

FOUR-POINTS HOLIDAY RENEWED HOPE FOR THE TOWN

DAVIES'S BRILLIANT FEAT OF SCORING

Late Goal Won Scrappy Affair With Scunthorpe

By CHILTERN

HOPE that the Town will continue in the Second Division next season was renewed over the holiday when they gained four precious points by winning both their home games.

With five games at Kenilworth-road still remaining, there is real hope for them if they can develop a consistent run, but they will have to be more impressive forward than they were against Scunthorpe on Monday when they scrambled home by a goal from Turner which did not come until six minutes from the end.

BY then, most of their supporters had given up hope of seeing a goal and then Turner, who missed a penalty in two consecutive games, succeeded with a free-kick for hands from two or three yards outside the penalty area.

Scunthorpe could have had little anxiety about this, but Turner chipped the ball brilliantly over the defensive barrier and Jones, who had made some excellent saves earlier, was caught unprepared, the ball going into the corner of the net furthest from him.

Partly Atoned For Expensive Miss

SO, Turner atoned in part for an expensive penalty miss at Scunthorpe on Friday, when he shot wide of a post with the score sheet still blank.

Had he scored then, it would have given the Town the confidence to go on, maybe, to victory, and thus complete a 100 per cent Easter.

In fact, they were in the game with a chance until the closing minutes because Scunthorpe's lead, given them by a McGuigan header after 37 minutes, hung by a slender thread.

Persisted In Running With The Ball

TO a marked extent, they contributed to their own downfall through the persistence of the forwards in running with the ball instead of trying to make use of the open space. As a result, the home defence was rarely pulled out of position and although half-chances were created and missed, very little of a clear-cut nature was made.

Davies, who lacked adequate support, and Jardine were the best of a moderate attack and the former was unlucky not to get his name in the scoring list with two or three worthy efforts.

On the whole, though, the attack lacked punch and although

he worked hard enough, McKech-nie was not a success.

Some Despondency Was Swept Away

NOR did Turner and Fairchild have other than a thin time, but the result was in doubt until four minutes from the end when Gibson scored with a first-time shot.

This was rather less than the gallant Town defence deserved because they had fought grimly with Morton, Daniel and Kelly taking top honours.

Success, however, had an off-day which probably had an adverse effect on Bramwell, who frequently found himself confronted with two attackers and as a result, the Scunthorpe right wing was the one that carried the most threat.

There was a certain amount of despondency among Town officials afterwards, but some of this was swept away by the happenings of the following day.

All Four Goals For Ron Davies

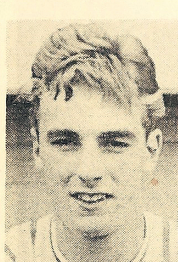
THEN, with Norwich, who had won here on their last two visits, as their opponents, the Town gained a thrilling victory, thanks in the main to the great opportunism of Davies who scored all four goals.

Giving every sign that they had realised to the full the urgency and desperation of their position, the Town swung into attack right from the start, and after Davies had very nearly scored in the first half-minute, he gave the Town the lead after three minutes from a cross by Fairchild.

Hill Caused Lead To Disappear Twice

FOR a time, the Town threatened to run riot, but Norwich, with two splendid in-

Greyhound Racing



Ron Davies, Luton's four-goal hero against Norwich City on Saturday.

side men in Bryceland and Hill, began to move as a smooth unit, and Hill put them level after 22 minutes.

A cool header by Davies four minutes from half-time restored the Luton advantage, but they saw their lead disappear in the minute or so added for injury time when Hill equalised with a well-placed header.

Early in the second half, they did not look at all promising for the Town who had to defend hard, and there were one or two close calls.

Davies Gave The Run Around To Ashman

HOWEVER, Davies was in complete command of the situation giving the run around to Ashman and making the fullest use of the room he was allowed by the attacking propensity of Burton and the wide playing Norwich full-backs.

After 61 minutes, he completed his first hat-trick for the club, but after that, it was a ding-dong

struggle with Norwich unlucky not to draw level again because two shots by Burton and one from Hill, hit the woodwork.

Anxiety was increased when Baynham received a head injury which left him dazed and confused.

Baynham Carried On Gallantly

BRAVELY, he carried on and the men in front of him fought tremendously hard to keep direct shots away from him during his most shabby recovery.

It was a tense period, but some of the tension was removed 14 minutes from time when Davies banged in his fourth goal from Turner's pass.

Davies, of course, was the man of the match and he received a rare ovation from the crowd at the end.

On this occasion, the Town left wing was better than the right, with McKechnie showing improved form, and Jardine often a lively raider.

Morton's Play Belied His Long Service

YET, there was plenty of hard work from Turner, who is playing a semi-defensive type of game these days, but Fairchild, although a trier, had an ordinary sort of match.

Defensively, the Town compared favourably with the Canaries because Kelly was much more solid than his counterpart and Morton played with a spirit and enthusiasm that made one forget that he has been with the club long enough to qualify for three belts.

Daniel, who has fitted into the scheme of things very well, had another good match, but Pacey was again below his best and Bramwell often had to struggle against Mannion.

Scrappy Home Game With Scunthorpe

AFTER the excitement of Saturday, Monday's home game with Scunthorpe came as an anti-climax because it proved to be a scrappy, scrambling sort of affair on which Scunthorpe manager, Dick Duckworth, was inclined to blame the state of the pitch.

On this occasion, Davies, without adequate support this time, found Passmore a vastly different proposition and, although he distributed the ball well, he had few real chances of demonstrating his shooting powers.

Although they lacked the services of the experienced Brown-sword, Scunthorpe were most compact in defence and difficult to break down.

Accent On Defence Continued

EVEN so, the Town looked the more likely to score in the first half when Jones made several fine saves, notably from Jardine, Fairchild and Davies. Occasionally, Scunthorpe were

FOR THE RECORDS

GOOD FRIDAY
SCUNTHORPE UTD. 2
McGuigan, Gibson

LUTON TOWN 0
SCUNTHORPE UTD. 0
Jones, Horsfield, Brown-sword, Gibson, Passmore, Howells, Wilson, Hodgson, Kaye, McGuigan, Crawford.

LUTON TOWN. — Baynham, Daniel, Bramwell, Morton, Kelly, Pacey, Fairchild, Turner, Davies, McKechnie, Jardine.

Referee. — J. E. Carr. Sheffield. Attendance: 7,509.

SATURDAY
LUTON TOWN 4
Davies (4)

NORWICH CITY 2
Hill (2)

LUTON TOWN.—Unchanged.

NORWICH CITY. — Kennon; Kelly (P), Thurlow, Burton, Ashman, Mullett; Mannion, Bryceland, Alcock, Hill, Miller.

Referee.—R. Langdale, Darlington. Attendance: 9,619.

EASTER MONDAY
LUTON TOWN 1
Turner

SCUNTHORPE UTD. 0
LUTON TOWN.—Unchanged.

SCUNTHORPE UTD. — Jones, Horsfield, Brown-sword, Gibson, Passmore, Gannon; Wilson, Lindsey, Kaye, McGuigan, Crawford.

Referee.—R. Osborne, Ipswich. Attendance: 3,164.

dangerous, but the accent on defence continued in the second half during which Baynham saved brilliantly from Gibson, and Scunthorpe narrowly escaped putting through his own goal.

Morton should have scored when he was sent right through, but again Jones rose to the occasion with a diving save.

Before the Town's belated goal came, McGuigan had a couple of chances, but once Turner scored the points seemed safe enough.

First Clean Sheet Since October 27

IT was not a match that the Town, particularly the member of the front line will remember with much pleasure.

Their play was often punctuated by slowness, particularly on the part of McKechnie, who has a most unhappy match and although Turner was rather more effective, this was well below his best form. Jardine was the most dangerous winger.

In keeping their first clean sheet since October 27, the Town defence did a splendid job with Morton, Daniel and Kelly again the pick, and Baynham, about

whose fitness there had been some doubt during the week-end, was completely confident in anticipation.

McNally Plays For Reserves Tonight

TONIGHT, the Reserves have some match with West Ham who are a free-scoring outfit, as they will include Brendan McNally for his first match since he badly damaged an ankle in the Derby over three weeks ago.

Also chosen are Albert Guffie and Mark Lownds, neither of whom had a game during the week-end, but were standing by for first team service.

Team: Ross; Reed, McNally, Guffie, Cope, Lownds; Galt, McGuffie, Galt, Rickard, Lownds, Brennan, Goldie, Kidwell, Long.