

SWINDON'S STERN STRUGGLE.

LUTON TOWN WIN BY ODD GOAL OF FIVE.

REID GETS A BRACE

(By CRUSADER.)

LUTON TOWN 3 goals

SWINDON TOWN 2 "

LUTON. — Orr; Anderson, Graham; Walker, Jennings, Millar; Hoar, Butcher, Kerr, Reid, Hoten.

SWINDON.—Randall; Dickinson, Weston; Cooper, Bew, Dawe; Denyer, Rogers, Daniel, Johnson, Davies.

Referee.—Mr. W. Musther, London.

The smallest attendance of the season on the Town ground had one of the best entertainments of the season. But for some quaint blunders by the referee and the too-readiness of some of the crowd to heckle him, the game might have ranked as the choicest of the programme, in spite of the effect the heavy rain of the morning had on the ground. Going was slippery rather than heavy, and there appeared little prospect of as keen, clean and fast a game as was witnessed in spite of this being the end of the season.

Some go was put into the opening, and, after the Town had given the first thrill and Hoten had been unable to keep upright to meet a centre from Hoar, Bew pushed the ball up the middle, and JOHNSON showed us his title to be Swindon's leading goal-scorer and how he won it, for without hesitation he crashed in

A MAGNIFICENT SHOT

that flashed into the net right away from Orr. Only two minutes had gone then, and, after the Town had made a spirited attempt, Swindon evoked more thrills, and on three occasions Orr made very fine saves for the Railwaymen worked openings for use and took full advantage of opportunity. Once Walker kicked the ball off Daniel's foot when a goal appeared a certainty. Davies and Denyer were the principal raiders, and got across some fine centres. Hoar did ditto at the other end, and we were glad to see the equaliser come after a lot of hard work. Hoar, I think it was, sent in a high centre, and Randall tried to catch the ball. It fell between his arms and his ball, and Kerr dashed up and tried to kick it past him, but it came off him to BUTCHER, who tapped it into the net. The Town then enjoyed more of the

game, and steadiness in front of goal would have brought them better than a share at the interval.

Very soon after the resumption the Town attack exerted stiff pressure, and the Town half-backs gradually took command of the midfield, with the result that the "Railwaymen" were struggling incessantly

TO STEM THE TIDE.

Hoten, who had not been at his best in the first half, made a grand effort that only just failed, but shortly afterwards he started a movement, in the course of which all the Town forwards took part. Hoar finally swung the ball in and, after Randall had repelled two shots, REID promptly took advantage of the ball as it came back from the goalkeeper, and glashed it into the net. The Swindon backs put up a sturdy resistance, and although the Town forwards were continually working in the Swindon penalty area, they got few openings. The visitors' defence were rewarded when the referee allowed Daniel to get away from a palpably offside position. Even the Swindon players stood still, and Daniel hesitated and then went on. Millar alone had kept moving, and this fact enabled him to overtake Daniel and kick the ball off his toe for a corner kick. This was well placed by Davies, and the ball was never properly got away. It went out to DAWE, who shot hard from 15 yards' range, and the ball passed among a crowd of players into the net, and so equalised.

THE CROWD'S WRATH

found vent, and the referee came in for almost continuous demonstration, and just afterwards he again made a bad mistake in allowing a player to go from an offside position. The Town continued to have the upper hand, but Swindon made several dangerous raids, and Orr had to save one or two hot shots. Swindon defended so well that there seemed little prospect of another goal, but five minutes from the end a clever pass from Walker enabled Hoar to send in a high ball that dropped awkwardly under the bar. Randall and Kerr went for it and both missed, but REID was on the spot

and promptly headed the ball into the net, into which Randall and Kerr had both fallen. Swindon protested that Randall was impeded, but he had missed the ball before Kerr fell on him by the impetus of his rush to head into the net.

That was the end of the scoring. It was

A DESERVED WIN,

for although the "Railwaymen" showed the better football in the opening, the Town improved immensely, and in the second half had very much more of the game.

Orr made several fine saves, and I cannot agree with those who thought he should have stopped the first shot which scored. He put up his best game for the Town. Anderson was again in great form, although he made mistakes through the slippery ground. Graham was good after a very uncertain start, and in the second half touched his best. The halves played strong football when they settled down, but they were frequently puzzled by the cleverness of the visiting forwards in the early stages. Walker fed his wing very smartly on many occasions, and was the best of the six halves in this respect, but he found Davies

AN ELUSIVE, SKILFUL OPPONENT.

Jennings did great spoiling work, and Daniel seldom got a chance. Millar again played well against a clever wing, especially in the second half. Hoar was the most aggressive of the forwards, but he owed his chances to Butcher, who nursed him splendidly. The Town captain also regulated the pace of his centres much better, the ball seldom travelling too far. His partner forged and dribbled to good purpose. Kerr was thrusful, and made many strong rushes, but Weston watched him well, and with rare resource neutralised many efforts. Reid again proved his title to inclusion, and in front of goal was as dangerous as any forward. Hoten was a long time settling down, but did good work in the second half.

For the visitors Weston, Dawe, Bew, Denyer, Johnson, and Davies were the best.

There were fewer than 4,000 spectators.