

EXETER'S SAD EXPERIENCE.

LUTON TOWN GET SIX WITHOUT RESPONSE.

HOTEN'S BRILLIANCE.

(By "CRUSADER.")

LUTON TOWN 6
EXETER CITY 0

LUTON TOWN. — Gibbon; Graham, Tirrell; Molyneux, Jennings, Roe; Hoar, Butcher, Reid, Hoten, Clarkson.

EXETER CITY. — Pavey; Pollard, Flynn; Coopland, Mitton, Crompton; Matthews, Davis, Crookford, Shelton, Dockray.

Referee. — Mr. R. Lethaby, Bristol.

There seemed to be no lack of confidence in the Exeter team's dressing-room before the game on Saturday, but the "Grecians" suffered a severe shock before the interval, and when the end came were very much crestfallen. They had a crumb of consolation in the fact that they had not fared much worse than Swansea did at Luton in January, and also that they are not likely to undergo the humiliation of seeking re-election.

The superiority of the Town was unquestionable from the outset, and everybody must have settled down to something unusual when ROE scored—a thing he has not done with the first team for the long

period of three seasons. It was a tip-top shot, and while some appeared to think that Pavey should have saved it, I am not so sure about it. I think he felt sure that he had put it over the bar, but it had fallen just below it and went into the net.

A GOOD START means much and although the "Grecians" tried

very hard indeed during the next five or ten minutes, they must have felt pretty hopeless about the result when HOTEN tore through from Jennings' pass and beat Pavey for the second goal. There was much more work for Pavey than for Gibbon, and the Town forwards played sparkling football, coming near scoring on many occasions. The last kick before the cross-over brought the third goal, and it fell to the deserving BUTCHER. After much attacking and many misses, Jennings lobbed the ball into the goal-mouth. Butcher got it, and although hampered by Pavey and a back, he managed to get it through all right.

As in the first half, the Town went off at a great pace, and following smart work by Hoar and Butcher, both Hoten and Reid had the goal at their mercy, but it was only after the lively ball had eluded several attempts that HOTEN got it into the net. HOTEN'S third goal was very much after the fashion of his first. He took a pass and went swerving and feinting through, and then those who call him a one-footed man must have been surprised by the clever right foot shot that went all

ALONG THE CARPET

into the farther corner of the net away from poor Pavey. By the way, all three of Hoten's goals were right foot efforts. The game was almost over when Butcher dribbled through, and although Pavey got to the ball in the first attempt, BUTCHER and Reid were close at hand, and the former it was, not Reid, rushed it into the net.

Exeter were beaten before half-time. They were overplayed, and with the exception of the veteran Crompton there was little class in the side. Perhaps that statement needs qualification. We had not much opportunity of seeing what the forwards could do, because the defence had such a heavy burden that they could take very little interest in the attack. The backs, as I said last week, were the reckless sort, but not all the blame must be laid upon them or Pavey. Good as Crompton still was, he was not good enough to hold Hoar and Butcher, and as his colleagues were not as good as he, and the whole of the Town front liners were about equally dangerous, the tale is told. Pavey made many fine saves, but for at least five of the goals registered he must be

ABSOLVED FROM BLAME.

Pollard was plucky, Crompton clever but slow, Mitton a stolid sort of worker, and Crookford, Matthews, and Dockray were real triers, but as a side the "Grecians" were outplayed.

Gibbon had only one very difficult shot to save, and that was a header from Crookford, which could only have been saved by good judgment. Graham and Tirrell played well together again, and made few mistakes. Neither Molyneux nor Jennings were as fit as they should have been, and "Molly" was limping soon after the start, but both kept going to the end and did splendid work without equalling Roe, who was in his best form.

The forward work has

NEVER BEEN BETTER,

and Hoten was the star. His speed when in possession was simply amazing, and his putting through evoked many cheers. Sometimes he holds on too long, but when a

man can register a couple of goals in the fashion of his first and third goals one should be chary of talking about selfishness. He gave Reid and Clarkson no small amount of work, and there was the stamp of class about all he did. Butcher also dribbled as smartly as usual, and he got a couple of goals that have long been overdue to him. He made Hoar play brightly, and both wingers did much effective work. Reid failed to score, yet he played a much better game, for the simple reason that he distributed the ball better than in any game he has played, and he deserved better luck with his shots, too, for he was never very far out of his reckoning.

The game was much cleaner than the average, although there was no small amount of vigour, and even if Mr. Lethaby made a few curious decisions, he might have done much worse.

But 14 points out of a possible 16 deserves a larger crowd than 6,000, and even that figure was not reached on Saturday. rhwor ke

MIDDLESEX LEAGUE.

DEERFIELD ATHLETIC

v.

LUTON AMATEURS

By "LOOKER-ON."

The Amateurs journeyed to Hendon on Saturday to play their return game with Deerfield Athletic, whom they had beaten on the Dell by 6-0 on the previous Saturday. The Luton side were not at full strength, especially in the forward line. The ground is very close to that sheet of water known as the Welsh Harp, and has a very damp, rough surface.

DEERFIELD ATHLETIC. — Hill; Pearce, Crane; Horner, Mason, Hunt; Stringer, Upton, Lavender, Rogers, Stoger.

LUTON AMATEURS. — Choate; Morris, Toner; Woollard, Moody, Field; Brown, Baxter, Jenkins, Lane, Darby.

The Amateurs kicked downhill in the first half, and their forwards at once got away, for Brown to centre to Jenkins, who shot, and the home goal had a narrow escape. Directly afterwards Lane hit the post, and the Amateurs obtained a corner, from which the ball eventually went behind. After a period of play in mid-field, the Luton forwards again attacked, Hill saving Lane's shot in good style. The home side were the first to score. The ball had been booted about close to Choate's goal, and none of the defenders seemed able to get it away. It finally went to UPTON, who quickly placed it in the net. The home backs were very successful during the play which followed, in putting the visiting forwards off-side, and the referee helped them by his decisions to bring several attacks to sudden endings. Stoger was allowed to go on when distinctly offside, on the other hand, but his shot was badly directed. Then the Amateurs attacked, Hill saving three shots, and the home side at length got away, but Choate saved his goal. A neat bit of passing by Darby and Lane gave the ball to JENKINS, who burst through the Deerfield defence and equalised with a nice shot, which gave Hill "no earthly." Choate was once more called upon, and then play was fairly even until the interval. Score:—

DEERFIELD ATHLETIC 1

LUTON AMATEURS 1

As soon as play was resumed, the Amateurs secured a corner, and Hill managed to get rid of the ball from the flag-kick. Lane shot wide from a centre by Brown, and at the other end Choate saved well when Mason shot in. The visitors put in some neat passing, but Deerfield came again for Rogers to hit the post. Jenkins met with similar misfortune when he made an attempt to score, and he was exceedingly well watched by the home backs, who gave him no peace. Moody sent in a long shot, Hill saving nicely, and just afterwards Choate cleared a good attempt by Stringer. The Luton forwards were finding the heavy ground a great drawback, and for a time made very little progress, but the home forwards kicked hard and rushed, giving Choate a couple to save. Deerfield, for some time, had the better of the play, and both Mason and Stringer went close with good attempts to score, Choate doing the needful each time. Lane shot over the bar, and play was fairly even, but soon Deerfield took up the running, Choate clearing a "header." Hunt was hurt while heading the ball, which had become very heavy; and then a free kick, taken by Morris, landed the ball right into Hill's safe hands. The home side should have made the game safe just after this, but their shooting was poor, and the ball usually went high over the bar. Stoger got nearest with a clinking good shot, which fell on the net instead of in it. The ball was near the centre line during the last few minutes, both teams having slowed down considerably owing to the state of the ground, and when the whistle went there was no addition to the score of—

DEERFIELD ATHLETIC 1

LUTON AMATEURS 1