All-out attack is Town's keynote

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By CHILTERN

IN A GRUELLING, hard-tackling match at Dean Court, Luton, hardly renowned for their away performances, looked the more composed side in a goal-less first half. Although both defences were mainly on top, the Town did some spirited attacking.

However, clear cut scoring opportunities were almost non-existent with the ball skidding on the frozen surface.

After some trials and tribulations the Town arrived at Bournemouth intact, and found the pitch hard, but playable.

Their troubles began overnight because both Terry Branston and Brian Lewis, travelling from Rugby and Coventry, respectively, were badly held up by the weather on the M1.

Both intended to stay in Luton overnight, but in the event Lewis did not reach his hotel until nearly six o'clock this morning.

Branston was even worse off because he was stuck near Toddington and did not link up with the main party, either at Luton or in London.

However, he caught a later train from Waterloo, and reached the ground three-

LAURIE SHEFFIELD

quarters of an hour before kick-off time to remove the anxiety.

When they arrived in Waterloo, delayed, the Town had only 10 minutes to spare for their train, and they were met with the distressing news from railway officials that the match was off.

Wasted?

There was no time in which to make an official check before the train left, and the Town began the second stage of their journey not knowing whether it was to be wasted or not.

Indeed, it was not until they reached Southampton that they were given a message that the game was still on. At Bournemouth they found the pitch completely free of snow, blue skies and brilliant sunshine!

The pitch was frozen, but it had thawed out on top. In the shadow of the main stand there was no give at all, and there were still signs of frost on the top.

So the going was likely to vary, and Stock told his players to choose which boots they thought would suit them best.

Despite the bad travelling conditions, the supporters' club coach got through, but with only slightly more than half its intended complement.

With Buxton and Harrison out of action, the Town recalled Sheffield, who has not been in the team for 10 weeks, and Jardine, for his first outing since he was badly injured at Plymouth in October. But it was not back to his old left-back position that Jardine came. **Instead he was given the number 11 jersey, ostensibly with a semi-defensive role.**

Vital

After two good away performances Bournemouth were unchanged, and this match was vitally important to both teams.

From the start the Town were dangerous, and after Sheffield had been fouled, Allen brought Jones into action with a great shot that the goalkeeper reached at full stretch.

The Town pressed Bournemouth back, and French turned wide a fast, low centre from Jardine who almost immediately after missed the near post.

It had certainly been an encouraging start by the Town with their new-look attack, and Bournemouth were looking a little harassed under pressure.

More than that, they got away with a couple of blatant cases of obstruction, and a couple of attempts to stop Sheffield failed.

In the end, the centre-forward passed to Slough, from a lob over Stocks on the head and was deflected for a corner.

Continuing to be the more dangerous, the Town made ground inside through a good movement by Dougan and French. However, it fizzled out, but play remained at the Bournemouth end until Allen, from a throw in by Jardine sent the ball harmlessly yards wide.

So far the Bournemouth forwards had not been in it, not only because of their limited opportunities, but because of close marking by the Town defence.

Lewis was the next to be in the picture, with a determined run, and his shot threatened to creep in at the near post, but was cut out by Jones.

Certainly there had been no suggestion of the Town adopting a negative defensive attitude, and in the main they were using Sheffield and Lewis as the strikers, with Allen in close support. Jardine, although he was keeping a close watch on Bumstead, was certainly not being tied to any defensive role.

Good work by Lewis sent away French, whose centre was so accurate that Jones had to pull it down from under the bar.

A good tackle by Moore stopped Pound and then after Sheffield had a centre headed out Allen, from 20 yards, blazed the ball too high.

A passing duet between Sheffield and Allen looked promising until the latter, racing through for the expected return pass, found Sheffield's shot knocking him on the legs and rebounding to safety.

Not until 16 minutes had gone did Bournemouth manage their first shot at goal, and then East, eluding the attentions of Branston, who had his left thigh muscle heavily strapped, saw Davie make a comfortable save.

Danger

Greater danger came in the next minute through a bad misunderstanding by Dougan and French, which left Peters with a clear run into goal from an angle.

It looked serious for a second or two, until Branston raced across to make a successful tackle.

There was a scare, when after Branston had missed his tackle on East, the ball ran on to Peters whose centre crossed the face of the goal, and went into touch on the other side of the field.

Sheffield and Miller got at cross purposes, and both received a warning word from the referee.

Miller had been given the job of shadowing Sheffield, and Stocks was playing in the usual left-back position.

The pace was hotting up now, with Bournemouth fighting to get on top, but the Town still holding their own and not in much trouble.

Netting

Bournemouth began to make ground down their right wing where Pound won a free kick off Moore. This was placed short by Bumstead, and Bolton rather tamely hit the side netting.

Some of the tackling by the Bournemouth defenders was distinctly rough and ready and Lewis had his legs chopped from under him by White.

Yet another free kick to the Town came with French fouled by Stocks, and from it Sheffield headed well wide.

With the Town keeping it up, there came a corner on the right which French placed low, but Allen and Sheffield were beaten by the pace of the ball.

With half an hour gone, it was still the Town looking the better side, and playing the more constructive football.

Fouled

In Bournemouth's next attack they received a free-kick when Branston fouled Pound, and Branston had to make a hurried clearance.

As the Town sought to

Freddie Jardine

make ground again, they were unlucky not be helped on by a free-kick when Jardine was tripped.

When the Town forwards were on the move they looked far more assured than Bournemouth and Lewis split the defence with a fine pass which Jardine just reached, but headed wide, and Jones had lifted the ball behind.

The gruelling pace went on, with the Town more than holding their own, and neither team sparing themselves in the tackling.

Then Bournemouth gained a free-kick on the left, but Branston was there to head away from Peters and the Town swung back into the attack with Allen vainly trying to find French.

A rugged tackle by Miller on Lewis was the forerunner of another Bournemouth raid, but they were being allowed few clear-cut openings.

Moore tried his luck from 30 yards, only to find the head of Stocks diverting it away, and in the next minute there was a lucky escape for Bournemouth when White came within inches of heading into his own goal a long cross by Dougan. Half-time:

BOURNEMOUTH 0
LUTON TOWN 0

Bournemouth started the second-half with substitute Burns at outside-left for Peters.

Stocks fell heavily on his back when fouled by French but the centre-half was able to carry on. From the free-kick, East got his boot to the ball just in front of Branston, but poked it just wide.

Headed

Bournemouth had made a spirited start to the second half, and the Town came under some intensive pressure during which Branston headed the ball over his own bar.

More danger came from the corner because a low drive by Bumstead beat Davie,

How the goals came

SHEFFIELD for Luton after 57 minutes.

JARDINE for Luton after 68 minutes.

only for Dougan to kick off the line.

Bournemouth were showing a marked improvement, Jardine conceded another corner, followed by another off Moore.

This was headed out by Branston, but still the Town could not clear from the region of their penalty area.

Clearly the Town were not being allowed to settle down and Bournemouth were showing a good deal more determination.

Gradually the Town came back into the game without being able to reach close quarters with the face of some hard tackling.

Eluded

They did elude the covering to break away and score a great goal after 57 minutes.

The move began on the right with French pushing the ball to Lewis who held it, for a second, before parting with it most accurately to SHEFFIELD. The centre-forward had no time in which to control the ball and with defenders converging on him, he had to shoot first time. And a good job he made of it, because he swung onto the ball and sent it high into the corner of the net, well out of Jones.

Certainly the Town had done well to weather the early storm and come back in such effective fashion.

Bournemouth hit back hard, but they were finding the Town defence in no mood to yield, and there was one fine save by Davie, who jumped high to pull down a long lob into the goalmouth by Gulliver.

Scored

With 68 minutes gone the Town further improved their position with a second goal, for which JARDINE applied the finishing touch.

The early work was done by French, whose centre was met by Lewis with his head. The ball looped goalwards deceptively, and Jones was always struggling to reach it. To me, it looked as if the ball hit the under part of the bar. It had not crossed the line, and Jardine acted very quickly to prod it over from point-blank range.

This shook Bournemouth considerably, and of course put the Town's tails right up.

Bournemouth's attempts to make ground now were being either brushed off by determined defensive work, or through their inability to cope with the Town's quick running out of defensive positions, which was leaving them liable to be caught off-side.

There was a scare for Bournemouth when Sheffield headed the ball through to Lewis who was stopped by the quick emergence of Jones.

Then French sparkled again with some clever footwork, but his centre was headed away firmly, and finally Moore had a shot deflected.

Challenge

A foul on Jardine, out near the corner flag, by Gulliver, kept the Town on the attack, and Jones went up to cut off Lewis's high cross, as Sheffield moved in to challenge.

Now the Town were concentrating on keeping possession of the ball, and they set up another neat movement begun by French, and which ended with Sheffield heading narrowly wide from a cross by Dougan.

Result:

BOURNEMOUTH 0
LUTON TOWN 2

TEAMS

BOURNEMOUTH: Jones; Gulliver, Miller; White (J), Stocks, Longhorn; Bumstead, Pound, East, Bolton, Peters. Substitute: Burns.

LUTON TOWN: Davie; Dougan, Bannister, Slough, Branston, Moore; French, Lewis, Sheffield, Allen, Jardine. Substitute: McDerment.

Referee: J. R. Osborne, Ipswich.

• KILLING PACE
• AGGRESSION
• TWO POINTS

Max Dougan, whose cross at the end of the first half was almost deflected into the Bournemouth goal by White.