

CHRISTMAS FARE

Luton's Luck Was Right Out Only Two League Points

(By CRUSADER)

BOURNEMOUTH 4
LUTON TOWN 3
BOURNEMOUTH: Gold; Proctor, Randle; Miller, Coxford, Farrow; Surtees, White, Dumbrell, Chalmers, Russell.
LUTON TOWN: Harford; Kingham, Mackey; Kean, McGinnigle, Rennie (J.); Pease, Martin, Rennie (A.), Hutchison, Pearson.
Referee: Mr. E. C. Mills, Warminster.
Scorers: For Bournemouth, DUMBRELL (2), SURTEES, RUSSELL. For Luton, PEARSON, PEASE, MARTIN.

ALDERSHOT 0
LUTON 0
ALDERSHOT: Robb; Wade, McDougall; Gerrard, Morgan, Lawson; Izzard, Simmons, Nicoll, Easton, Lee.
LUTON: Harford; Kingham, Mackey; Brown, McGinnigle, Rennie (J.); Pease, Martin, Rennie (A.), Hutchison, Pearson.
Referee: Mr. F. W. Wort, Bostall Heath.

LUTON 1
ALDERSHOT 1
LUTON: Harford; Kingham, Mackey; Kean, McGinnigle, Rennie (J.); Pease, Hutchison, Tait, Rennie (A.), Pearson.
ALDERSHOT: Robb; Wade, McDougall; White, Morgan, Lawson; Izzard, Simmons, Smithson, Sharp, Lee.
Referee: Mr. Wort.
Scorers: For Luton, RENNIE (A.), For Aldershot, IZZARD.

SATURDAY

DEFEAT at Bournemouth may not have been unexpected by the majority of supporters, but it was certainly undeserved. In the first place there was one of the worst samples of refereeing I have seen for a long time; in the second, the Hatters' defence failed in the most extraordinary fashion when the match seemed to be well won. There was more pleasure in watching the forwards than in any game since they pulverised Torquay by scoring ten goals. Indeed, up to half-time it seemed likely that there would be the biggest and best win away from home for several seasons.

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DELIGHTFUL combination brought a goal after eight minutes' play, but it was disallowed. Pease and Martin made a dazzling run in which they went right past every opponent save the goalkeeper; the winger pushed the ball across, and Gold dived and managed to touch it out; Pearson, who was behind the ball the whole of the time the right-wingers were running through, was some seven or eight yards from the goal, but dashed in and tapped the ball into the net, the goalkeeper being on the ground. After signalling to the centre the referee disallowed the goal for offside—a truly amazing blunder.

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THE TOWN, however, simply kept on with skilful combination, and after the home goal had had many narrow escapes, it eventually fell to PEARSON again, and this time the referee gave a goal, though I was afraid that he might do anything after his previous error. Keeping up the pressure, the Town out-manoeuvred the home defence again, and this time Pearson sent across for PEASE to tap the ball into goal. Rennie had previously struck the bar, and many shots had gone close, and the home forwards saw little of the ball, so well were the Town halves and forwards playing together.

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THE Town backs were playing well up the field, and from a long kick forward DUMBRELL raced for the ball, with Joe Rennie tackling; the latter could have kicked the ball first time, but held it between his feet, and at the same moment slipped down, with the result that DUMBRELL got hold and went away with a clear course; he wound up with a hard shot at goal, and the ball entered the net close to the upright, with Harford having no chance whatever. Worse was to follow, for a few minutes before the interval there was a clash between McGinnigle and an opponent, and as a result a free-kick was given against McGinnigle, though the Town claimed that he had been fouled. From the edge of the penalty area RUSSELL drove a hard shot into the net, just inside the post, and the scores were level. There was no proper cover for the goal against this shot, and again Harford had no shadow of a chance.

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THE second half was rough, and the home team simply threw themselves into the struggle. It was neck-and-crop football, and several times the Town defenders wilted against the fierceness of the assaults and the desperate methods of the home team as a whole. Still the Town forwards and halves continued to show the way the game should be played, and from a sharp, swinging pass by Joe Rennie to the middle, Andy Rennie feinted, and misled the defenders by allowing the ball to slip through to MARTIN; the latter hoodwinked Randle, and went on to walk round the goalkeeper and tap the ball into goal—a brilliant bit of footwork. Soon afterwards Pease and Martin again eluded the defenders, and Martin went through and centred from the line; Rennie and Gold went for the ball, and the goalkeeper knocked it on to Rennie, from whom it trickled into goal, but the referee gave a goal-kick, though he did not stop play before Martin had put the ball across. From this let-off Bournemouth again pressed, their best forward being Russell, and he got across a centre which did not seem particularly dangerous, but Mackey missed the ball completely, and SURTEES had an easy chance to equalise. Bournemouth played harder than ever, though the Town had more of the game, and during another raid by the home left wing, DUMBRELL got hold and drove in a shot almost similar to his first goal, and again Harford was beaten, and this proved to be the winning goal.

(Continued from preceding column)

Ham on Boxing Day without parallel in his career. Shortly before the end of the game there were four players all knocked out, and in three different places on the field Seddon and Keenan were "out" near the touch-line. Brown was down some distance away, and Coote lay in the middle of the field, the last-named being damaged by heading the heavy ball.

FREDERICK OLIVER, who played well at centre-forward for the Town Reserves at West Ham, is not a very big player, being of medium build, but he is very quick on the ball, and gave a most promising display, improving as the game progressed. He hails from Horden Colliery Club, and I hear that his home is at Sunderland.