

Bridgwater 0
Luton 3

FAVOURED by a rather fortunate goal in the first-half, Luton had just that touch of extra class to beat their small Western League opponents in this Third Round mud-lark.

The highlight—and, perhaps, the turning-point of the game—was a superb second-half save by Luton's ex-England goalkeeper, Ron Baynham. He hurled himself at a 40-yard pile-driver from Scott as it screamed towards the far post.

Had Bridgwater equalised then, they might well have gone on to tumble Luton out of the Cup.

As it was, the League men recovered their poise and went on to a very good win.

Perhaps surprisingly, the clever Bridgwater forwards were able to extend almost to breaking-point the Third Division club's strong defence, in which centre half Gordon Fincham and right back Bob Morton stood out.

And plucky Bridgwater fought right to the end, even when three goals down.

Luton's forwards were not impressive in the first half and it was very much against the run of play that they opened the score in the thirtieth minute.

Turner shot from the touchline and goalkeeper Beal appeared to help the ball into the net.

Before this, Muxworthy and Weston had both slipped in the mud with the goal at their mercy.

After Baynham's superb save Luton sensed the worst was over and two breakaway goals by McKechnie in the sixty-fifth and seventy-first minutes saw Luton through.

McKechnie makes sure for Luton

Bridgwater 0 Luton 3: by GRAHAM BUXTON

HELPED by a lucky goal in the first half, Luton Town had just that extra touch of class which enabled them to beat their Western League opponents. The clever home forwards were never able to finish well enough to worry the Third Division defenders.

The home supporters cheered as Bridgwater pierced the Luton defence several times in the first half. But these attacks failed at the crucial moment.

Left-winger Graham Muxworthy threw away a golden chance to put Bridgwater ahead when the ball came to him unmarked in front of the Luton goal. He failed to connect, and the danger was cleared.

His inside-forward Jimmy Weston also miskicked from a favourable position. Other attempts to score found goalkeeper Baynham in sound form.

The Luton forwards made sporadic attacks but failed to maintain pressure. On the right wing Fairchild put in some good runs, and he was too clever and too fast for left-back Mel Griffiths.

It came as a shock to Bridgwater and their supporters when Luton went into the lead in the 30th minute. The goal was scored by centre forward Gordon Turner after a throw-in.

He sent in a chest high shot and goalkeeper Len Beal got his hands

to the ball but seemed to deflect it into the goal. This success gave Luton a boost but Bridgwater were not daunted and kept up attacks.

As the second half started Bridgwater threw everything into an all-out effort to equalise. Even right back Andy Oliphant took part in the attacks. Luton's defence took an awful beating but managed to hold out.

The home side came close to scoring when right-half Marcus Scott crashed in a first-time low shot towards the left hand side of the goal. As the ball passed through a crowd of players and seemed a certain goal, Baynham flung himself full length to bring off a brilliant save.

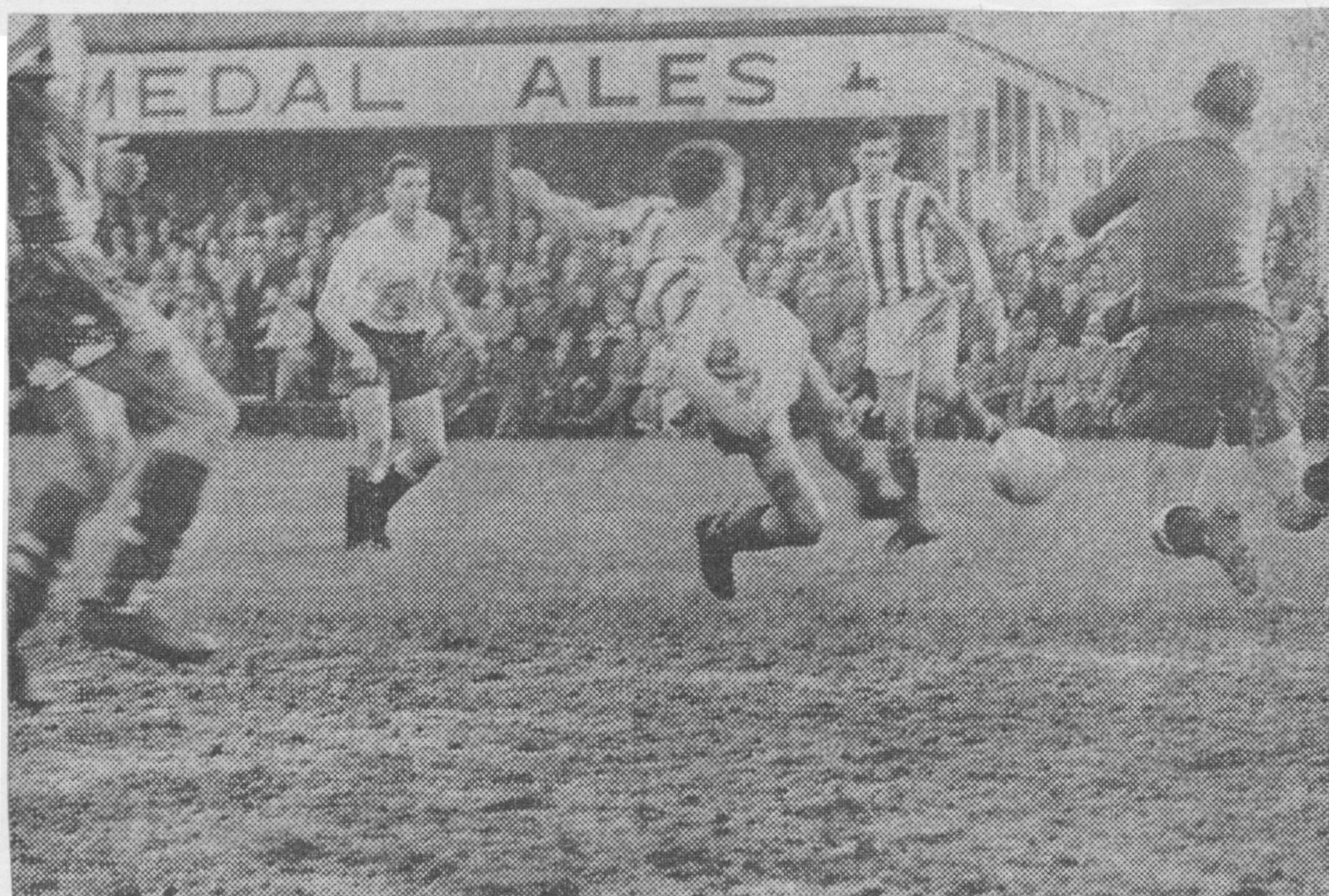
More lucky breaks came Luton's way when right-half Len McKechnie to race through from an unmarked position to score in the 61st minute.

A second gift goal came six minutes later when the same player scored in similar fashion. Although there was little chance of pulling the game round plucky Bridgwater never gave up trying and finished the match still attacking.



THE FIRST GOAL

IT'S A GOAL. Gordon Turner, from out near the touch-line, has made a shot-cum-centre which has sent the ball in low. Down goes Bridgwater goalkeeper Len Beal—in vain. And Luton Town take a one-nil lead in the 30th minute of Saturday's cup-tie. Inside - left Tommy McKechnie added second and third goals after 60 and 71 minutes.



The fervour of cup-tie football—with Bridgwater Town trying hard for an equaliser, but goalkeeper Ron Baynham is trying equally hard to thwart them. Here, he's about to fling himself on the ball as a Bridgwater forward breaks through in a dangerous move.



Luton Town swept into the Second Round of the F.A. Cup competition by overcoming Bridgwater Town in Saturday's tense and exciting cup-tie. It was a match that Luton thoroughly deserved to win, and their 3-0 margin was by no means flattering. ABOVE, Bridgwater goalkeeper Len Beal cuts off a dangerous cross.