

TOWN TOPPLE AT TORQUAY

DEVONSHIREMEN'S FIRST HOME VICTORY OVER LUTON

(By Crusader)

TORQUAY was not such a profitable place for Luton Town as usual. The United were successful for the first time on their own ground against the Town. It was not a brilliant match, although there were very interesting phases. Almost from the beginning, however, it was clear that the United would have a very good chance of breaking the long sequence of successes the Town have achieved at Plainmoor. Weather was not nearly so good as is common to Torquay, though much better than the weather we had left behind at Luton.

Only now and then did the Town pull out their hardest and strongest, and when they did swing the ball about they gave the home defenders plenty to do. Torquay deserved their victory because they were fighting hard all the time, but whether they would have scored but for the mishap that gave them the lead, is doubtful. This first goal came when the game was just over half-an-hour old, and a hard swing by Birkett from the right wing was diverted by KINGHAM'S head into the net, Harford being hopelessly placed.

This was the only goal before half-time, and the second half was wearing late before there was another, but two goals came within as many minutes. In the first case a big kick from the home right-half landed the ball right into the goalmouth; the backs and Harford all went for it, and HUTCHINSON also rushed in and jumped very high to head the ball before Harford could punch it, and in the net it flew. A minute later Orr lifted the ball into the goal area again with a big kick, and this time STABB obtained it, and being clear of the backs had only to shoot past Harford as the goalkeeper came out.

The Town's goal was scored by NELSON, and this also came as the result of a big kick from the rear. Mackey lifting the ball into the vicinity of goal where there was a ruck of players, and the scorer nipped in and headed the ball past Maggs as the custodian ran out. Thus there was not a goal that could be described as a good one, the result of combined movement. All the best attempts at constructive play were foiled either by the backs or by marksmanship that was not quite good enough.

I am not wrong in saying that the player who had the worst luck was Mills. He had more shots at goal than any other player, and five or six times banged in terrific drives that were either inches off the mark or were saved grandly by Maggs. With a little luck Mills might well have won the match, and had his first and best shot not been saved in miraculous fashion by Maggs, the result might have been very different. It was good to see the little right winger hitting them so hard and closing in so wisely for centres from the opposite flank.

He played well, and with a little more speed would win a name. Nelson also played very well to him, and worked desperately hard at times. Tait had a rough time against two robust backs, but did good things betimes, and Alderson also produced some clever touches, but Roberts was again inconsistent. He centred cleverly at times, and at others failed badly. In the middle line McGinnigle was not so vigilant as usual, and gave Stabb more rope than was good for the team. Brown played well in the first half, but fell away afterwards, while Fraser, though the most artistic half on view, did not seem to unduly exert himself. The same might be said of both backs, and Harford had plenty of practice and gave a splendid display.

Torquay were all out for success, as could be understood with such an unenviable record against the Town. Maggs proved a class custodian, but his backs were rugged rather than safe, and Tapp was disposed to infringe, though he usually got away with it. Welsh, an amateur, played a great game as pivot, and was the best of the line, while in attack Stabb was very energetic. Birkett was a skilful winger, and Hutchinson did very useful work at inside-left.

TORQUAY UNITED 3
LUTON TOWN 1

TORQUAY.—Maggs; Tennant, Tapp; Anderson, D. Welsh, Robinson; Birkett, Mills, Stabb, Hutchinson, Orr.

LUTON.—Harford; Kingham, Mackey; Brown, McGinnigle, Fraser; Mills, Nelson, Tait, Alderson, Roberts.

Referee: Mr. J. H. Wiltshire, Sherborne.