

LUTON WIN AGAIN

BRILLIANT HALF-BACKS MASTER SOUTHEND

Rennie Gets a Brace

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN 3
SOUTHEND UNITED 1
LUTON.—Harford; Mackey, Reece; Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; Pease, Martin, Bell, Rennie (A.), Hutchison

SOUTHEND.—Moore; Worthy, Robinson; Dixon, Wilson, Donovan; Mustard, Lane, Stevens, Jones, Barrow.

Referee.—Mr. A. S. King, Swindon.

IT is a pity that the attendance at LUTON TOWN'S game with SOUTHEND UNITED dropped to approximately six thousand, or two thousand below the average for the season to date, for the game was one of the most enjoyable seen on the ground this term. The football was particularly good considering the conditions, and, apart from one incident for which the Southend captain was responsible, play was clean and conducted in good spirit. Luton once again emphasised their superiority as a scientific side, for they had by far the better of the exchanges, and yet again it was simply brilliant custodianship that deprived them of a big victory. Southend played pluckily enough, and their team included several players of real merit, especially forward, but the Town played high-class football, and fully merited their success.

The surface of the ground was sticky, and there was a good deal of slipping in the early stages, though as the game progressed players kept their balance much better. Exchanges opened slightly in favour of the Town, and several times they went very close, but the visitors replied with any amount of pluck, and by the good use of their wingers, especially the right, they gave the Town defence a little trouble. Gradually the Town assumed the upper hand, and Pease and Kean were prominent with passes into the goal-mouth, while Fraser was in masterful mood. On such going, the player able to hold the ball was very useful, and Martin, especially, had the visitors guessing as to his intentions, while Jones, on the Southend left, was almost as elusive. Harford had the first real test, and saved well from Jones. When the Town retaliated Wilson made his policy plain. He was keeping very close to Bell, and was generally in the rear of his full-backs.

Stern pressure was brought to bear by the Town, the halves playing great football and giving their wingers the neatest of passes, but when the ball was middled the Southend defenders were on the alert. Moore saved in thrilling fashion again and again from nearly all the Town forwards, and Rennie had ill-luck with shots that struck defenders. Moore seemed to be in an invincible mood, and brought off numerous saves when it seemed that he must be beaten. A terrific assault was launched at the end of half an hour's play, and shots were rained in, but Moore weathered the storm until the thirty-third minute. There was then a corner kick, and this was dropped perfectly into the goal area; several players went for it, and Moore saved finely, but there was a scuffle in the goal-mouth, and after two or three attempts had failed HUTCHISON tapped the ball into the net.

Moore continued to show his quality in the subsequent play, and saved again and again when all seemed lost. Then Barrow made a hash of a fine chance. He received a wide pass from the right and had a clear gallop for goal; had he kept his head and shot for the farthest corner he must have scored, but as he raced in he simply pelted with all his might, and Harford's hands shot up and stopped the shot. The ball came down, and as Barrow closed in again Mackey and Kean rushed in to save the situation. The Town took up the attack again, and fierce essays were made but without success. Moore making grand saves when his colleagues could not hold the lively Town forwards. Rennie went very close, and Martin had a magnificent drive saved high up under the bar. The interval came with the Town in the lead, but deserving more.

The Town were pressing for the major part of the second half. They swept down on the visitors' goal, the approach being very clever. Moore was not to be beaten while he could see the ball, however, and he brought off remarkable saves from the Town forwards and halves. Fraser was striving hard to get through, and several times varied the triangular game with his halves in order to dribble up the middle and pave the way for a shot. Once he was almost under the bar when he was held up. Occasionally the visitors got a move on, chiefly by their right wing, but they were driven back very quickly, Reece being prominent with strong work. When the goal came it was the result of a determined attack on the Town right wing, in which Kean and McGinnigle had a big part, and Pease and Martin carried on. The ball was worked through, and then was touched inside to Kean; he passed as he was tackled, and RENNIE made the most of a good opening by shooting hard and true, Moore making a desperate, but unavailing, effort to reach the ball.

There was a short respite for the Southend defence, and Harford and his backs were brought into action, but the bout of pressure did not last long, and Moore was soon spoiling the Town forwards again. As the game neared the close there was some slackening in the Town rear, and a quick effort, in which Barrow was conspicuous, brought a goal. He centred, and STEVENS, although harassed, managed to get in a low shot; Harford went down to it, but apparently did not see the ball until very late; he got to it, and touched it on to the post, whence it twisted into the net. Southend's spirits were revived, and they put up hard pressure, Jones being in the picture with bright footwork, but the Town halves and backs were quick to sense the danger, and there were few real shots. To this the Town replied with strenuous assaults, and Moore saved in marvellous fashion from Hutchison, but from the flag kick the ball was headed out; RENNIE received, and after coolly tricking

Dixon he fired in a shot which went at great speed right away from Moore to make victory virtually certain. Just afterwards Martin hit the bar with a fine effort.

In general the Town defence played well; Harford was a shade unlucky with the shot that beat him, and Mackey did not seem too comfortable on the holding turf. Reece again played a fine game, putting all his energy into his game, and kicking with great power and the right direction. Mackey was also very clean in his footwork, but his tackling was not so hearty as usual. The half-backs played wonderful football, and the work of Kean and Fraser was of the highest standard. They were quick on the ball, and always made good use of it. McGinnigle was nearly as good, and he gave Stevens very little scope. The forwards carried on the good work, the line being very clever in solo or combined work. None was outstanding, but it was good to see Martin and Rennie so much on the target with their shooting. Both only required ordinary luck to have scored several goals. Bell was well policed by Wilson, and had few chances, but his colleagues had more of the ball in consequence, and the wingers, if not individually brilliant, had their part in the skilful attacks.

Moore usually plays well at Luton, and he was never better than in this game. Some of his saves were very lucky, for thrice he turned the ball on to the bar and saw it go safe, but he played a grand game. His backs were useful, kicking strongly, but they had too much work owing to the inability of the halves to hold the Town attack. Jones was the outstanding forward, and the wingers also did much clever work.

There were 6,300 spectators.