

BOURNEMOUTH LAUGH LAST

STRIKING REVERSAL OF FORM AT LUTON

Feeble Forwards

BOURNEMOUTH 2
LUTON TOWN 1

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

BOURNEMOUTH.—Gold; Proctor, Whitehouse; Miller, Coxford, Moralee; S. M. Beswick, White, McGowan, Russell, MacPhail.

Referee.—Mr. F. Ratcliff, Crouch End.

REVERSAL of form is not unexpected at holiday time, when teams are called upon to play several matches in a few days, but Luton had so thoroughly merited their victory at Bournemouth on Monday that it was never imagined by any of those who saw the game at Dean Court that there would be the slightest probability of Luton forfeiting the points. Incidentally it was the Town's first defeat at home, and credit must be given to the victors for their gallant fight. On their first half display they deserved a substantial lead at the change of ends, just as had Luton the day before, but it was their defence that eventually sustained the trouble, and right manfully resisted the desperate efforts of the Town to snatch the points. Had the Town forwards played anything like they did at Dean Court they would have won, but they seemed to lack speed and initiative, and to play into the hands of opponents who got rid of the ball to advantage when they were hard pressed, and showed bright ideas in attack.

THE game opened with Bournemouth attacking hotly, and Imrie had to save a quick shot by White, who, with McGowan, forced a way between the backs. Then Imrie saved, but slipped down, and Mackey was on the spot to deliver the Town goal when it seemed certain to fall. So brightly did the visitors attack, that the Town goal was constantly in jeopardy, and Kean had to fall back and get rid of a centre from Beswick. The Town were all at sixes and sevens, and in spite of the clamour of the crowd, they could not get a footing in the Bournemouth territory. Mackey again came to the rescue after good work by MacPhail, and a free kick for dangerous play brought relief for a few moments. Roberts and Mills each essayed a break through, but they were not quick enough, and Kingham robbed McGowan in the nick of time when he was clean through and on the point of shooting. Next McPhail slipped away and Imrie saved grandly at the expense of a corner which was followed by another, the ball being scrambled away. **T**HE home forwards seemed unable to make a decent pass, and ten minutes passed before they were at all dangerous. Then Roberts shot wide. In a return visit Nelson tested Gold, who also fielded cleverly when Alderson had a try. The Town were lucky to take the lead after seventeen minutes' play. The movement began on the left wing, and Rennie, receiving a swinging pass from Nelson, returned the ball well in front of goal; Nelson took a shot which beat

Gold, but the ball struck the bar, and Alderson dashed in and headed into the net Gold falling heavily and hurting himself in the endeavour to save. The Town showed a little better form after this, and forced a couple of corners, but they soon had to give way, and the Bournemouth right wing made the pace for McGowan to send in a hot drive which Imrie saved at the expense of a corner.

MACKEY again came to the rescue with powerful work when the visitors threatened, and then came the Town's best movement to date. Mills and Nelson opened up, but were repulsed, and then McGinnigle and Fraser got the left wing in action, and Rennie gave Roberts a nice pass. The winger centred well, and Alderson headed goalwards, the ball striking Proctor's arm and being deflected. A loud appeal for a penalty kick was negatived. Bournemouth again struck back, and Imrie made a thrilling save from Russell. The visiting right wing against got through, and Beswick centred nicely. McGowan was hemmed in, but managed to touch the ball back, and WHITE equalised with a glorious shot which had Imrie beaten all the way. Bournemouth continued to have the better of the exchanges, and it was amazing to see the Town players robbed time after time through hesitation or selfishness. Kean and Fraser tried to inspire the front line, but they could not find the idea to beat the visitors' rearguard. Imrie saved from MacPhail and Russell, and then Mills made a good attempt, Gold fisting over the bar. Alderson skimmed the cross-bar with a great drive, and during further pressure Proctor again appeared to handle, but the referee refused the loud claim for a penalty kick. Interval:—

LUTON 1
BOURNEMOUTH 1

BOURNEMOUTH had to pack their goal immediately the game was restarted, and Proctor gave away a free kick when he tackled Fraser. From the kick, Nelson made a good attempt, but the ball sailed high over. Nice play by the Town left wing, and Fraser was promising, but Rennie banged wide. By a sharp reply, the visitors' left wing made headway, and when the ball was muddled McGowan deceived Mackey, and only a splendid save by Imrie at full-length foiled the visitors. Mackey brought down Beswick close to the penalty area, but the free kick was headed away by Mackey. Brilliant, forceful play by Kean transferred operations, but Roberts shot badly after a shot by Alderson had rebounded from an opponent. The Town were now having the better of the game, although their efforts were still falling short of thrust and crispness. Gold had to save from McGinnigle and Kean, and then he saved brilliantly from a header by Alderson after Kean had centred.

WHITE was injured in a tackle by McGinnigle, and had to retire for a little while, and when the Town attacked fiercely a great shot by Rennie struck Proctor and nearly knocked him off his feet. Then McGinnigle was fouled when he had dribbled past three opponents, and from the free kick Rennie skimmed the bar. White returned to take part in another raid by the visitors, the ball going from right to left, helped along by a powerful punch by Imrie. McPhail returned it, and from a scuffle in the goalmouth BESWICK rushed the ball into the net after the defenders had made vain attempts to kick clear. Luton tried hard to get on terms again, but the visitors were determined to keep their lead, and found touch without hesitation.

JUST afterwards Alderson narrowly missed with a good drive, and then Rennie had hard luck with a shot that hit the goalkeeper, and was clutched safely at the second attempt. Bournemouth were seldom able to get away, but when they did find a passage they were always dangerous, their inside forwards being energetic and thrustful. Kingham made a grand tackle to foil Beswick, but then kicked badly, and Russell seized the ball and went away to shoot wide. The Town made strong attempts to draw level, but Gold saved again and again in clever style, and his goal area was packed with colleagues. Kean tried harder than ever, but he received little assistance, for many feeble passes were made from the wings, and there was an absence of cohesion and craft at close quarters. Try as they would, the Town could not draw level, and the game ended with the Town's first home defeat of the season.

IMRIE made a few good saves, and Mackey did quite well again at back, with Kingham also fairly safe, though he found Russell and MacPhail a speedy and tricky pair. McGinnigle did not find his best form until the second period, but Kean and Fraser worked like giants, and they at least deserved better reward for their labours. The forwards were right off form, and it was difficult to imagine they were the line of the previous day. Rennie alone showed anything like constructive ability marksmanship, though Alderson worked very hard.

There were 10,428 spectators, and the receipts were £216 14s. 6d.