

"BEES" MAKE A BUZZ.

LUTON TOWN MANAGE TO WIN AT HOME.

Desperate Struggle Last Night.

(By "CRUSADER").

LUTON TOWN	2
BRENTFORD	1

LUTON.—Mingay; Graham, Till; Richards, Rennie, Millar; Pointon, Thomson, Thompson, Agnew, Clark.

BRENTFORD.—Ferguson; Donnelly, Winship; Hodnett, Rae, Bellamy; Craddock, Lane, Watkins, Dearn, Berry.

Referee: Mr P. F. Elphee, Maidstone.

There is a very different story to tell of Luton's first home game. At Bristol on Saturday they were a very fine team; last night, for a long time, they were little better than a rabble. It is not difficult to assign the reason; it was summed up in the summary methods of the Brentford half-backs and forwards, which quite upset the ideas of the Town. So we had more determination than skill, and though there were quite enough thrills for the average spectator, the quality was not exactly satisfying.

I do not know why Richards chose to face the sun when he had won the toss, but this seemed to be

THE FIRST ERROR.

It was multiplied many times afterwards, and yet I cannot agree with those who claim that the Town were lucky to win. Their work was far below their performance at Bristol, certainly, but the livelier scenes took place in the Brentford goal area, and there were thrice as many shots directed at Ferguson's charge as at Mingay's. That is clear from my notes, but the raids of the "Bees" were so full of danger that we were inclined to give them an undue share of credit. It was that brilliant run and shot of Watkins when the visitors first got away that did it, and every time he got the ball we thought he was going to score. It was

A GOOD JOB

he did not have Jim Thompson's chances, or there would have been a sad tale for Luton.

The Town began fairly well, but the enthusiasm and vigour of the "Bees" seemed to take them off their game, and there was not much that troubled Ferguson seriously, though any number of shots went very close. His backs defended lustily, and were not particular where the ball went so long as it was kept out of the goal-mouth, and many corners were conceded. All the Town forwards had shots, and Rennie and Millar assisted. Watkins made a swoop that went very near scoring, and after a while got away again, and was right between the backs when Mingay came out

IN THE NICK OF TIME

and covered him finely. The goalkeeper lost possession, but the situation was saved after a corner to the visitors. Ferguson then had all his work cut out to hold a shot from Richards, ran out and beat Jim Thompson when the latter was through, saved twice at the expense of corners, and saw many shots and headers go close.

Then there was another red-hot raid by the visitors' right wing, and although they were repelled a little, Hodnett pushed the ball into the centre: DEARN was on it in a flash, taking Rennie and the backs by surprise, and beating Mingay all ends up. It was a fine goal, but suggested that the Town defenders were caught napping. This was honey for the "Bees," and they came again.

IN EXUBERANT FASHION.

The crowd were brought to their feet as Mingay handled a shot from the left, and was all but knocked through his goal by Lane. The ball dropped from his hands, but he managed to scramble it round the post.

Pointon did brilliant work before the interval, and Clark put over many clever centres, but they went begging or were badly used, and with Brentford packing well, their goal was intact at the chance of ends.

BRENTFORD	1
LUTON	Nil

The second half was young when we got evidence that the Town had decided to copy the tactics of the visitors, and just five minutes had elapsed before success came. Pointon had twice dropped across beautiful centres, and three corners had followed, but they were fruitless. Then there was a fourth, and after the ball had once been sent out, MILLAR came tearing in to leap high above the ruck and nod the ball downwards and right away from Ferguson into the net.

The Town went great guns for a while, and the Brentford defenders were sorely harassed. There were hopes of a quick second goal when Jim Thompson was badly brought down in the penalty area. He took the kick himself, and made

A SORRY MESS

of it, shooting yards wide. This was a damper for the crowd, but they found consolation soon afterwards when Pointon got away, put over a perfect centre, and NORMAN THOMSON scored a delightful goal with his head.

For a long time the Town were on top, but missed many chances, often shooting wildly, or attempting to walk the ball through. With their repeated failures, Brentford took new heart, and put on a lot of pressure. Most of their best work in the first half had been from raids, but now they sustained spells of attack, and it required all the ingenuity of Graham and Till to circumvent them, while Mingay was often in difficulties. However, there was no damage done to either goal average in the remaining period, and the game ended with the score as above.

ASKING FOR RAIN.

The Town players are asking for rain, and a continuance of this summer weather may dash the hopes they have of a successful month. They will do better on a heavy ground, but I do not think they will meet many teams like Brentford. The visitors were exultant over the thrashing they gave Brighton, and were earnestly intent upon repeating it on Luton. They might well have done it, too, but for the vigilance of Graham and Till. To the backs we owed most, and the former was the finest defender on the field. There is still, however, need for rather better co-operation with Mingay, and forwards should not be allowed a free rush at the goalkeeper. Mingay again lost the ball last night after catching it, but apart from this, none could grumble. He made several fine saves. Millar was the most consistent half, and played finely throughout. Rennie was prominent with clever clearances, and now and then gave his forwards opportunities by his clever and first time kicking, but he lost Watkins often. Richards was some time before getting into his stride, but was

A POWERFUL FACTOR

in restoring the confidence of the team, and did well in the second half.

The forwards were thrown out of joint by the methods of the visiting halves, but they were clever enough to make many chances that were not well used. The marksmanship was very poor, or the victory should have shown a bigger margin. Clark and Pointon were most effective, and Norman Thomson, without touching his Saturday form, was the cleverest of three inside men who were whole-hearted, as usual, and will win matches when the conditions are better for football than cricket.

For the visitors, Ferguson was a fine goalkeeper, always alert; Donnelly the safer back; Rae the best of a resolute middle line, and Watkins the star of a dangerous forward line.