

LUTON'S FIRST WIN.

IMPROVED DISPLAY AGAINST BRENTFORD.

(By CRUSADER).

BRENTFORD had won victories at Shepherd's Bush and Eastville prior to their visit to LUTON TOWN; consequently their supporters, numbering two or three hundred, were confident of a third success. They had formed an estimate of Luton's ability from the lowly position on the League table, and that is always an unsafe guide so early in the season. After the game, I heard a Brentford supporter admitting that the better side had won, even making allowances for their misfortunes. I also heard a Lutonian say that the Town had been very lucky. Well, it is an agreeable thing to get such diverse opinions from adversaries, but I think the Town merited their first brace of points.

EARLY DASH.

The early dash, speed, skill and persistence of the Town attack unbalanced the Brentford halves and backs, and though tiring perceptibly in the second half, the home team had always a good grip of the game. Their first half display put them well ahead of the visitors in point of skill, and though the equalising goal in the second half made the outlook rather precarious, the immediate goal scored by Reid was the decisive factor, and when another came very soon afterwards the first victory was well in sight. It is so easy for last impressions to be first in the mind unless one makes a habit of reckoning for the full ninety minutes, and those spectators disposed to think the Town were favoured by Fortune must have overlooked that prolonged and fierce attack in the first twenty minutes, when Ferguson's goal had more narrow escapes than the Town's charge had during the full course of the game.

LIVELY LEFT.

The liveliness of the home left wing in this period evoked enthusiasm, and it was only the superior physique of the Brentford defenders that averted something in the nature of a disaster.

Reid had beaten the goalkeeper all ends up, but the ball struck the upright and came out again when everybody was crying goal, and then Black hit the bar with a free kick, and the ball was scrambled behind for corner-kicks time after time. Brentford did nothing to compare with this even in their best time—the last ten minutes.

LEAD LOST—

It was Nunn who made the opening for Yardley to score the first goal. The winger centred nicely, and YARDLEY trapped the ball, half-lost it as he was tackled, recovered, and then shot, the ball going right away from Ferguson into the net. Now and then Douglas and Lawson had essayed to change the run of the game, but they were not well supported, and it came as a bit of a surprise when the visitors levelled the score through LAWSON, who accepted a pass following a centre from Douglas. It was a very fine goal, and quite in the irony of things that the scorer was a Lutonian.

-AND RESTORED.

The Town then began a further struggle with the visiting defenders, and it culminated in a centre from Nunn being caught by Ferguson at the same time as YARDLEY dashed in to meet it, and the latter's rush dispossessed the goalkeeper, and the ball went into the net. The "Bees" made good efforts to get level again before the interval, but, as a rule, were on the defensive, and at the interval the score read:—

LUTON	2
BRENTFORD	1

There was not so much energy in the early stages of the second half, and the methods of the Town were hardly so good. Chances there were, but they came to nothing. An injury to Beacham, the visitors' centre-half, had caused him to go to outside right, Lane falling back to the middle line and Lawson coming inside right. Knowing the shooting qualities of the latter, it seemed to me as if the "Bees'" front line gained rather than lost by the change. And so it proved for in a rally by the Brentford left wing LAWSON snapped up a pass and let drive at once, and Muir had no chance.

OPPORTUNISM.

The Town at once resumed the offensive with redoubled zeal, and were successful within a minute. Pointon lobbed the ball forward, and Winship failed to get it properly on his boot; REID sprang in, went a yard or two, and tapped the ball past Ferguson as the goalkeeper ran out. A few spasms at each end followed, and then Nunn beat the opposition and swung the ball nicely into the middle over a crowd of heads. POINTON rushed up to meet the ball on the fall, and it flashed into the net right away from Ferguson's reach.

Brentford's left wing made strong efforts, and Black left a lot of work for Kingham at this period, but the young back came through with flying colours.

OCCASIONAL THRILLS.

At the other end there were thrills now and then, but the game was drawing to a close when some very tricky work on the Town left wing, engineered by Fraser again, sent Dennis through on the outside. He lifted the ball into the middle, and YARDLEY rushed up to shoot a fine goal and complete the scoring.

Brentford made great efforts in the closing stages, Phillips and Lawson trying desperately, but Muir was safe, and the end came with the Town good winners.

THE PLAYERS.

The Town defence was not always working smoothly. Muir was all right, but Graham did not shake down as well as at Boscombe. He showed dash, and made some fine clearances, but Phillips and Lawson were a sore trouble to him. Kingham was steadier, and played a cool, thoughtful game, his judgment in positioning being very noticeable. Fraser was unequalled as a middle man, and there was class in almost everything he attempted. Fulton again played finely, and Black was better than in any previous game. The main strength in attack was on the left, where Nunn sparkled, and Dennis looked after him well. Reid was a very different player from the Reid who played against Brighton, and put up a good show, while Yardley's industrious nature met with reward. Pointon was better, too, in spite of an injury, and the line as a whole was full of life, and better than any attack that has yet been fielded.

THE "BEES."

Ferguson was unfortunate to be hurt, but he had little chance with any shot that scored, and made some good saves. His backs were never trustworthy, but were rather let down by their halves.

Phillips was bolsterous, and ever a danger, but was allowed few shooting opportunities. Lawson was the best of the line, though Lane put in some very clever work, and Douglas was showy in the late stages.

There were about 3,000 spectators, and the victory pleased the crowd immensely.

LUTON TOWN

BRENTFORD

..... 5 goals

..... 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.