

A GREAT FIGHTING RALLY SAVED TOWN A POINT

WIPED OUT A LEAD OF TWO GOALS

Lack Of Punch Until Ken Hawkes Showed The Way

By CHILTERN

PORTSMOUTH fans, after the match at Fratton Park on Saturday, were inclined to blame their own team for having thrown a point away after being two goals ahead.

My own opinion was that Pompey should never have been in a position when victory was looming before their eyes and if anyone should have had the other point it was the Town.

That Portsmouth should have been two up at half-time was a fantastic state of affairs, considering the way in which play had gone.

NEARLY all the constructive football had come from the Town, who moved with precision in midfield, only to break down too often when the time came to round off their movements. It was this lack of punch at close quarters and their inability to produce telling shots that led to them leaving the field at half-time facing apparent defeat. That, combined, of course, with the fact that this rugged Portsmouth side, who preferred speed and hardness in the tackle to clever football, snatched a couple of snap goals.

Early Setback A Blow To Town

THE first, after only seven minutes, produced an unsettling effect on the defence for a time, and it came as a bolt from the blue.

A long pass down the middle bounced awkwardly for Owen, who could not clear, and the ball ran on to Saunders, who made a terrific drive into the far corner of the net.

Owen appealed that he had been pushed, and he certainly appeared to have been, but the referee disagreed.

Once or twice after that, the Portsmouth dash threatened to add to the lead, but the Town should have retrieved their bad start when Turner was left with a golden chance by Bingham after Owen had placed a free-kick accurately.

Turner Missed A Golden Chance

IT looked heavy odds on a goal because Turner seldom allows an opportunity of this sort to slip by, but on this occasion he did so. Instead of steadying himself and making certain, he blazed away at the ball, which flew much too high.

A goal at that stage might well have provided the encouragement which would have led to a Luton victory because it would certainly have taken some of the steam out of Portsmouth.

However, with the Town, finely prompted by Cummins, often getting the home defence into trouble, it always looked as if the equaliser was imminent—at least until close quarters were reached, and then there was no finishing punch.

Shock Goal Came Just Before Interval

WITH only seconds remaining until half-time, Luton supporters, who had been thinking that the situation was by no means irretrievable, were shaken to the core.

A corner was forced on the left and Harris came from nowhere, or seemed to, to make a flying header that sent the ball just inside of the post, with Bingham diving vainly.

Dunne tried to prevent the Harris rush and received a bruised thigh muscle for his pains, while the Portsmouth forward had to go over the touch-line for attention to a head injury, but he was all right by the time the second half began.

Hawkes Gave First Hint Of Recovery

CERTAINLY, it was far from a happy position in which the Town found themselves at half-time, especially after they

had played the better football and had more of the play.

They began their task resolutely enough, but Portsmouth had the more shots early on, and the Town badly needed the tonic of a goal.

It came after 65 minutes from an entirely unexpected quarter, with Hawkes racing up to shoot first-time from 35 yards after the ball had broken loose from a scramble inside the penalty area.

Unerringly the ball went through a crowd of players to

Greyhound Racing

First Dead-Heat Photo Finish At Luton

LUTON Stadium's recently-installed photo-finish camera captured its first dead-heat finish on Saturday. It happened in the fourth race when 5-1 Wings and 3-1 Shamrock Lad crossed the finishing line nose to nose.

I (410 yards).—1. JENNIE'S CHANCE (2); 2. Bogard (6); 3. Old Timer (3); 4. Outcast (5); 5. Cracklings (4); 6. Dr. Paddy (1). 4, 14, 6, 2, 1. 24.45. Off 6.46.

Betting: 7-4 Bogard, 3-1 JENNIE'S CHANCE, 4-1 Outcast, Cracklings, 5-1 Old Timer, 6-1 Dr. Paddy. Forecast: £11.6.

II (470 yards).—1. LUMPY (5); 2. The Purse (3); 3. Old Farm (2); 4. Dicky Bird (4); 5. Lovely Teresa (6); 6. Squeaker (1). 5, 14, head, 24, 1. 28.17. Off 7.07.

Betting: 5-2 LUMPY, Squeaker, 4-1 Dicky Bird, 5-1 Old Farm, 6-1 The Purse, 8-1 Lovely Teresa. Forecast: £2.8.9.

III (410 yards).—1. HAPPY LAD (2); 2. Midnight (3); 3. Matt Dillon (5); 4. Mechak (6); 5. Lilly's Jim (1); 6. Gusto (4), reserve. 14, 4, 14, 5, 3. Non-runner, Laughing Boy, 24.35. Off 7.27.

Betting: 2-1 Midnight, 5-2 Matt Dillon, 3-1 Lilly's Jim, 5-1 HAPPY LAD, 8-1 Mechak, 100-8 Gusto. Forecast: £11.6.3.

IV (470 yards).—1. dead heat WINGS (3), SHAMROCK LAD (5); 3. Light and Light (4); 4. Party Line (6); 5. Hoop-La (2); 6. Bartholomew (1). Dead heat, 10, 8, head, dist. (Photo for 1st place). 27.69. Off 7.48.

Betting: 7-4 Party Line, 3-1 SHAMROCK LAD, 4-1 Bartholomew, 5-1 WINGS, Hoop-La, 10-1 Light and Light. Forecasts £20.6, and £11.4.6.

V (410 yards).—1. SAUCY JACK (1); 2. Gay Fox (6); 3. Return Fare (2); 4. Solitude (3); 5. Roman Nose (4); 3, neck, 24, 6. 23.87. Non-runner, Well Dressed (5). Off 8.13.

Betting: 5-4 SAUCY JACK, 5-2 Solitude, 4-1 Gay Fox, 5-1 Return Fare, 7-1 Roman Nose. Forecast: £1.0.9.

VI (470 yards).—1. LAY OFF (1); 2. Jackie Jones (5); 3. Donna (2); 4. Laxton Superb (4); 5. Cokey Boy (6). 6, 14, 1, 26.89. Non-runner Houghton Boy (3). Off 8.33.

go in wide of Uprichard, who must have been unsighted.

Inches Between Adam And A Goal

THAT goal had the desired effect and shortly afterwards Adam was most unlucky with a low cross-shot that missed the far post by inches.

Under pressure, the Portsmouth defence was none too reliable and there were several free-kicks for the Town after over-robust tackles.

Then a goal seemed imminent when Brown intercepted a back pass, dribbled round Uprichard

on the dead ball line and the ball went out of play.

A corner was signalled, though Portsmouth protested, and it was from this that the equaliser came.

Ruled That Ball Had Crossed Line

BROWN and Uprichard went up for it together, and it was the former's head that made contact to send the ball goalwards.

Dickinson kicked away, but there was an immediate signal from the linesman that it had crossed the line, and the Town were level.

This produced a tremendous reaction from Portsmouth, who, in the closing minutes, made great efforts to regain their lead.

Twice Hawkes cleared off the goal-line to make this a memorable match for him, Harris shot just too high, and in almost the last attack Bingham snatched the ball away from him.

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Pompey Had None To Match Cummins

ALL credit to the Town for having the fighting spirit with which to come back so successfully, and on those grounds alone it was an excellent performance.

There was never any doubting the superiority of their football ability, and Portsmouth had no forward with the craft and skill of Cummins.

His midfield scheming should have brought more results, and he kept going, despite receiving something of a buffeting, some of which he could have avoided in the second half by parting with the ball earlier.

However, Cummins had a splendid match, and so did his wing partner, Adam.

Far From Being Turner's Day

THE winger had the beating of Rutter, who looked patently unhappy in his new position and was always a danger.

Unfortunately, this was not Turner's day, neither in front of goal nor in midfield.

I know he is under something of a handicap, due to leg trouble, but although it is not serious enough to prevent him playing, it seems to be affecting his confidence, because he was far from being the dangerous player he can be. Tomorrow Turner plays for an F.A. XI against the Army at Newcastle.

Nor was Brown the sure spear-head he can be, and he found Dickinson difficult to pass, but his goal was invaluable, and he is now only two behind Turner in the scorers' list.

Bingham Did Not Have Good Support

WITH his partner below par, there was not the best of support for Bingham, who was a little more subdued than usual and was not so direct.

Yet, had more material come his way, he would have been a serious threat.

Once they got over their early troubles and took the measure of the switching that was being done by the home forwards, the defence was reliable enough.

Owen mastered the bouncing ball to such an extent that not



Luton Town's ace fast bowlers, Martin Ashenden (left) and Ian Davison (right) chat to Surrey cricketer Bernie Constable at the George Hotel, Luton, where the Town Cricket Club held its annual dinner on Saturday.—R9721R.

One Of The Best Club Sides, But—Town C.C. Lacks Support

A plea for better support for Luton Town Cricket Club was made by Ald. S. C. Hayne at the club's annual dinner at the George Hotel on Saturday. From the point of view of talented cricketers the Luton Club was one of the finest in South-East England, he said, but it did lack support.

"Luton has a club it can be proud of," continued Ald. Hayne, "so next season I hope the local cricket fans will give it the support it deserves."

With a touch of humour, the Alderman concluded, "I always consider it a joy to go to Wardown to watch the Town play some of their matches. So I urge you to go and see these lads bat and bowl—I recommend it as a tranquiliser, because I can even forget politics when I am at a cricket match!"

In his review of the past season the Town's skipper, John Oliver, who has captained the side for the past 13 years, said that he felt it has been a disappointing term.

In Martin Ashenden and Ian Davison the club had perhaps the best bowling attack in Southern England. Ashenden's bowling average for the season had been 6.94, and Davison's 9.74

"Yet we did not seem to get opposing sides out," Mr. Oliver continued. "Perhaps it was because both Martin and Ian take a long time in bowling an over, but we must remember that they are very fast bowlers and need to take a very long run up to the wicket."

The captain also pointed out that next season the club would be without the services of both Ashenden and Davison—both have now turned professional for county sides—and he stressed the need for more concentration in the batting ranks next term.

"During the past season," he said, "the club's main trouble was the lack of strength in the batting. Richard Lowings batted well throughout the season, but the other batsmen averaged one good performance during the season."

Mr. Oliver also congratulated the Town players who had won their county caps during the past season, and paid special tribute to Martin Ashenden's brilliant performance in taking all ten Shropshire wickets in a Minor Counties match at Bedford in August. This was a record in Minor Counties cricket, he said.

Dunne's Injury Will Require Treatment

BOTH looked good when they allowed their liking for attack full rein, Morton particularly so.

Both Dunne and Hawkes did a useful job, although the former had something of a run-around from Barnard in the early stages.

Dunne's injury will call for much treatment this week, but on Saturday night trainer Frank King was hopeful about his prospects for next Saturday.

The stern tackling of Hawkes kept Cutler very subdued, and the Portsmouth forwards had only dash and speed to offer. Several smart saves were made by Bingham, who had no chance with either of the goals.

McNally Was The Hero

HERO of Kenilworth-road this week is reserve right-back Brendan McNally. After only ten minutes had gone in the match with Bristol City Reserves on Saturday the Town's goalkeeper, Eddie Marsh, was taken to hospital after he had badly strained ligaments near his left elbow in a goalmouth collision.

McNally took over in goal and thrilled the crowd with a brilliant, daring display. Luton lost 3-1, but no-one could attach any blame on McNally. Bristol's goals were the type that would have beaten many experienced goalkeepers.

Daring Save Wins Applause

AT least five times he went full-length to palm out what seemed certain goal-bound drives from the snap shooting Bristol forwards, and in the closing minutes he won applause for a daring save at the feet of Bristol's leader, Wilshire.

Bristol were two up inside 30 minutes from well taken goals by inside-left, Taylor, but Rowland replied for the Town in the 35th minute, when he outpaced the Bristol centre-half and pushed the ball past the advancing goalkeeper.

During the first half the reshuffled Town attack had been rather disjointed, but the forwards hit their stride after the interval and the Bristol defence were forced to defend desperately for long periods.

Forwards Lacked Finishing Punch

ONCE again it was poor finishing which prevented the Town taking advantage of their supremacy. Chief culprit in this department was Rowland.

Midway through the second half he was given three good chances, but each time he delayed his shot and allowed the Bristol defenders to fall back and pack the goal.

Then, with only two minutes left, Wilshire, the Bristol leader, made a solo burst down the middle and beat McNally with a hard shot into the roof of the net.

CHILTERN'S FORECASTS

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION I

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

DIVISION II
Bristol Rovers v Bristol C
Derby Co v Cardiff C
Fulham v Sheffield U
Ipswich T v Charlton Ath
Leyton O v Huddersfield T
Lincoln C v Brighton
Scunthorpe U v Barnsley
Sheffield W v Rotherham U
Stoke C v Liverpool
Sunderland v Grimsby T
Swansea T v Middlesbrough

DIVISION III
Accrington S v Q.P.R.
Bradford C v Norwich C
Brentford v Colchester U
Chesterfield v Plymouth A
Hull C v Rochdale
Hull C v Bournemouth
Mansfield T v Stockport Co
Newport Co v Doncaster Rovers
Notts Co v Tranmere Rovers
Southampton v Bury
Swindon T v Reading
Wrexham v Southend U

DIVISION IV
Aldershot v Southport
Barrow v Chester

Carlisle U v Crystal Palace
Coventry C v York C
Darlington v Northampton T
Exeter C v Bradford
Gateshead v Hartlepool U
Gillingham v Port Vale
Millwall v Torquay U
Oldham Ath v Watford
Shrewsbury T v Workington

SCOTTISH LEAGUE DIVISION I

Airdrieonians v Stirling A
Clyde v Dunfermline
Dundee v Celtic
Falkirk v Queen of South
Hearts v Motherwell
Kilmarnock v Aberdeen
Raith Rovers v St Mirren
Rangers v Hibernian
Third Lanark v Partick T

DIVISION II

Alloa v Dundee U
Berwick Rangers v Stranraer
Brechin C v Arbroath
Cowdenbeath v Airdrieonians
Dumbarton v Ayr U
Forfar Ath v Montrose
Hamilton v East Fife
Morton v Queen's Park
St Johnstone v Stenhousemuir

SELECTIONS

TEN HOME.—Arsenal, Bolton, Preston, Fulham, Sheffield Wed, Brentford, Mansfield, Southampton, Coventry, Shrewsbury.

FOUR AWAY.—Blackpool, Charlton, Plymouth, Northampton.

THREE DRAWS.—Burnley v Nottingham Forest; Swansea v Middlesbrough; Swindon v Reading.

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