

DIVISION IV FOOTBALL NOT SO BAD AFTER ALL

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 3, BRADFORD 1

IF this is a fair and representative sample of Fourth Division football, then some of the misgivings of Town supporters about the quality of the entertainment at Kenilworth Road this season, can be allayed.

Certainly, there was little of the biff-bang tactics which we have been led to believe are a feature of this grade of football and Bradford proved to be a more than useful side.

On occasion, there was some splendid football from both teams, with the Town having a slight edge in midfield and we saw many worse games and poorer opposition during last season.

There was plenty of action in the opening stages when both goals had close calls and each cross bar was struck before the scoring account was opened.

First, O'Rourke produced a terrific drive from 20 yards that thudded against the woodwork and then Flynn, from slightly longer range, saw his effort suffer a similar fate.

There was doubt about who scored the first goal for the Town after 29 minutes because O'Rourke followed up to make certain that a McKechnie shot went in. Whether he made contact with the ball before it crossed the line was a moot point, but, morally, McKECHNIE was entitled to the credit.

SHOCK EQUALISER

Shock came in the sixth minute of the second half when HAM shot through a crowd of players past an obviously unsighted Tinsley to level matters, but six minutes later, REID put the Town in front again after Hardie had palmed out a lob by Thomson.

There were times when the Town's lead was in jeopardy again and it required a great save by Tinsley which even the marksman, Fryatt, applauded, to keep them in front.

However, their position became more tenable 14 minutes from the end when Whittaker ended a brilliant run by pushing the ball to McKECHNIE who scored easily.

There was plenty in this display to give rise to optimistic thought for the future, particularly in the left wing pairing of Reid and Whittaker, who struck up a happy understanding and the winger was particularly dangerous.

O'Rourke was not in the picture a great deal partly because McCalman proved an effective barrier and partly because the ball did not come through quickly enough.

DEFENCE SHOULD SETTLE DOWN

McKechnie was as busy and hard-working as ever, while Fry made a reasonable contribution in a position with which

he has had only a slight acquaintance.

Signs are that the defence will settle down into an effective unit especially when Woods becomes fully attuned again to English football. He was often harassed by the burly Fryatt, but did quite a good job.

Both Gibson and Moore were strong wing-halves and Thomson, after some early trouble with Bird, began to play in accordance with the reputation that preceded him.

Jardine played as if he had never known any other position but full-back, while Tinsley showed his impressive form of late last season.

LUTON TOWN.—Tinsley; Thomson, Jardine; Gibson, Woods, Moore; Fry, McKechnie, O'Rourke, Reid, Whittaker.

BRADFORD.—Hardie; Gordon, Lightowler; I'Anson, McCalman, Flynn; Lawrie (substituted by Burns after 62 minutes), Hector, Fryatt, Ham, Bird.

Referee: K Stokes, Newark.
Attendance: 6,182.