



THE
LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL
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JOURNAL

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FOOTBALL LEAGUE—DIVISION II

SATURDAY, 6th MAY, 1950

LUTON TOWN v. BRADFORD

“TRUE - FORM”

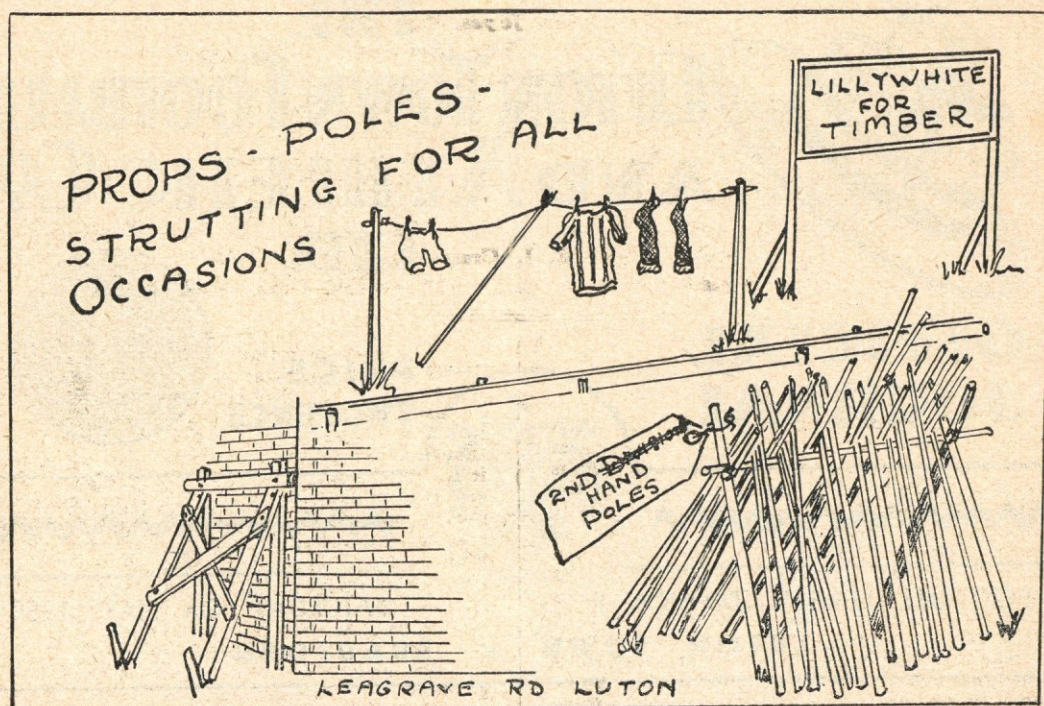
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Today is the last game of the season
 And how at times we had thoughts to reason
 Last Saturday's point has made us safe
 So in Division II we keep a place
 Our visitors today say *au revoir*
 It might have been us through making draws
 We have had good chances, also bad luck
 But we so often failed to pick two points up
 The game has its compensation just when one's ready to despair
 Something turns up that makes a difference, goals are got all is fair
 And as we look up, there's a gleam in the sun
 Also the crowd are cheering, smiling, and having real fun
 And hope they will see a win today and not a draw
 The Bobbers also thank the fans for buying tickets for the ball
 Today is your last chance for quite a while
 So buy one as you come from the turnstile
 This may be your lucky day
 And the Ball you may take away

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CLUB NOTES

WE meet Bradford today in our last match of the present season happy in the knowledge that it is not a crucial match to us as far as relegation is concerned. The point picked up at Hull, and the further point gained here last Saturday, against Chesterfield have made us quite safe and so we can take this game in our stride, so to speak. It would indeed be a battle royal if either Bradford or ourselves would be relegated as a result of today's encounter and at one time it looked as if this might be the case, but those two points referred to have saved us from such a position. We are very sorry indeed that our opponents of today already know they have no hope of escaping relegation, but we hope they have a more successful time next season and that we shall see them once more back into Second Division football before long. They made a very commendable effort to try and avoid the drop by paying a very big fee to Derby County for Leon Leuty and another big fee to West Bromwich Albion for Johnny Haines, but unfortunately for Bradford they were not able to stem the tide. Although not a pleasant experience to have to drop to a lower sphere, two Clubs from our Division have to do it each year and certainly to have to do it at the end of the 1949/50 season is no disgrace for it has been a terrific struggle, since Christmas, for about a dozen teams to escape it this time, and some very good teams have been involved.

We saw a very fine exhibition of goalkeeping here last Saturday by the Chesterfield custodian, and it was soon seen why he has been chosen to play for the England "B" Team, against Italy, at Milan, to be played on May 11th. He certainly saved his team from a very decided defeat for at least six of his saves were almost in the miraculous class. Our goalie was not far behind in showing what he can do, although not engaged to anything like his counter part, but that save from Dale before we had opened our score was equally as good as any save we have seen on this ground this season. We are very pleased indeed the way Lowerth Hughes has risen to the occasion since he donned the First Team's jersey and he is now playing with that confidence which is the hallmark of a good goalkeeper. Bernard Stretten is also playing very well again, having fully regained his confidence, and it is only the brilliant displays of Hughes which is keeping him out of the Senior side. We are very fortunate indeed in having two such first class goalkeepers available, and we are also quite sure that when Derek Williams' time comes for promotion we will find him not wanting. He has been giving some very sound displays while playing for our Third Team and is rapidly gaining experience.

This season on the whole has been a very disappointing one for us. Only twice right through the season, apart from the F.A. Cup match with Grimsby, have we had the pleasure of seeing our lads score more than two goals in a match, and though we have seen some lovely football at times it has rarely ended in a goal being scored. Goals are vitally essential if a team is to succeed, a remark only too true as we have found out to our cost this season in particular. Our defence has been consistently sound right through, having conceded only 50 goals in the 41 matches to date. In two of these matches 11 goals were scored against us, 5 at Bury 6 at Grimsby, so that in the remaining 39 matches 38 goals were conceded. On the other hand we scored only 38 goals in the 41 games and this is where our trouble has lain. The fact that Billy Arnison has not been available almost the whole of the season has of course been a bad blow to us, for we have been expecting his return to complete fitness several times. He appears to have got through his trouble now and we are hoping that with the close season rest he will be fully recovered to take his place on the field next August.

Looking through our records for this season we find that of the 18 drawn games 9 have been goalless, 7 when each side has scored 1 goal, and the other two matches with West Ham and Sheffield United two goals were scored by both teams. What a difference another goal in each case would have made!

Our goalscorers during the season were as follows:—

DIVISION II

Stobbart 9; Kiernan 4; Watkins 4; 2 each by Taylor, Arnison, Waugh, Walsh, Wyldes, and Glover; and 1 each by Owen, James, Cooke, Morton, Shanks, Small, and Gardiner Opponents 2. Total 38.

FOOTBALL COMBINATION

League—James 9; Burtenshaw, W. 5; Walsh 4; Small 4, Hall 4; Taylor 3; 2 each by Wilson, Shanks, Arnison and Wyldes; and 1 each by Baxter, Burtenshaw, C., Mulvaney, Kiernan, Jinks, and Henderson. Opponents 1. Total 44.

Cup—Small 5; Lake 3; Walsh 3; Taylor 2; Jinks 2; and 1 each by Stobbart, Wyldes, James and S. Northover. Total 19.

And so we come to the end of another season. Not a momentous one for us, perhaps, but in this game we all have to take the rough with the smooth. Next season we hope to see the ball run a bit kinder for us.

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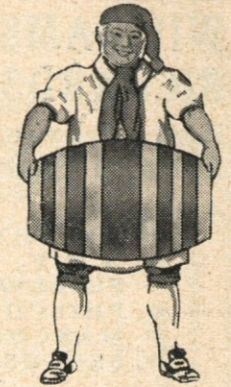
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Right Back
4 **Morton**
Right Half
7 **Glover**
Outside Right
8 **Taylor**
Inside Right

Referee—
Mr. R. J. LEAFE
(Nottingham)

11 **Elliott**
Outside Left
6 **Deplidge**
Left Half
3 **Farrell**
Left Back

BRADFORD
Shirts Red, Amber and Black Hoops
Knickers White
Stockings Red, Amber and Black Tops

Hughes
Goal

5 **Owen**
Centre Half

9 **Stobbart**
Centre



3 **Horsman**
Centre

5 **Leuty**
Centre Half

Farr
Goal

Football League—Division II

3 **Wilson**
Left Back

6 **Shanks**
Left Half

10 **Kiernan**
Inside Left

11 **Wyldes**
Outside Left

Linesmen—
Blue Flag: Mr. A. H. BIBB
(Stanmore)

Red Flag: Mr. C. H. WHITE
(Bourne End)

8 **Hodgson**
Inside Right

7 **Smith**
Outside Right

4 **Suddards**
Right Half

2 **Currie**
Right Back

Kick - Off 3.15 p.m.

SPECTATORS ARE ASKED NOT TO CROSS THE PLAYING FIELD AFTER THE MATCH

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