

TOWN FORCE

REPLAY

By CHILTERN
BRIGHTON 1, LUTON T. 1

In a tough, hard struggle at Brighton last night the Town, who had been so much superior in the first half that they would have been justified in holding much more than a single-goal lead at half-time, finally had to settle for a replay of their second round League Cup tie. This will be at Kenilworth Road next Wednesday night.

The second-half really was a complete turnabout, because Brighton, who had been scarcely in it previously, went on to all-out attack. It was as much as the Town defence could do to take the strain of some heavy pressure. However, taking the game right through, the Town were well worth their second chance.

BRIGHTON: Burns; Henderson, Gall; Templeman, Napier (J), Turner; Wilkinson, Lawton, Napier (K), Livesey, Flood. Substitute: Smith.

LUTON TOWN: Read; Dougan, McDerment; Allen, Slough, Moore; Ryan, Lewis, Sheffield, Rioch, French. Substitute: Buxton.

Referee: R C Challis, of Tonbridge.

There was a tense sort of start before a big crowd on a fine evening. All the signs were that this was to be a typical cup-tie and Lewis was prominent early on with a couple of goalward dashes which ended with the ball bouncing awkwardly.

First clear-cut chance fell to Brighton when Flood caught the Town defence unawares with a long, crossfield pass which Wilkinson collected, and he should have done better than shoot wide of the far post.

First really dangerous move from the Town came when Rioch picked up a quick throw-in from Ryan, found himself a good position and then hammered the ball straight at Burns.

With close marking and quick tackling, neither team had been able to achieve superiority so far but the Town had the more constructive ideas in midfield.

A brilliant individual effort by French nearly brought the Town the vital first goal, but finally he was stopped by weight of numbers.

OFFSIDE TRAP

It was certainly fast, up and down stuff, though not productive of a deal of goalmouth incident, and Brighton were falling ready victims to the Town's cleverly worked off-side trap.

Lewis, who had been subjected to some pretty tough tackling, was spoken to by the

referee for a foul on Henderson, who needed some treatment before he could continue and when play was on again there was some Brighton pressure, but it was not amounting to much in terms of finishing.

Best scoring attempt so far came when Rioch, who had been relatively quiet, suddenly flashed into the game to make a centre to which Sheffield dived, made contact with his head, and Burns had to throw himself full length to save.

Discernibly the Town were now taking command, forcing the Brighton defence into mistakes, and yet another free kick, this time for hands, saw Lewis drive the ball about a foot over.

RIOCH RUN

Then a brilliant run by Rioch in the course of which he beat three opponents was brought to a sudden end by a bad tackle by Templeman. From the free kick taken by Dougan a snap chance fell to Sheffield, who just failed to make contact with the ball as it came across sharply.

Now the Town were completely on top without being able to get the goal that would seal their superiority though this seemed only a matter of time.

Some of the Brighton tackling was crude in the extreme. The home side were looking rattled and their forwards had been virtually out of the picture for some time.

The goal the Town had been promising so long came in the 38th minute, with SHEFFIELD the scorer. The move began with a long clearance by McDerment, Sheffield headed the ball on, John Napier went the wrong way and Sheffield beat Burns with a brilliant left-footed drive into the top corner of the net.

Immediately there came the chance for Brighton of an equaliser when Read misjudged his punch, but Slough, who was filling in well as Branston's deputy, hooked Templeman's shot off the line.

The reverse seemed to have jerked Brighton into life in attack and Moore saved a dangerous situation by good covering.

Still Brighton had not fathomed the Town's offside



Laurie Sheffield put the Town ahead just before half-time.

trap, which was being operated skilfully. Half-time:

BRIGHTON 0
LUTON TOWN 1

There was very nearly a second goal for the Town when following good work by French and Sheffield, Rioch produced one of his special drives that Burns deflected sufficiently for the ball to strike the bar and come back into play. The rebound went to Ryan, who was not really well placed, and his shot went wide.

There was no doubting that the Town were sharper and more incisive.

In their breaksaway Brighton were looking more dangerous than in the first half and there was a narrow escape for the Town when Kit Napier met a centre from Flood with his head and just missed the far post.

Then, not altogether unexpectedly, Brighton equalised. The goal came in the 62nd minute during a goalmouth scramble following a long throw-in by Turner, and finally it was LAWTON who prodded the ball in from close range.

Brighton were certainly coming right back into this game and the Town were having to hang on grimly.

Attendance: 15,200.