

WELCOME WIN AWAY

LUTON SUCCEED AT ALDERSHOT

BROWN AND STEPHENSON IN FORM

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN 1
(Stephenson)
ALDERSHOT 0

ALDERSHOT.—Robb; Wade, McDougall; Summerbee (Gordon), Oakes, Summerbee (Geo.); Williams, Bunch, Waterston, Black, Lee.

LUTON TOWN.—Coen; Kingham, Mackey; Brown, Thayne Fraser; Bell (S.), Martin, Bell (T.), Rennie, Stephenson.

Referee: Mr. G. T. Gould, London.

Quite a number of people might claim that they were the mascots for LUTON TOWN at ALDERSHOT on Saturday. Several motor-coaches were engaged, and many private cars made the journey, and before the game began there was no little animation in the middle of the popular stand when a considerable number of Luton followers, wearing their colours, took possession, and spent the waiting interval by entertaining the crowd. The Town team must have been encouraged, and they played so well that after the first half-hour there was rarely any anxiety about defeat. It was chiefly a question as to whether the Town forwards would be able to break down a dour and well-balanced defence. They did so only once, but came near repeating it very often because they were better together than Aldershot both in defence and attack. It was a keen and vigorous game, but the whistle was seldom in demand for infringements, and though there was plenty of shoulder-work, it was taken in good spirit for the most part. The ground was rather rough, and had many bare patches, and that had some effect on the play.

BROWN PROMINENT

The Town started well, a quick threat on the right wing, and a neat transfer to the left being nullified by the promptness of Wade. Aldershot were not slow to respond, and the ball was pushed through by Waterston to Black, who was in a dangerous position, but the Town backs had moved up, and the whistle signalled offside as the marksman shot against the side net. Brown was soon prominent with splendid footwork, his control and speed beating the home halves, and there were two or three sharp tussles in the home area as the result of his work. The home side were eager to reply, and both Kingham and Mackey had to stir themselves, but Coen was not troubled. Brown was a very lively factor, and, with his right wing, caused a lot of anxiety to the home backs, but Wade and McDougall kicked stoutly under pressure. A fierce retaliation by the home forwards appeared likely to succeed, for Lee got the ball well in front of goal, and there were desperate attempts by defenders to get the ball away, and it was a capital bit of work by Fraser that eventually relieved a thrilling situation.

STEPHENSON SHINES

No sooner was the ball out of danger at this end than there was trouble at the other, and after grand work by Brown, Sam Bell and Martin, the latter dribbled through and put in a terrific shot, which struck McDougall; Martin seized again, and shot first time, but this time got too far under the ball, and the home crowd breathed again. Lee was the danger point of the home attack, but Kingham took no liberties from him, and Mackey came to the rescue several times when the home forwards threatened to sweep through. The Town captain's strong tackling and hefty clearances saved Coen much care, though the goalkeeper had to flit away a good header by Lee. Martin was damaged in a tackle, and exchanged places with his partner, and then the Town left wing began to make matters warm for the home defence. Stephenson took nice passes from Rennie and Fraser, and bored through, resisting efforts to bustle him off, and he centred well. Once Sam Bell took a grand pass from him and, as he shot, McDougall stretched out his foot and blocked the ball, or a goal must have been registered.

CHANCE MISSED

For a time Stephenson was the most employed player on the field, his colleagues finding him with good passes, and he never failed them. Robb saved several shots, and positioned perfectly for the headers, but from another movement in which most of the Town forwards took part Tom Bell had a great chance as he slipped the backs, and from close in he shot straight at the goalkeeper's legs, and when the ball rebounded he turned it wide. This was hard luck, for he had stood up to the big defenders as gamely as ever. The home forwards were not in the picture for some time, but when they did get a turn they harassed the Town rearguard. Once Waterston only just missed with a shot that Coen could not have hoped to save, the ball travelling past the farther post as the crowd yelled for a goal. On another occasion Williams and Bunch burst through, and Thayne got his head to a very hot shot from the inside right, and Coen held one or two high shots. Mostly, however, the Town were superior, and Robb found difficulty in stopping a fast ground shot from Sam Bell. Just before the interval Aldershot made a desperate assault, and Coen saved nicely a hard, low drive from Black, which was made possible by the forceful work of Lee. Half-time:

ALDERSHOT 0
LUTON 0

The home team resumed in determined fashion, a good run by the right wing threatening, and both the Town backs diverted centres from Williams and Bunch. Waterston was a persevering sort, but Thayne did not give him much rope. Stephenson opened out the game when he raced inside and then drove the ball over to the right wing, and Martin middled accurately. Wade just getting to the ball before Tom Bell. The Town pressed hard now, Fraser being conspicuous with good work. Sam Bell again let fly with all his might, but Wade covered up, and Robb took a soft one from Rennie. The Town increased their pressure, and five minutes after the restart met with success. Brown initiated a move, and thence there was a wonderful bit of passing between Sam Bell and Martin before the latter shot the ball squarely across goal; Tom Bell just failed to connect, but STEPHENSON raced in at top speed and without hesitation crashed in a shot with which Robb had not the slightest chance.

DISTRIBUTION GOOD

The home team were undismayed, and they made repeated raids, chiefly on the right wing, but they were allowed little chance to test Coen. The covering up by the Town was splendid, for as the backs went to tackle, the middle men recovered to further block the way, and so Coen was rarely required. The whole of the Town forwards were getting a share of work, for the distribution was very good, and Martin never failed to whip the ball into the middle, while his footwork was a puzzle to Summerbee. Sam Bell had one strong shot travel a foot wide; a shot by Tom Bell hit the goalkeeper, and Brown once darted through the middle instead of passing to the right, and his shot was going straight for the farther corner when Wade leaped up and diverted it behind.

When Lee got a chance the crowd cheered, but Brown's speed had usually forestalled the passes to the burly winger; Mackey came across and shouldered the winger to the ground.

Try as they would, the home side could not make contact with Coen, and the Town forwards gained the upper hand. Rennie and Stephenson changed places, and the attack became very lively. Stephenson worked with great zeal, and Rennie was always able to get the ball in front of goal. Towards the end the home team made strenuous efforts, but to no purpose, for Coen caught like a cricket ball a good corner kick from Lee, and the ball was sent into the middle before the whistle sounded the end.

A PAT ON THE BACK

This was the Town's first victory away from home this season. They thoroughly deserved it, because they were the better side, and against a less capable defence must have had more goals. The shooting of the Town forwards left something to be desired, but as a line they played with more pace and dash, and every man did his bit with good heart. Stephenson had his best match to date, and it mattered not whether he was on the extreme or inside, he refused to be held by the opposition. He foraged well, and centred and shot strongly. Sam Bell was much the same, but he was inside for the greater part of the game, and what was of great service to the team was the manner in which both Sam Bell and Stephenson went back to assist the defence when necessary. They were always working at top pressure somewhere. Martin bothered the home defenders by his elusive footwork, and he has not played better in any game this season than in this match at outside-right. What was lacking in speed was compensated for by his craft. Rennie found Stephenson with his passes and made him a lot of work, and he also did well as an outside winger. Tom Bell was thrustful as ever, and though knocked about a lot, he never ceased to harass the big defenders, and on occasion distributed to good purpose.

UNDERSTANDING IN DEFENCE

Brown was the best half-back on the field, and, while quick in defence, was a potent force in attack. He made good use of the ball, and did not hang on to it so much, but set his wing going. It was something like old-fashioned half-back play to see him suddenly dash inside and either sling the ball across to the other wing or take a shot at goal. Fraser was about as effective, and had good understanding with his wing. Thayne did not appear to be quite so conspicuous as in the game against Swindon, but that was probably because there was less work in the centre. Moreover, Waterston kept on the move and tried hard to shake off the watchman, but Thayne was seldom beaten. A pleasing feature was the manner in which the halves and backs worked together, and they have never done it so effectively. That was the reason that Coen had so little work. Kingham had a tough handful in Lee, but stuck grimly to his job, and although his kicking was faulty, since the ball did not run true, he tackled well, and wisely took no chances against Lee, who is a match-winner on his day. Mackey was a stalwart in defence, and at critical moments would come through the opposition with the ball at his feet. He encouraged his colleagues both by precept and example. Coen had not more than two or three difficult shots to handle, but was safe and cool.

ALDERSHOT

For Aldershot, Robb kept goal well, and Wade and McDougall both played magnificently in defence. They were overworked at times, but stood up to their job with resolution and skill. Their halves were frequently over-run, but Gordon Summerbee did very good work in attack. Waterston was a useful leader, for he was not content to wait for the ball, and often tried to lead the Town defenders out of position by wandering out to the wing. The inside men were workers, and Williams and Lee both showed speed and centred well when they had a chance, but as a rule they were well held.

ANOTHER AWAY SUCCESS

Town Reserves Win Well at Lea Bridge

LUTON TOWN RESERVES 3
(Cook 2, Hackett 1)

CLAPTON ORIENT RESERVES 1
(Bow)

ORIENT RESERVES.—Hillam; Finlayson, Manns; Henderson, Coull, Smith; Miles, Williams, Foster, Bow, Millington.

LUTON RESERVES.—Preedy; Reece, Smith; J. Payne, Coote, McGinnigle; J. Burke, Hackett, Cook, Hutchison, Taylor. Referee.—Mr. J. W. Conquest, London.

CLAPTON ORIENT RESERVES took the field at Lea Bridge with a very fine record in recent games. They had beaten Charlton and Brighton at home, and Swansea and Charlton away, and lost by the odd goal of five to the 'Spurs' Reserves after leading by two goals clear at White Hart Lane. They began their struggle with LUTON TOWN RESERVES so strongly that there seemed little likelihood of the visitors taking anything away.

ORIENT'S LEAD

The Orient certainly had the better of the exchanges, and attacked persistently, but so well did the Luton halves and backs play that Preedy had not many shots to save, and he was quite safe. Luton replied chiefly through the skill of the left wing, but they also found little work for the goalkeeper. After about fifteen minutes, however, Miles got across a splendid centre, and BOW headed a very clever goal, a dash by Payne being just too late, as also was a great effort by Preedy.

This stimulated the visitors, who retaliated furiously. They bore down on the Orient goal, the halves and forwards combining cleverly, and Burke was brought down as he was going through, but the ball was got away. McGinnigle was prominent with good passes to his wing, and when Coote often sent the ball up the middle, Hutchison drove out to Taylor, who pulled the ball back across the goal as neatly as it could be done, and COOK scored easily.

LUTON IN FRONT

The movement was well worth a goal, but the Orient played up strongly, their forwards showing good understanding and keeping the ball on the move well. However, the Luton defence was very sound, and on the rough ground their first-time tackling and clearances frustrated all efforts. Luton attacked in reply, the passing being exceptionally good, and the forwards challenged the home defenders.