

SOME RE-ADJUSTMENT OF IDEAS NEEDED

Or away points will be difficult to come by

By CHILTERN

ALDERSHOT 3, LUTON TOWN 1

ON the somewhat scanty evidence of two matches, it would seem that the Town are going to experience some difficulty in collecting away points in the Fourth Division.

And before they do so, there may well have to be some re-adjustment of ideas and re-thinking to meet the circumstances provided by their new sphere.

So far as I can see, determination and fighting spirit has more value on opponents' grounds than a slavish adherence to an attempt to play pretty football.

In the first half at Aldershot on Saturday, there was some neat mid-field work by the Town, but it was not allied to the punch and drive necessary to bring goals.

On the other hand, Aldershot mainly scorned the niceties and pinned their faith on a series of high, long passes into the penalty area and, of the two methods, theirs paid off the more handsome dividend.

Not that I am advocating that the Town should descend to kick and rush, but it is evident that if the Town are to continue to try to play clever football, it must be done with a greater sense of urgency and with more devil near the penalty area.

Yet, from the way the Town began, I thought that some of their troubles were behind them because despite the unexpected loss of Whittaker, they went a goal ahead after only nine minutes when Jones was caught out of his goal and O'ROURKE's lob curled into the net.

WHITTAKER PULLED
A MUSCLE

Whittaker pulled a thigh muscle in the first minute and the game was only seven minutes old when he limped off and was replaced by Rioch.

Things did not look so bright when KEARNS levelled matters during a goalmouth melee after 16 minutes but the Town were unlucky not to go ahead again when O'Rourke had a goal disallowed after Harber had sent him through. A linesman flagged him for offside and it was a decision which was disputed.

There had been appeals against the Aldershot goal, too, and again when the home team took the lead nine minutes after half-time through HOWARTH.

By then, all the early glitter shown by the Town had worn off badly and Aldershot were mostly in charge of the situation, beginning with their defence's supremacy over the Town attack which faded out completely, and PRISCOTT scored again 15 minutes from the end.

FORWARDS FAILED TO DELIVER

Taken overall, this was a pretty shabby showing by the Town, with the forwards again failing to deliver the goods.

There was an underlying weakness at inside-forward where Reid's distribution was very faulty and McKechnie continually ran into unnecessary trouble.

A combination of lack of support, the strength and experience of Gunter and his own below par form put O'Rourke much in the shade and Rioch was not a really adequate replacement for Whittaker, while Harber received little material.

Woods was not so effective as was his counter-part, especially in the air where Howarth established something of an ascendancy over him and neither Gibson nor Moore was really in command.