

LUTON TOWN DRAW.

Exeter City Take Away a Point.

(By "CRUSADER.")

SUPPORTERS of Luton Town will be anxious to see what changes the directors have made in the team to entertain Brighton on Saturday. The continuous failure of the forwards is a worrying business, because it is patent that every man is doing his best, and the general play deserves so much better than defeat or draw.

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It must be admitted that the management has done a lot of shuffling, and it is through no timidity in that respect that the club is not in a far better position. Changes at inside forward are imperative if the team is to get a move from the nether end of the League table.

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It is interesting to know that Mr. Green and Mr. Thompson were out on Saturday with a view to finding new talent, and also that Norman Thomson is in training again this week. Unfortunately for Luton every other club appears to be seeking similar goods, and there are very big prices on moderate players.

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SHANKLY'S goal in the first half of the game with Exeter was well deserved, but many chances had been lost before then, and a much greater number afterwards. BLAKEMORE'S equaliser, in the second half represented one of about four or five opportunities that went to Luton.

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The play of the Town team as a whole was very much in advance of that of Exeter, who seemed to have no idea of combination and whose best parts were the rearguard, and Compton, the outside left. These departments played strong and resolute football, but for the rest there was not a player equal to the Town's representatives in any particular position.

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First honours once more went to the visiting goalkeeper, Pavey, who played brilliantly throughout. As understudy to Harry Bailey, the old Town goalkeeper, Pavey has done well, and on this form he is good enough for any team in the country. It was not only his quickness, but his judgment in taking position that enabled him to frustrate so many good intentions.

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Allowing for all his skill, however, he should have been beaten many times. The chief defaulters were Thompson and Reid, who often got close in but did not shoot promptly or accurately enough. Shankly was also lacking in this respect, but he compensated by clever work in midfield, and he made a lot of openings that were not used.

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The centre-forward had hard luck with some of his drives, but the long time in getting the ball into position for a shot was a deficiency too obvious to be overlooked. Reid was playing too close on the centre-forward, and that nullified a lot of good work by the attack and the middle men.

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Miller and Dennis did well without being brilliant, and they were as dangerous in shooting as were the inside forwards. The former showed no marked trace of his injury, but two or three times he seemed to falter as if afraid his leg would give way. However, his experience is a valuable asset, and he was often able to outwit the opposition by using his head in co-operation with his feet.

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The middle men are providing as strong a barrier as the Town have commanded since the war, and Richards now appears to have established himself at right half, although he will have to give of his best if he is to keep the job. Jennings still remains the first choice for the pivotal position, and unquestionably, was the best half-back on the field on Saturday. It is nothing short of remarkable how his critics have swung round to a better appreciation of his merits. Millar is not playing as well as he has done, perhaps, but on Saturday he was in better fettle than for the last month, and did well. We have a fine middle line.

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The back division played well on Saturday, and the only fault that one could see was Till's lack of speed in comparison with Compton's, but there cannot be many wingers with quicker feet than the Exeter winger, who was playing with Bristol City Reserves a couple of seasons ago. In a battle of wits Till is the equal of any forward he meets, and I doubt if he could ever have played better than at the present time.

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Graham is growing wiser to take advantage of his height in these days, and the way he "went in" on Saturday took Matthews by surprise on several occasions. If he were a stone heavier he would be a hefty defender, and there were times in this game when he made fine bursts before parting with the ball to advantage. Now that Anderson is fit the organisation of defence is going to be a difficult problem. Mingay showed his ability once more, and had not an earthly chance with the shot that beat him.

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On the whole, Exeter were made to look a poor side, but Pavey, Pollard, Charlton and Compton were splendid. They, more than all the rest together, deserved the bonus they have received.

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The attendance was poor for such a day, for the weather was delightful. Six thousand is not a big figure, even for Third League football, and no directorate can provide "thousand-pound players" out of such a small income. It is hardly to be expected that the terraces can afford to pay more, but it does seem to me that some of the public men of the town, whose means are able to stand a substantial call, might make some effort to support the club and put it on a satisfactory financial basis so that good players might be obtained.

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The difficulty, of course, is that the club is a limited company, but I am sure that ways and means could be arranged so as to overcome any trouble in that respect. The club is an asset to the town, and if the well-to-do would only realise that, the club might rise in the world of sport to a really proud position. We never should lose hold of the fact that the Town Club were pioneers of professional football in the South, and only a few days ago I was reading with interest how Messrs. Arnold and Austin represented Luton on the formation of the Southern League. Mr. Arnold's interest is unabated, and we hope he will long continue to hold the reins. Would that more of his friends would join him and put in a tithe of the practical interest he has shown.