

# POINT FROM BRISTOL

## LUTON REARGUARD'S BRILLIANT EXHIBITION

### MARKSMEN WANTED

(By CRUSADER)

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| BRISTOL CITY | 0 |
| LUTON TOWN   | 0 |

**BRISTOL CITY:** Scattergood; Roberts, Birks; Jennings, Farr, Brinton; Hemer, Banfield, Riley, Loftus, Scriven.

**LUTON:** Harford; Kingham, Mackey; Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; Pease, Martin, Bell, Rennie (A.), Hutchison.

Referee: Mr. W. J. Lewington, Croydon.

**LAST WEDNESDAY** Joseph Riley, formerly a half-back, played centre-forward for Bristol City and scored five goals against Brighton and Hove Albion. On the same ground on Saturday there were about 8,000 spectators eager to see him repeat the feat or part of it. Their bitter disappointment found vent in the worst experience Luton Town have had from any crowd this season. I am very sorry to say that, because for years I have always said that the City crowd were about the best and most sportsman-like in the South. It was the more regrettable, because there was little reason for their exhibition of bad manners. It seemed to be firmly set in their minds that Riley, having monopolised the head-lines on Thursday, was entitled to do so again on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Like most centre-forwards, however, he found McGinnigle an obstacle, and when the Luton pivot did not stop him, Kingham or Mackey were there to execute the mission.

#### ROUGH PLAY

Play became rougher than the Town have been accustomed to during the last three months, and it began when Mackey sent Riley spinning with a magnificent shoulder charge. The crowd yelled, but the referee signalled that it was a perfectly fair charge. Riley did not accept that view and attacked Mackey, and as a result there was a practical exchange of resentment, and the official spoke to both players. Later on Mackey became the butt of one or two of the home players, as well as of the crowd. The latter made no difference, but the former came off the worse, with the result that as the game wore on they grew wiser and let him alone. The childishness of Riley did a good deal to spoil the game, and there was nothing done to any City forward that was nearly so bad as the treatment meted out to Pease by Birks. Mr. Lewington, as usual, allowed a good deal of rough play without intervention, especially in the second half, when the City fought like wild men, but failed to reduce a wonderful defence.

#### CHANCES MISSED

The Town should have enjoyed a winning lead at half-time, for three or four easy chances were missed, and their failures encouraged the City to bolder things, with the result that in the end the Town were fortunate to save a point. The difference in the quality of the teams was marked in the opening period, for while the City had as much of the game, their methods were just slap-dash, with one or two exceptions. The Town's footwork frequently beat the City halves and backs, but the finishing was really poor. The reason Harford had a more strenuous job than Scattergood was because every City forward and half-back was a potential marksman, and drove fiercely at goal with all his might if he espied half an opening. Had there been similar precision and readiness in the Town attack the City would have been beaten before the change of ends.

#### CLEVER COMBINATION

The City attacked from the kick-off, but were well marked, and the Town halves gained a grip on the game. Bright passing with the forwards soon had the City defenders engaged. They were flurried by the quick transfers of the Town forwards, but kicked strongly, and worked unobtrusively. Farr once kicked out from almost under the bar when Hutchison carefully passed across the goalmouth. Scattergood had little work, but plenty of anxiety, while Harford had to be alert two or three times when the City swooped down on his goal. The retaliation by the Town forwards baffled the City defence completely, and Martin scorched the wrong side of the bar with a fine drive. A sharp dash up the middle by Brinton looked dangerous, and

he banged in a shot which travelled just wide, though Harford watched it go past the upright.

#### THE REFEREE TALKED

McGinnigle was damaged when Loftus was stopped, as he ran in to shoot at close quarters, and Harford brought off two or three fine saves in the subsequent assault. There was equal danger at the other end when the Town forwards again puzzled the opposition by their clever distributions, Rennie sending Hutchison through twice, and Fraser following up well to lend a hand. Triangular work on both the Town flanks was a feature of the game, and Hutchison was a feature of the game, and Scattergood dashed out, but the winger's shot skimmed the bar. For some minutes the Town forwards harassed continuously, and had there been a really good aim the goal must have fallen. Scattergood saved well several times, and when the ball was got away Mackey bowled Riley over near the centre-line, and there was a halt while the referee talked to both players. Harford again made splendid saves, the City forwards banging at goal whenever they got a chance, but Riley rarely had a chance to shoot. Just before the interval Pease and Bell went right through, passing brilliantly, and finally the centre-forward was left with a chance a few yards out, and might have run the ball in, but he hit it first time, and it went wide. He made similar errors afterwards, but this was the best chance of the game.

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A freshening breeze had sprung up, and the City took full advantage of this when the game was resumed. However, the Town were first to attack, and there was a brisk barrage of the City goal, Bell, Rennie and Hutchison all making strong efforts to beat Scattergood. Kingham and Mackey dealt coolly with the reply of the City, in which Scriven was prominent, and then Scattergood was in action again after the Town left wing had given a lot of trouble. Much pace had gone out of the game, and play was in mid-field for a considerable time. Tempers began to get frayed, the City forwards becoming desperate as their efforts to break down the defence were frustrated. Gradually the City gained the upper hand, and time after time they launched mass attacks, only to lose the ball to one or other defender. Harford made several good saves, but usually had plenty of time to see the ball.

#### HARFORD EXCELS

When relief came Kean and Fraser were noticeable for skilful feeding of the forwards and from a centre by Hutchison Pease went close. The latter and Martin broke through twice, and the ball came across neatly, but Bell was forced off, and a shot from Rennie struck a defender and went behind. Hutchison was just too late on another occasion, his shot striking a defender and going for a corner. In the last twenty minutes the City pressed fiercely and once the goal nearly fell, for Harford after making two brilliant saves, could not get the ball away, but Kingham, Mackey and McGinnigle fell back, and got the ball away. Once there was a terrific scuffle and the ball was shot in, and Martin, standing on the goal-line, kicked away, but the whistle had gone for a foul on Harford, who was out of goal. When this assault was mastered the Town defence had gained the ascendancy, and the forwards made one or two forays, but the main thought was defence. Although Loftus tried hard, and twice worked out to the right, he could not get past the defenders, and the game ended with the spoils shared.

Harford has never kept goal better in any game this season, and he was warmly cheered for several saves. He deserved all the more praise because he was handicapped by a sprained ankle, but Horace Pease gave it a magic touch that was very helpful. Kingham and Mackey were very sound, their covering up being splendid, and they kicked and tackled coolly in trying circumstances. The halves were again a magnificent line. McGinnigle gave Riley little chance and got through a great amount of work, his quickness and fairness in tackling, and the fact that he tried to do something

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with the ball when he had it, evoking no little despair among the home forwards as well as among the crowd. Kean and Fraser again did well, and their work with the attack in the first half was delightful. It was a pity the forwards could not find their shooting boots, as they should have had a winning lead at the interval. They were always cleverer than the home attack in passing, but were poor in marksmanship. Bell led the line well, but failed in front of goal. Martin was again the most elusive of the line, and got along well with Pense, while Rennie and Hutchison were prominent with bright combination.

## CITY

Scattergood is making a name as a goal-keeper; he was always safe. Roberts and Birks were lusty and robust, kicked a big length, and tackling vigorously—sometimes very much too vigorously. Brinton is a sterling little player, always on the move, and he was quick and assertive both in defence and attack. Farr and Jennings were workers without much idea of assisting their forwards. Loftus was the pick of the front line, his dribbling being good and his distribution thoughtful. Danfield also played well, and the wingers were speedy and centred well, but Riley had a poor day.