

THEY DID IT — NEVER MIND HOW

NOTTS COUNTY 1, LUTON TOWN 2

AFTER a spell of 20 away League matches without a win, dating back to April 25 last year, when they scored the only goal at Barrow, and including three more away Cup-ties, the Town at last "came good" as the Australians would say, at Meadow Lane, Nottingham, this afternoon.

So long have we waited for this success, that no-one tonight I feel will be much bothered about the way in which it was achieved.

Probably, it is churlish of me to say that there have been several occasions recently when the Town have played better and yet came away unrewarded.

At the same time, they snapped up two chances in the last quarter of an hour, one with the aid of a County defender, and I think that, on balance, they deserved to break their dreary run of failure.

Certainly, it was a poor game in which neither team overcame the difficulty of a lively ball.

Even though, as the second half wore on, they had plenty of the play, quite frankly I could not see victory coming.

But victory it was, and in the end, King justified the faith put in him by snatching the winner in unmistakable style.

This could be a decisive success in the Town's fight to get away from the threat of having to apply for re-election.

It pushes this poor County side firmly beneath them, and, with Town having two home matches in succession immediately ahead, the bogey facing them should be removed to a large extent.

The advocates of 4-3-3 will probably claim this success as a major breakthrough. Certainly, there were few chances for the County, who got themselves firmly entangled in a well-operated offside trap.

The only County goal which came, 12 minutes from half-time, could probably have been blamed on Swan for his failure to cut out a corner, but by and large, there was not much hint of further trouble.

To a marked extent, the Town gained control of the middle of the field in the second half, when there was stout work by Jardine and Slough, and Riddick at times, while Dougan was a man who sparked off the revival by taking one of his now familiar runs upfield.

Forward because of the tactics adopted which cast Whittaker in a defensive role, the Town were somewhat lopsided, with only the right as an effective wing.

So these points are more than welcome to the Town. They deserved them in the end, but for entertainment value, the game rated pretty low.

Attendance: 3,909.