

TOWN FAILED TO THRILL BIG CROWD

LUTON TOWN 2, STOCKPORT COUNTY 0

NOT FOR the first time, the Town found more difficulty in accounting for a lowly team at home than they have in overcoming more highly placed opponents away from Kenilworth Road.

Not that they were ever in any danger of losing their unbeaten home record, which now extends to 30 League games, but the manner in which victory was achieved left something to be desired to say the least.

This was underlined by the fact that the goals came from centre-half Chris Nicholl during a scramble following a corner, and from a successfully converted penalty kick by Malcolm MacDonald.

So, it was not a thoroughly decisive, satisfactory sort of success to set the fans cheering wildly, which was something of a disappointment, for the crowd of 15,944 was the biggest for a League match at Kenilworth Road this season.

So it followed that once again the Town's strikers experienced difficulty in finding their way through against a team that was defensively-minded.

At the same time it would be less than fair if praise were not given to the goalkeeping of Ogley, and but for him I fancy that Matt Tees would have figured in the scoring list, and that MacDonald would have had more than a goal from the penalty spot.

Both these strikers, who are rapidly forming a good understanding, were again subjected to some heavy tackling, and I thought the running off the ball of Tees and his distribution of it was most successful.

On this occasion the wingers Collins and French did not receive the scope that has come their way in some matches here, and although they switched, wings in the second half in an attempt to find more room they were always closely marked.

In midfield the Town mostly had control, with Keen prominent, and Allen a hard worker once again.

Seldom was the back line in real trouble against what really amounted to isolated raids by Stockport. Nicholl was again a dominant figure, particularly with his command in the air, and I thought Slough had an exceptionally good game.

There were times when Bannister did not seem to be completely in touch but Jardine, playing his first full league match of the season, came through untroubled, and the work that came Davie's way was minimal, compared with the pressure to which Ogley was subjected.

As entertainment, probably the game did not rate high in the minds of the fans, who however must bear in mind that negative tactics do not allow the same free flow of forward play which we have been seeing away from home.

At the same time, the object of the exercise—to gain two points—was achieved, and there has been a lesson in the past that there is no future in playing brilliantly and then going down to defeat.

The whole point was that the Town did well enough to win, without perhaps being so spectacular as one would have wished.