

# Tees 'goal' is disallowed

By ERIC PUGH

WITHOUT going through the formality of a fitness test, Jack Bannister was this morning ruled out of the reckoning for the Town team at Torquay.

While his injury, a bruised instep, received in mysterious circumstances against Chelsea Reserves is not serious, and he should be fit for next Saturday, hopes of a much quicker recovery, were obviously slightly over optimistic.

That cut the effective strength of the Town party to 12, and made a place in mid-field for Mike Keen, who had been left out of the original side.

In view of what happened to Keith Allen and John Collins after the failure at Barrow, Keen's inclusion could only be regarded as fortuitous for him.

There were quite searching changes made, which brought in Freddie Jardine, John Moore, and Mike Harrison, and for once in a way Stock was allowing himself the luxury of two orthodox wingers in a 4-2-4 formation.

## KEY

In point of fact it looked very much as if French and Harrison held the key to this affair.

Named as substitute was Viv Busby, who signed professional forms only just over a month ago.

He attracted notice when playing for Wycombe Wanderers, and is only 20.

As for Torquay, manager Allan Brown dropped Smyth and Binney, to bring in Joy and Eric Welsh. Substitute was George Potter, given a free transfer by the Town at the end of last season.

After a wild night, with gales and rain lashing down, the weather calmed and it was a dull though dry day.

However, the pitch had obviously taken a liberal soaking, and was very soft on top.

Although playing against quite a stiff wind, the Town showed a refreshing approach in the early minutes.

## CLOSE

However, Torquay were equally determined and there was a close call for the Town following a corner on the right when French failed to clear, and from near point-blank range, Rudge shot wide.

There was not a great deal in it, but aided by the wind Torquay were slowly threatening to take a grip, but they were being met by some determined tackling.

With ten minutes gone, the first sign of trouble

came when police escorted two fans, one of them wearing the Luton colours, off the terrace behind the Torquay goal. After this, pushing and swaying began in the same area and police went into the crowd.

Certainly the most positive finishing so far had come from Torquay, and Davie went down in a hurry to save from Mitchinson.

This was countered by a determined run down the left-wing by MacDonald, who however was hampered

FROM REPORTS I heard before the match, apparently some trouble-makers sullied the good name the Town supporters have achieved for their behaviour on chartered trains this season.

This morning some 30 or so described mostly as "skinheads" caused trouble and broke a window, and a dividing door on the train.

According to one of the stewards, there was also some throwing out of beer cans and some paint spraying on the train, which stewards tried to clear up on arrival.

Use of foul language was also complained about, and one regular traveller said, "They are nothing but trouble-makers. I wish they would keep away."

One theory was that there could be resumption of hostilities between the rival fans which took place at Plymouth earlier in the season. Certainly among the early arrivals at the ground was a number of thick-booted youths wearing the Plymouth colours.

slightly and could do no more than turn the ball into the side netting.

Gradually the Town made ground again with the aid of a series of throws-in but it took too long to develop, and in the end three of their players were caught offside.

Torquay came back, and there was another close call for the Town when, with Davie out of his goal, Rudge hooked the ball towards an empty net.

However, Moore had foreseen this, made an acrobatic leap, and headed the ball wide.

Torquay seemed to be determined to shoot on sight, and one from Alan Welsh whistled past a post with Davie in close attendance.

Following the goal-kick, Harrison had a chance to show his speed before being brought down heavily three yards outside the penalty area. From his free-kick MacDonald came racing in at top speed, but failed to climb above the ball, which flew off his head much too high.

Certainly Torquay were having the better chances, and another came the way of Mitchinson, just outside the penalty area. Rudge scooped the ball back to him, but his shot went over the bar.

## PERSISTENCE

There was still a deal of persistence from Torquay, who gained another corner on the right, which was badly placed, Davie gathering without trouble.

Only isolated and not very easy chances were coming the way of the Town's strikers,

angle to make use of the chance, and all he could do was turn the ball into the side netting.

Basically there was more concentration in the Torquay build-up, but the fact had to be borne in mind that the wind was behind them, and that they had missed some acceptable chances.

When the Town came back again, Donnelly came out quickly to snatch a centre by Harrison away from the on-coming Tees and MacDonald.

Then MacDonald, as the ball was returned quickly by Keen, was caught offside.

## MISSSED !

As good a chance as the Town had had so far fell to Slough, up in the penalty area. He got up to a rising centre by Harrison.

It should have been a goal but the ball flew high and wide with Slough wringing his hands in disappointment.

Next, Tees sent away Harrison, who was managing to get the ball across with some consistency, and MacDonald, from six yards out had a shot deflected for a corner.

From this, Tees got the ball into the net at the second attempt, but the goal was promptly disallowed on the grounds of offside.

At this stage the Town were looking much better, and Young was harassed into conceding a corner which Donnelly cut out well.

This was followed quickly by one at the other end, and another on the opposite flank, as Nicholl headed behind.

## Half-time:

TORQUAY ..... 0  
LUTON ..... 0

For the start of the second half Torquay brought on Potter for Dunne, and it appeared to be a voluntary substitution.

First incident was a back-pass by Joy, that almost failed to carry to Donnelly before Harrison arrived on the scene.

Then it was the turn of Davie to have to emerge from his goal in a hurry when Ryan did not judge his pass well and the goal-keeper just beat Alan Welsh to it at the risk of some damage to his hands.

With Torquay remaining on the attack, there was a bit of

THERE was reason to believe that the Town were mounting a massive scouting mission this afternoon.

Notable absentee from the party at Torquay was coach Jimmy Andrews, missing his first match since he was appointed about 12 months ago.

That he should forgo being with the team at such a critical period seems to indicate to me that something big might be in the offing.

In fact, several matches in different parts of the country were being covered by Town scouts.

Manager Alec Stock told me this morning, "We have been trying to get the players we know we need, but it is a difficult matter."

panic when Nicholl misjudged a headed clearance, but Keen came racing across to clear.

There was quite an out-break of inaccurate passing

## TEAMS

TORQUAY UTD.: Donnelly; Joy, Benson; Dunne, Young, Kitchener; Welsh (E), Cave, Rudge, Mitchinson, Welsh (A). Substitute: Potter.

LUTON TOWN: Davie; Ryan, Jardine; Slough, Nicholl, Moore; French, MacDonald, Tees, Keen, Harrison. Substitute: Busby. Referee: Mr. R. A. Paine of Hounslow.

drive, on to which Donnelly fell.

There was disagreement by the Town with a decision by the referee to give Torquay a goal-kick when it seemed plain that a shot by MacDonald had been deflected behind.

After another aimless patch the Town gained the edge and might have gone into the lead when Ryan infiltrated into the penalty area, and his drive rose just too high, with Donnelly beaten.

## CRITICAL

Then came a critical moment for the Town when a back-pass by Nicholl was cut off by Cave before Davie could reach it. Moore saved the situation by deflecting Alan Welsh's shot.

The corner proved fatal for the Town, Torquay taking the lead in the 63rd minute.

It was a messy sort of goal, and the Town could claim with some justification that they were unlucky.

The ball came across from Alan Welsh, struck Kitchener on the head, and looped up to MITCHINSON, who headed it just over the line.

And, in the process, it looked to me as if there was a deflection, but the final effect was conclusive.

## REACTION

This produced a quite violent reaction from the Town, with Slough going up in closer support of the forwards.

Keen might have been better advised to shoot when left with an opening just inside the penalty area.

More crowd trouble came at the same end as had happened previously. It was difficult to see exactly what was going on, but there were at least half-a-dozen policemen in among them.

Then, like a bolt from the blue, came a great equaliser from HARRISON.

A movement built up quickly, after being started by Slough, and the ball came through to French, who smacked it first time from about 25 yards into the corner of the net with Donnelly throwing himself hopelessly across.

A minute later and the Town were in front. It was the product of quite a hideous mix-up in front of the Torquay goal, and so many were involved that it was difficult to see exactly who provided the finishing touch for the Town.

My original guess was that it was MacDonald, after getting in the way of a clearance by Benson.

However, in the Press box both Slough and French had

## How the goals came

MITCHINSON

their supporters, but a quick check at the trainer's bench confirmed that in fact it was MacDonald.

Torquay came back with great determination, to force two corners, the second of which came when a shot was diverted over the top by Ryan.

It had been a transformation, with the Town in a much better position than seemed possible after Torquay had taken the lead.

A possible chance fell to the home side, but Rudge from far too acute an angle tried to shoot when a cross would have been more beneficial, and succeeded only in striking the side netting, with Davie at full stretch.

Then Jardine tried to improve matters with a long run, deep into Torquay territory, which ended with him being brought down full length, and giving Harrison the chance of a shot from the free-kick, which went well wide.

With four minutes left came drama at the Town end with Torquay securing an equaliser.

It came following a free-kick taken by Benson for a foul by Ryan.

Eric Welsh got his head to the ball to float it over the Town defence, and there was RUDGE only about five yards out left with the simplest of chances to head it wide of Davie.

Then came another shock when a mistake by Ryan let Alan Welsh through down the middle, but the winger could not control the bouncing ball and scooped his shot wide.

Even then the Town were not done, because they went after a last-minute winner, MacDonald having a point-blank shot blocked, and from the rebound Harrison missed the far post. Result:

TORQUAY ..... 2  
LUTON ..... 2

would have got last week. bigger, if anything, than the expecting a big crowd, even and again Baldock we they could watch the game again given the day off. The second string we of the season.

any Division. Now, there is a wave of optimism for the future at Milton Gate, and manager it is planning for an all- to promotion bid next sea- A successful pull in crowds of First Division size at City's ground.

cess could be just ahead. encourage the belief that a new era of sustained suc-