

TOWN'S POOR AWAY SPELL WAS ENDED

Desperate Lincoln Were Held To A Draw

By CHILTERN

LINCOLN CITY 1, LUTON TOWN 1

JUSTICE was just about served at Sincil Bank on Tuesday when the points were shared after a struggle which was more notable for its grimness and determination than for the football that was produced.

For quite a long time, the Town seemed to be heading towards ending their unenviable and unwanted record of being without an away win to their credit this season and they could have made certain of both points in the first half.

While they were not of the easiest, the chances were there to set the seal on their superior football ability and they looked to be heading for a win when ASHWORTH put them ahead after 38 minutes.

He was right on the spot to smack the ball into the back of the net as it rebounded to him off a post after Graves had done well to keep out a drive from Turner.

Earlier, Tracey, Brown and Fleming had made good scoring attempts and Graves saved brilliantly at the angle of the woodwork from the outside-left and also went full-length to keep out a shot from Brown.

Just occasionally, Lincoln looked dangerous mainly as the result of crisp crosses and Green twice centred the ball across the face of the goal, with no one able to give it the finishing touch.

Largely, though, it was the Town who threatened danger and it would have become a reality had there been a little extra punch and drive in front of goal.

They were a bit out of luck when, on the stroke of half-time, Brown was clean through, but before he could shoot, the whistle went.

A DIFFERENT STORY

The second-half was a different story, with perhaps desperation lending Lincoln strength and they threw the Town out of their previously smooth stride.

Right from the start, they pressed and things looked a little

ominous when GREEN, a full-back pressed into service at centre-forward, headed an equaliser from a centre by Middleton.

On this occasion, the Town defence was guilty of some slack covering, but Green made no mistake about accepting his opportunity with a well-placed header.

Far more lively than they had been earlier, Lincoln gave the Town an uneasy time, but they had not the finishing power to draw the full benefit from the pressure they exerted.

Even so, there were some anxious moments at the Town end, especially when the tall Chapman was probing down the middle and Standen made one fine save under the bar from a header by Green.

Only on odd occasions did the Town look as if they might regain the lead, notably when a centre from Turner was kicked away by Jackson only a yard or two from the goal line, while Fleming missed a good chance at close range.

Much of the game was punctuated by stoppages for a crop of minor injuries and there was a number of free kicks for fouls more brought about by over-anxiety and the muddy going than by viciousness.

Pacey was spoken to by the referee for bringing down Linnecor in unnecessarily rough fashion and the hard character of the play continued until the end.

With this point, the Town could be well satisfied, especially as it brought to an end a long run of consecutive defeats away from home, but they did need a little more accuracy and thrust in front of goal.