Town Guilty Of A Series Of Misplaced Passes

By CHILTERN LUTON 0, MANSFIELD 2

FOR the first day of February, this was a beautiful day, with the sun shining out of a blue sky for the Town's first match since the changes on the Board. Just before the start, there seemed an improvement on recent attendances, not radically so, but all the same encouraging I should think. About 7,000 saw the Town lose the toss and be set to defend Kenilworth-road end.

There had to be a change in | Reid came through to try to last Saturday's winning team connect. because Gordon Turner went After that, a free-kick from of their passing, which was being from the Town were mainly nondown with sciatica, and the Pacey went straight through to vacancy was filled by switching the goalkeeper, who was un-Harry Walden to the right and sighted, but the pace of the ball bringing in Jim Weir at outside- was not sufficient to cause him left against his former colleagues. trouble. Yet another free-kick Mansfield, too, contented them | was placed plumb into the penalty selves with two forward changes, area by Bramwell, but Mansfield both positional, in that Wagstaff were covering up cleverly inside and Roy Chapman switched their penalty area and were positions. The pitch was soft, leaving no gaps. though a long way from being anything approaching a quagmire, a £40,000 offer is in, did not and conditions were as good as could be expected for this time of year.

ROBBED OF CHANCE

A bad mistake by the referee robbed the Town of a chance of a first-minute goal, because he gave offside against Walden when it was clear that the last player to touch the ball was one of the Mansfield defenders.

A mistake by McBain, remedied finally by Fincham, put Mansfield on the attack, and again the Town were being guilty of misplaced passes, which were holding up their attempts to make progress.

JUST MISSED

A POST Best move so far came when

McBain intercepted a long clearance with his head to send the ball to Walden, who was showing sparkle reminiscent of his palmier days last year, and he switched the ball inside to Reid. The inside-left, at that moment in the inside-right position, controlled the ball, moved in and made a hard drive that just missed a post. In these early stages the Town were looking the more dangerous

and Walden was as close to the target as Reid had been following a movement in which McKechnie and Reid had a hand. A poor clearance by Fincham led to Chapman (R) having a chance to put Mansfield ahead, but he finished poorly when there should have been no doubt about the ball being in the back of the net, and Bramwell was able to come

across and clear.

COMMENTS

FROM CROWD

movements, and comment from the crowd, "put your glasses on," In the next minute the Town had a free-kick for a foul on McKechnie, and although Weir reached Walden's cross with his head it did not worry Treharne. A header by Reid from a carner by Walden was going wide of Treharne, but Jones kicked off the goal-line.

TOWN WERE THREATENING

but the Mansfield defence covered out a shot by Walden. up well—as it did again when MANSFIELD TAKE Walden went through from a pass LEAD by Morton, and a free kick was given against him for a reason

happened all too often when the opposition is so minded.

Next nearest approach to a

NO FINAL

THRUST

goal came when Weir was sent through and harassed by Jones, Weir missed a chance of putting could not get in a shot as he the Town level when he failed to bore in from a sharp angle, connect with a centre from the The upshot was a corner, fol- right. Half-time: lowed by another when a shot by Walden was deflected over MANSFIELD 1 the bar and a scramble developed in front of the Mans- second half, Fincham, after field goal, cleared finally by having made a bad mistake, Scanlon who was right back in nearly presented Mansfield with his own penalty area. Still the another goal because his back-Fown kept up the pressure with- pass, made much too wide, caused out really showing the final Baynham to deal with his most thrust that was necessary to serious task this afternoon. bring goals.

SHOULD HAVE BEEN AHEAD

continued to have the better of levelling the scores. the play, and Treharne showed | Mansfield were now looking the cut off a centre by Walden as of some highly tentative work by

come into the game until nearly half an hour had gone, when from just inside the area he pivoted sharply to hit in a fine shot that Baynham saved cleverly. Straight from this there was a thrust down the Town right, and Treharne just managed to punch the ball off the head of McKechnie.

MANSFIELD SETTLE DOWN

challenged by Bramwell.

it to Hall, who with only Bayn- Treharne. ham to beat certainly should have SHOULD HAVE scored. However, he was indecisive in his finish and the goalkeeper was able to come out to deflect the Weir should certainly have done ball for a corner.

grip they had held earlier and McKechnie and, instead of keeptheir passing was going badly ing the trajectory low, he headed astray. However, they pulled them- the ball up in the air so that it selves together, made some ground bounced on top of the bar and down the left wing through went over. McKechnie and Weir and finally Not surprisingly with this lead penalty area.

BOUNCED ON BAR

with Baynham out of his goal the ball bounced on the bar and went over.

Hands by Humble brought a free-kick that McBain planted into Twice the Town were caught the goalmouth so that the Town perfectly abovious that Gill had as well! At the other end Mor- cleverly from Govan.

only by a matter of inches.

When a clearance by Bramwell penalty area by Humble and the was intercepted by Hall the referee compromised by giving an Town were in a certain amount of indirect free-kick - though how trouble and had to concede a he worked that one out I just corner which Scanlon placed well, don't know, because it was either but Wagstaff's header curled gently a penalty or nothing. The freeinto the hands of Baynham. Again kick was ordered to be re-taken the Town were threatening when and finally brought a corner to Weir sent through McKechnie, the Town when Treharne punched

A minute from half-time Mansfield broke away to take the Offside was beginning to be a lead through WAGSTAFF. It oug-bear to the Town forwards as followed a thrust down the insideright position by Roy Chapman whose centre Baynham could only push out with some difficulty, and Wagstaff, after having almost to beat Scanlon for possession of the ball, blasted it in from point-blank range. Straight from the re-start

> LUTON 0 In the first minute of the

From this the Town, who obviously needed to show more urgency in attack if they were to recover, went away purposefully, By this time the Town should and only a great save from Trehave been ahead, because they harne prevented O'Roucke from

good judgment in coming out to more dangerous force in the face

How The Goals Came

WAGSTAFF for Mansfield after 44 minutes HALL for Mansfield after 59 minutes.

the Town, who were still guilty of a series of misplaced passes. Scanlon tested Baynham with a shot through a crowd of players from the edge of the penalty area. and even this half it had been as well that the goalkeeper was in vigilant mood. A corner to the Town on the left brought a header from Pacey, which, however, was ill-directed since it sent the ball quite a couple of yards wide.

ATTEMPTS FRUSTRATED

Attempts by the Town to retrieve the position were being frustrated by the sheer inaccuracy other way, because direct shots cut off time and time again, and existent. there was still no real evidence of finishing thrust. McKechnie, who harmlessly wide.

Now it looked more a question Wagstaff, for whom it is said of whether the Jown could limit the Mansfield lead than one of if they could draw level, though a half-chance fell to O'Rourke, a very difficult one admittedly, and, shooting on the turn, he sent the ball high and wide.

> CAT AMONG THE PIGEONS

With 59 minutes gone, what I feared might happen occurred, Walden when Mansfield increased their lead through HALL. It began with a pass by Govan, which eluded Just about this time Mansfield McBain, to Scanlon, who cracked began to settle down into a much- the ball low across the face of the improved groove with their for- goal, where it hit somebody and wards showing better understand- eventually became teed up for ing and Baynham, who seemed Hall. He had not the slightest troubled by the sun, pushed over difficulty in smacking it passed the ball as it came at him from Baynham. That really put the cat Hall, who had been hotly among the pigeons, and there came an immediate response in Then came Mansfield's best which Morton drove a way chance after Fincham having through powerfully, to make a Scanlon Chapman (R) obtained the ball cleverly in a drive which unfortunately flew tackle, tried to do too much, lost straight at the highly capable

DONE BETTER

better, as he should earlier when Now the Town had lost the he met with his head a centre by

Pacey shot over from outside the behind them Mansfield were now looking the more commanding and decisive side. Almost nothing was coming from the Town to conjure up hopes of a recovery, and Let-off for the Town came when indeed, there were some anxious the tall Roy Chapman got up moments at their end, particularly above Fincham to a high ball, and from a corner by Scanlon which was deflected for another on the other flank.

MAKING NO PROGRESS

referee who gave a free-kick not only over the bar but over all, and it was Baynham who ward fall. against McKechnie when it was the stand and out of the ground was next in action, saving

ham helpless. At this stage pulled down by Treharne. From this, McKechnie broke Mansfield were doing much as With barely a minute remaining

they pleased and generally giving the Town the run around.

TOO LATE

From nearly 30 yards Scanlon came within inches of putting on number three with a fierce leftfoot drive to which Baynham dived, but too late. The ball whipped wide of a post. Mansfield continued to do just as they liked, and Baynham saved from Hall after the defence had vielded like butter before a sharp knife. Bramwell did his best to sound a rallying call with a strong run, at the end of which a corner was forced by McKechnie, who took it himself, but Treharne took the ball as O'Rourke challenged.

BRILLIANT ANTICIPATION

Corners were not availing the Town much in face of the brilliant anticipation of Treharne, who was cutting out everything from the wings with deadly accuracy. Not that he was being tested in any

On the other hand, Mansfield were popping them in from almost was playing something of a lone any range, and Scanlon held up hand, tried to improve the situa- his hands in disbelief when one tion with a solp run, but his from him from 25 yards clipped finishing was tame and Treharne the top of the bar and went over.

was able to watch the ball roll | Walden was the one Luton



Only a great save from Treharne prevented O'ROURKE from levelling the scores just after the start of the second half.

Left LUTON TOWN Right Baynham Bramwell McBain Pacey Fincham Morton Weir Reid O'Rourke McKechnie Referee: Mr. G. W. T. Davies (Romford) Hall (B) Wagstaff Govan Chapman (S) Gill Morris Humble Jones Treharne MANSFIELD TOWN Left Right

forward line in an effort to Result: improve matters, but to me they looked well past mending.

Fine work by Bramwell spoiled in the end by over-cleverness gave Wagstaff a chance of increasing Now Mansfield had gained the Mansfield lead, but he shot offside at the end of promising had a corner from which Morton, control of the middle of the straight at Baynham, Bramwell then came head well back, from the fringe field, so that the Town were suffered the penalty by being another queer decision by the of the penalty area, sent the ball making almost no progress at injured as the result of an awk-

Hope had long since disintehandled the ball, which drew a ton then stepped in in timely Walden tried to improve mat- grated so far as the Town were fashion after Hall had been left ters for the Town with a centre concerned, and they had been again with a clear run to goal and to Reid, who was too slow, and reduced to pretty much of a had not made the most of it. finally found himself confronted shambles this half. Just nothing After another spell of inac- with three defenders. Then worthwhile was coming now, and curacy by the Town, Mansfield another mistake by Fincham let it was no wonder that there was came near to taking the lead in Roy Chapman and should a general movement homeward inadvertently when McBain made have led to another Mansfield by the people on the terraces. A what cannot be called otherwise goal, because Wagstaff was left movement between Walden and than a sketchy back-pass which with an excellent chance but his Reid raised late hopes, but the beat Baynham and the near post shot skimmed the bar with Bayn- centre from the former was again

forward who looked as if he might Weir missed the chance of the provide some salvation, but he match when left, by a pass from was not receiving an adequate Pacey, with only Treharne to beat. service. When he did receive a Instead of making certain by workable pass he produced a crashing the ball in he poked it drive that Treharne saved tamely at the goalkeeper and so brilliantly at the foot of a post. put out of court any question of Fincham was now up in the a dramatic last-minute rally. LUTON 0 MANSFIELD 2