

Town Have The Play —But Let Posh Share The Points

By CHILTERN
LUTON TOWN 1, PETERBOROUGH 1

ALTHOUGH there was a report from the Club's officers that all centre stand seats had been sold, the crowd at Kenilworth-road on a bright sunny afternoon was disappointingly small when the teams came out some eight minutes before the scheduled time of kick-off.

Yet Peterborough had brought a considerable following and the pattern of recent matches had been that the terraces filled up in the last few minutes before the start.

After their gallant fight against Aston Villa in the League Cup on Wednesday, Town were unchanged. Mark Lownds, now recovered from the ankle injury that kept him out of the match, was a spectator, with Tony Knights continuing at left-half.

In fact, this was the first League appearance for the former Grimsby player for the Town, although he has played in the two League Cup ties this season.

On the other hand, Peterborough, who took their team apart particularly in attack for their mid-week game at Leicester, made one alteration. This entailed the return to English football of Nigel Sims, who spent the summer playing in Canada for Toronto City.

Sims is a highly-experienced goalkeeper who played for Wolves before going to Aston Villa with whom he earned a cup-winners' medal in 1957.

The early morning rain had had little effect on the pitch except to give it a slightly greener look. It was obvious that the same conditions that have been obtained in the first five weeks of the season, a hard ground and a lively ball, would be present again.

TOWN START WITH ATTACK

The Town went on to the attack from the start. Whittaker wasted a free kick, then slack defensive work gave Pleat a chance to shoot from just outside the penalty area. Sims made a fumbling sort of save of what should have been a comfortable enough task.

Reid tried a long-range shot which trickled at least two yards wide.

Sims, out on the penalty spot, saved well when Pacey came through and there was evidence that in these opening stages, at any rate, Peterborough were going to play it canny with their forwards funnelling back into defence when danger threatened.

With seven minutes gone there came a full-blooded shot from Crawford, which Baynham, moving quickly to his left, held with some difficulty. Then the goalkeeper was in action again diving at the feet of Deakin, who raced through after a pass by Dougan and might have scored had he not been unintentionally obstructed by McBain.

At the other end Sims dived spectacularly after an attempt to head clear by Rankmore had gone in the wrong direction. The tempo was beginning to increase.

SIMPLE GOAL GIVES PETERBOROUGH LEAD

With 10 minutes gone Peterborough took the lead through MOULDEN and the goal came, as they so often do, in simple style.

Singleton took a free kick deep in his own half. The ball went to Deakin who tried a shot at goal but miskicked.

Baynham had the weak effort covered but Moulden nipped in to deflect it and leave the goalkeeper helpless.

There was an immediate reaction from the Town with Pleat bringing the best out of Sims with a firm header from a centre by O'Rourke.

A corner on the left to Town brought a long, swinging cross from Whittaker. Sims fisted the ball out to Pacey, who shot first time—and was unfortunate enough to find the referee directly in the line of flight.

A drive by Reid met a similar fate, though this time it was Walker who provided the obstruction. Pleat came to the touchline to have his right leg massaged.

Peterborough were now looking the more dangerous, principally because they were



O'ROURKE
Scored opportunist goal after seven minutes of second half.

pally because they were more accurate with their passing.

There was an appeal for a penalty as Rankmore appeared to handle a bouncing centre from Whittaker but the referee waved play on. A minute later they were awarded a free kick some five yards outside the penalty area.

LUCKY CLEARANCE

Reid pushed the ball to McKechnie whose shot threaded its way through a crowd of players and was on the point of going in—with O'Rourke following up to make sure—when Sims stuck out a foot to make a lucky clearance.

There was heavy Town pressure during which Pleat, hemmed in by three defenders, gained a corner from which O'Rourke headed wide.

At the Town end Deakin crossed the ball dangerously, but Pacey stepped in to clear. Seconds later Moulden headed inches wide of a post.

Whittaker, sent away by O'Rourke, gained a corner to put Town back on to the attack, but although Pleat returned the ball accurately into the goalmouth, the tall Singleton easily beat Whittaker in the air.

Just about everything the Town were attempting in attack was breaking down. They were showing little in the way of punch and Sims was marking his debut by taking complete control of the penalty area.

PASSES GOING ASTRAY

Town were guilty of a stream of misplaced passes. Reid produced three in quick succession that went straight to the opposi-

tion. Not that he was the only one, because the ball was mostly going anywhere but where it was intended.

A quick breakaway by Peterborough should have brought another goal, but Moulden, running in quickly to point-blank range, and with Baynham drawn out of position, sent the ball wide.

Although Town were having more of the play they were doing nothing to suggest that they would get goals. The only member of the front line who looked as if he might fulfil expectations in this direction was Pleat.

From a long free-kick by Whittaker, Pleat headed in but Sims made another bright save, deflecting the ball. Then the goalkeeper came out confidently to cut off the corner by the right-winger.

With less of the play, Peterborough were creating the better chances, and Moulden again shot wide from close range. With a little more steadiness he could have had a hat-trick in the first 40 minutes.

IRONICAL CHEERS

Baynham went down to catch a centre by Barnes and there were the now customary ironical cheers when the clearance went to Pleat. The Town forward showed a clean pair of heels to Birks and made a slanting cross-shot that Sims could not reach, but which flew wide of the far post.

Just before the interval Baynham made a somewhat sketchy two-footed clearance from Barnes, who had switched into the inside-left position, and then a crashing shot by Dougan hit the side netting. Half-time:

LUTON TOWN 0
PETERBOROUGH 1

Town began the second half, as they did the first, on the attack.

With Sims beaten this time, O'Rourke headed just wide from a long free-kick.

Pleat still looked the one forward who might rescue the Town. He moved across field into the inside-left position and made a good opening for himself but his shot went wide.

With seven minutes of the second half gone, the Town at last sparked into action, O'ROURKE putting them level with an opportunist goal from a through pass by Pacey.

BRUSHED OFF STRONG CHALLENGE

The ball came quickly out of defence, and O'Rourke, showing considerable determination, brushed off a strong challenge by two defenders and planted the ball firmly into the corner of the net, beating Sims's dive.

This goal certainly livened up the Town. A wild shot by Pacey went high and wide, wasting a reasonable chance from Whittaker's cross.

Bramwell and Barnes collided in front of the trainers' bench and the Peterborough player

How The Goals Came

MOULDEN for Peterborough after 10 minutes.
O'ROURKE for Luton after 52 minutes

stayed down on the ground for attention.

As it turned out, he was apparently only winded and I thought it was less than Bramwell deserved when a free kick was given against him, because the incident looked purely accidental.

Peterborough came back after this and Crawford flashed the ball uncomfortably close to a post.

SLOW HANDCLAP FOR REFEREE

Some "needle" was creeping into the game, and the referee was given a slow handclap when he awarded Peterborough a free kick after it seemed that McKechnie had been the one to be fouled.

A chance of putting the Town ahead was missed by Pleat, after Whittaker and McKechnie had cleared a way through on the left wing. Standing on the six yard line and with time to control the ball, he elected to shoot first time and sent it wide.

Right	LUTON TOWN				Left
	Baynham				
	McBain	Bramwell			
	Pacey	Fincham	Knights		
Pleat	McKechnie	O'Rourke	Reid	Whittaker	
Referee: Mr. R. V. Spittles (Great Yarmouth)					
Crawford	Deakin	Dougan	Moulden	Barnes	
	Rankmore	Walker	Crowe		
	Birks	Singleton			
	Sims				
Left	PETERBOROUGH UNITED				Right

The referee spoke to Walker after he had charged O'Rourke, but Bramwell placed the free-kick badly and Sims watched the ball sail wide.

Free-kicks were becoming frequent as play took on a scrappy nature. From one, Crawford hit the ball smartly on the volley but Baynham was well positioned to make a safe catch.

Town had the ball in the net through O'Rourke, but the goal was disallowed because, according to the signs made by the referee, the centre-forward had used his hand.

It was still anybody's game, with neither set of forwards really threatening to set things alight.

NOT MUCH IN THE PICTURE

Peterborough came back but with Dougan not much in the picture, they were not all that dangerous. Their only shot for some time came from Crowe and Baynham was able to watch it go past the post.

Pleat beat Birks and with some difficulty crossed the ball to produce a sudden flurry in front of the Peterborough goal. Whittaker made a determined effort to reach the ball, but was beaten not only through force of numbers but by the height of the visiting defenders.

In a sudden surge from Peterborough, Barnes put over a hard centre that Baynham flicked away in somewhat sketchy fashion.

Pleat took a corner with his left foot, but failed to get either height or direction and the ball went tamely past the near post.

It seemed as if stalemate had been reached, with neither team looking incisive enough in attack to score again.

McBAIN CLEARED EASILY

There was one near thing at the Town end when Dougan sent away Barnes whose centre eluded Baynham, but McBain was well positioned and cleared easily.

McBain was on the spot again to clear a corner from Crawford, but only at the expense of another. This came across unerringly to Barnes, who swinging away hopefully, crashed the ball well wide.

The Town forwards had fallen away again and it was now Peterborough who were having more of the play. In a snap raid, Bramwell stuck out a long leg to reach a through pass. Fortunately the ball went wide of the goal. Had the deflection been on target Baynham would have been able to do nothing about it.

Town hit back and there was a scuffle in front of the Peterborough goal after the ball had come across from Pleat, with both Whittaker and McKechnie finding their attempts to round off the movement frustrated.

A free-kick when Dougan was



BAYNHAM
held a full-blooded shot early in the game.

brought down put Peterborough on the attack again, only for Baynham, beset by opponents, to do extremely well to pull down the ball from Singleton.

The crowd roared again, but in disbelief this time, as the referee gave Peterborough a free-kick when it seemed plain, to me anyway, that McKechnie had been obstructed as he tried to force a way through the crowded penalty area. Result:

LUTON TOWN 1
PETERBOROUGH 1