

LUTON WIN AGAIN.

Newport County Go Down in Return Match.

FORWARD WEAKNESSES.

(BY CRUSADER.)

LUTON TOWN 2 goals
NEWPORT COUNTY ... Nil

LUTON. — Gibbon; Anderson, Till; Foster, Walker, Roe; Hoar, Reid, Kerr, Butcher, Hoten.

NEWPORT. — Carr; White, Dimmock; Whitton, Nairn, Carney; Charlton, Gittins, Connor, Lowes, Cook.

Referee. — Mr. R. Lethaby, Bristol.

Nearly everybody was grumbling on Saturday night about "the rotten match," and criticising very severely the quality of the Town's forward play. When we are not content with a victory by two goals clear it suggests that we are getting fastidious, but it is true the standard of play left a good deal to be desired. Nevertheless, I have no hesitation in saying that the forward play was a long, long way in advance of that of the previous week, and the conditions were much worse. Few of us, I think, realised how very difficult the ground conditions were. There was a layer of grease, thick in parts, on a hard crust, and the ball became very heavy, and football was precarious. I did not think the game was altogether poor. There were pleasing features, and now and then were spells of brisk movement in which

MUCH CLEVER FOOTWORK

was seen from both teams, but there were long intervals when it was almost wearisome to wait for a respectable movement.

Most of the spectators were surprised by the Newport team's display. They have been so accustomed to a "bottom-of-the-league" team that the smartness of the visitors came as something unexpected. But a glance at their position in the League would have shown that they were a much improved combination, and they have the material from which might well be made the nucleus of a tip-top team. There were no men for whom one would like to pay a big fee, perhaps, but they were a level, well-balanced and industrious lot of players.

They adopted the right sort of tactics on the heavy ground, and while they were not so clever individually as the Town, they played for each other, and gave the Town supporters

MANY QUALMS

during the progress of the game by their speedy raids. On the other hand, the Town held the ball much too close when attacking, and, after beating the opposition and making good openings, they failed badly.

Once more the strength of the Town lay in the middle line, where all three put up a wonderful game, and it was poetic justice that WALKER should open his scoring account, for he had been playing magnificent football, and when he saw the chance he took it and had the satisfaction of scoring a very fine goal indeed.

The Town had been having the better of the exchanges for 42 minutes before Walker did this, and then they played such rousing football that they nearly had three goals chalked up before the interval.

In the second half the Town had again the better of the game, but the impotence of the forwards was as pronounced as ever, and it was after about 37 minutes of this half had passed that the goal which put the issue safe was scored. It came from a penalty, for during a rousing attack Whitton was adjudged by one of the linesmen to have handled. The referee did not see it, but he consulted the linesman, and the decision was

GIVEN PROMPTLY.

I could not see the offence, but the crowd did, and they also saw HOAR score from the spot. There were some who thought that Carr should have saved, but the ball went in at a terrific rate, struck the roof of the net and landed in the back of it.

Hoar would have had a hat-trick if good fortune had smiled upon him, for, although he did not have nearly enough to do, he was too clever for the opposition, and he made perfect openings on several occasions. The crowd were quite angry with Reid for chipping in after one wonderful run by Hoar, who had the goal at his mercy, when Reid kicked the ball off his toe and sent it over the top.

On this form Reid will never supplant Green, for he was quite out of his element, and he was of little use to his partner. Reid is a centre-forward, and so far as that side of the field was concerned it was not a whit better for Kerr. On the other flank, Butcher was clever, as usual, and the left wing did

MOST OF THE DAMAGE

for the Town, but Hoten was like a fish out of water when he had to wait for the ball. He did very fine work in the second half. Unless Kerr has with him the right sort of men he will not add very much to his goal account.

Roe gave a polished exhibition at left-half, and for footwork and control he was wonderful. He passed with rare precision, and his counters to the visiting right were models of intelligence. Walker played a similar game, and, as previously said, his goal was a beauty. Foster's mood is different, but it was very useful, especially in the matter of breaking-up attacks. If he fed his wing as well as he stops the other side, he would be a great half. The backs did well, but that disposition to dribble too much was now and then apparent. They covered each other nicely, and they did a vast amount of work from the region of the middle line. Gibbon again showed his mettle in goal, and he made several splendid saves.

For the visitors Carr did well in goal. White was a grand back, Whitton a powerful and diligent half, and in the forward line the two most useful men.

There were over 6,000 spectators. Here were Gittins and Cook.