

POMPEY SURVIVE AFTER HAMMERING



Luton's centre-half, Owen, heads the ball clear to stop an attack by Pickett (left) and Rees.—F.M.-0065

Hard Struggle With Luton

Pompey staged a terrific second-half onslaught against the powerful Luton side, who were unlucky not to hold an interval lead at Fratton Park this afternoon. A draw of 0—0 was a fitting result to a game full of thrills.

(By NIMROD)

55/56



NIMROD'S
Snap Comment

POMPEY'S second-half display was a tonic not only for the team but for the home supporters who, for once, rose to the occasion as the forwards surged time and time again upon the Luton goal.

This was a complete contrast to the first half, when Luton might have scored several goals—the result of their slick precision movements. Luck, and the Pompey defence, held at this stage.

Pompey's forward changes came into their own after the interval, when the weaknesses at inside forward were less apparent.

The switching of Henderson proved to be totally justified. He and Harris were continually breaking through, while Rees, in the middle, was a lively problem for that very fine centre-half, Owen.

With the forwards coming more into the game, the defence was in storming form. McGhee having a particularly fine second half, and the wing half-backs were able to lend more support in attack.

The game as a whole was one of the best seen at the ground this season.

IN an effort to bring greater speed and punch to the attack Portsmouth made four changes. Henderson moved to outside-left and Robertson to inside-left, Pickett coming in at inside-right and Rees at centre-forward.

Harris was the only member of the forward line to retain his position.

Luton were unchanged.

PORTSMOUTH

Uprichard
McGhee Mansell
Gunter Reid Dickinson
Pickett Robertson
Harris Rees Henderson



LUTON TOWN

Adam Cummins Morton Turner Cullen
Shanks Owen Pemberton
Aherne Dunne
Baynham

Referee: Mr. C. W. Kingston, of Newport (Mon.).

The players of both sides stood in a circle in the middle of the field before the kick-off, and spectators in the stands rose to their feet to observe a one minute silence as a tribute to Sir Amos Brook Hirst, Vice-President of the Football Association, who died today.

Luton kicked off and immediately attacked on the right towards the Milton end, when Cummins attempted to centre, but Turner failed to stop the ball from going behind.

Nevertheless, it was the burly, fleet-footed Turner who, in the next moment, swept past Robertson and Dickinson, and was only stopped when Henderson nipped back and dispossessed him. From the resulting throw-in Pemberton shot behind.

Morton then raced through on the left when McGhee failed to clear a back pass and Uprichard advanced to deflect the cross-shot.

Across goal it came with the goalkeeper helpless and Mansell dropped back on the goal line. It was lucky he did for Turner shot first time, and the ball went straight to Mansell, and he managed to get it away with his knee.

For a few moments the Pompey defence appeared to be overrun and, with the forwards dropping back, too, Pompey could not raise an attack.

Then a great touchline run by Harris seemed to change the course of the game, at least momentarily. Owen could only deflect the ball for a corner, and from this Robertson headed goalwards.

This time it was Luton's turn for the left-back to kick out from under the bar with the goalkeeper beaten.

An inter-change between Pickett and Rees saw Pickett on the right touch-line centring for Harris to make a flying header which went the wrong side of the upright.

Twice Mansell foiled Turner in the nick of time in front of goal before Henderson raced away along the left touchline with Dunne on his heels, sent the ball inside to Rees, only for Owen to take it from the

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SECOND HALF REVIVAL EARNED POINT

feet of the centre-forward and clear.

Nevertheless, Pompey were now matching Luton for the energy and enthusiasm they were putting into the game, if not for the dangerously swift accuracy of the passing which the Luton inside-forwards and centre-forward were putting into their game.

Once Dickinson tried a fine right-footed shot from 30 yards, but international goalkeeper Baynham plucked the ball out of the air from under the bar.

After 20 minutes however, Luton had dreadful luck not to go ahead. In mid-field Morton split the Pompey defence with a grand through pass to Turner, who raced through, eluded the challenging Uprichard, but was just unable to get to the ball and turn it into the net, before it went the wrong side of the post.

There were certainly plenty of thrills at this stage and when next Pompey went into the attack, the ball bobbed about in front of Baynham, a header from Harris just failing to go where he wanted it.

The swift-moving Luton attack, ably backed by powerful half-backs, went into attack after attack, moving the ball swiftly and still accurately, and after Mansell and Dickinson had headed to stop dangerous raids, and McGhee and Reid had saved Pompey's "bacon" yet again, the Pompey goal had yet further escapes.

By sheer determination and speed, Morton gained possession and shot, only to see the ball ricochet from the post. The ball went straight to Turner, but the inside-left's shot was a foot wide.

Pompey's passing was inaccurate, Pickett in particular being unable to control the strength and direction of his passing. As a result it was the old story of Pompey being thrust back for long periods on defence.

Turner placed the ball beautifully for Cummins, whose shot from just outside the penalty area was inches over the bar. A little later the inside-left sent in a fine low

shot from 25 yards, which Uprichard went down to in fine style.

Pompey's chief danger man was Harris—whenever he saw the ball, which was not often. Once he was going through when he was brought down by Adam. Gunter took the kick—a dangerous one—and Shanks headed behind for a corner.

Henderson's speed was certainly more effective on the wing than it had been in recent games in the middle.

Well Marked

Dunne needed reinforcements whenever the Scottish international was in full flight. Luton always seemed to be able to afford to have two men to watch him, however, and if Henderson went past Dunne, usually there was Owen in the offing to apply the closure to the attack.

So far the inside forward changes had shown no improvement, as far as Pompey's chief weakness was concerned.

Luton's early power seemed to have spent its force a little, but even so the Pompey attacks were well held by swift tackling defenders, quick to pounce upon any mistake and to turn it to their own advantage.

The interval came with Pompey fortunate to be on terms.

Half-time:

PORTSMOUTH	0
LUTON TOWN	0

When Rees tried without avail to set the Pompey left wing in motion, Dickinson came up to help him and sent the ball away to Henderson, who quickly transferred to Robertson, but Owen applied the closure.

When, a moment later, Henderson crossed the ball into the middle, it was Owen's head, high above that of Rees', which headed it away.

Fore a change it was Luton's passes which appeared to be going astray, and when, from one of these lapses by Turner Dickinson sent the ball upfield, Rees had very bad luck indeed

when he nipped in to take advantage of hesitancy between Owen and Baynham.

The little centre-forward dribbled round Baynham but the ball which had moved out to the right spun away from him and all he could do was to send it behind.

When Dickinson moved up to centre Baynham went up high to take the ball.

His Best Pass

The best pass Harris had received throughout the game came when Owen miskicked the ball to him but he was unable to weave past the barrage of Luton defenders which suddenly sprung from nowhere.

However, Pompey were certainly now packing everything they could into attack, and when Harris sent the ball into the middle Rees parried it with one foot, but before he could send the ball in from close quarters, Baynham, who was half kneeling, managed to punch the ball out with one hand.

There was now much more determination and power about the Pompey play. McGhee was tackling with precision, and Robertson, too, was more in the picture than ever he had been in the first half.

Pompey were certainly fighting their way right back into the picture now, and they were giving the crowd plenty to cheer about. In fact, the crowd were now right behind them almost to a man. They set up a terrific cheer when Henderson beautifully tricked Dunne with a clever swerve and back heel and then swiftly centred.

Brilliant Save

Young Rees rose high above the defenders this time and got his head to the ball, but Baynham brought off a brilliant save.

Henderson was now getting plenty of the ball and making very good use of it, too. Once he sent over a long centre, and when Baynham went up for it young Rees went up too, and knocked the ball out of the

goalkeeper's hands, but it went behind.

Still the left-wing pair were growing in understanding of one another's play, and when Reid set them going again they forced a corner after Henderson had narrowly failed in an attempt to burst through.

Following this Luton set up their first attack of the half, but it was short lived, and Pompey were soon on the attack again.

A Chance

Robertson got past Owen and centred and when Harris put the ball back into the middle, Rees failed in his attempt to stop the ball and send it home from close quarters.

Two long swift accurate passes, the first from Dickinson to Henderson, and from the left winger to Robertson saw the inside-left take the ball on and crash it over the bar from 20 yards.

Then Rees completely hoodwinked the defence by feinting to pass to Harris, and then go on to take a great low drive which caused Baynham to dive to make a one-handed save. Back came the ball to Rees, whose first-time shot travelled over the bar from close in.

Then came another sparkling run from that "wizard of the wing," Harris. He received a ball in his own half, and weaved past man after man until finally a desperate defender managed to send the ball for a corner.

Once again Henderson went past Dunne but Owen managed to deflect the centre and from this Luton again went into the attack.

Morton put Turner into possession, but before he could shoot, Mansell hurtled back. Still Turner would not be put off, until McGhee went in with a determined tackle to rob the inside-right of the ball and clear.

Next instant, McGhee, giving

his best display of the season, was in action against Adam to dispossess him and set up yet a further Pompey attack.

With two minutes to go, Luton forced a corner, and an awkward moment was saved when Dickinson headed behind for another. Dickinson's clearance went straight to Aherne, but when the back lobbed the ball into the Pompey area, Morton was offside.

A really thrilling tussle ended all square.

Final:

PORTSMOUTH	0
LUTON	0

Official attendance 27,753.