

LUTON WIN BOTH HOME GAMES.

Defeat at Charlton.

(By "CRUSADER.")

At Luton on Good Friday:—

LUTON TOWN	1
CHARLTON ATHLETIC	0

Scorer: MILLER.

LUTON. — Mingay; Graham, Till; Neal, Rennie, Millar; Miller, Thomson, Thompson, Agnew, Moffat.

CHARLTON. — Bailey; Smith, Semple; Paterson, Armitage, Steele; Godfrey, Tricker, Biswell, Rankin, Hawkins. Referee.—Mr. E. G. Rudd, London.

At Luton on Saturday:—

LUTON TOWN	2
SOUTHEND UNITED	0

Scorers: NORMAN THOMSON and ROBINSON. Jas. Thompson missed from a penalty kick.

LUTON. — Mingay; Graham, Till; Neal, Rennie, Millar; Moffat, Thomson, Thompson, Agnew, Robinson.

SOUTHEND.—Hayes; Bell, Sayles; Jewhurst, O'Rawe, Andrews; Johnson, Craver, Hicks, Donovan, Smith. Referee: Mr. J. Kelley, London.

At Charlton on Monday:—

CHARLTON ATHLETIC	2
LUTON TOWN	1

Scorers: TRICKER and HEROD (penalty) for Charlton. DENNIS (penalty) for Luton.

CHARLTON. — Bailey; Smith, Herod; Paterson, Armitage, Currie; Godfrey, Biswell, Tricker, Rankin, Hawkins.

LUTON. — Mingay; Graham, Till; Neal, Rennie, Millar; Moffat, Thomson, Thompson, Agnew, Dennis. Referee.—Mr. E. G. Rudd, London.

To be quite frank the football served up during the holidays was far from satisfactory as a spectacle. In the game with Southend and the match at Charlton, the play was not only as unscientific as on Friday, but it was not conducted in the best of spirit, and there were many fouls and much bickering in both games. On Friday the standard of play was poor, but it was less unpleasant than in the other games. Undoubtedly the conditions had much to do with the paucity of good football, for the grounds were very hard and the ball light in each match, while on Friday the breeze was very troublesome and upset the calculations of the players.

From a strictly partisan aspect Luton deserved their two victories, and they

SHOULD HAVE DONE BETTER

at Charlton, for several good opportunities were missed. The defence was up to the average form in all three games, but the play of the half-backs lacked in virility and in feeding of the forwards, many attacks being frustrated simply because there was no supporting element when the forwards had been temporarily checked. Mingay, who superseded Purdy in goal on Good Friday, more than justified the confidence he received, but in no match had he as much work as the other keeper. He was agile, confident, and his anticipation was always good, and on this form he will be difficult to displace. The backs have done well as usual. Till shone in the first two games, and in the first half at Charlton, but in the second half of the third game he was not so happy. Graham continues to improve, and he

WON GOLDEN OPINIONS

for his fine display at Charlton.

Neal did not touch his best in either game at home, but was very much better in the third. Rennie is gradually benefiting by experience, and although his form is not consistent from hour to hour, and he is not yet a good spoiler, he has earned his place, and should develop into a class pivot. Millar has been the most consistent of the three, and he is now playing better than ever he did. As a line, however, they do not take sufficient practical interest in the attack, for in each of the holiday games there has often been a large gap between forwards and halves, with the consequence that pressure has not been sustained as well as it was in the games early this year.

Owing to the illness of Dennis a change was made for the Friday game, Miller coming in at outside right and Moffat crossing over to the left wing. Many blamed the former for

A POOR SHOW,

but, truth to tell, he did not meet with the support he deserved. He got few passes, for all the forwards were off colour. He was dropped on Saturday, Moffat returning to the right wing and Robinson making his first appearance with the first eleven. He was lacking confidence in the early stages, but in the second half he put up a very good game, and, as Miller had done the day before, he scored. Norman Thomson gave a better display on Saturday and registered a very fine goal. His constructive work was very clever, and Jim Thompson should have had several goals to his credit. The centre-forward was off song in the matter of shooting, but his huge strength and enthusiasm are of vital

welfare to the team. Agnew was a whole-hearted worker in every match. He

KEEPS GOING

from start to finish, and is much more robust than his appearance would suggest. Dennis has not had a more effective partner. The last-named returned to the extreme left for the game on Monday, and he did some very good work, though by no means so well in health as he might have been.

There is urgent need for a good coach for the forwards. Like the rest of the side they prefer heavy grounds, but at this period hard grounds are the rule rather than the exception, and tactics should be framed accordingly.

The game with Charlton Athletic on Good Friday was curious, inasmuch as there were not a few supporters who were disposed to think that the Town were lucky to win. Just how far they would have been unlucky had they lost I could not estimate, for they had more than three-fourths of the game. One is apt, when forwards are weak in front of goal, however much they may attack, to discount the superiority in mid-field. None could dispute the fact that the Town were attacking for nearly the whole of the first half, and that in the second, when Charlton had the advantage of the breeze, the balance of play still remained with the home side.

The only goal of the match came from Miller, but if the honour of scoring belonged to him the credit was shared. Till took a free-kick for a foul by Armitage on Millar, and the ball sailed beautifully into the goal-mouth. Three or four players went for it, and Jim Thompson headed against the bar, whence it fell to the feet of MILLER, who had simply to tap it into the net. The second half was then wearing away, and Charlton made desperate efforts to get level, but they were frustrated.

The standard of play was very low, but undoubtedly the goalkeeping of Bailey saved Charlton from a heavy defeat. In the first half he was invincible, and though he was lucky at times, he showed good anticipation, and was resourceful and agile, with safe hands.

Southend United did not enhance their reputation at Luton on Saturday, for they were often unscrupulous in their methods, and with a stronger official they would have experienced serious trouble. The play of the Town was a lot better than against Charlton, and with a little more accuracy in front of goal they must have run up a good score, for there were strenuous times for the Southend defence. Moreover, Jim Thompson failed to score from a penalty kick in the second half, and the shooting all round left a lot to be desired.

A goal was scored in each half, and each well deserved the plaudits of the crowd. The first came when Moffat took a wide pass from Agnew, and from the line he passed back perfectly to Norman THOMSON, who was coming up at a run, and that player slammed the ball into the goal at a terrific pace. The second goal came from ROBINSON, and in some respects it was similar to the first. A good pass up the middle by Neal was accepted by Jim Thompson, who made ground before sending along the carpet a splendid pass to the left winger, who ran in to beat Hayes with a swerving shot just inside the upright.

At Charlton on Monday the Town were unfortunate to lose, as a bad mistake by a linesman gave the home side a penalty kick from which they scored. Play was on the vigorous side throughout, but

THE ILL-FEELING GOT WORSE

after the interval, and there were several bad fouls. Tricker scored the only goal of the first half with a fine shot following a free kick, but the Town missed far easier openings, one by Jim Thompson in the first minute being an extraordinary failure right in front of goal with only the goalkeeper to beat. The penalty kick was given against Graham in the second half. Hawkins got clean away after a corner kick at the Luton end, and had not reached the penalty area when he was tripped by Graham. He did not fall, but went on. Mingay, however, picked up the ball almost off the forward's foot, and the latter collided with the goalkeeper and went down. Instantly the crowd appealed for

A PENALTY KICK

for the offence committed by Graham, and although the whistle had not been blown, the referee went over and consulted a linesman, with the result that Herod scored from the spot kick.

The Town's goal came from a penalty kick, too. During a hot attack Norman Thomson was roughly charged in the back by Herod when almost under the bar. Bailey came out of his goal a little way and stopped Dennis' shot, but the kick had to be re-taken, and Dennis did not give the goalkeeper any chance to save the next shot. The exchanges generally were even, but in the last minute Dennis hit the bar with a fine shot from the most acute angle possible.

AWAY: AS USUAL.

LUTON TOWN LOSE BY ODD GOAL YESTERDAY.

TWO PENALTIES AT CHARLTON.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC 2 goals
LUTON TOWN 1 goal

Charlton. — Bailey; Smith, Herod; Paterson, Armitage, Currie; Godfrey, Biswell, Tricker, Rankin, Hawkins.

Luton. — Mingay; Graham, Till; Neal, Kennie, Millar; Moffat, Thomson, Thompson, Agnew, Dennis.

Referee.—Mr. R. G. Rudd, London.

There was the usual result when the Town went away yesterday, for at the Valley, Charlton, their victims of Good Friday, won by the odd goal in three. It was not that Charlton were good value for victory, for there was precious little difference in the play from the meeting of Friday, but if ever a mistake were made it was in the award of a penalty kick against the Town in the second half, and to this goal the home side owed their success. The foul was committed, undoubtedly, but the offence was a good yard outside the penalty area, and the marks there the scuffle occurred were plainly visible. The referee acted upon the advice of the linesman, and that worthy was very close to a section of supporters who were making a big noise. It was

A VERY WRONG DECISION,

and elicited a hot protest from the Town players, but it was of no avail, for the ruling official took the word of the linesman, as he rightly should, but how the flag-man came to decide that the foul took place inside the area passed the comprehension of all following the game closely.

There had been some rain on Sunday, but it had only settled the dust on the Charlton ground, which was very hard and bare of turf in most parts. The Town had Dennis back on the extreme left wing, and Charlton made several changes. Herod for Semple at left back; Currie for Steele at left half; and Tricker and Biswell changed places, the former taking his natural position as leader of the attack.

The Town were

FIRST AGGRESSIVE,

but Herod cleared a centre from Moffat. There was a brief raid by the home team, and then Agnew and Jim Thompson hustled a way through the middle, and the latter got clean through with none to beat but Bailey, but from a distance of about five or six yards he could do no better than shoot close enough to the goalkeeper for the latter to beat down the ball and get it away. It was a bad miss.

Charlton signalled the escape by making a

swift rush to the other end, and a couple of corners accrued before Tricker headed over the bar. Till was prominent with a fine tackle that dispossessed Godfrey, and Dennis made

A SPEEDY TREK

for the home goal, but after beating Smith his centre found the terraces. The Town left winger did better when he was well fed by Agnew, and Bailey had to pull down an awkward shot under the bar. Play settled in midfield, the backs indulging in big kicking, and Graham held a tight rein on Tricker when the latter tried to break through. A burst by Moffat took him clear, and he centred nicely, but Jim Thompson failed to gather the ball cleanly. For a few minutes the Town had slightly the better of the game, but 18 minutes from the start Neal was penalised for a charge on Tricker. Smith took the kick, and TRICKER deftly trapped the ball, turned to the left, and found the net with a sharp ground shot just inside the farther post. I thought that Graham hesitated a little in tackling, but it was

A FINE GOAL.

Immediately afterwards the home right wing came down in fine style, and Godfrey looked like succeeding until he fell to the attentions of Millar and Till. Then Tricker made a strong attempt, but his shot went just wide of the post. The Town left wing made progress, and Agnew took a surprise shot that travelled a yard wide. The splendid play of Graham then enabled the Town to set up a warm attack, and there was a struggle in the home goal area, both Jim Thompson and Norman Thomson having hard shots crash against opponents, and Bailey just managed to catch the ball as it was sneaking inside the goal.

There was certain liveliness on the Town right wing when Moffat showed his heels to Paterson, and he won a flag-kick, but put the ball behind. Another raid by the Town found Jim Thompson pulled up for

A STRONG SHOULDER CHARGE

that moved Armitage abruptly. Again the Town came, and from Moffat's centre Jim Thompson and Norman Thomson each had shots blocked. Charlton replied, and Mingay had to be alert to deal with a couple of good shots, and then Hawkins was hurt in a collision with Graham, and had to leave the field until the interval. Soon afterwards Godfrey made a neat run and then sent the ball up the middle for Tricker and Mingay to have a race. They crashed, and both were hurt as the ball sailed a dozen yards wide.

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(Continued from previous column.)

The home team were slightly the better up to the change of ends, which came with the score:—

CHARLTON	1
LUTON TOWN	0

First away on resuming Charlton were repulsed, and the Town right wing made headway, but when the ball came into the middle Jim Thompson shot wide. Dennis was in the picture with a good effort and he sent well across, but Moffat's marksmanship was at fault. Smith had to run across to bar Moffat, and he threw himself with unnecessary violence at the little winger, who retaliated, and there was a show of temper. The Town were very aggressive now, Rennie doing some fine work in opening out the game, and there was a gasp when the Town centre-half rammed hard in a beautiful drop shot that skimmed low and true for the target, but

BAILEY WAS VIGILANT.

and he just managed by a great effort to tip the ball the other side of the upright. The home right wing then advanced, but Graham ran over and cleared, and the Town rushed to the other end, but Jim Thompson shot high over the bar. Play was fast, but the ball was too often among the clouds. However, the Town came again, and Millar put in a lovely shot for Bailey to lift the ball over the bar with splendid precision just at the right moment. The flag-kick was not well taken by Moffat, and the ball was sent well out to Godfrey, who made ground, and, although once repelled, he came again and forced a corner. From this Rankin shot in a terrific speed, but Mingay made a grand save at the expense of a corner, which was fruitless.

ILL-FEELING WAS MANIFEST.

and the referee maintained his habit of penalising fair but strong charges, while he missed a lot of ankle rapping. Charlton put up a strong attack through the right wing, but the Town defence was safe, and Moffat was twice fouled in as many minutes. From the free-kick Bailey saved grandly. Then Armitage gave Jim Thompson an ugly reminder of his presence, and from the free-kick a corner resulted. This was also not well taken by Moffat, and the ball came out to Hawkins, who went away with a clear field in front and Graham on his heels. Quite a yard outside the penalty-area Graham tripped the forward but did not bring him down, and he continued until Mingay ran out and retrieved the ball.

THE CROWD APPEALED

vociferously, and the home players crowded round the referee, who then consulted the linesman, with the result that a penalty-kick was given. There was some trouble before the kick was taken, but HEROD scored.

Play now became even more vigorous, and Agnew and Neal were each kicked, and free-kicks awarded, while Rennie got a kick that tore his stocking right down and broke his shin-guard. The Town played more strongly, however, and during a scrimmage in the home goal Herod fouled Norman Thomson deliberately, and a penalty-kick was awarded. Dennis took the kick, and his shot was stopped by Bailey, but the custodian had come out of goal a couple of yards, and the referee ordered

THE KICK TO BE RE-TAKEN.

with the result that DENNIS' second shot was scarcely seen by the home goalkeeper, who again infringed by coming out of goal, but it did not serve him on this occasion.

The Town had a fair share of the remaining play, but Charlton played for keeps, and took no risks. In the last minute, however, Dennis put in a lovely shot that hit the bar and went over.

The home side were all out to avenge their defeat of Good Friday, and they were not very particular how they did it. It was in many respects a game like Friday's, with the ball too light and often far above the reach of the players, there being

FEW CARPET PASSES.

Mingay kept goal well, and Graham gave a grand back display, marred only by the trip referred to. Till was as good as ever in the first half, but he fell away somewhat after the interval. The halves were better than on Saturday. Millar again gave a fine exhibition, and Rennie was a powerful agent after a rather poor start. His passing in the second half enabled the Town to attack frequently. Neal also did a great deal better than on Saturday, and Hawkins could make little ground. The forwards were moderate, Dennis being the best, though all worked hard. The ball was held too long, generally speaking, and the sooner this fact is assimilated the better.

For Charlton Bailey again proved himself a goalkeeper of quality; Herod was the better back; Armitage played a grand game, and Tricker and Rankin were the best forwards.

There were about 4,000 spectators.