

Collins

a great goal

69/70 (FAC)

EVEN though the Town's following was over a thousand by two special trains, and by road, the crowd at Bournemouth this afternoon for the first round FA Cup tie could not be described as other than vastly disappointing 10 minutes before the start.

The weather was bright, but very cold, and the rain which apparently had fallen heavily during the latter part of the week, had passed.

Doubtless it had left the pitch in a heavy condition, but there was still sufficient grass on it to prevent it becoming a mud patch.

There was, of course, a decided counter attraction on at nearby Southampton, where Leeds Utd. were the visitors, and this undoubtedly affected the gate.

Nicholl was a notable absentee for the Town with a sprain, from which he is making good progress, but Terry Branston came in at centre-half, as he did last Saturday against Barnsley.

Other changes were in the forward line where John Collins was recalled to outside-right and Graham French switched to the left, which conformed to the general pattern the Town have been using so successfully in away matches.

INJURED

Keen lost the toss, which gave Bournemouth some advantage from a wind which seemed partly cross field, but at the same time blowing in the direction of the Town's goal.

They were also facing the now bright sun, and Davie wore a cap.

In the first minute Collins

was injured in a tackle with Summerhill, but resumed with a limp after attention.

The next casualty was French who went down heavily after a challenge by MacDougall, so twice in less than five minutes, the Town trainer had been on the field.

It had been a somewhat tentative start by both teams.

TEAMS

BOURNEMOUTH: Baker; Gulliver, Foote; Summerhill, Stocks, Powell; Hartley, MacDougall, White, Hold, Meredith. Substitute: Rowles.

LUTON TOWN: Davie; Ryan, Bannister; Keen, Branston, Slough; Collins, MacDonald, Tees, Allen, French. Substitute: Jardine.

Referee: M. Kerkof, Bicester.

with the wind posing some problems, and passes tending to go astray.

Gradually the Town were settling down and a long throw in by Allen brought a header across the goal from MacDonald which didn't quite carry to Tees.

However, it was the start of a spell of Town pressure, ended by what I can only describe as a controversial decision with French

penalised for a foul on Gulliver. I thought it should have been the other way.

Then with 11 minutes gone, the Town went into arrears when some indecision down the left between Branston and Bannister, in particular, allowed Gulliver to send MacDougall away.

From the cross there was a first time shot by HARTLEY which Davie managed to push out with some difficulty, but it went straight back to the winger who made no bones about smacking it into the back of the net.

CONFIDENCE

This rather set the cat among the pigeons by giving Bournemouth, who had been short of goal power recently, more confidence, and there was another raid when Slough, coming over to the right to cover, conceded a free kick, which, however, Gulliver ran outside.

At the moment the Town were far from impressive, looking suspect under pressure, and there was not a great deal of challenge by the strikers either.

There could have been more trouble but for the quick reaction of Davie when Gulliver crossed the ball to Hold, who ran in fast as Ryan slipped. Davie bravely came out to smother the shot, and from the clearance Tees broke away to hit the side netting.

French went over to take an inswinger with his left foot, which caused more concern to the Bournemouth defence than anything that had happened previously.

Brilliant work by French, who beat two opponents in a narrow space, brought hope, but no more, because Foote was on hand to head away to Keen whose shot was blocked.

Next Ryan did the overlap in splendid style before swinging the ball across in the direction of MacDonald who had trouble in gathering it and finally had to centre from an acute angle. Baker cut it out.

SCRAMBLE

Then as good a work movement as we had seen from the Town was begun by Tees, whose cross was headed on by Allen to Collins, streaming through in the inside-right position, but his shot, from point-blank range, was deflected for a corner.

The corner, on the right, was taken not all that well by Collins, but Branston, right up, headed in, and there was a terrific scramble in front of goal until the ball went back to Collins, who returned it, and somehow this was headed clear.

Gulliver continued to worry the Town with his thrusts down the right wing, and from one of his centres, Hold headed inches too high with Davie watching anxiously.

Bournemouth were looking faster on the ball and infinitely quicker in the tackle at this stage.

A foul by Branston on White brought Bournemouth a free kick midway in the Town half, but nothing came of this.

With Bournemouth attacking again, Slough twice stepped in to make last ditch clearances with the rest of the defence at full stretch. Then Bannister came in quickly to concede a corner as White ran on to a cross by Gulliver, who was being given too much freedom.

SLIPPING

This was followed by another corner on the left, which Hartley took, and again there was no sort of assurance about the clearance, which skidded off Slough's head.

However a decisive clear-

ance came with French picking it up, only to be tackled hard by Summerhill.

There was no doubting the fact that Bournemouth were the better side, and what rather worried me was this strange circumstance that so many Town players were slipping about, losing their balance, whereas Bournemouth seemed to have no difficulty.

French was having something of a rough passage against Gulliver, and again he was injured, this time on the left shin, which trainer Reg Game dosed liberally with cold water. Even then the winger was taken to the touchline for further treatment.

French's return paid off a handsome dividend with an equaliser right on half-time. He picked up the ball on the

FA CUP



1st Round

wing, floated over a perfect centre, and there was COLLINS waiting to head the ball into the roof of the net past Baker.

Half-time:

BOURNEMOUTH 1
LUTON TOWN 1

For the start of the second half, the Town had Jardine on for French, who was doubtless feeling the effects of the buffeting he received in the first-half.

Straight away he showed he had not lost his verve by swinging over a centre which MacDonald hooked too high.

Twice Bournemouth were caught off-side as they tried to improve their position, but they came back again through Stocks whose centre was pushed back by Collins to Slough who cleared.

Next came a foul by Slough on Hartley which put Bournemouth on the attack, until Bannister stepped in with a firm clearance. The Town now seemed to be relying on off-side tactics.

There was a narrow escape for the Town following a long free kick by Gulliver which Hold swung onto, and with Davie spreadeagled, the ball hit the foot of the far post, and finally went for a goal kick.

It was a close one.

Davie was next in trouble from a long floating shot by Gulliver which he was glad to push over, and the corner brought another chance for Bournemouth, for whom the ball dropped a bit unkindly, and MacDougall was unable to fasten onto it.

TEES HURT

When the Town came back, Keen shot over, and in the rush Tees was hurt. There was quite a lengthy stoppage while he received attention, but he was soon in action again, and headed into the hands of Baker a long centre from the left.

Bournemouth were back in the game again and White headed wide after Gulliver had beaten down a clearance by Keen, and centred.

Davie went up with the

away, it was through MacDonald, swinging out a long pass to Jardine whose centre flicked MacDonald's head before being returned by Allen in the general direction of Tees, who was baulked.

Play had become scrappier with some untidy phases, and there was definite anxiety when White made a centre

How the goals came

HARTLEY for Bournemouth after 11 minutes.

COLLINS for Luton after 44 minutes.

that did not look particularly dangerous, but Ryan, running towards his own goal, headed behind for a corner.

From this Hold hooked the ball back into the goalmouth, and Powell headed inches wide with Ryan standing at the post watching anxiously.

A corner came the way of the Town following a free-kick by Keen for a foul on MacDonald by Powell. Collins was accurate, and Baker had some difficulty saving a header from Tees.

Then with the game swinging the Town's way a little, MacDonald, who had been pretty securely held raced on to a pass by Collins without causing Baker any concern.

This was followed by a barging match between White and Davie, which brought the Town a free-kick from which MacDonald all but found Tees with a flick, Baker emerging just in time.

Bournemouth's finishing was still sub-standard but they contrived to look the more threatening and there was no doubt that there had been a more defensive approach by the Town this half.

ON TOP

There was slightly better than half a chance of the Town going into the lead when Collins met Jardine's centre first time and the ball went just too high.

It now looked as if Bournemouth were tiring, because the Town were definitely on top as the game entered its final quarter of an hour.

Then with a pass by MacDonald meant for Jardine cut off, Bournemouth surged to the attack again with Foote coming the rough before being checked by Bannister, who set the Town going once more, only for the old bogey of an ill judged pass, this time by Collins, to creep in.

Not much was happening now with the Town doubtless having their eyes on a second chance. A foul on Tees by Powell gave them a free-kick just inside the Bournemouth half which Ryan sent straight to Hartley, and from his partial clearance, Keen shot yards wide.

With a couple of minutes left the referee overruled a linesman's signal for a foul against Bournemouth, as a result of which the home team mounted a raid, but now the Town were withdrawn to deep defence, and cleared.

As the whistle went, Slough was injured, and with the players streaming off the field, he remained there receiving treatment from the trainer, but was able finally to trot off.

Result:

BOURNEMOUTH ... 1
LUTON TOWN 1