

SQUARE AGAIN.

Luton Town's Victory at Brentford's Expense.

(By "CRUSADER").

The victory over Brentford just levelled up matters again and gave us back the point per match average. The Town deserved to win, for although there was not a lot of difference between the teams in the first half, there was a better display in the second by the home side, and they were value for their margin at the finish.

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In the first half Brentford showed the better understanding, played more like a team, and they might have scored on two or three occasions but for the vigilance of the Town defenders. In this connection I fancy that Neal and Millar each saved a goal when the rest of the defenders had been overcome.

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Everybody would agree that the Town's first goal had a large element of luck, because AGNEW'S shot was deflected by Noble, who was in the goal-mouth, and the ball twisted into the net. The second goal was a very good point, the result of a bit of opportunism for which Rennie and JIM THOMPSON were responsible.

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The latter was well up the field when Rennie came through a crowd of players with the ball and shot it up the middle for the Town centre-forward to take in his stride, and after getting the better of Donnelly, he shot into the net, the goalkeeper touching but failing to stop the ball.

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Very soon after the restart, JIM THOMPSON got the third goal. A free kick finely taken by Millar, hit the bar, and although the goalkeeper managed to hit the ball as it came down, the Town leader got his left foot to it, and sent it into the net at a great pace.

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Brentford were never a beaten side until the final whistle, however. They were not disposed to let the Town players "show them up," and Douglas twice got across centres that brought goals. In the first place the ball came into the goal-mouth, and it seemed certain that either Till or Purdy must clear, but LANE slipped in and put the ball past them into the net.

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A minute later Douglas centred from the extreme wing, and TILL, trying to kick a ball that came hip-high, simply turned it into his own goal.

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These reverses were the tonic the Town players badly needed, and they went into the struggle with new determination, and four minutes from the end Jim Thompson burst through on the left wing and centred from the line. MOFFAT met the ball, and without any dalliance, shot hard and true, and the fourth goal was registered.

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Without attaining a high standard, the football was interesting, and some of the footwork was artistic, but the ballooning was above normal, and with the wind in a capricious mood, the players found control very difficult. If anything, Brentford had rather the better of the exchanges for the first half-hour, but they were not quick enough in front of goal. The Town left something to be desired in this direction, but they were more effective than the opposition, and this accounted for the success.

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Purdy made a few good saves, but he should have had a lot more to do in view of the nice combination of the visiting forwards. The backs were generally sound, though Till was not as brilliant as he has been in recent games. Graham played grandly throughout. The halves showed quite a noticeable improvement, Rennie in particular, and without being boisterous, he did better spoiling work than hitherto. Neal and Millar also shaped better, and the latter mastered his wing.

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The forwards played with their customary enthusiasm, but the inside wingers again fell back a lot. Still, the line played far better than at Selhurst, and Dennis should have had a couple of penalty kicks, but the referee ignored appeals that should have been quite unnecessary, for in the first instance there was a clear case of knocking the ball with the elbow, and in the second Dennis was brought down from behind by Donnelly.

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Brentford have a better side than for several seasons. The forwards and halves are big fellows, and not only use their weight, but are also skilful, and played well to each other. The left wing was very good, and Rae, at centre-half, and Thomson in goal, were the shining lights.

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LUTON TOWN 4

BRENTFORD 2

LUTON.—Purdy; Graham, Till; Neal, Rennie, Millar; Moffat, Thomson, Thompson, Agnew, Dennis.

BRENTFORD.—Thomson; Donnelly, McClellon; Noble, Rae, Walton; Hendren, Lane, Watkins, Finlayson, Douglas.

Referee: Mr. H. V. Stott, Tamworth.