

LUTON'S HOLIDAY PROGRAMME.

REMARKABLE SUCCESS OF THE BLUES.

Luton Town had a somewhat stiff programme for the holidays, but once more the unexpected happened, and the Blues did remarkably well—in fact, the players surprised everybody, including themselves. The team succeeded in capturing five points out of the three matches. Good Friday's engagement against Coventry City proved quite a veritable "snip," the visitors being beaten 4-1; on Saturday, at Exeter, Luton once more won, this time 2-1; and on Easter Monday, at Brentford, the Blues made a draw 2-2. Thus not only has the Town made its place in the League secure, but the side promises to finish in quite a respectable position.

LUTON v. COVENTRY CITY.

There could have been no more ideal weather for football than was experienced on Good Friday afternoon, when Coventry City were the visitors to the Ivy-road ground. About six thousand spectators witnessed the game, which proved to be one of the best of the season. The L. and N.W. ran a cheap excursion from Coventry, and about 500 made the journey. The City have been going so strongly this season, that though playing on their own pitch, Luton's chances were none too rosy.

Fred Hawkes, who captained the team in his namesake's absence, won the toss, and set the visitors to face a brilliant sun. However, Coventry had one advantage in that they had a slight breeze at their backs. Success came to Luton quite early. One of the home forwards was hustled off the ball, and Referee Ibbotson awarded Luton a penalty. Technically speaking, the Coventry man was certainly guilty of a foul, but it was a very tame affair, and few referees would have given it. Smith took the kick, and easily beat Evans.

A few minutes afterwards, Luton richly deserved a penalty, but to the surprise of a good many, Mr. Ibbotson took no notice of what was a gross infringement. Play after this was of a ding-dong character, Jack being quite as good as his master. The City attack, however, did not possess quite so much "vim" as was to be found in the home front ranks. At length, from a magnificent "winger" from Brown, Moody, who just happened to stand in the right position, sent the ball curling into the net, giving Evans no possible chance. It was a splendid goal, and deserved the appreciation it received.

The teams crossed over with Luton leading 2-0. Coventry did not seem to shape very much better. Their forwards were all right in the field, but lacked judgment in front of goal. Jarvis received a few "frights," but he did not have a deal of difficult shots to stop. In 20 minutes Quinn again scored for Luton, thanks to Evans being bundled into the net at the time. Coventry appealed, but though to the general crowd it seemed a doubtful goal, the point was ordered to stand. A few moments afterwards Quinn put on a good goal, which practically decided the match. In the closing stages, Powell, the City centre-forward, went through on his own, and beating opponent after opponent, scored one of the prettiest goals that have been got on the Town ground this season.

However, at the call of time, Luton had won handsomely by four goals to one. It may be that the Blues did not deserve to win by such a substantial margin; at the same time they were all through the better side. To the agreeable surprise of every spectator, Johnson stood head and shoulders above every player on the field. Playing at left half, in place of "Bob," Johnson not only worked hard, but the shots which he frequently put in were as delightful for the spectators to watch as they were discomfiting for Evans and the City defence to negotiate. It was indeed Johnson's game, and the pity is that he is so inconsistent. However, on Friday he introduced life into the Luton ranks. Potts also played a decent game at back, and was chiefly responsible for nullifying the Coventry attack. Our old friend Bradley played at centre-half for the visitors, but he still has his old complaint—that of being so much "at sea."