

STILL LONGING FOR A WIN

LUTON TOWN DRAW WITH SWINDON

DENNIS' PENALTY GOALS.

(By "CRUSADER.")

LUTON TOWN 2 goals
SWINDON TOWN 2 "
LUTON.—Brookes; Anderson, Till; Mills, Jennings, Millar; Mackey, Shankly, Kerr, Reid, Dennis.

SWINDON.—Randall; Dickinson, Weston; Cooper, Bew, Rogers; Denyer, Purcell, Richardson, Johnston, Davies.

Referee.—Mr. A. L. Grinstead, East Ham.

Probably most of the spectators were getting a foretaste once more of the bitters of defeat when a second penalty kick enabled the Town to get on level terms, and it was almost as good as the sweets of victory when the ball went past Randall. Yet on the general play there could be little doubt that the Town were the better side, and while the "Railwaymen" felt that they had been the victims of an unkind fate in the shape of the referee, at heart they must have felt very fortunate to be taking away a point. The failings of the Town were the good fortune of the visitors—not merely the failings of the defence, but the inefficiency forward. The

LACK OF ENTERPRISE

and promptitude in front of goal have cost the Town a lot of points this season. There could be fault found with every department of the team, no doubt, but, comparing the play of the forwards and halves, and the general co-operation with that of opponents, and taking the Argyle and Swindon as examples of teams well placed, it has to be granted that Luton have shown better form of late, and the mid-field work has often deserved better than a "pass" mark. In the matter of shooting, however, there remains a tremendous lot to be desired, and the first duty of the new manager, if he knows his job, will be to find new boots for the forwards, or new forwards for the boots.

Three-fifths of the play was in favour of Luton, and time and again the forwards and halves outmanoeuvred the Swindon defence, only to fail at close quarters. It must seem extraordinary to players of

TWENTY YEARS AGO

that forwards do not shoot half so often or nearly so well. Time was when 20 yards was usual as shooting distance, but a shot from that distance to-day is almost a rare occurrence. The ball is hugged well-nigh to the net before a shot is attempted, consequently the defence usually has time to recompose itself, and we see rebounds from full backs as often as saves by goalkeepers. Swindon swung the ball about better than the Town did when they got it, and while DENYER was given offside time after time, the policy paid, for he was certainly not offside when he opened the scoring after Johnston and Richardson had paved the way. Till was blamed by many, but it was obvious that the ball and the ground beat him and gave Denyer

AN EASY TASK.

That was the only goal of the first half, but the Town had ever so many chances, and while Randall made one or two good saves, Brookes had quite as much difficult work, though not in action so often.

Swindon were happy in their lead at the interval.

The second half was much the same as the first—the Town sustaining attack better, but Swindon ever dangerous when they got away. Dennis then made a wonderful run, in which he beat Cooper and Dickinson before shooting with terrific force. Randall went down full length and pushed the ball out, and both Shankly and Mackey rushed up to take an easy chance. It seemed as if they would fail when Weston seized Shankly's leg and held

him, and the referee immediately gave a penalty kick. The Swindon players made

A LITTLE SCENE,

but Mr. Grinstead was adamant, and DENNIS took the shot and showed that he could be relied upon for that office, Randall not having a ghost of a chance with a ball that travelled low at lightning speed to the goalkeeper's right hand. That gave the Town new heart, and they played really fine football in midfield, but made hash of their skill when the final effort was needed. Then the unexpected happened. A fierce assault by Swindon saw Brookes save brilliantly at close quarters, and the flag-kicks were got away. Bew, however, lying well back, received the ball and shot from near the limit of the penalty area. Anderson was near the upright, and Brookes seemed to be bothered, if not muddled, and he threw himself at the ball

A SECOND TOO LATE.

It struck the post and came to JOHNSTON, who had a vacant goal and could not miss. The Town did not lose heart, but there seemed little likelihood of another goal when Reid banged the ball across to the Town right wing. Weston stopped it with his arm, almost catching it, and the referee at once pointed to the penalty spot. The Swindon players again protested strongly, but it was of no avail, and DENNIS confirmed expectations with a shot similar to his previous goal except that this time the goalkeeper dived for a shot on the right, and the ball whizzed on his left.

The visitors were very sore, and Davies, who had done a lot of talking, was called up and his name taken within a minute of the kick-off. The game was rather dull after this, and the end of a sporting and enjoyable game came with the teams on equal terms.

THE MAIN NEED

of the Town is given above. Brookes made several splendid saves, and on two occasions when he might well have been excused he got shots away. Anderson made a bad blunder at the start of the game, but afterwards never missed a kick, and tackled well, too. Till was again in good form, and was generally reliable except for the tendency to dribble past forwards. The halves all did well, although I thought that the visiting left wing was allowed too much rope. All three tackled strenuously and fed the forwards well. Jennings again played a great game, and, for the first time, I believe, the critics had not an ill word against him. It would have been strange if they had. The forwards combined well, and both inside wing men gave

SPLENDID PASSES

to their partners. Reid got a lot of work out of Dennis, but when he was required to complete the carry-on to shooting, he failed. Much the same may be said of Shankly, except that he got in the most dangerous shots from any of the inside forwards, and he worked hard and well throughout. Kerr was good enough also until it came to shooting, but he got few passes from his immediate colleagues. Dennis was rather slow in getting off the mark, but on the move he was difficult to catch, and was never overtaken once he had passed as opponent. Mackey also did bright things, showing a good turn of speed and a nice centre, but he did not press the back as he should have done.

For the visitors, Randall was a good custodian, and he had a fine pair of backs. Cooper was a very clever half-back, and Richardson and Johnston were the pick of the forwards.

There were under 6,000 spectators, but the game deserved more.