

PENALTY DECIDES THE FIRST AWAY GAME

By CHILTERN
CREWE 1, LUTON 0

FRANKLY, it was an uninspired display that the Town gave at Crewe last night, and although they were unlucky in that the only goal came from the penalty spot—and I thought there was ground for doubt about the award—they can have no complaints about the result.

Not a great side Crewe, but they were busy and hard working and held the advantage territorially for much of the match.

Possibly where the Town made their mistake initially was to concentrate so much on defence during the first half when almost nothing came from the forwards.

To some extent the attack suffered from the service from behind but there was little evidence of real football in the front line, which seldom seriously troubled the Crewe defence.

Davies, not well supported admittedly, was shut out almost completely, Salisbury had a thin time and some shots by Turner after the interval served to improve his contribution.

Of the forwards, Jardine was the liveliest, but Walden was disappointing.

There was not the domination at half-back that we saw on Saturday, yet the defence as a whole could scarcely be faulted seriously because they have yet to concede a goal other than from the penalty spot.

Fincham did not look so decisive in the air as he was against Walsall and Baynham had quite a lot to do dealing with high balls, which he did brilliantly.

Certainly, the defence fought hard but there must be an improvement forward if points are to be gained away from home.

Attendance: 8,909.

CREWE ALEXANDRA: Hickson; Whelan, Leigh; Keery, Barnes, Riggs; Haydock, Wheatley, Lord, King, Smith.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Daniel, Bramwell; Morton, Fincham, Pacey; Walden, Turner, Davies, Salisbury, Jardine.

Referee: A. Jobling, Morecambe.

Crewe were the more dangerous in the early minutes, without reaching close quarters against a sound-looking defence. The Town's first thrust came through Davies, who gained a corner which was cleared fairly comfortably.

Brilliant work by Davies, with some assistance by Salisbury, took the Town on to the attack again and the ball was pushed out to Walden whose final centre

How The Goal Came

RIGGS for Crewe after 59 minutes.

was ill-judged.

Gradually, the Town were settling down and forcing Crewe back on to the defensive, and, in fact, there were occasional signs of panic stations.

Fincham got the Town out of a ticklish situation when he hooked the ball away from Lord after Morton had sliced a clearance.

A minute later the first chance of the match fell to Lord after Bramwell had hesitated about a clearance, but the centre-forward, from close in, wildly blazed the ball yards over the top.

A spell of pressure by Crewe followed, during which they moved the ball about in lively fashion, but without providing employment for Baynham.

TOWN ATTACK SUBDUED

For a time little was seen of the Town attack and the next decisive shot came from Smith, but it was straight at Baynham, who had little difficulty in pulling it down.

Baynham brilliantly pulled down a long swinging centre from King and hung on to the ball despite being charged by Lord as he fell.

It was still Crewe having more of the play and, with 25 minutes gone, the Town had yet to make a serious shot at goal. Rather needlessly, because he could have let the ball run on to Baynham, Fincham gave away a corner on the left, which the goalkeeper chased and caught splendidly.

GOALKEEPER WAS TOO QUICK

Then came a chance for the Town when Salisbury pushed the ball down the middle and both Davies and Turner, who raced for it, were beaten by the quickness of Hickson in emerging from his goal.

There was some improvement from the Town and Davies headed into the hands of Hickson from a centre made from the right by Salisbury.

CREWE MORE DANGEROUS

A weak clearance by Bramwell let in Haydock, whose shot brought Baynham to his knees, but generally speaking goals looked a long way off.

There was no disputing the fact that Crewe looked the more likely to take the lead and Baynham had a hot handful from a shot by Lord that sprang out of his hands for a corner.

Just before half-time Pacey broke through the Crewe defence to make a shot that rose too high. Half-time:

CREWE	0
LUTON TOWN	0

It had been a bad first half for the Town, but the first minute after the interval brought hope of better things when Walden

crossed the ball to Turner, who was not far wide of the mark with a first-time shot.

Baynham hurt his left leg—it seemed to be the thigh muscle—when he went up to pull down a corner by Smith and Frank King went along the touch-line to assure himself that it was not serious.

Next casualty was Jardine, who stayed down after a tackle by Whelan, but it proved to be no more than a severe shaking.

In the next minute Jardine was down again when a clearance by Keery struck him full in the face and he was led off in a dazed condition between both trainers.

So the Town were reduced to ten men after 52 minutes, but not for long, because he soon returned and immediately was in action, picking up a pass from Turner but finishing weakly.

A little more was being seen of the Town forwards this half, and Turner was unlucky to find Barnes in the way of a raking drive after Davies had a shot charged down.

PENALTY GIVES CREWE LEAD

Then, with 59 minutes gone, Crewe were awarded a penalty when Morton was adjudged to have handled the ball in making a desperate attempt to smother a shot by Riggs.

Whether or not there was an element of accident about it I do not know, but there was no protest from the Town and RIGGS easily scored from the spot to put Crewe ahead, and deservedly so on the way the game had gone so far.

Morton sparked off what had been by far the most dangerous attack so far by sending away Walden, who showed Leigh a

clean pair of heels. When his centre came across too high for

Crewe Talk Over Cope

TOWN Manager Bill Harvey was due to have a talk with his Crewe counterpart John McGuigan after last night's match on the subject of Ron Cope, the Town centre-half who refused minimum terms.

Cope, who played for Crewe schoolboys, is back living in the Cheshire town, and Crewe made an offer for him during the close season.

However, it was way below his transfer-list price, £5,000, and Crewe will probably have to increase their bid fairly substantially to get him.

Davies, Salisbury, behind him, headed the ball purposefully for goal, and it looked like going in until Keery somehow scrambled it off the line for a corner.

Next threat came from Crewe, with Smith, beating Daniel for speed and blazing the ball well wide as Baynham came out to narrow the angle.

Quite heavy pressure by Crewe followed and there was still little sign of the Town settling down in attack to the smoothness that would break down this Crewe defence.

PILE ON THE PRESSURE

A free kick for hands by Barnes just outside the penalty area gave Turner the chance of a shot at goal, but the ball struck the defensive wall and went for a corner.

The more intensive pressure was still coming from Crewe and King nearly worked his way through for a second goal, but was foiled by Fincham at the last moment.

The looked-for rally by the Town was not forthcoming and it was still Crewe on top. Smith was unlucky with a snap centre that flew just wide of the far post when all it needed was a touch to convert it.

A long, low drive by Turner then brought Hickson to his knees and the ball broke away from him slightly but not sufficient for Salisbury, following up, to hammer it home, and in any case the inside-left was penalised for a foul on the goalkeeper.

Crewe were still the more impressive and Baynham made a fine save from a header by Lord that was going away from him all the time, and then dropped on the ball on the goal line to keep out a drive by King.

With the game in its final phase, Morton nearly snatched a dramatic equaliser with a longish shot that went through a crowd of players and Hickson only just managed to scramble it away off the line.

Then Jardine caused confusion in the defence with a low centre that Salisbury could not turn in and the ball was booted clear with some difficulty. Result:

CREWE ALEXANDRA ...	1
LUTON TOWN	0