

BRIGHT EASTER FOR LUTON TOWN.

FIVE POINTS OF A POSSIBLE SIX.

A Holiday Treat.

(By "CRUSADER.")

At Brighton on Good Friday:—

BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION .. 1
LUTON TOWN .. 1

Scorers: THOMPSON for Luton; JENNINGS for Brighton.

BRIGHTON—Williams; Jenkins, Curran; Wilkinson, Mooney, Little; Oswald, Cook, Jennings, Neil, Wilson.

LUTON—Harper; Richards, Till; Black, Rennie, Millar; Clark, Reid, Thompson, Woods, Dennis.

Referee: H. E. Gray, Forest Gate.

At Luton on Saturday:—

LUTON TOWN .. 1
CHARLTON ATHLETIC .. 0

Scorers: THOMPSON.

LUTON—Harper; Richards, Till; Black, Rennie, Millar; Pointon, Reid, Thompson, Woods, Dennis.

CHARLTON—Preddy; Smith, Herod; Paterson, Armitage, Davis; Sherlaw, Biswell, Gibson, Rankin, Horton.

Referee: E. G. Goddard, Swindon.

At Luton on Monday:—

LUTON TOWN .. 4
BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION .. 0

Scorers: REID (3), THOMPSON.

LUTON—Harper; Richards, Till; Black, Rennie, Millar; Pointon, Reid, Thompson, Woods, Dennis.

BRIGHTON—Williams; Jenkins, Curran; Wilkinson, Edmunds, Little; Oswald, Cook, Jennings, Neil, Wilson.

This has been a very happy Easter for Luton Town, and only by the merest fluke were they prevented from gathering the full complement of points from the three holiday games. Had they done so they would have equalled their points records for last season, and still had three games to play. They have

two hard games away, and one not by any means easy, at home. The Town players all think they are capable of taking as much from these last three games as from the Easter three, and after their display on Monday the supporters will admit a possibility. At Bristol the City will be a tough proposition, but Brighton was there by two goals clear. At home to Bournemouth the unbeaten home record should be maintained, and then there is for the final match the journey to Plymouth. If the two away games are lost and the home game won, the Town will finish with 24 points as against 43 last season. They should manage that all right.

AT BRIGHTON.

Few people expected the Town to bring anything home from Brighton except the usual reminders of a keen game, but they played splendid football and were unfortunate to lose the lead when only seven minutes remained for play.

The Albion played strong, dashing football, but the Town were equally determined, and showed much more method in their work, and Williams, though not having as much work in back as Harper, had equally difficult tasks, and several times was exceedingly lucky to save his charge from downfall.

The Town's goal came some few minutes after the interval, when THOMPSON, after good work by Dennis, beat Williams with a fine shot.

In spite of fierce efforts by the home side, Luton had equally good chances, and many times came near scoring. When Brighton equalised the fault lay with Richards' enthusiasm. Harper could have cleared easily, but Richards interposed and kicked the ball hard against JENNINGS, from whom is 'bound' into the net.

CHARLTON'S VISIT.

At home the Town made Charlton Athletic look very poor stuff on Saturday, but they quite failed to get the measure of the conditions, and were greatly troubled by the way in which the lively ball flew off the hard ground. Preddy, the Charlton goalkeeper, gave a brilliant display, and he saved his side from a crushing defeat, although the Town forwards missed a lot of chances.

This game also was blank in the first half, when the second half was 14 minutes old, Dennis managed to prevent the ball going out of play, headed it in front of goal, and THOMPSON headed it into the net.

Very seldom did the Athletic get going, and their forwards continually had to run back to the penalty area to assist the backs and halves, with the result that Harper and one of the fastest afternoons of the season.

BEST OF ALL.

The great day was Monday, of course. Brighton had failed at home against Bournemouth on Saturday, but the Town had beaten Bristol City at Ashton Gate the previous Saturday was something to be remembered, and it was generally expected that they would be the sort of team to shake up that unbeaten home record.

It was a warmer day than Saturday, and few people imagined that control would be difficult, but the Town might have been better prepared for it. They gave a far better display, and though Brighton, chiefly from desperation, had rather more of the game than Charlton had two days previously, they never touched the class of the Town in their department except goal, and they were thoroughly beaten. Indeed, after scoring three goals the Town players slackened off almost to a walking pace so far as attack was concerned, they might easily have doubled their score.

On the first day of the season the Albion lost by four goals clear at Brentford, but on Tuesday to occasions since they had they lost by less than a goal margin. On Monday they were defeated for they did not undergo a record trial for their club, and I am inclined to think that the Town forwards were disposed to be lenient out of sympathy for Williams, the old Watford goalkeeper. Reid scored for him that and it was rather unfortunate that the handling by the referee should have allowed the whistled side to be to the benefit of the whistled side. However, Mr. Gray had

many spectators were as surprised by the Town's performance as they were by the attitude of the Albion as a whole. From first to last the Albion were playing second fiddle, and it struck me that their fiddle was very much out of tune.

There was not an obvious superiority at the start, but within ten minutes the Albion rear-guard was at full working pressure, and the backs had made one or two fine saves, and the forwards were distinctly worried. The Town forwards were tackling keenly, and flying their generally in the Brighton territory. The goal was quite due when it came, for two or three good chances had been missed. Then there was a nice movement in which several of the forwards took part, and the Brighton defenders clustered round Thompson, who passed to the right, and REID snapped up the unlooked-for shot.

There were narrow escapes at the Brighton end after this, but the interval came without further score.

The Town resumed strongly, and after good work by Williams a neat bit of dribbling by Dennis gave THOMPSON a chance, and he netted with a fine effort. The Town were now way up top, and after Pointon had saved the day REID got possession and scored with a fine shot.

The visitors made a few rallies, but there was little doing in their efforts, and after Dennis had outwitted Jenkins, he gave to REID to run through and score the last goal. Thompson and Reid might have got more goals had they put themselves about, for the Brighton defenders were very lax, and they were well up the Town forwards. Plucky and the game ended with the Albion well whacked.

THE PLAYERS.

The Town required only a dozen players for the three games, Pointon coming in on Monday in place of Clark. Every man proved worthy of his place in every game. Harper showed goals magnificent confidence that has been his own.

On this form he is always good enough to score on Saturday and Monday he had himself at back, a position for which, I think, he was nominated when he first joined the club. Richards did remarkably well as a substitute, and he remained there as a substitute, and he has been just as good as he is on the right.

His powerful kicking is an invaluable well up the field, and his strength and vigour in telling factors in tight corners. Till's style is in direct contrast, but the little man is a rare positionist, and one of the most awkward defenders to circumvent. The duels of strength between Richards and Jennings were matched by the battles of wits between Till and the Brighton leader.

The middle liners have played better this holiday than ever. Black's fine footwork was a feature of the game at Brighton, and he is getting better understanding with Richards, with good results. Millar, after a somewhat shaky start in the Friday and Saturday games, touched his best, and on Monday he began well, and had the measure of his wing throughout. He was fine in attack and defence alike, and on Monday he showed good judgment on several occasions when the Brighton forwards tried to make their right flank the most important part of the attack. Rennie was in good form, and in addition to getting his defence out of tight corners, was grand support to his forwards. On Monday he made some telling passes through the middle, and it is to be hoped he will continue that phase of play.

The forwards won much admiration at Brighton on Friday, their speed and open tactics being very dangerous, and getting the defenders into a lot of trouble. They shot well, but Williams was in great form, as was Preddy on Saturday, but the finishing in the match against Charlton was not nearly so good as in the other two games, the control not being so accurate. On Monday, however, they were well on the mark, and I am certain that they could have scored several times in the later stages had they been disposed to chalk up goals for the sake of scoring. There was some reason for falling off when the game was safe. On Friday Thompson was damaged, and was a doubtful starter on Saturday. In Saturday's game he suffered injury to the groin, but he pluckily turned out, and gave no trace of hurt in his play. Woods was also hurt in the groin during Monday's game, but remained in the thick of the fray.

The attack was as virile as in any period of the season, every man doing well. Thompson's leadership pleases the crowd immensely, and he has had a lot to do with most others have scored as well as himself. Indeed, the unselfishness of the attack has been a feature of the recent games, every man doing his ut

SPORTS CHAT

(By "CRUSADER.")

TO BRISTOL.

The first match of the season took Luton Town to Bristol, and they beat the Hovers by the odd goal of three. On Saturday they go to Bristol again, and will tackle the City, who are prospective champions. The City have been consistent in home away games, and that accounts for the present bright prospects of promotion, but they were beaten at home by Brighton on Saturday, they made their position in the League Combination quite safe. They were for a long time threatened with the bogey of having to seek re-election, but that has passed, and they have a chance of finishing several places above the danger zone.

On Saturday they are at home to Gray Thurock in the Southern League, and this should provide them with a couple of points and give them a point per match average in this competition.

A PROMOTION PROBLEM.

I have been asked what would happen in the event of two Southern clubs, say Clapton Orient and Fulham, being relegated—who would play in the Northern Division?

Naturally, at the present time it would mean Coventry having to go to the Northern section, but the question goes on to suppose that a similar event occurred in the following season—who would go into the Northern section then?

That would be hard to say, but I should think the issue would be between Northampton and Luton, with the former most likely to be required to move up.

However, it is possible that before an occurs, there may be Kettering or Peterborough in the Southern Section, for imagine that Aberdare will find re-election anything but an easy matter. We could do with Kettering in the League rather than Aberdare, from a financial point of view, though Northampton might object. Their position will require consideration if Kettering persist in their application for admission to the League.



SID HOAR,

the former Luton Town player, hopes to be at outside-left in The Arsenal team to play Cardiff City in the F.A. Cup Final at Wembley on Saturday. He sustained last week an injury that threatened to keep him out of the side, but it has yielded to treatment, and he is almost certain to play.

most for the good of the side. Thompson is playing better than ever, and much is due to the clever nursing he gets from Woods. The latter often appears slow, but his initiation is remarkably clever, and Dennis and Thompson alike have benefited by the association. Dennis is back again at his best, and though he made one or two errors in the first half on Monday, he accomplished fine work. Reid continues to show better appreciation of his partner, and in all the games gave nice passes, while his shooting alone entitles him to his place. Clark and Pointon were both successful in their games, and the former was particularly good on Saturday. The recovery of Pointon is all to the good, though on his form in the games on Friday and Saturday I would not like the responsibility of preferring Pointon to Clark.

The whole of the players are on the top of their form. May they keep it to the end of the season.