

DUBIOUS PENALTY SCUPPERED TOWN

New Link Plan Met With Some Teething Troubles

By Chiltern

BURY 1, LUTON TOWN 0

ALTHOUGH the Town counted themselves desperately unlucky to be deprived of a point at Gigg-lane on Saturday by an extremely dubious penalty award 10 minutes from the end, frankly, theirs was not a display that augurs well for the future.

Bluntly, Manager Bill Harvey said afterwards, "It should have been a draw because neither team deserved to win," which was perfectly true and I would go further and say that neither side had the forward power that promises a crop of goals.

For a long spell last season the Town's besetting problem was to find an attack that could score heavily, and although that had not been the case in practice this season, at least a plan which looked workable had been produced.

From it, much was expected because it seemed that McGuffie had blossomed forth into the constructive, distributive inside-left the team has needed so long.

But at Bury the plan did not work as had been hoped, but I do not expect it to be abandoned at this early stage.

Obviously it has virtue, because the idea of a midfield link-man and four striking forwards is fundamentally sound. Trouble in his match was that the link was barely apparent, though it seemed in the early stages that the Town were getting somewhere.

Maybe, had they been given the confidence of an early goal, they would have settled down into a smooth-working outfit, but the fact was that the longer they remained goalless, the more ragged their attack looked.

LORNIE WAS OUT OF LUCK

Inches prevented Lornie from gaining the honour of being the first Luton scorer of the season when he cracked the ball against the foot of a post, but after that, with the exception of a goal by Turner, disallowed for offside, the Town did not look likely to find a way through the strong home defence.

Nor were Bury, despite the fact that they pressed hard at times, able to make a real impression on the Town defence, and it seemed a clear case of stalemate until that late penalty incident.

Pacey went down on the goal line to smother a shot from Beaumont so that Baynham could pick the ball up and the referee ruled that he had used his hands in the process.

All the Town defenders on the spot denied that this was the case and there was a strong protest to the referee who would not consult his linesman.

It was some seconds before the ball could be placed on the spot and then MAYERS made no mistake with a shot wide of Baynham's left hand.

LINK NEEDS TIGHTENING

That was virtually the end for the Town and their attempts at a recovery fizzled out rather lamely.

Although he lacked the support he could have expected reasonably, Lornie was the most bustling of the Town front line and the other spearhead, Turner, came into it only spasmodically.

Maybe McGuffie will be more successful when the link between himself and the defence is tightened up which means that there will have to be some relaxation of the man-for-man marking in defence to release either Morton or Pacey for a more offensive role.

With so much emphasis on defence, neither was as dominating as he can be and it was obvious, too, that more straightforward work is needed from the wingers because both Walden and Fleming tended to hang on to the ball too long.

Main honours from the Luton point of view go to the defence in which Baynham was outstanding for his fine anticipation and clean handling of the ball.

Next in line were Bramwell, who held Mayers well, and Kelly,

who was a rare stumbling block in the middle, while the wing-halves defended staunchly.

Not quite so happy, though, was McNally who seemed hesitant against the speedy, direct Bartley, who was always a potential source of danger.

BURY: Harker; Gallagher, Eastham; Turner (B), Stokoe, Atherton; Mayers, Beaumont, Calder, Jackson, Bartley.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; McNally, Bramwell; Morton, Kelly, Pacey; Walden, Turner (G), Lornie, McGuffie, Fleming.

Referee: K. Howley, Middlesbrough.

Attendance: 8,313.