

MANSFIELD'S REVENGE

GOALS AND OTHER ACCIDENTS

(By Crusader)

MANSFIELD 5
LUTON TOWN 2

MANSFIELD.—Staples; Clifford, England; Readman, Robinson, Blackburn; Storer, Broom, Johnson, Staniforth, Bowater.

LUTON.—Imrie; Kingham, Hodgson; Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; Cupit, Tait, Loasby, Rennie, Bryce.

Referee: Mr. T. J. Botham, Walsall.

LUTON TOWN yielded five goals yesterday to a side they beat much more handsomely than the score indicated on Good Friday. I do not want to withhold from Mansfield an iota of credit; I would give them a big meed of praise for their fighting qualities, but they were fortunate to win. They succeeded as much through the shortcomings of Luton as through their own abilities, and perhaps it could be rightly said that the difference between the side was that the home team showed the harder hitting qualities. From the aspect of skill they were always second best, but were an easy first for deadly intentness on getting the ball, and particularly for incisiveness in front of goal. There were times when one felt that the Town were not having a square deal. I thought on Friday that the referee was too lackadaisical in getting down to his job, and at Mansfield, fair though he meant to be, he made a most egregious blunder in disallowing a goal at the start. Moreover, one of the linesmen either did not know his job or had not the elementary idea of fairness. Even the home spectators were telling him to play the game in the first half. If the Town do not make strong representations to the authorities I shall be surprised.

A GOAL DISALLOWED.

The ground was in bad condition, and many attempts at constructive football were beaten by the conditions, and perhaps the rough-and-ready methods of the home side were commensensical in the circumstances. The Town began well enough, and bright work by Kean gave Bryce the opportunity to rush in and challenge the goalkeeper for possession on the line close to the goal-post; he turned the ball backwards—away from goal—and Loasby had only to tap the ball into the net. To say that everybody was amazed by the decision of the referee that Loasby was offside is but a mild expression. There was no appeal at all, except in protest from the Town players, and to those the official turned a deaf ear. For some time the Town had the better of the game, and with nippiness both Loasby and Cupit should have scored, but Loasby did get in a good shot which was blocked. When the home team got going, Imrie had to save a header from Johnson. Then Tait was going through when badly brought down, but the referee ignored the appeal and the Town players stood still while the ball was sent to the other end. The Town goal nearly fell as a result, for the ball was swung over from right to left, and Imrie and Kingham were right out of position; Bowater hooked the ball back cleverly, and a goal seemed certain when Imrie somehow managed to get back and to beat the ball out from under the bar. There was a scuffle, and three or four hard shots were driven in, but the goal was packed, and finally a shot struck McGinnigle and bounded over the bar.

THE FIRST GOAL

The Town were kept on the defensive for some time, and Kingham and Kean got in the way of hard drives before Staniforth sent wide. Kingham failed to gauge a long kick forward, and had to concede a corner, and from the clearance Tait sent Cupit through, and he had a clear course, but dallied and paid the price, for England was too strong. In a

further assault McGinnigle drove in a high shot which Staples saved under the bar. At last Kean and Tait fed Cupit and he managed to get over a fine centre, and Bryce came up at full speed and looked all over a scorer, but got right under the ball, and it sailed over the bar. Loasby was too slow to take advantage of beautiful footwork in which Tait, Bryce and Rennie each had a part, and another good chance was gone. From Clifford's big kick Storer went right away and lifted the ball across; Imrie came out, but misjudged the flight, or it swerved away from him, and BOWATER ran in, lofted it over his head and it travelled on to the farther post and rolled over the line to give the home team the lead.

TWO PLAYERS OFF

The Town went at it again; Loasby skimmed the bar with a fine drive, and then England saved his goal by neat anticipation. A repeat attack ended with Rennie driving too high. Then came a severe blow for the Town. Kean was heading the ball when Blackburn dashed into him, and both went down heavily. Kean had to be carried off, his head badly cut, but Blackburn resumed after a little attention. Mansfield played like a side inspired, and refused to be beaten by cleverness. They fought magnificently, if vigorously, and Imrie made a grand save from Broom. In a diversion by the Town Loasby forced Staples to drop the ball, but it was recovered, and then Imrie twice tipped hot shots over the bar. Just afterwards Johnson was well offside and the Town players stood appealing while he went on, but a scrimmage followed, and the ball was got away after hard work. Then the home goal had a narrow escape, for Bryce ran through strongly, beating the opposition, and centring, but neither Loasby nor Cupit could control the ball, and a splendid chance was lost, though Rennie had very hard luck with an express drive that knocked Blackburn off his feet but rebounded. It was at this stage that Blackburn had to retire, for when the ball was in mid-field he was tackled by Tait and fell. It was found that he was suffering from concussion, and he was removed to hospital. Rennie immediately afterwards dribbled through and gave Loasby an easy opening, but he missed badly, shooting wide. Five minutes before the interval a long pass came up the middle and with the Town players appealing for offside, JOHNSON went through unattended and beat Imrie easily. The shouting had hardly died away when there was another appeal for offside against Storer, certainly justified, but he centred and JOHNSON headed the third goal. The interval was signalled with the score:—

MANSFIELD TOWN 3
LUTON TOWN 0

Mansfield resumed with ten men, but Kean returned to play at outside right; Cupit went to outside left, and Bryce to inside right, with Tait at right half. At once the Town made efforts to redeem losses, and there was a capital chance, but Loasby wanted to do too much, and was closed by the backs. Bryce was very soon in evidence with forceful work, and careered up the right wing, beating England and dropping over a good centre; Loasby could not get the ball, and Staples ran out and just managed to forestall Rennie. Again Bryce filled the picture with sterling work, and banged over a fine centre, but Cupit was not quick enough, and Staples ran out and robbed him. In a fierce rush by the home forwards Kingham handled a yard outside the penalty area, but the free kick was blocked, and when Storer made a sharp dash and centred

nicely Johnson shot hurriedly and was well off the target. The Town responded again, and there was a rush up the middle with natty passing, and a goal seemed likely, but Staples managed to get to Loasby's effort and saved at the expense of a corner. Then Hodgson dribbled well into the Mansfield half and gave Cupit a splendid pass, but the winger again failed to accept.

BRYCE'S REWARD

Kean's brilliant footwork outwitted the opposition and he centred grandly; Cupit tried to shoot, but the ball spun off his foot and went to BRYCE, who let fly without hesitation and the ball crashed past the helpless goalkeeper. This was fourteen minutes after the re-start, and a goal well deserved by the team, and by none more so than the successful marksman. Bryce was again conspicuous with thrustful work, and kept the home backs on tenterhooks. From his run and pass Loasby had a chance, but the goalkeeper was alert and ran out and dropped on the ball, being hurt in doing so. Loasby nor any other player attempted to touch the prostrate goalkeeper, and yet the referee gave a free kick to re-start the game. Just when things were going well for the Town there was a long kick down the field; Kingham misjudged the ball, and EC-WATER darted in to score a nice goal.

MORE GOALS

In spite of this reverse the Town persevered, Rennie doing fine work in initiation, and twice hot assaults were beaten off, and Staples made a great save, but Kean, Tait and Bryce then made headway by clever passing, and Bryce bored through to turn the ball back from the line to LOASBY, who scored a goal exactly similar to the one that was disallowed in the first minute. Just afterwards the Town swept up the field again, and Loasby was wrongly given off-side as he took a pass from Cupit, but the Town centre-forward came again and drove in a warm shot which Staples saved splendidly at the jointure of bar and upright. Though the pace was not quite so severe there was still enough vigour to satisfy reasonable folk. The Town backs were bothered by the efforts of Johnson and his left wing, and Kingham was fouled by the home centre-forward after he had held him up. Then there was a harmless sort of raid by the home forwards, and McGinnigle attempted a pass back to Imrie; the ball did not travel more than half a dozen yards, and JOHNSON was on the spot for such a chance, and made full use of it. The Town were not done with, and Kean, Bryce and Rennie all did good work, and McGinnigle and Fraser took a part in the proceedings, and following one skillfully executed movement Rennie drove in a lovely shot that had the goalkeeper beaten all the way, but the ball hit the foot of the post and came out. The end came just afterwards with the homesters good winners.

MANSFIELD'S MEN—

Mansfield played as ruggedly as on Friday, and were entitled to it because they fought for the ball with every scrap of energy they possessed. Man for man they had not the skill of the Town, but no team could have been more zealous. The defence was not safer than on Friday, but the Town inside forwards were even less potent. The halves played vigorously, with Robinson always in the thick of the fray, and Johnson again showed fine judgment as a leader, and I doubt if there is a centre-forward in the Division to surpass him. He is not so ostentatious as Morris, but quite as deadly.

AND LUTON'S

Imrie should have prevented the first goal, and Kingham was seldom at ease. Hodgson was the better back, but the pair of them tried to serve their forwards with discreet passes, whereas the home backs simply booted the ball hard as though to say that when it was away from their goal it was up to the forwards to carry on. Fraser was the best half-back on the field, for Kean was not there long enough to qualify for that compliment. When the old International went to outside-right, however, we saw the difference between the man who plays with his head and others. He was just as good in that position as elsewhere, which is saying a great deal. McGinnigle also did well, apart from his costly error. Cupit and Loasby both lacked quickness off the mark, and numerous chances were missed again. Tait worked hard as ever, and merited better results from his work, and when he deputised at half for Kean he continued to do very useful work. Rennie had no equal as a constructive forward, and deserved at least one goal.

There were 8,000 spectators.