

CHRISTMAS FARE

Luton's Luck Was Right Out Only Two League Points

(By CRUSADER)

BOURNEMOUTH 4
LUTON TOWN 3
BOURNEMOUTH : Gold; Proctor, Randle; Miller, Gorrard, Frow, 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, Smithlow, 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 it 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.

DELIGHTFUL combination brought a goal after eight minutes' play, but it was disallowed. Again, 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 wing 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 goal line. After signalling to the centre the referee disallowed the goal for outside—a truly amazing blunder.

THE TOWN, however, simply kept on with a skilful combination, and after the home goal had been scored, the Hatters 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.

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 close to his feet, and at the same moment shot it down with the head. Then 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 there were levies. There was a proper cover for the goal against this shot, and again Harford had no shadow of a chance.

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 wrote against the ferocity 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 McEIN; the latter hooked it, 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 misled 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 set-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 play 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

MONDAY

THERE was a Christmassy atmosphere in official circles at Aldershot, and a real nip of winter in the air, but the absence of the main body of soldiery on vacation affected the attendance, which was only about 5,000. By the fierce and not always sportsmanlike noise, however, there might have been forty thousand let loose from Bedlam or a like place. Almost as soon as the game was started Aldershot rushed away on the left, and Joe Rennie had to kick out to foil the intentions of Izzard. Then we saw something of the cleverness of the Hatters' right wing, for Pease and Martin made Lawson look easy, and with Brown supporting skilfully, play was soon in the vicinity of Robb. McDougall cleared strongly. For a few moments the Hatters had the upper hand, and then a sharp thrust on the home right was menacing, but McGinnigle came to the rescue opportunely, and got rid of a low centre from Izzard.

IZZARD, the Hitchin youth, was doing very well, and Harford had to run out and field another centre from him, and when the Hatters were well away Easton badly tripped Brown as he was making a bee line through a gap in the middle. Mackey held up the speedy Izzard, and lifted the ball forward, and Pearson and Hutchison forced a corner, but the former put behind. Again the Hatters' left wing engineered an attack, and Pearson placed a corner nicely for Wade to head away, and Brown secured and shot strongly, but Morgan headed away.

ALDERSHOT'S next move came from Lee, and Kingham held him up, and the Hatters got going again. Andy Rennie putting his right wing through, but Martin fired wide. A hot assault on Robb's charge brought a magnificent clearance by Wade, but the respite was but temporary, Brown sending his wing through again, only for Pease to shoot behind. Strong play by the Hatters' middle line kept play in the home territory, and the inside forwards were always too clever for the home intermediates, but Wade and McDougall were very strong and sure. Robb saved twice in quick succession after splendid moves by Brown, and then Pearson failed to control the ball as it was scattered.

MACKAY had to rush over to stop Lee when Kingham was knocked over in a scuffle, and then there was a bright effort by Martin, Rennie and Pearson, and Robb had to be alert to get the ball away. Kingham was knocked out in a collision with Lee, and then grand work by McGinnigle brought relief when Izzard got clean away and middled. The robust play of the home team brought another casualty to the Town, for Martin was badly crippled when Morgan dashed into him, and although he made a bid to remain, eventually he had to leave the field.

LAWSON was spoken to for foul play, and the Town forwards went to the attack again, fine work by Pearson and Rennie resulting in the centre-forward brilliantly back-heeling the ball across for Hutchison to race in, but he was overhauled on the point of shooting and fouled. Although short-handed the Town forwards pressed hotly, and corners were forced on either wing, and shots from Brown, Rennie and Hutchison travelled just wide. Martin returned to hobble about at outside-right but could not stay many minutes, and had to retire.

BROWN saved the Town rearguard from an ugly situation during a fierce drive by the home "pack," and then Andy Rennie and Pease went through, the former shooting inches wide. Joe Rennie was prominent with clever initiatory work, and there were bright patches by the Town halves and forwards as a relief to the kick-

and-rush of the home team. Simmonds made a very clever run nearly half the length of the field, and Harford had to save quickly three times in as many minutes following dashes by Izzard who was well aided by his colleagues, and then Mackey took the eye with a spell of strong work in which he twice took the ball well into the home half, but Wade and McDougall were safe.

KINGHAM cleared a thrust by the home left immediately after the restart, and then Hutchison outwitted Morgan, and Gerrard and sent up the middle for Andy Rennie to skim the bar with a first-time effort. Martin was hobbling about on the touch-line, but the other forwards were playing well, and Pease was very active at inside-right, keeping the ball on the ground, and swinging it over to the left as an occasion offered. Pease and Hutchison dribbled through, and the latter was unfortunate when a hard drive struck a defender. Pearson hung on to the ball too long, and the few Luton supporters present let him know about it, for the home right got away, and a sharp shot by Simmonds was only just wide. By letting the ball do something the Hatters were always too good for the opposition, but the home backs were in fine fettle, and there were few shots. McGinnigle was laid out by Nicol, receiving a kick in the face as he lay on the ground, but he was soon at it again, and did useful work in defence when the home team were giving the ball plenty of boot.

NICOL then knocked out Mackey so badly that the latter had to leave the field, blood streaming from his forehead, in spite of the severe handicap under which the Town laboured, the home team could make little impression on a sound defence. Brown did magnificently, and Harford punched away twice when Izzard got the ball across. Joe Rennie also cleared well, and when Mackey returned the ball was taken to the other end again, and shots were made by Andy Rennie, Brown and Hutchison, but Robb was always in the right place. McGinnigle made a long dribble and then passed out to the left, but Pearson's centre was taken by Wade, and the home right attacked. Harford saved a line from Simmons, and back went play to the other end, Pease doing splendid work. Robb had to field a centre from Pearson, and again McGinnigle raced through and passed to Pearson, but the latter's centre struck Wade and went for a fruitless corner. Andy Rennie and his left wing then got through cleverly, and the ball was diverted to the right, and Martin had a shot which skimmed the bar. Another run by the whole of the forward line brought a good effort from Pearson, and Pease raced in and met the pass to shoot with such force that Robb could not hold the ball, and Andy Rennie had hard luck as he attempted to turn the ball into the net, but it struck Robb and was scrambled away.

ALDERSHOT took up the running again, and then Harford saved well from Simmons, and then Hutchison slipped through and passed for Rennie to shoot on the run, the ball hitting the post and side net. Aldershot made occasional attacks, but there was not much danger from their heftiness at close quarters, and the centres of Izzard, Pease again paved the way for a run by Pearson, and the latter centred for Andy Rennie to bang in a first time shot which struck McDougall and rebounded. Joe Rennie was fouled after a skilful bit of play in which he held up the home forwards and was going for goal, but the free kick availed nothing, and the whistle sounded just afterwards.