

# WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

# FIGHTING TOWN ARE STILL IN THE CUP

## Owed Immense Debt To Heroic Work Of Baynham

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 1, SOUTHEM UNITED 0

"Goalkeeper Ron Baynham, sole survivor in Luton's Cup Final team of five years ago, was the man who did most to get them through an exciting first round.

"It was a happy return for Baynham after being dropped for the previous three matches. Luton had gone 16 matches without a win. Baynham's brilliant display was all the more remarkable because for three-quarters of the game he was suffering from slight concussion. Southend ought to have won, but the forwards were slow to take opportunities." — "Sunday Mirror."

"Luton after 16 matches without a win, at least broke the ice. But what a fight they had. Southend were indisputably the better side in attack. As manager Ted Fenton said, 'The ball has been hitting the back of the net for us. This time it did not. That's how football is balanced on a razor's edge.'

"He justifiably pointed out that McKiven struck a post and Slater had a shot kicked off the line by McBain. Luton manager Bill Harvey did not see the triumph because he was away looking at a forward. His mission was necessary for it was the defence alone that kept Luton's Cup hopes alive." — "The People."

"Cheers for the home team at the end of a match are almost a forgotten thing at Luton's Kenilworth-road ground. But the cheers rang out yesterday—though they were perhaps tinged with relief that the long delayed victory had been achieved, and with admiration for the display of goalkeeper Ron Baynham.

"Baynham, veteran of many a Cup battle, and the only member of Luton's 1959 Cup final side still in the team, suffered semi-concussion in the first half but went on to give the finest exhibition of goalkeeping seen on the ground this season." — "Sunday Express."

THROUGH the years, the Town have won a considerable reputation as Cup-fighters and they needed all the fighting spirit at their command to survive this grim first round F.A. Cup struggle at Kenilworth-road on Saturday.

That they did so was due to the dogged nature of their defence and in particular to Baynham who gave a display memorable of the days when he was at the peak of his International career, despite suffering concussion in the first half.

In the end it was Baynham who sent Southend slithering to defeat and enabled the Town to record their first home victory since the opening home match of the season on August 26.

At the same time, they brought to an end their run of 16 matches without a victory, though it cannot be said that they were altogether impressive in doing so.

However, they were prepared to fight to the limit of their capacity until the end and this is a quality that gives rise for some optimism about the future.

If Southend thought they were unlucky to lose their interest in the Cup at such an early stage, no-one can blame them, because they certainly did not have the best of luck in front of goal.

With their wingers, Slater and McKiven dangerous raiders, their forwards always posed a threat during the first half, but apart from the fact that the ball did not run kindly for them, there was also the point that their finishing was not of the best.

However, they were unlucky when McKiven thudded the ball against a post early on and when after Baynham had half-saved a shot by Slater, McBain hooked the ball off the line.

### BAYNHAM WAS DAZED

It was during this incident that Baynham was dazed by a knock on the head and he looked decidedly groggy for a few minutes afterwards. However, this was not discernible in his play because he was continually in action.

On the other hand, there was not a great deal for McKechnie to do and when the moment came his way, he was found wanting, though not wholly through his own fault.

From a crowded goalmouth following a corner by Whittaker,

the ball came out to BRAMWELL who met it first-time, but only half hit it so that it went through a crowd of players and bounced inside the post before the startled goalkeeper could appreciate the danger.

That proved to be the beginning and end of the scoring because defences were on top afterwards. The more work came the way of the Town rearguard because Southend pressed incessantly at the start of the second half.

Then it eased up, and the Town forwards came more into the picture without suggesting that they could be a scoring force and, finally, came the closing phase in which Southend threw everything into attack in an abortive effort to force a replay.

### BAYNHAM HERO OF MATCH

There was no doubt that Baynham was the hero of this match as the crowd showed when they cheered him off the field at the finish.

While it was not completely sound, the defence fought its way out of its early difficulties, with Caleb, after a shaky sort of first half, improving later to be a real stumbling block in the middle.

McBain and Jardine, with some trouble, curbed the threat from two dangerous wingers, and Lownds and Bramwell fought hard for every ball, but were so preoccupied with defence that there was little constructive build-up in midfield.

In fact, the Town looked most dangerous when Baynham thumped the ball down the middle where Riddick had the beating of Watson, which is not much of a recommendation for the football displayed.

Riddick, in fact, was the best of a front line that did not move as a cohesive unit. There were individual contributions such as that made by Whittaker, who was always in search of the ball, and Harber impressed at times with his nippiness.

Not sufficient material came the way of Pleat for him to show his quick footwork, and Reid had another of those games in which he worked hard in defence, but just could not put the ball to good use and play his role as schemer.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; McBain, Jardine; Lownds, Caleb, Bramwell; Pleat, Harber, Riddick, Reid, Whittaker. SOUTHEM UNITED: McKechnie; Costello, Neal; Ashworth, Watson, Bradbury; Slater, Smillie, Smith, Gillilan, McKiven.

Referee: R. A. Paine, Southall. Attendance: 6,902.