

TOWN WERE HARDLY IN THE GAME IN VISIT TO TORQUAY

Powder-puff attack with few ideas

By CHILTERN

TORQUAY 2, LUTON TOWN 0

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AFTER all, Colin Tinsley had recovered sufficiently from the back bruising he received at Brighton on Tuesday to take his accustomed place in Town's goal, so that Tony Read, who was standing by as a replacement, became the substitute. He is a useful one too, because not many clubs can boast of a goalkeeper who can also do a useful turn at centre-forward.

Recovered from injury, Freddie Jardine returned to left-back, which released Gordon Riddick for a more orthodox role at outside-right, though he still has not had a chance in his proper inside-forward position.

With Read out, Jimmy Gibson moved into the middle, where he was expected to play a double spearhead role with Billy Stark, new signing from Colchester, who was making his League debut for the Town.

These were the limit of the Town's changes at Torquay. Though they had three consecutive victories behind them, Torquay introduced former Watford player Eric Burgess at right-back and switched

TEAMS

TORQUAY UNITED: Adlington; Burgess, Brewster; Benson, Smith, Cox; Clarke, Spratt, Northcott, Kirkman, King. Substitute: Bettan.

LUTON TOWN: Tinsley; Thomson, Jardine; Edwards, Rivers, Moore; Riddick, Stark, Gibson, Reid, McKechnie. Substitute: Read.

Referee: W. Clements, West Bromwich.

Alan Smith to centre-half to the exclusion of Bettan, who became the substitute.

Even at this distance, the Town had a band of supporters because a coach run by the Bobbers' Stand and Supporters' Club brought 30. They left Luton at midnight and arrived in Torquay at eight this morning.

On their way back they are to be the guests of the Yeovil Supporters' Club, and are not expected to reach Luton before between five and six tomorrow morning.

PITCH LOOKED DIFFICULT

It was a morning of heavy showers, but the weather cleared by kick-off time, though the sunshine which appeared briefly had gone.

The Town found the pitch hard underneath a slightly soft surface, bumpy and very grassy, and it looked as if ball control would not be easy.

More rain began to fall just as Reid, captaining the Town, won the toss, but there did not seem to be any marked advantage.

In the first minute, there was a shock because Kirkman shook off a tackle by Edwards to cleave a way deep into the Town penalty area, and it required a smart save by Tinsley to prevent a sensational start.

Torquay were certainly looking lively in the opening stages, and Northcott threw himself at a centre by King, but the ball was comfortably handled by Tinsley.

MOORE INSPIRES TOWN ATTACK

The rain had given way to bright sunshine and there was a better move by the Town inspired by Moore, but it broke down before anyone could make a shot.

Then came a couple of narrow escapes at the Town end. The first was when King crashed the ball low across the face of the goal and the second when Northcott headed inches over from Clarke's centre.

Certainly, the Town defence was having its troubles, and it needed a strong, almost

How the goals came

NORTHCOTT for Torquay after 37 minutes.
NORTHCOTT for Torquay after 47 minutes.

Northcott took the longer to recover.

Torquay continued to look the more dangerous, and there was one spell during which the ball bounced disconcertingly back and forth across the Town goal. Nothing came of it, and then Thomson was penalised for a foul on King and received an admonitory wave from the referee.

Tinsley punched King's free kick for a corner, and again cleared, one-handed when Clarke's kick came over.

TOWN HAVING TO DEFEND GRIMLY

At this stage, the Town were forced right back on the defensive and were in a certain amount of trouble and badly needed to re-group their forces.

A casual header straight to an opponent by Gibson did not help matters, and again King swept past Thomson to make a dangerous low centre to which Rivers fortunately got a boot.

In a brief incursion by the Town, Gibson, back in the middle, swung hopefully at a Riddick centre, but the ball went wide. Half-time:

TORQUAY UTD. 1
LUTON TOWN 0

With two minutes of the second half gone, Torquay were two up, with NORTHCOTT again the scorer.

It followed a corner from the right which Clarke placed well. Tinsley went up for it, could not hold it, and the ball ran loose to Northcott, who promptly rammed it in from close range.

Jardine made a do-or-die attempt to prevent the ball crossing the line, but just failed and appeals by the Town against the goal presumably on the grounds that Tinsley had been impeded—which was feasible—were turned down.

TOWN BEING OUTPLAYED
There was no doubt now that the Town were being pretty well outplayed. Spratt cracked in a drive that was so close to the target that it struck the iron support on the wrong side of a post, and then he headed narrowly wide.

At this stage, the Town were making no ground at all, and had been forced back into deep defensive positions. When they did break out they were falling easy victims to a Torquay defence showing few loopholes.

Only a dive at Spratt's feet by Tinsley prevented a third goal after Northcott had beaten Rivers and pushed the ball through.

Obstruction by Edwards on Kirkman gave Torquay an indirect free kick inside the penalty area, and this was headed firmly goalwards by Northcott, only for Tinsley to make a brilliant save by throwing himself full-length to his left.

For a time, the Town had a little the better of matters, but their forwards were getting nowhere. They lacked cohesion, and could not reach comfortable shooting distance.

Stark tried one from nearly 30 yards that Adlington pushed over, but the corner was not productive and when Torquay came out King was fouled by Thomson on the touchline.

MOORE MAKING GREAT EFFORTS

Moore was making strenuous efforts to drive on the Town attack, but was not receiving much response, and in the end it was he himself who came closest to scoring when he went through, only to have his final shot deflected for a corner.



Torquay had lost some of their earlier sparkle, but the Town, whose forwards were still changing about without much effect—Stark was now centre-forward—could not take advantage of it.

Hands by Rivers put Torquay on the attack again, but this was checked, and the Town came away, only to use at least three more passes than were necessary to achieve a limited objective.

Edwards, who was keeping a close watch on Kirkman, saved the situation with a sliding

tackle as the inside-left went racing through from a headed pass by Northcott.

Play was pretty pedestrian now, with no sort of threat to the Torquay lead. In fact, if there were to be more goals they looked like coming from the home team.

LUCKY ESCAPE FOR TOWN

King, who had played an outstanding part, was dead out of luck when he cut in past Thomson to shoot with his



right foot and then watch agonisingly as the ball clipped the outside of the far post and went out of play with Tinsley well beaten.

When Town broke away, Stark tried hard to find a way through before passing to Riddick, whose tame shot was deflected for a corner, but in Adlington, Torquay had a goalkeeper who was dealing most capably with anything in the air.

Then Adlington had a more severe task in diving full-length to a header from Gibson as Stark closed in in the hope of applying the finishing touch.

As good a chance as the Town had had fell to Gibson after Moore had come through with the ball, but the centre-forward's angled shot was pushed away by Adlington, and McKechnie was not quick enough to collect the rebound.

RIVERS INJURED IN TACKLE

With six minutes left, Rivers was injured in a tackle on Northcott, with his left ankle seeming to be the trouble. He recovered, and a substitute was not needed.

Tinsley showed good judgment in pulling down a high free-kick taken by Burgess for a foul by McKechnie.

Town came back in a late bid to try to improve their unenviable position, but Jardine, going up to try to bolster this sagging attack, was obstructed. The free-kick brought nothing, though a half-chance inside the penalty area fell to Edwards. He had raced up quickly, but could not control the awkwardly-bouncing ball.

Then, with time running out, King again got clear and Kirkman only narrowly failed to meet the centre. There was a rare old panic in front of the Town goal, until finally Edwards kicked clear.

In the dying seconds, Town had an indirect free kick inside the Torquay penalty area, but after much directing and disposing of forces, there was complete anti-climax when Riddick, who was taking it, slipped, and the ball rolled gently for a goal kick.

Result:
TORQUAY UNITED 2
LUTON TOWN 0