

GALLANT TOWN 10 DESERVED A BONUS

Beaten By A Goal Only Two Minutes From End

By "CHILTERN"

LEYTON ORIENT 2, LUTON TOWN 1

IF ever 10 gallant footballers earned a bonus and failed by the narrowest of margins to collect it, it was the Town at Brisbane-road on Saturday when they were beaten two minutes from the end by a scrappy, fortunate goal.

That was scant reward for the way in which they had fought for five-sixths of the game under the handicap of an injury to Ashworth, who had to leave the field because of a bad knee injury.

With only a quarter of an hour gone, Ashworth tried to turn a lob from McGuffie into a goal, collided with Robertson in the attempt, and was helped to the touchline for repairs.

These had the effect of getting him back on the field, but he was a limping passenger at outside-right, looked to be in severe pain, and with the game half an hour old, went off and did not return.

In the interim, the Town had taken the lead when, after 20 minutes, McCann made a gem of a through pass on to which McGUFFIE fastened and, shooting first time as Robertson advanced, sent the ball hurtling under the bar.

By dint of dour defensive measures and some brilliant saves by Baynham, the Town managed to hold on to their lead until half-time when they were met with the bad news that they would have to struggle on with 10 men for the rest of the match.

Struggle they did, with a good deal of success in the face of mounting Orient pressure, despite which the Town defence seldom looked to be in imminent danger.

EQUALISER FROM UNEXPECTED QUARTER

When the equaliser did come after 64 minutes, it was from an unexpected quarter because centre-half BISHOP, having come up for a corner, was on the spot when the ball ran loose and he drove it through.

Although Orient continued to have more of the play, the Town looked secure enough and, in fact, were in the process of enjoying a bigger share of the attacking than for some time when the winning goal arrived like a bolt from the blue.

Collecting a pass out on the right, Crossan let fly a rasping drive that Baynham managed to push on to the bar. From there it rebounded to Newman, who made rather a hash of returning it into the goalmouth, but SEALEY, with his back to the goal, and only a yard or two out, managed to flick it through.

A great last-minute effort by the Town to equalise brought nearly every member of the team into the home penalty area and the final whistle ended a battle royal in which Gibbs was hurt and had to be carried off the field at the end.

Baynham starred in a resolute, hard-fighting display by the defence, who were distinctly unlucky to have no reward to show for their brave resistance.

Several of his saves were first class and his handling of the ball, particularly from the wings, was never at fault.

Kelly closed up the middle of

the field and there was solid support for him from the remaining members of the defence, who at times did not have the chance of even the odd breather.

Early on, the new-style attack shaped quite promisingly, but naturally enough, when reduced to four men, it found great difficulty in mounting pressure.

So, neither McCann nor McGuffie, hard though they tried, had a real chance to press home their claims for first-team places, and it was left to Fleming to provide most of the liveliness, with the aid of Turner, who was too often having to fight a lone battle.

LEYTON ORIENT: Robertson; Wright, Charlton; Facey, Bishop, Lea; Crossan, Sealey, Johnston, Gibbs, Newman.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; McNally, Bramwell; Morton, Kelly, Groves; McCann, Ashworth, Turner, McGuffie, Fleming. Referee: K. Dagnall, Bolton. Attendance: 11,918.

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"Luton looked capable of beating Orient. Gordon Turner worked his heart out at centre-forward and McGuffie eagerly pounced on half-chances.

"It seemed less than justice for these 10 top-Hatters, who looked a class above struggling Orient."—"The People."

"Luton had the day's hero in Baynham, the ex-England 'keeper. He was in wonderful form, despite a second-half knee knock.

"Bob Morton was a great worker for Luton, indeed the whole team fought splendidly."—"Sunday Express."

"Alec Ashworth who had retired injured after 15 minutes did not resume in the second-half and Luton fought on with ten men. Baynham was hurt within a minute of the re-start but for 20 minutes he and his backs defied Orient."—"News of the World."

"Superb goalkeeping by Ron Baynham nearly inspired Luton's ten men to a gallant win.

"Luton fought back frantically in the closing seconds, and Orient's Gibbs was carried off with a knock on the ankle sustained in clearing a last-second corner."—"Sunday Dispatch."