

BRIGHTON BEATEN

AFTER A GRIM BATTLE AT LUTON

Fraser in Fine Form

By Crusader

LUTON TOWN	3
BRIGHTON & H.A.	2
Half-time :	
LUTON	1
BRIGHTON	0

LUTON.—Imrie ; Kingham, Wilson ; Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser ; M'Nestry, Wales, Tait, Rennie, Rowe.

BRIGHTON.—Webb ; Marsden, Brett ; Sly, Mooney, Smith ; Farrell, Kirkwood, Attwood, Eyres, Wilson.

Referee, Mr. R. G. Rudd, Kenton.

HAD the wind not been so annoying the game at Luton on Saturday might well have been one of the best on the ground this season for Brighton made a spirited challenge, and frequently threatened to carry the day. True the Town had a good deal the better of the general exchanges, taking the game throughout, but there was a lot of determination in the visiting attack, the line playing well together. They were not brighter in their work, good though that was, but they were not inclined to hang on to the ball so much as one or two of the Town's forwards, and that was the secret of their severe menaces when on the move. They did not have a very happy time in the first half, when they were facing the breeze, and were lucky to take the lead, but their quick, short passing game was admirable, and the right style in the teeth of the wind. They gave the ball more boot in the second half, and their attacks were much more frequent, though there was still a slight balance of play in the Town's favour. The Town did not vary their methods as skilfully, but were backed by a better middle line, capable in the spoiling of the opposition.

BRIGHT START

There was a refreshing dash about Kingham's first move. He went for the ball at top speed to forestall Eyres, who was striving to send Attwood through, and then there was a skirmish at the other end—rather more than that—because Marsden had to adopt forcible measures to keep Tait at bay. Luton's Wilson was prominent with a good clearance, and then Kean opened up the way for a sparkling move by M'Nestry. Probably it would have been successful had he parted at the right moment, instead of carrying on until forced out of play. Gradually the Town took the upper hand, and some of the visitors used their weight to good purpose, and play became somewhat vigorous. Still, the Town were very aggressive, and the Albion were compelled to defend stubbornly. They did it well, but once Webb only saved his goal by throwing himself at M'Nestry's feet and smothering the winger's attempt to shoot. The Town attacked strongly, and Webb and his backs were glad of assistance from their inside forwards, but the ball was cleared, only to be returned in front of the Albion goal.

KIRKWOOD CLICKS

The visitors were very alert, however, and their Wilson sent the ball along the wing for Attwood, who had gone to his help, to make a dash. He turned the ball inside very nicely, and Kirkwood took possession ; Luton's Wilson rushed in and seemed to have the opponent well covered, but kicked over the ball, and KIRKWOOD lost no time in taking a shot, and the ball travelled hard and low into the net. Almost immediately the Albion goal had a series of narrow escapes. The defenders were crowded on to their goal-line, and kicked and struggled desperately against a sharp and relentless attack. Try as they would, the Town forwards could not get the ball past Webb, who saved his charge when he flung himself right on to the feet of Wales, who had come through by deft footwork, and looked certain to score. During this assault there were two Albion players laid out by the very fierceness of their tackling.

RENNIE SUCCEEDS

For a long time the Town assailed the visitors' goal, and were at last successful, for Fraser opened up a move on the left, and Rowe beat Sly before pushing the ball inside to Rennie ; Marsden made a desperate attempt to thwart the latter, but was beaten, and RENNIE went on to crash the ball hard and true into the net. Why there was

such an outcry from Marsden, Mooney and Brett I failed to see, but the only construction I could put on it was that they were appealing for a free kick against Sly or Marsden for handling. At least, this was the only reason I could see, for there did not appear to be any handling by either of the Town players, and play was open enough to have revealed it. The Albion players followed Mr. Rudd right to the centre of the field, arguing vehemently, but he waved them aside, and Kirkwood eventually persuaded his colleagues to resume position. Clearly, if they were arguing that one of themselves had handled, they were right out of court for a free kick against them would have penalised the Town. In any case it was a very good goal, and well deserved, both by the scorer and the team, on the run of play. The Albion fought with greater recklessness, and their goal was in constant danger, the Town halves sending their forwards into the attack persistently with magnificent work. Rowe put in beautiful centres, and M'Nestry also got over one or two, but not so often as he might have done. All the Town forwards went very close time after time, Tait's dash harassing the defenders, and had not the breeze carried the ball out of play very quickly there would have been little respite for Webb. At the other end Imrie had a very easy time, but when the Albion did make a move there was a big tax on the resources of the Town.

ROWE'S REWARD

In the opening of the second half the Albion rallied, but the first attack of note came from the Town right ; M'Nestry was given a chance to go right through, and had he centred instead of keeping the ball so close, his inside forwards would have had a chance, but he was baffled by Marsden close to the upright, and the ball went for a fruitless corner. There was a swift retaliation by the Albion, and with the Town defenders failing to clear the ball promptly there was a scuffle in the vicinity of the Town goal, and it was well that Imrie was in the right spot when Attwood managed to get in a quick shot, the ball sailing into the goal-keeper's ready arms. Play was more even than before, and the ball travelled rapidly from end to end ; McGinnigle did good defensive work with Kingham and Wilson, the right back playing magnificently. Fraser put an end to a strong and determined assault by the Albion, and then the Town forwards pressed heavily. Fraser dispossessed Farrell, and brought the ball along the left wing, a glorious effort, utilising Rennie, who turned the ball to Rowe ; the latter's nice centre struck a defender and rebounded, but he was on the ball again, and as defenders closed on him he lifted it over perfectly for M'NESTRY to head an easy goal.

QUICK GOALS

The Albion went back to the fray undaunted, and Rennie nearly gave them an equaliser, for he tried to dribble past two or three opponents when he had fallen well back into the penalty area, and there was a little fusillade at the goal, and Eyres had hard luck when a good drive struck Wilson and rebounded clear. The Town hit back, the left wing again making the pace, and then Wales and Kean got the Albion defenders in a tangle, and the ball went to the left ; Rowe passed back into the middle, and Rennie took three drives in quick succession, but the Albion packed well. However TAIT got hold, and refused to be dragged off or brought down, and broke right through to shoot into the net. This put the Town players and the crowd on good terms, but the joy was short-lived. In a raid by the visitors McGinnigle stopped the ball, but got it mixed up with his feet, and Kirkwood, always on the alert, pounced in took possession, and then pushed the ball forward for ATTWOOD to run in and score a nice goal. In the remaining play the Town continued to be the better side, but the Albion were always strong enough to give trouble, and there was just as hard work for the Town halves and backs as for the opposition. However, the goals did not fall again, and the game ended with the Town just deserving their success.

PLAYERS

Imrie had no chance with either of the goals against him, and made one or two fine saves, but he had much

less work than Webb. Kingham was in fine form, and tackled with more vigour than usual, while his kicking was clean and accurate. Wilson also did very well, apart from his early miss, which was understandable with the ball playing tricks. All the halves did well, but the lion's share fell to Fraser, who had to mee: a splendid wing, but came out with honours. His work all through was masterly, and he is a better player to-day than ever. McGinnigle had trouble with the lively ball: his best work was in defence, but he will not often meet better craftsmen than the three inside men of the Albion. Kean was as prominent and as skilful as ever, though he did not have so much work after the interval. He made many fine openings in the first half, and there should have been better reward for his craft. The forwards ran into a vigorous opposition, but often played delightful football, especially on the left. Tait led his line with his customary zeal, and had the ball been less difficult to control, would have had more than one goal. M'Nestry's speed and control was good enough, but he spoiled much of his usefulness by hanging on too long. He was not content to create a reasonable opening, but wanted to make absolutely certain. The result was that his colleagues did not get as many chances as they deserved. Wales once more put up a brainy show, and Rennie was as entertaining as ever. He will make Rowe, and the young recruit seems bound to make good. He made good use of his passes, centres splendidly, and he found his partner with nice passes.

Of the Albion, Webb kept goal finely, showing great courage and resource, while his backs positioned well, and presented a solid front. Brett is as good as ever. Mooney was a splendid pivot, and in a clever attack there was not one that did not do good things, though Kirkwood was the outstanding player.

There were 6,328 spectators, and the receipts were £352 2s. 1d.
