

DOUBTFUL PENALTY WAS TURNING POINT

Most People Thought It Was An Accident

By CHILTERN

CHELSEA 3, LUTON TOWN 1

A PENALTY decision that looked of doubtful vintage midway through the second half destroyed the hope to which the Town had been clinging that they would gain a much-needed point at Stamford Bridge on Monday night. When it happened, after 67 minutes, the score was 1—1, a state of affairs that had been brought about by some indomitable work by the Town defence and the carelessness of the Chelsea forwards in front of goal.

During a hectic spell, Bramwell, having stopped one shot on the goal line was judged to have handled another by Bridges from no more than a yard away. Most people near me, including Frank Hill, the Charlton manager thought it was accidental, but a couple of Town defenders afterwards said they thought it was fair enough.

Yet it was in response to a flag-waving linesman that the referee pointed to the spot.

Outpaced and frequently out-fought by this fast moving Chelsea team who gave the impression of being in a frightful hurry all the time, and badly needed someone to pace the game, all the Town ever had to hope for was that dogged defence would enable them to draw. But for that penalty they might have held on, but Chelsea became rampant afterwards and the Town were fortunate not to concede more than one more goal.

That was scored by TAMBLING who had also converted

the penalty. His second goal came 13 minutes from the end, after Davies had lost the ball midway in his own half.

With Chelsea naturally tense after their flop against Walsall, the Town very nearly added to their troubles early on when Dunn made a sketchy goal-line save from Pacey who squeezed the ball in from an acute angle.

TURNER LEVELLED

THE SCORE

After that there was persistent Chelsea pressure in which chances were missed before BLUNSTONE, at the second attempt, put them ahead from close range after 24 minutes.

When the Town moved to the attack again, none-too-certain Dunn dropped a long free-kick by Lownds, but there was no forward near enough to do anything about it.

With half an hour gone TURNER levelled the scores after Dunn had failed to clear a cross by Chandler. The earlier spadework had been done by Jardine and Pacey.

Other than that, the only notable attack contribution by the Town was a header from Pacey that Dunn caught while at the other end Bridges somehow performed the near impossibility of hooking the ball over from almost under the bar.

PACEY FADED AFTER A BRIGHT START

As an attacking force the Town were scarcely in it during the second half, and matters were not improved when Jardine resumed limping after a collision with Harris and Bridges five minutes after half-time.

Chelsea hammered away without showing real improvement in their finishing, though Baynham had to make a wonderful full-length save to keep out a shot from Tambling.

Then on to the penalty incident which so far as the Town were concerned was the end, because their attack never showed sufficient strength to suggest that they could score again.

Pacey began as if he might be the answer in the middle, but there was not sufficient support for him to be a real menace, and he faded out of the picture.

Little or nothing came from the wings, a route that Chelsea used continually, with a player, usually one of the full-backs, racing into the open space on the outside of the winger to await a pass that came invariably.

There was another hard working performance from Turner who frequently helped out in defence, but Davies was less effective than he can be.

This was purely because he would persist in hanging on to the ball, which he lost frequently, and often put his own defence in trouble.

BAYNHAM KEPT THE SCORE DOWN

With scarcely an interval for a breather the Town defence had a harassing time but they fought bravely. Both Daniel and Bramwell, with hard tackling, cut down the danger from the wings, and both marked closely.

In the circumstances Kelly did an efficient job covering the middle as best he could, and Morton made quite a successful return. Lownds never stopped running and working, and his enthusiasm was a pretty fair substitute for his rather limited skill.

There was plenty for Baynham to do and he played a great part in keeping the score as low as it was. But while the forwards play like this, the defence is bound to struggle, and apart from the need of another inside-forward something will have to be done urgently about increasing the support from the wings.

CHELSEA: Dunn: Harris, McCreadie; Venables, Mortimore, Upton; Murray, Tambling, Bridges, Moore, Blunstone.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Daniel, Bramwell; Morton, Kelly, Lownds; Chandler, Davies, Pacey, Turner, Jardine.

Referee: K. Stokes, Newark.

Attendance: 21,211.