

ORIENT COALKEEPER

Foiled Luton of Victory at Lea Bridge

(By CRUSADER)

A VERY hard battle was seen at Lea Bridge, where Luton Town made a draw for the fourth season in succession. They thoroughly deserved all they got, and if points were allotted for meritorious play, apart from the scoring of goals, they would have won by a margin. The Orient put up their customary, resolute and forceful game, but there was no untoward incident, for the referee exercised admirable control.

INDEED, it was one of the most enjoyable games that the teams have played at Lea Bridge, and had the ground been reasonably good, the struggle would have been even more attractive.

As it was, the roughness of the pitch affected the play considerably, and in this the handicap was against the Town, who tried to keep the ball moving evenly, but sometimes it ran lively, and at others was diverted in disconcerting fashion from its objective. In the main, it was the goal-keeping of Robertson that prevented another Luton victory away.

THE Town scored three minutes after the start, this being the quickest goal they have scored this season. The left wing had already given trouble to the Orient defence, and Robertson had saved from Ball in the first minute. Then Stephenson made a fine run from just inside the Orient half, and from about ten yards he drove in a tremendous low shot; Robertson flung himself in the way; the ball struck him and rebounded, for BELL to slip it into the net.

THE Orient were nettled by this early disaster, and forthwith made fierce attempts to get on level terms. Mayson was well fed, and made the best use of his opportunities, with the result that a shot from Halliday was luckily deflected from the mark by Reece, and a flag-kick from the Orient right-winger led to a sharp and determined effort by the Orient to force the ball into the net, but a free-kick against Halliday brought relief.

BALL headed into the Orient net when Martin centred, but the point was negatived on the ground that the ball was out of play before Martin got it across. However, Robertson was tested and saved in grand style good shots by Ball and Stephenson.

The Orient goalkeeper within a period of five minutes, made as many brilliant saves, and the Orient defenders found it difficult to prevent the Town forwards getting through.

WHEN the home team had a turn, they were not allowed so many shooting opportunities, but they gave plenty of trouble to the backs without being able to make contact with Coen. They flung themselves ardently into the fray, only to meet a solid and sound defence, in which Thayne and his backs were conspicuous by sterling play, the centre-half once holding up a really desperate attempt to force the ball through. He measured his length on the ground in front of goal, and all the efforts to force the ball past him were unavailing.

IN a subsequent attack, Halliday received from Mayson, but his shot struck the bar when he was only three or four yards out, and after this fortune the Town took the upper hand. Robertson saved splendidly on several occasions, Stephenson especially giving him severe tasks, while Martin once

defence. When Foster had another good chance he skied the ball from close range.

THE Town had their turn in due course, and once more Robertson stood between the Town and success. He saved well from all the forwards, and shots by Bell were ticklish problems. Many corners were forced, but the Orient backs and halves were able to stem the efforts of the Town at close quarters. The equalising goal came seven minutes from the end.

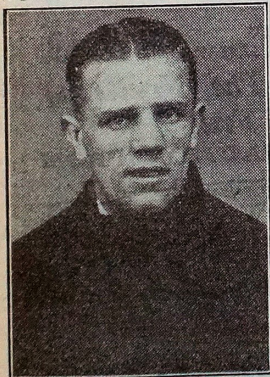
An attack had been frustrated, but the ball went out to the right where Mayson was unguarded, and he returned it for FOSTER to turn the ball just inside the goal.

IN the closing minutes, the Town came again, and they had chances to take the lead. The best fell to Ball, who received with a clear course, but he shot from long range, and the ball soared over the bar. Corners followed, but these were fruitless, and the game ended in a draw.

COEN did his part well, but was not over-worked. His backs both played finely under pressure, and Thayne gave a fine display as pivot, both in defence and attack. Brown and Fraser were clever flank halves, and had big parts in the numerous attacks by the forwards. The front line, as a whole, played well. Stephenson especially being much in evidence, but all earned praise for their neat combination and footwork when they were on the attack.

CLAPTON ORIENT	1
(Foster)	
LUTON TOWN	1
(Bell)	

ORIENT.—Robertson; Searle, Crompton; Fogg, Fellowes, Ware; Mayson, Halliday, Foster, Crawford, Rigby.
LUTON TOWN.—Coen; Reece, Mackey; Brown, Thayne, Fraser; Martin, Bell, Ball, Rennie, Stephenson.
Referee.—L. Boulstridge, Tamworth.



S. BELL

drove yards over after he had closed in to take advantage of a bright bit of work by Ball and Stephenson. At the change-over the Town were good value for their lead.

IN the second half, for a long period, the Town were pressing, and Robertson had a lot of work. He was fortunate to be so well placed that he could tip over the bar a high shot from Martin in the first minute after the re-start. Rennie had very fine drives miss narrowly, and Bell was robbed as he was on the point of shooting after a quick dart through the middle, in which he beat three opponents.

Try as they would, the Orient could not force the Town to retreat for some minutes.

WHEN they managed it, however, they had chances, but failed to take them. Crawford had the easiest opening of the match, but shot wide. Coen punched out from Mayson, and fielded long shots from several of the Orient halves and forwards. Give-and-take play followed, the Orient playing fiercely to get on equal terms, but being countered by a cool and steady