game beneficially.

This was not the sort of occasion for a genuine ball player

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

Referee Howard Stott, of Boston—one of the Football League's most junior officials—was put into the "dock" by most national newspapers. Their overwhelming verdict was "guilty"—guilty of failing to exercise adequate control of a game that began full of promise and ended as an undignified brawl.

"I blame Referee H. V. A. Stott for never gaining control of a match which was packed with incidents, crude tackling and far too much ill-feeling."—"Sunday Express."

"Chelsea's bright, brash, brave young men—who so often looked back in anger—are in danger of showing contempt for the rule book. Not that the Luton boys spent the afternoon polishing their haloes. But at least they did display the sort of co-ordinated Soccer one expects from a First Division club."—"News of the World."

"Much of the game's uneasy progress was, I thought, due to Referee Stott. Many of his decisions puzzled me, and I think he mistook histrionics for sternness."—"Sunday Dispatch."

"It could have been a great game with the score something like Luton 5, Chelsea 3, everybody happy and nobody hurt. It could have been. But it wasn't. And for that there is only one man to blame: Referee H. V. A. Stott, of Boston."—"The People."

"This is Howard Stott's first season in League football as a referee. Which is a pity. This was one match—racy, rugged and often reckless—which needed the personality and gentle persuasiveness of an experienced man."—"Daily Herald."

like Cummins to shine consistently, and Turner, too, found openings scarce.

Brown battled away bravely and to some effect, but Adam, against the most polished Chelsea defender in Peter Sillett, promised more than he actually achieved.

Hero of the defence was Owen, who had a firm grip on the bustling Tindall, and he received worthy support from Morton and Pacey.

Despite being erratic in his clearances at times, Dunne did not have a great deal of trouble from Block, and Hawkes did well against Brabrook after some initial difficulty.

Back again after injury, Baynham took something of a buffeting, but always looked sound and confident.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Hawkes; Morton, Owen, Pacey; Bingham, Turner, Brown, Cummins, Adam.

CHELSEA: Matthews; Sillett (P), Sillett (J); Mortimore, Scott, Saunders; Brabrook, Greaves, Tindall, Stubbs, Block.

Referee: H. V. A. Stott, Boston. Attendance: 24,864.