

PENALTY DECISION

DEPRIVES LUTON OF A POINT AT NORWICH

Kean's Misfortune

(By Crusader)

NORWICH CITY 2
LUTON TOWN 1

NORWICH.—Robinson (R.), Hannah, Smith; Robinson (B.), Williamson, Ramsay; Bell, Scot, Brown, Blackmore, Murphy.

LUTON.—Harford; Kingham, Mackey; Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; Pacey, Hutchison, Weaver, Nelson, Mills.

Referee: Mr. A. J. Spittle, Gravesend.

BY sheer misfortune Luton Town succumbed at Norwich on Saturday, and there was quite generous appreciation of the fact among the 14,000 spectators when the whistle went. The City players acknowledged that they were glad when the signal came, and they also admitted that they had been blessed by a decision that robbed the Town of a point. No doubt Mr. Spittle thought that he was doing the right thing when he awarded a penalty kick against McGinnigle, but it was a pity there was no photograph to show exactly what happened. The City were not dangerous,

and although the alleged offence occurred about a yard inside the penalty area, there could be no question that McGinnigle was fouled first. Brown had been beaten for possession, but he held off McGinnigle from reaching the ball, and used his arms to do it. He was facing the ball, sideways to the goal, near the angle of the penalty area; McGinnigle tried to get round him, but Brown kept him off by the use of his arms and elbows, and the Town centre-half, in his effort to reach the ball, put his arms round the opponent and tried to get him on one side. Then the whistle blew. It should have gone against Brown immediately the latter illegally impeded McGinnigle, but the crowd, fearful of seeing the City beaten, were kicking up a row nearly all the time, and one could only come to the conclusion that the official was swayed by the several demonstrations that had been made every time he pulled up the fighting men of the City, against whom there were frequent infringements, and many that were not so regarded, but should have been

KICK AND RUSH

It was cruel luck for the Town to be so defeated after one of the finest struggles they have put up this season. The City are not a good football side, but they have courage, tenacity, and enthusiasm, and though apt to be robust, and, at times, unscrupulous, one could not do other than admire their pluck and persistence. Nevertheless, I am sure they would have been beaten but for the accident to Fred Kean. It is all very well to say, as I heard more than once after the match, that four forwards often do better than five; the fact that Fred Kean was crippled before the same had been in progress fifteen minutes meant a tremendous lot; in the second half even with four forwards, Luton were much the more dangerous side, and with the backing of their captain they would probably have outplayed the League leaders. Certainly

they showed the more scientific football; they tried to keep the ball down, and their passing was more precise. The City went in for kick and rush methods, booting the ball hard both from half and half-back and trusting to their strong forwards to batter through the Town defence. The spectators grew very excited, particularly after the equalising goal, for the City were panicky-ricken, and they kicked the ball out of play at the slightest sign of danger. Doubtless if we had been in the same happy position in the League as they are, the Town would have played exactly the same sort of game if it meant a couple of points, but the honours were with the victors, and every Town player deserved praise for his pertinacity and fortitude when labouring under such a severe handicap.

TOWN BEGIN WELL

In the first half the City had a great deal the better of the game. Not so, however, until the departure of Kean. They were slightly the better side, but the Town were just showing signs of getting together in attack when there was a tussle on the City left wing near the centre of the field, and Kean received a jab on the knee that incapacitated him for the rest of the game. He was best away from the game. He was about a quarter-of-an-hour with the knee heavily bandaged, and played at outside-right. He could not walk, let alone run, and it was evident that he was better away from the game. He did not return after the change of ends. Early on the referee gave a free kick against Kingham for something that was indeterminable for the referee. Brown, a player with little but dash to recommend him, using arms and legs like flails, went up at the same time as Kingham for the ball, but the full back's head was there first, and then the whistle went. Just when the Town were making a bright movement, Bernard Robinson was laid out when he received a volley in the stomach, and play was stopped while the ball was on the way out. The crowd yelling for a stoppage. The first really good shot came from Pacey, but Robinson saved a sweeping cross drive, and shortly afterwards made a great one-hand save from Nelson. By giving the ball plenty of boot the City made the pace down the slope, and Scott had a header that crept just past the farther post. Then came the mishap to Kean, and Hutchison had to take the captain's place. The City pressed heavily, and Harford had hot work, which he did very well.

THE GOAL

The City strove strenuously and the Town defenders had a gruelling time, but they defended magnificently, their kicking and tackling being beyond praise. The Town goal fell when play had been in progress twenty-five minutes. McGinnigle, attempting to hook the ball over his head some distance out, caught the ball on his toe, and it flew high over the Town goal and hit the wire netting. From the first flag kick Harford was lanelly, but the second, which was pulled farther back landed on top of SCOTT'S head, and landed in the top of the net. Hutchison made a clever move from a free kick, but when he was through he was tumbled over as he essayed a shot. Harford was soon in action again, and the goal had one or two escapes, notably when Kingham failed to head clear, and Mackey mis-kicking a moving cross which travelled inches wide. However, who worried the home defenders a lot, had a shot saved, and Mills and Pacey each got over good centres, but play generally was in the vicinity of the Town goal, and just before the change of ends Brown looked certain to get through, but the Town backs balked him and the ball was got away.

NORWICH 1
LUTON 0

The Town were dangerous in the first minute after the resumption. Hutchison had again taken the right-half position, and Mills went to outside-right with Pacey as partner, and Nelson as the left wing duties alone. Still, the Town began to copy the methods of the City defenders, and to boot the ball well into the City penalty area, the forwards chasing it hard. Weaver was soon in evidence, for he had two efforts within three minutes. Mills burst through and had he centred with less power the goal might have fallen, for Nelson was waiting. Pacey was prominent with neat touches, but the City covered up well. Mills shot inches too high, and then Fraser and Nelson made a splendid run which merited better reward than a corner-kick. Nelson and Pacey nearly busted through, and then Mills was wrongly given off-side as he took a pass on the run and skimmed the bar.

ONE FOR WEAVER

The City inside forwards had to fall back to the assistance of the defence, and the Town backs had some respite. Hutchison cleverly placed the ball in the goal-mouth many times, and Hannah and Smith had to work desperately to keep Weaver and Nelson from boring through. When the City got away they had to rely almost entirely on the efforts of the wingers and Brown, but Kingham and Mackey covered splendidly, and Harford was troubled only at intervals. The shock to the City came when Mills let drive quickly from well out, and the ball sailed high and dropped in the arms of the goalkeeper; he, however, had one eye on the ball and the other on Weaver, who was rushing goalwards and he allowed the ball to slip from his arms; WEAVER eluded the backs and deftly back-heeled the ball into the net. Just afterwards the City goal nearly fell again, Robinson going down full length to prevent a shot from Weaver passing into the net, and this was followed by a clever dribble by Pacey, but he lost the ball when he had earned position for a drive.

THE PENALTY

The City, encouraged by the din of their supporters, then forced play uphill and from some distance out Williamson shot finely; Harford dived across and held on to the ball, eventually being fouled by Brown. However, he had more work soon afterwards, and did it well. A sharp thrust by Nelson caused Robinson to hurt himself at the base of the thigh, although he stopped it momentarily, it eluded his grasp and went for a corner. Fraser was playing finely, and two or three dribbles nearly took him through, and Robinson made a great save under the bar from Weaver. A sweeping run by the City right brought a grand shot from Bell, and the ball beat Harford,

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but struck the bar, and Kingham hooked it out of danger. The City returned, and then occurred the penalty kick incident given above. BLAKEMORE took the shot and banged the ball into the net. Even this did not take all the spirit out of the Town, though it disheartened them considerably. The City were now more confident, however, and they kicked hard first time, and with the inside forward also playing on the defensive they kept the Town at bay. The last incident of note was another effort by the City right, and Harford made a grand save.

PRAISE FOR PLAYERS

There was not a Town player that did not merit congratulation for the splendid fight against a side that never stood on ceremony, and seemed intent on holding their position. Harford kept goal magnificently, making several thrilling saves, and both Kingham and Mackey played great football, invariably fair, and they showed good understanding. Fraser and McGinnigle gave a clever display at half-back, and the former was the most skilful middle man in the game. Once more McGinnigle stopped a crack centre-forward from scoring, and Brown did not like the manner in which he was kept at bay, though it was by sheer doggedness and cuteness. Hutchison played finely, his use of the ball always being at service to the side, and with the backing of Kean he and Pacey would have been a dangerous pair. The latter has something to learn yet, but his chief omission appeared to be lack of confidence in himself, and he should soon overcome that. Weaver was a great worker, and harassed the City defenders all the time. He was in the wars several times, but he seemed to thrive on it, and would not be suppressed, while Nelson came right back to his best Cup-tie form, being strong in possession and ever ready to take a shot.

The City are a bustling, hustling lot, without much science, but capable of giving and taking hard knocks. Smith was a strong figure at back, and Williamson at half, while Bell and Scott were the best forwards.