

LUTON TOWN GAMES

Point From Bristol : Revenge on Cardiff

Sam Bell Scores Again

BRISTOL ROVERS .. 1 LUTON TOWN .. 1
(Smith) (Bell, S.)

ROVERS. — Ellis; Pickering, Donald; Wallington, McLean, Murray; M'Nestry, McKay, Smith, Harwood, McCambridge.

LUTON.—Preedy; Mackey, Reece; Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; Bell (S.), Martin, Cook, Stephenson, Russell.

Referee.—Mr. E. R. Westwood, Walsall.

AT BRISTOL

Eastville again proved a nappy place for the Town, for it is no small achievement to bring a point away from a team of the quality of the Rovers. A hard-fought, but very clean, game was witnessed by over 11,000 spectators, though by appearance on this spacious enclosure one would have estimated it to be nearer 16,000.

The Town began well, showing good pace and speedily finding their combination, and there was a readiness to shoot which augured ill for the Rovers. It was some time before the Rovers were able to make a telling effort, and then they found Preedy and his backs effective. M'Nestry was always ferreting for an opening, and there was clever play on the Rovers' right wing, but so well did the Town halves and backs defend that only now and then had Preedy a difficult handful.

On the other hand the Town were well on the mark, and within a few minutes of the start Martin had three shots, one of which struck the bar. As the game progressed the Town took the upper hand, and the Rovers' rearguard had many anxious moments, and Ellis effected several very fine saves, all the Town forwards going very close.

The teams crossed over without a goal, but in the second half the Town had the disadvantage of facing a breeze that had stiffened appreciably, and they were hard pressed. For nearly a quarter of an hour the Rovers swarmed round the Town goal, and only by dint of hard tackling and kicking were they kept out. Preedy made many fine saves.

There were raids in which the Town halves and forwards gave the home defence plenty to think about, and as the game wore on there was much more work for the Rovers' defenders. Sweeping passes from the halves to the forwards, and from wing to wing, had the Rovers somewhat scared, and had the chances been taken from these incursions the Town must have won. Cook once shot and hit the goalkeeper when a little care would have given him a goal. Russell made frequent dashes from the neat passes of Stephenson, and Ellis brought off good saves.

When the goal came it was a brilliant concerted effort. Stephenson shot the ball up the left wing in such a way that Russell and Pickering had a sprint: the Town left winger won and swept the ball right across the goal-mouth; Cook let it go, and BELL dashed up from the wing and with a magnificent drive had Ellis beaten completely.

The pace became hotter than ever, the Rovers fighting desperately in response to the urgent calls of the crowd. They equalised with a goal which they themselves admitted was very fortunate. The ball appeared to be over the touch-line, but Wallington swept it right across into goal: Preedy went up to fist it, but was knocked over, and the ball touched SMITH'S head and landed against the upright, whence it glanced into the net. From the Press box it appeared to strike Mackey's legs, but according to the Town players this was not the case. There was an appeal for a foul on Preedy, but the referee paid no heed.

With the sides on level terms there was a rare tussle for the winner, and the Town played great football. They maintained their open play, and the combination frequently had the Rovers' goal in jeopardy. Stephenson had a wonderful shot saved in marvellous fashion by Ellis at full length; Russell also had a shot saved, and struck the bar with a grand drive which completely beat Ellis, who was a yard or two out of goal, and Cook and Stephenson each struck the goalkeeper with good shots, but there was no further score.

The whole team played finely, and there has seldom been better team spirit in a match. The halves gave help to the backs, and the forwards never hesitated to get back and assist the halves in moments of crisis while the passing was far in advance of that of the Rovers, the ball being kept down better, especially when playing against the wind.