

ALDERSON'S BRACE

FIRST AWAY VICTORY IN LEAGUE GAMES

Fine Team Work

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN 2
BOURNEMOUTH 0
BOURNEMOUTH. — Gold; Proctor.
Whitehouse; Miller, Coxford, Moralee;
S. M. Beswick, Ledwidge, Eyre, Russell,
MacPhail.

LUTON.—Imrie; Kingham, Mackey;
Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; Mills, Nelson,
Alderson, Rennie, Roberts.

Referee: Mr. F. Ratcliff, Crouch End.

A CONSIDERABLE party of well-known Luton sportsmen spent Christmas at Bournemouth, and the holiday was made the more enjoyable by the magnificent victory the Town obtained at Dean Court. There was no fluke about the success; the Bournemouth officials readily admitted that the better side had won, and marvelled that a team so capable would be in such a moderate position in the League. Whether it was the cordiality of the welcome given by those Lutonians, twenty to thirty strong, or that the Town were determined to bag at least one victory away this year, I cannot say, but they began like a winning side, and but for a display of goal-keeping quite as good as that given by the Palace custodian on Saturday, would have led by four or five goals at the change of ends. The first half showed the Town as a team of great talent, for there was, fore and aft, an understanding that kept the home goal in jeopardy for several minutes at a stretch. The second half was more even, but still the Town proved too good for the opposition, and deservedly took the spoils.

A bitterly cold breeze whipped the players as they turned out, and when the two old Sheffield Wednesday players advanced to the centre for the toss, the 6,000 spectators were stamping and clapping to keep themselves warm. Fred Kean did not guess aright, and so Alderson kicked off. Within a minute Gold had to handle, the Town right wing making the approach. The Town remained on the attack, and Roberts, receiving from Rennie, broke through and centred. Alderson bowled over Coxford, but Whitehouse came to the rescue at an anxious moment for Gold, and got the ball well out, only to see Kean come up full tilt and shoot over. Alderson was very assertive, and distributed well, Mills shooting wide from one clever pass, and just afterwards Kean followed suit. The home right had a turn and the amateur winger nipped in and centred, but Mackey got his head to the ball, and when Ledwidge met it his effort was well wide. Beswick had another try, but Mackey gave him little rope, and he sent behind. Back came the Town, and after natty passing by the inside forwards the ball was kicked clear, but Kean returned it, and Proctor lunged desperately as Alderson raced in, the ball going a great height and dropping under the bar for Gold to punch away.

Imrie had to run out and clear when MacPhail ran through and centred, and from his kick McGinnigle took the ball a long way and then whipped it out to Mills, whose centre was picked up by Gold just in time. MacPhail again had a turn after a neat bout of passing, but his shot was harmless, and a free kick against McGinnigle for "hands" came to nothing. Miller dribbled well, but his shot was wide. The Town then set up a prolonged and rousing assault. Halves and forwards kept the ball on the move, and Kingham and Mackey were playing near the half-way line, invariably returning the ball into the home penalty area from the big kicks of the backs. Rennie twice banged hard but wide, and then Proctor flew across goal and kicked the ball off Alderson's toe when the centre-forward, not three yards out, was meeting a centre by Mills. Kean initiated another bright movement along with Nelson and Mills, and Alderson headed inches wide. Then came a brilliant run by Roberts, who raced round Proctor and cut in towards goal before passing the ball squarely across goal; with Gold away from his charge Nelson seemed unable to miss the vacant goal, but the ball seemed to swerve awkwardly as he met it, and he scooped it over the bar, the crowd shouting with joy. Two corners were forced, Rennie twice feeding Mills with long passes. A brisk bombardment of the home goal followed a determined raid by Alderson, and many shots were saved by Gold, one brilliant drive from Rennie being saved at full length.

ALDERSON was playing finely, and from his pass Mills centred cleverly, and two more corners followed. The Town shot well, and their movements were characterised by incisive combination and any amount of thrust near goal. After twenty minutes, Kean began to dribble, and then passed and repassed with Nelson and Mills, and then went right through for Kean to tap the ball into the middle and ALDERSON shot promptly to beat Gold all ends up. It was a typical Kean effort. Bournemouth lost no time in striking back, and for a few moments pressed hotly, but Kean and McGinnigle cleared a dangerous situation, and Roberts burst through, only to bang the ball against Proctor when within a few yards of goal. Bournemouth were kept on the defensive, and their backs and goalkeeper had a milling. Gold saved grandly a good header from Nelson, when Roberts broke through to centre again, and Mills scraped the bar with

a splendid drive after another concerted movement. Kingham conceded a corner to Russell, and then the Town returned for Fraser to dribble through, but the flag-kick he earned, was got away. However, a return visit saw Roberts dash in and shoot with plenty of power, the ball striking the side net. Bournemouth were improving, and Imrie dropped the ball after fielding a hot drive from Russell, but he got it round the post for a fruitless corner. The home team again had a spell of pressing, and Imrie saved finely from Russell. The Town retaliated spiritedly, and several shots were tried, but the ball rebounded from defenders, and the whistle sounded a halt with the score

LUTON 1
BOURNEMOUTH 0

BOURNEMOUTH rushed to the attack on the restart, and McGinnigle made a brilliant clearance at a critical moment from a scrimmage in the goal area. When the Town replied, Roberts nipped Rennie's pass, and the home team went into it harder than ever, for their supporters cheered them on wildly, and they responded gallantly. Mills and Nelson went away and Alderson forced a corner, and from the flag-kick Rennie had a hard drive rebound from a defender and a second attempt went wide. After midfield play, Rennie came through to accept a touch from Alderson, and shot at lightning speed, but Gold dived and got to the ball just in time. Then Rennie put Alderson through, and the centre-forward raced clear, beating the backs, and as Gold came out he shot past him all along the ground, but the ball missed by inches. This was a very narrow escape, and Bournemouth celebrated by a fierce rush which Mackey nullified. Alderson again went through, but close in goal collided with Whitehouse, and the ball was taken by Gold. Kingham and Fraser were prominent with good kicking and tackling, and Rennie swung the ball out to the right. Kean dashed in and centred for Gold to punch over the bar. Gold saved again at full length when Fraser had a turn, and play was transferred.

IMRIE was in action two or three times and Eyre and Ledwidge each had shots well caught, while Russell shot over. A beautiful passing movement by Rennie, Nelson and Mills culminated in a shot by Nelson taken on the run, and the ball completely beat Gold, but struck the bar and came out. Kingham was injured in a collision with Eyre, and Bournemouth persevered to force a couple of fruitless corners. Kingham got the ball away, and then McGinnigle was penalised wrongly when he blocked the ball as Russell was going through. The free kick hit a barrier of players, and the Town were going well when Nelson held on too long, and so there was a quick return assault by the home side. This was frustrated by Mackey and Fraser, but they persisted, and the ball hovered dangerously about the Town goal until Kean came through the ruck and sent Mills away. A good centre was taken by Gold, and once more the Town were compelled to defend stubbornly. From a corner kick Kean again proved the despoiler of the home forwards, and his long pass straight up the middle was snapped up by ALDERSON. He outwitted both backs, and as Gold dashed out drove home a clinking shot which found the farther corner of the net.

THIS was thirteen minutes from the end, and there were prospects of another goal almost immediately, when Rennie and Alderson were waiting for a pass from Nelson, but he preferred to shoot from long range and Gold was safe. Great efforts were made by the home team, but McGinnigle and the backs did grand work, and once Imrie saved in thrilling fashion when a goal seemed a certainty. The Town opened out the play again, and Alderson gave Roberts a lovely pass from which he raced well in, but shot moderately and Gold tipped the ball over. Then Mills was wrongly given offside by a linesman when well through, and from the free kick Bournemouth again attacked. In a warm assault McGinnigle fell back and cleared from off the line, and Imrie made another fine save from Russell. The Town played confidently to the end, and thoroughly deserved their success.

IMRIE showed to much better advantage in this game, but had not as much work as Gold, who was a brilliant custodian. Kingham and Mackey defended strongly and kicked a good length, as well as tackling finely. The halves, however, again were the shining lights, every man playing glorious football, and the forwards responded gallantly. They were particularly effective when they swung the ball about, and the only sinner in this matter was Nelson. Had he sent the ball out to Roberts as often as Rennie sent it to Mills the home defence would have been in sorry plight. He played very well in the first half and Mills made a lot of the fine assistance he had from Kean. Rennie again played cleverly, and Roberts, if not brilliant, was very useful. The best word, however, I must give to Alderson. He was almost a failure on Saturday, because he appeared to lack

pace, but did not receive much on the ground, and was new to the team. On Monday he was a different man. He fought for the ball every time; opened out the game with nice passes, was strong enough to challenge and hold his own against any opposition, and was not anxious to get on the goal line before he had a shot. I wanted to see him perform the hat trick; he nearly did it, and quite deserved it. If he is going to maintain this level then he is in the job for "keeps."