

Lack of finish spoils good work in midfield

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN found struggling York City a harder nut to crack than they had expected at Kenilworth Road this afternoon and 54 minutes went by before they nosed ahead with a penalty goal.

The City shocked the Town by taking the lead in the first half, and though Rioch got an equaliser, Luton's lack of finish was letting them down.

After a promising enough start to the day, it turned out to be a murky afternoon, with drizzling rain which undoubtedly affected the attendance. There looked to be about 6,000 at the start.

With a centre-forward problem to solve, Rodney Green being in hospital, the Town tried Billy McDerment there, and this enabled Max Dougan to take over at right-half—a move which manager Allan Brown has been wanting to make for some time.

The Town's other change was the return of Graham French to outside-right after injury, Micky Brown being the one to stand down.

Without a win this season, York made three forward changes, one of them positional, involving the recall of the experienced Tommy Spencer, last season's top scorer, and Rowland Horrey.

The pitch, newly seeded at the end of last season, was showing distinct signs of wear and tear, particularly on the main stand side.

BIG CLUB SCOUTS ARE THERE

Scouts from West Ham, Fulham, and Manchester City were present, although they gave no indication of their target.

Attacking the Kenilworth Road goal, the Town were quickly pressing, and they nearly took the lead when Allen shot following a corner by French. Turner had to

TEAMS

LUTON TOWN: Read; Hare, Jardine; Dougan, Branston, Moore; French, Allen, McDerment, Rioch, Whittaker. Substitute: Slough.

YORK CITY: Fallon; Baker, Turner; Walker (D), Jackson, Burrows; Alderson, McDougall, Spencer, Hawksby, Horrey. Substitute: Fellows.

Referee: R. Tinkler, Boston.

kick off the goal-line with Fallon beaten. Immediately afterwards, Hare followed up to drive the ball too high.

BAD PASS HELPS YORK

York got on to the attack when French made a bad pass which Walker intercepted, and it was well for the Town that Moore stepped in quickly.

York's best effort so far came from McDougall, with a 30-yarder which Read was able to watch sail wide of the post.

York were showing a measure of improvement after a very quiet start, and were being helped by the general inaccuracy of the Town's passing.

Then came something better, with Whittaker finding Rioch,

who embarked on a long, ambitious run, at the end of which McDerment, badly angled, gained a corner.

Rioch met it with his head, though it might have been better if he had left it to Allen, who was behind him, for Fallon was able to save easily.

YORK LOOK FOR A PENALTY

Horrey looked for a penalty when he was tackled by Hare, but the fact that the winger went headlong was probably due more to the greasy going than the right back's tackle.

Neither team was adapting itself well to the difficult conditions. The ball was shooting off the wet surface at an astonishing pace at times.

Whittaker, who had been caught in possession several times, suddenly blossomed out with a determined run which he finished with a centre. Allen narrowly failed to get his head to it, but the ball went for a corner kick, from which Rioch headed a couple of feet wide.

TOWN FALL INTO ARREARS

Read then had to move quickly to snatch up a back pass by Dougan as Horrey raced in. Moore sent French away to put Town on the move again, but the winger was guilty of too much elaboration.

With 21 minutes gone, York shook the Town by taking the lead. McDougall ran on to a well-made pass by Spencer, and with the Town defence somewhat dilatory in its covering, the inside-right had little difficulty in stabbing the ball past Read.

This was the first League goal scored against the Town in three home games this season.

The Town came back strongly, and Rioch shot across the goal following a corner by French.

On balance, the Town were creating more openings than York but were lacking finish so that several useful chances went astray.

Read was forced into a diving save by Horrey as York tried to build on the foundation of their good start. The Town came back, though, and Fallon was lucky to escape the consequences of some mishandling from a header by Rioch after French had made a clever run and centre.

Fallon was again in action when McDerment firmly headed a centre from Dougan, and he recovered quickly as



BRUCE RIOCH put Town on terms with a brilliantly worked goal in the 36th minute. He also scored a splendid goal for Town seven minutes from the end after good work by Whittaker.

the ball threatened to break away from him.

The Town drew level in the 36th minute with a brilliantly worked goal scored by RIOCH.

McDerment began the move by slipping the ball to Whittaker, who made a pass that was almost out of this world compared with many that had gone before.

Rioch, in the centre-forward position, controlled it in a trice, drew Fallon from his goal, rounded him, and tapped the ball into an empty net.

The Town crowded on pressure, and with a little more steadiness Allen might have put them ahead from a cross by McDerment.

Indecisive covering in the Town's defence nearly allowed Spencer to find a way through. Finally, after attempted clearances by Branston and Hare had not quite come off, Horrey sent the ball too high.

Straight from this, Allen broke away down the left wing to produce a fierce centre that skidded off Rioch's head, and finished nowhere near the target area. Half-time:

**LUTON TOWN ... 1
YORK CITY 1**

Rioch beat three opponents in a narrow space and then found himself unable to get full force behind his shot, which he pulled rather tamely wide.

A collision between Branston and Horrey laid out both players, and Branston seemed to be the more seriously affected.

Such damage as had been caused was due to the trickiness of the surface and not to any foul intent. Both players soon recovered.

In the 54th minute, the Town were awarded a penalty when Rioch sprinted through the York defence and was finally brought down by a despairing dive by Fallon which spreadeagled the inside-left.

Both players required attention before the kick could be taken, and then WHITTAKER duly scored from the spot, his shot rising into the roof of the net.

A good pass by French enabled McDerment to force a corner. French's kick, an in-swinging, passed right across

the York goal without anyone being able to make contact.

Moore then gave away a corner unnecessarily, and when Read missed the kick, Jackson, deep in the Town penalty area, was presented with a chance, but it was spoilt for him by a quick reaction by Allen, who got in the way of the shot.

Trouble for York developed when Burrows faltered in collecting a centre by French, but the City survived to fight back.

York had a great chance to get on terms again when Moore made a mistake which left McDougall with a clear run to goal, but with only Read to beat, he pulled the ball wide.

Whittaker laid on a chance for Rioch, but his shot went wide.

The Town were firmly back on the attack now.

LET-OFF FOR THE TOWN

In a sharp York breakaway, Spencer was brought down by Hare, to give York a free-kick seven or eight yards outside the penalty area. The kick was wasted, but then Spencer missed a near-open goal by sending the ball wide.

In quick succession there came three corners for the Town, from the last the York defence nearly fell as it got itself into a tangle.

Now the York defence was under some duress. The Town were gaining corner after corner, but usually they were being cleared by the head of the tall Jackson.

When York broke the siege, Moore made goalkeeper-like catch of a high ball that was threatening to pass him, but Hare cleared the free-kick.

TOWN PILE ON PRESSURE

Allen snapped up a pass by Rioch, but shot wide and McDerment's first-time shot, again from a pass by Rioch, rebounded off the foot of the post.

RIOCH scored a splendid goal for Town seven minutes from the end after good work by Whittaker.

In almost the last minute, Alderson floated across a

How the goals came

McDOUGALL for York
after 21 minutes

RIOCH for Luton after
36 minutes.

WHITTAKER (pen.) for
Luton after 54 minutes.

RIOCH for Luton after
83 minutes

centre that rebounded off the
angle of Town's goal.

Result:

**LUTON TOWN ... 3
YORK CITY 1**