

BEATEN BY BRIGHTON

BUT LUTON SHOULD HAVE SHARED

TOWN'S IMPROVED COMBINATION.

(By "CRUSADER.")

BRIGHTON AND HOVE ALBION ... 2
LUTON TOWN 1

BRIGHTON.—W. Cook; Smith, Jenkins; Wilkinson, Bedford, Little; Nightingale, Dennis, T. Cook, Hopkins, Wilson.

LUTON.—Brookes; Anderson, Till; Mills, Jennings, Neal; Mackey, Shankly, Reid, Dennis, Brown.

Referee.—Mr. H. E. Gray, London.

Another defeat was chalked up against the Town on Saturday, but if ever there has been a game this season when such a result was undeserved, this was it. Writing of the Cup-tie at West Bromwich, I said that the Club, including the players, had a lesson in football, and hoped it would not be lost upon directors and players alike. Judging by the play on Saturday at Brighton, the Town team profited by their journey to Birmingham. In no game this season have the Town players combined so well, and it was only poor finishing, due largely to the awful state of the goal areas, that prevented them winning well, or, at least, sharing the points. They did not begin like that, for Brighton had the better of the exchanges for 20 minutes, but afterwards the Town forwards improved to a wonderful extent, and in the second half overwhelmed the home halves, and time and again careered through.

SWINGING THE BALL ABOUT

They made good use of the speed of the extreme wingers, and on at least three occasions in the second half the Brighton spectators were shouting "Goal" when the Town forwards were struggling to get their feet out of the mud in order to kick the ball over the goal line. Then, it did not happen, and I do not believe it ever would have happened if Mackey had not done it. He happened to receive the ball in shooting position just beyond the stretch of mud, and that made all the difference.

Brookes was well tested in the first half, and he made many saves before he was beaten by HOPKINS. We in the Press box could not definitely say whether Wilson was offside or not, because the box has been erected in just about the worst part of the ground to follow the play with any certainty. Still, it appeared as if he were when he gathered the ball near the corner flag, and all the Town defenders were shouting and gesticulating, but he was allowed to centre, and Hopkins had

AN EASY OPENING.

Of the second goal, which came in the second half, there was no doubt in the minds of the Press men. The Town players were furious about it. It was in the second half, after the Town had pressed for a long time and equalised. That goal by MACKEY came as the result of a good pass to the left wing by Reid; smart offensive work by Brown and Dennis, a throw-in, a header by Jennings to Reid, and the latter passed back to Mackey, who ran in and beat Cook all ends up for a very fine goal. The Town were playing so cleverly now that it seemed certain they would win, and Till was helping just behind the attack, in which forwards and halves were operating in unison. The ball was kicked for-

ward to where T. Cook was standing, well over the middle line, with only Anderson and Brookes in front of him, and there was

A GENERAL APPEAL.

Cook, however, slashed the ball out to the right wing, where Nightingale was equally unreasonably placed, and that player returned it to COOK, who had only Brookes to beat, and did it with a fast shot. In vain the Town players protested; the goal counted. Then the Town went at it hammer and tongs, but they could not beat Walter Cook, who saved at full length on several occasions.

It was a most aggravating result, and the Town players could be excused expressing themselves freely and forcibly about it, while the one or two supporters who have become domiciled at Brighton felt much aggrieved. On the whole it was a good, clean, sporting game, in spite of the usual attempts by the mob element at Brighton to make things go the other way. They seemed to upset Mr. Gray a good deal, but it speaks well for both sets of players that they did not "fall to it."

Brookes' goalkeeping was excellent again, and Anderson and Till played magnificently at back. More than once Till dribbled half the length of the field and placed to his forwards, and he won

A LOT OF APPLAUSE

by fine stopping. Two or three times in as many minutes he outwitted Nightingale cleverly, and the winger then made an attempt to trip the Town back, but Till jumped over his opponent's legs, and then courteously lifted Nightingale to his feet and shook hands with him. The crowd rose to the Town player, who was at his very best, and he made one wonder whether he could not be utilised in any position, so skilful was his control. Anderson held a special watching brief over Tom Cook, and a great deal was seen of the centre-forward. Jennings made a great difference to the middle line in spite of an injury that damaged his knee again. He swung the ball out well, and defended with all his customary determination. Mills was as ubiquitous as ever, and pulled through a tremendous amount of work, while Neal acquitted himself as well on the flank as he has done in the middle. He is showing splendid knowledge of feeding, and his genial humour and clean tackling carried him through a lot of trouble.

Even

MORE SATISFACTORY

was the forward work. Reid led his line splendidly against unceremonious opposition, and his wide passes were well timed. On either side of him were two quick and intelligent servers, for both Shankly and Dennis took a lot of dislodging from possession, and tended their partners well. Mackey and Brown showed great speed, and although lacking in confidence at the start, they both did well in the second half, and seldom wasted a ball.

For the Albion Cook kept goal well, Smith was the more reliable back, Wilkinson the best half, and Nightingale the most accomplished forward. There were 6,000 spectators, and the weather was fine, though far from brilliant.