

# DAVIES THE LIFE-SAVER

## Hat-Trick Gives Town Points

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 3, SWANSEA TOWN 1

62/63

**M**ORE great opportunism by Ron Davies, the centre-forward now firmly in line for a Welsh Under-23 cap, gave the Town a badly-needed victory over Swansea at Kenilworth-road last night.

He scored all three goals, went close on other occasions, and generally led the Swansea defence a dance. He was the outstanding forward, though he received pretty good support from Brennan and Clapton.

Two of Davies's goals came in the first half which meant that the Town were sitting reasonably pretty. They had some luck early in the second half when their defence, unhappy under pressure, had some fortunate escapes.

The danger was that Swansea would get another goal and stage a grandstand finish but the defence, with Kelly dominating again, stood firm in the time of crisis.

These two points could be the means of keeping the Town in the Second Division.

**LUTON TOWN:** Baynham; Daniel, Bramwell; Morton, Kelly, Pacey; Clapton, Brennan; Davies (R), McGuffie, Lornie.

**SWANSEA TOWN:** Dwyer; Evans, Davies (G); Hayes, Johnson, Davies (P); Gilligan, Thomas, Todd, Morgans, Jones (B).

**Referee:** R. Aldous (Ipswich).

The Town, who had Lornie at outside-left, moved away smartly in the first minute through Clapton and Brennan, and the latter's final pass, meant for Ron Davies, travelled a little too fast so that Dwyer was able to come out and clear.

With the Town clearly showing a realisation of the need for two points, they pressed consistently, moving the ball about smartly, and after Clapton's centre had been cut out by Dwyer, Pacey shot wide.

Finding each other well, the Town forwards had made a promising start. They took the lead after seven minutes through **RON DAVIES**, who scored through superb anticipation.

The goal came from a free kick awarded for hands against P. Davies, and Bramwell swung the ball high into the penalty area. Dwyer was guilty of misjudgment, because he came out when he never had an earthly chance, and Ron Davies ran behind him to head through coolly.

Swansea fought back and were fortunate to gain a free kick when Pacey was judged to have pulled down Thomas, but Johnson, coming up to take it at break-neck speed, wasted it.

Although Swansea were showing liveliness in midfield it was the Town who were looking dangerous, and hesitation of a split second cost Brennan a chance because his shot was deflected for a corner, and then Dwyer narrowed the angle to catch a drive from Morton.

### DANGER TO THE TOWN

There was danger at the Town end when Baynham followed across his goal a swinging corner by Jones and just managed to deflect the ball with his fingertips, otherwise it might have been fatal.

There followed a close thing at each end with Thomas forcing Baynham full-length and then McGuffie diving to meet a centre from Morton and the ball finished a foot wide of the far post.

In a period in which there was considerable danger for the Town, Bramwell kicked off the line and a sudden thrust by the Town saw Ron Davies very nearly increase the lead with a low shot that Dwyer just tipped around the post.

The offside trap was something of a problem to the Town attack and Davies in particular was being caught.

Town attacks were now breaking down partly because the ball was not getting through on the tacky surface and partly because there was a tendency to keep it too close.

With 32 minutes gone the Town's position became easier when **RON DAVIES** scored another great goal from a pass by Clapton. Bringing the ball under control quickly, he rounded Johnson and crashed the ball past Dwyer.

### GOOD COVERING BY DEFENCE

This was Davies's ninth goal in the last six matches, and another chance—an awkward one—fell to Lornie, who first tried to head the ball through and then rush

## How The Goals Came

**DAVIES (R)** for Luton after 7 minutes.

**DAVIES** for Luton after 32 minutes.

**DAVIES** for Luton after 71 minutes.

**TODD** for Swansea after 75 minutes.

it through, but found it rebounding to safety.

Swansea were fighting hard enough but it was mostly confined to mid-field because of good covering by the Town defence.

Just before half-time there was a stoppage for attention to a leg injury by Todd after a determined tackle by Kelly.

Several free kicks came the way of the Town, mostly for minor offences such as pushing and Dwyer was showing good anticipation in dealing with them.

There was a narrow escape for the Town when Thomas escaped the attentions of Pacey and Baynham, down at full-length, clasped the ball at the second attempt. Then it was Pacey's turn to be attended to, for a knee injury.

On the stroke of half-time McGuffie should have increased the Town lead following good work by Clapton and Davies, but Dwyer threw himself at the ball and smothered it. Half-time:

LUTON ..... 2  
SWANSEA ..... 0

Early in the second half Swansea looked dangerous without being able to find that thrust at close quarters, though they had a chance when Kelly pushed the ball back none too certainly to Baynham and it might have been intercepted.

In the Town's first raid, McGuffie came roaring up to hit first time a pass by Davies but the ball sped high and wide.

A long free-kick by Daniel nearly produced a third goal but it was deflected for a corner just as Ron Davies was closing in.

Swansea had a free-kick just outside the penalty area when Brennan brought down Morgans and it took a great save by Baynham to prevent Peter Davies from exacting full toll.

This was a period fraught with danger for the Town who had lost their grip to quite a marked extent and were now being thrown back on to the defensive. They were in luck's way when Daniel scooped off the goal line a shot by Jones.

The Town were having some luck at this juncture, and they needed it. A terrific drive by Jones struck the under part of the bar and rebounded to safety, and then Baynham made a point-blank save from Thomas.

There was no doubting the fact that Swansea had taken the initiative pretty firmly and the Town were now finding difficulty in mounting a telling attack.

However, the Town improved again and found some measure of their earlier stride.

Ron **DAVIES** completed his hat-trick after 71 minutes with the Swansea defence waiting for an offside decision that never came.

Bramwell pushed the ball through and Davies was able to dribble past Dwyer and place the ball into an empty net at his leisure.

### SWANSEA HIT BACK

Swansea were still fighting back and the referee gave an indirect free-kick. The ball was lobbed into the goalmouth, Thomas headed against the bar, and from the rebound **TODD** hooked the ball into the net after 75 minutes.

Ron Davies nearly had a fourth goal when he fastened on to a through pass by Brennan and Peter Davies raced across to kick his shot off the goal-line.

Result:

LUTON ..... 3

SWANSEA ..... 1

Attendance: 7,642.