

Margin Against Town Flattered Bournemouth

ATTACK LOSES SOME OF ITS NEW SPARKLE

By CHILTERN

BOURNEMOUTH 3, LUTON TOWN 1

COLD, but dry, was the state of the weather at Bournemouth this afternoon, when the Town found a well-grassed, firm pitch awaiting them.

For the third consecutive match they fielded the same team, which was an unusual circumstance this season.

On the other hand, Bournemouth who, like the Town, had been enjoying something of a revival, had to make a change at right-half because of an injury in training to Standley. This was fortuitous for the former Luton player John Groves, who came into the team against his former colleagues. However, the player against whom he was in direct opposition, John Reid, was new to him.

This match marked the first home appearance of Dick Keith, a former Irish international and Newcastle United full-back.

There was the usual band of loyal followers from Luton, who had left by road before eight o'clock this morning. However, the crowd was on the thin side, not surprisingly perhaps in view of the weather.

Pacey beat Farmer in the toss and took advantage of what breeze there was.

First move was by the Town through a long run by Walden, who, however, held on too long and paid the penalty by being tackled.

Bournemouth hit back and Baynham cut out a centre from Bumstead, after which Groves set another attack in motion, only for it to break down at the edge of the penalty area.

A chance fell to inside-right Woods when Caleb misjudged his leap to a high ball, but the inside-right made a horrible hash of it by pulling the ball tamely wide.

In these opening minutes the Town were tending to keep the ball too close in attack, and Bournemouth's defence was intercepting cleverly.

A big kick by Lownds relieved the situation when Bournemouth pressed again.

The home team had settled down the more quickly.

BOURNEMOUTH AHEAD

Bad passing more than anything else was holding up the Town's attempts to make progress, and they were not able to bring Best into serious action.

On the other hand, Bournemouth looked dangerous when they moved and they took the lead after eight minutes through COUGHLIN.

Maker of the goal was Crickmore, sent away for the first time. He beat McBain by sheer speed until pulling the ball across from near the deadline.

It looked to me as if there should have been better covering by the Town defence, because Coughlin was able to go up, glance the ball downwards with his head, and Baynham could not even move towards it.

At that stage things looked bad for the Town, but two minutes later they were on level terms with a brilliant goal by REID. He picked up the ball midway in the Bournemouth half, raced towards the edge of the penalty area and let fly a terrific left-footed drive that beat Best completely, the ball striking the under part of the bar before rebounding into



JOHN REID, Town's inside-left, scored a spectacular and brilliant goal for the Town to equalise the scores. It was his first since joining Luton from Northampton.

the net. It was a tremendous effort and counted as Reid's first goal since he joined the club from Northampton.

There was a short stoppage while Bolton was attended to for injury, and then Bournemouth did not make much use of a free kick given against Lownds for a foul on O'Neill.

O'ROURKE MISSES AN EASY ONE

The Town should have gone ahead when McKechnie sparked off a brilliant raid with a fine pass to Reid, who went through quickly again, this time down the left wing. He pulled back his centre knee-high, and O'Rourke, poking a foot at it, sent the ball over the bar from inside the six-yard line.

Certainly he should have scored and he might have done so if he had used his body to smother the ball into the net.

Some excuse for O'Rourke was that the ball came across at a lively pace, but it was a pity that the chance was not accepted.

Crickmore was beginning to cause the Town trouble, and there were mild appeals for a penalty when he went down after a tackle by Pacey. From this, the Town broke away, and Gater conceded a free-kick, which was deflected for a corner, but it brought nothing.

Baynham was in action thrusting away one-handed a long, high centre from Bumstead, and play settled in the Town half for a time, with Groves finding

How The Goals Came

COUGHLIN for Bournemouth after 8 minutes.
REID for Luton after 10 minutes.
O'NEILL for Bournemouth after 38 minutes.
O'NEILL for Bournemouth after 89 minutes.

Bumstead, whose centre was finally cut off by Baynham.

Back came the Town, and Riddick got the ball through to McKechnie, who from the inside-left position, pulled it across the face of the goal.

BAYNHAM IN FINE FORM

A long free kick, following a push by McKechnie on Gater, had the Town defence in a certain amount of trouble until McBain came in with a strong clearance, but Bournemouth were making more use now of their lively wingers, and there was another free kick against the Town when Lownds brought down Woods heavily.

Baynham, however, was dealing splendidly with high crosses, and he capably pulled down one from Bumstead.

The fast probing of Reid was worrying the Bournemouth defence, and, following another thrust by him, Lownds had a shot from the edge of the penalty area, but the ball struck Groves and danger was averted.

Town kept up steady pressure until McBain, trying to drop the ball into the goalmouth sent it tamely wide.

Bournemouth improved again, and Baynham appeared among a crowd of players to snatch a deceptive shot by Woods.

There was never very much in it, and both teams were promising more in attack than they were achieving.

This was emphasised when Bumstead, shooting too hurriedly, sent the ball wide when left with a great chance well inside the penalty area.

Between them, Caleb, Lownds, and McBain stopped another Bournemouth raid.

The crowd then became restive at some unnecessary back passing to Best by the B'mouth defenders.

The criticism increased when Best threw the ball straight to the feet of Riddick, but McKechnie's attempts to break through from the wingers' pass came to a premature end.

Keith recovered excellently after he had made a mistake that threatened to let through O'Rourke, who was not being given many opportunities.

With a run across the field, Walden set another Town attack in motion, and this time it was Groves who stepped in to make a tackle.

Both teams were making mistakes, particularly in their use of the ball.

SURPRISE GOAL FOR BOURNMEOUTH

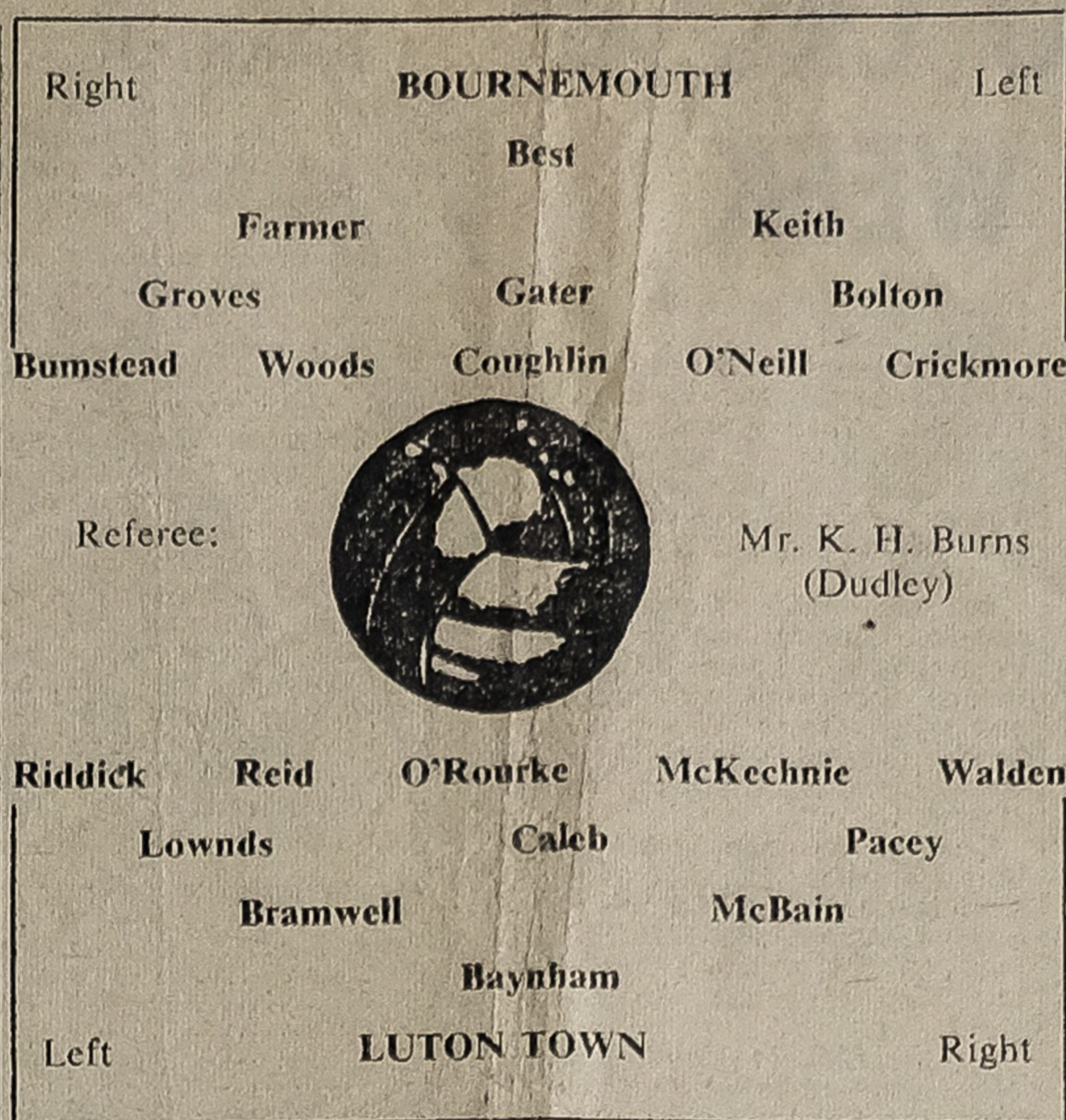
Then came a surprise goal for Bournemouth.

It developed in the 38th minute from nothing very much and with the Town defence looking well enough positioned to prevent any disaster.

Initially, Crickmore tried to find a way through, but found the way barred and pushed the ball back to O'NEILL. The inside-left, from just outside the penalty area, let fly a tremendous drive that brought Baynham's desperate dive, and it looked as if the ball went in off the inside of a post.

Again, the Town went after a quick equaliser, but it did not come, although Pacey did his best with a drive that Best plucked out of the air.

When Caleb pushed Coughlin



JOHN GROVES, former Luton Town player, was in opposition to them today, when he turned out at right-half for Bournemouth.

about the field holding it in his hand before having the opportunity to replace it.

What the Town were needing badly was a goal, but it did not look like coming at the moment, because the forwards were not making the same progress as they had in the first half.

Such raids as were started were breaking down before shooting range was reached, and Bournemouth, who were covering well, were giving away nothing in defence.

A chance did fall to O'Rourke from a pass by Lownds. The centre-forward turned and shot quickly, only to get his foot too far under the ball, which went over.

O'Rourke was shaken up in a tackle, and while he was lying on the ground, Reid very nearly nipped in to intercept a clearance by Keith.

Then, Walden came through, despite his being obstructed, but his low centre was speedily dealt with, and a long-range shot by Pacey dropped into the arms of Best.

TOWN COMING INTO THE PICTURE

More danger was beginning to come from the Town now, but not really in terms of finishing power, because serious tests for Best were few and far between.

Caleb firmly booted the ball into the crowd when it came across from the right, the centre-half was again on hand to head clear when Bournemouth got back into the goalmouth.

Twice, the Town tried to make openings for O'Rourke, but he was finding it difficult to beat the home defence.

Bournemouth swung back into the attack again, but the only result was a shot by O'Neill, off which the pace was taken by a deflection, and Baynham picked up easily.

Next, Lownds sent away O'Rourke but his centre came across the face of the goal too high for anyone to do anything about it. Walden returned the ball into the penalty area, and Reid, with visions of repeating his first-half goal, had a crack at goal, but did not get proper control, and his effort passed wide of the far post.

A bad pass by Pacey straight to the dangerous Crickmore put the Town in trouble, from which they were extricated by Pacey himself recovering to make a successful tackle.

Most of the sparkle had gone out of the play, and there was very little to become excited about.

THINGS LIVEN UP A LITTLE

Most of the work that was coming the way of Best was being provided by his own defenders.

Woods livened things up a bit with a shot that flew straight at Baynham.

From the goalkeeper's clearance kick, O'Rourke made off foot for goal, and squeezed between two defenders. It looked

as if the Town should have had a free kick at least, because his heel was tapped, he lost his balance and finally went down inside the penalty area. However, the referee decided that no offence had been committed and a half-chance to the Town slipped by.

A good clearance by Caleb saved the Town when Bumstead raced into an open space, following a throw-in, and then O'Neill was penalised for offside, and, for good measure, punched the ball into the net as well.

A thrust by the Town brought a shot from Riddick that soared just too high.

A corner on the left for the Town raised hopes, but Reid placed it badly, so that Bournemouth were able to break away with three forwards facing two defenders. In the end it was Caleb who came to the rescue by putting the ball over his own bar.

SHARP HEADER FROM GROVES

From the corner kick, Baynham saved a sharp header from Groves, and then Walden set off on one of his cross-field runs that led to McKechnie gaining a corner. This time the kick was better placed by Riddick, but Best pulled the ball down.

McBain was injured in a tackle on Crickmore and had to have some attention before he could carry on. This was followed by a mass raid by Bournemouth in which Coughlin missed a chance by failing to control the ball, and a couple of shots cannoned off defenders before finally the ball was booted out of play.

After this, Bournemouth, who were looking lively again, went close when Bumstead slipped the ball across.

However, the Bournemouth shooting, as demonstrated by O'Neill and Bumstead, was not



all that hot, and the Town did not really look in danger of going further behind, nor did they look like equalising.

WALDEN HEADS INCHES WIDE

Reid found O'Rourke, who was again crowded out, this time by Bolton, and then came a sharp thrust during which Walden headed inches wide from a centre by Reid. It was quite the best effort this half from the Town.

With about seven minutes left, the Town went close to drawing level following a free kick for a foul on O'Rourke. Reid pushed the ball to Pacey, who beat a defender to give himself more room, and his shot was scrambled off the line by Farmer.

Then, the Town should have equalised when a centre by Walden founds Lownds in an open space rather nearer to goal than the penalty spot, but he could not control the ball quickly enough and it was scrambled away for a corner.

Town's rally fizzled out, and Bournemouth came back again for Bumstead, meeting the ball on the volley, to drive it high over.

Baynham had to go down on his knees to save a shot from O'Neill that threaded its way through a crowd of players.

In almost the last minute—in fact I made it the 89th—Bournemouth increased their lead to give them more superiority than they deserved through O'NEILL.

He fastened on to a through pass by Groves. It seemed to me he used his hand in controlling the ball before leaving Baynham helplessly placed.

The game had scarcely restarted before the whistle went for the finish. Result:

BOURNEMOUTH 3
LUTON 1