

ALDERSHOT DOWN

LUTON JUST OVERCOME PLUCKY OPPOSITION

Brown Makes Good

(By Crusader)

LUTON TOWN 2

ALDERSHOT TOWN 1

LUTON: Imrie; Kingham, Mackey; Brown, McGinnigle, Fraser; Mills, Hutchison, Rennie, Alderson, Rowe.

ALDERSHOT: Robb; McDougall, Burgess; Gerrard, Middleton, Lawson; Proud, Thom, Smithson, Lane, Fishlock.

Referee: Mr. F. Smith, Walsall.

AFTER the match on Saturday I thought that most of us were hypercritical during the game. We seemed to overlook the fact that the teams had a very hard game on Friday, that the conditions were very difficult, so difficult indeed, that five thousand spectators were too weary to come to the match. I know that is not much consolation for those that turned up, the loyalists who turn up and want the Town to win, even if they rave about the play. Ten thousand spectators for two League games on big holiday occasions is not much good for a League club, and does not make for a successful team. The difficulty of controlling the ball on a ground such as we have at present is unknown save to those who have tried it, and the cleverest and most experienced of players are now having a bad time. One has but to glance down the results of the League games throughout the country to discover that. So perhaps we expected a little too much, especially after being treated to six goals on Friday.

ALDERSON SCORES

There could be no question that the Town deserved their success, for they had much the better of the game, but there was a determination and wholeheartedness about the visitors, particularly their attack, that put the result in doubt until the final whistle. The Town quickly got into their stride, and at once we had some idea of the moderate quality of the refereeing, for when a free kick was awarded against the visitors for a foul right on the penalty line the defenders were permitted to stand less than half-a-dozen paces away from the ball. Why Rennie took the kick with opponents right on top of him was difficult to understand. He should have demanded that they were made to stand the requisite ten yards away, for it was clear that he could not hope to get the ball past the barrier, and he did not. However, the Town made the pace so lively that Robb was very soon showing what an admirable custodian he is, and nearly all the forwards had a turn before Alderson succeeded. The initial stages of the movement came from the left wing, where Fraser cleverly plied Rowe, and the winger sent the ball right across for Mills to head back to Rennie, and the latter to nod the ball to the feet of ALDERSON, who promptly shot into the net.

LUCK FOR TOWN

Play remained in the visitors' half for a long period, and we saw very fine half-back play, in which McGinnigle was able to stop the inside forwards, and Brown and Fraser initiated attack after attack. Now and then the visitors got away, generally through the astuteness of Lane, but Imrie had not much work. Robb, on the other hand, was frequently in action, and made splendid saves, his positioning making good shots appear moderate. As the game wore on the visitors opened out a lot, and their wingers received plenty of opportunities. Proud was given too much scope, and on one occasion from his centre McGinnigle misheaded the ball, and it struck the post. Had there been a visitor on hand the Town goal would have fallen. A little later Smithson had the best chance of the match, but the common fault of forwards who are unable to head a ball downwards was in evidence, and he bumped it over the bar. Still, for the greater part the game was round Robb, and he did fine work, his backs also covering him well, and Middleton made a stalwart third back. At the interval the Town just about deserved their lead, but there was not much in it.

LUTON 1

ALDERSHOT 0

The Town resumed in fine style, and were hammering away at Robb's charge, but they could not beat him, and after a time there was a change of scene. A persistent attack had been maintained, and then came a rush by the visitors' left wing. The visitors' right wing made the ball do the work, and when a centre came over Kingham could not master Fishlock; he slipped, and the left winger was going right in when Brown made a brilliant recovery and robbed him as he was about to shoot at point blank range. The crowd rose to Brown, and he deserved it, for he was a very live wire in a difficult period. He again came to the rescue when Smithson appeared certain to score, and after this the Town livened up and again took command. Rennie was always in the picture, and shot hard and true at every opportunity, but Robb saved well, and he was not getting very much support from his colleagues. Twenty minutes had elapsed from the interval when the second goal came in a rather curious

fashion. Lawson could not gather a bouncing ball, and Mills promptly seized and put over a loopy centre that seemed to swerve away from Robb as he ran out to reach it; he touched it, but could not collect it properly, and Rennie and Rowe dashed in together, and they had an easy chance, RENNIE touching the ball through.

PLUCKY VISITORS

Undaunted by this further deficit, Aldershot played very pluckily, and time after time swooped down on the Town goal. Lane, playing as skilfully as ever, was finding his colleagues with shrewd passes, and Smithson was very active. It was from a very neat bit of work by Lane that the visitors' eventually scored. Smithson took the pass, and then tapped the ball to the right when Mackey challenged, and THOM dashed in and shot hard into the net. It was a very fine goal, and merited the applause. It also served to quicken the Town to a sense of danger, and they played with more spirit. The forwards attacked again and again, and Rennie was often applauded for his fine shooting, but Robb was always in the right spot. Alderson was crippled, and Rowe came inside. It would have been better had the former retired, for he often stopped the ball, but could not get it away, with the result that the visitors, who were always on their toes, robbed him and attacked again. Still, the Town defenders were more watchful now, and, though the visitors were triers all the time, they had the bigger tax in defence.

BROWN BRILLIANT

Rennie, as on the previous day, led his forwards well, and none made better use of the ball, while he was by far the best marksman on the field. In the second half his neat passes to either wing were not used to advantage, and many chances of attack were missed because of the poor response. Rowe did very well in the first half, but fell away a lot after the change of ends. Alderson opened well, but soon lapsed, and the right wing, which had been so much in evidence the previous day, did not touch the same level. At half, Brown again played brilliantly throughout, and both in attack and defence he was the outstanding half-back. McGinnigle was a worker, as usual, but could not hold the lively Smithson always. Fraser, particularly in the first half, was responsible for most of the attacks, his passes along the ground and his combination with his wing being superb. Kingham and Mackey were good backs, but neither seemed quite up to the standard of the Swindon game, though they were meeting a cleverer line of forwards. Imrie did not have a great amount of work, but did his little well.

Lane was the brains of the Aldershot attack, and his younger colleagues, Proud, Smithson and Fishlock, all responded well, while Thom was often prominent for hard work. The halves were a resolute and hard-working trio, vigorous and speedy, and the backs kicked and tackled strongly. Robb gave a splendid display, and his anticipation was of the best.

There were 5,128 spectators, and the receipts £279 2s. 6d.

TOWN RESERVES BEAT LUTON LEAGUE

Yesterday LUTON TOWN RESERVES entertained LUTON AND DISTRICT LEAGUE in a friendly game. There were only 800 spectators, the receipts being £24 7s. 6d.

It was not until two minutes before the interval that ROBERTS scored for the Reserves.

Twenty minutes after the re-start DARLOW headed the equaliser, after good work by Else. Weaver hit the League crossbar and HAWLEY scored from the rebound, and just before the end PACEY headed the third goal.

TOWN RESERVES 3
LUTON LEAGUE 1

LUTON AND DISTRICT LEAGUE

Results Saturday, April 15.
DIVISION I.

Stevenage Town 6, Slip End United 1.
Luton Athletic 2, Toddington Rovers 1.
Arlesey Town 2, Shredded Wheat 1.
Robin Hoods 5, Round Green 0.

DIVISION II
Chapel Street Methodists 0, Norton Rangers 4.

Toddington Rovers "A" 2, Brown and Green's 3.

Ashton Corinthians 1, Luton Regnal 2.
Whittlesey O.B. 1, Marley Athletic 5.

DIVISION III
Luton United 2, Sundale 8.
Edlesborough "A" 0, Stopsley & District 0.

Barton 1, Lilley United 1.
Norton Rangers "A" 0, Luton Athletic "A" 1.

EASTER MONDAY

DIVISION III

Edlesborough "A" 8, Luton Athletic "A" 2.
Houghton Legion 0, Sundale 0.