

CONSOLATION FOR FULHAM

LUTON TOWN LOSE LEAGUE GAME.

By Crusader.

UNDER very different circumstances from the week before when they drew their Cup-tie, LUTON TOWN visited FULHAM last Saturday for the League game, and were defeated by four goals to two. The merits of the sides were fairly well gauged by the score; Fulham probably deserved even more, because their style of play was better suited to the conditions. The Town started well enough, and had they played throughout as in the first half-hour, might well have shared the points, but after Fulham had drawn level the Town seemed to fall way, especially in defence, and at the finish were well beaten.

Very soon after the start the Town were dangerous, and Rennie went close with a good effort. Fulham got away, and on the frozen ground showed great skill in beating the Town halves and backs. Kingham staved off an attack by giving a corner kick, and from this a second accrued, and Temple placed the kick nicely for McNAB to head a fine goal. The Town gave trouble at the other end, and were helped by free kicks against Bird, but Mason saved. However, from a shot by Daly the ball and ground beat Mason, and BEDFORD rushed up and brought the scores level.

Both Bedford and Rennie had good chances to increase the Town's lead, for they broke through with only the goalkeeper to beat, and on each occasion sent the ball past the upright.

Abbott had a lot of work to do subsequently, for the home forwards shot well, though usually at long range, and then a clever pass by Rennie gave DALY a chance to run through, and he beat Mason with a shot that hit the farther upright and rebounded into the net. Fulham played desperately to draw level, and with TEMPLE in his best form, and the Town halves and backs beaten time and again by the slippery conditions, the outside right got through to equalise with a fast shot at close quarters.

Very soon after this Temple made a mess of the Town's right flank in defence, and centred well for CRAIG to score, Abbott again having no chance to save. Luton replied, and just before the interval a run by Bedford put Rennie through. He lost the ball, but Yardley dashed up and shot into the net, only for the referee to give him offside, though he was in the rear of Rennie when the latter was allowed to go. The interval came with score:

FULHAM	3 goals
LUTON TOWN	2 "

Luton had the better of the argument for some little time after the change of ends, but were forced back after Rennie had twice been beaten by the bounce of the ball right in front of goal. Abbott saved grandly on several occasions, and in spite of the fierce rushes of the home forwards, retained his uprightness, and got the ball clear again and again. Dennis was injured in stemming a run by the home right, and had to leave the field for five minutes. Bedford going to half-back to put in some rousing work. Dennis was a passenger when he returned.

Still, Fulham attacked strongly time after time, and though the Town made many raids, they were seldom allowed to get within booting distance of Mason. There were seven minutes to go when TEMPLE got the fourth goal for the home side, a pass from the left wing giving him a clear run in, and he steadied himself, and gave Abbott no chance to save. In the concluding stages the Town made one or two feeble attacks, but Fulham deserved their success.

Temple was again the outstanding figure on the home side, but he should have been watched more. McNab was a strong half-back, and the backs played well throughout.

For the Town, Abbott was in in great form in goal, and made many splendid saves, especially in the second half when his colleagues in defence wavered. Neither Kingham nor Harris played up to standard, but had more work thrust on them by a shaky middle line, which did not co-operate at all well with the forwards. Like the members of the attack, they could not keep their feet so well as the home players, and frequently fell at the critical moment. Bedford was the best of the line, and Roe and Daly did good work, but Rennie got few chances, and Yardley, though often in evidence in front of goal, found the conditions all against him.

There were 12,000 spectators, and Fulham thoroughly deserving of their victory because of their better adaptability to the conditions.

FULHAM	4 goals
LUTON TOWN	2 "

FULHAM.—Mason; Dyer, Bird; Oliver, McNab, Lawson; Temple, Haley, Avey, Craig, Penn.

LUTON.—Abbott; Kingham, Harris; Millar, Clark, Dennis; Daly, Roe, Rennie, Yardley, Bedford.

Referee.—Mr. W. E. Russell, Swindon.