

BAYNHAM GAVE TURNSTILES A TURN

BEST TOWN CROWD SINCE NOVEMBER

Orient Lucky To Escape With Both Points

By CHILTERN

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THE more I see of this football game and, after 30 years or so, I have seen a bit of it, the less I understand the logic.

Before a crowd of 13,681 at Kenilworth-road on Monday, the best in a League game since Stanley Matthews and Stoke City were here in mid-November, the Town gave their best display of the week-end and yet were beaten by 3-1.

Although it was not intended as a gimmick, and he was included strictly on form, there is no doubt that the inclusion of Ron Baynham at centre-forward, gave the turnstiles an extra turn.

WITHOUT any doubt at all, the dash of Baynham and the fact that he could out-head Bishop for high balls caused panic in the Orient defence during the first half.

As was the case on Friday, they were jittery in defence, and if the Town had anything like a fortunate run of the ball in front of goal they could have held a substantial lead by half-time.

As it was, scores were level. Morton carried on the fashion of wing-halves scoring by putting a left-footed drive through a crowd of players which Robertson saw too late and the Town were a goal ahead after nine minutes.

Standen Saved A Penalty-Kick

SOON afterwards, McKechnie should have increased the lead from a header by Baynham and then came the drama of a penalty to Orient when Pacey handled. Dunmore took the kick, but Standen went the right way to make a smart save.

However, there was nothing he could do about a shot made on the volley by Gibbs after half an hour, and Leyton were level at a point when they could have been three down had the Town really had the breaks in front of goal.

Their luck continued to be out in the second half, because after Gibbs had side-footed Orient's second goal from close range after 55 minutes the Town had a goal disallowed.

Pacey Had A Goal Disallowed

SUFFERER was the effervescent Pacey, who fastened on to a short pass by Morton from a free-kick and rammed the ball into the corner of the net as the referee's whistle went for the kick to be re-taken.

This was rough luck on the Town, to say the least, because they would have put themselves in a position from which they would have had reasonable hope of winning.

However, the longer the game

lasted, the more assured Orient became, aided by their robust defensive tactics which caused tempers to be frayed at times and which very nearly brought Lewis and Ashworth to grips on one occasion.

Late Goal Was The Final Blow

WHAT I thought was an "old soldier" act by Deeley finally sank the Town 14 minutes from the end because Deeley stayed down writhing from an apparent facial injury after a tackle by Bramwell.

From the free kick the decisive goal came because it was never cleared and the ball went out to Lucas who, from 25 yards, hit a beautiful drive that beat the diving Standen.

Without doubt, Orient were flattered, and more displays of this nature by the Town would have caused the terraces to be more thickly populated this season.

More Determination In The Attack

THERE was altogether more fire and determination, engendered to a certain extent by the dash of Baynham, who did have little support, but there was an improvement from both Ashworth and McKechnie, particularly in the first half.

So there was from Fleming who, however, spoilt much of his cleverness in midfield by his sketchy finishing.

There is a deal of promise in the work of Clarke, but he will do better against a defence less robust and less desperate than was that of Leyton.

Defensively, the Town were

good and, like the forwards, they scarcely had the run of the ball.

Kelly Put Dunmore Out Of The Game

JUDGING by the reaction of the crowd, Kelly is the new hero, which is a pleasant change after the criticism that has been levelled at him.

Without trouble, he put Dunmore out of the game, and there was splendid support from Morton and Pacey, who both got through a tremendous amount of work.

Member of the defence who was most troubled was McNally, who was given something of a run around by McDonald, but Bramwell turned in another first-rate performance and had very little trouble with Deeley.

When all three goals came, Standen was left high and dry through no fault of his own and, really, he did not have a great deal to do.

Heroic Defence Won A Point Here

HAD the Town played as badly as they did at Rotherham on Saturday and been beaten by an even greater margin, I would have had no grounds for complaint.

Despite the heroic efforts of the defenders, Rotherham should have had half a dozen goals, yet they came very close to defeat.

To say that the Town forward-line was non-existent was an under-statement and when, in the 76th minute, Turner beat Madden in a tackle and scored with his usual accuracy from a fine angle, it was the first time he had been in the game to any tune.

Not that he was the only one, because neither Ashworth, hard though he worked, nor McGuffie

achieved much, and the only real menace came, just occasionally, from Fleming.

Owed Major Debt To The Defence

KIRKMAN, who had missed two near-open goals previously, equalised after 80 minutes, and how the Town survived in the remaining time I just do not know.

They owed a major debt to the defence which had the hardest possible task, because the ball came back at them continually and they were under pressure for most of the game.

It was much the same story at Leyton on Friday when Leyton played with the same sort of tension as they did at Kenilworth-road.

In front of goal they had no steadiness whatever and, although the Town forward line was a rather shabby affair, they had two or three half-chances which might have been turned to account.

Kelly And Bramwell Were Outstanding

IN the end it was their resilient defence that enabled them to hold on to a goalless draw before an excited crowd of 21,292.

At times, play threatened to become rough, which was understandable in view of what was at stake for Leyton.

To my mind, the outstanding Town players were Kelly and Bramwell.

That is not detracting from the work of Morton, who came in for Groves at the last minute, McNally and Pacey, who, together with Standen, did a most adequate job.

Of the forwards, Fleming looked the best, but really the line as a whole had not much to offer.