# QUICK-FIRE RIOCH BRILLIANT START

## Aldershot fight back in vain 67 68

### By CHILTERN

SEEKING to strengthen their promotion lead, Luton Town turned on the heat from the very first minute against Aldershot at Kenilworth Road this afternoon and gave the impression of being set for a runaway victory.

Grand work by Bruce Rioch produced two quick ball, and it went harmlessly s. Aldershot, however, refused to be rattled, and for a goal-kick. goals. Aldershot, however, refused to be rattled, and hit back to cut the Town's lead. They resumed full of

fight after the interval.

A sudden weather change ruined any test of the effect which the televising of the Grand National might have had on the attendance. Heavy rain which began some three hours before kick-off time, and which persisted, must have had an adverse effect, and there was only a sprinkling of spectators on the open terracing at the Kenil-worth Road end.

At the same time, the covered parts of the ground were quite comfortably full.

The weather also had an effect on the pitch, which earlier had been dry and hard. Water was now standing slightly on the surface in some

Manager Allan Brown decided to leave Peter Denton out of the six forwards he had nominated, and that meant that Mickey Brown, who had a good match at Darlington Popping sudd last Saturday, took over the

outside right position.
In the continuing absence of Whittaker because of injury Graham French, who passed a fitness test yesterday, came back into the team at outside-

Another to return was Freddie Jardine, but Alan Slough was still absent.

As usual on winning the toss, the Town defended the Kenilworth Road end.

#### SENSATIONAL

START There was a sensational This came suddenly following the whistle went for offside a throw-in on the left, which against Allen. was followed by indecisive work in the Aldershot defence so that Rioch was able to race in quickly. From a narrow angle he turned the ball in off WALKER'S leg. It counted as an own goal, though Rioch earned the

credit and from me he gets it. The Town immediately swept to the attack again, and Brown, with a low drive, was only inches wide of the near post, with Godfrey struggling.

The Aldershot defence was getting itself in all sorts of trouble, and a mistake by Dawes almost let in French.

TOWN STILL ON TOP

With the Town still on top, Godfrey had to throw himself at the feet of Buxton after Allen had made a determined bid to break through.

The first hint of trouble at

## **TEAMS**

LUTON TOWN: Read: Dougan, Jardine; Potter, Branston, Moore; Brown, Buxton, Allen, Rioch, French. Substitute: Mc-Derment.

ALDERSHOT: Godfrey; Dawes, Renwick; Mc-Anearney, Madden, Wal-ker; Walton, Edwards, Howarth, Priscott, Gowans. Substitute: O'Brien.

Referee: Mr. R. Kirk-patrick, of Leicester.

the Town's end followed successive miskicks by Dougan and Branston, but Read was out to snatch the ball away before Howarth could do any-

Popping suddenly up on the right wing following a free kick, Jardine sought to find Buxton with a pass, but it was intercepted.

The referee had a word with Walker, apparently for someing he had said.

Walker was in trouble again the next minute when he grounded Rioch as the insideleft embarked on an ambitious and dangerous run. The referee made the left-half walk 20 yards to him and then appeared to indicate that his offence was the way to qualify for his removal. Rioch was start, the Town taking the shaken, but recovered quickly lead after exactly one minute enough to have a shot from the through good work by Rioch. free-kick. Godfrey saved, but

#### FREQUENT FREE KICKS

Free kicks against Aldershot were coming with regularity, and there was another when Dawes pushed French. From the winger's free kick Rioch misconnected at point blank range. Godfrey then had trouble

in snatching the ball away from Buxton's feet after Rioch had made a glorious through

Some improvement came from Aldershot, who had switched their wingers, as they did in the first match, and hesitation by Moore was covered up only at the expense of a corner, Branston

heading firmly away.

A foul by Dougan on
Howarth gave Aldershot a free kick, which was taken by Gowans, and Brown, well back in defence, headed away. Then Read had to come right out to the edge of the penalty area to cut off a bouncing ball from Madden, who followed up strongly, as did Edwards.

#### ALDERSHOT GAIN THE INITIATIVE

For the moment, at any rate, the Town had lost the initiative, partly because of mistakes in midfield.

There was a stoppage for Branston to have some attention, after which French caused another flutter in the Aldershot defence with a low cross. Walker scrambled away with some difficulty.

Read was in action, going high in the face of a challenge by Howarth, to catch a long lob from Renwick.

#### BREAKAWAY AND A GOAL

Then came a surprise when Aldershot broke away, to reduce their arrears after 28 minutes, and a sloppy sort of goal it was. There seemed to be no sort of urgency to clear when the ball bobbed about in front of goal, and finally GOWANS was left with the easiest of chances from bang in front of goal. Certainly, it was a goal that should have been prevented.

The next minute there was nearly another disaster because Edwards was allowed to go through when the Town players thought he was offside. Bearing in on goal from a



a cross by Rioch hit a defender and went for a firstminute goal.
RIOCH put the Town in

a commanding position with another goal in the 19th minute.

sharp angle, he aimed for the far corner, missing it by a narrow margin, and Howarth, who followed up, was not quick enough to catch it.

## TOO MUCH RELIANCE ON OFFSIDE TRAP

In my opinion the Town were placing too much reliance on the offside trap, which can all too easily break

When the Town got moving again, Godfrey went down to cut off a centre from French, after which Brown and Moore combined to make ground without finally creating an opening.

Aldershot were looking a different proposition now when they were on the attack, and a cross from Edwards made from the left flashed dangerously across the face of the goal. Then, Howarth tried his luck from 20 yards, and although well on the target, he caused Read no trouble.

TOWN LOSE

two of these are away from more games to play and only Dunstable now have eight

in the promotion race, dribbled round the goalkeeper to equalise and the goalkeeper away on the left, and he finished and Dunc Livesey of one point per match—the reduced the arrears with a target which Dunne has set scorching half-volley that to have to seek re-election hulged the net. Finally, to have to seek re-election Robbie Burt put Ray Sinfield at the end of the season way on the left and he

into a header by Buxton, made from point-blank range from a centre by French. The balance now swung the Town's way again.

Godfrey was in action again, pushing behind a long free kick by Brown, and this was followed by another freekick on the other flank, which Branston, right up in the Aldershot goalmouth, just failed to reach with his head.

The referee next spoke to Godfrey, for what he obviously considered to be timewasting. Half-time:

#### LUTON ..... 2 ALDERSHOT ... 1

Discussion was still going on during the interval about whether the Town's first goal should be credited to Rioch or debited to Walker. I asked the referee his opinion, and he said that he thought the shot would not have gone in if it had not hit Walker, and so it seems that it must be Walker "own goal."

There was a strong resumption by Aldershot. They forced the Town back on to the defensive, and they might have drawn level when the ball was pushed through to Priscott, but he failed to make contact at point-blank range.

#### ALLEN SHOOTS WILDLY

Straight from this, French broke away along the deadline before pulling the ball back, and Brown might have got in a shot in better surface con-ditions. The ball finally went Walton. out to Allen, whose response was to send it wildly wide.

Renwick was next to be abruptly on the fringe of the spoken to by the referee after penalty area as he was a foul on Allen, and the free-kick specialist, Rioch, got the referee saw nothing wrong hall through the defensive Renwick was next to be a foul on Allen, and the free-kick specialist, Rioch, got the ball through the defensive ruck, but Godfrey had only to move a little way to his left to

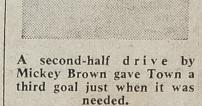
Rioch had another shot shortly afterwards, which was a couple of feet wide from 20 yards after Brown had pushed the ball inside to him.

There was a parrow escape for the Town when Branston committed himself in midfield and was beaten, which left the middle open. Edwards rammed the ball past Read, at the same time as the whistle went for

The Town's position was none too comfortable now, and Read pushed over onehanded a header by Gowans as the Aldershot pressure continued.

This was followed by an indirect free kick inside the penalty area, presumably against Read for taking too many paces, but an offside decision extricated the Town from this particular situation. Offside was still a distinct

bogy to the visitors' forwards,



GIVES

and they were being caught frequently.

Occasionally the Town were again showing some of their sparkle of the first 20 minutes, though French shot tamely after he seemed to have sized up a situation.

#### LIKE A BOLT FROM THE BLUE

Then like a bolt from the blue came a goal to the Town—and how they needed it!

BROWN was the scorer after 64 minutes, and he owed something to Godfrey's failure to hold the greasy ball, from a shot from the edge of the penalty area. It slipped out of his hands and rolled over the line before he could recover.

Aldershot introduced their ubstitute, O'Brien, for

There was rather an air of quietness about the play now. Another Rioch run ended with the tackle.

#### MAGNIFICENT SOLO EFFORT

Then came a magnificent solo effort by Brown. Aldershot defence converged

## How the goals came

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WALKER (own goal) for Luton after 1 minute RIOCH for Luton after 19 minutes GOWANS for Aldershot after 28 minutes BROWN for Luton after 64 minutes.

on him from all directions. He aimed for the far corner, and missed only narrowly.

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Aldershot seemed to have

shot their bolt.
The Town in fact were threatening to add to their lead, Buxton was clean through, but somehow Godfrey got a hand to the ball.

Result:

LUTON ..... 3 ALDERSHOT ... 1