

THE FIRST POINT

LUTON TOWN FOILED AGAIN AT HOME

Goal Disallowed

BOSCOMBE'S BRILLIANT BACKS

(By "CRUSADER")

LUTON TOWN	0
BOURNEMOUTH & BOSCOMBE	0
LUTON.—Coen; Kingham, Smith; Payne, Nelson, Kidd; Crook, Beresford, Ball, Roberts, Stephenson.	
BOSCOMBE.—Mellors; King, Bellis; Smith (W.), Pincott, Moralee; Barrow, Smith (J.), Riley, Chalmers, Parris.	
Referee.—F. J. Lowe Bristol.	

MISFORTUNE continued to dog Luton Town last night. They were denied victory in the first place by a very bad blunder by the referee and in the second by the weakness of the forwards in front of goal. Making all allowance for ill-luck, and the brilliance of the Bournemouth defence, the lack of marksmanship was the deficiency that balked them of victory. As to the referee's decision of offside when the goal was scored, I should imagine that the referee was the only one of that opinion. Certainly the Boscombe players did not think so.

ONE-SIDED GAME

The game was even more one-sided than that of Saturday, and the Town have won many games by four or five goals in which they have not had anything like the balance of play they had in this game.

The defence appeared more stable, but the middle line was poor as a supporting department. The ball was too often in the air, and the forwards were seldom fed with a pass on the ground from anyone. To that extent the forwards had a grievance, but they still had so much of the play, and spent so much time in the Bournemouth goalmouth, that it was amazing how few real shots were made, and it is here that the first improvement is necessary.

TOWN START STRONGLY

Boscombe won the toss, but there was no apparent advantage.

The Town quickly threatened, and Crook, Payne and Beresford were prominent, but Bellis cleared. Coen was the first goal-keeper in action, a tame, long shot by W. Smith. This was followed by hot work on the Town left, and Stephenson eventually tested Mellors, who caught the ball close to the bar. Stephenson had another try just afterwards, and Crook also had a turn, though there was not much powder behind either effort. Crook lifted the ball over in another assault.

When Boscombe got away, Nelson held up Chalmers and Riley, and back the Town came again on the left, Mellors saving from Stephenson. A corner was forced by the latter, and the manner in which the Town attack threw themselves into their job evoked enthusiasm. It was some time before the visitors had a turn, and then Chalmers was applauded for clever footwork, and looked like dribbling right through, but eventually Nelson got in his way and diverted the shot. From the abortive corner kick the Town went away again, swinging the ball about well, and Ball and Roberts enabled Crook to get in a first-time shot, but his aim was bad.

A BOSCOMBE THRILL

There was a thrill when the visitors' right wing made a move, and a long, swinging pass to the left was taken by Parris, who returned the ball, and a clever hook shot by Riley went very close. Coen had to save from Barrow as Riley rushed into the goalmouth, and then had to go on his knees to hold a splendid low shot from Riley. For a few minutes the visitors played well, and Coen had to save a free kick for "hands."

ON TOP

Soon the Town were pressing heavily again, both wings working hard, and Kidd and Beresford made a great deal of trouble for the visiting backs, both of whom played magnificently. Crook ended an assault by shooting wide, and Beresford spilt another clever bit of play by Crook when he tried to dribble instead of centreing at once.

There was no cessation of the attack, and Crook dropped across another fine centre, which was headed out. Roberts followed with bright work, and Ball headed in for Mellors to save at full stretch. The Town left wing again combined well, and Roberts shot right across the mouth of goal. Kidd and Payne in turn were laid out after collisions with Nelson.

GOAL DISALLOWED

More fiercely than ever the Town attacked as the interval approached, and Beresford was only foiled on the line after desperate efforts to get the ball through. The Town went into it harder than ever, and there was a great shout when Beresford netted from close quarters after a furious attack in which the goal escaped marvellously. The cheers were turned to howls of derision when the referee, after hesitation, gave Beresford offside, yet, at the same time there were three opponents under the bar. Half-time:—

LUTON TOWN	0
BOSCOMBE	0

The Town resumed with 10 men Roberts being the absentee. They renewed their attacks, and the visitors were soon fighting hard to keep the Town at bay. The ball was swung about well, but was too often in the air when it came up from the half-backs. A rush by the visitors gave Riley a chance, but he shot well wide. Roberts came on, and took part in another strong assault. Ball got hold once after beating the backs but Mellors barred the way, and the centre-forward's shot struck him and went behind.

TOWN ATTACKS

A tame spell followed, but the Town had much the better of the game, and were kept out with difficulty by Pincott and his backs. King had to use his hands to stop another attack, and Stephenson took the free kick, but lifted the ball over the bar. Persistently the Town attacked, but the forwards did not work well together, and the passing was poor. Kidd raced up after one attack had been repulsed, and sent over the bar with a flying shot.

INSISTENT PRESSURE

The pressure grew more insistent, and Roberts shot over, and there was a mix-up almost on the goal line with Ball. The Town were working tremendously hard, and the Boscombe defenders were kept strenuously working all the time. With the exception of Riley and the extreme wingers the whole of the visitors were engaged in a struggle to keep the Town forwards out, and the defence evoked praise from the crowd.

STRICTLY ON THE DEFENSIVE

Beresford was applauded for a shot which just missed, and then he held on too long in an attempt to force a way through. Next came a fine effort by Ball, but he hooked the ball over after Stephenson had got it in. The visitors were kept strictly

on the defensive, and Kingham and Smith dropped the ball well into the Boscombe goalmouth again and again. King, Bellis, and Pincott were a grand barrier, kicking and tackling magnificently. Ball rushed through on the right, and got in a high centre which Mellors fisted out colliding at the same time with Stephenson, who had to receive attention.

MANY CORNERS

A whole series of corner-kicks followed, the crowd urging on the Town players, but again and again the ball was sent in and out of goal. The flag-kicks were not always well placed. Mellors saved well from Crook and a raid by the visitors followed. Riley just missing with a grand snap shot as he received from Barrow. Parris got in a good centre, but Coen got the ball away. Kingham held up Riley, and blocked his shot just in time, and then Payne sent his wing to the attack. They worked right through, but were repelled time and again, and the end came without a goal.

TOWN DEFENCE

There was more steadiness in defence than in the match against Southend. Coen had not one really difficult shot to stop Kingham put up a very fine game, and seemed more like his old and best self, though he had a warm handful in the coloured Parris. Splendidly though Kingham played however, the man to take the eye most was Smith. Speedy and judicious in his tackling, he was always at work, with his head if his feet were not in action, and his positioning was clever. There was more promptness in tackling, or the lively Riley would probably have made his mark on the goal.

MIDDLE LINE—

The middle line were workers, but it was not the stylish line that we saw last season. Nelson was safe in his tackling, but did not cover a lot of ground, and was not a great help to his forwards. Payne and Kidd put in all they knew, but too often clouted the ball into the air when a push to the forwards was required and Kidd was inclined to do too much instead of making use of the ball quickly. Their tackling was good, but their service to the forwards was poor.

—AND ATTACK

Crook was no improvement upon Crompton, though he did some good things, and Beresford worked with great zeal, and was very fast and clever. Ball also put in all he knew, but for a centre-forward, seems strangely disinclined to shoot quickly or from anywhere, except just in front of goal. Roberts seemed slow and, though he gave a few good passes to his partner, was like his colleagues, a poor marksman. Stephenson did not shine to the same extent as in the Southend game, though vying with Beresford for the honours in attack. Combination, however, was still sadly lacking.

BOSCOMBE'S BEST

Boscombe's strength was mainly at back. Mellors had a lot of work, but very few difficult shots. King and Bellis played grandly, kicking powerfully and positioning well, while Pincott gave a great display as a third back defender. The flank halves also worked well, and J. Smith also put in almost a fourth back game. Riley was a nipsey leader, and Chalmers was clever in footwork, but the team, as a whole, did not show any striking form except in defence.