

MOVE UP!

LUTON TOWN'S FIRST VICTORY.

Brentford Beaten.

(By CRUSADER).

LUTON TOWN 5 goals
BRENTFORD 2 ..

LUTON.—Muir; Kingham, Graham; Black, Fulton, Fraser; Pointon, Yardley, Reid (S.), Dennis, Nunn.

BRENTFORD.—Ferguson; Butler, Winship; Hodge, Beacham, Dearn; Lawson, Lane, Phillips, Watkins, Douglas.

Referee.—Mr. A. J. Attwood, Newport.

A wise saying it is that we should be just before being generous, but I am sure every supporter of the Town will agree that the players merit unstinted eulogy for the fight they made against an experienced side. When one considers that three members of the team in important positions are in their infancy as far as this class is concerned, and that they were meeting a side of bigger physique and much wider experience, it was a most meritorious performance. Brentford had a formidable record, and, with two successive away victories to their credit, were expected to complete the hat-trick. They had a considerable advantage in height and weight, and one could well believe that another twenty minutes would have found a different result. It was the dash and pace of the Town in the first half that threw Brentford off their balance, for though the scores were level with two-thirds of the game gone, the visiting defenders were unsettled in the early stages, and never were confident against the Town attack.

UNNECESSARY ROUGHNESS.

At times the game developed unnecessary roughness, though most of the several stoppages were due to accidents which arose through the zest and ardour of the players. In this respect the "Bees" were unfortunate, perhaps, that Beacham was crippled and had to go to outside-right in the second half. However, this enabled Bert Lawson to go inside and to do what none of his colleagues could do—score. Both sides suffered to some extent, but nothing of a serious nature accrued. The visitors have a hard-fighting, aggressive team, with plenty of energy and stamina, and in the latter respect I thought they had a pull. If, however, the Town team can go for the full session as they did for an hour, I do not think they will be behind their records of the last two seasons when the final reckoning is taken. While the ball was light, and ere the turf had been ploughed up, the game was in favour of the Town, but in the last quarter-of-an-hour, save for the goal scored by Yardley, the "Bees" were the stronger team, though their methods in attack were less skilful than the Town's.

A GOOD START.

It was refreshing to see the way the Town team began their job, and I do not think Ferguson will complain of his luck. Before a goal came Luton had failed to take advantage of many flag-kicks; Black struck the bar from a free kick, and Reid had atrocious luck with an effort that had Ferguson beaten all the way, but the ball hit the upright and came back into play.

The attacks were engineered chiefly on the left wing, and Nunn was a very elusive customer. It was after several of his attempts had failed that he got a nice centre over the heads of a crowd. YARDLEY trapped the ball. He was tackled and half-stumbled, but recovered to shoot into the net right away from Ferguson.

Luton gave the "Bees" defence a warm time, and Nunn twice hit the upright, while several free kicks were useless.

LAWSON LEVELS UP.

Many narrow escapes the visiting goal had, and their attack saw comparatively little of the ball. Lawson got over one or two good centres, but the inside men were well held. Eventually Douglas got through and centred, and LAWSON scored with a lovely shot.

The Town were soon attacking again, and Ferguson made a wonderful save from Reid, but when the left wing got busy again another goal came. Nunn centred, and Ferguson caught the ball as Yardley rushed in. The impetus of the Luton forward dispossessed Ferguson, and YARDLEY put the ball into the net.

Yardley again netted, shooting between the goalkeeper's legs, but play had been whistled off by the referee owing to Hodge being injured. The "Bees" made matters warm for the home defence after this, but could not break through, and the interval came with the score:

LUTON 2 goals
BRENTFORD 1 ..

Exchanges were even on the restart, each goal being visited, but while the "Bees" could claim equality of ground, they did not finish so well as the Town, and Muir had not such difficulty as fell to the lot of Ferguson. Lawson was proving more useful as an inside forward than he had been on the wing, where he had not been given much work. That meant a lot to the "Bees." During a raid by the left wing LAWSON wandered out of position to the left, got a pass, and again got home a glorious shot that had Muir beaten all the way.

The Town right wing came along from the restart, and Winship failed to volley away a centre from Pointon. REID was on the spot and tapped the ball into the net as Ferguson ran out, and thus put the Town in front again.

POINT FOR POINTON.

Following a free kick against Lane for fouling Dennis, the Town left wing made play, and Nunn centred perfectly for POINTON to dash in and shoot first time, Ferguson having no chance to save.

Play was even again after this, but the Town defenders had plenty of work, and

found difficulty in getting the ball away. Kingham shone at this stage, for Douglas was frequently dangerous and outpaced Black, but Muir's work was not very exacting, though the backs found in Phillips a tough handful. Both teams were tiring rapidly, when some tricky play by Fraser and his left wing enabled Dennis to get away and swing the ball across, and YARDLEY rushed in and scored with a first-time shot, Ferguson being hopelessly placed.

This goal had the effect of stirring the "Bees," and they had the better of the remaining play. Muir was called upon time after time, but little of arduous character was demanded, and the game ended with the score as above.

CIZING THEM UP.

Muir again played a fine game, and had no chance with the scoring shots. He had not a lot of difficult work, but did all with coolness and celerity. The progress of Kingham is remarkable, and any misgivings were dispelled by his sure positioning, and his safe tackling. He was the best back on view, and won golden opinions by his display—his first at home with the first eleven. Graham was not consistent. He seemed to lack confidence, and faltered in tackling. His dash came in useful betimes, however, and, as a pair, the home backs were the better.

FRASER FIRST.

The outstanding player of the twenty-two was Fraser. His splendid audacity freed his colleagues from a lot of trouble; his footwork was brilliant, and his co-operation with Dennis and Nunn, made him an even more potent force in attack than in defence. He gave a grand exhibition, doing better work and making fewer faults than any player on the field. If Fulton were a couple of inches taller he would soon be a high-class pivot. He has begun well, and may yet attain to the highest rank. His untiring energy, his backing of the attack, and his speedy recovery were features of the Town's play. Black again showed that he is a rare attacking half, and did not leave so much room for the opposing winger as usual.

THE FORWARDS.

The attack was rather lop-sided. Pointon could have done with more employment, but Nunn was bending his man with such ease that it was wise to keep him busy. The outside-right gets on well with Yardley, and the latter might find his partner a little more work. The inside man, however, put a lot of vim into his part, he has no lack of courage, and his fearlessness gave the Town their second goal. If he is going to get three goals often he is the man for the position, and a pleasing feature of his play was that he kept well up, instead of lying in the middle line.

Nunn and Dennis were the best wing on the field, due chiefly to the former, who was slick in getting a move on. He was difficult to charge, and centred well. He looks like keeping the position. So does Dennis, for he forged well, passed nicely to his partner, and helped Reid a lot. The latter was not at his best. He was handicapped by lack of inches, and can distribute much better, but he put in some dashing work, flustered the opposition a lot, and with a little better fortune might have scored at least two more goals.

NOT A STAR SIDE.

The Town team is not a star combination, but every man gave of his best, and with better understanding of each other's play they will do well.

It was a happy augury for Mr. McCartney that this, the first team he has chosen for the Club, should win so handsomely. It will encourage him and the supporters, too.

Of the visiting side Ferguson was not to be blamed for the goals against him. He was hurt when the Town's second goal was scored, and had to retire for a few minutes. His backs were strong kickers and tackled fairly well, but got over-anxious through the inability of the halves to hold the home attack. Winship and Dearn were the best in their departments, and forward Phillips showed plenty of fire, while Douglas and Lawson played splendidly, the latter being the pick of the Brentford vanguard.

There were 9,000 spectators.