

SECOND DEFEAT Luton Should Have Won at Boscombe

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN'S second defeat was inflicted by Bournemouth and Boscombe last night at Dean Court, Boscombe. Ten thousand spectators, including a handful of enthusiasts from Luton, witnessed a game that was very much on the lines of that at Lea Bridge on Saturday, but with this difference, that the Town should have won the game on the run of the play.

The more skilful side, they improved as the game went on, and once more made enough chances in the second half to have won by two or three goals had there been one player among the inside forwards quick enough to take one in his turn.

Good enough in approach to break through a useful defence, but so utterly devoid of opportunism that Mellors had not one difficult shot to save.

Stephenson again took the honours, with Crompton a good second; Roberts and Beresford were a little better than at Clapton, but Ball was right off colour. They were unable to produce the effective combination we expect.

KIDD THE BEST

Kidd was the best of the middle line, especially in the second half, but Colquhoun was slow, and Nelson, though improving on his previous game, will have to put more ginger into his job. His particular fault was not in tackling, but in clearing after he had the ball. I have never been enamoured of the third-back game, but if it is adopted, then all the defenders should know something about it. They don't know how to play it to be of any use to Nelson.

Kingham was never comfortable at any time, yet Parris rarely beat him; Hubbard, after the early stages, was splendid; Coen appeared to make one extraordinary blunder, but just what happened when the kick that scored was being taken I cannot say. Even if the ball struck a defender, the position of Coen in relation to the ball when it passed him was amazing. He threw himself full length across goal, and as he lay there the ball passed between his heels and the upright.

EARLY EXCHANGES

Nelson won the toss, and Boscombe faced the sun. A bright move by Stephenson took him through, but he centred behind. The right wing next got away. Crompton dribbling well, but his pass was intercepted, and his return went wide. Coen had to handle a shot from Jack Smith, and a free kick against Colquhoun compelled the Town goalkeeper to use his hands again. Nelson got rid of a difficult situation when Colquhoun delayed a pass. A miskick by Kingham let in Riley, but Hubbard raced over and charged Parris off. A good clearance by Hubbard, and a nice pass by Colquhoun enabled Crompton to dribble through again and centre, and Bucknall just beat Stephenson in the goalmouth.

The Town were swinging the ball about better, but there was no shooting worth while. Coen had to punch out a free kick for "hands" against Nelson, who headed away a good centre by Barrow.

When Kidd stumbled, Stephenson raced back and robbed Barrow, after which Crompton went through and skimmed the bar with Ball waiting for a pass in front of goal.

Play was fast and even. Crompton was again in evidence, but his shot struck Bellis. Ball forced a corner, but this was badly placed, and Boscombe got away for Nelson to hold up Riley in clever fashion. Hubbard was doing well, kicking very cleanly. Generally there was too much high kicking, and little combination among the Town forwards.

Riley was damaged in a mix-up in the Town goalmouth, when Coen and Hubbard went for the ball together.

FIRST BLOOD

After 25 minutes' play, the Town defence collapsed, being beaten by a lot of heading, and RILEY netted from close quarters.

The Town went down on the left, and forced a corner, and Beresford put in a high shot which Mellors saved. Straightway Boscombe came down, and a penalty kick for "hands" was given against Nelson. The Town protested in vain; Riley's shot hit the bar, and Chalmers shot in from the rebound for Coen to save.

After this Bournemouth pressed, and what appeared to be a blunder by Coen gave them a second goal. Kingham was to blame in the first instance, for he obviously handled the ball on the edge of the penalty area. The Town players lined up, and RILEY shot among the crowd of players; Coen flung himself blindly to the right, but the ball went in right at the other side of goal. It may have been diverted, but I doubt if Coen saw it.

When the Town did make a good effort, thanks to Kidd, the home goal had narrow escapes.

TOWN'S FIRST GOAL

The Town's first goal of the season was scored by CROMPTON, and none deserved it better. From a quick attack on the left Stephenson got the ball across, and Beresford beat Mellors by leaping and heading the ball out of his hands; Crompton was on the spot, and easily scored.

Half-time:

BOSCOMBE 2

LUTON 1

The faults in the Town's play at Lea Bridge were obvious again. They were not well together either in defence or attack so far.

The Town made a rush on the right, but the ball went out of play. Boscombe replied up the middle, and a very fine shot by Riley was saved brilliantly by Coen. The flag-kick was headed over. Beresford was offside, and a moment later Crompton shot hard into Mellors's hands. Barrow forced a fruitless corner, and then Beresford gave Ball a pretty pass close in, but the centre-forward was too slow, and Bellis kicked the ball off his toe for a corner. A scrimmage followed before the goal was cleared. The Town forced another corner, and tame mid-field play followed.

Bellis beat Crompton after a tussle.

FIERCE ATTACKS

There was panic among the Town defenders when the home left got going, and Kingham kicked high over his own goal. The corner was cleared, and the Town attacked fiercely through Roberts, Stephenson and Kidd. Only slowness in front of goal prevented Ball equalising. Three corners followed, and from the clearance Riley raced away with a clear field, but his shot went right across goal.

The Town pressed hotly, and with any sting in finishing they must have equalised, especially when Bucknall was injured and had to go forward with Jack Smith coming back.

Ball enabled Stephenson to go through, but he lifted the ball to the other side of the field, and then, with a clear run in, just failed to control a lovely pass from Kidd.

It was some time before Boscombe had a turn, and then Chalmers shot high over.

Clever footwork availed the Town nothing with the failure to shoot. Boscombe did it when they got away, and Coen twice saved grandly from Barrow and Chalmers.

The closing stages were in favour of Boscombe, for even when the Town halved got the ball up there was no life in the attack to carry on the work.

BOSCOMBE.—Mellors, Bucknall, Bellis, Smith (W.), Pincott, Moralee; Barrow, Smith (J.), Riley, Chalmers, Parris.

LUTON.—Coen; Kingham, Hubbard, Colquhoun, Nelson, Kidd; Crompton, Beresford, Ball, Roberts, Stephenson.

Referee: F. J. Lowe, Bristol.