

LUTON'S OPENING GAMES LOST.

Directors Get Busy.

(By CRUSADER).

LUTON TOWN opened the new season disastrously, for they failed at Southend on Saturday, and on Monday evening at home they lost to Norwich City by three goals to one. In each match, misfortune befell the Town, but on Monday night they were well beaten.

AT SOUTHEND.

It was Luton's galling experience on Saturday to score an apparently good goal and see it disallowed, and this at a crucial stage of the game, when defences are taut and keen to hold what they have. Then the cup of bitterness was filled to the brim, for Southend were able to get away in spite of an appeal for offside, and to score the only goal of the match. The two outstanding points of discussion after the game among the players, were the position of Woods, who netted for the Town, and Horne, who opened the movement that led to the one goal. Consensus of opinion was that the Town should have had a point, and that would have been generous to Southend.

It was a disappointing game apart from the result, but I don't know that the players can be blamed for that. The going was good, for the sunny weather had quickly dried the ground, and then there was a strong wind, and it carried the light ball anywhere but where the players wanted to put it.

There was very little to choose between the teams, and on the run of the play, Southend certainly had no superiority. If they were a bit nipper forward, they were not so secure in defence. Play fluctuated, first one side and then the other attacking, but thrills were few and far between. Now and then there was a burst of appreciation over individual cleverness, but such hot ruzzles as were seen in the vicinity of goal were at Southend's goal. That must have been pleasing to Luton's supporters, for hitherto there has been a tendency to cramp the goalkeeper, often with fatal results, but in this game Abbott had plenty of room, and was able to show up to advantage. In the matter of shooting, there was very little in it, neither team getting in many shots, so keen was the tackling of the defenders. In this first half the chief danger to the

Town was from the right winger and the inside left, and at the other end the Town left wing usually led the way.

Abbott made one good save, but had nothing else to do of much consequence, and Boyce had not a lot of calls, though once was in extreme difficulty in dealing with a centre from Pointon.

So the game went on to half-time without score.

In the second half, with the wind at their backs, the Town soon made the pace. They put some bone into their work, and the home supporters had many anxious moments. The left wing was most prominent, because they got the more work, but Dennis was inclined to shoot instead of to middle the ball, and that took off some of the gilt-edge. For half-an-hour after the change of ends, the Town had the better of the exchanges, and they had shots from Galloway, Woods and Dennis go very near. When the home team had a turn, Richards and Till defended finely, and the home forwards seldom got in a shot. The crowd had begun to give up hope of a goal when a free kick was given against Frew for a foul on Reid. Black took the kick and lifted the ball well in. Woods was standing still when the ball was kicked, but as it came over, he sprang in and headed a lovely goal. At the same time the home defenders stepped forward and appealed for offside, and, to the chagrin of the Town players and supporters, the referee allowed the appeal. That was very disheartening, but it seemed certain that a point would be assured. There was a minute and a half for play when Southend got away. Richards and Till barred the way, and Hick sent out a long forward pass to Horne, who was well ahead of Millar. The Town defenders appealed, but the referee ignored the appeal. Horne tricked Millar as the latter attempted to prevent him cutting in, and then gently pushed the ball right in front of goal. Hick shot in at once, away from Abbott, who dived, and, by a great effort, managed to deflect it, but the ball hit the upright, and although Abbott again got to it, he could not prevent it going into the net.

There was no prospect of Luton equalising, and the game ended:

SOUTHEND UNITED	1 Goal
LUTON TOWN	Nil

SOUTHEND.—Boyce; Rosier, Bell, Dixon, Frew, Plum; Horne, Bailey, Hick, Donovan, Fell.

LUTON.—Abbott; Richards, Till; Black, Rennie, Millar; Pointon, Reid (S.), Galloway, Woods, Dennis.

Referee: Mr. G. T. Gould, London.