

TWO FOR THE TOWN AT TORQUAY

RENNIE CELEBRATES HIS RETURN BUT DEFENDERS DO WELL

How Imrie Was Beaten

(By Crusader)

LUTON TOWN 2 goals
TORQUAY UNITED ... 1 goal
TORQUAY.—Wright; Fowler, Tapp;
Rutchinson, Butler, Smith; Birkett,
Clayson, Trotter, Cooper, Hemingway.
LUTON.—Imrie; Kingham, Hodgson;
Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; M'Nestry,
Chapman, Yardley, Rennie, Turner.
Referee.—Mr. E. R. Westwood, Walsall.
IF the Town players were given the
choice of visiting Swindon or Torquay
on Saturday for the Cup-fight they would
prefer Swindon, in spite of the fact that
they were again successful on the Plain-
moor ground on Saturday. A hardy,
resolute team, combining youth and
experience, the United played dashing
football, and from start to finish main-
tained a fast, robust game that would
have overwhelmed a less stubborn
defence. They left nothing to chance,
and every player put his whole energy
into the struggle. In some respects the
Town were fortunate to win, but had
they failed it would have been due to
misses chances. There was too much
hugging of the ball when a pass was
the obvious move, on the right wing.
It was curious that this was chiefly
in the second half, after there had been
ample opportunity of seeing the effect
of wide passing—not theirs alone—in
the first period. Torquay's adoption of
this style of play was more thorough,
and for this reason they did more
attacking.

GETTING DOWN TO IT

It was a good, honest struggle, with
a little too much vigour at times, and
several players had to receive the atten-
tion of the trainer, but there was no
vicious foul. The ground was rough,
and bothered a lot the players who
attempted fancy work. The sun was
equally troublesome to the Town in the
first half, but went down in the second.
The early stages gave the two or three
Lutonians hope, for the team began to
make the ball move about, and there
was a distinct menace when the left

wing took possession. Torquay were
not long in getting down to business,
and so the ball travelled rapidly from
end to end, and the defenders of either
side had to nip about quickly. A
feature of the Town's play was the
passes by Rennie, and Turner and
M'Nestry each profited; and from one
of these movements Chapman netted,
but was offside. Cooper, the home
inside-left, emulated Rennie, and the
ball was frequently in one or other
goal area, and the crowd kept in a
state of ferment.

TORQUAY TOUCH

So well did the backs defend, how-
ever, that the goalkeepers had not much
work. The first serious call came when
McGinnigle got his foot to a ball from
Birkett, but before he could complete
the clearance Trotter jumped in and
fired at goal. So certain was his aim,
and so short the distance that a goal
seemed certain, but up shot the long
arms of Imrie as he leaped across goal
and the ball sailed high over the bar.
From the flag kick the home forwards
rushed in en masse, and though Imrie
knocked the ball down it was danger-
ously near the line when Kean coolly
stepped back and booted away. However,
the persistence of the home forwards was
rewarded, though in my view the goal
should not have been allowed. It was
this way, from a throw-in on the
home left the ball was sent into the
goal-mouth, and Cooper headed into the
goal; Imrie framed to catch it, and
as he got the ball BIRKETT leaped
into him and knocked the ball out of
his arms. The infingement was jump-
ing, and how serious this was may be
gathered from the fact that Birkett's
knee struck Imrie in the mouth, blood
flowing profusely.

RENNIE'S REPLY

This success infused the United with
renewed enthusiasm, and they swept
down on the Town goal several times,
but only one really good shot was made.

Hemingway firing just too high. Gradu-
ally, however, the Town began to get
the upper hand, the ball going from
man to man with nice precision; a
shot from Chapman hit Wright, but he
managed to get it away. This was the
result of bright combination by Rennie
and Turner, and Yardley ducked to
allow the ball to go to Chapman.
Rennie, who was shooting hard and
often, fired over, and Chapman failed
badly when M'Nestry presented him with
a nice pass and a clear opening.
M'Nestry made a tortuous dribble, but
put behind; a header from Chapman
was grabbed by Wright, and the home
halves had to reinforce the backs to
keep the Town out. But the goal had
to fall, and a pretty goal it was. The
ball came up the middle, and was then
sent sharply to the left by McGinnigle;
Turner went off with it, rounded Fowler,
and then gave RENNIE a perfect pass,
but he never hesitated, but
let fly, and the ball travelled quite
true to the farther corner of the net.

Play was fast and even from now to
the interval. Once Hemingway galloped
through and skimmed the bar with a
shot, but he never hesitated, but
let fly, and the ball travelled quite
true to the farther corner of the net.

TORQUAY UNITED 1 goal LUTON TOWN 1 goal

The Town opened the second period
with brisk work, and Fowler made a
brilliant interception with his head
then Turner centred. Rennie and
Chapman played some shots during a
series of rousing assaults, but the goal
however, were just as earnest, and they
also set up a prolonged attack, which
served to bring out the richest quali-
ties of Imrie, Hodgson, and the
halves, but Imrie had nothing very
serious to do. Suddenly, Yardley took
possession from a pass by Turner, and
skinned the ball out to M'Nestry, who
had a clear run, but Tapp managed
to hold up the winger, and a severe
tussle. Still, the Town continued to
exert a good deal of pressure from the
right wing, and M'Nestry eventually
sided after Wright had saved well.
Cooper was prominent at the other
end, a swift drive from thirty yards
going very close, and thereafter play
was chiefly in midfield.

THE WINNING GOAL

The Town then became dangerous,
as always when the forwards were
swinging the ball about, and Butler
managed to block a shot at close
quarters from M'Nestry, and Kean shot
into Wright's hands, and in a further
movement, initiated by the left wing
and continued by the right, thanks to
a wide pass by Rennie, Tapp threw him-
self at the ball as M'Nestry tried to
get round him, and then held it be-
tween his legs, and there was a sharp
scuffle before the whistle pulled up
the game for a free kick against the
Town. After a skirmish by the United,
Kean and M'Nestry advanced, and the
goal had a narrow escape when Yard-
ley's header missed by inches with the
goalkeeper out of position. A moment
later the centre-forward missed a good
chance when Rennie headed the ball
down to his feet, the shot going a
foot wide. Birkett gave some trouble
to the Town defence, and then Turner
and Rennie worked through on the
left, the ball came over to Yardley,
who slipped it forward, and M'Nestry
darted in to tap past Wright and give
the Town the lead with thirteen min-
utes to go.

CLOSE CALLS

Once more the United put on full
steam, working desperately for a goal,
and Imrie saved brilliantly from Bir-
kett and Cooper. Kean and McGinnigle,
passing cleverly, brought relief, and the
Town looked like getting through, but
Chapman hung on too long and was
robbed. Imrie again saved finely, after
which there was a short stoppage, while
the referee addressed the crowd, who
were getting restive. Great work by
Trotter, who went through single-
handed, put the Town goal in danger;
Imrie flung himself full-length, but
could not reach the ball, and it crept
past the upright. A similar movement
gave Clayton a chance, and Imrie had
again to dive, but this time he averted
a certain goal by touching the ball
with the tip of his fingers, and it
passed behind. In between these efforts,
however, M'Nestry was given a clear
run through by Yardley, and he seemed
certain to score, but when he had
drawn the goalkeeper he shot a foot
wide. The Town defence played stoutly
in the closing minutes, and kept the
ball in midfield until the whistle
sounded the end.

DEFENCE

Imrie was in great form, and was
very unlucky to be beaten; he had
much more work than Wright, because
the United attack did not waste much
time when they had a chance to test
him, and it mattered not whether high
or low, he took the shots coolly and
efficiently. Kingham and Hodgson, like
the middle men, found the home for-
wards full of ginger, and the former
hesitated a little at times in the first
half, but when pursuing his ordinary
game was very effective, and, with
Hodgson at his best, there was not
much to grumble about. McGinnigle
had a tough customer in Trotter, who
is a fine leader still, and it was a
feather in the cap of the centre-half
that he prevented the old Wednesday
sharpshooter from scoring. Kean has
never played better, and his work in
the face of the fiercest assaults to-
wards the end was typical, being cool

and clever, and he thwarted many de-
perate intentions. Fraser had his work
cut out to hold a lively right wing,
and yet combined with Rennie and Tur-
ner to good purpose.

ATTACK

Rennie more than justified his return.
His touches were delightful as ever,
and he "showed 'em" how to shoot
when he got the chance. He made
Turner give of his very best, and the
winger responded splendidly, his control
being far better than in the previous
game, and the best comment could be
made that he did not attempt to do too
much. When he had drawn the oppo-
sition he swung the ball across, and
through him Wright's charge was often
in jeopardy. Had the right wing fol-
lowed the same tactics the victory would
have been more pronounced, but the
ball was kept too close here, Chapman
again showed great promise, and may
be said to have repaid the promotion,
though he has something to learn. De-
liberation is well when there is time,
but he was often robbed because he
tried to do too much. He gave M'Nestry
some nice passes, and in the first half
the winger was a constant source of
anxiety to the home defenders, but
would persist in going another yard or
two and trying to round an opponent
when his colleagues waited for a pass.
There were two occasions in the second
half when a square pass would have
given Yardley, Rennie or Turner a simple
task. On the whole, there was improve-
ment in the forward line.

TORQUAY

Wright kept goal well for the losers,
and his backs worked like Trojans. Tapp
is a big fellow, not averse from living
up to his name, and Fowler was a
fine defender. There was not much to
choose at half, Butler being a capable
pivot, while our old player, Albert
Hutchinson, was very good in feeding
his forwards, and Birkett owed much
to him. The forwards might have com-
bined better, but they were a well
combined line with Birkett and Trotter
the best. There were 5,000 spectators.