

# TOWN MUST WIN BOTH THEIR HOME MATCHES NOW

## IF THEY DO, THEY WILL ESCAPE DROP

## Only Davies Gave Leeds Defence Much Trouble

By CHILTERN

NOW that the season has moved into its final, decisive phase, the Town's lifeline for continuance in the Second Division rests squarely on their ability to win their remaining two home matches.

Four points from these, against Charlton and Sunderland, with the added factor of their superior goal average, should put them high and dry, and the question is whether they can show sufficient continuance of their recent improved home form to make certain of them.

FROM the Town point of view, the position has been complicated for them by the unlooked for successes of both Charlton and Walsall at Rotherham, a team who have never been easy to beat on their own ground and yet, inside a week, two of the relegation strugglers have returned with full points from there.

At the moment, Charlton are in the somewhat dubious position of having a match in hand, since that is against Scunthorpe this evening at the Old Show Ground. If they are beaten there, as the form book indicates that they should be, then all three strugglers will start the last lap on the same mark.

### Turner May Be Fit For Saturday

ODDS should be against Charlton, who have to visit Walsall,

as well as coming to Kenilworth-road, but whatever happens in the meantime, next week-end is going to be filled with tension for the Town.

There had been hopes that Gordon Turner, who has been out for nearly a fortnight with a pulled muscle, would be able to have a full-scale test against Bedford Town last night, but this was thought to be a bit premature.

Although Turner himself feels that he will be fit for Saturday, Manager Bill Harvey's problem will be whether to put him straight back into the team.

### Jardine Was Back For Last Night's Match

HOWEVER, some easing of the injury position has occurred because Freddie Jardine, who had not played since the match at

Grimsby, was able to turn out last night and his inclusion at outside-left for Jack Lornie, was one of two changes made.

The other was at outside-right from where, Danny Clapton, after two games in four days following his long lay-off, was rested and Alan Clarke took his place.

Even though the Town were more or less duty bound to field as strong a side as possible, it was rather surprising to see Ron Davies included.

### Taking A Risk To Include Davies

INJURIES can occur even in a comparatively unimportant match of this nature and the Town's hopes of avoiding relegation would certainly take a steep dive if anything happened to Davies.

As things are at the moment, he is the one forward who can score sufficient goals to get the Town out of their present trouble.

On the other hand, some regard is paid to the player's point of view because last night's match was an opportunity for extra money, both for appearance and bonus, and it would be unfair that a player's ability should affect his chances of earning extra money.

### Was The Town's Only Dangerous Forward

ALTHOUGH Jack Kelsey, of Arsenal, travelled to Leeds and back with the Town party on Saturday, he was very guarded about the object of his mission.

It could have been to have a look at a Leeds player, but I feel it more likely that he was there to make a check on Davies. If that were the case, there would be a favourable report for Billy Wright because Davies was the one Town forward who looked consistently dangerous.

Indeed, in the first half, almost completely without support, he contrived to worry Charlton.

### Always Had Edge After An Early Goal

MOST difficult to shake off the ball, he frequently cried out the fight into the Leeds half but, after the interval, with the support even closer, he was mostly shut out.

Anyone who went to Elland-road expecting a thriller, which the desperate nature of the situation of both teams demanded, was distinctly disappointed.

This was a disjointed sort of game from start to finish, but Leeds always had the edge following a neatly worked goal scored by Storrie in the seventh minute. In point of fact, that came in the

### FOR THE RECORDS

LEEDS UNITED ..... 3  
Storrie (2), Weston

LUTON TOWN ..... 0

LEEDS UTD.: Sprake; Reaney, Hair; Bell, Charlton, Hunter; Henderson, Weston, Storrie, Collins, Johnson.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Daniel, Bramwell; Morton, Kelly, Lownds; Clapton, Brennan, Davies, McGuffie, Lornie.

Referee: V. J. Batty, Helsby.

first raid organised by the home side.

### Leeds Woodwork Was Hit Twice

STORRIE missed quite as easy a chance shortly afterwards, but Leeds showed little sign of building up a big lead and the Town were always in it, without impressing as a thoroughly dangerous unit.

Davies hit the outside of a post and Clapton followed a bit shortly afterwards, but whether either could be called escapes I doubt, because Sprake probably had both covered anyway. So, to half-time, with hope not altogether dead, but not very bright so far as I was concerned because of the lack of cohesion in the front line.

### Baynham Error Led To The Second

A SURPRISING error by Baynham, his first and only one in the match, put Leeds more or less in the clear in the 56th minute.

Baynham came out to cut off a centre from Collins, seemed to try to get his foot to the ball instead of pulling it down cleanly and it broke loose to Weston who rammed it through.

Worst piece of bad luck the Town had in this match came soon after that when Clapton found a way on the outside of Hair to make a shot that beat Sprake completely but struck the bar and went over.

### Leeds' Third Goal Was An Injustice

A GOAL at that stage—in fact any stage—would have been of great encouragement to the Town, who badly needed a tonic at that sort, but they rarely

looked likely to score afterwards, even so, it was injustice when Leeds obtained their third goal with just about the last kick of the match.

The Town had had a twice-taken indirect free kick, the ball was punned upfield and Storrie looked to be at least two yards offside when he collected it and went on to round Baynham before tapping it into the net.

### Hard-Worked Defence Did Well Enough

DEFENSIVELY, bearing in mind the old handicap of being over-worked in away matches, the Town did well enough without looking completely assured.

Both Daniel and Bramwell came through creditably against two speedy wingers and Kelly did the right thing in resisting the temptation to follow the wandering Storrie and, generally, was difficult to pass.

Morton was the more accomplished wing-half, though Lownds fought hard enough after a very uncertain start.

### Very Few Honours For The Forwards

FORWARD, there were very few honours left to distribute after Davies had received his.

Some went to Clapton, who occasionally looked a class player when in possession of the ball, but he rarely came back to look for it.

As I feared, Brennan found that staying away in a struggling team was different from being in one that is on top at Kenilworth-road and his hard work did not yield him very much.

And the left-wing was very

much out of joint, with McGuffie very much a one-pace player on this occasion and Lornie rarely getting the ball across.

### Reserves' Forwards Were Kept Quiet

IN a game typical of end-of-the-season football, the Town Reserves were beaten by the only goal when they met Peterborough United. Reserves at Kenilworth-road on Saturday.

Right through, the Luton forwards were in the grip of a tall Peterborough defence and goalkeeper Thompson was rarely troubled, so had was the finishing.

Peterborough were no exception to this rule either, but outside-right Sheavills, who scored their goal in the 58th minute, gave McNally plenty of trouble and looked the only forward capable of finding the net.