

TOWN NEVER LOOKED THE PART

CHELSEA 3, LUTON TOWN 0

DISAPPOINTMENT again for those Town fans — and there was a number of them — who went to Stamford Bridge this afternoon, because the match ended in a hollow defeat for the Town.

This serves to increase anxiety about relegation, but in assessing it one had to take into account their disruptive affect of an injury to McNally after half an hour's play. He damaged his knee in a tackle, and spent the remainder of the match as a not very effective outside-left.

Obviously this, and the switches it caused, upset the Town, but, at the same time, it must be admitted that they were not playing very well when the mishap occurred. With anything like average finishing Chelsea would have been ahead by half-time:

That they were not so was due to shoddy marksmanship and bad luck. However, the Town's luck which was with them at the start of the second half, when their woodwork was hit for the second time, ran out on them when Chelsea scored twice in the space of five minutes.

That sank any hopes the Town had of earning a much-needed point, and, apart from one pile-driving shot by McBride, they seldom promised to get back into the game again.

Just to rub it in, Greaves headed the third goal in the last minute of the match.

The defence never looked completely comfortable, even before McNally's injury. Collier made a nightmare sort of start to the match, but gained in confidence later, though fault for at least one of the goals could be pinned on him.

Undoubtedly, the defence missed the competent way in which Baynham deals with high balls inside the penalty area. As a result, there was not sufficient dominance in the air, where Kelly was often beaten.

Groves did much better as an emergency left-half than at inside-left, and he and Brown tried gamely to stem the mounting tide.

Pacey was pressed into service at left-back, and though he fought gallantly, he never really got the hang of the dangerous Brabrook, and Dunne was kept at full stretch by Blunstone.

McBride tried very hard, but lacked the necessary support, and Bingham, perhaps feeling the after effects of his knee injury, was not so effective as usual.

Turner, in the first half, made good use of the ball, but missed perhaps the best chance — and there were few of them — that came the Town's way.

From Tracey's comparatively brief acquaintanceship with the outside-left position, I thought that he showed more determination and forthrightness than most who have appeared there, and it is an experiment that bears repetition.

Attendance: 33,679.