

GROVES STARS AT CENTRE-HALF

Town Fight On To Narrow Victory

By *CHILTERN*

LUTON TOWN 2, LIVERPOOL 1

AFTER a match that opened most unpromisingly for them, the Town fought their way to a narrow victory over Liverpool at Kenilworth-road last night.

It was a game which changed almost completely once the Town took the lead towards half-time.

Until that point they had been struggling to find some semblance of confidence and form, and Liverpool, had they shown resource in front of goal, could have built up a comfortable lead.

So, in effect, the changes the Manager made reaped reward, and the most successful of them by far was the inclusion of Groves at centre-half.

The attendance was 10,055, one of the lowest for the Town for some time, but this could be traced to the heavy rain before the start.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Hawkes; Morton, Groves, Pacey; Bingham, Turner, McBride, Brown, Tracey.

LIVERPOOL: Slater, Molyneux, Moran; Milne, White, Leishman; Lewis, Harrower, Hunt, Melia, Morrissey.

Referee: H. G. New, of Havant.

Early play favoured Liverpool and, with Hunt preferred to Hickson as their leader, moved much more confidently in attack, and Milne shot wide. Because they were keeping the ball too close and finding their passes intercepted, the Town's efforts to make ground were breaking down.

When they did break away, the referee allowed to pass a blatant case of obstruction on Turner. When at last a clear-cut chance was made by Pacey, Brown shot weakly wide.

NEARLY THROUGH OWN GOAL

Such was the standard of the finishing of both teams that the best scoring attempt came when Dunne very nearly put through his own goal in clearing from Leishman, and Baynham had to pull off a flying save.

From this, Bingham livened up the Town by appearing on the left wing and making a shot that Slater pulled down. The more persistent pressure was still coming from Liverpool, but their finishing was poor, and both Harrower and Melia sent wide.

In fact, defenders had been their best marksmen so far, and Baynham made another fine save from Leishman. Melia missed a great chance when he lobbed the ball straight at Baynham after Groves had been deceived by its bounce.

Leishman continued to be a danger as a marksman, and he produced a fine 20-yards drive that Baynham, showing more confidence on this occasion, saved at full-length.

LEAD WAS UNEXPECTED

After 32 minutes the Town took the lead unexpectedly when McBride sent away Tracey after White had made an ill-advised rush upfield which failed.

The winger's fierce cross shot was saved by Slater, who, however, on the ground, could not prevent the ball bouncing away from him, and BROWN raced up to bang it through. A minute later Turner hooked the ball inches wide.

After this success the Town showed a major improvement, sweeping Liverpool back on to the defensive and Slater saved well from McBride. Half-time:

LUTON TOWN 1
LIVERPOOL 0

Reverting to some extent to the short passing that had caused them so much trouble earlier on, the Town lost some of the sparkle they had shown in the last quarter of an hour before half-time.

As a result, Liverpool forced themselves back into the game and equalised after 57 minutes through MORAN. He scored from a penalty awarded for hands against someone during a terrific mix-up in front of goal following a speedy run by Morrissey.

FIRST SHOT SAVED BY BAYNHAM

Moran's first shot, almost straight at Baynham, was saved

How The Goals Came

BROWN for Luton after 32 minutes.

MORAN (penalty) for Liverpool after 57 minutes

McBRIDE for Luton after 79 minutes.

by the goalkeeper, who could not hold on to the ball, and Moran followed up to boot home the rebound.

Hitting back, the Town were unlucky when Slater made a great save from a header by McBride and when a shot from Pacey went off the top of the bar.

Taking control again, the Town swept on the Liverpool goal, and Turner twice drove over. Heavy Town raids, in one of which McBride was slightly injured, were stemmed by strong defensive measures, and then Morton brought Slater to his knees.

ONLY POETIC JUSTICE

Then, when the Town seemed destined to lose another home point, they took the lead again after 79 minutes. It was only poetic justice, because immediately before Turner had been pulled down inside the penalty area, but the referee gave only a corner.

From this Pacey returned the ball into the goalmouth, and in the mix-up that followed McBride stabbed at the ball, which went in despite an attempt by Moran, who merely helped it on.

Result:

LUTON TOWN 2

LIVERPOOL 1