

TOWN COAST TO BRILLIANT VICTORY AT CHESTERFIELD

Triumph for new fluent style of play

By CHILTERN

CHESTERFIELD 1, LUTON TOWN 3

PLAYING in their newly adopted 4-2-4 style, Luton Town coasted fluently to a 3-1 victory at Chesterfield this afternoon, and so furthered their promotion hopes.

Only once did the Town lose the initiative, which enabled Chesterfield to cancel out a goal scored after 13 minutes by O'Rourke. Second-half goals by Riddick and Jardine in the space of two minutes put the issue beyond doubt, however.

It was a fine, bright, but cold day for Luton's first visit to this ground since their early Division II days.

The pitch was soft, and looked in better condition than most at this stage of the season.

With Rioch out because of injury, the Town made some decisive changes, moving Gordon Riddick from right-back, where he had been playing so well, to his old position of inside-left.

This preface a plan to play 4-2-4, with Riddick and John Reid the midfield link men. In at right-back for the first time in nearly three months was Bobby Thomson, and

TEAMS

CHESTERFIELD — Alabaster; Holmes, Sears, Clarke, Blakey, Phelan; Adams, Hughes, Hollett, Morton, Henderson. Substitutes: Moore.
LUTON TOWN — Ramage; Thomson, Jardine; Reid, Woods, Moore; French, Read, O'Rourke, Riddick, Whittaker. Substitute: Pleat.
Referee: P. Rhodes, Dringhouses.

Graham French and Tony Reid again teamed up on the right wing.

Chesterfield, who won 2-0 at Lincoln on Wednesday, were unchanged.

RAMAGE'S FIRST APPEARANCE

George Ramage, signed on a free transfer after service with Leyton Orient, made his first appearance in the Town's first team, taking over from Colin Tinsley, for whom it meant a break after nearly 50 consecutive league appearances.

Chesterfield wore blue shirts and white shorts, and the Town turned out in red with black shorts.

There was only a small crowd, I should think about 4,000, for what, to the Town at least, was a vital match. Reid lost the toss, and the

Town had to play against a stiff breeze.

There could have been a penalty in the first minute for the Town when Riddick pushed in a free-kick by Woods and Sears seemed to handle, but the Town's claims were turned down.

The Town were lively in these opening stages, and O'Rourke shot wide of the far post from an angle.

Ramage's first task was to drag down a centre from Adams, which he did competently enough.

Without doubt, the Town were far the more dangerous, and Reid flashed the ball just over the bar from a low centre by Jardine.

NO LATITUDE FOR CHESTERFIELD

O'Rourke gained a corner on the right after a canny pass by Riddick, and Chesterfield were being allowed no latitude at all.

In fact, their supporters were letting them know about it in no uncertain fashion, because there was no discernable pattern about their play.

They came into it when Clarke suddenly broke away, and Hollett, from close range, headed over. Generally, however, the Town were in command in midfield, without having shown a final thrust so far.

TOWN TAKE DESERVED LEAD

After 13 minutes the Town deservedly took the lead through O'Rourke, who headed the ball spectacularly into the net from Read's pass following a free kick.

In marked contrast to last Saturday, the Town had been allowed to develop their football in midfield, and they were looking a good side, with Riddick sparking off many attacks from midfield.

The 4-2-4 system was being used, though in a modified version, because although Moore was lying well back, Riddick was no more than a deep-lying inside-forward.

NEARLY ANOTHER FOR TOWN

There might have been another goal had Reid, entirely involuntarily, not been in the way of a header by

How the goals came

O'ROURKE for Luton after 13 minutes

MORTON for Chesterfield after 32 minutes

RIDDICK for Luton after 48 minutes.

JARDINE for Luton after 50 minutes

O'Rourke after a fine pass by Riddick.

Chesterfield were seldom dangerous, and it was not until 20 minutes had gone that Ramage had his second task, to hold a long shot by Adams.

A great run by Whittaker looked promising, but O'Rourke was offside. Otherwise, the Town would have increased their lead.

All the ideas and constructive football were coming from the Town, and Alabaster punched out a centre from French, with O'Rourke and Read challenging.

There was an indecisive two-fisted punch by Ramage which I did not like particu-



Centre-forward O'Rourke headed Town into a deserved lead after 13 minutes.

larly, from a long cross by Henderson, but he did not pay the penalty as he might have done.

Talk about systems? We now had the spectacle of Clarke, the right-half, playing at outside-left and taking a corner which Ramage pulled down in style.

Henderson, wearing Ches-

terfield's No. 11 shirt, was at outside-right, and Clarke seemed to be roaming, mostly at inside-left.

Then came a surprise, because Chesterfield equalised after Moore missed his tackle on Morton.

Morton went on and Ramage saved at point-blank range, but could not prevent the ball rebounding to the inside-right again, and MORTON managed to push it over the line, despite a desperate effort by Woods to clear. This was after 32 minutes.

Chesterfield had shown measurable improvement, and, at the same time, the Town lost some of their early sparkle, which seemed to be heading them towards a hand-some victory.

An ominous gap was beginning to develop down the middle of the Town defence and could have had dire consequences when Clarke chased a through ball. He would have scored but for a great save by Ramage, who was injured in the process and had to have attention.

It looked as if he had received a kick in the stomach, but he recovered after attention.

CHESTERFIELD GETTING ON TOP

Definitely, things had swung the other way in the last ten minutes, and the Town attack was looking nothing like so menacing as it had been.

In fact, Chesterfield began to press with some consistency, and gained a free-kick out on the right.

This was finally cleared by French, deep back in defence.

At this stage, it was action stations for the Town defence in the face of heavy attacks, and it was making too many mistakes for comfort.

OFFSIDE DECISIONS AGAINST TOWN

Just before half-time, Read was pulled down, but Whittaker's free kick caused no more than a mild flutter in front of the home goal, and finally there was an offside decision.

There came another when French was caught on the stroke of the interval.

At the Town end, Moore made a successful but despairing tackle on Hollett as he threatened to put Chesterfield into the lead. It cost a corner kick, but it was more than worth it. Half-time:

CHESTERFIELD1
LUTON TOWN1

There was a quiet opening to the second half, with Chesterfield still in the more assertive mood that they had shown in the closing stages of the first half.

They now had Hughes, No. 10, as a sort of auxiliary centre-half, but it was in vain, because after 48 minutes the Town regained the lead through RIDDICK.

He was left with a simple task to steer the ball in from close range after O'Rourke had helped on a centre by French.

JARDINE RACES IN TO SCORE

Two minutes later, Luton went further ahead through their fluent policy of full-backs coming through. It paid off when JARDINE increased the lead.

It was the product of a brilliant move which involved



O'Rourke and Whittaker, and it was from the latter that the final pass came.

Jardine came racing down the wing in style reminiscent of his outside-left days, ran into the open space and crashed the ball past the helpless Alabaster.

French was injured when he was fouled by Phelan, and there was a hold-up while the winger was given attention. He recovered



Gordon Riddick restored Town's lead three minutes after the interval.

range with Ramage diving despairingly.

Chesterfield were beginning to come back into the game again, and Reid did his side a good service with a timely interception. French broke away, but the attack broke down following a bad pass by Riddick.

Then a brilliant run by Riddick came to grief in the face of a stern tackle by Holmes.

A fine tackle by Jardine prevented Clarke, who was still hanging around in the forward line, from scoring, and then, in a matter of seconds, the referee turned down what seemed to be two cases of handling, one by each side.

Brilliant work by Whittaker drew applause from the crowd, who were becoming frustrated with the efforts of their own players.

WOODS GIVES TOWN A SCARE

Clearly, the Town were the better side, more constructive,



Full-back Freddie Jardine raced through to score Town's third goal after 50 minutes.

Another foul on French but they had a scare when Woods pulled down Morton inches outside the penalty area, a fact that did not escape the notice of the referee.

The free kick had to be retaken because Chesterfield had stolen a few inches,

All in all, the Town were pacing this match well, and seemed to be in no danger, despite the fact that Chesterfield were being driven on by desperation.

Woods broke up one attack by pushing the ball back to Ramage.

Alabaster had a lot of trouble pushing over the bar a swirling cross from Whittaker, and then came quite 10 yards out of his own goal to try to grab a corner from French. He failed to do so, and the ball was pushed back to Thompson, who shot just too high.

Nearly all the football was coming from the Town, and Reid sent French away in brilliant fashion. The winger's shot brought Alabaster full length.

This was the start of Town pressure, with Alabaster punching the ball from O'Rourke's head and then turning a drive from French over the bar.

ANOTHER GOAL IN PROSPECT

Next, Moore brought him into action with a longish drive, and at this stage there seemed every prospect of another Town goal.

When Chesterfield did manage to break away, Woods cleared with a diving header, Town were well on top, and Riddick won another corner.

From this, O'Rourke had another header saved by Alabaster, and from that corner French failed to make contact.

Evidence of the grip the Town had taken on this game was shown by the empty spaces on the terraces, caused through disgruntled home fans leaving.

Now, the Town were keeping control of the ball in midfield, but there was one threat from Chesterfield when Henderson went racing through to finish with a drive that flew too high.

A Chesterfield supporter sitting in front of me said: "Ref, blow that whistle. We've had enough." Results:

CHESTERFIELD 1
LUTON TOWN 3