

LUTON ON TOP.

HAPPY RESULT TO SEVENTH GAME.

Bournemouth's Plucky Fight.

By Crusader.

YET another victory was credited to LUTON TOWN on Saturday, and it meant still one more point gained on the results of last season. Their proud position at the head of affairs in their Division is a happy contrast from last season's unhappy start, and the question now concerning the minds of their supporters is whether they can maintain it. In their last trial they were severely tested, and for a long time it appeared as though there was a distinct danger of being humbled, but in the last ten minutes they rose to the occasion, and BOURNEMOUTH AND BOSCOMBE, who invariably put up a great fight at Luton, were among the returned empties.

PLUCKY VISITORS.

Bournemouth played a hard, plodding game, relieved at times by skilful work among the forwards, and though the Town caused more excitement round McSevich's goal than was observed in the vicinity of Abbott, the visitors kept play in the Luton territory for considerable periods. The freaky nature of the wind and the hard ground seemed to trouble the visitors less than they troubled Luton, and as Bournemouth usually made ground by hard kicking from the rear and long passing forward, the Town backs were busier than usual. McSevich had stiffer tasks to negotiate than Abbott, but did his work remarkably well, and his colleagues never dallied in getting the ball out of danger.

THE LEAD.

Better chances fell to the Town than to the visitors for the first half-hour, but all attempts at either end were frustrated until three minutes before the interval, when a blunder by the home defence enabled EYRE to score. Kingham and Abbott were at fault, and either could have cleared had they understood properly each other's mind, but their joint hesitation gave the visiting centre-forward a chance, of which he promptly availed himself. The hot attack Luton made in reply was fruitless, for McSevich and his backs barred the way to goal, and the change of ends found the visitors leading, an advantage not undeserved on the run of the play.

BOURNEMOUTH	1
LUTON TOWN	0

With the wind in their favour in the second half Luton soon made strenuous endeavours to recover, and several times came near scoring. They were driven back, however, and play was generally kept in midfield by the alertness and energy of the Bournemouth defenders. Now and then the visitors made strong efforts to break through, but they did not trouble Abbott very much, while many promising attempts by the Town came to naught either by reason of their own shortcomings or through the skilful covering tactics of the Bournemouth defenders. McSevich was again the more frequently engaged, but he was cool and resourceful, and the last quarter of an hour was

entered upon with the visitors still in front.

Four minutes of this time had elapsed when there was a clever dash on the Town right wing—the best bit of combined football up to that time. Yardley and Daly led the advance by skilful passing, and the winger presented either Yardley or Rennie with the chance. The inside winger transferred to RENNIE, who scored easily. Better was to come, for after a strong attack had been beaten off BLACK and Daly went right through in brilliant fashion, and the half-back scored a magnificent goal six minutes before the end. It was a fine finish, and redeemed many previous failures all round.

BELOW FORM.

The Town never struck the form they had shown at Merthyr until the equalising goal was under way. That was something like the style they showed in Wales. Team spirit seemed to be lacking, and though the conditions had a good deal to do with the indifferent display, it is a fact that there was no line in the side that could reach to the point of skill developed in the previous game. Abbott had not a great deal of work, and Kingham did well apart from his share in the blunder that gave Bournemouth a goal. Richards was not nearly so good as usual, either in tackling or kicking. Dennis put up a splendid game at centre-half, and his success rather accentuated the falling off on the flanks, for neither Black nor Millar seemed comfortable. The latter was injured early on, and that reduced his activity a lot, but their control was ineffective as compared with their displays in other matches.

THE ATTACK.

The forwards did not make progress so happily, either, and even the lack of support from the line immediately behind was not the only cause. Their passes often went astray, and the visiting defenders were too quick for them. Daly was dangerous when he was fed, which was not often enough, and, with Rennie, took chief honours for causing trouble to the opposing defence. Yardley was less virile than usual, and Woods did not see the best of his work carried on so well. Bedford was patchy, being clever at times, but prone to deliberation when a quick pass would have earned reward. The rearguard was the best part of the visitors' team. McSevich was a reliable goalkeeper, and Hayward a brilliant back. Smith shone in the middle line, and Eyre and Johnson were lively factors in attack. There were 10,500 spectators.

LUTON TOWN	2
BOURNEMOUTH	1

LUTON.—Abbott: Kingham, Richards; Black, Dennis, Millar; Daly, Yardley, Rennie, Woods, Bedford.
BOURNEMOUTH.—McSevich; Hayward, Walker; Halliwell, Dixon, Smith; Johnson, Cherrett, Eyre, Moralee, Duff.
Referee: W. E. Russell, Swindon.