

SAVED POINT WITH LUCK OF FINAL DRAMA

GRIMSBY TOWN 2, LUTON TOWN 2

BLUNDELL PARK, the home of Grimsby Town, has never been a very lucky place for the Town but they had their share this afternoon in gaining a point in what can only be described as a dramatic finish.

It was an untidy sort of game, with neither team wholly solving the problems presented in this Indian summer of rock-hard grounds and a lively ball which is always apt to do something unpredictable.

For a long time, play went on in an indistinguished fashion, with Grimsby holding a one-goal lead given them after 19 minutes always seeming to have the edge but never quite able to press home their advantage.

Then, with the game entering its final phase, things suddenly began to happen. First, O'Rourke kept up his recent average of a goal a match in the 72nd minute, only for the Town's hopes of saving the game to be blasted two minutes later. That seemed to be that, because Grimsby seemed to be coasting home until two minutes from the end, when the Town had a huge slice of fortune when a shot by Whittaker was deflected into his own net by the hapless Cockerill.

So the Town come away with a highly satisfactory point from the League leaders, but with still some queries about certain positions.

I would not call this a positive display, and my immediate feeling is that Grimsby have only themselves to blame for yielding a point which will probably cost them the leadership.

At the same time, there must be praise for the way in which the Town kept at their task, but once again, despite their two goals, they showed insufficient driving power at close quarters.

O'Rourke, who finished the game limping, was again in need of better support than came his way, and there must be some attempt to create better openings for this undoubted match-winner.

On the whole, the Town attack worked mostly in fits and starts, and there was no progressive cohesion in the front line. Riddick made some neat touches without being consistent, and Reid's main value was in the work he did in a deep-lying position.

Pleat began as if he might win the game off his own bat and, indeed, in the first 20 minutes I thought the Town were coming in to meet the ball with much more resolution than had been the case recently.

That first Grimsby goal rather blunted their enthusiasm but although Grimsby looked the more dangerous, they, too, did not have the killer instinct in front of goal.

While the Town defence did not look completely happy under pressure, and gaps appeared in the middle occasionally, as when the second goal came, they did stick to their guns gallantly enough.

McBain and Bramwell cut down the danger from two nippy wingers and although Fincham was pulled out of

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LUCK SAVES POINT

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position at times, he came through pretty well from battle with the tall McLean.

Pacey began brightly but is still not as dominant a can be, but there was the usual whole-hearted display of Lownds. Baynham could not be faulted with either but I was not too happy two or three times in the first about the way in which he left his goal when the always seemed to be beyond his reach.

In football, the result is the thing that matters, an point gives the Town a useful start to their difficult four away matches.

Attendance: 8,555.