

TURNER GIVES TOWN A LUCKY WIN

23-9-61 2503

NO SIGN OF THE PUNCH SHOWN

IN MID-WEEK

Solitary Goal Beats Injury-hit Charlton

By Chiltern

CHARLTON ATH. 0, LUTON TOWN 1

EVEN though a number of Luton supporters took the opportunity of Luton's first visit to London this season, to watch them in an away match, the terraces on this huge Charlton ground were very thinly populated.

In fact, it seemed ludicrous that a ground of this size, which has housed a crowd of 75,000, could be accommodating barely 10,000 this afternoon.

But tough times have descended on this football outpost, and today's meagre interest has been the way of things for some time.

With no injuries to complicate the situation, Manager Sam Bartram, naturally enough, announced an unchanged team before he left for his scouting mission in Scotland.

Charlton, too, were unchanged, though an alteration or two would not have been completely unexpected in view of their poor showing against Rotherham on Wednesday.

However, they nearly had to make a change, because, apparently, Fred Lucas was not dressed until he had had a late start.

Charlton were in the desperate position of being next to bottom of the table, and they were still looking for their first home victory of the season.

The weather was dull but warm, and the pitch, though on the hard side, looked in good condition.

TOWN WIN THE TOSS

Cope won the toss, but there was no obvious advantage.

It was the Town who made the first dangerous move, during which Hewie had to clear hurriedly, but the ball remained at the Charlton end, and when Ashworth swung it across from the left, Townsend made a hurried and most inaccurate clearance, so that the ball flew behind for a corner.

A smooth Town movement in midfield broke down when McNally, trying to find Walden, found Kinsey's body in the way. After which Charlton had a turn at attack, with Hewie pushing the ball down the middle for Edwards to run on to. Groves, however, was the first to hook the ball clear, though only marginally over the head of Kinsey, who was losing in.

For a few seconds the Town defence was in very much of a angle following a slight clearance by Cope, and in the end it spluttered into nothing, with Edwards leading wide.

The first shot of any merit came from Leary, after Groves had lost the ball in the tackle. Baynham saved, but not very efficiently, because the ball spun away from him for a corner. A free-kick for a foul on Ashworth caught Walden well offside, and apart from one or two promising bits in midfield the

spare man and able to operate as a sixth forward, made a very poor shooting attempt, slicing the ball yards wide.

After this, the Town did manage to assert some pressure, but their shooting had not been very encouraging so far. Walden swinging away wildly from just inside the penalty area, sent the ball wide.

There was a better effort from Turner, who came racing through and might have been a scorer, had not a defender got a foot to the ball and deflected it for a corner.

From this, Fleming very nearly got the ball in between the near post and Duff, who had to dive hurriedly. Groves ended the attack by shooting over.

CHARLTON'S SPIRITED FIGHT

Despite the fact that there was still no sign of Leary returning, Charlton were putting up a determined fight and gained a corner. Morton headed away, but Edwards returned the ball into the goalmouth and there was quite a scuffle before Bramwell eventually cleared it.

There were cheers for the referee, who had given a number of free kicks against Charlton for minor infringements, when he penalised Cope for pushing Edwards. Lucas blazed away from the kick, but the ball struck McNally and rebounded safely.

McNally came to the rescue by racing across to kick to safety after Edwards had pushed the ball dangerously into the Town goalmouth.

The playing surface was not proving to be as good as it looked, and, either because of artificial watering or the heavy dew, it was greasy on the top, particularly on the stand side, and players were slithering about on it.

There was not a great deal of goalmouth excitement, particularly at the Charlton end, but the home team's depleted forward line managed to keep in the picture, mainly through clever leadership by Edwards, who was worrying Cope quite a lot.

Following clever work by him, Baynham had to go high up to match a centre from Lawrie, from whom he then caught a header, but the Charlton pressure continued when Townsend intercepted, intended for Walden.

PASSES GOING ASTRAY

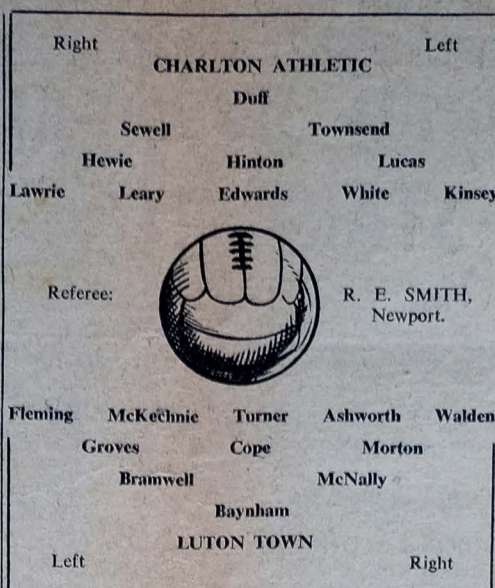
Far too high a proportion of the Town's passes were being misplaced and intercepted, with the result that they were not making the progress they ought to have done, considering the circumstances. Indeed, they had seldom looked potential scorers in the first half-an-hour.

After an absence of 23 minutes, Leary returned with his left knee heavily bandaged and went to outside-right, with Lawrie moving inside.

Play continued to be rather scrappy. Charlton had another free kick when Fleming fouled White. That proved to be harmless enough, because the ball went for a goal-kick, but again the Town failed to make ground, mainly because they were keeping the ball too close.

Then Charlton missed a great chance. With the Town defence standing still, awaiting an offside decision which did not come, Edwards was left with only Baynham to beat.

The goalkeeper did the only thing open to him—he came out in a hurry and managed to smother the centre-forward's shot. Then a free kick just outside the penalty area for a foul by McNally brought a close call, be-

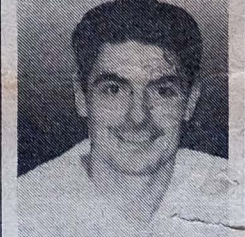


cause Lawrie threw himself at the ball and snapped it just wide.

Leary was often wandering inside and contriving to give the ball some constructive taps. From one of these, Edwards hit across a screaming centre that was too high for Baynham to reach, and also passed over the head of the incoming Kinsey.

At this stage the Town were having a thin time indeed, being forced back on defence, and little was being seen of their forwards.

Then, with McKechnie back in defence, delaying his clearance, Hewie stepped in to produce the



Gordon Turner gave the Town the lead with a disputed goal after 61 minutes.

shock of the match so far—a terrific drive that whistled the wrong side of the post with Baynham powerless to do anything about it.

The Town forwards just could not find cohesion, and Duff, the Charlton goalkeeper, was mainly cast in the role of onlooker. However, Turner raised hopes by pushing the ball in the direction of Walden, who was in the inside-left position, but Duff was there first to boot it into touch as a safety measure.

From a pass by Walden, Turner made a long run down the right wing which he finished with a strong cross that Duff clutched to his midriff. Half-time:

CHARLTON 0
LUTON 0

There was a quiet enough opening to the second half, relieved only by a long-range lob by Hewie that Baynham pulled down from under the bar, and then, with the Town moving a little more fluently, Duff had to cut off a centre by Turner.

Although Charlton were not particularly impressive in their shooting, there was rather more threat about their raids, and Lawrie nearly nipped in for a goal—with the aid of his hand, I thought—but Baynham beat him to it.

Lucas was hurt when Ashworth pulled him down, quite by accident, I am sure, but the referee gave Charlton a free kick, and Lucas was able to carry on after attention.

Townsend put the free kick high into the Town goalmouth, where it was headed clear by Cope, but Hewie obtained possession on the verge of the penalty area, only for McKechnie to prevent his getting in a shot.

TROUBLE FOR THE TOWN

A mis-kick by McNally brought further trouble at the Town end, staved off by Baynham's pulling down a centre from Kinsey.

Then the referee had a word with Fleming and Kinsey for some incident in midfield, and restarted play by bouncing the ball.

Lawrie had a chance of ending the goal famine, but was forced to head the ball first time on the rise and it flew over.

At last, the Town forwards moved with some measure of understanding. Turner sent away Walden, whose centre was deflected for a corner, and in the scramble that followed, the ball was sent into the net.

was in the act of crossing the line when Townsend scooped it away.

He was not in time, though, according to the referee's ruling, because he immediately pointed to the centre, indicating the award of a goal, and refused to listen to Charlton's protests.

Charlton swarmed to the attack after this, aided by a free kick a yard outside the penalty area, which was cleared, and then Baynham saved from Lawrie.

With the pressure continuing, he had to do almost a juggling act to hang on to a centre from Leary in the face of competition, and the referee became unpopular again when he stopped Leary, who had got clear of opposition, to award Charlton a free kick for hands by Bramwell.

EDWARDS OUT OF LUCK

Charlton were still the more dangerous, and Edwards was dead out of luck with a flashing header from a centre by Leary that sent the ball just wide of the post.

The Town were in luck again when Baynham came right out of his goal to pull down a centre from Leary. He lost his grasp of the ball but recovered it in time to deprive Edwards of a great chance.

Then, the goalkeeper had to push over a high, tantalising shot from White, and, after the ball had eluded Baynham's reach from the corner flag, Walden put the Town's defence in trouble by a too-short pass that was intercepted, but luckily for the Town, Kinsey's centre rose too high for his forward colleagues.

Cope received a head injury, in going up to clear yet another threatening raid, but was quickly all right again.

There was little rest for the defence at this stage. With the forwards unable to make any progress, the ball was being returned repeatedly to the Town end.

Again Charlton came back in force, but this time Baynham was completely sure in his catching of Lawrie's centre.

With Charlton still fighting hard for an equaliser, offside came to the aid of the Town, but the ball was soon back again, and Groves was penalised for pushing Lawrie right on the edge of the penalty area, when most of the Charlton fans were prepared to say that the offence took place inside.

Lucas had a shot at goal through a crowd of players, but the ball went harmlessly wide.

Certainly, Charlton were not having much luck with their shooting, and another good effort by Edwards, after he had

How The Goal Came

TURNER for Luton after 61 minutes.

rounded Cope, was just off the target.

Then came a measure of improvement from the Town forwards, mainly due to the scheming of Turner, and Ashworth was hustled off the ball as he tried to find a way through.

This brought the Town a corner. It was well taken by Walden, though Duff caught it safely.

Charlton swung back to the attack again, with White seeking to find Edwards, but Baynham forestalled him by coming out and collecting.

Back they came again with Kinsey earning a corner, and Edwards drove the ball into the net—but seconds after the whistle had gone for off-side.

In a terrific onslaught on the Town goal, Edwards was badly shaken up, but was able to continue without the trainer's services being needed.

Then there was a bit of friction between Hewie and Ashworth, which resulted in a free kick against the Charlton man.

The Town came into the picture as an attacking force with one of their rare follow-up movements brought about by Turner and McKechnie, but came to an abrupt ending with Fleming sending the ball too high.

The next free kick was against McNally for a foul on Kinsey. It produced a scuffle in front of the Town goal in which Baynham, who had possession of the ball, was charged heavily by Leary, against whom a free kick was awarded. Baynham was wounded, and there was a short hold-up while he recovered.

With about five minutes left, Baynham received another knock when he came out quickly to catch a centre from the right, and again the referee awarded a free kick.

In fact, free-kicks for one reason or another had become commonplace, and there was another against Walden for pushing Kinsey. From this, Hewie was caught well offside as the Town defence moved up quickly.

Again Charlton threatened, but obviously this was not their day for shooting, because Kinsey hit the side netting.

What must have been a hair-line off-side decision robbed McKechnie of a chance just before the end.