

ONLY GOAL GETS TOWN THROUGH CUP FIRST ROUND

Baynham Is Kept Busy As Frantic Southend Fight To Get On Terms

By CHILTERN

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LUTON TOWN 1, SOUTHEND UNITED 0

THERE was not really the typical cup-tie atmosphere at Kenilworth-road this afternoon, though a lot of Southend supporters, gaily bedecked in their blue and white colours, tried to promote it from their station high above the Kenilworth-road goal.

Obviously for both teams—neither of them all that successful in the League this season—this was a vastly important match.

With the uncomfortable knowledge that they had 16 games behind them without a win, the Town made seven changes, two of which were positional, and as a result of them two youngsters, Caleb and Harber, were making their first appearance in an F.A. Cup-tie.

For Harber, who made his debut in League football at Queen's Park Rangers yesterday week, this was his first game before the home fans.

The alterations brought back Ron Baynham, only survivor of the 1959 Cup Final team, Lownds, and Whittaker. So we had three 19-years-olds in attack and one—Riddick—who has just turned 20.

On the other hand Southend Saturday were forced to change their team because of an injury to their captain Bentley. His place at right-half was taken by Ashworth, who had the unfortunate experience of being sent off when he appeared for the Reserves

TEAMS

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

three weeks ago. Bradbury took over the leadership.

With Pacey one of those who lost his place, the Town captaincy for the first time went to John Reid.

Reid lost the toss and the Town were set to defend the Oak-road end against the wind. Considering the amount of rain there was yesterday, the pitch looked very well, but the goal areas were muddy.

SHOT BEAT BAYNHAM

In a strong Town raid Pleat, back in his best position at outside-right, swung in a hard centre that Watson headed away. Then came a sharp Southend attack, during which the Town escaped luckily because McKiven moved inside through a gap to fasten on to a centre by Bradbury. His shot beat the diving Baynham, thudding against the foot of a post and rebounded into play.

After five minutes there were strong appeals by the Town for a penalty when Whittaker was pulled down by Costello, but the referee wavered them aside and so the Town received their customary luck in this direction.

A lone run by Riddick after fastening on to a pass by Bramwell brought another raid on the Southend goal. Eventually he beat Watson and pulled across a centre which Harber just failed to reach before McKechnie came out to cut it off.

TWO CORNERS AGAINST THE TOWN

From this Southend made a break during which a back pass by Caleb was too wide for Baynham and Lownds cleared the resulting corner. Another corner followed when Caleb got in the way of a drive by Gillilan, was winded in the process, and had to receive attention before play could continue.

TUSSE IN LUTON GOALMOUTH

From this the Town made a sweeping attack, begun by Harber, carried on by Reid, with Whittaker's centre finally being prodded to safety.

There followed a terrific mix-up in front of the Town goal, in which Baynham, Caleb and Smith went down in a heap in a desperate tussle on the six-yard line. Somehow or other, a goal was prevented, but the ball went out to Slater, whose drive was pulled from under the bar by Baynham. He could not hold it and McBain, standing on the goal-line had to hook it away from the danger zone. Naturally, there were appeals by Southend for a goal, but the referee waved play on.

BAYNHAM RECEIVES HEAD INJURY

In this incident Baynham was apparently injured to the head, and he resumed in a very groggy condition.

A free-kick to Southend was headed for a corner by Bramwell, and sterling defensive work gave Baynham breathing space in which to recover.

For quite a spell Southend were much the more dangerous, moving more freely and concisely in attack. Then Harber suddenly flashed into the picture with a quick run at centre which was cut

off. Harber followed up to gain a corner that was of no benefit to the Town.

TAME SHOT BY GILLILAN

All the same the more threat continued to come from Southend and Gillilan, receiving from the right, should have done better than turn the ball tamely into Baynham's hands from close range.

Twice the Town made breaks away down the left first through Whittaker and then through Reid but each time the ball finished wide of the goal and there was no evidence of an increase in finishing power.

Watson committed what can only be described as a strategic foul on Riddick when a clear path was opening up for the centre forward following a long kick by Baynham. The free kick might have been advantageous had not Reid got himself off-side but in any case when he stabbed at the ball it went wide.

TWO CLEARANCES BY LOWNDS

In the main it was a case of the Town having something of a struggle on their hands to keep on level terms and Lownds made two goalmouth clearances in quick succession when the situation was looking distinctly sticky.

Best attack for the Town came from Whittaker who juggled his way towards the deadline and let go a high shot that McKechnie somewhat uncertainly pushed over. From the corner, Riddick out-jumped Watson and was unlucky with a header that went a foot wide of the post.

Then a linesman twice flagged for an offside decision against McKiven, but the referee waved on play. It was fortunate for the Town that they were able to regroup their defensive forces after having anticipated a free kick.

At the other end, Riddick was hustled off the ball by Watson and again there was no signal by the referee for what should have been obstruction at least. Obstruction it was though when McBain made a tackle on McKiven. Baynham, coming yards out of his goal, made a fine catch in the face of opposition from the free kick. Then the Town gained a surprise lead after 31 minutes through B R A M W E L L. It followed a corner by Whittaker which caused some bunching in front of the Southend goal and eventually the ball was pushed in



John Bramwell shot through a crowd of players to put the Town ahead after 31 minutes.

the direction of Bramwell some yards outside the penalty area.

The wing-half swung first time, and although he did not hit it fairly and squarely the ball somehow went through a crowd of players and bounced in just inside a post. McKechnie, obviously unsighted, realised the danger too late and his dive was in vain.

SMELLING SALTS FOR BAYNHAM

A corner followed at each end, with the consequences of the one against the Town nearly the more dire, because Baynham, coming out to cut off the ball, collided with Lownds and dropped it. However, a free-kick came to the Town's rescue and Baynham was still feeling the effects of his earlier injury because he called for a further supply of smelling salts from the trainer.

However, it was not affecting Baynham's form, because he came right up to pounce on a strong, low drive by Slater, who was let in by a mistake by Caleb.

Riddick got the ball into the net again, but the whistle had gone for offside seconds previously. Still it did show that the centre-forward could profit by the through-pass, provided on this occasion by Pleat.

Towards half-time heavy Southend pressure was met determinedly by a bunching Town defence.

Soon afterwards Pleat was brought down heavily when starting a solo run for a goal but again there was the hand waving signalling "play on" by the referee with which we had become familiar. Almost on the stroke of half-time a sharp run by Slater nearly brought an equaliser—Smilie poked out a foot and sent the ball inches wide of the post.

Half-time:

LUTON 1
SOUTHEND 0

There was no doubt that the Town were fortunate to be ahead at half-time but Southend had not made the most of their more liberal supply of chances.

SHOT OVER TOWN GOAL

The second half began with a strong Town attack in which Watson and McKechnie were in a misunderstanding and finally Whittaker lobbed the ball into the goalkeeper's hands. A much more decisive attempt came out at the other end when Gillilan slammed the ball just over the top of the angle of the Town woodwork.

Before play could proceed there had to be attention to Lownds for a minor injury.

Southend began to press and a free-kick for a foul by Lownds on McKiven was half cleared by McBain and Ashworth finally shot well wide.

Southend were having more success with their appeals than were the Town and they gained

a free-kick a yard outside the penalty area when Bramwell was judged to have pulled down Slater.

BAYNHAM IN ACTION

There was some doubt about who was to take the kick and eventually McKiven came up to lob it through to Smilie. Baynham dived at his feet, but the inside-right was offside.

Then Baynham allowed a long swinging centre by Slater to pass, as he thought, for a goal-kick, but McKiven picked it off the line and made to pull it back to Gillilan. Baynham anticipated this and threw himself to cut off the ball.

It was nearly all Southend now, hammering away against rugged defensive measures and McKiven headed just too high with Baynham watching him like a hawk. Baynham was again in action, going down quickly to clutch a shot from Smith.

EQUALISING CHANCE SAVED

A certain equaliser seemed to be in prospect when McKiven suddenly streaked through a gap in the inside-right position to be left with only Baynham to beat. However, the goalkeeper made a brave save by throwing himself straight at the Southend man and blocked the ball with his body. He was immediately up again in action, going down quickly to clutch a shot from Smith.

In one of the Town's break-aways Harber collided with McKechnie in going for a half chance and was injured, but was able to carry on after attention. Whittaker, who had not had much of the ball this half, was suddenly sent away by Riddick and from his centre Harber got up with Neal and headed the ball too high.

In the next minute Harber very nearly found a way through the defence, being stopped at the last second by the combined attentions of Watson and McKechnie.

Generally it was Southend on top but being driven off by a hard-fighting defence and Baynham was making it his business to command much of the penalty area. Southend's tendency to become offside was also helping the Town. When Pleat was caught in similar circumstances the linesman spoke to the referee who raced across the field to speak to a steward.

The steward began to make his way around the back of the Oak-road goal and appeared to talk to people in the Bobbers Stand. Two policemen were stationed in the area.

Baynham made a great goal-line save from Smith and from his long clearance kick there was a surge on the Southend goal during which I thought Whittaker was fouled, but the referee compromised by bouncing the ball again.

The Town were now more in the game without really promising to add to their slender lead.

Riddick almost reached the 18-yard line when he was pulled down. Again there was that familiar shaking of the hand indicating that nothing was coming from that. There was slow hand-clapping, not directed, I feel, at the players but at the way in which this game was being controlled.

Baynham earned applause for

How The Goal Came

BRAMWELL for Luton after 31 minutes

the splendid way in which he cut out a centre by McKiven.

Southend's superiority was not so marked now and Harber tried desperately to squeeze a way down the inside-right position.

Whittaker, who just before had been blatantly pushed off the ball, was then penalised for a tackle on Costello from which he emerged with the ball, but the free kick was not expensive.

Undoubtedly the best of the Town forwards was Riddick and he forced McKechnie to save a snap shot at the foot of the post.

IMPROVED SHOWING BY TOWN

There had been considerable improvement from the Town these last minutes, and even though they were not a cohesive striking force they were making ground now and their defence was putting a solid face against everything Southend could do.

In fact Southend, with time flying fast, were becoming almost frantic in their efforts. Their best effort came from Slater, who, from somewhere near the inside-left position, produced a shot that Baynham could not have saved had the ball been inches lower.

A centre by Whittaker went too high for the somewhat short Harber and it was the turn of the Southend defence to be harassed—though not to the extent that the Town's had been.

Much of the fury had gone out of the Southend forward line and there should have been a second goal to the Town when Riddick laid on a chance for Harber. However, he was a little slow in appreciating the situation and the ball was scrambled away from his feet.

Lownds put the Town in trouble with a loose back pass which Baynham had to dive at the feet of Smith to get—the kind of mistake the Town could not afford to make at this stage.

Pleat forced McKechnie into violent action after a movement started by Riddick and carried on by Harber.

A strong run by Whittaker again had Southend in trouble and from an acute angle he forced McKechnie to push the ball out for a corner. Riddick, showing one of his bad habits, punched at the ball and was justly penalised.

At the other end Smith

handled, but this was spotted as

Southend closed in in force.

Another heavy attack by Southend, desperate now in their endeavours, was cleared by Caleb. These closing exchanges were tense indeed with the Town back in defensive positions.

In the last seconds, the Town left-wing triangle held the ball intelligently and from this build-up came a terrific drive by Reid that McKechnie just pushed over the bar. Result:

LUTON TOWN 1
SOUTHEND 0