

DIRECT TOWN HIT ARSENAL HARD

ARSENAL 0, LUTON TOWN 3

HERE was the Town promise, which has been merely latent on so many occasions this season, come to fulfilment in what was probably their most satisfying display so far.

In heavy rain and on a waterlogged pitch they out-speeded Arsenal by the simple process of keeping the ball on the move and making use of every available inch of space on the comparatively dry reaches of the extreme wings.

During the first half they had the handicap of having to face a gale-force wind which made things difficult for defenders to move the ball any distance.

But the defence put up a great show against odds, and it was only seldom that Baynham was in any real difficulty, and when GREGORY gave the Town the lead in the 37th minute, the writing was on the wall for the Gunners.

Without hesitation, the left-winger banged the ball past Standen after it had come over from a Bingham corner, and the Town never looked back after that.

True, they had some difficulty early in the second half, when Arsenal made strenuous efforts to draw level, but, having survived that initial period, the Town came back again to harass the home defence.

After 69 minutes, GREGORY did the trick again with a shot into the roof of the net after the ball had come over from Bingham, and TURNER secured a welcome, if simple goal, six minutes later after yet another Bingham centre had got the Arsenal defence into a hopeless tangle.

For Turner, that was poetic justice because he had the hardest of luck with a header that was so close to the post that many people thought he had scored a spectacular goal.

This was a great day for

Turner, who suddenly recaptured the form that earned him representative honours, and he was very strong and incisive in conditions that he appeared to relish greatly.

But the shining Town star was Bingham, who gave Evans 90 minutes of torment and was a constant source of danger. Dangerous, too, was Gregory, and there were hard-working displays from Brown, who made good use of the open spaces, and Morton, who kept ploughing his way through the mud strongly throughout.

There were full marks too, for the defence in which Kelly was solid and barred the way down the middle completely. Groves and Pacey were dominant in mid-field and neither Dunne nor Daniel had much trouble from the wingers which was in marked contrast to what happened to the Arsenal full-backs.

And Baynham, who is still troubled in his kicking by that thigh muscle, handled the greasy ball as safely as anyone could have expected in the difficult conditions.

ARSENAL.—Standen; Magill, Evans; Ward, Dodgin, Petts; Herd, Barnwell, Julians. Bloomfield Clapton.

LUTON TOWN.—Baynham; Dunne, Daniel; Groves, Kelly, Pacey; Bingham, Turner, Brown, Morton, Gregory.

Referee: R. H. Mann, Worcester. Attendance: 31,466.