

TURNING POINT WAS A SUPERLATIVE SAVE

McKechnie's First Goal Sealed Town's Victory

By CHILTERN

BRIDGWATER 0, LUTON TOWN 3

ALMOST invariably, there is a turning point in every match and in the one at Bridgwater in the F.A. Cup on Saturday, it came early in the second half.

Holding a single-goal lead, the Town were facing up to a do-or-die hammering from Bridgwater when the only amateur in the home team, Scott, seemed to have earned himself the freedom of the Borough with a terrific shot that was ploughing its way directly for the corner of the net.

Luton hearts must have been in their mouths. Bridgwater cheers were already starting — until Baynham, who has made some fantastic saves in his time, effected one to equal his greatest with a tremendous dive to his left.

By instinct, he had gone the correct way because he could not have seen the ball through the crowd of players until the last moment.

That took a lot of the fight out of the home team who, however, had one more chance of equalising, but Muxworthy shot over with Baynham, on this occasion, helpless on the ground.

After that, the Town pulled themselves together and 25 minutes from the end **McKECHNIE** obtained the second goal which was so badly needed at that juncture when he fastened on to a pass by Smith and placed the ball into the net as Beal came out frantically.

Six minutes later, **McKECHNIE** repeated the process, this time from a through pass by McGuffie and there were the Town home and dry.

TURNER'S SWERVE BEAT BEAL

First Town goal had come, as so often before, from **TURNER**, after exactly half an hour when he tried a long cross shot from the wing and got sufficient swerve in the ball to cause Beal to misjudge it. In fact, the goalkeeper was too far out of his goal, and as he moved back he could only help the ball into the net.

Earlier, the Town had confined the Bridgwater attempts to obtain the quick goal for which they had budgeted and, although a few chances fell to the home side, their finishing was never very impressive.

It took the Town forwards a long time in which to settle down, but when they did so their midfield work was too quick and clever for the home middle line.

In the end they were worthy winners, but Bridgwater put up a fight, and, to their eternal credit, they played it fair and took their defeat in the most sporting manner.

Experience and full-time training took their toll, and it was a great relief to see the Town achieve an away victory after a barren spell which had lasted for nearly 13 months.

Despite their three goals, there is still the need for more thrust in the forward line, though McKechnie's marksmanship gave promise of better things to come.

Turner worked hard and to some effect, while Smith, after a quiet first half, came more into it with neat distribution.

Fairchild, with plenty of support, gave Griffiths something of a "roasting," but Jardine turned in another ineffective display.

Much of Bridgwater's hope was pinned on Thresher, their top-

scoring leader, but he was scarcely ever in this game because of the grip which Fincham took early on and kept throughout.

Fincham was a dominant factor in defence, and another was Pacey, whose class stood out on this occasion.

McGuffie made a full contribution, as did Morton and Bramwell, but when much is forgotten about this game, it is Baynham's superlative save that will be remembered.

BRIDGWATER: Beal; Oliphant, Griffiths; Scott, Packer, Rice; Thomas, White, Thresher, Weston, Muxworthy.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Morton, Bramwell; Pacey, Fincham, McGuffie; Fairchild, Smith, Turner, McKechnie, Jardine.

Referee: D. W. Smith, Stonehouse. Attendance: 5,000.