

NINE GAMES WITHOUT DEFEAT.

Luton Town Win at Boscombe

(By "CRUSADER.")

Let me say at once that George Butcher did not open his scoring account at Boscombe last Saturday. Certainly he deserved as much credit as any other member of the team, but while it would give as much pleasure to say that he had scored a goal as it would to say that Kerr had done the "hat trick," the pleasure is still deferred for the goal scorers were Kerr (twice) and Green. And they were all good goals, the home goalkeeper having no chance to prevent them. On the other hand, there could be no question that Gibbon made the home team a present of one of their goals, and he would not often allow such shots to beat him as was the other goal.

I have already referred elsewhere to the ill-effects of a long and tedious train journey, and but for this factor I believe that the Town would have won as handsomely at Boscombe as they did at Luton the week before. Bournemouth and Boscombe Athletic made their headway while the Town were finding their bearings and getting over the stiffness that comes through a long journey, to say nothing of a rather late lunch. Leaving Luton at 7.30 on Saturday morning, they arrived at Bournemouth at 12.30, and then walked through the streets to a restaurant, and it was nearly half-past one before they had finished lunch. The game began an hour later. On this matter one should be chary of criticising the directors. They are face to face every day with a big deficit, although the team is doing magnificently, and they are face to face with a match only once a week. A two-days' journey means an enormous increase of expense, and this has to be met. There is

A CHOICE OF TWO EVILS:

journeying on Friday and thus having to pay extra travel and hotel expenses, or taking the risk of travelling the same day and putting the team on the field at a disadvantage as compared with the other side. That there is a very real disadvantage has been proved more than once, and this was the reason the Town could not get going in the first half-hour. At the end of that time it looked probable that they would be defeated, because Bournemouth were playing at top speed and a full-blooded sort of game, in which they knocked the Town forwards off their play, were too fast altogether for the middle line, and gave the backs a lot of trouble. Fortunately, the Town had taken the lead early on. Kerr dashed clean through in the first minute, and was only prevented scoring by Heron taking the ball from his toe almost on the goal-line. Eight minutes after the start, KERR made a grand run almost from the middle line, tricking the backs and slamming the ball into the net as Heron dashed out in a futile attempt.

DAVEY equalised from a return after a corner kick, and VOISEY gave the home team the lead at the end of half-an-hour, when the Town defenders had been struggling hard for most of the time to keep back the rushes of the home forwards. Gibbon should have avoided the second goal, if not the first, for Voisey was presented with a simple chance.

Instead of going all to pieces, as the home crowd seemed to expect, the Town gradually improved, and in the second half they were right on top, subjecting the home goal to severe and continued pressure, and when GREEN equalised with an unstoppable shot following a return from a corner kick by Hoar, they got no more than their deserts. They went at it with a will, and the home halves and backs had to call upon their forwards to assist.

Seven minutes from the end, Butcher got the better of Butt, dribbled on and then sent across to KERR to give the Town the victory with

A TYPICAL KERR EFFORT

In the remaining minutes the Town nearly added to their lead on two occasions.

Bournemouth were the better side in the first half, but the difference in skill and stamina was manifest in the second half, their defence having little rest, and their forwards only making spasmodic efforts. They were a bit unlucky in that Armstrong was injured and off the field for the last ten minutes of the first half, and for the last twenty minutes of the game, but the cause of defeat was the superior speed, skill, and strength of the Town.

Gibbon was by no means safe in goal. In the first half the defence suffered from stiffness and slowness, but Anderson and Till were very fine, and Walker played above himself late in the half. After the change of ends the whole team played grandly, and gained a meritorious victory. Anderson and Till were great at back, and all the halves played well when they had found their feet. Their play all round was much better than that of the

home halves, for they tackled better, recovered more quickly, and from the point of view of nursing their forwards, they were excellent in the second half. Apart from the failure of Hoten to get the ball across nicely, the forwards played

A SPANKING GAME

when settled down. Their speed and passing nonplussed the home halves in the second half, and the ball went from wing to wing at great speed, with Kerr ever on the alert for a clean cut through. Butcher had wretched luck with his shots again, and could do anything with the ball except get it past Heron. Green also suffered in that respect, and Kerr came very near scoring on several occasions.

The game was not too clean, for the home halves and backs were chiefly intent upon keeping what they had got after their second goal was registered, and the fouls were too numerous in the second half. Happily, the Town kept their heads, and once they had a grip of the game they were always potential winners.

BOURNEMOUTH 2 goals

LUTON TOWN 3 goals

BOURNEMOUTH & BOSCOMBE.—

Heron; Saxton, Lamb; Butt, Smith, Leitch; Miller, Voisey, Davey, Armstrong, Robinson.

LUTON TOWN.— Gibbon; Anderson, Till; Walker, Jennings, Millar; Hoar Green, Kerr, Butcher, Hoten.

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