

# Inaccurate passing lets Town down

By CHILTERN

**THE TOWN** found it hard to make progress in their match against Chester at Kenilworth Road this afternoon. With inaccurate passing by the home forwards, and a packed Chester defence, the first half proved an unexciting affair.

Both sides found the lively ball a handicap, and although the Town did most of the attacking, there was a disappointing lack of constructive football to serve up to the holiday crowd.

No change was made by the Town from the team which was a little disappointing yesterday. Rodney Green was again nominated as substitute.

Chester, unlike the Town, did not have a match yesterday and this was the beginning of a particularly tough Easter for them, because they also have to meet other promotion contenders, Bradford City, twice.

Despite a recent improvement, they are still in dire trouble in the re-election zone and this was a vital game for them. Conditions were much the same as yesterday but the crowd was considerably smaller.

Branston won the toss and as usual chose to kick towards the Oak Road end. There was Town pressure from the start, and evidently Chester were going to take no chances, for they were packing their penalty area.

## INACCURATE PASSING

The Town's bid for an early lead came to nothing because of inaccurate passing.

A foul on Rioch by Ashworth brought a free kick from Moore, which was headed away by Evans before danger could develop.

The ball was very lively and there were several instances of it running too far in advance of the Town forwards — there were three goal kicks for this reason.

There was a shock for the Town when Chester suddenly broke away down the right, where Haddock beat Jardine to a bouncing ball. Read dived to his cross without getting a touch, and the ball finally went behind.

The first clear-cut chance came the Town's way when Allen headed the ball over to Whittaker, who waited a fraction too long in making his shot, which cannoned off Jones (R).

Play was scrappy at first, but there followed a sudden surge by the Town in which Allen headed towards what was apparently an open goal, Evans raced across, but the

whistle had already gone for a foul on Carling.

Rioch tried to improve matters with a determined dash which came to a full stop when Allen failed to control the ball.

## RIOCH MAKING HIS MARK

A foul by Evans on Buxton gave the Town a chance of making progress, and Slough pushed the ball to Rioch, who from fully 35 yards let go a low shot which missed narrowly, with Carling scuttling across his goal.

Rioch now was beginning to impress himself upon this game, spraying out passes. From one of these Whittaker did well to get the ball across, but unfortunately it went straight to Turner.

Another free-kick came to the Town out on the left when Haddock barged Jardine off the ball unceremoniously, but this went to waste.

Carling had to come rushing out almost to the edge of his penalty area to pick up a bouncing ball from Jardine as Whittaker closed in.

## FREE-KICKS FREQUENT

Free-kicks against Chester were becoming frequent and there was another for a foul on Whittaker, which Moore placed high into the goalmouth. Buxton, in a duel with Evans, turned the ball wide with his head.

Neither team could be said to have gone far towards overcoming the handicap of the lively ball, which was so difficult to control.

Left with a half chance from a difficult angle, Rioch blazed a pass from Whittaker high and wide.

In the first 25 minutes, worthwhile scoring attempts had been few and far between. Chester were placing heavy emphasis on defence whenever the Town looked threatening, and at times there were ten players back in their penalty area, leaving only Loyden upfield.

A header by Rioch made a possible opening for Allen, who did not react quickly

enough and the ball went harmlessly for a goal kick.

## CHESTER HINTS OF DANGER

Chester were showing hints of danger in their raids and Haddock went close. Then Sutton went racing through, and Read saved at full length a shot that seemed to be going the wrong side of the post.

A centre by Whittaker looked dangerous, but Buxton could not reach it with his head, and Jones (R) put behind for safety.

The corner was well placed by French, and Carling showed his ability by coming out to snatch the ball off the head of Allen.

Whittaker and Allen both had shots charged down, and finally the latter shot wide with Buxton in the back of the net.

Chester were not taking the slightest risk when the Town pressure was on — and it was beginning to mount now. From a corner Slough got a shot on target, but Carling was there to catch it on the bounce.

## CAUGHT IN POSSESSION

Inaccurate passing continued to be a barrier to consistent Town progress, and there was the added point that the way in which Chester were playing meant that the forwards were too often being caught in possession.

Metcalf shot over when Chester made one of their infrequent advances, and then Jones (L) set in motion an attack which Dougan nipped in the bud.

For once, French got clear of the three opponents, who were usually converging on him, and then found himself offside as he shaped for a return pass. Half-time:

**LUTON TOWN ... 0**  
**CHESTER ..... 0**

The second half opened with a concerted Town raid in which Allen headed the ball across the goal, and after it had bobbed about, Turner came to Chester's rescue.

There was trouble at the other end when Metcalf cleared on the right wing to flash the ball low into the penalty area, where Jones (L)

## TEAMS

**LUTON TOWN:** Read; Dougan, Jardine; Slough, Branston, Moore; French, Buxton, Allen, Rioch, Whittaker. Substitute: Green.

**CHESTER:** Carling; Jones (R), Singleton; Ashworth, Turner, Evans; Haddock, Sutton, Loyden, Jones (L), Metcalf. Substitute: Bennett.

Referee: J. K. Taylor, of Wolverhampton.

missed it. Branston, whether by accident or design, allowed it to run to safety.

## TWO CORNERS TO TOWN

Two corners in quick succession kept the Town at the Chester end and the second was caught by Carling after Buxton, frustrated in his attempt to get a head to the ball, had tried to punch it.

Eventually we did see the ball in the net — the Town's. Loyden planted it there after a succession of miskicks, but the referee disallowed it for offside, a decision with which the centre-forward obviously disagreed.

## PRETTY DREARY FARE

It was still pretty dreary fare, with little constructive football, and not much in the way of goalmouth thrills either.

There was the chance of one when French eluded his captors and provided a pass for Allen, who however turned the ball in towards Turner.

When French again got the ball across to Allen, the centre-forward was concerned in what looked suspiciously like a sandwich with two Chester defenders, but although he headed the ball, it bounced slowly to Carling.

## GREEN REPLACES ALLEN

With half an hour to go, the Town made a change, sending on Rodney Green for Allen, in an attempt to provide the missing goal punch. There were cheers when it was seen that Green was coming on, and sympathetic applause for Allen as he walked off.

The Town were still having more of the play, without inspiring much confidence in their ability to secure the vital first goal.

There followed a stoppage when Jones (R) was injured. He went over the touchline for further attention, but returned after a few seconds.

Play continued to be scrappy. A long free kick by Dougan brought a rush on the Chester goal. Whittaker bent low to try to head the ball in, risking injury in doing so.

French, still mostly hemmed in, won a corner and there were appeals for a penalty for hands after Green had headed the ball into the ruck of de-

fenders, but the referee ruled against them.

There was nearly an untoward goal for the Town when Branston belted the ball into the Chester goalmouth. With Green chasing it hard, and Carling advancing, Jones (R) headed it inches wide of the post.

Mishandling by Read of a high ball brought Chester a corner, but before anything could develop from it, Ashworth was penalised for pushing Slough.

With just a quarter of an hour to go Chester brought on their substitute, Bennett for Haddock. This might not have been a voluntary change, because Haddock seemed to be limping.

Read was in action, catching a long, high centre from the right, and from his clearance the Town unsuccessfully tried to find a way through Chester's close-packing defence.

## INJURY TO TURNER

It looked as if Chester had brought on their substitute prematurely, because almost immediately afterwards Turner was injured in a tackle with Green. This reduced Chester to ten men, with Turner receiving attention from the trainer and an ambulance man outside the touchline.

Turner, who had a facial injury, was able to return — not to his own position of centre-half, but instead at centre-forward.

Hopes of a late goal were revived when the Town had a free kick as Singleton barged into Buxton, but Chester funnelled right back in front of goal.

A free kick to Chester landed safely in the hands of Read, and then French making ground at full speed was pulled down from behind by Bennett.

Again the free-kick was cleared promptly, to be followed by one against Buxton as he tangled with Singleton. Result:

**LUTON TOWN ... 0**  
**CHESTER ..... 0**