

# FIRST CUP HURDLE WAS SURMOUNTED

## TREMENDOUS SAVE BY RON BAYNHAM

### Then McKechnie Sealed Bridgwater's Fate

By CHILTERN

WITHOUT much difficulty, in the end, the Town surmounted their first Cup hurdle of the season, but they were very right to go into this match with some apprehension.

There was no need for anyone to underline the players the vast importance of this occasion because, for prestige sake, they just could not afford to lose and the opposition was treated with just as much respect as would have been accorded to a side from a higher division.

THINGS worked out much according to plan because the Town quite comfortably managed to stave off what could have been a disaster if Bridgwater had managed to collect the early goal for which they hoped.

In fact, their finishing in the first half never suggested that they could pull off a shock goal. Such chances as came their way, and there were two or three, were allowed to slip by through failure to control the greasy ball quickly enough, and that was enough for the solid Town defence to step in.

#### Beal Beaten When

#### Turner's Shot Swerved

THERE were chances for the Town, too, and Fairchild should certainly have given them an early goal when Turner made a brilliant opening.

However, the Town obtained the goal they so badly needed to settle them after exactly half an hour when Turner collected the ball near the right touch-line.

He cracked it goalwards, and Beal, caught napping, could only punch it into his own net.

From the Bridgwater fans, the goal earned the "lucky" tag, but what happened was that Turner hit the ball with the out-

side of his foot so that it swerved, and Beal had to throw himself desperately back towards his goal to try to stop it.

#### Town Lost Their Grip

#### For A Time

MCKECHNIE nearly had another shortly afterwards, and at half-time the Town had cause to be pretty well satisfied with their position except, perhaps, that their lead should have been longer.

What was only to be expected was that Bridgwater would throw everything in at the start of the second half in an attempt to secure a quick equaliser.

For 10 minutes or so, the Town lost their grip, and it was only a superlative save by Baynham—one of the best, I have ever seen from him—that prevented Bridgwater from drawing level.

#### Baynham Hurtled Through The Air

IT came when Scott, playing in his first big Cup tie, drove the ball first-time from a headed clearance by Fincham and the ball flew unerringly towards the goal.

Cheers were welling in Bridgwater throats, only to be strangled when it was seen that Baynham was hurtling through the air to

#### FOR THE RECORDS

BRIDG WATER ..... 0

LUTON TOWN ..... 3

Turner, McKechnie (2)

BRIDG WATER : Beal; Oliphant, Griffiths; Scott, Packer, Rice; Thomas, White, Thresher, Weston, Muxworthy.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Morton, Bramwell; Pacey, Fincham, McGuffie; Fairchild, Smith, Turner, McKechnie, Jardine.

Referee: D. W. Smith, Stonehouse.

Attendance: 5,000.

reach at full length the ball, which he could only have seen at almost the last moment because of players in front of him.

Just one more opportunity came Bridgwater's way, to Muxworthy this time, before they were finally hammered out of the game.

#### Two From McKechnie

#### In Seven Minutes

MAN who achieved this was McKechnie, with two goals in seven minutes, both coming in almost identical fashion.

On the first occasion, he was in the middle to snap up a through-pass from Smith and guide the ball into the net as Beal advanced, and it was McGuffie who provided the chance for the third.

This time, though, McKechnie had to round Packer before he could get a clear shot at goal and he made no mistake.

After his first success, the

writing was on the wall for Bridgwater, who lost much of their fire and enthusiasm.

#### More Accuracy Is Needed From Wings

THERE was considerable satisfaction for the Town in gaining their first away win since October 27 last year, but I would not say that there were real signs that their forward problems are over.

For one thing, a weakness remains on the left wing, where Jardine was ineffective, though he did not receive as much of the ball as did Fairchild, who often beat Griffiths, whom I fancy manager Bill Harvey detected as one of the weak links in the Bridgwater armour.

Unfortunately, Fairchild's finishing did not match up to his approach and the Town badly need a more accurate service from the wings.

#### McKechnie Showed Good Anticipation

THAT McKechnie should be among the goals was cheering and he showed good anticipation by moving into the gap in the middle when Turner switched to the wings as he often did.

In fact, Turner got through a tremendous amount of work in grueling conditions caused by the heavy ground.

After a quiet sort of first half, Scott came more into the picture afterwards when he distributed the ball neatly and generally began to fit into the scheme of things.

Bridgwater frequently tried to operate the offside trap, and the

## 'PICTORIAL' WEEK-END SPORTS SPECIAL

Town, who had been schooled in this, overcame it quite well.

#### Fincham Blotted Out The Danger Man

SO far as the home attack was concerned they had not the assurance in midfield shown by the Town who were always using the ball more constructively, and before the end it was easy enough to see which team had the benefit of full-time training.

Defensively, the Town were strong with Fincham taking such a stranglehold on the home team's leading scorer, Thresher, that I cannot remember him having a shot at goal.

Fincham played a great part, but for me, the star was Pacey, who seemed to have all the time in the world and who was constantly in the picture.

#### Morton Was Aided By His Experience

MC GUFFIE completed a half-back line that was usually well on top of the job, though they were over-run during that hectic spell early in the second half.

At times, Morton had some trouble from Muxworthy, but his experience enabled him to gain command, and much the same applied to the hard-lacking Bramwell.

And, of course, Baynham became the hero of the hour for that astounding save which was really the means of giving the Town their ticket into the second round.

#### Young Defence Was Beaten Five Times

HEAVY pressure by a strong Nottingham Forest Reserve side in the later stages of the second half at Kenilworth-road on Saturday was too much for the Town's young defence and three goals in ten minutes gave the visitors a 5-1 victory.

Earlier, Luton had held their own in midfield, although they rarely looked like adding to the third-minute goal scored by Lownds.

Forest wiped out this by half time through Len Julians and Wilson, and then came the second half goals from Chapman, Wilson and Moore.

Forest's accomplished centre-half, Hindley, kept the Luton forwards in check, and Robin Chandler was the only one to look dangerous.