

LUTON LOSE AGAIN. BUT DESERVED BETTER FATE AT NORTHAMPTON.

AN EVEN GAME.

(By "CRUSADER.")

NORTHAMPTON 1
LUTON TOWN 0

NORTHAMPTON.—Smith; Watson, Jeffs; Needham, Wood, Williams; Pease, Cook, Lockett, Myers, Page.

LUTON.—Brookes; Johnson, Graham; Walker, Jennings, Mills; Hoar, Cockle, Kerr, Shankly, Dennis.

Referee.—Mr. N. Shuker, Whitwell.

Jennings lost the toss and the Town were set to face a stiff breeze. They were first away, Dennis and Kerr nearly getting through. Big kicking by the defenders on either side was not to the benefit of the forwards, but play warmed up a bit, and Cockle and Hoar were troublesome. Lockett sent Pease away, and he dropped the ball well in front, but Myers headed over. Again Pease and Lockett made progress, but Mills intercepted. The "Cobblers" came again, and Cook had a good chance, but

FIDDLER TOO LONG,

and Graham kicked away. The Town replied and Shankly sent Dennis away, but Hoar was given offside when the centre came over. So was Lockett at the other end, and Kerr at the Northampton end again, both sets of defenders using the offside rule. There was nothing very exciting until Lockett snapped up a pass from Page and was cleverly stopped by Graham. The "Cobblers" played the one-back game, and Dennis was given offside in another neat movement. Brookes misled the crowd when he ran out and aimed to kick the ball, but then stepped over it and let it go out. Shankly tried hard to force a passage. Luton were more than holding their own, and Hoar and Cockle did some smart things, but Jeffs and Watson were safe. Johnson was kicking well, and the bulk of the work was on his wing for some time.

Hoar was wrongly given offside, but on the other hand Lockett was allowed to go from an offside position. Lockett put in a beautiful shot just afterwards, the ball rebounding from the bar for Pease to shoot wide. Good play by the Town left flank enabled Dennis to centre, and Williams conceded a flag-kick. This was well placed by Hoar, and Mills put in

A FINE SHOT

when the ball came out of the ruck, but Smith tipped it over the bar. Dennis placed the flag-kick well, and when the ball was sent out, one of the Town players shot in, and Watson turned the ball into his own net, but the whistle went, apparently for offside against somebody. Graham made two fine clearances, and Hoar tried to burst through, but was overcrowded. The referee was none too smart on the offside rule, and allowed Cook to go from an absurd position, but the forward's shot was wide. A warm attack by the "Cobblers" was followed by a strong rush by the Town left wing, and ended by Jennings shooting over. At the other end Lockett was well offside, and then Jeffs used his weight to keep Hoar out when Dennis put over a good centre. The Town forwards showed pretty footwork now and then, and Shankly twice put in good shots, once hitting the side net, and the other going just wide.

Smith had to run out to stop Kerr, and then Johnson foiled Lockett in brilliant style. Cockle nearly beat Jeffs and Williams single-handed, but slipped at the critical moment. Walker put Kerr through very prettily, but the centre-forward sent the ball too far and Smith ran out and cleared. Lockett was penalised for a foul on Johnson, and then Page was offside in another movement. Pease got over a nice centre and Lockett headed over. Kerr put his left wing away in clever fashion, but Smith saved the centre all right.

THE FIRST GOAL

came to Northampton as the result of a series of misfortunes for the Town. Walker slipped when he had Page beaten, and the latter recovered and centred. Cook was offside, but was allowed to swing the ball forward to PEASE, and again an appeal was ignored. The winger, who was quite unattended, ran in, beating Graham, and although Mills partly stopped him, the winger recovered, and beat Brookes with a fast ground shot. This was after 41 minutes' play, and the Town re-started as if they would get level at once, but they were driven back. Twice was Lockett offside before the interval came with the score:

NORTHAMPTON 1
LUTON TOWN 0

In the first attack on resuming Hoar and Kerr were each given offside, and then Cook was penalised for fouling Mills. A good run by Dennis saw the ball just beat him, and Page made a big effort, but sent wide.

Strong work by Jennings relieved the Town defence, but the "Cobblers" were soon back again, and Mills smartly stopped Pease at the expense of a corner. A sudden dash by Luton saw Cockle and Hoar in possession, but Watson ran across and deprived the latter just in time. Kerr made a desperate effort, but Jeffs neatly held him up. Jennings was fouled by Myers, and from the free kick Hoar shot past. Another raid initiated by Dennis won a corner, and the "Cobblers" packed their goal and got the ball away. Mills held up Pease in clever style, and the Town maintained the attack. Wood fouling Cockle as the latter beat him with an open drive in. Hoar put the free kick over the bar.

The referee appeared to get worried by the crowd, who did not relish the close watch Jennings kept on Lockett, and the result was that several fouls were given against the Town centre-half, while

Lockett was regularly "setting a back" for him.

THEIR DUELS WERE ROBUST,

but not dirty, and no interference was necessary except that Lockett should have been penalised. With the Town working hard for an equaliser the Northampton halves, particularly William and Jeffs, were very unscrupulous, and fouls were frequent, the referee allowing the players to get out of hand.

An attack by the "Cobblers" saw Williams fire over the bar from long range, and then Cockle got a pass to Hoar, and the latter swung the ball in, Smith saving with difficulty. The "Cobblers" got going on the left, and Brookes had to run out and kick away, and a moment later to fist away. Williams was spoken to for a bad foul on Hoar, although the latter got clear and had an opening. Smith had to run out to capture another centre from Hoar, and Cockle made a gallant effort to break through.

Smith saved from Shankly, and then from Mills, and play was keen and not too clean. Brookes saved from Cook at close range, and Page got in a nice centre for Lockett to head over. Play became scrambling now, halves and backs kicking without regard for feeding. A warm attack by the "Cobblers" saw Page hit the post again. Then the Town got going again, and Kerr was given offside as Jeffs fouled him. Walker was a foot wide with a good shot from Mills' pass, and Jeffs fouled Cockle, but the free kick was not well used. Jennings tried to force a passage, but was penalised for pushing. Big kicking by Johnson and Watson was the next feature, and then Needham used his hands to stop Dennis taking a pass from Mills. The "Cobblers" got through on the right, but Johnson came over and robbed Pease. Shankly sent Kerr through, and the latter gave Dennis a pass close in, but the ball swerved as the winger hit it and went wide. Luton redoubled their efforts as the end approached, but the "Cobblers" defence took no risks, and the end came with the score as above.

COMMENTS.

There was not a goal in it on the run of the play. Even the very partisan supporters of Northampton agreed that a draw would have been a better reflex of the play, and Pease should never have been left unattended to get the chance to score. If the Town team are kept together they will not lose many games if they play as well as in this game, AND improve in marksmanship. The defence was safe, the middle men left something to be desired in the matter of nursing, and the forwards in target work. The "Cobblers" showed more energy and promptitude in front of goal. It is true that they hit the bar twice, but the Town had as many opportunities, the difference being that they did not shoot with the same promptitude. Smith had more to do than Brookes, but there was not equal sting in the stuff he had to gather. Brookes was safe, and both backs played well. Johnson's was his best to date, and he never kicked wrongly, while he kept a very tight hand on Lockett. Graham did wonderfully well, kicking with great power, and timing his rushes well. Walker was very good indeed in the first half, but gave Page rather too much scope in the second, and that player was the main point of danger. Jennings played with his accustomed vigour and resolution and Mills was not surpassed by any half-back. He worked magnificently and fed his forwards well. The forwards played better together than before, and some of the passing was very smart. Hoar did better than in any previous game, and Cockle and Shankly both did smart things, and were very active, but might have looked after their partners better. Dennis again showed good form, and was the most persistent of the line, while Kerr was thrustful in spite of the unfair attentions of Jeffs.

For the home side Smith was safe, Jeffs was the better back, Wood played a fine game at centre-half, and Page and Pease were the pick of the forwards.

For a time Mr. Shuker did well, but when the crowd took a turn he lost control and was very poor.

The attendance was 5,340, representing £306 11s. 6d. in cash.

FOOTBALL
On the Town Ground
TO-MORROW EVENING
(WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th.)
SOUTHERN LEAGUE.
Luton Town Res.
v.
Coventry City Res.
Kick-off 5.45. p.m.

NOTE NEW REDUCED PRICES

ADMISSION:
GROUND, 6d. BOYS UNDER 14 3d.