

Town Take Honey Of A Point From The Bees

INJURY CHECKS O'ROURKE

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By CHILTERN

THE mystery about Brentford's line-up against Luton Town this afternoon was not resolved finally until half an hour before kick-off time.

Then, it became known that Jimmy Bloomfield, their star signing of the summer from Birmingham, had not recovered sufficiently from a calf injury to go into the team.

This was a marked disappointment for the Brentford fans, because Bloomfield began his career at Griffin Park as a youngster and went on to Arsenal before moving to the Midlands.

Brentford are reputed to have paid £10,000 to get him back, and hope that he will be the means of welding this big-name forward line together.

In the circumstances, Billy McAdams the Irish international who was due to lose his place and Bloomfield been fit, came in at inside-right.

On the other hand, in the course of a busy morning, Brentford had some good luck, because Dai Ward, their Welsh international, and former Watford inside-forward passed a fitness test.

Brentford were not alone in

BRENTFORD: Brodie; Jones, Thomson; Scott; Gelson, Higginson; Lazarus, McAdams, Bonson, Ward, Fielding.
LUTON TOWN: Baynham; McBain, Bramwell; Pacey, Fincham, Lownds; Riddick, McKechnie, O'Rourke, Reid, Whittaker.
Referee: G. D. Roper, Cambridge.

having injury worries, because the Town were without their major capture of the close season Billy Hails, who has ankle trouble. Before the match trainer Frank King told me that the joint is still very painful.

So, there was an unexpected surprise at outside-right for Gordon Riddick, who has developed into something of a utility player and has now ample most forward positions. The Town had quite a strong following, including coaches up by the Bobbers Stand and Supporters Club.

The pitch was hard and showed signs of the recent drought, there being brown patches in places. Two good luck telegrams were received by the Town before the match. They were from Bob

Morton, who graced this team for so many years, and from the Bedfordshire Football Association.

Dave Pacey captained the team as he did in the latter part of last season.

Town were all in white, even to stockings.

It was a close, humid sort of afternoon, and estimates of the crowd put it at about 9,000.

Pacey won the toss without gaining any noticeable advantage, because there was no wind or sun.

O'ROURKE TAKES HIS CHANCE

In the first minute, the Town went for a goal, up through O'Rourke, who went through a huge yawning gap in the Brentford defence, chasing a through pass by Whittaker. In desperation, Brodie came a couple of yards outside his penalty area in an effort to dispossess the onrushing centre-forward, but O'Rourke kept his head with commendable coolness, side-footed the ball past the goalkeeper, and it rolled into the net without anyone being able to do anything about it.

This was a great start, and there could have been further trouble for Brentford had O'Rourke received a kinder pass of the ball from Reid.

Then, Town's lively leader forced a corner, but without avail.

After this, Brentford began to settle down, and launched a couple of raids, which were staved off by staunch defensive measures. Brentford won a corner when a centre by Lazarus cannoned off Bramwell, against whom an appeal for hands was disallowed.

Then, a bad pass by Whittaker put the Town in trouble, because the ball went straight to McAdams, but the Brentford man shot weakly, and Baynham was able to win the ball go wide.

Back came the Town to win a corner through McKechnie, who jumped higher than Gelson to meet Whittaker's cross and send the ball high and wide.

PACEY TWICE PENALISED

The referee penalised Pacey for a foul on Ward, and this took Brentford on to the attack again, and Fincham had to concede a corner.

Pacey was again penalised, unmistakably this time, for a late tackle on Bonson, who had eluded McBain, but the free kick, taken by Fielding, was firmly headed away by Fincham.

Another corner to Brentford, who were looking increasingly dangerous, brought a header by Ward that flashed the ball just too high.

O'Rourke got up limping from a crunching sort of tackle, and then there was a free kick to the Town for a tackle by Jones on Whittaker, who, however, escaped injury.

O'Rourke, though was not so lucky, because his right leg was injured, and there was a sprain while he received attention. This seemed to have a required effect, because he is able to continue, though with a distinct hobble.

BRENTFORD GET AN EQUALISER

There was a narrow escape for the Town when Ward sent the ball dangerously across the face of the goal, but no-one on either side was able to make contact with it.

With 19 minutes gone, the Town's lead slipped away when BONSON firmly headed in a corner kick well placed by Fielding.

In this instance, there was some evidence of lack of cover in the Town defence, for Baynham, who had come out, never really seemed to have a chance of reaching the ball.

Brentford's confidence increased, and they swarmed to the attack. It was a sticky period for the Town, but luckily for them, Ward squandered a chance by missing his kick completely.

Brentford had gained the upper hand now, and Baynham was unable to prevent a back-pass by Fincham crossing the line for a corner kick, which he cleared somewhat fortuitously.

Certainly, Brentford were moving the ball about more effec-



Town centre-forward JOHN O'ROURKE scored one of the first goals of the new football season, when he put the Town ahead in the opening minute of the game.

tively now, and the Town were having something of a struggle.

Then, suddenly the Town threw off the shackles that Brentford had been threatening to put on to them and broke away to regain the lead.

Reid began it with a move in midfield, during which Whittaker, out on the right, literally took the ball from his feet to switch the point of attack. The winger then pushed the ball through to McKECHNIE, who let fly left-footed, and the ball went in past Brodie, who was probably badly unsighted.

There was very nearly another goal shortly after this when Bramwell made an excursion down the left wing to make a centre that was nudged by Gelson marginally wide of the oncoming Riddick.

Meanwhile, O'Rourke appeared to be in a certain amount of trouble following his injury, which had certainly slowed him down considerably and blunted his effectiveness.

Even so, the Town kept on the attack, but without being able to bother Brodie, who was now wearing a cherry-coloured jersey cap.

With 32 minutes gone, O'Rourke went to the trainer's bench for further attention. This was not unexpected, because it was obvious that he was labouring under a considerable handicap.

After a short absence, O'Rourke returned with his right ankle strapped up. It seemed a bad omen for the Town.

Initially, he went to outside-right with Riddick inside and McKechnie at centre-forward.

Panic stations in the Brentford defence caused Thomson to give away a corner when harassed by McKechnie. Reid went over to take it left-footed, but there was a ricochet off the hunched Brentford defenders, and the ball went wide of Whittaker.

LET-OFF FOR THE TOWN

A sudden sortie by Brentford brought a mix-up in Town's defence, but McAdams hooked the ball inches wide—which was a fortunate circumstance, because no-one was correctly positioned.

Ward, who had been having something of a feud with Baynham, was spoken to by the referee for an unfair charge on the goalkeeper. Soon after, Baynham

threw himself in vain across his goal in an effort to cut out a low cross by Fielding, which fortunately went wide of the far post. Then, Lownds came in for a word from the referee for a foul on Lazarus, but the free-kick was speedily cleared by Pacey.

From this, the Town broke away, and O'Rourke was in the wars again, this time damaging his left shoulder in a clash with Thomson. Half-time:

BRENTFORD 1
LUTON TOWN 2

At half-time Manager Bill Harvey told me that O'Rourke had received a nasty kick behind his right ankle. "He is coming out again, but he will be ineffective," he said.

When the second half began, O'Rourke lined up at outside-right, with McKechnie still in the middle, and with O'Rourke obviously in considerable pain, the Town faced an uphill battle to retain their slender lead.

No sooner had the second half begun than there were further casualties. Scott and Riddick collided, and both had to have attention.

Of the two, the Luton player seemed to be the more hurt, but he seemed to throw off the effects quickly.

Even with their handicap, the Town kept in the game firmly, and, in fact, it was some minutes before Brentford were able to mount an attack. When it came, it was stopped by means of a strong tackle by Fincham on Bonson.

Back came the Town, and Reid, somewhat tardily in releasing the ball, was obstructed by Fielding, who had come back to challenge. However, nothing developed, because Pacey's free kick went across the face of the goal for a goal-kick.

Coolness by Pacey saved a difficult situation in front of Town's goal when Brentford swung to the attack.

Clever work by Riddick and McKechnie enabled the Town to make ground, but unfortunately the inside man snibbed the ground



Town inside-right TOMMY McKECHNIE, regained the lead for his side with a well-placed goal in the 27th minute.

How The Goals Came

O'ROURKE for Luton after one minute.
BONSON for Brentford after 19 minutes.
McKECHNIE for Luton after 27 minutes.
BONSON for Brentford after 55 minutes.

as he made his shot, and the ball barely rolled to Brodie.

A corner came to Brentford when a shot by McAdams rebounded off someone's legs, and in the end, Riddick came out bravely with the ball to relieve the pressure.

BONSON GETS HIS SECOND

Free kicks in quick succession against Riddick and Bramwell put Brentford on top again, and Baynham did well to pull down a first time shot by Fielding.

But the pressure was on, and Brentford equalised after 55 minutes through BONSON.

It was the result of a high, swinging centre by Fielding, to which Baynham came out without being able to cut off the ball. Instead, a melee developed in front of the Town's goal.

A couple of attempts to clear failed, and Bonson turned the ball in from close range.

After this, with the crowd roasting on Brentford, the Town were in considerable trouble, and even right-back Jones joined in the attack to test Baynham from inside the penalty area.

LUCKY ONE-HANDED SAVE BY BAYNHAM

With the pressure increasing, Baynham kicked behind to prevent Lazarus fastening on to a through pass, and then made a remarkable but lucky one-handed save from Scott after he had failed to cut out the cross.

Then, the goalkeeper showed that his confidence in dealing with crosses had not disappeared by hanging on to a well-placed corner by Fielding.

At this stage, there was a lot of niggling between the players. Much of which went unnoticed by the referee, and there seemed to be the definite ingredients of a rough house.

Meanwhile, play had swung entirely in Brentford's favour, and it was a case now of the Town's hanging on and bolstering up their defence in an effort to remain on level terms.

Baynham was now coming into his own, and a consequence, he he dived in thrilling fashion to cut out a hard centre by Bonson, and once again had to elude an obstructive challenge by Ward.

The Town came back briefly as an attacking force, but it fizzled out when a long-range effort by Reid went tamely wide.

TOWN IN ENDLESS TROUBLE

A free kick from which Lazarus crossed the ball had the Town in endless trouble, and Baynham, scurrying about his goalmouth, made a brilliant deflection which ended the immediate danger.

Intense pressure on the Town goal followed, but do-or-die tactics got them out of trouble for the moment, and then came a sharp breakaway in which Riddick

tried to find O'Rourke, who had moved momentarily into the middle, but the ball ran too far for him.

From this, there came a burst by Brentford in which Lazarus hit the side netting, and to the surprise of everyone, the referee gave a corner. Fincham cleared, however.

AN ESCAPE FOR BRENTFORD

Brentford enjoyed an escape when Riddick cleverly beat Jones to switch the ball to Reid, from whose centre Whittaker shot, first time for the ball to ricochet for a corner off Gelson.

The kick brought a certain amount of trouble, too, but the ball went nearest to O'Rourke, whose injury did not permit his moving to it quickly enough.

For a time, the Town's attack came back into it, and their overworked defence was able to have a breather.

Lownds shot wide from 20 yards following a short pass by O'Rourke, and then McKechnie, after beating two opponents, in a narrow space, tried to lay on an opening for Riddick, for whom the ball ran too fast.

A centre by Whittaker went just too high for Riddick's head, but the encouraging thing was that the Town had thrown off the stranglehold which Brentford had taken.

Inevitably Brentford had to come back into it, but they were not looking so dangerous now, and Baynham's only task was to stop at the near post a shot by Lazarus. Then a mis-kick by Pacey inside his own penalty area looked ominous until Baynham summed up the situation quickly and snatched the ball away.

Then followed a sharp breakaway by the Town in which Higginson narrowly escaped putting into his own goal as he attempted to head back to Brodie after O'Rourke had crossed the ball with his left foot.

GREAT SAVE BY BAYNHAM

The ball returned to the Town's end again, and Baynham made a great save, pushing the ball over the bar following a pidedriver from Lazarus, on whom Bramwell had missed his tackle. Baynham dealt with the corner kick brilliantly, and in clearing set the Town on the move again, but Riddick was fouled. McBain took the free kick, but did not judge it well because the ball went over the top.

Whittaker hit the side-netting in another Town raid, sparked off by McKechnie and Riddick.

With just under five minutes left, Brentford had another goal

on the attack, but were driven off. Then, in almost the last minute, there was a let-off at the Town end, when McAdams slammed the ball wide from a good position.

Result:
BRENTFORD 2
LUTON TOWN 2