

THE TIDE TURNS.

LUTON CENTRE'S FINE GOALS.

THE CHANGES CONSIDERED.

(By "CRUSADER").

LUTON TOWN 2 goals
BRENTFORD 1 goal

LUTON TOWN. — Shepherd; Till, Tirrell; Anderson, Jennings, Walker; Hoar, Reid, Kerr, Hoten, Bonsall.

BRENTFORD. — Young; Pearson, Alton; Kerr, Hunter, James; Capper, Clayson, Johnstone, Williams, Hughes.

Referee: Mr. T. J. Duke, Harlesden.

It is something to be out of the rut, but after the sense of satisfaction that the Town have won at long last, there comes the inevitable analysis of the game and the merits of the players, and few find unalloyed pleasure therefrom.

The exhibition was good enough to win, but not for a complete restoration of confidence.

It must be said at once that the "Bees" played far better at Luton than they did at home. They had A MUCH LARGER SHARE

of the game, and the Town did not attack so frequently and get through with the ease that characterised their play at Brentford. And



A. Kerr.

If, as we must, give credit to the Town for their success, we must also bear the fact in mind that the Brentford forwards were not held so well.

I attribute that to two things—that Hughes was a better player than Brentford's winger the previous week, and that Capper and Clayson were not checked so well as in the previous game.

The effect of the changes in the Town team struck me as being justified only in part. Anderson was the most satisfactory, but it will require a good deal to convince me that they were an improvement upon the others. My reasons I will give shortly.

The Town were more than a goal better on the run of the play, but chances were missed again and again, and there were moments when Brentford, had they not been equally faulty, would have drawn the game, especially in the closing stages.

KERR'S TWO GOALS

were quite dissimilar. In the first Hoar made a great run on the right and dropped the ball just right for the centre-forward to head into the net. The second was made possible by the footwork of Hoten. He had wandered out of position, and was well on the right wing when he got the ball and dribbled past James and Hunter and set off for goal. As J. Kerr came to tackle, Hoten sent the ball forward for Andrew Kerr to cut through at top speed. Pearson closed upon him, and Young also ventured out of goal a yard or two to diminish the extent of the target. Kerr shot before Pearson reached him, and the ball went away from Young's outstretched arm into the net. It was a capital point in every way.

Brentford's goal was unlike either of Luton's. It came when least expected. The "Bees" had been repulsed, and the

ball came to HUNTER, who was quite thirty yards out. He steadied himself and put in a fast high shot. Tirrell was at the end of the goal, and it appeared as though he were going to head it, but the ball was a trifle too high, and it passed just under the bar into the net. It was a fine shot, and

DESERVED TO COUNT

as much as any shot from that distance should count.

Brentford had other chances, but not so numerous as Luton's. In the first half Reid early on had a fine chance, but shot wide across goal. Then Tirrell, taking a free kick from 25 yards' range, beat the goalkeeper, but the ball struck the under-side of the bar and came out. On two or three occasions the forwards failed to tap the ball over the line when the gentlest touch would have done the deed. Hoar put several centres across without result, and Bonsall one at least that deserved a goal. On the other hand Hughes struck the post when Shepherd was beaten, and in the last minute Shepherd missed the ball when trying to punch away a centre, and the ball was inviting an equaliser when Jennings managed to boot it away. Brentford might well have drawn, but Luton might well have won by a bigger margin.

Except for a few unnecessary fouls it was a pleasant enough contest as between team and team, but the weather conditions were all against good football, and the heavy rain caused many efforts to break down. Once Andrew Kerr was clean through when he slipped on the greasy turf and the chance was lost, while many shots went astray through

THE BALL SKIDDING

off the instep of the marksmen, and this factor must be considered in the judgment.

Shepherd's display was not good enough to make his position secure. He caught the ball well, but seemed excited and ill at ease. Nevertheless he made a few good saves. Till gave a fine display at back, and his tackling and power of recovery were very fine all through the game.



W. L. Clayson.

Tirrell is getting more like his former self, but there was not a good understanding between him and Walker, and the consequence was that the Town captain had often to chase the winger, a task that he does not relish. Jennings again put up a brave show, and was very powerful in defence. Anderson made good on his first run, and if he can learn to feed better he will not lose his place. He won much applause for his fine tackling. Walker could not be regarded as an improvement upon Roe, but he played as well as he has ever done on the flank. Often, however, his natural position was plainly indicated by his wandering into the middle of the field. He wanted to be among it, and when he could get

INTO THE FRAY

he put up some fine tackling and spoiling.

Kerr is not a great leader, but he has the all-important virtue of being able to round off the work of others in quicker time than any centre-forward I have seen at Luton, and, given the right men to do the donkey work, he will get many goals. He has played in three games and got three goals. No defence can terrorise him, and although he was not fairly treated by opponents, he was never shaken off his game. If only his colleagues will slip the ball through for him in the manner that Hoten did, Kerr will win matches. Reid did not do so well at inside right as he did at centre-forward the previous week, but who could expect it? He was a genuine trier all the time, but if he is going to claim the inside right position he will need to feed Hoar better, and to serve Kerr more efficiently. Hoten played much better than in any previous game this season, and will do better still if he leaves the halves to do their own job. Hoar was again in great form, and should have had more to do. He was the best of the four wingers, and his work deserved better results. Bonsall was better than at Brentford, although not at his best by any means.

For the "Bees," Young did good work in goal. Alton was the better back, Kerr had no superior at half-back, and Capper, Clayson, and Hughes were all good forwards.

There were 7,500 spectators—not half enough.

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