

EXETER'S JOYFUL VICTORY.

Very few people felt confident of Luton Town's prospects when they saw the formidable list of injured, but a better side than was expected made the journey to the ancient cathedral city. The team would have been strong enough to win, too, but for an early injury to Simms, and his withdrawal to the extreme right, where he could only hobble a yard or two, and every time he touched the ball with his left leg he winced with pain. Even so, there were sufficient chances to have won the match. Still, one could not be other than satisfied, because I have never seen a team or its supporters so hugely delighted as the "Grecians" and their crowd. They were very happy indeed, for it put another obstacle between themselves and the ogre of relegation.

Exeter have had a very hard season. They began very well indeed, and at the end

the first month were at the top. How they managed it I don't know, but they were there. They have gone down rapidly since then, and their win on Saturday was only the second this year. Certainly they would have been at the bottom had they not made a few points in the first month or two, and even now they have before them a very stern fight indeed if they are to escape accompanying Gillingham, for Brentford do not want that unhappy fate, and will be sure to strain every nerve in their future matches. Brentford certainly have a better chance than Reading, but the "Biscuiters" have a knack of rising to the occasion, and I fancy that Brentford, Newport, and Exeter will provide the name to be bracketed with Gillingham's for the fateful effort to secure re-inclusion in the League. They will have to fight such clubs as Charlton Athletic, which will be supported by the London clubs, and Aberlure, which will get the support of the Welsh Clubs, and I should not be surprised if neither of the two bottom clubs are again seen in League football. Exeter mean to preserve their position if at all possible.

It was with this idea they started on Saturday, and although they could hardly compare with the Town in the matter of skill, they were undoubtedly a much better side than on the previous Saturday, and they went for goal with such gusto and wholeheartedness that they managed to get one and to keep out Luton.

That goal came from the first corner Exeter had; they only had one other corner kick, although they did much more running about than Luton. The goal was obtained by a snap shot taken by VOWLES as the ball fell among a ruck of players gathered in the goal-mouth for the corner kick. This pushful young man had done quite a lot of shooting, but he got too much elevation on the ball as a rule, and had the shot been from a yard farther out even this shot would have gone over, but on this occasion the ball struck the bar and fell into the net, and Vowles was gleefully mobbed.

It was quite a pleasant game for the onlookers, but the blazing sun made for much discomfort for the players, and they were all glad when the game was over. Most of the home team were quite played out. There were comparatively few fouls, and these need not have been so numerous if the referee had been just a little more discreet. He whistled up the game after almost every full-shouldered charge. The only occasion when there was evidence of trouble was when Carrick badly fouled Butcher, and as he stopped to argue with the referee Butcher turned to go into his position and collided with Carrick. Carrick averred that the Luton player struck him, but an Exeter official behind me declared that there was no blow and that it was a perfect accident. The referee, to pacify Carrick, consulted the linesman, and then ordered the game to proceed, a free kick being given against Carrick.

Luton's forward play was spoilt when Simms had to go to the extreme right, for McKechnie, who had shown signs of cleverness on the wing, was brought into Simms' place, but he was quite out of position, although he got in a couple of rasping shots, one going over the bar, and Pym falling at full length to save the other when the ball was skimming in near the post. Simms got his hurt in a mix-up in the Exeter goal-mouth after five minutes' play, a severe kick from Pym effectively disabling him. Thereafter he was of little use, except that he popped the ball in front of goal when it came to him, and thrice he caused a lot of anxiety in this way. The line as a whole, however, never got moving nicely, in spite of the skilful work of Mathieson and Butcher. The latter was not quite so happy at inside-right as at inside-left, but he will settle down to his new berth. Mathieson was the pick of the quintette, and the sporting crowd appre

ciated his wonderful mastery over the ball. Bookman also got a lot of business out of it, and one thrilling run was cheered to the echo. He cleared the field and dropped the ball on to the face of the cross-bar and it rebounded into play.

McKechnie also had a great chance when Pollard clean missed his kick, but he dallied and lost the ball.

The Town halves put up a middling game, with Roe as the principal, his clever passing being a feature. Lennon was slightly the better back, but Semple put up a good show, and Bailey was very safe in goal and made some splendid saves.

Pym also made a few smart clearances, and Feebury was a stalwart and surefooted protector. Carrick was a hardworking half, and placed the ball well, with Green a good second.

Dockray was the best forward and knew it, and Vowles and Makin were useful.

Result:—

EXETER CITY 1 goal.

LUTON TOWN nil.

EXETER CITY. — Pym; Pollard, Feebury; Crawshaw, Carrick, Green; Appleton, Makin, Shields, Vowles, Dockray.

LUTON TOWN. — Bailey; Lennon, Semple; Molyneux, Roe, Walsh; McKechnie, Butcher, Simms, Mathieson, Bookman.