

TOWN FAIL BADLY AFTER TAKING AN EARLY LEAD

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Rioch substitutes for Whittaker

By CHILTERN

ALDRESHOT 3, LUTON TOWN 1

THESE days there are few away matches for the Town within easy travelling distance, but this afternoon's encounter at Aldershot came into this category, and there was quite a good and very noisy following for them.

Generally, though, on a dull, but dry, afternoon, the crowd on this rather strange ground, aptly named the Recreation Ground, was small.

Aldershot, after having gained a point at Chesterfield on Monday, were unchanged and included Tony Knights, the left-half to whom the Town gave a free transfer at the end of last season.

On the other hand, the Town had their first change of the season, at outside-right, where Billy Harber, who missed the first two matches because of an ankle injury, came in for Barrie Fry, and it was generally expected that he would add much-needed drive to the forward line.

The pitch looked well, though not so thickly grassed as at Wrexham on Monday, when the thickness of the texture tended to make the ball do unexpected things.

A straw-hatted Town supporter, who had set himself up as cheer leader, joined the Town players in their pre-match kick-about, and was finally politely but firmly escorted off the pitch by a policeman.

As a token of respect to the memory of Mrs. Mitchell, wife of Town Director, Mr. Percy Mitchell, whose funeral took place today, the Town players wore black armbands.

For some reason, Aldershot were late appearing, and in fact were followed almost immediately by the referee, who signalled the captains up for the toss before the home team had done much loosening-up.

Such breeze as there was — and it was only slight — was in the Town's favour.

TOWN MAKE PROGRESS

After an initial Aldershot raid had been broken up, Harber and Whittaker made progress down the right wing, but just when the move began to look promising O'Rourke misjudged his pass, which was intercepted.

With only a minute gone, Whittaker was gingerly rubbing the back of his right thigh, which seemed to indicate a strain or a slight pull, but he carried on without

needing the trainer's attention. Priscott.

A foul by Renwick on Harber brought the Town a free kick 10 yards outside the penalty area, and Thomson placed it so well that Jones, with O'Rourke in close attendance, was glad to punch the ball over his own bar.

Unfortunately, Harber made a hash of the corner kick and then a sliced kick by Jardine put the Town defence in trouble until the left-back atoned by stepping in to push the ball back to Tinsley.

First clear-cut chance fell to O'Rourke when Gibson pushed the ball through temptingly. The centre-forward rounded Gunter, but had to shoot in a hurry and sent the ball much too high.

RIOCH FOR WHITTAKER

With seven minutes gone, the Town made their first substitution of the season, when Whittaker, whom I had mentioned earlier, as seemingly having damaged a thigh muscle, made a signal to the trainer's bench.

The referee consulted the Town captain, Woods, and the upshot was that Rioch, wearing an unnumbered shirt, came on, and Whittaker donned his track suit.

From the Town's point of view, this was unfortunate, because Whittaker had been their most dangerous forward in the previous matches.

Then, the Town broke away to take the lead after nine minutes through O'Rourke. Thomson pushed a shrewd pass down the middle, and O'Rourke found himself on the goal side of Gunter. Jones had come out of his goal, and O'Rourke curled the ball under the bar before the goalkeeper could race back.

TOWN ATTACK IMPRESSES

Town's forward line was moving more effectively than at Wrexham, and there was all-round evidence of a tightening in marking following the manager's edict that there must be man-to-man covering.

After a foul by Thomson, Tinsley made a fine one-handed save from a header by

With 16 minutes gone, Aldershot equalised during a tremendous scrimmage in front of the Town goal.

The start of it all was a cross by Burton who held off a challenge by Moore, and swung across a high centre that Tinsley, possibly impeded,

could not reach.

Woods headed from under the bar, but there began a scramble in which KEARNS smacked the ball into the roof of the net.

A too-short back pass by O'Rourke landed Jardine in trouble and set Aldershot strongly on the attack. Town, however, funnelled back into deep defensive positions.

O'Rourke had a "goal" disallowed for offside, but it must have been a marginal decision.

When the Town replied, Reid floated the ball over, but Harber was out of position, so that Renwick was left with almost a free-kick.

At the other end, Howarth

ALDRESHOT PRESSING HARD

At this stage Aldershot were threatening to take a grip, and less was being seen of the Town attack than in the earlier stages.

Long kicks into the Town's penalty area were proving troublesome, and Woods was forced to head behind to prevent the tall Howarth reaching one from Davies.

O'Rourke fired too high from 20 yards, and then McKechnie tried to beat one opponent too many.

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How the goals came

O'Rourke for Luton after 9 minutes.
KEARNS for Aldershot after 16 minutes.
HOWARTH for Aldershot after 54 mins.
PRISCOTT for Aldershot after 75 minutes.

out-headed Woods, but pulled his shot well wide.

TOWN'S PASSES GOING ASTRAY

Hereabouts, the Town's passes were going sadly astray, and the home defence was not in much trouble.

Reid tried a long-range shot that had little power, and then Thomson joined the attack, but pulled his centre a little too far back for the inside-forwards, and Rioch shot inches too high.

Once again Woods had to concede a corner under pressure. Burton missed a chance to give Aldershot the lead, though there were appeals for a penalty for hands.

Aldershot were pretty much on top now, and after Moore had tried to be too clever and given away a free-kick, a shot by Howfield rebounded off Woods for a corner, which Tinsley caught well.

A corner to Town, but no reward, and then Town had an escape when Burton, from the left wing position, made a low cross to which Tinsley advanced. Before he could make contact, Howarth stuck out a foot, but the ball went just wide of the post.

A better movement by the Town brought a shot from Harber. Half-time:

ALDRESHOT 1
LUTON TOWN 1

A free kick to Aldershot was beaten down by this defensive wall, but Aldershot came again and Howfield made a long-range effort that Tinsley gathered comfortably.

Reid and Rioch changed places but soon reverted to their original positions.

Rioch hung on too long and spoiled a chance for the Town, though it brought a corner, from which O'Rourke scrambled the ball wide.

A header by O'Rourke from a Reid centre landed in the hands of Jones, and then Tinsley had a little more difficulty in pulling down a high log from Knights.

ALDRESHOT TAKE THE LEAD

With 59 minutes gone Aldershot took the lead through HOWARTH after a crossfield pass by Davies had found Howfield completely unmarked.

The winger's centre came across low and the players rushed for the ball, Howarth stuck out a foot and stabbed the ball into the net from close range.

Town appealed in vain for an offside decision.

Little was going right for the Town at this stage, and they were not helping themselves because of the inaccuracy of far too many of their passes.

Gibson was injured in a tackle, but, of course, there was no question of a substitute for him. Happily, he made a quick recovery, and pushed the ball down the middle to Reid, who lobbed it rather tamely into Jones's hands.

TOWN'S DEFENCE IN TROUBLE

Town's defence was tending to be troubled unduly by the long through ball, and Jardine gave away a corner which Tinsley pushed out with some difficulty.

Aldershot were still looking the more dangerous. Howfield, from the inside-right position, took deliberate aim and raised his hands in anguish as he saw the ball go just wide of the far post.

Jardine conceded another corner, which Burton placed so well that Tinsley had to punch over as the bustling Howarth bore in.

Yet another corner followed, this time off the head of Woods, and again Tinsley had to push the ball over to

prevent Burton's inswinger creeping in under the bar.

Relief came from the fourth corner, which Tinsley collected at the second attempt.

A strong and timely tackle by Gibson saved the Town from further disaster when Howarth was going through from what appeared to be an offside position.

O'Rourke is WELL HELD

Not much in the way of a build-up was coming from the Town now. In fact, their forwards were making little impression, and O'Rourke was well held by Gunter.

McKechnie tried a solo run which came to grief near the edge of the penalty area, where he was pulled down from behind. The free-kick was wasted. Reid pushed the ball sideways to Rioch, whose shot was beaten down.

Tinsley had to come racing out of his goal to snatch the ball away from Howfield's feet, and Town had another narrow escape when Burton smashed the ball low across without anyone able to get to it.

In the next minute, Reid was penalised for a foul just

outside the penalty area on the Town's right flank.

Howfield took the kick and it looked harmless enough, with Tinsley shaping to catch it, but PRISCOTT nipped in smartly to head the ball like a rocket into the net. This was after 75 minutes.

Jardine was the next Town player to require attention.

CASE FOR A PENALTY?

Town then broke away, with McKechnie fastening on to a pass by Harber, but he was floored as he closed in from an angle. There seemed a case for a penalty, but the referee decided on an indirect free kick for obstruction, and following it, Gibson shot inches wide.

Tinsley was having a rough time at the moment, and he was charged over again, this time by Howfield.

Vainly the Town hit back, and when the chance of a clear shot did crop up, Harber got in the way of Moore, and finally Rioch put the ball over.

Town just were making no impression on the Aldershot defence. Result:

ALDRESHOT 3
LUTON TOWN 1

He received a facial injury, but was able to resume, although looking shaken.

More trouble developed for Town when Howarth had a goal disallowed for pushing Tinsley, who obviously did not like the treatment. He pushed back at the centre-forward and was himself forcibly landed in the back of the net,



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