

BRIGHTON BAFFLED.

LUTON TOWN OUTCLASS THE ALBION

Reid's Hat Trick.

By *Crusader.*

LUTON TOWN 4
BRIGHTON ALBION 0

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

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

Referee.—H. E. Gray, Forest Gate.

Every follower of football in Luton appeared to be expecting a very keen game when Brighton and Hove Albion turned up yesterday afternoon for the return encounter. Though the Town did remarkably well to share the spoils on Good Friday, I did not take much note of that as affecting the second meeting, for the Albion have risen to the occasion splendidly in away games, and I felt that they would be all out to recoup their loss of a point. Well, they never looked like doing it. They were a baffled and beaten side on the run of the game from first to last, and in the last twenty minutes were overwhelmed, for such attacks as they made during that period were largely due to the manifest slackening of the Town, and the disinclination of the home forwards to try for more goals.

BEGAN WELL.

Luton began like a winning team, and Woods shot wildly when well placed in the first minute. Thompson followed suit, but the ease with which the forwards had run through the opposition led us to feel that there would have to be a big change in the play of the visitors if they were to hold the Town. True, they made several strong efforts, but there was little cohesion about their work, and Harper had no severe test. On the other hand the Town were working like a machine, and controlled and manipulated on the hard ground with far more confidence than was the case on Saturday. Two or three times Thompson broke through, but failed to get good hold with his parting shot, and Williams was merry at the centre-forward's expense. The former Watford goalkeeper had his customary spectacular saves in store, and stopped several shots with brilliant judgment of position.

FIRST BLOOD.

His goal had narrow escapes also, for twice he was compelled to nurse the ball while prostrate until the referee brought relief because of the close attentions of the Town forwards. The Town improved as the game wore on, and they were very incisive. Pointon was prominent with quick work on the right wing, and was very troublesome to Little and Curran, while Reid was looking after him nicely. There was clever half-back play, and then the ball sailed across the forward line in dangerous fashion. Pointon sent into the middle. Woods and Thompson each had a foot in the matter, and then the centre-forward gave REID a fine pass, and the latter darted through to shoot past Williams as the keeper ran out. The ball was well in the goal as Wilkinson rushed back and kicked it hard into the roof of the net in an attempt to clear.

JENNINGS WATCHED.

Brighton made valiant efforts to get level, but could not overcome the sterling defence of the Town, and Jennings was never given a chance to find deliberate aim for a shot. The best attempt was made by Cook, who dribbled to the left wing, and then came in well to try his luck, the ball travelling right

across the Town goal-mouth with none up to apply the finishing touch. Before the interval there were two or three free kicks against the visitors, and, following a foul by Curran on Pointon, there was a hot scrimmage in the Brighton goal-mouth, Williams saving splendidly.

LUTON 1
BRIGHTON 0

Brighton rearranged their forward line for the second half, Cook going to outside-right, Neil partnering him, and Oswald being at inside-left, which is his best position. There was no change in the character of the game, however, for the Town maintained the upper hand, and with increasing pressure properly overcame the Albion halves and backs. Apart from an occasional skirmish nothing was seen of the Albion forwards in the first quarter-of-an-hour, but the Town were very aggressive, and Williams was busy. Several chances were not utilised, and then clever work by Dennis gave THOMPSON a chance, and he scored with a fine shot, Williams having no chance to save.

TOWN ON TOP.

Luton now had nearly all the play, and the visiting forwards got very little of the ball. The Town forwards kept the ball moving from wing to wing, and the Albion halves and backs were very tired looks. The skill of Pointon was mainly responsible for the third goal, for he took it down and middled, and REID accepted the pass to beat Williams with a great shot right away from the custodian.

The Town were now toying with the opposition, and the inside forwards would not take risks, but from a fine bit of work by Thompson, who had gone out to the left, the fourth goal came. The centre-forward touched the ball back to Dennis, and the latter sent into the middle for REID to take the ball in his stride, run well in and beat Williams with a neat screw shot.

OFFENDERS BENEFIT.

A despairing effort by the visitors was beaten off rather awkwardly by the Town backs, and then Cook made a gallant run and shot hard for goal, but the angle was acute and well covered by Harper. In subsequent play both Thompson and Reid missed easy openings, but Reid once went clean through and netted. However, the referee brought the ball back for a free kick against a defender who had handled in the attempt to stop Reid.

The Town were the better side to the end, and the 10,000 spectators went home well pleased with the entertainment.

PLAYERS.

Again the Town rearguard showed to great advantage, playing soundly on the whole, though there were one or two cases of misjudgment owing to the bumpy nature of the hard ground in front of goal. All played well, however, and so did the half-backs. They were splendid throughout, helping to crush the attacks of the visitors, and then cleverly supporting their own attacking line. All the forwards played bright and free football, though none was disposed to hurry himself unduly when the win was well assured.

The visitors could not complain against Williams. His backs did well for a time, but the burden grew too heavy as time went on, for the middle men were not nippy enough for the Town forwards. Curran and Little were the pick here, and Wilson tried hard to work, but the others got little opportunity to shine.

