

# LOWLY PARADERS LET TOWN SLIP OFF

## WITH A POINT

### Tinsley is injured and taken to hospital

By CHILTERN

BRADFORD CITY 2, LUTON TOWN 2

THERE was no doubt that this was a vital match for the Town at Valley Parade, Bradford, this afternoon against bottom-of-the-table Bradford City.

Two more points here would put Town into a highly challenging position in the race for promotion, which is now beginning to develop.

With three consecutive victories behind them, Town were full of confidence, their hopes were boosted by the signing in midweek of Graham French, the former England Youth winger.

French was brought back into the Football League from Southern League club Wellington Town.

He made his debut at outside-right, and this paved the way for the switching of Harber to his old position of inside-left, with Stark taking over the job of substitute.

In the event, there was a mild scare about Harber, who was supposed to travel from St. Pancras this morning on the train which the Town joined at Luton. He was not there, but when the Town arrived at the ground, he was waiting for them, having made the journey by road.

#### TEAM CHANGES

Bradford City, in a bad patch, made changes in an effort to improve matters. These included the moving of Ellam into the attack from left-half, where Smith appeared, and the transfer of Brownlee was recalled to lead the attack.

It was a brilliant day, sunny and crisp. The pitch, which had been well rolled, looked in good condition, but the crowd was very sparse indeed.

This is one of the grounds in which spectators are accommodated only on three sides, the reason being that the stands on the side opposite to the main stand was condemned four or five years ago, and is now closed.

The Town, all in white, were captained, of course, by John Reid, who was appearing against his former club.

A couple of early raids by the City were driven off, on each occasion through free-kicks for fouls. Town made their first break with O'Rourke picking up a long clearance by Tinsley and sending his shot from 20 yards a not too high, with White, the goalkeeper, groping.

Then, French was brought into it. The new man displayed some clever footwork, but it ended with O'Rourke and Read caught off-side.

A foul by Reid on Newton outside the City a free-kick, as the ball came across the penalty area.

Cooper there was an infringement by Brownlee.

#### CITY MISS A GOOD CHANCE

The first real chance of the match fell to City. Reid, clearing for Brownlee, made the mistake of trying to beat an opponent instead of playing safe. He lost possession, and Hall pulled the ball a foot wide with the net yawning in



Town's goalkeeper COLIN TINSLEY was injured in trying to cut out a centre after 34 minutes. He received a severe blow in the head and was taken to hospital for examination.

Tony Read went in goal.

O'Rourke cleverly found French, and a corner was earned but nothing came of it.

A hard tackle by Rivers spoilt an opportunity for Brownlee, though City were certainly playing the better football than the Town, even if only in snatches.

#### EARLY SHOCK FOR THE TOWN

After 12 minutes there came a shock for the Town when the City broke away to take the lead as a result of a couple of defensive errors by the Town.

The ball was played out of a defensive position by Ingle to Hall. Brownlee had come away out of the middle to the right, to be followed by Rivers, whose challenge failed.

This left the centre-forward with the chance to cross the ball into the middle, where

#### TEAMS

**BRADFORD CITY:**  
White; Ingle, Cooper; Stowell, Parry, Smith; forwards from Hall, Hannah, Brownlee, Ellam, Newton, Rodon.  
**LUTON TOWN:** Tinsley; Thomson, Jardine; Reid, Rivers, Moore; French, Read, O'Rourke; Harber, Whittaker. Substitute: Stark.  
Referee: G. W. Grundy, Grimsby.

Moore failed to clear and Ellam was left with an easy chance to beat Tinsley from close range.

This was not the start the Town had contemplated, but they had been slow to settle down. However, they responded strongly. French secured possession and beat two opponents in a narrow space. Unfortunately, when his centre came over, it was too high for Whittaker, who had come in a little too far.

#### MOORE CRACKS IN AN EQUALISER

However, better things were to come because, after 18 minutes, the Town were level, and a glorious equaliser it was from MOORE.

French did the work leading up to it with a centre that was nudged out by Stowell. The ball fell loose. For a second it seemed that Read, running at it from a tangent, would go for it, but, fortunately he changed his mind, which enabled Moore to come

the left-half crashed the ball first time into the roof of the net from fully 25 yards.

Immediately, Bradford hit back, and there was more uneasiness in the Town defence. Hall—who was receiving too much scope—got the ball into the middle, and it required some desperate work by Thomson to clear.

After Read had put the ball into the side netting, there was further pressure by City without their being able to bring Tinsley into action.

Fouls for minor offences were frequent, and one by O'Rourke in midfield brought the City a free kick, promptly cleared by Reid. Moore set the Town on the attack again.



Left-half JOHN MOORE cracked in a glorious equaliser for Town after 18 minutes.

and further bright work by French, carried on by Harber, brought a header by Read that did not carry.

#### BRILLIANT SAVE BY TINSLEY

Still, this Town defence was not looking happy under pressure, and the City should have regained the lead when Moore failed to intercept and let in Hannah, whose point-blank shot was brilliantly saved by Tinsley.

City kept up the pressure and Stowell shot too close for comfort with the goalkeeper beaten on this occasion.

City had had the better chances but happily for the Town they were letting them slip.

Right-winger Hall was causing a lot of trouble, and a swinging centre from him very nearly beat Tinsley.

City's pressure was persistent, and Tinsley threw himself gallantly into a group of players to push out another centre by Hall. In doing so he was injured, and it looked as if it was serious because there were various signals, which were interpreted as being a call for a stretcher. This duly appeared, and Manager George Martin went on to the field to help.

This happened after 34 minutes, and, of course, it was as well for the Town that they had another goalkeeper in their ranks in the person of Tony Read. Naturally, there was no doubt at all about who was going to take over the green jersey, and Stark, the substitute, came on immediately to go in at inside-right, which is a natural position for him.

It was impossible to guess what had happened to Tinsley, since he was carried to the far end of the ground, but he is having an unlucky season for injuries, but none so far has caused him to miss matches.

After the hold-up, Whittaker made a determined attempt to break through on his own, but was beaten at the last minute.

Then the Town took the lead after 38 minutes through O'Rourke, who exacted full toll from an attempted bit of cleverness by Smith.

With plenty of time in which to clear, Smith tried to flick the ball past O'Rourke, who got it with his body. He was left with a clear run into goal, and drew White before plugging the ball into the back of the net.

If this proved anything, it was that the Town were more adept at snatching up small opportunities than were their opponents, who had had definitely more of them. City were still fighting desperately, and Jardine was penalised for obstructing Hall.

Stark came into it for the first time by winning a corner. French hit it left-footed, and White made a firm punch which carried the ball clear of the penalty area.

News of Tinsley is that he received a severe head

#### How the goals came

ELLAM for Bradford City after 12 minutes.  
MOORE for Luton after 18 minutes.  
O'Rourke for Luton after 38 minutes.  
ELLAM for Bradford City after 48 minutes.

was taken to hospital as a precaution. Half-time:

BRADFORD CITY ... 1  
LUTON TOWN ... 2

With three minutes of the second half gone, City drew level through ELLAM. The movement began with Parry taking the ball down the right, and from his pass Brownlee flicked it on to Ellam, who, from inside the six yards line was left with an easy opportunity, with which he made no mistake.

There was some evidence of inadequate covering here and, with the City thus encouraged, it was a particularly sticky period for the Town defence, which was still showing signs of uneasiness under pressure.

For a time, the Town could make no progress, with offside decisions cropping up against them again. City were still doing more of the pressing, again without making the best use of their chances.

Then, the Town broke away, and Whittaker should have restored their lead, with the City defence standing appealing for offside. The referee waved for play to continue, but the winger's shot went straight at White, who pushed the ball out. The rebound struck Whittaker in the face and went for a goal kick.

#### STARK DRIVES JUST WIDE

Town showed some improvement after this, and Stark was unlucky with a flashing first-time drive from O'Rourke's pass, the ball going just wide of a post.

Back came the City to gain a corner from Rivers, and from this Read pulled the ball

down from under the bar when Newton tried a header.

There was a hold-up while Rivers was attended to for an injury, which did not turn out to be serious.

The City were the more purposeful side now, with a clear-cut look about their work, and Read showed good presence of mind in punching over the bar a centre by Hall when an attempt to hold the ball might well have been resulted in his being bundled over the line.

#### TOWN FAILING IN MID-FIELD

There was little constructive build-up from the Town in mid-field and little sign of threat from the forwards, who were still tending to be caught off-side.

What had been quite a reasonably open game in the first half had degenerated into scrappiness, and City were looking the stronger, now that these tactics had crept into the game.

#### O'ROURKE CAUGHT OFFSIDE AGAIN

Then there seemed to be a chance for the Town getting in front again when Whittaker suddenly flicked the ball into the open space, leaving O'Rourke with a clear run for goal, but again the linesman flagged for offside, and from the look of the Town players I should say that this was a very close decision.

Two free kicks to the Town found a safe billet in the hands of White.

A breakaway by the City ended with an offside decision against them after Jardine had slipped, which was just as well, because Brownlee put the ball into the net as the whistle went.

From this, Whittaker began a Town raid, but Stark finished badly, half hitting his shot into the side netting when he would have done better to pass.

#### GAPS IN TOWN'S DEFENCE

Still, the home forwards were finding the gaps in the Town defence, and only a brilliant one-handed save by Read from Newton kept the Town on level terms.

It was a great piece of

work, but there was nothing he could do a minute later, when well out of his goal, he was beaten by a drive that went just outside a post.

Reid tried a surprise long shot which went too high, but the Town were not looking potential goalscorers now.

City were still the more dangerous, and Ellam should have completed a hat-trick when, from eight yards' range, he somehow got the ball over the bar from a centre by Newton. It was a lucky let-off for the Town who were struggling now to hold on to a point.

Whittaker was wandering in search of the ball, which underlined that not much use was being made of the wingers this half, and French had suffered similarly.

Offside was still a bugbear for the Town, with City coming out of defence quickly and in a line.

With the game now in its last ten minutes, City had another free kick midway in the Town half, and it was their turn to be caught offside. It was these tactics that had tended to subscribe to the scrappiness that had crept in.

A foul on O'Rourke shook the centre-forward but he did not need treatment.

#### TOWN MAKE BID FOR A WINNER

Then came a surge by the Town in which Harber was prominent. It brought a corner on the left, which White punched away, and he was injured in doing so.

There were four minutes to go, and a further hold up before the goalkeeper recovered.

A foul by Harber inside the Bradford half set the stage for a final fling by the home team.

With the last minute coming up, the Town made a heavy raid, but Whittaker was dispossessed, which set up an attack for the City, who again missed their chance.

Harber was penalised once more for a push on Stowell, but the Town were in no mood to concede anything at this stage. Result:

BRADFORD CITY ... 2  
LUTON TOWN ... 2