

POINT FROM BOURNEMOUTH

LUTON TOWN MAINTAIN IMPROVEMENT

(By Crusader)

VERY often the matches between BOURNEMOUTH and LUTON TOWN, at Dean Court, Boscombe, have been spoiled by the wind, and on Saturday it would have been a very poor game but for the determination of the players to beat the conditions. They did remarkably well, though, more often than not, quite unable to gauge the fall of the ball even from breast high. It swerved and dipped and turned in a bewildering manner, and attempts at combination were frustrated as often by the wind as by opponents.

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Bournemouth had the advantage in the first half, if it could so be called, and with their backs and halves giving the ball plenty of boot, and the forwards challenging vigorously, the Town defenders had to be at their best to keep the goal intact. Another matter that did not improve the play was an accident involving Hodgson and Eyre within a couple of minutes of the start. There was a long kick towards the Town goal, and Hodgson went to head; Eyre dashed up, and leapt high above the Town captain, and both players went down heavily, and stayed there.

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They had to be removed from the field, being off for five minutes. Eyre returned to play outside-right, but did not stay long, and eventually left the field, holding his arm. He was taken to hospital after a medical examination, the result of which was that he was supposed to be suffering from a broken or splintered collar-bone. Neither player could be blamed, although Eyre's dash was characteristic. Hodgson's play was affected, and later in the half had to be carried off as the result of getting in the way of a terrific shot from a free-kick by Hayward, and he did not return until the second half had been in progress about ten minutes.

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Though the home team did a great deal of attacking, they could not control the ball any better than the Town, and it was mainly through what would be called Cup-tie football that they had so much of the play. The wingers were dangerous, especially Russell, and Webb, until recently a half-back, was very active. White was also alert, and Eyre was not greatly missed, for the ball was swung about from wing to wing, and the forwards were always eager for a shot at goal. Imrie made good saves from time to time, and twice was very fortunate to see the ball rebound from his body when an opponent tried at close range.

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On the other hand Gold, towards the interval, made at least one brilliant save, but there was not as much snap and dash in the Town forward line as in the home attack. The front line tried to keep the ball down, and to make progress by short passing and dribbling, and there was not so much of the heavy boot in the rear. The ball sometimes hung in the air, and then dropped almost vertically, while at other times it seemed to turn corners, and a player taking position would find himself hopelessly beaten. At half-time the Town had nothing to grumble about to be on level terms.

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Bournemouth had to concentrate on defence a great deal after change of ends, though their raids were always dangerous, and they showed a good deal of enterprise. Most of the threats to the home goal came from the Town right wing, as those on the Town citadel came from the Bournemouth left. Kean was responsible for many fine feats of organised assault, and with Tait and M'Nestry responding well, and Loasby also on the spot when there was a chance to create trouble, the home goalkeeper and backs had plenty to do, and not much time to deliberate. In that respect they took the right course in letting fly whenever the ball came their way.

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LOASBY opened the score for the Town 19 minutes after the restart. The movement began from the centre-line, when Kean outwitted two opponents, brought the ball a little way, and then transferred to Tait, who, in turn, passed out to M'Nestry. The winger made ground at a great pace, with Loasby keeping pace up the middle; the pass came all along the ground; the centre-forward took it in his stride, and as he shot Gold got in the way, but could not do more than that, and Loasby was on it again, and this time sent it into the net. Within the next few minutes the home team fought desperately for the equaliser, but were beaten off, and then their goal had narrow escapes, and if Gold had not held Loasby down by taking hold of his ankle and keeping a firm grip while he was on the ground, a goal must have come. McGinnigle had no better fortune when he came in to take a hand, for his shot hit the goalkeeper and came out.

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WILLIAMS equalised for Bournemouth after very fine work by Webb had taken the ball well into the danger zone; White got a pass, and shot hard and true for the farther corner of the net, but Imrie flung himself full length and managed to tip the ball aside; before he could get up, or anyone else intervene, Williams had rushed in and shot, and the ball hit the post and went into the net. This was about fifteen minutes from the end, and both sides seemed intent on defence afterwards. The town had much the better of the exchanges, but could not beat Gold, who made two or three splendid saves, notably from M'Nestry, Tait and Loasby.

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In all the circumstances a draw was perhaps a fitting result. Bournemouth deserved praise for their plucky display. Eyre was missed, undoubtedly, but his colleagues strove very hard to

repair the defection and succeeded admirably. They brought the best out of the Town defence, and Imrie and his backs played as well as ever. The halves were right at the top of their form, and Kean has never made a better show with Luton, while McGinnigle and Fraser did grand work. The forwards made brave attempts to combine, but suffered more from the tricks played by the breeze than it did the rest of the team, as good centres and passes were spoilt. All played well without touching the level of the previous week.

BOURNEMOUTH & BOSCOMBE 1
LUTON TOWN 1
BOURNEMOUTH. — Gold; Hayward, Whitehouse; Halliwell, Coxford, Moralee; Williams. (L.), White, Eyre, Webb, Russell.
LUTON.—Imrie; Kingham, Hodgson; Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; M'Nestry, Tait, Loasby, Rennie, Turner.
Referee.—Mr. G. T. Gould, Woolwich.