

NOT SO HAPPY OR LUTON

FIRST AWAY VICTORY: FIRST HOME DEFEAT IN LEAGUE GAMES

Striking Reversal of Form

(By Crusader)

At Luton on Saturday.

LUTON TOWN	1
CRYSTAL PALACE	1

Scorers: RENNIE for Luton; BERRY for Palace.

Attendance 7,042; receipts £396 19s. 6d.

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

Palace.—Dunn; Parry, Crilly; Wilde, Barrie, Rivers; Harry, Roberts, Manders, Walters, Berry.

Referee.—Mr. P. Graham, Coventry.

At Bournemouth on Monday.

LUTON TOWN	2
BOURNEMOUTH	0

Scorer: ALDERSON (2).

Attendance 6,000.

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

Referee.—Mr. F. Ratcliff, Crouch End.
LUTON team as above.

At Luton on Tuesday.

LUTON TOWN	1
BOURNEMOUTH	2

Scorers. ALDERSON for Luton; WHITE and BESWICK for Bournemouth.

Attendance 10,428; receipts £616 14s. 6d.

LUTON team as above.

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

Referee.—Mr. F. Ratcliff.

FIRST HOME LOSS

FROM mediocrity on Saturday to a pedestal on Monday, and on Tuesday a big fall. The Town were defeated at home by the side, with two exceptions, that were outplayed by them the previous day. It was a great disappointment to the large holiday crowd, who had come to expect something better than ever following the good news of Monday. Above I have said that one could hardly believe that the team at Bournemouth was the same as failed to account for the Palace; what, then, can one say about the difference shown on Tuesday?

Neither could it be said that the Town were unfortunate. True, they had their moments of hard luck, but so did the visitors. It was a very complete reversal of the previous day's game, for just as the Town had been the dominant side at Dean Court in the first half, so Bournemouth were the lords of the situation in the first half at Luton. They played exhilarating football, and if not so clever as that shown by the Town on the ground by the seaside, it was just as effective. Indeed, one could almost have imagined that there had simply been a change of jerseys, so completely did Bournemouth copy the Town's game of Boxing Day.

NEARLY all the play worth notice in the first quarter of an hour was at the Town end, and the halves had to work strenuously with the backs in order to keep the visitors at bay. Yet the Town were first to score, and it was quite a good movement that won the goal. In a sense it was lucky, and yet it was well worked. The left wing made the opening, and Rennie centred for Nelson to put in a shot which beat Gold, but hit the bar, and Alderson jumped up before the custodian could recover from his preliminary effort, and nodded the ball into the net.

THE lead was short-lived, and the equalising goal was a gem. There had been a lot of bright attempts repelled by Imrie and his backs, and then came a sharp essay on the right. Beswick got the ball across, and McGowan, finding himself hedged all round by opponents, tapped the ball back for WHITE to drive in a very hot shot which had Imrie beaten all the way, though he made a great attempt. Though he was not always handling safely, Imrie made several good saves, as also did Gold, before the change over, prior to which the Town were beginning to have the better of the play, and sustained attack for some time.

WE thought that we were at last going to see the Town take charge when they began with quick passing movements after the interval, but Bournemouth had gained confidence from their first half game, and fought back coolly and resolutely. Gold had quite a lot to do, but he usually had plenty of time in which to place himself, and the most disturbing feature about the Town's play was the hesitation and slowness of the forwards in taking the passes that were served up to them from the rear. The wingers could not get the ball across nicely with any degree of consistency, and neither Alderson nor Nelson could find that spryness which would circumvent the visiting backs.

WHEN the visitors took the lead one felt that the Town were doomed to defeat, so inept had they become. A quick thrust on the visitors' right wing brought a high shot from Beswick, and Imrie punched away splendidly, the ball travelling well out to his right; MacPhail then lifted it back well in front of goal, and McGowan, Beswick, Kingham, Mackey and Imrie all went for it; it seemed that Imrie partially saved, and then that Mackey kicked the ball against the rushing BESWICK, who followed it into the net.

AFTER this Bournemouth's attacks were chiefly spasmodic, and they fell back on defence. Once I counted ten defenders in their penalty area, and all seemed bent on the one end of keeping out the Town. Even then the Town should have scored, for they had chances, but they were unable to beat Gold, who was rightly named for a custodian. Kean had long before exchanged places with Nelson in an endeavour to balance matters, but he could not do everything, or even the one thing needful, try as he would, and the end came with the "Cherries" meritorious winners, first as a reward for their fine forward play in the first half, and then because of the sterling character of their defence.

IMRIE, it was said by some close to the scene, should have saved the second goal, but I could not see well enough to give an opinion. He did not do so very cleanly at times, but he made good saves. Kingham and Mackey played well, and the halves, if not up to their best as a line, could not be held responsible for the defeat. They gave their forwards enough chances to have won the game over and over again. Excepting Rennie, there was not a single forward that came anywhere near his game of the previous day, and Alderson gave very moderate support, especially from the wings. The team spirit was missing, too, and there was a slowness that suggested a third day's football was more than sufficient.

BOURNEMOUTH made two changes, and they were wise. McGowan was a spirited leader, and White introduced some classy touches. The combination was fine, with Russell the best forward in the field. MacPhail made a happy partner, and the whole line was backed by a virile and hard-working middle set. Toralao played a skilful game, and Hector and Whitehouse were reliable backs in front of a grand goalkeeper. The game was not always pleasant, a sad incident the previous day having left a mark on the Town players.