

LUTON'S FINAL STRUGGLE

BOURNEMOUTH UNLUCKY TO GO UNDER

New Forward's Brace

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN	2
BOURNEMOUTH	0

LUTON: Harford; Mackey, Reece; Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; Brown, Tait, Bell (T.), Bell (S.), Hutchison.

BOURNEMOUTH: Coen; White, Proctor; Farrow, Coxford, Moralee; Friar, Fletcher, Dumbrell, Chalmers, Russell.

Referee: Mr. E. C. Mills, Warminster.

IF they had not felt so before, LUTON TOWN supporters must have felt almost glad that the season was over on Saturday. It had appeared almost throughout the game that they were going to allow their splendid record during the last few months to be spoiled, and it can be said quite truthfully that BOURNEMOUTH were unfortunate to lose—either unfortunate or incompetent. Had their forwards taken a moiety of the chances that came their way in the second half, the Town must have been beaten. Making full allowance for the conditions, it was indisputable that the visitors were the more consistent in their efforts, and seemed able to control the ball better than the Town. I have no doubt that if the game had to be played again next Saturday there would be a different story, but certainly on this occasion the Town players, as a whole, did very little that was worth applause. Individuals shone, if not resolutely, at odd moments, but the team work was poor, and scarcely a department touched the high standard of the last ten games.

THE NEW BOY

The most comforting feature was the performance of the new player, Sam Bell. To that must be added the fact that the other Town players gave him every opportunity to shine, not by their frequent faults, but because they evidently wanted him to do well, and that is a good sign for next season. He rose to the occasion, and it was good to see him working so hard, not only in attack, but also now and then falling back to give the men behind a hand when they sorely needed it. He has made a fine start, and should turn out next season full of confidence. Everybody was pleased with his whole-heartedness, and he showed no little cleverness, a striking factor of his work being the frequency with which he slammed the ball from inside-left to outside-right, and thus caught the opposition out of position. He is young enough to do very well, both for himself and the club, and those responsible for signing him must have been quite happy that they did so.

FIRST GOAL

Bournemouth had the better of the opening exchanges, but they finished very badly, and the Town did little better when they began to open out the game. Sam Bell looked very much like Fraser when he was making a bee-line for goal, and he and Tait were the liveliest of the Town's attack. Bournemouth were not content to play second fiddle, and their wingers made splendid efforts, and with better shooting would probably have taken the lead. Then followed a good spell for the Town, in which they gave Coen and his backs a lot of work, and with a little good luck they would have scored. Twenty minutes had elapsed when the first goal came. The right wing had taken the ball down, and a centre went

almost squarely across: Tom Bell just diverted it, and Hutchison raced up and caught it near the line, turning it in front for Sam BELL to score with a terrific shot which struck the underside of the bar, and had Coen well beaten. For some time after this there was virtually only one team in it, and goals should have come several times, but the finishing was poor, and Coen was in fine form in the Bournemouth goal. Before the change of ends the visitors pressed hard, and Harford and his backs had anxious moments, but the whistle came with the goal still intact.

LUTON	1
BOURNEMOUTH	0

For a time after the re-start, the Town held their own and seemed likely to increase their score, good efforts being made, and the halves and forwards working together nicely. Then they fell away, and for a long time the visitors had the better of the game. How they failed to score was extraordinary. They had not a single good shot in the inside forwards, and it was well that the wingers were marked, for they showed plenty of enterprise, and rarely failed to get in a good shot when they had a chance. The halves also joined in, Farrow especially being prominent. The Town backs and halves also mis-kicked and failed to gauge the flight of the ball in the gusty wind, and at one period it seemed impossible that they could fail to penetrate, for the Town backs and Harford were quite beaten, and all that was required, two or three times in as many minutes, was that someone should touch the ball into goal. Eventually the Town got over this very bad spell and gave Coen more work.

ISSUE SAFE

The visiting goal had almost as narrow escapes as had the Town, and once Charlie Fraser seemed certain to get his first goal of the season, for he ran and shot grandly, but Coen brought off a magnificent save at full length. Bournemouth again came near scoring through Russell and Friar, each of whom dribbled in close, and then lost control. However, the issue was put safe when SAM BELL scored the second goal following clever play on the Town right wing. He received when about ten yards out, and dodging Proctor, shot in at great power, and Coen had no chance. Shortly afterwards Sam Bell had very hard luck, Coen bringing off another great save when a goal seemed certain from a very fine drive to the farther corner of the goal, and getting the ball away at the second attempt. Bournemouth's spasmodic efforts after this were safely dealt with, and the end came with the Town successful.

PLAYERS

There was scarcely a player of the Town that was consistently at his best. Harford made a few good saves, but seemed to be uncertain in handling the ball, and his backs were by no means reliable. Reece, however, did very well, and Fraser was the best of the middle line. Sam Bell was by far the best of the attack, with Tait a hard worker.

For the visitors Coen played a sound game, and White and Proctor were fairly good defenders. Farrow was a clever half-back, and Coxford played wonderfully as a defensive pivot. Friar and Russell were the best forwards.

There were 5,600 spectators.