

DRAMATIC END TO A GRUELLING FIGHT

Gregory Snatched Late Winner For The Town

By CHILTERN

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN 0, LUTON TOWN 1

THIS match had "replay" written all over it as what appeared to be the last formalities of a gruelling struggle were being played out.

After nearly 1½ hours in appalling conditions without a goal, what seemed to be the impossible happened, and it came the way of the Town who would probably have been more than satisfied with another meeting with this opposition on a pitch which would have been kinder to the attempts to play constructive football.

Certainly conditions both underfoot and overhead could scarcely have been worse because the players had to contend with about two inches of snow that churned up into slush in parts and the ball tended to stop disconcertingly.

And, long before the end, fog which had been hanging around the ground from the start, began to descend so that it was impossible to see exactly what was happening on the far side of the ground.

That fact caused a considerable percentage of the 28,220 crowd to miss seeing plainly the goal that came in the 89th minute and landed the Town in the last 16.

Pacey began the movement with a sweeping, down-the-middle pass that reached Turner, who was unable to get in his shot, but GREGORY, who had closed in, was on hand to toe-end the ball goalwards.

Apparently, Wood got both hands to it but could only help it on its way into the net.

But, for the true facts of what happened, I had to see the Town players in the dressing room immediately after the final whistle had gone.

Quite a number of people considered that conditions did not justify this match being started and much that went on was of a farcical quality.

Credit to the two teams for putting on as good a show as they did, but it was weary, tiring work trying to move the ball through this mixture.

Obviously, neither team could hope to achieve much in the way of constructive football and the only real means of making progress was to give the ball a heavy boot and that became increasingly difficult as time wore on.

From most people's point of view, Huddersfield began firm favourites for Cup progress and may have been a little over-confident as a result.

However, they had their chances, but their forwards were never allowed the scope they

received from the West Ham defenders in the previous round replay.

For this, due credit must go to the Town defence, in which Kelly had one of the best games I can recall from him because he was completely dominant in the middle of the field.

From Groves there was a workmanlike job, so that little was seen of Massie, and Law, watched by Arsenal and Newcastle United, was cut down to size by Pacey, though he did manage to produce a few samples of his great skill.

BAYNHAM MATCHED IT

From him came the best shot of the match that never produced much in the way of finishing power, but Baynham matched it with a great save as he threw himself sideways.

Baynham was in fine form, but there were two occasions when he needed the help of defensive colleagues in order to complete a clearance.

One was in the second half, when he could not hold on to a drive from Connor, and McHale's point-blank shot was kicked off the line by Daniel.

The left-back did several life-saving acts which compensated for the fact that he showed some inclination to give McHale too much room.

DUNNE ON TOP

That was not the case with Dunne, who kept close to Hawksworth, with the result that the former Sheffield United winger accomplished little, and Dunne's clearances were most effective.

This was not a day on which forwards could be expected to sparkle. Rather was it a case of hard work and plenty of foraging.

Both Turner and Morton did just this and were of considerable help to the defence at times. Brown, too, roamed effectively, and there was always potential danger from Bingham.

This, despite the fact that he played under the handicap of a painful sty on his right eye, and a heavy cold.

Gregory's late goal saved the match so far as he, personally, was concerned, because he had achieved very little previously.

To the Town goes every credit for a sterling fight and great determination, and to Huddersfield a measure of sympathy for not earning another chance.

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN:
Wood; Gibson, Wilson; Taylor, Coddington, McGarry; McHale, Law, Connor, Massie, Hawksworth.

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

Referee: L J Hamer, Chorley.

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"A draw would have been a fair result. No-one could expect top-class football in the circumstances. Both teams did their best—especially the Huddersfield half-backs, Ken Taylor, John Coddington and Bill McGarry. Their first-time tackles and unhesitating clearances threatened to play Luton out of the game."—"Sunday Express."



"Luton Town go into the Fifth Round draw after a win which their display hardly merited. In fact, the odds were on Huddersfield bringing off a success in a replay on Wednesday. Then came the shock. With a minute left, Luton, who had had only a fifth of the attacking play, worked the ball down the left. From left-half David Pacey it went to inside-right Gordon Turner. He belted it along the three-inch snow blanket to Tony Gregory for the left-winger to beat goalkeeper Ray Wood and to take his side through."—"Empire News."



"Lucky, lucky Luton! On an icebound pitch covered with three inches of snow and the second half played in a fog that threatened to end the game, Luton committed fog-like robbery. Huddersfield Eskimos had battered and bewildered Luton for 80 per cent of the match, and yet they went out with one of the luckiest goals imaginable."—"The People."

"Huddersfield were unlucky to lose this Cup-tie as the result of a last-minute goal. On a pitch that churned up badly after over-night snow and morning rain, Huddersfield did seven-tenths of the attacking, and only a magnificent defence kept Luton in the game."—"Sunday Dispatch."



"A replay was on the cards until Gregory came along with his shock goal. Huddersfield go out undeservedly. Luton, who know you have to have luck to get to the Final, used up most of their share in this game."—"News of the World."



"It was tough luck on Huddersfield, who had fought well under the conditions, and downright good fortune for Luton, for whom the lively Billy Bingham did very well."—"News Chronicle."



"Luton's jubilation at reaching the Fifth Round must have been tempered by a degree of sympathy for their Second Division opponents. To be beaten by a last-minute goal after dominating a game played on a three-inch snow carpet was cruel luck for Huddersfield."—"Daily Telegraph."