

A DRAW AT LUTON.

VIGOROUS STRUGGLE BY "HATTERS" AND "LIONS."

(By CRUSADER.)

MOST clubs struggling at the bottom of the League would probably feel happy that they could take a point from the leaders, and LUTON TOWN have no need to feel that Dame Fortune was against them in their tussle with MILLWALL ATHLETIC last Saturday. It was wild weather for football, and with the ground in a terrible state the wise blend of weight and experience in the Millwall side made them favourites. After the game I felt that if the weather had been more propitious the Town would have won. Millwall are a good side, undoubtedly, but I think the heavy going was more in their favour. Their players seemed to adapt themselves to the circumstances better, taking the team throughout. But the margin of superior intelligence was so narrow that it was overcome by the special bit of wisdom in the Town defence. It is possible, of course, that on a faster ground the Town's wise-heads might have found the opposition a bit too fast, but on the other hand the Town attack would have been able to clinch the good work of the halves more positively. All things considered, the result was a good one from the Town's supporters' view, though I would like to see the teams meet under better conditions.

LUTON AGGRESSIVE.

The Town had the advantage of the very strong wind in the first half, and did the more attacking, but there was not a great many shots into Harford's goal. Several good opportunities were lost by dalliance, but the quickness of the Millwall defenders was also a big factor, and quite early on they found touch with a frankness that elicited jeering from the crowd. The end justified the means, however, and they kept out a lot of trouble for 18 minutes. Then Pointon, benefiting by a clever bit of work by his partner, served up a delightful return, and YARDLEY headed a fine goal.

Had the "Lions" got rattled in face of this reverse anything might have happened, for the Town asserted themselves to good purpose, and there was a suggestion of solidity that boded ill for the visitors. Bryant was the only player to come within the scope of lost tempers, and after a very bad foul on Ramage, he got at cross-purposes with Yardley, and right to the end of the game the feeling between these two was unpleasant. For the rest, however, there was little that called for complaint, and I was particularly glad to see the relationship between Phillips and Black was of the best. The Town goal had a few escapes in this half, notably when Abbott made two fine saves from Phillips and Cock, and once when Black cleared with Bryant coming up full tilt for a shot.

There should have been more goals at the other end, however, on the run of the play, but Gregory and Pipe put up a sterling resistance, and at the change of ends there was no addition to the score.

LUTON	1
MILLWALL	0

In the second half the "Lions" had the proverbial lion's share of the play. They maintained hot pressure for long periods, and there were times when we trembled for the security of Abbott's goal. Play was so like other matches in which the Town have gone to pieces in the second

half, but there was no suggestion of it in the way the rearguard met their task. Ramage reinforced the defence, and for eight minutes Abbott was not beaten. When the equalising goal came it was not from one of the many massed attacks of the "Lions" inside forwards, but a judicious pass to the right wing, a neat centre by Chance, and a cool header by COCK. Abbott dung himself across the goal, and only just failed to gather the ball—a really fine attempt to save.

"LIONS" RAMPANT.

The "Lions" hammered away persistently and vigorously, but the Town halves and backs showed unusual powers of recovery, and a forward that dallied soon knew that he had lost possession. For long spells the heat and burden of the play was in the Town penalty area, and the defenders did not use touch nearly so much as had Millwall. Abbott brought off three remarkable saves in quick succession.

Nevertheless, there were a number of thrills at the other end, and on three occasions the Town all but scored. Harford was lucky to get his foot to the ball when Nunn got through, again when Rennie got clear, while on another occasion after a tussle on the right wing, Yardley shot in from close quarters when the goalkeeper was out, only to see Pipe kick away from under the bar when a goal appeared certain.

In the closing stages the "Lions" redoubled their efforts, but they could not break down the defence, and the game ended in a draw.

Abbott played finely again, and Richards and Till gave a grand display of determination and perseverance. They were splendidly assisted by Ramage, whose powerful physique was often invaluable at tense moments, and I should think the defence has never shown greater stability in any game this season. Black and Fraser did good work against clever opponents, and though the whole of the defensive elements had a terrific grueling, they rose superior to it, and finished with something in hand.

FORWARD FAULTS.

Pointon was disappointing because he finished poorly. Some of his skill in tricking opponents won loud applause, but it usually came to a full stop when he failed to turn his good work to the best purpose. Yardley was a glutton for work, and a grand trier; Rennie could not get out of the slough; Woods was brainy as ever; and Nunn, after doing many clever things in the first half, fell off badly in the second.

Millwall were best served by Gregory, Pipe, Graham, Cock and Chance, but the team spirit was all there, and every man seemed as hard as nails, a trier, and worthy of his hire.

Mr. Moon refereed well, and the 8,000 spectators got full value for their money.

LUTON TOWN	1
MILLWALL ATHLETIC	1

LUTON.—Abbott; Richards, Till; Black, Fraser, Pointon; Yardley, Rennie, Woods, Nunn.

MILLWALL.—Harford; F. J. Gregory, Pipe; Amos, W. I. Bryant, Graham; Chance, Landells, Cock, Phillips, Harris.

Referee.—Mr. C. F. Moon, Bristol.