

ANOTHER BRACE

BUT CHARLTON PLAYED A CLINKING GAME

Rennie's Picture Goal

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN 2
CHARLTON ATHLETIC 1
Scorers for Luton:—RENNIE, TAIT.
Scorer for Charlton:—BLACKWELL.
LUTON.—Mittell; Kingham, Mackey;
Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; Pease, Martin,
Tait, Rennie, Pearson.
CHARLTON.—Wright (A.); Ivill, Oakes;
Harris, Jobling, Pugsley; Kenyon, Yardley,
Pearce, Blackwell, Hobbs.
Referee.—Mr. S. F. Rous, Hemel Hempstead.

SHORTLY before the match, Jimmy Yardley asked me in jest to "give the boys a good word." He also said that they were hoping for a good, clean game, and that the better side would win. Doubtless, Jimmy would have liked an Athletic win, whether they were the better side or not, as would their supporters, but in any event, everybody who saw the game would not expect any other than a good word for both sides on such a fine sporting game. Considering the summery conditions, the very hard ground, the troublesome tricks of the ball, and the stress of playing in such heat, every player deserved a medal for the manner in which he kept his temper, and his endeavour to play the game. Free kicks were few and far between, and no player had cause to regret any effort of his from the aspect of sportsmanship.

JUST DESERVED TO WIN

Taking the game as a whole, the Town deserved their success, but only for the same reason as on Saturday, and that was the ability to pull out a little bit extra after the change of ends. Until half-time, or a little after, Charlton were every bit as good, though by different methods. While the Town concentrated on the orthodox, the Athletic, with the advantage of backs to the sun, kept the ball on the move, and with wide swinging passes and frequent shots at goal from anything under thirty yards' range, were always menacing the comfort of Mittell and his backs. Later they fell away for a spell, or perhaps, one should say that the Town improved, for the Charlton halves and backs never lost their determination, and every inch of the ground was contested grimly. Once more, it was the spark of genius and persistence of Pease that enabled the Town to get the chance of a decisive goal, as will be shown shortly.

FACING THE SUN

Charlton made three changes from Saturday's side that just beat Bournemouth and Boscombe, but they could not have weakened the side, judging by the display of the substitutes, Jobling, Kenyon and Blackwell. The visitors had the big advantage of success in the spin of the coin, for they set Luton to face a glaring sun, and were wise enough to use that advantage to the full, as the Luton defenders found difficulty in following the flight of the ball. Kingham's first attempt to get at the ball failed for that reason, but used his hands, and the free kick gave trouble. The offender cleared the danger, and then when the Town were going well Martin was pulled up for pushing. Mackey, who received an ovation when he turned out with the team, got a cheer when he stopped the Athletic right, but a moment later Pearce found a way round him, and there was a gasp as Mittell raced from goal and managed to foil him.

YARDLEY'S DONKEY WORK

The Athletic were persistent, however, and a beautiful long pass through the middle by Yardley, who was doing the donkey work in midfield for his colleagues, sent Pearce through again, and a corner resulted. This was got away, and Pease and Martin went right through, only for the winger to shoot behind when hampered by Pugsley. The Town were getting into their stride, and Pearson slipped inside to try a shot, but there was not enough powder, and the ball was sent up the middle again, only for Pearce to be whistled offside. Blackwell was prominent a moment later, a sharp shot from close range testing Mittell. Pease and Martin, with Kean in the rear, again had a burst, but Ivill cleared finely, and when Kenyon raced away Mittell had to be alert to get to a quick drive.

RENNIE'S GOAL

Play was very fast and even, and in an advance from the Town right, the ball was swung to the left for Rennie to try a hook shot which Wright took all right; and he saved again when Martin tried a high shot. Oakes kicked out a centre from Pease, and Pearson then darted through and dropped the ball across well, but Jobling fell back and got his head to the ball before Tait. Fraser took possession of a loose ball and came up the middle to have a shot, and Ivill scraped the ball away; it went to RENNIE, who was just outside the penalty area, and he met it with a tremendous shot, which crashed into the net, the goalkeeper having no chance. It was a picture goal, and evoked great enthusiasm. That was short-lived, however, for Kenyon went away and had the goal at his mercy following a miskick by Mackey, but he missed. Rennie again was applauded for a good effort which brought a corner, and when this was cleared the ball went out to the visitors' left. There appeared to be little danger when BLACKWELL tried a half-hearted shot from about twenty-five yards' range, and the ball bounced awkwardly just before it got to Mittell, who went down to it, apparently too late, and it found the net.

MITTELL'S BIG KICK

Luton had more of the ball than the visitors, but were not more dangerous, the long passing of the visitors causing a lot of anxiety, and Kenyon only just felled with a fast drive that hit the side net. An incident that passed almost unnoticed was a big goal kick by Mittell, the ball dropping on the head of Ivill and going back to his goalkeeper, who cleared. McGinnigle was cheered for fine work when the visitors were right through, and he got the defence out of a tangle. Mittell then punched out a free kick taken by Pugsley, but the ball did not go far away, and Kenyon shot wide when he had a good chance. Luton renewed the attack, and Rennie again tried his luck with a fierce drive that clanged the fence a foot from goal. Pearson, after once dabbling too long, improved by running through and centreing accurately, and a scramble in the goalmouth followed, but the ball was got away. The ball was soon at the other end, and from a centre by Kenyon Blackwell was only just wide with a nice header, and a hook by Pearce was inches wide. Towards the interval the Town pressed again, and Pease, Martin and Pearson were all prominent with good efforts. Mackey won applause for a fine clearance when Pease was working through, and then Kingham also received recognition when he rushed into the visitors' half and drove a hard shot over the bar. Pease and Martin caused more trouble for Wright before the interval came.

LUTON 1
CHARLTON 1

From the re-start Pease broke away and centred well, but Oakes kicked clear. Again the Town returned, and Tait headed wide. When Charlton progressed through an estate pass by Yardley, Pearce was robbed in the nick of time by Kingham.

the ball went speedily to the other end by way of Rennie and Pearson. Kingham was always doing good things, and it was another clearance that resulted in Wright having to save three or four times in quick succession. A sharp run by the visitors' right wing brought a fine drive from Pearce, Mittell making a grand save at full length, and then punching out a hot shot from Kenyon. Both goalkeepers were called upon in subsequent play, and corners were conceded a' each end. Fraser once got the ball away in clever fashion, and when Luton made headway on the right Pease tested Wright with a high shot. Pease sent well wide after more good work with Martin and Kean, and Rennie went closer with a ground shot. Pease again mastered the opposition with a tricky run, and centred perfectly, but Martin could not control the lively ball when the goal was yawning, and Oakes stepped in to clear.

TAIT'S TURN

Luton were having much the better of the exchanges now, and the visitors defended grandly, Oakes especially doing great work. Martin just missed after a solo effort, and Rennie also had a turn, his final effort being deflected. Kingham had to run across to dispossess Kenyon after a snappy run by the latter when Yardley had drawn the defence, and then came a beautiful movement on the Town right wing which brought success. In the first place Pease tackled Pugsley when the ball seemed to be going out, took it, and after drawing a man sent in to Martin; the latter went forward until Jobling tackled, and then pushed along the ground for TAIT, close in, to kick past Wright, as the goalkeeper came out. Charlton at once tried to draw level, but the Town defenders were playing better now, and though they had anxious moments, they were getting rid of the ball in quicker time, and their forwards had more chance. Mackey cleared with a rush when the visitors looked like getting through, and the ball came to the right from Rennie, and Pease raced on and centred right into goal; the ball came back and Rennie fired in with terrific force, almost knocking out Jobling, who was fortunate to save his goal that way.

Only sound strategy by the visiting defenders now prevented the Town getting more goals, and the Charlton halves were compelled to resort to defensive methods. Tait was forced off when rushing through with the ball at his toe, and a moment later headed behind from a pass by Pearson. When Kenyon made tracks, Yardley received and passed inside to Pearce, who was off-side, and then Martin was unlucky when the ball bounced awkwardly and struck his face close in, Ivill kicking clear at a critical moment. Rennie and Fraser then helped Pearson to get away, but he shot straight at Wright. Martin dribbled cleverly, but his final shot was tame, and Tait headed over when Oakes yielded a corner to the persistent Pease. Rennie was pleasing the crowd by his skilful passing, but the Athletic began to take a more lively interest in the Town end, and Mittell had to save a fast shot from Yardley.

KEAN'S MISHAP

Then came a mishap to the Town, for Kean, when dribbling on the right, wrenched his ankle, and had to be helped from the field, taking no further part in the game. Charlton then crowded to the attack, and the Town retreated, intent upon saving all they had. The defenders were kept busy, and Mackey's strength and Kingham's quickness were invaluable hereabouts. Mackey once rushed into a knot of opponents massed on the Town goal, and brought the ball through to clear finely. Still the visitors persisted, and the right wing especially gave trouble, two or three corners being conceded. McGinnigle and his backs did grand work, and eventually the ball was taken to the other end, and time came with the Town taking both points.

A GOOD SIDE

Charlton are going to be a difficult proposition for any club, and will make a strong bid for promotion. Their defence was very sound, and protected the goalkeeper admirably. Ivill and Oakes were clever backs, their positioning being remarkably fine, and they kicked intelligently and tackled with determination. The halves were a level lot, all playing well. Jobling gave Tait very little rope, and was chiefly a defensive half, while Harris and Pugsley both played well in defence and attack. Yardley was a rare schemer in the attack, and Pearce a thrustful leader. Blackwell certainly justified his inclusion, and Kenyon was a fast and troublesome winger, who had rather more of the ball than Hobbs.

TOWN ATTACK

I am sure that the Town players will do a great deal better when there has been some rain. Time after time their movements were beaten by the speed and trickiness of the ball on the hard ground, the forwards especially suffering. Pease and Martin again played cleverly together, and with Kean assisting them they were the more effective flank. On the left we saw a little more of Pearson, who, as he cultivates the quick run in and the ability of Rennie to find him with a touch line pass, will be all the better. Rennie not only had the pleasure of scoring a grand goal, but had hard luck with other fine efforts, and his passing was a feature of the forward play. Tait was too well watched to be able to get many shots, and the ball was often in the air for him when he got to close quarters.

STRONG DEFENDERS

All the halves were on form, McGinnigle again contributing to a resolute defence, and once more a clever centre-forward failed to get a goal against him. Time after time the Town pivot came to the rescue, and with Kean and Fraser supporting the attack with their usual skill the line had no small part in the success. There was again no better player on the field than Kingham, his kicking and tackling being sound, and though Mackey seemed to show some lack of training, he did very good service. These hard grounds are not Mackey's advantage, but it was good to see one or two glimpses of that sound and stubborn defensive work which made him such a favourite last season. In goal Mittell was blamed for the Athletic's point, but there was no doubt in my mind that he was handicapped by the glare of the sun, and did not see the flight of the ball until it was almost on him, and then the bounce beat him. He made good saves, and lacks nothing in courage.

Mr. Rous handled the game very well, but would be the first to admit that the players gave him no trouble.

There were 11,904 spectators, and the receipts amounted to £263 4s. 9d.; of this the Government's claim amounts to £110 1s. 11d.

SUPPORTER'S LUCK

What are the odds against this happening again? Mr. C. Battams, of 92, Oak-road, Luton, won the ball at Saturday's and Monday's matches. His tickets were 71213 on Saturday; 73833 on Monday.

The tickets were drawn by supporters on the terraces via support@britishnet