

CHRISTMAS FARE

Luton's Luck Was Right Out

Only Two League Points

(By CRUSADER)

BOURNEMOUTH 4
LUTON TOWN 0
BOURNEMOUTH: Gold, Pector, Randle, Miller, Coxford, Farrow, Surtees, White, Dumbrell, Chalmers, Russell.
LUTON TOWN: Harford, Kingham, Mackey, Kinn, 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 0
LUTON: Harford, Kingham, Mackey, Keast, McGinnigle, Rennie (J.), Pease, Hutchison, Tait, Rennie (A.), Pearson.
ALDERSHOT: Robb, Wade, McDougall, White, Morgan, Lawson, Izzard, Simmons, Smithson, Sharp, Lee.
 Referee: Mr. R. 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 examples of refereeing I have seen for some 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. 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 this the referee disallowed the goal for offside—a truly amazing blunder.

THE TOWN however, simply kept on with skilful combination and the home goal had many narrow escapes, but it eventually fell to PEARSON again, and this time the referee gave a goal, though I was afraid of anything after his previous error. Keeping up the pressure, the Town out-manoeuvred the home defence again, and this time Pearson sent across a cross for PEASE to tap the ball into goal. Rennie had previously struck the ball, but 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 into the net, but he slipped between his feet, and at the same moment slipped down, with the result that DUMBRELL got hold and went away with a clear goal, but he was out of play, and 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 Martin and the 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.

THE second half was rough, and the home team simply threw themselves into the struggle. It was neck-and-neck 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 Rennie 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 the net, 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 Cootie 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.

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 Bournemouth. 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 forced a wide. A hot assault on Robb's charge brought a magnificent clearance by Wade, but the respite was but temporary. Brown sending Izzard 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 came on from the right when the defence was scattered.

MACKEY 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 Wade and McDougall, and the pressure of the home team brought another centre to the Town, for Martin was badly crippled when Morgan dashed into him, and although he made a big remain, eventually he had to leave the field.

LAWSON was spoken to for foul play, and the Town forwards went to the attack again, one 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 floored. 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 free 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. Simmons 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 piled 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 inside-right, keeping the ball on the ground, and swinging it over to the left as 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 Simmons 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 Nicoll, 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.

NICOLL then knocked out Mackey so badly that the latter had to leave the field, blood streaming from his face, but 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 finely 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 wing 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, so shoot with such force that Robb could not hold the ball, and Andy Rennie had hard work 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 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 heightiness at the 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.

TUESDAY

ALDERSHOT put up another hard game in the return match at Luton. The first dangerous move came on the Town left, but McDougall cleared when Rennie lifted the ball into the middle. There was a counter by the Aldershot right, and when the ball was swung across, Lee raced up and shot for Harford to catch comfortably. The Hatters swung the ball about to good purpose, and there were threats from either wing. Wade and McDougall defended stoutly, however, and were quick to pounce on Tait when he tried to force his way through. Izzard got the ball across nicely in Aldershot's half, and there was a shout when Andy Rennie pushed the ball up a middle to give Tait a run-in, but he did not shoot promptly enough, and McDougall got in the way and saved at the expense of a corner.

THE Hatters attacked repeatedly, and Robb saved a creeper from Hutchison

close to the post. Kean was prominent in getting his wing to work, and when the ball was muddled McDougall, and when Tait robbed him; a scrimmage followed, but the ball was got away. Joe Rennie, and Pearson made the next move of note, followed with a brilliant bit of work which put Pease through, and the latter cleverly outwitted two opponents and sent back a shot. Again Kean and his right wing were through, but Morgan hung himself went long at the ball as Hutchison himself headed for a fruitless corner.

A MISKICK by Kingham let Smithson travelled quickly on the home right, and Pease to shoot into Robb's hands, and Rennie robbed Sharp and swung the ball to Hutchison, who shot behind. Aldershot defended nobly against repeated assaults, and when play was translocated, Pease cleared danger by a great bit of work, and Pease lifted the home right wing sped through, and one shot from the right wing, and Pease shot hard, a loud appeal for a penalty for "hands" being negative. Two corners were forced by hot pressure. Two corners came after 32 minutes. Hutchison gave a splendid drive for Robb to bring on a centre was headed out, and Pearson, who was headed out, and the ball went to fast ground shot. The Hatters were fully deserving of the lead, for they were fully continuing pressing, and several corners were forced.

THE equaliser came unexpectedly. IZZARD, who was lying unexpectedly, received a pass from Simmons and cut in for goal, appeals for offside being unheeded, and he wound up with a fast, low drive, which was soon pressing on the goal. The home team were soon pressing on the goal, and after a clever bout of passing on the right, Hutchison failed to get in his shot. A moment later he had hard luck with a hard right striking a defender. The forced play again, and Rennie just failed with a rad-shot, and the interval came with the teams level.

IMMEDIATELY on re-starting Aldershot's left got through, but Kingham relieved, and there was a thrust by the home forwards, and Pease swung the ball into the net, and Andy Rennie met it and rammed it in a glorious drive for Robb to bring on a superb save under the bar. Spectators on the spot declared that the goalkeeper pulled the ball back from behind the bar, but one shot from the home right wing, and this was cheered to the echo in a raid by the visitors, Sharp had a chance, but shot tamely, and when the Hatters resumed the aggressive there was a loud appeal for a penalty for a bad foul on Tait, but this was disallowed. Just afterwards, however, in another fierce attack, a penalty kick was awarded for "hands." McGinnigle took the kick, but as he ran to the ball the whistle went for a raid by the visitors for encroaching. It was a poor shot, the ball travelling over Robb's foot into the net, but the kick had to be re-taken, and this time McGinnigle made a hash of it, shooting a foot wide.

THE visitors took heart from this, and made several raids in which Lee and Izzard were consistently fed, but the other forwards were rarely dangerous. Play became rough, and there were a number of free kicks. Luton were always on top in an external play, but they could not penetrate a powerful defence. Robb saved well shots from all angles, but usually the marksmanship was poor. Pease put over a very fine centre for Tait to head just over the bar, and then Pease struck the side net with a hot effort.

ALDERSHOT woke up, and McGinnigle got the ball away from a very dangerous situation when Izzard centred. The Hatters fought desperately for the lead, the halves giving the forwards plenty of chances to shine, but the defenders refused to give way. A marvellous save by Harford from a header by Sharp evoked tremendous applause, and Aldershot began to attack vigorously. Lawson was prominent with his bright work, but he could not hold in as the latter nipped inside and put in a great shot from twenty yards range, the ball going only inches wide. Several corners were forced without success, and Pearson and Andy Rennie made fine essays, but the visitors' defence could not be broken, and the end came with the scores level.

Putting The Wind Up The Spurs



The Spook of the Spurs: "Beware, mate, of a similar fate!"