

Town Attack Clicks Into Top Gear

16-3-63 2571

-BUT IT WAS A CLOSE CALL BEFORE VICTORY

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 3, HUDDERSFIELD T. 2

FIRST home League match for the Town since Boxing Day was attended by misfortune. For one thing, heavy rain came three-quarters of an hour before kick-off time, thus ruining any prospect there might have been of a reasonably-sized gate.

Then, Huddersfield, who had stayed the night in London, arrived only 12 minutes before the scheduled start. Their manager, Eddie Boot, told me that their coach had broken down in the Finchley-road and they had had to turn to taxis to complete the journey.

It was a miserable, wet afternoon and the pitch, heavy, still had a liberal sprinkling of sand—a legacy of the snow and ice.

There were six changes in the Luton team—three of them positional—compared with the team beaten 2-0 at Huddersfield last Saturday.

Four of them were in the forward line. They heralded the return of Harry Walden to outside-right at the inclusion for the first time this season of Robin Chandler at centre-forward.

Davies and Turner filled the inside positions, while in the half-back line, Lownds was brought in at left-half and Pacey moved to the right.

Huddersfield were without two of their main strikers, White and Stokes. Milner came in at inside-right, Massie moved to centre-forward, and Balderstone, the Yorkshire cricketer, was in the other inside position.

The start was two minutes late, and the Town defended the Kenilworth-road end.

Perversely, the rain had stopped once play started.

TOWN START ON ATTACK

The Town were dangerous in the early stages. McNally swung the ball into the goalmouth, but Turner was penalised for pushing as Davies made a shot at goal that struck Atkins.

Another purposeful move brought a drive by Chandler that rebounded off centre-half Taylor's legs, and the end of the movement came when Turner put the ball tamely behind.

Clever work by Kelly broke up the first Huddersfield attack, brought by O'Grady, getting a second chance after McNally had made a firm tackle on him in the first instance.

With six minutes gone, the Town took the lead through JARDINE, but the major part of the work was done by Chandler. Sent away in the open space by Turner, he closed in for goal but did not get sufficient pace behind his shot to beat Wood, who, however, failed to get a grip on the ball, and it ran away from him. Jardine, following up, was left with an easy task of tapping it through.

There was a lot more fight, dash and enthusiasm in the early minutes than has been the case in recent matches, and the crowd which had grown larger in the last few minutes, was solidly behind them after their flying start.

CHANDLER'S FINE LEADERSHIP

Chandler was leading the line with commendable dash and spirit, and was unlucky not to increase the lead when he made Taylor go the wrong way to secure for himself an opening and then saw his shot strike a defender with Wood struggling. Huddersfield hit back to earn corners on the left, neither of which brought much danger, but the ball remained in the end and Baynham cut out a centre by Balderstone.

Strong work by Davies, who was moving the ball well in difficult going, sent away Walden, but the winger over-ran the ball and could not prevent its going for a goal-kick.

In the next minute, Walden had a chance to atone, but fell to a strong tackle by Coddington.

O'GRADY GOES CLOSE FOR HUDDERSFIELD

There was always some threat from O'Grady, though McNally, marking him more closely than he did last week. However, the outside-left managed to make the best effort for Huddersfield so far with a shot that just missed the near post as Baynham scrambled across.

Davies was causing quite a lot of trouble to the visitors' defence, and, after a full-scale movement, shot over from quite a good position.

For a long time it was mainly a mid-field struggle, with the Town looking a little the more dangerous—indeed, their defence had not been in real trouble so far.

Huddersfield were pushing the ball about in mid-field much the same as they did in the second half last Saturday, but not showing signs of real thrust in front of goal.

Chandler gained a corner on the left which Jardine placed well, and Davies actually beat Wood to the ball, which, how-

ever, ran loose and was pushed behind for another corner.

LET-OFF FOR THE TOWN

At this stage, the Town were not getting a great deal of change out of the stout visiting defence, and Walden in particular was being well held.

A let-off for the Town came when Milner took a through pass, brushed past Kelly, and left himself with only Baynham to beat. However, the goalkeeper's reaction was prompt and speedy, because he came out and smothered the shot, but conceded a free kick for handling outside the area.

At the same time, it was a small price to pay, because Milner looked a certain scorer.

The free kick brought some trouble, with McNally kicking rather wildly at a cross from the right, and giving away a corner, which was not productive.

In the Town's next raid, Davies was fouled by Dinsdale, with whom the referee had a word, and McNally's free kick brought a rush at the Huddersfield end, but again their close compact covering got them out of trouble.

Then it was Huddersfield's turn, with Massie beating McNally cleverly out on the right wing, and in the end, Baynham went down on his knees to save a centre from Atkins.

Some of that early rhythm of the Town had disappeared, and too many passes were going astray at this stage.

When Walden at last got free of the attentions of Coddington, from Pacey's pass he made a centre that Davies reached with his head.

The ball was too high, however, for him to guide it with any accuracy.

Straight from this there was a sharp breakaway by Huddersfield, and from Massie's pass McHale saw a great drive miss the far post by less than a foot, with Baynham beaten.

Huddersfield were putting up a tough fight without giving a real suggestion that they would get a lot of goals.

Baynham, without difficulty, caught a centre by O'Grady as Massie challenged him, and it was a dour sort of battle with nothing very much in it.

There was a tense moment when the ball broke awkwardly off McNally's knees, with O'Grady very much on the premises, but Pacey covered.

The referee ignored the linesman's flag for offside, and the

upshot was that Pacey cut off a centre by O'Grady.

DAVIES MAKES BRILLIANT BID

Just before half-time, Davies came through brilliantly, beat Dinsdale and then smashed a shot inches the wrong side of the post. It was an excellent bid, but I feel he should have scored and thus put the Town on a much easier wicket.

After this, Huddersfield came back again, with Bettany driving on the attack. Town were forced back on to the defensive, but Kelly cleared the danger.

For all that, the Town had lost some of that early sparkle and initiative, and Huddersfield were firmly back in the game with McHale testing Baynham. Half-time:

LUTON 1
HUDDERSFIELD 0

There was a quick thrust by the Town early in the second half, and Coddington headed behind for a corner from a long free kick by Daniel.

This proved fatal for Huddersfield, because it led to the Town's second goal, scored after 47 minutes by TURNER.

Jardine's kick came over, the tall Davies met it with his head, and Turner, with his back to the goal, back-headed it on, and it was deflected past Wood into the net.

SCRIMMAGE AND A THIRD GOAL

The Town were on top now, and Walden forced Wood to punch over a swinging centre and the corner brought the Town their third goal after 52 minutes.

There was a terrific scrimmage in the Huddersfield goalmouth brought by O'Grady, who pushed the ball in from Jardine's flag-kick.

Turner had a shot, beaten out. No-one really knew who really had the last stab at the ball before it went into the net, even Manager Bill Harvey and Trainer Frank King, down on the trainer's bench, but the main body of opinion seemed to be—and I am inclined to go with this—that the ball rebounded off CODDINGTON for an "own goal."

At that stage, three goals up, the Town seemed to be on a good thing, but there came a set-back three minutes later when Huddersfield reduced the arrears through BALDERSTONE following a mistake by McNally.

The inside-left was left with an excellent chance, and he made the most of it. Even though Baynham got both hands to the ball he could not prevent it going into the corner of the net.

The excitement was hotting up, and Huddersfield very nearly got back in the game with a vengeance when Massie looked a certain scorer until Baynham came racing out of goal to throw himself at the centre-forward's feet to deflect it inches past a post.

Baynham was shaken up for his



JARDINE scored a simple goal to put Town ahead after six minutes following good work by Chandler.

GAPS IN TOWN'S DEFENCE

Some ominous-looking gaps were appearing in the Town's defence, and Balderstone was not all that far from obtaining what would have been a vital goal with a shot that Baynham could not have reached anyway.

Balderstone was becoming increasingly troublesome, and again he shot just wide of the target.

The dash of Chandler put the Town on the attack again, and after he had beaten Taylor and made a bee-line for goal there were strong appeals for a penalty, which the referee turned down.

However, the Town kept on the attack and from a centre by Walden, Turner should have eased the situation, but, swinging away right-footed, he only half-hit the ball and it rolled just past the post.

HUDDERSFIELD SCORE AGAIN

This match was a long way from being won, as O'GRADY showed after 69 minutes when he picked up a loose ball, juggled his way past Pacey and beat the diving Baynham with a beautiful oblique drive into the far corner of the net.

This goal put Huddersfield firmly back into the game and caused a certain amount of despair among the supporters who had been firmly rooting for the Town.

Without any doubt, the tension should have been eased, when Walden raced past Coddington to put across a centre that was handled inside the penalty area by Bettany.

Strident appeals for a penalty were turned down by the referee and Huddersfield came again in full cry to gain a corner, from which Baynham had to throw himself full length to save from Massie.

This Town lead was hanging by a slender thread now, and Huddersfield knew it, because they were a far more dangerous formation than they had been in the first half.

CAN TOWN'S DEFENCE HOLD?

With a quarter of an hour to go this was anybody's match, and it was a question of whether the Town defence, which had taken something of a pasting this half, could hold out.

There were some flashes from the forwards, less dangerous now than they had been, and it was mainly Huddersfield attacks that were building up in mid-field.

Definitely, Huddersfield had the edge at this stage, and there was further trouble when McHale beat Daniel and a raking drive by Bettany went uncomfortably close to the target.

Yet, the Town hit back, with

Right	LUTON TOWN					Left
	Baynham					
	McNally				Daniel	
	Pacey		Kelly		Lownds	
Walden	Davies	Chandler	Turner	Jardine		
Referee:						K. H. Burns (Dudley)
O'Grady	Balderstone	Massie	Milner	McHale		
Dinsdale	Taylor	Bettany				
Coddington		Atkins				
		Wood				
Left	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN					Right

How The Goals Came

JARDINE for Luton after 6 minutes.

TURNER for Luton after 47 minutes.

CODDINGTON (o.g.) for Luton after 52 minutes.

BALDERSTONE for Huddersfield after 55 minutes.

O'GRADY for Huddersfield after 69 minutes.

centre went astray, though it was picked up by Jardine, who eventually put behind.

MILNER MISSES A GREAT CHANCE

For a few minutes the ball was kept at the Huddersfield end, but the visitors swept back and Balderstone found McHale with a fine cross pass and Massie's shot struck McNally.

In the melee that followed, Milner missed a great chance of putting his side level by skying the ball over the top.

With only seconds to go, Huddersfield had a free kick for a push on McNally, but before O'Grady could take it, the whistle went for time, accompanied by a great cheer from the crowd.

Result:
LUTON TOWN 3
HUDDERSFIELD T. 2