

SCARBOROUGH'S VALIANT BUT LUCKLESS FIGHT

Conditions All Against Good Football

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN 5
Vinall (2), Dawes (pen.), Stephenson, Ferguson

SCARBOROUGH 1
Burke

LUTON TOWN.—Coen; Mackey, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes; Ferguson, Dawes, Vinall, Roberts, Stephenson.

SCARBOROUGH.—Robinson; Mitchell, Fieldsend; Llewellyn, Jolly, Heelbeck; Agar, Beckett, Nichol, Burke, Sharp.

Referee.—C. Booth, Heywood.

Luton Town passed safely into the fourth round of the F.A. Cup yesterday when they easily beat Scarborough in the replay at Luton.

Thus they qualify to entertain Swindon on Saturday week, and have a fine chance of making another long run in the Competition.

Yesterday's match left much to be desired as a spectacle, although, of course, the 11,750 spectators (receipts £238) were satisfied by the Town's convincing win.

That is, all except the 300 who travelled from the seaside town in the hope of seeing their favourites create a sensation.

ANKLE DEEP IN MUD

The game was spoilt by the terrible state of the pitch. It has rarely been



SECOND HALF THRILL.—Smith kicks the ball almost off the Luton goal line, with Coen prostrate in front of goal.

as bad, and in the middle, the mud was ankle deep. Accurate football was impossible, and at times, play was farcical.

Almost throughout, Luton tried to play their normal, clever game, but conditions were all against it. Scarborough adopted the proper tactics for the occasion, and simply kicked the ball as hard as they could.

However, they did not last the pace, and the going told on them sadly long before the end. They were plucky, but outclassed. Class usually tells in most things, and it did in this match.

GAME FIGHT

The Seasideers had one or two fine chances of scoring, but the forwards were again weak near goal. The defence fought gamely against heavy odds, and there can be nothing but admiration for the way in which they played.

Robinson was the hero, and but for him, the score would have been much greater. The Town won as easily as the score would suggest, and after the first goal, there was never any fear about the result.

As a team, Luton were none too impressive, but the going, and the comparative weakness of the opposition was not calculated to bring out their best.

Smith, Finlayson and Stephenson took chief honours. Smith had his best match of the season, and sulked his play to the conditions. He tackled hard and promptly, and never made any bones about getting the ball away.

FINLAYSON'S FOOTWORK

Even the quagmire did not stop Finlayson, from producing delicate footwork, and he took main honours in the half back line. Nelson and Fellowes both played usefully, but not up to Finlayson's standard.

Mackey was crippled by a kick in the first 15 minutes, and played under a big handicap for the rest of the game.

He kept pluckily on, and gave nothing away.

Coen was not always well covered, and made rousing saves. He handled the greasy ball well.

STEPHENSON IN FORM

Stephenson is bang on form, and nearly every time he had the ball, used it to advantage. Roberts was a hard worker, as usual, but both he and Dawes tried to do too much dribbling, and kept the ball too often in the thick mud in the middle of the pitch.

Vinall led the line well, and was in the limelight with his shooting, while Ferguson was better in the first half than the second.

Scarborough won the toss and were first to break through on the left, Mackey being beaten simply by the left wing. Smith came over and got the ball away and the Town made progress on the right where Finlayson's pass was too speedy for Ferguson.

At once we saw the Town start fiddling about instead of getting on with the ball to the right wing, Dawes and Ferguson each being at fault.

They were too long in getting rid of

the ball altogether and on the mud this was not much good.

Scarborough were keeping well up and we had a taste of what they could do when Beckett broke clean through and should have scored, but he shot wide.

The Town got away on the left, but Mitchell held up Stephenson all right and he got spoken to by the referee for a mild sort of wrestle as the players were on the ground.

So far the Town had done the pretty stuff and Scarborough had done the danger stuff, which was just about what we expected.

THE FIRST GOAL

A long kick by Finlayson brought the first goal. VINALL took the pass as it beat Jolly and went on to shoot. Fieldsend pushed a foot out with the result that he diverted the ball past Robinson.

Scarborough promptly got away from the kick-off, Mitchell being the inspiration of the movement and he sent the right wing through, but Coen dashed out cleverly and baulked Agar as the winger bored in.

More fiddling about on the Town right wing again enabled Scarborough to break through, but Smith cleared with a good header and then Coen caught a long shot from Burke.

When the Town got back, through the agency of a free kick, Roberts shot wide from 20 yards. Tom Smith came up and gave the right wing a good pass, but Dawes could not get his feet out of the mud quickly enough, and his shot was blocked.

Ferguson got over a centre just afterwards, but again the shot was blocked and a moment later Mackey shot wide from 40 yards.

TOWN LIVENING UP

There was a loud appeal for hands against one of the visitors as he stopped a shot from Ferguson. This was negative, but the Town were now livening up a bit and play was in the Scarborough half continuously.

Smith was doing exceptionally well by sending the ball among the forwards every time. This was the right policy.

A burst by the visiting forwards beat the Town defence. Burke had every chance, but like other forwards he was too long in getting in his shot and Mackey got up and turned the ball behind for a flag kick.

This was got away. The dribbling by the Town forwards was playing directly into the hands of the Scarborough defenders. They were not content to beat one man, but they wanted to beat the whole team.

Stephenson broke through and put in a hard shot which Robinson held at a second attempt.

MUDLARKING

The ground was terribly heavy, and the Town forwards, especially, could not make the ball go through the mud. When they pried Stephenson he broke through and centred and Ferguson was just too late to prevent Robinson punching the ball away at the second attempt.

Stephenson and Vinall broke through and the latter lifted the ball just too high right across goal.

For Scarborough it had become a somewhat "while there's life there's hope game," but the Town were certainly not playing the sort of game that was calculated to put the issue safe in quick time.

Another breakaway by the Scarborough left found Mackey and Nelson well out of position and as Nicol closed in, Smith dashed across and prevented him getting in his shot, the ball going for a corner.

Again they came through, and Burke completely beat the defence, but Coen was waiting to accept his shot.

The first good open movement by the Town forwards, following a dribble by Stephenson, brought a really dangerous situation. Vinall banged the ball wide with a first-time shot.

DAWES SCORES FROM THE SPOT

Back the Town came with a similar movement, and this time Vinall was brought down badly by Fieldsend and Jolly right in the jaws of goal. A penalty kick was awarded and DAWES made no mistake.

A corner was forced by the Town immediately after, and Dawes headed just wide from Ferguson's flag kick.

Smith made another fine clearance when the visitors got away and he was certainly so far the most prominent of the Town's defensive line.

Nicol was spoken to for fouling Coen. Then Coen brought off a good save from Beckett. He got hold of a ball just as it was going away from him, and a moment later he tipped over the bar a good header from Burke.

There was little good football in it so far. Another strong attack by the Town saw a shot from Dawes strike a defender and go behind for a corner. Robinson saved the flag kick all right.

When the Town gave the ball to the wingers they could always do things, and Stephenson raced through and put in a shot which Robinson rather luckily turned just behind.

ROBINSON'S GREAT SAVE

An all-along-the-line movement looked promising, and Fellowes came right up in the goalmouth to take a pass from Stephenson, but shot wide.

A very fine movement by the Town right brought a centre from Ferguson, which Vinall hit on the run, but Robinson brought off a great save. Half-time:

LUTON 2
SCARBOROUGH 0

On the re-start the Town were first to get busy. But only a tame shot from Ferguson resulted.

Agar dashed clean through the Town

defence, but he found the mud too much for him and his shot dragged along to Coen, who promptly got rid of it.

However, a nice pass to Vinall enabled him to outwit the defence and STEPHENSON darted through, taking the ball in his stride and shot past Robinson as the goalkeeper came out to put the Town three up.

The Town forwards were appreciating the better conditions at the Kenilworth-road end and Vinall beat Jolly with his head for Roberts to dart through and miss by inches.

The visitors were now finding the class a bit above them. They were plucky and they adopted the right methods in giving the ball plenty of boot.

The visitors got away and forced a corner, but Sharp lifted the ball yards over the bar.

A free kick against Smith was placed for Agar to dash through and centre, but the ball went right across goal and behind.

Ferguson forced a corner, but Stephenson put behind after the ball had been once cleared.

SLACKNESS OF DEFENCE

Slack work by the Town defenders enabled Scarborough to force a corner. Following the flag kick Fieldsend came right up and headed just over the bar.

Mackey came through the middle with the ball and gave Ferguson a pass, himself going forward for the return, which the winger failed to give.

Scarborough defenders, like most others that have been to Luton, could give the Town defence points in the working of the offside rule, and twice within a few minutes they jockeyed the Town attack offside.

A moment later clever work along the line enabled Dawes to race and meet with his head a fine centre from Ferguson, but Robinson brought off a brilliant save at full length.

For a minute or two we had something like a little bombardment of the Scarborough goal, but the ball was got away and the Town goal was saved by Smith when everything seemed lost.

The visiting left wing broke clean through and from his shot Nicol turned the ball in past Coen, but Smith flew up from nowhere and kicked out.

The Town right wing made the next move and Ferguson booted the ball hard into the centre for VINALL to dash through and score with a fine shot, Robinson touching the ball but failing to arrest its progress.

Clever work by Finlayson enabled Stephenson to sprint through, and although Robinson brought off a great save from the winger's fierce drive, FERGUSON was at hand and simply had to turn the ball into the net.

The Town halves were only at half pace when the visitors burst through. Nicol went through and beat Coen with a shot which hit the post and rebounded for BURKE to push the ball into the vacant goal in the 76th minute.
