

# FUN FARE AT COVENTRY

## LUTON FORFEIT FOUR GOALS

### But Balk Bourton

(By Crusader)

COVENTRY CITY ..... 4  
LUTON TOWN ..... Nil  
COVENTRY: McSevich; Elliott, Bisby; Perry, Davison, Boileau; H. Holmes, Lauderdale, Bourton, Lake, White.  
LUTON: Harford; Kingham, Mackey; Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser, Mills, Nelson, Tait, Alderson, Rowe.  
Referee:—Mr. W. Thomas, Walsall.

LUTON TOWN'S heaviest defeat of the season was sustained at COVENTRY on Saturday, but there need be no notice whatever taken of it. Coventry players have not had an easier time this season in certain aspects of the game, but they probably understood better than their followers that the Town were not all out. It was amusing to hear the delighted chortles and chuckles of the Coventry supporters in the first half, but as the game wore on the whisper went round, apparently, and the second half was more like a game of snakes and ladders than serious football. It was the gentlest League game we have seen this season, indeed, for many seasons, and the only fault with it was that while the Town players were in effect asking "by your leave, sir," the City kept on trying to get away. They could not get a goal, but they had had more, no doubt, but for the fact that the Town defenders seemed determined on one thing—that Bourton, the crack scorer of the Southern Division, should not get a goal, and he did not. They treated him as gently as they treated the others, but hampered and hindered him so thoroughly that he rarely got in a shooting position with a clear sight of the target.

CITY ..... 2  
LUTON ..... Nil

The exchanges in the second half were more in favour of the Town at the opening, and they made numerous attacks without troubling McSevich. When the City struck back there was more danger to the Town goal, and once Lake was right through, and had only Harford to beat, but he stumbled over the ball and the chance was gone. By keeping the ball on the move the Town forwards and halves prevented the City increasing their lead for some time, but eventually the goal fell to Lake. There had been a corner, and the City forwards had several shots at the Town goal without being able to get there. Kingham headed away when a shot found a way past Harford, and Mackey and McGinnigle did good work, but from a mix-up LAKE took possession and shot into the net. Nearly all match-winning interest went out of the game now, and it was chiefly a matter of dribbling and passing, with few direct attempts to goal, by the Town forwards. Once, however, Rowe was given a perfect chance, and was within three yards of goal, but he hesitated when he should have let fly first time, and McSevich made his one good save of the game.

#### BOURTON BORED

It is a long time since I saw so much dribbling by players as there was in this game. Time after time the home forwards attacked, and Bourton seemed particularly anxious to get a

shot home. His colleagues gave him nice passes, but one or other of the Town defenders turned up just when he was about to shoot, and he was balked. Mackey, in particular, seemed to be very anxious that the marksman should not get his chance, whatever the others might do, and he robbed Bourton many times when the centre-forward seemed to be getting clear. Once Kean shouldered Bourton off, and this latter showed temper when he dashed after the Town captain and fouled him, and was pulled up for the offence. Later on McGinnigle fisted down a high ball when he appeared to have one foot inside the penalty area, and the other out, and the crowd yelled for a penalty kick, but it was not given. PERRY, however, was brought up to take the free kick, and this time the Town players did not trouble to make a real barrier, but left room for the shot to pass them, and it did at lightning speed, and went into the net right away from Harford. There was not another incident worth bothering about, and there was no applause or excitement when the final whistle went.

Comment on the players is needless, save to say that Harford had some good practice, and made several fine saves, notably a full-length dive to a shot by Holmes in the second half. He had no chance with any shot that scored. Kingham and Mackey enjoyed themselves to some extent, and each showed a penchant for dribbling, several times going half the length of the field without being robbed. The halves also had some fun in the same way, and McGinnigle did a lot of clever stopping. Bourton must have got sick of the sight of him, as well as of the constant attention he received from the backs, though they were not inclined to use their weight on him. The forwards were seldom in the hunt, or, at any rate, they did not work hard enough to make a "kill," and it was clear as a pikestaff that no individual player was very keen on risking his limbs and having to stand the part of spectator in the Cup-tie.

#### CHANCE AND RISK

It was a funny match, truly, and yet there was a lot of clever footwork. Most of the Town players seemed to take the opportunity to have dribbling practice, and I am not scraving from the truth when I say that I have seen far more keenness and ruggedness in the mid-week practice games of the Town than there was in this match. There was not a forward who would take a chance of being crippled by the City defenders, one or two of whom, by the way, asked for it, since they were not content to play the game always, even against opponents who, they must have known, were not trying desperately to score. Neither was there a defender who would go all out in a tackle, and, considering the latitude they gave to the City forwards, it was remarkable that the score was not doubled. There were other reasons why the Town did not put up a harder fight, but on those I am not in a position to dilate, and so leave them. But it may be written vividly that Tottenham Hotspur will not find their path so easy as did Coventry. Neither in defence nor attack were the Town putting in all they knew, and it was clear that every man had in mind the Cup-tie conflict.

#### LESSON FOR WINGERS

The Town had to face a gusty breeze, and they were soon on the defensive, though there were pretty movements now and then in which the halves helped the forwards along. For the most part, however, the City attack engaged the Town halves and backs, and there had been work for Harford before the first goal was scored by LAUDERDALE. It was a very good point, a first-time shot with the left foot as the ball came over from the left wing, and Harford was beaten by the pace, although he made a great dive for the ball. By neat footwork the Town kept play for considerable periods in the City territory, but there was no punch when they got to close quarters and the best shot of the whole of this half, as far as the Town players were concerned, was sent in by Kean, after an adroit manœuvre for position. The home halves believed in belting the ball as hard as they could, and it was not often that they gave a good pass, but the forwards worked cleverly together, and found their wings with passes that were taken in the stride, a feature in great contrast to the manner in which the Town wingers accepted passes.

#### LAKE'S LUCK

The Town got very near to goal several times, but the dash and zeal of the home defenders was such that the attackers did not allow themselves to be laid out, and the chances were allowed to lapse. Then came the City's second goal. Holmes, the home right-winger, got through; in other circumstances Mackey would probably have bowled him over before he had time to centre, but not on this day, and so the dapper youngster swung the ball into the Town goal area; two or three heads went up to it, and from Kean's top it went to LAKE, who would have been in an offside position had not the ball touched Kean, and the inside-left had only to lift the ball hard to beat Harford. Towards the interval the Town forwards took up the running and made several challenges, but they did not carry through with them, although forcing a corner or two, and the change of ends came with the City holding a good lead.