

Baynham Again Gives Valiant Display

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 1, GILLINGHAM 0

WITH disappointing efficiency, the weather killed any prospect that there might have been of the Town drawing a bigger-than-average gate for their home Cup-tie with Gillingham this afternoon. In fact, I can seldom recall seeing Kenilworth-road terrace so thinly populated for a first-team game. The covered parts of the ground were not too badly patronised, and it was obvious that Gillingham had brought a considerable following.

When the teams came out, rain was pelting down, the pitch was rapidly approaching a waterlogged condition, and altogether it was a most

TEAMS

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; McBain, Jardine; Pacey, Caleb, Reid; Pleat, Riddick, McKechnie, Rioch, Whittaker.
GILLINGHAM: Simpson; Hudson, Hunt; Arnott, Burgess, Farrall; Newman, Gibbs, Green, Rackstraw, Meredith.

uncomfortable scene. The floodlights came on before the start, though they were not due to have been switched on until the second half.

There had been a considerable reshuffle of the Town team which affected six positions and brought in Pacey, McKechnie and Whittaker compared with last week's side.

Reid, who retained the captaincy, was at left-half for the first time, and Pacey joined Baynham as the only remaining member of the 1959 cup final team.

It was not until just before kick off time that Gillingham decided on their final line-up and then it was learnt that Gibbs, their leading scorer, had recovered sufficiently from a knee injury to play at inside-right, and had Newman as his partner instead of Godfrey, whom it was expected would play on the right wing.

TOWN MAKE LIVELY START

There was a lively start in which the Town moved with more ability than was the case last week. Conditions were far from easy, with the ball skidding off the treacherous surface.

Rioch shot well over from 25 yards following a centre from Reid, but it was refreshing to see someone willing to have a crack at goal.

There was very nearly a goal when Whittaker came right into the middle to collect a pass by Riddick, but with a proportion of the crowd, including myself, thinking the ball was in the net, Simpson made a dive to his left, just grabbed it and got up plastered from head to foot in mud.

Already, there was some needle in the play, and Jardine was pulled up for obstruction on Newman, but the free kick brought nothing.

BRILLIANT WORK BY RIOCH

Brilliant footwork by Rioch, the youngest player on the field, put the Town on the attack again, but unfortunately the movement was too close, giving Gillingham time to cover up before Rioch got through.

Nearest approach to a goal came at the Town end in a sharp break away. The ball was pushed through to Green, and Baynham came out of the goal to throw himself at the feet of the centre-forward, who shot only inches wide.

McBain was injured in a scrummage but was quickly all right again after treatment from trainer Charlie Watkins.

McKechnie, after beating Burgess cleverly, was pulled down from behind but it brought no more than a gentle finger wagging from the referee.

Then, McBain was in the wars again, this time with a cut head after a collision with Farrell and went to the trainer's bench for attention.

Left with ten men, the Town had to regroup their forces, and were put under pressure. A corner was cleared brilliantly by Pacey, now at right-back, and then he conceded a free kick for a foul on Meredith, but Baynham came to the rescue with a splendid catch.



Inside-right Gordon Riddick deservedly put Town in the lead after 25 minutes with a well-taken goal following a corner kick.

Certainly, the Town were in more lively vein, and, even though handicapped, launched an attack which brought a corner on the right through Pleat. This was punched away somewhat sketchily.

Immediately afterwards, McBain returned and took up his own position at right-back.

GILLINGHAM PACK THEIR DEFENCE

Whenever any measure of Town pressure threatened, Gillingham packed their defence, the inside-forwards and wingers coming back as reinforcements.

McKechnie made a determined effort to break through before being stopped by weight of numbers. This game was being punctuated by free kicks.

McKechnie was getting some rough usage. He beat Burgess but appeared then to be fouled.

In the next minute, much to the anger of the crowd, Gillingham were given a free-kick from which Baynham saved a header by Newman. Free kicks were coming thick and fast.

The Town were finding it difficult to make progress against these defensive measures in depth.

Riddick made a great attempt to put the Town into the lead with a drive from 25 yards after a solo run which Simpson reached at the last split second and put over the bar.

The corner deservedly brought a goal to the Town through RIDDICK. Town's inside-right moved quickly as the ball fell loose in the penalty area, and in the face of a strong tackle rammed it into the back of the net, putting the Town in the lead after 25 minutes.

BAYNHAM TO TOWN'S RESCUE

There was certainly plenty of life and incident, and it took a magnificent save by Baynham to keep the Town in front when Powell got in a pile-driver from the edge of the penalty area.

Again, Baynham saved the situation when Gibbs broke right through, clear of all opposition. The clearance was completed by Caleb, who pushed the ball back to the goalkeeper as it broke loose for a moment.

Gillingham were hitting back with all the force in their possession, and Baynham was hurt after pushing over the bar an awkward centre from Newman.

He was soon all right, but was fouled in preparing to cut out a corner kick.

Next casualty was Pleat, hurt in a tackle by Hunt. Pleat was able to resume, and then Burgess was spoken to by the referee after a foul on McKechnie.

This fast-moving Gillingham team hit back, but had a goal disallowed when Green beat Baynham to a cross by Newman, only to be given offside.

This game was beginning to be strewn with injuries, mostly to the Town, and McBain went off for the second time for treatment.

HARD CUT AND THRUST

However, he was back again in time for a corner kick to Gillingham. When the ball came over, Baynham, who was showing

positions got Gillingham out of trouble.

There was a helping hand from the referee when Riddick got off the ground with mud in his eye. He got out a handkerchief to clear the trouble.

For McKechnie, this was a particularly tough match. He was left flat in the mud after a tackle by Burgess.

Certainly, this was a vastly different Town we were seeing today, with more fighting spirit and making much better use of the ball.

Whittaker gained a corner which he did not place well, and from it, Gillingham started another attack, which was thwarted by Reid.

BRILLIANT RUN BY PLEAT

Pleat who had been having a quiet game, sparked into life with a brilliant run, laying on a chance for McKechnie, but the centre-forward was too slow. All he got was a corner, which was unproductive.

Gillingham should have had an equaliser when Pacey made only a half-clearance, but Rackstraw, from only ten yards out, shot much too wide.

In the next minute, the Town escaped again when Farrell shot well wide of Baynham, but McBain was on the goal-line to stop the ball, which was eventually scrambled away.

There was no let up in the pace over this muddy battle, but Gillingham were now trying all they knew in order to snatch an equaliser.

They gained a corner, and there were nine of their players around the Town penalty area. This was followed by a quick break by Riddick, who gained a corner kick to give relief to the hard-pressed Town defence.

TOWN HAVING A LOT OF LUCK

Once again Baynham was in large measure Town's saviour. He made a near-miraculous save, throwing himself to the right from a shot from Newman.

Certainly, the Town were having their full share of luck, and when Meredith whipped the ball low across the face of the goal, Gibbs stuck out a foot. Back it came into play to be put briskly up the field by Jardine.

McKechnie then made a brave attempt to get the goal the Town so badly needed. He set off on a solo run but took the ball just too far, and was foiled by Simpson, who was injured in his effort.

The Town were in a certain amount of trouble at this stage, and were not helped with a free-kick for a foul by Jardine.

Baynham again came to the rescue to save from Meredith, who weaved through cleverly. At this stage, the Town's slender lead was hanging by a thread.

Baynham was again in action saving from Green, who was so thickly plastered with mud that the number on his back was completely indiscernible.

Simpson was in action pulling down a centre from Whittaker, with McKechnie challenging, but the more consistent pressure was coming from Gillingham, who were being kept out only by some stringent measures by the Town defence.

BAYNHAM CONSTANTLY IN ACTION

Again, Baynham went full-length to keep out a drive,

How The Goals Came

RIDDICK for Luton Town after 25 minutes.

this time from Farrall, who was often a sixth forward and who was playing an increasing part in this match.

Baynham was constantly in action now, and again he went full-stretch to save from Newman.

Hands against McBain, a decision with which the crowd disagreed, kept Gillingham on the attack.

Another free kick came their way when Pleat was penalised for a foul on Mere-



Back to the first team after a spell in the Reserves came wing-half Dave Pacey this afternoon. The experienced Pacey, who replaced Mark Lownds, was captain at the start of the season.

dith. Again Baynham was there to leap high above a crowd of players to pull the ball out of the air.

RIDDICK CAUGHT OFFSIDE

Then, in a quick break by the Town, Riddick was caught just offside after he had been left with a clear run from a pass from McKechnie.

Now we had that unutterable nuisance of toilet rolls being thrown into the Town goalmouth, and the referee took the opportunity to remove some of it while Baynham prepared to take a free kick.

Again McKechnie was shaken up in a tackle by Burgess out on the right wing. There was then some trouble behind the bench on which the Gillingham trainer was sitting, and a couple of policemen and a steward came across to deal with the situation.

As a change from Gillingham pressure, there was a sudden break by Rioch, nearly the length of the field, but he was cut off by Simpson. Then Pleat had the

cruellest of luck, for, after beating Simpson, the ball hit a post. It rebounded, but Simpson recovered quickly and smothered his shot.

There was then a corner to Town from which Pacey headed over.

TOWN MOVE ON TO ATTACK

Gillingham escaped again as Town fought back and a centre by Pleat sailed across their goal. Pacey gathered a clearance to shoot wide from 25 yards.

The Town were more in it now, but Pleat was pulled down just outside the penalty area. The winger's free kick went across the goal with no-one near enough to meet it.

The Town had now pulled back Whittaker from the forward line into defence, which was obviously sound policy at this late stage.

Baynham came in for more applause with a brilliant save with a long centre from the right.

With the referee looking at his watch and only seconds remaining, Rackstraw shot over, following a good clearance by Pacey. Result:

LUTON 1
GILLINGHAM 0