

# BETTER LUTON.

## USEFUL POINT FROM CHARLTON ATHLETIC.

(By "CRUSADER.")

To appraise rightly the value of Luton Town's performance at Catford one must have seen the ground. It was in very bad condition, and from the views of an expert it will be many years before it is really good, because, he said, "the ground will sag for a long time after they have made it up." It dipped considerably at one end, and the pitch contained holes that were very troublesome. The Athletic did not appear to let that trouble them a great deal, but the Town players were frequently deceived by the pranks the ball played when it fell. Till could best explain what it meant to the players, for he was an early victim of mischance, and that was why Charlton scored. A long kick in a slanting direction by S. Smith was well beyond his colleagues, and was going straight to Till, who would not have had the slightest difficulty in clearing, but the ball went off at a tangent, and THOMSON had

### AN EASY TASK

to shoot past Gibbon.

That was six minutes after the start, and for half-an-hour the Athletic were much the better side. The Town did not seem able to gauge the pace of the ball, and the sharp passing of the home-forwards did much damage. It was when the Town began to swing the ball about that the change came over the game, and they had an equal share and often exerted severe pressure in the second half.

There were seventeen minutes to go when the equaliser came through KERR. He got hold after Herod had failed to head the ball accurately, and a strong burst at top speed took him past Smith, who tried hard to bring him down. It

### APPEARED

### IMPOSSIBLE

for a goal from the position Kerr eventually reached, but he drove home a grand

shot low down from a very difficult angle, Wood just touching the ball but failing to arrest its progress.

On the Town side Reid and Butcher went close, the latter having one shot travel along the bar with Wood out of position, and on many occasions it appeared that the Town would get the winning goal. So at the other end, Gibbon made several fine saves; two in particular stood out as masterly. Once he rushed across to a rapidly moving low ball and his left hand turned it clear, while on another occasion he got his left hand to a terrific shot from Steele and turned it over the bar.

The Town fully deserved their point, although one could not claim that they were the better side. Charlton showed better judgment, but the pace and free use of the ball when the Town were on the move were always

### DANGEROUS FACTORS.

They were the better side for most of the second half, but on the whole there was nothing to choose between the teams. For the Town Gibbon was at his very best in goal, and never made a mistake. Graham and Till were better than the previous meeting, and after a shaky opening, due to the uncertainty of the movement of the ball, they got well on top, and gave Gibbon plenty of room while covering each other well. Only once did Till lapse into his fault of dribbling, and both kicked cleanly and a nice length. The middle men played strong, spoiling football, and harried the opposition without ceasing. The flanks were some little time in settling down, but in the second half both did splendid work, and Walker was a powerful factor, in spite of severe treatment and a damaged leg. Millar gradually mastered the fleet Richards, and in the second half his weight and dash were

### OFTEN USEFUL

in quarters where things had a tendency to get out of hand. Jennings was in his element, and Thomson was brought to subjection after a lively opening, and the Town centre-half played a big part in assaults on the home goal.

The forwards were not so attractive as a line as were the home quintette, but their rushes were fraught with danger always. Hoar and Butcher made the right wing more effective than at any time this year, and on a better ground they would probably have wrought a lot of damage. Many of their runs were cleverly executed, and both were fast and tricky. On the other flank Hoten was well watched, but Reid played to him so well that they got through a lot of work, and their dashes led to

### EXCITING SCENES

in the second half, the referee having to take a hand on several occasions. Kerr approached his best form, swinging the ball about well, and making furious raids that harassed the home backs. If the improvement is maintained the team should do well in the remaining games.

On the home side Wood was a safe custodian; the backs played well, but, like Rees and Goodman, were often unfair. Armitage was a fine pivot, and of the forwards Steele and Smith were splendid.

Beautiful weather prevailed, but the attendance could not have been more than 3,000.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC ..... 1

LUTON TOWN ..... 1

CHARLTON. — Wood; Smith (N.), Herod; Rees, G. H. Armitage, Goodman; Richards, Steele, Thomson, Ayres, Smith (S.).

LUTON. — Gibbon; Graham, Till; Walker, Jennings, Millar; Hoar, Butcher, Kerr, Reid, Hoten.

Referee: Mr. R. G. Rudd, London.