

Four Goals By Davies Bring Victory

Norwich Kept Equalising But Town Leader Too Good

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 4, NORWICH CITY 2

THERE was more of the authentic atmosphere at Kenilworth-road this afternoon, brought about, it must be admitted, by the presence of Norwich City fans, who must have come in their hundreds.

All around the ground there were splashes of green and yellow, the Canaries' traditional colours, and half an hour before kick-off it looked to me as if there were more Norwich supporters on the ground than there were those of Luton.

After waiting some time this morning to see if there were any reactions from slight knocks received at Scunthorpe yesterday, Manager Bill Harvey announced an unchanged team. He could, of course, have replaced at least two on the score of poor form, but he obviously took the view that they could not play so badly again.

At least this decision ensures that Lownds and McGuffie, neither of whom have played this week-end, will be fit for Monday's match in case of mishaps today.

Norwich came with the advantage of not having played yesterday, and they named the team which was beaten 2-0 at Swansea on Tuesday.

This included Miller, the outside-left who very nearly signed for the Town last season, and Bryceland, whom the Town watched before he left St. Mirren for Norwich.

Although the attendance looked bigger than the recent average, it was still disappointing. The pitch was dry and dusty in places, although it had been well rolled, and there was considerably more grass on it than was the case at Scunthorpe.

Terry Kelly seems adept at winning the toss, because he did so again and chose to defend the Kenilworth-road end.

In the first movement the Town came within an ace of going ahead when Morton picked up a pass from Davies, who was out on the right-wing, and quickly switched the ball to Jardine.

The winger moved on to it quickly, hit across a fierce low centre, and Davies coming up at great speed was a fraction too late to make contact.

In three minutes the Town did score through DAVIES, who continued a movement begun by Turner with a well-made pass to Fairchild.

Fairchild made ground, turned the ball into the middle and Davies swept it into the net after it had been pushed on to him by Turner.

The Town were really going about their job with fire and authority and Turner was out of luck a minute later with a terrific shot that smacked against the knees of Ashman and rebounded to safety.

MANNION LINKS THROUGH

Only once in this opening phase was the Town defence in trouble, and that was when Mannion linked his way through to be brought down by force of numbers.

On the other hand the Town were constantly dangerous. Turner nearly found a way through, and Jardine shot the wrong side of the post from just inside the penalty area.

Another strong attack, following a free kick, brought a rare skirmish in front of the Norwich goal in which Turner figured prominently in a heading duel with Ashman, who, however, managed to screw the ball for a corner from which Morton shot wide.

A fine cross pass by Davies sent the Town on the move again but Fairchild this time finished badly, leaving the ball safely to the feet of Ashman.

Following this, there was a sharp break by Norwich which could have brought the equaliser, Alcock putting the ball uncomfortably close with a fine drive.

In doing so he had to go over the touch line to put on his boot which had flown off.

Norwich were beginning to look as if they had survived the early onslaught and were doing some attacking on their own account. Alcock scraped the outside of the post with a header from a centre by Bryceland and some over-ornate work in defence shortly afterwards put the Town in further trouble.

For some little time the ball crossed and re-crossed their goal without a decisive shot being produced and eventually Terry Kelly lashed the ball into touch. Play in fact had swung in Norwich's favour and Baynham comfortably saved a header by Hill.

When the Town pulled themselves together again, Davies gained a corner which Fairchild placed so badly that it went to waste completely.

PACEY STOPPED THIS SHOT

Norwich returned to the attack with Hill shooting from 15 yards and Pacey getting a foot in the way.

The Town were in a certain amount of trouble at this stage, with the Norwich forwards, ably backed by Welsh international Burton, in very lively vein. Still the Norwich pressure

hard knock on the back of the head for which he needed attention.

Next Ashman joined the attack after for once dispossessing Davies, and in the end Hill, intent on completing a hat-trick, slammed the ball yards too high.

Baynham made a desperate sort of save from a long-range effort by Burton, but the Town should have had a free kick before this because Alcock pushed the goalkeeper in the back.

Two corners followed, and another, and from this there was almost fatal hesitation by Daniel and Pacey, who left the ball to each other.

TOWN'S NARROW ESCAPE

Norwich were in command at this stage and there was a narrow escape when Bryceland worked the ball brilliantly before giving the ball to Mannion, whose deceptive centre Baynham had saved, but the ball was destined to fall under the bar until Daniel managed to turn it over with his head.

There was a stoppage while Hill received attention to an ankle injury which did not seem to affect his mobility because he played the leading role in the next Norwich attack.

When this was cleared by Bramwell, McKechnie made a long run and made a low cross obviously aimed at the far corner and which could have been turned into a goal, had anyone been able to follow up quickly enough.

More Norwich pressure followed, and Kelly's foot, which intervened in timely style, prevented Hill from obtaining a third goal.

Inspired by Davies, the Town hit back after a spell in which a large proportion of their passes had gone astray, but this happened again when Jardine centred and Norwich survived without difficulty.

Baynham just managed to cut off a low centre from the dangerous Mannion and all the Town could offer in reply was a long angle header by Davies that reached Kennon on the first bounce.

DAVIES GETS HAT TRICK

Much more effective was a Davies effort from Fairchild's under a little later because the ball passed inches over the top with Kennon stretching and possibly being deceived by the flight of it.

Then excitement broke out in the 61st minute when DAVIES, who had had a brilliant match, completed his first hat-trick for the club when he made certain by shooting wide of Kennon after a determined run by Jardine.

Jardine tried to force a way right through, his shot was blocked, and the rebound went straight to Davies.

After a Norwich raid had been brushed off the Town came away and the referee allowed an obstruction on McKechnie to pass.

Turner followed up to produce one of his old-time raking drives that went just wide.

Then there was foul on McKechnie allowed by the referee when Pat Kelly pulled him down and the free kick brought a struggle in the Norwich penalty area and appeals for a penalty by the Town as a harassed defender handled the centre.

Again the referee dismissed the appeal. Davies was a constant threat to Norwich and he very nearly got a fourth goal when he fastened on to a through pass and only a full-length save by Kennon prevented it from counting.

In this ding-dong struggle it was the Town on top again, playing with rare enthusiasm, and causing the Norwich defence no end of trouble.

How The Goals Came

DAVIES for Luton after 3 minutes.

HILL for Norwich after 22 minutes.

DAVIES for Luton after 41 minutes.

HILL for Norwich after 44 minutes.

DAVIES for Luton after 61 minutes.

DAVIES for Luton after 76 minutes.

Next minor casualty in this no-quarter struggle was Alcock, who damaged his back, and there was yet another hold-up.

Right in luck's way were the Town when Burton, running into an open space, smacked in the ball from 20 yards, and it eluded the full-length dive of Baynham and smacked against the post before bouncing back into play and being kicked into touch by Pacey.

There was another desperate save immediately afterwards, when Hill hit the corner of the woodwork, and it was with some difficulty that the Town survived this. It was a costly reprieve because Baynham was injured.

BAYNHAM BADLY DAZED

It took some time in which to bring the goalkeeper round.

Baynham, in fact, looked very dazed as he tried to go back to his goal, and had further attention from both trainers before it was deemed wise to continue.

He was ruefully rubbing the top of his head, but fortunately was not brought into immediate action and Frank King remained at the side of the goal, in fact almost in it, to effect further repairs.

Norwich broke away and the Town luck continued when a terrific drive by Burton rocketed against the bar with Baynham not being able to do much about it.

There was tremendous excitement and Jardine nearly gave the Town fans something to roar about when he closed in to make a shot at which Kennon stuck out a foot and made contact.

Burton was the player the Town had to fear at this juncture, and again he was right up in attack forcing a corner, which he took himself, and placed behind as a complete anti-climax.

DAVIES SCORES HIS FOURTH

Some of the tension was taken out of the game after 76 minutes when DAVIES, who was having a field-day, banged home his fourth goal from something of an angle following a shrewd pass by Turner.

Davies had led the attack initially when he ran on to a through ball before passing to Turner and running into position for the return.

Norwich were not done with by any means, because they

exerted more pressure, to be met with determined defensive work in which even the wingers helped.

Baynham dropped, but recovered to hold, a shot from Mannion and was obviously feeling the effects of his injury.

The Town defence was grouped thickly in the penalty area now and for a time effectively stopped anything reaching Baynham.

Norwich gained a corner, which Mannion placed well and Alcock, from close in, met the ball on the volley and punted it over.

Frank King was behind the Town goal again ready to administer to Baynham, who, however, was able to take the goal-kick.

It was mostly the Town in the defensive and Baynham made a brave save from a point blank shot by Hill.

Rain was falling now and Norwich had not given up hope. Ashman led a raid and finally cloured the bell firmly into the hands of Baynham.

In time added for injuries Alcock forced the ball into the Luton net but it was disallowed for offside though Baynham in trying to stop the shot was injured again and there was another hold-up.

After attention he shrugged aside attempts, or what looked like attempts, to get him to leave the field, but obviously he was in a pretty poor way. Then before anything untoward could happen the whistle went for the end. Result:

LUTON TOWN 4
NORWICH CITY 2



Ron Davies banged in four goals for Luton Town today. The first three were his initial hat-trick for the Town.

who shook his fist in dismay. This was after 22 minutes.

The passing of Norwich in attack was much more accurate than that of the Town, several of whose raids fell down flat because of poor use of the ball. Norwich continued to look the more dangerous and Alcock sent the ball rising just over as Baynham went for it.

Mullet received a facial injury when his head was hit by Turner's boot as he attempted to pull the ball down, but no serious damage was done.

Norwich came again, Alcock hooking the ball well wide.

Davies still remained the main threat to Norwich, and taking a

TEAMS

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Daniel, Bramwell; Morton, Kelly (T.), Pacey; Fairchild, Turner, Davies, McKechnie, Jardine.

NORWICH CITY: Kennon; Kelly (P.), Thurlow, Burton, Ashman, Mullet; Mannion, Bryceland, Alcock, Hill, Miller.

Referee: R. Langdale, Darlington.

pass from Jardine he rounded Ashman, and his low shot which was deflected missed the post by mere inches to give the Town a corner, following which there was activity at the Norwich end which fizzled out at the finish.

Things had swung the Town's way again, and after some severe pressure they regained the lead after 41 minutes through DAVIES, who thoughtfully nodded down wide of Kennon's left hand a centre from Fairchild.

NORWICH'S GOOD EQUALISER

The reaction from Norwich was immediate, and the attack minded. But, hustling through to crash the ball wide of the far post.

The Town came back in force again, with Davies, their outstanding player, again prominent, but unfortunately Fairchild, from his pass, did not get sufficient lift on his centre, and Ashman was able to head away.

On the stroke of half-time, in fact in injury time, Norwich equalised through HILL, who headed into the corner of the net a centre from Mannion after Bryceland had switched the ball out to the right-winger.

It was a move that caught the Town defence completely unprepared, and there was barely time to restart the game before the whistle went for half-time.

Half-time:
LUTON TOWN 2
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The Town resumed with some of their verve of the opening few minutes of the first half, with Davies again the danger, and Jardine, intercepting a throw-in, forced Kennon to handle outside the penalty area, but the free kick brought nothing.

There was threat, though, in the smooth Norwich raids and in one of them Miller got up above Kelly to flash over the bar a header, and at the same time receive a