

FIRST SUCCESSES IN NEW CAMPAIGN

Luton Town Gather the Spoils

BOTH TEAMS ON FORM

AT HOME

LUTON TOWN	1
(Payne)	
SOUTHEND UNITED	0
LUTON TOWN.—Dolman; Mackey, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Godfrey; Crompton, Lutterloch, Payne, Roberts, Stephenson.	
SOUTHEND UTD.—McKenzie; Nelson, Everest, Deacon, Turner, Carr; Bolan, Firth, Graham, Egan, Willshaw.	
Referee.—W. J. Lewington, Croydon.	

SOUTHEND made a spirited fight for the honours at Luton but they were finally beaten in a game that had its thrills at infrequent intervals. Thanks to the excellence of the defences, the ball was generally in midfield, and players had hard work to keep it under control. Frequently, a player of either side would evoke applause by a neat bit of trickery or a sudden spasm of brilliance, and then it would be spoilt because he could not measure the pace of the pass well enough to serve his colleagues.

LACK OF COMBINATION

Luton were worse in this respect than the visitors because they were usually good at getting the ball on the ground, but, when the pass came the speed was such that defenders watched a vain chase by forwards to capture the ball before it passed out of play. Particularly was this so in the first half because, in the second, the players grew so wearied from the effect of the tremendous heat that they could not energise the play sufficiently to make progress, and, of combination, there was little worthy of the name.

CREDIT WHERE DUE

Credit for the goal that won the game must go, in chief measure, to the right wing pair and Finlayson, and especially to the persistence of Crompton, who obtained the corner-kick, and then placed the ball well; it did not look much like a goal as the ball went across, but PAYNE'S opportunism and the very shrewd position he took up, capped the effort.

SOUTHEND'S PLUCK

The goal was scored just before half-time, and, for a considerable period of the second half, the Town had to defend strenuously against equally fierce and determined assaults. Indeed, had Southend been able to keep cool when in front of goal, especially Graham, they could have equalised. The centre-forward had the best chance of the match from close in, but crashed the ball against the bar.

Long before the end, the game had deteriorated very largely into a stopping business, with each defence holding the opposition safely and the crowd were not sorry to hear the final whistle.



J. NELSON

MONDAY. AT WALSALL

LUTON TOWN	1
(Stephenson)	
WALSALL	0
WALSALL.—Leckie; Jones, Wiles; Richmond, Morgan, Bradford; Woolhouse, Landells, Evans, Harwood, Bulger.	
LUTON TOWN.—Dolman; Mackey, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes; Hodge, Martin, Mills, Roberts, Stephenson.	
Referee.—G. Dutton, Warwick.	

LUTON TOWN began their away programme with a match at WALSALL, and it was thought by most supporters that, if they returned with a point, they would have fared excellently. However, they exceeded these expectations, and brought home two points which will be of almost inestimable value when the final reckoning comes.

ALWAYS A HARD TEAM to beat on their own peculiar ground, this Walsall eleven proved no exception to the rule, and they fought desperately to win the points. It was a battle in which defences prevailed throughout, and neither forward line looked capable of scoring a lot of goals. Luton were better as a team, and they were easily superior as far as science was concerned. The home side relied on speed and weight as methods of making ground, but they found it an almost impossible task to pass Nelson and his colleagues.

NELSON was quite the best of the 22 players, and he did two men's work. He was never flustered, no matter how hot the attack, and, when he went into a tackle, he invariably came out with the ball. He used it well, too, and Evans, the home leader, had a very thin time. Nelson's counterpart in the home team, Morgan, was also a bright star, and he held Mills very effectively.

FOUR CHANGES were made in the team which beat Southend, and there was a decided improvement, especially in the half-back line. Here Finlayson showed his best form, and was always in the thick of it, and Fellowes restored to the other wing, also had a very good match. The halves never lost their grip on the game, and they were ably backed up by Mackey and Smith two grand backs.

THE FORWARDS have not yet found their form, but they were better than the home quartet as far as skill and science went. However, their finishing left much to be desired, and the marksmanship generally was poor. Martin, in his first match of the season, was impressive in the first half and he beat the defence with consummate ease, and drew the defence time after time. However, his inclination to take the ball a little too far spoilt some of his work, but he was the schemer of the line. He played hard all through but tired in the second half.

THE FORWARDS as a whole lacked weight, and they were frequently bundled off the ball by a defence which wasted no time in tackling and used the weight with which they were liberally provided. Hodge and Stephenson both made clever runs, but were somewhat cramped by the smallness of the ground. Roberts tried hard enough, but could rarely get going, and most of his work petered out into nothing.

THE ONLY GOAL of the match came 14 minutes from the end, when STEPHENSON secured a pass from Finlayson following a corner by Hodge and beat Leckie with a cross-shot. Direct shots at goal were very few, but Dolman made the save of the match shortly after the goal was scored, when he deflected a great drive from Bulger for a corner. The nearest attempt to scoring in the first half was made by Hodge, who hit the post.

CUNDALL BEGIN WITH CUP FINAL

CUNDALL opened the season with a replayed cup final between the FITTING SHOP and the MACHINE SHOP. The previous match was played in February, but this time the Fitting Shop made no mistake and won by 10-1.

Such a result did not seem likely at the interval the Fitters were leading 3-1, and, in the second half, they piled on the goals. The Machine Shop played in a sportsmanlike manner, and struggled to the end, but they did not have much luck.

For the winners, E. Boutwood scored five goals, R. Biggs two, and H. Hill J. Coles, and J. Blezard (own goal) one each. R. Else netted the losers' solitary point.

After the match, the handsome silver cup was presented to R. Biggs, the Fitters' captain by Mr. A. G. Saxby one of the vice-presidents of the club, and he congratulated both teams on their display. R. Biggs thought the match had been most enjoyable, and that the form shown augured well for the success of the club in the coming season.

R. Else the Machine Shop captain said it had been an enjoyable, clean game, and he congratulated the Fitters on their win. Teams:—

FITTING SHOP.—R. Dyer; A. Crick, S. Farquhar; C. Gardner, T. MacLaren, L. Verrey; J. Coles, A. Kelvin, E. Boutwood, R. Biggs, H. Hill.

MACHINE SHOP.—H. Denton; J. Blezard, J. A. Brown, H. Cumberlege, A. Clarke, R. Baxter; W. McGeorge, H. Cosby, R. Else, J. Baxter, W. Slade.



BOOTON

Saturday. At Reading

READING	1
Glidden	
LUTON TOWN	0
Ball	

READING.—A. Butcher; Read, Robertson, Coote, Kirkman, I. Hodge, Barley, Briggs, Glidden, Owen.

LUTON TOWN.—Coen; Booton, H. Gooney, M'Ginnigle, Kidd; Hodge, P. Ball, Sloan, Rich.

LUTON TOWN took a strong combination side to READING, and though home side to a draw after a 20-minute game in almost tropical weather, the game was played at an amazing pace, considering the weather, and a division of points was quite a fair reflex of the play, although Luton might have won had they been a little steadier in front of goal.

BOOTON gave one of his best displays since he joined the club, and he was the best back on the field. His positional play was excellent, and he scarcely put a wrong throughout. Defensive strength was the keynote of the Town's game, and there was no weak spot. Hubbard played every support, and Coen played himself. He made saves from all angles and in all positions, and the home team must have despaired of ever getting the ball past him.

KIDD came to the fore with a fine display, and M'Ginnigle and Gooney were not far below the standard he set in the right position, but Sloan was an ever-present problem to the home defence. However, neither inside men fell back enough. Ball was confronted by Stanley Coote, and he was given little room in which to move. Hodge was a tricky winger, and though somewhat inconsistent, made a good impression.

THE TOWN took some time to get down, and Reading were the better in the early stages, and Coen was called upon several times. The home side took the lead after 23 minutes, GLIDDEN meeting a ball on the half volley, and sending it crashing into the far corner of the net, well out of Coen's reach. The equaliser came before the interval, Booton placing a free-kick well into the goalmouth for BALL to beat Butcher.

FOR A LONG PERIOD after the interval, Luton were much superior, but they could not find the net again. Then Reading took another turn, and they also found a defence which refused to yield a yard. The Town lasted better, and in the closing stages they had most of the play, but all their efforts could not bring the deciding goal.

At Luton on Monday.	
LUTON RESERVES	5
Ball (2), Patrick (2), Rich	
SOUTHEND RESERVES	1
Harris	

LUTON TOWN RES.—Coen; Booton, Hubbard, Gooney, M'Ginnigle, Kidd; Rich, Patrick, Ball, Sloan, Stevens.

SOUTHEND UTD. RES.—Bryan, Brooks, Robinson; Spelman, Hague, Jackson, Kirkaldie, Harris, A. Fryar, Dickinson, Latta.

Referee.—D. M. Grimthorpe, Chislehurst.

ABOUT 3,500 SPECULATORS patronised the Reserves' game with Southend Reserves on Monday night, and they were well rewarded for their attendance. It was a splendid game, for the visitors fought every inch of the way and right to the last, and if at times they were inclined to get rattled, that was rather a tribute to the excellence of the Town team, in which the team spirit was manifest to a great extent, and was a big factor in the success.

BALL SCORED following a clever back-heel pass by Stevens, after four minutes' play, and the game received a filip from this, and thereafter there was a fierce struggle, in which each defence was given ample opportunity of proving its quality.

THE TOWN DID MUCH the more pressing, but Southend gained the equaliser through Harris, following a nice pass by Kirkaldie. However, Patrick put the Town ahead again with a brilliant goal, and at half-time the Town led by the odd goal of three.

LUTON TOOK up the attack after changes of ends, and Ball scored with a magnificent header twelve minutes after resuming, and was prominent in further attacks, which gave much trouble to the visiting defence. Southend fought hard, but were generally busy in resisting the onslaughts of the Town forwards, and fourteen minutes from the end RICH scored the fourth goal, the ball striking a defender's legs and passing through, and shortly before the end PATRICK put on the fifth with a direct shot.

TESTIMONY to the Southend defence can be paid quite honestly; they put up a stern resistance, but they were often outplayed by the pace and combination of the Town forwards. It was not only an attack, however, that the Town showed, indeed, they only did so because of the play of the halves and backs, who gave every support.

BALL LED THE LINE finely as ever, and is back to his best; Sloan was a real craftsman, and Patrick was a dashing forward, the contrast in style doing much to heighten the United defence. Rich was a brilliant winger, and Stevens thoroughly justified the confidence which placed him there. The boy is going to make good all right.

AT HALF M'Ginnigle was indefatigable as ever, and Gooney and Kidd played brilliant football, the service to the forwards being very clever. Booton and Hubbard were strong kickers and dour tacklers, and they have come to the best at the right time. Coen did not have a lot to do, but such as he was required to do was done well.

DEFEATS FOR WEAKENED HARPENDEN TOWN

HARPENDEN TOWN visited REDBOURN on Saturday in the first round of the Albans Charity Shield, and with the best at their disposal they did well.

The home side obtained the only goal of the first half after 10 minutes, although they were clearly the better combination. The Town defended stubbornly with Crew playing finely in goal. Time elapsed before Redbourn could get to their lead, and then they scored quick goals. Crew and Day were busy, and had to leave the field, and the home side found the net twice more.

REDBOURN 5. HARPENDEN TOWN 0.

On Monday evening, the TOWN HARPENDEN ROVERS in the first round of the Charity Cup, and as they had difficulty in raising a team their defeat was not unexpected. Levett scored the goal of the first half. After the interval the Rovers did the bulk of the play, and with Crew failing to gather a few L. Hearmon was presented with an task to add to the lead. The Town came following a corner. W. B. shooting through a crowd of players.

HARPENDEN ROVERS 3. HARPENDEN TOWN 0.

R. GOLDSMITH GOES NINE

Despite a disastrous start, Chamberlain putting through his own goal in the minute, PIRTON SOCIAL gained a victory over Ickleford British Legion in the first round of the North Herts Bantam Shield.

Ickleford had things all their own way for the first ten minutes, but they were out afterwards and Males equalised with a penalty. R. Goldsmith put the lead ahead direct from a corner, and E. increased the lead with two fine goals. Goldsmith added four more goals, and Goldsmith and P. Walker each found the net. Ickleford fought back and reduced arrears but missed a penalty.

PIRTON SOCIAL 10. ICKLEFORD 2.

PIRTON.—A. Timmins; I. L. Chamberlain; S. Cooper, F. Males, R. Goldsmith; P. Walker, E. Jarvis, E. Handsome, C. Goldsmith, R. Goldsmith.