

BROKEN BISCUITS AT READING.

TOWN'S LATEST VICTORY.

(BY CRUSADER).

READING Nil.
LUTON TOWN 1 Goal.

READING.

Crawford.

Smith Wild.

Getgood Mavin Christie.

Broskom Bailey Andrews Cameron Carr.

Bookman Butcher Roe Higginbotham Hoar.

Lamb Parker Molyneux.

Tirrell Lennon.

BAILEY.

LUTON TOWN.

Referee: Mr. R. R. Crump, London.

In all my experience of football I have never known players so little concerned with the match in which they were engaged as were the Town players en route for Reading on Saturday. There was no discussion of the merits of the opposition, of their style of play, nay, I never heard a word from any player. Consequently, when the game was in progress I was not surprised to note that the Town players never seemed fully extended, and yet appeared to have the game well in hand. It was never a dull game on the field, but there was an absolute lack of eagerness and anxiety among the Town players in the first half, and although the match card reminded the spectators that Luton had won at South Shields, the form of the Town never raised the level of their Cup tie display until they started to make things hum in the second half. They were always too good for the opposition, and although from a purely scientific standpoint one could hardly understand Chelsea failing to defeat the "Biscuiters" after three hours' play, and only getting the better of them at the third time of asking, a closer study of Reading's methods brought one round to the opinion that they might easily disappoint cleverer exponents of the game. It was not a game to enthuse about, for the Town players never appeared to be really at full stretch, but they deserved to win by a larger margin.

It was a beautiful day. The ground was in excellent condition, and the Town players were quite satisfied with it when they had a little stroll just before the game. Spectators rolled up very slowly, and here could not have been 6,000 spectators present when Smith led out his men. They got just a small cheer, and the Town players had a much better reception, probably as

A TRIBUTE

to their performance at Shields. Horler, the busy back, was absent from the Reading side, but this was rather more than counterbalanced by the absence of Simms from the Luton vanguard. The trouble that brought Wilde to the back, from the middle line, and Christie was drafted in. Even Smith's success in winning the toss failed to elicit comment, although I wondered why he should wish to play with the sun shining directly into the faces of his team. True, there was a capful of wind, but that was about all.

From this point, the play is described as the game proceeded:—

Roe has started the game, but Reading are making the pace, and both Lennon and Tirrell are in action. This is chiefly due to the dashing work of Andrews, who is very active. Tirrell has maneuvered the centre forward offside.

Smart work by Roe and Higginbotham requires the attention of Smith, and Carr shows pushfulness. By a nice pass he gives Andrews possession, and the latter, partly by design, but chiefly by luck, is clean through, and bears down upon Bailey's charge. It looks odds on a goal when Molyneux dashes up from behind and lams the ball out of play—a narrow escape for Luton. Broskom places the kick nicely, but Mavin shoots about four or five yards wide. It was a "scrape" rather than a shot.

Smart work by Parker and Higginbotham, and the latter swings the ball out for Hoar to gallop through. He catches it all right, but the referee catches him—offside. I think he under-rated Hoar's speed. So Reading come back again, but Andrews' long shot is nicely caught and returned by Bailey.

A NICE LITTLE SPURT

by the Town left shows that they are settling down. A long pass forward by Butcher sees Christie outpaced by Bookman, but both are beaten by the ball. From the throw-in Roe gets hold, and by a dainty feint outwits Mavin and swings the ball to the right. Hoar prettily rounds Christie and Wilde and drops the ball dead in front. Roe gets to it, but as he heads, Smith shoulders him and the ball goes high. Again Roe catches it on his cranium, but misdirects. Higginbotham darts in to hit the ball on the drop, but gets under it and it soars heavenward.

Lennon and Tirrell again busy, but not flustered at all, and the hefty Andrews is inconspicuously grazed by Tirrell as he makes a wild dash for the goalkeeper. Bailey collars a long distance effort from his namesake, and punts down the field. Higginbotham has it, and has just piled Hoar with a "get-away" pass when Getgood trips Higginbotham right under the nose of the referee. Wilde deals with the free kick, but Parker sends out to the right, and Sid Hoar cuts in at a rare pace, but Mavin's frantic rush dispossesses the winger when it is odds on a goal. A very crafty move by the odd Fulham man, this,

but he cannot get the ball away far, and Molyneux and Parker are well up, and keeping bar well engaged, and the attack comes to an end with a hard shot by Molyneux just wide of the mark.

The Town are still pressing, and Smith just pulls up Higginbotham within six yards of goal after a neat dribble by Butcher.

Andrews is lying well up the field, but Tirrell has an eye on him, for as soon as he gets the ball he is given offside, and the crowd began to adjure Luton to

"PLAY THE GAME."

The old fault of the Town halves is responsible for a dangerous run on their goal. Parker and Molyneux on a bit of short passing on their own, and Reading's Bailey gets the ball. Lennon and Tirrell are both hard at it, and the big man takes the care of the powerful Andrews while Lennon puts his forwards going again.

So far, the Town left wing has not been hard worked, so Butcher drifts into the middle and brings it over by a tricky dribble. Mavin and Getgood are cheated, but the latter does not like it, and he raps the little man's ankles. The "free" is nicely placed by Lamb, but Mavin gets into Roe's back, and another free kick is given. Wilde gets the ball away, but Broskom finds Tirrell too strong, and Bookman comes away at top speed, only to be bowled over in illegal fashion by Smith. Lamb again drops the ball into goal, but Mavin heads out. Lamb secures again, and Crawford has his work cut out to get rid of a fine shot that falls under the bar.

For three or four minutes the home goal has been in constant jeopardy, but the hefty defenders pack the goal and not one shot finds the billet. The Town forwards and halves are playing with exasperating coolness, and Crawford, Smith, and Wilde are prancing about as though on hot bricks. The attack is closed by a great effort of Wilde's.

Again the attempts of the home forwards are frustrated by the offside practice of Lennon and Tirrell. Then Carr gets going nicely and puts the ball through cleverly, but Tirrell dashes in and clears finely. By keeping his broad person in front of Broskom, Tirrell forces the winger to send wide.

Again the Town left is prominent. Butcher pitting Bookman through prettily, and the winger centres perfectly. Roe's header just missing the target.

Offside against Cameron and Carr riles the crowd, and then Butcher and Higginbotham attract attention by a sharp bout of passing, and the ball is carried well down before the former slips it out to Bookman. The latter canters off and centres, but the ball is behind his forwards, and Mavin gets it away, and Broskom nearly runs through, but sends over the top.

Another movement by the home left enables Carr to centre, and Mavin drives in a beauty that just tops the bar. After another free kick against Getgood for fouling Butcher, has been cleared by Smith, Carr sprints down the wing, but his shot is yards wide.

The Town forwards are at it again, the whole line making

A BRISK ADVANCE.

Butcher drives in cleverly, but Crawford is a good goalkeeper, and the ball is duly manured.

The home forwards are fast and bustling, if not very scientific, but Andrews and Bailey are apt to forget the outside rule, so Carr has a try on his own, but he lifts the ball well over. Another try by the home left is disposed of by Lennon, who robs Andrews by a brilliant bit of judgment, and when the Town left is moving rapidly, Getgood again trips Butcher, but Tirrell's free kick is allowed to go behind the goal-line.

Lamb is in the picture now, for after a neat dribble by Butcher he follows up and gets in a great shot, Wilde heading away, and Christie kicks out wildly to stop Hoar. The Town forwards are again swarming round Crawford, who saves in brilliant fashion from Butcher. The Town halves now hold up the Reading vanguard, and Parker gives Roe a clever pass. Simms' deputy forces ahead, but at the critical moment the bulky Smith holds him off and Crawford clears.

Carr brings much needed relief by a fine sprint, but Molyneux harasses him so that he touches inside, and Lennon is quicker than Cameron and gets the ball away. The wise Mavin, however, slings the ball out to Broskom, and although the winger's passage is barred by Tirrell, he manages to get the ball to Bailey, whose shot is saved by the Luton Bailey. Mavin again gives Broskom a chance, but Lamb's tackle succeeds, and he finishes off a clever move by a perfect pass to Bookman. The winger outpaces both Getgood and Smith for speed, and the ball is landed right in the goal mouth, but a desperate rush by Wilde and the ball is away.

Half-an-hour's play finds the

HONOURS WITH THE TOWN,

but Mavin is doing fine work, and he engineers an advance which gives Carr a chance, and he centres well, but Andrews scrapes the ball wide.

Smart combination by Roe and Higginbotham puts Hoar through. Wilde tackles roughly, and when the Luton player resents it he is penalised. A similar incident occurs when Higginbotham is dribbling across, for Broskom dashes at him and escapes, while the Luton player's protests are penalised.

Butcher takes a hand against the home right wing, but Mavin forestalls Roe and

again feeds Broskom, but Tirrell compels the winger to shoot feebly past.

Lamb is too smart for Bailey, but a quick run by the home forwards ends in the Town goalkeeper catching and disposing of the ball. Carr then shines, and he swings the ball across, but Bailey runs out and knocks the ball off Andrews' head. A corner should have been awarded, and the referee gives it, but the linesman intervenes and a goal-kick follows.

Reading now make a great effort, but Lennon holds up Cameron, and Hoar is seen speeding down the touch line. Suddenly he cuts in, and beating Wilde for pace, gets almost to the goal post. Instead of shooting, however, he centres, and the ball trickles across the goal mouth and misses a group of players. Getgood and Smith are in sore straits with the Town left wing, but the latter saves his goal. By Butcher's pretty footwork, Bookman benefits, and a dazzling run and centre is prevented from materialising a goal by a wild rush by Wilde.

The Town forwards are now all over the Reading defenders, and Bookman centres from the corner flag clean into the goal mouth. Roe has it, and a goal is certain but for

A PUSH IN THE BACK

by Mavin, which sends the Town centre tumbling over, and the ball trickles out. If ever there was a case for a penalty this was it. Roe had the goal at his mercy when Mavin pushed him with both hands.

Immediately afterwards there is another glaring breach. Roe is fouled on the edge of the penalty area, and Parker taps the ball in. Hoar has it, close to the goal post, but Christie roughly pushes him off. In this case the referee may have been unsighted, but certainly there should have been a penalty if he saw it. The interval is signalled.

READING Nil.

LUTON TOWN Nil.

"Good old Beckett!" cries a spectator as Higginbotham leaves the field, and there is a general grin, in which the Town forward joins.

Reading are restarting at a great pace. Straight from the kick-off they go down, and their best bit of combination is seen, and Andrews shoots well. Bailey dives and turns the ball round the post—a great save.

If the home team are quickening, so are the Town, and Roe and Butcher join in a smart passing movement. Molyneux holds up Bailey, but is penalised. Tirrell relieves smartly, and then Parker falls heavily in attempting to head the ball, and has to receive the attention of Billy Lawson.

On resuming, there is some big kicking by Tirrell and Wilde from their respective ends, and eventually Lennon drops the ball among his forwards. Speedy passing carries the ball to the Reading goal, but Roe's shot lacks sting, and Crawford clears.

Fast work by the home right leaves Bailey in possession, but he shoots wildly over from twenty yards' range. A moment later and Tirrell's strong tackle robs

READING'S CRACK SHOT.

Mavin feeds Broskom neatly, but Parker darts across and grasses the winger. A corner is forced on the opposite wing, but Lamb clears cleverly.

Now we have a little breeze. Broskom, who is too zealous, is robbed by Tirrell, but turns and brings the Town captain over by very improper methods. So violent

F.A. CUP TIE

(3rd ROUND).

LUTON TOWN

v.

PRESTON N.E.

SATURDAY, FEB. 19th, 1921.

RESERVED AND NUMBERED

STAND SEATS.

BLOCK D & E 10/6

„ B & C 7/6

„ A & F 5/9

LANE STAND TICKETS 3/6

(strictly limited to 1,200).

Season Ticket Holders can obtain Reserved Seats for own use by personal application TO-NIGHT (TUESDAY), FEBRUARY 8th, from 6 to 8, to Mr. S. H. Godfrey, 29, Cheapside, Luton.

PUBLIC SALE.

THURSDAY, NEXT, FEB. 10th,

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 11th, 9 a.m. to

6 p.m.,

at

Mr. H. S. GODFREY'S,

29, CHEAPSIDE, LUTON.

Applications sent by post must be accompanied by stamped addressed envelope for reply.
CHARLES GREEN, Secretary,
73, Haselbury-crescent, Luton.

was the attack that Tirrell rolled over and over. When he got up he had a word or two with the youngster, and the referee also gave the leading man a lecture. From a sweeping pass by Lamb, the Town right wing makes play, and Wilde has to give a corner. This is cleared by Mavin, and Tirrell again overcomes the Reading right wing. Parker receives, and making ground quickly, sends to the right. Wilde puts in a lot of good work in the home defence, kicking and tackling earnestly. Mavin is a great obstacle, too, but the home team are finding the Town's pace very warm.

Bailey and Broskum get away as a result of Mavin's cunning, but the former is compelled to shoot hurriedly and the ball goes yards over the bar.

Wonderful dodging by Butler carries play right into the Reading goal, and then a neat touch by Higginbotham to Hoar enables the latter to centre right across goal, but Smith manages to head away. The repulse is only temporary, for Parker and Molyneux set the Town right wing away, and, after tricking Wilde, Hoar middles beautifully, but the ball cannons off Mavin. Lamb robs Broskum and dribbles through before passing to Butler, who sends wide.

Reading are finding that the Town have A BIT IN RESERVE,

and the halves know all about it. Mavin is doing valiant work in defence. From a long pass forward, Cameron makes a dash for goal, but Lennon is in the way again, and the forward fouls the back, and Luton are again in the home area. Higginbotham is adjudged to have handled just when he and Roe are forcing a way through. The referee also considers that Parker has handled in mid-field, and gives a free kick to Reading when Luton should have one against Bailey for jumping.

From this free kick, Luton's Bailey has to catch and clear the ball, and Luton forwards again make headway. They are hindered by Getgood tripping Butler. Really, the home halves seem to know more about tripping than anything else. Crawford has to run out to clear, and then Smith lunges the ball into the stand in order to stop Bookman, who is not getting enough to do.

A splendid dribble by Lamb is the next feature, and he centres right across for Hoar to take his centre on the run, and shoots well, but Crawford is there and clears. Only temporarily, however, for the Town left wing and Lamb again are in possession. BUTCHER swerves out of the way of Getgood's dash, and letting drive from the edge of the penalty area, he beats Crawford ends up with a fine right-foot oblique shot.

A DELIGHTFUL GOAL, it discovers a link of the "Bonny Boys" family in the grand stand. Seventeen minutes to go.

Nettled, evidently, are the "Biscuiters," and they dash down the field as though bent on getting level at once. They get a corner, and after this has been disposed of they come again, but Tirrell hoodwinks Bailey, who is amazed to find that he is offside.

Reading are all out and playing desperately, but the Town halves and backs are level-headed and never appear to be in much difficulty. Cameron fouls Molyneux

Wilde's rush, centres right into goal. Bookman tries to head in, but the ball goes to Butler, who heads.

INCHES WIDE

with the goal at his mercy.

A quick run to the other end is stopped by Parker, who neatly robs Andrews, and Tirrell follows with a fine clearance from a free kick for "hands" in midfield.

Bookman again compels Smith to find touch, and a moment later is off again when tripped up by Getgood. Mavin clears the danger, and then Getgood tries a run on his own, but when within striking distance he has to shoot quickly, and he is yards out of his reckoning.

Luton carry the ball to the other end in clever style, Roe passing smartly with Higginbotham, and finally he has possession right against the goal when Crawford rushes out and charges Roe in the back, bringing him down, but the referee refuses to give a penalty, and the corner kick is rushed away.

Reading's despairing efforts are now due, but Lamb and Parker, with one eye on the clock, hit the ball hard down the field. The referee has had his watch out for a full minute, and now he signals the close when the ball is in the Reading quarters.

CRITIQUE.

Reading critics described the game as the best seen on their ground this season with the exception of the Cup tie against Chelsea, but the Town players were always superior to Reading. There was an absence of flurry in the defence, and the forwards never took excessive risks. It was well they adopted that course, for I have never seen so much tripping by half-backs as by Reading's wing halves in this game. It was not always of a delicate character, either, and Hoar, Bookman, Higginbotham, Butler, Lamb, Molyneux, and Tirrell had sore ankles consequent upon the raps they received. Mavin only offended two or three times, but his colleagues were evidently well practised. Wilde, too, went for Hoar in anything but a nice manner, and it was to the credit of the Town players that they did not go out for reprisals. One of the players said after the game that the Luton gentleman who is so fond of urging Luton to play the game, might have had a lesson at Reading in what players are asked to put up with.

THE LOSERS.

Crawford had no chance with the goal that won the match. Wilde, except for his improper methods, was the better back. He is very fast and kicks well. Originally signed as a back, he is now regarded as a half-back, but took his old place because of the injuries to Horler. Smith was strong and useful, but he was obsessed by Bookman's speed, and left too much work to Wilde. Mavin was the pick of the side. He got through an immense amount of work, and saved the defence time after time, while he was responsible for initiating most of the attacks. Getgood and Christie I have referred to. The forwards were never allowed much rope after the first ten minutes. Carr was the smartest, and had many interesting tussles with Molyneux and Lennon. Andrews was too often offside, and he, Bailey, and Cameron could make little of the Parker, while Broskum was comfortably held.

Bookman might have got more of the ball in the second half.

Mr. Crump refereed better in this game than when he was at Luton earlier in the season, and, with the exception of missing those flagrant pushes in the penalty area, he did well.

ESTIMATED ATTENDANCES at Saturday's League games.—Division I., 325,000; Division II., 215,000; Division III., 105,000; Total, 645,000. Biggest crowd at Chelsea, 55,000; smallest at Exeter, 5,000.

GOALS.—In Division I. five home teams won and one lost, and five games were drawn. Two home teams and four visiting teams failed to score. Home teams scored 24 goals against 9. In Division II. five home and two visiting teams won and two games were drawn. Three home and five visiting teams failed to score, and of the 22 goals registered the home clubs claimed 14. In Division III. four home teams won and four were defeated, the other games being drawn. Three home and three visiting sides failed to score. Home teams obtained 15 goals against 15.

HAT-TRICKS.—Anderson (Burnley), 5; Puddfoot (West Ham).

PENALTY KICK SCORERS.—Watson (Burnley), Smith (Bolton Wanderers), Puddfoot (West Ham United), Torrance (Fulham), Heath (Stockport), Chestham (Hull City), Hodge (Millwall), Cumming (Portsmouth).

FAILED WITH A PENALTY KICK.—Hoddinott (Watford), Ratcliffe (Blackpool).

JIM BRADLEY must have been in curious form for the Orient on Saturday. "Lloyd's News" says: "Bradley was out-classed," but the "Weekly Dispatch" says: "Bradley confirmed the good impression he made at South Shields. Was it Bradley or were the writers in curious form?"

WATFORD RESERVES were a bit fortunate at Woolston on Saturday. They won by 3-1, but Thornycroft's failed to score from a couple of penalties in the second half.

SOUTHEAST UNITED sold 1,000 seats at a guinea each the day after they decided to bring the "Spurs" to Southeast for their Cup tie.

A.F. TIRRELL's view of the Cup tie.—"I think we have as good a chance against Preston as we should have had against any other club. A Cup tie is peculiar, and, while glad that we are drawn at home against such a famous side, I think we should stand almost as good a chance away. Our boys were a wee bit flustered by reputation when Birmingham came, but I don't think even so great a fame as that of Preston will unnerve them now. They look at it in this way: 'We have as much right to win the Cup as Barnsley had: let's do our best.' That is the spirit in which we shall face Preston North End. We know they are a good side; that in the transfer market they would 'fetch' more than we; but they will have to fight hard for victory. If we go down it will be with our flying, and the North Enders will deserve all they get."

READING'S RETURN MATCH at Luton to-morrow afternoon should mean two more points to the Town, judging on Saturday's form, but they have nothing to give away. Saturday's results in the League have opened up the championship problem

TRIPLES AND THE TELEPHONE. The views of the public in the country as to the new lamps and corded numbers of the telephone service, were placed before Mr. A. H. Thompson, to-day by a description furnished by the National Chamber of Trade. In the Chamber Division to-day, an independent receiver was appointed of the assets of the "Cable" Newspaper Company, application for a licence to print being made on behalf of Mr. R. Donnelly, a debenture holder, for £22,000.

in rasculous manner when the referee's back is turned, and so enables his forwards to keep up the attack, but Carr, clever as he is, cannot overcome him. Parker protests strongly against being penalised for the way he pulls up Bailey, and from a free kick Broskum sends in a nice centre, Andrews heading wide.

Bookman now has one of his few chances, but Smith, who is concentrating all his energies and weight on the little winger, kicks into touch. By a big kick, Wilde puts the home forwards in possession, but Parker forces Andrews to shoot from long range, which is wide. Another shot from the same player goes past the upright.

Mavin trips Higginbotham, and an amusing little scene follows as the old half-back apologises and assists the Luton man to his feet.

The Town are again attacking, and Roe's masterly distribution of the ball is admired, but he cannot get in a shot. Hoar is badly fouled by Christie. From the "free" Hoar gets away, and eluding

AND THE WINNERS.

Harry Bailey only had one awkward handful, and most of his work was by permission of Lennon and Tirrell. He was always safe. Lennon was in his most certain mood. In tackling and kicking alike, he played with brainy anticipation. Tirrell was rock-like, as usual, and worked well with Lamb. He timed his rushes to a nicety, and kicked a rare length. The halves broke the back of the opposition. All of them were splendid, and if Parker dominated the middle of the field, his colleagues were active and solid on the flanks. Andrews did a lot of tearing about in the first half, but he seldom got near the ball in the second, so speedily was Parker in tackling. Molyneux had a strong wing to face, Carr being very good indeed, but Molyneux gave him little room for operations. Lamb was head and shoulders above his opposing wing in more senses than one, and one of these days he will make a start in the goal scoring line. All three tended their forwards assiduously, and kept them well engaged. The forwards were well led by Roe. Certainly he lacked that "devil" which has given Simms so many goals, but he kept the game well open, and his passing was accurate and smart. He had his usual misfortune in front of goal. Higginbotham played with his customary thoughtfulness, and Sid Hoar received many nice passes from him. Butler, who was suffering from a severe cold, was full of enterprise and dash. His footwork was very pretty, while the manner in which he eluded the rushes of his big opponents was diverting, to say the least. Were I asked to name the best forward, Butler would undoubtedly be the choice, and I am sure his colleagues would agree. His goal was the reward of merit and enterprise. Hoar and Bookman were very fast, and the number of times they were stopped by trips was remarkable. In fair footwork they were much too smart for the visiting defenders, although

again. But for lapses against such teams as Northampton and Bristol Rovers, the Town would have had a real big opportunity, and even now they may manage to be somewhere near when the honours are handed round at the end of the season. They have still a lot of hard work to do, but a couple of points to-morrow and success next Saturday will greatly improve their prospects. I hope there will be a big crowd to cheer them on.

A.B.C.—By the way, Reading's forward line on Saturday was A.B.C. A. in the middle, two B's on the right, and two C's on the left.

SEVENTH REVERSE before their own spectators was Reading's lot on Saturday. They have lost no fewer than eight games by the odd goal, and so inconsequent have they been that they were defeated at home by Gillingham—and away—and they lost by 4-0 at home to Southampton, and then went to Southampton and won by the odd goal in three.

WEST HAM UNITED have had fewer goals scored against them than any club in the three divisions of the League—16 only. Stockport County with a debit of 82 have had most against them. Burnley head the goal-scoring with 60.

DURSTON, the son of Clapham, has been re-instated in the Brentford goal.

BAILEY, Reading's inside-right, rose to the rank of Captain while serving in the Army, and he holds the Military Cross with two bars and the D.S.O.

SMITH, Reading's right back, has been made manager of the team, as well as captain. He was missing from the team last Saturday week owing to the death of his mother.

Congratulations to Harry Fryer, the Clarence goalkeeper, and idol of the Dunstable crowd—particularly the children—who was married yesterday to Miss Daisy Bent, who is one of the small crowd of lady supporters of the Clarence.

ON THE TOWN GROUND.
TO-MORROW
(WEDNESDAY).
FEBRUARY 9th, 1921.
Division III.
LUTON TOWN
v.
READING.
KICK OFF 3 O'CLOCK.