

ANOTHER POINT DROPPED.

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE'S SPLENDID RECOVERY.

WE were all very confident that LUTON TOWN would go to the head of their Division again on Monday night when they had settled the account with PLYMOUTH ARGYLE, but we were sorely disappointed. The Argyle maintained their traditional game at Luton, and for the fifth season in succession took home a point. That they deserved it, and a little more, none would deny. They played much better football than the Town, and only excellent defence kept them from annexing the full booty.

It was not a good game. The Argyle supplied most of the effective, and most of the attractive, football, and there was no comparison between the sides for real constructive work, either in attack or in defence. Why the Argyle are not at the head of the League table is hard to understand if they have been serving up football of this kind consistently during the season. Perhaps they deserved to be in arrears when the first goal was scored, for they made two errors, but they never deserved to be two down at any time.

For some reason the Town never seemed capable of rising to the level of the Argyle, and especially at Luton, and those of us who had been hoping there would not only be a victory at Luton, but the first victory at Home Park in the history of the Town Club, had our hopes rudely shattered. Of course, it is possible that the Town may turn the tables at Plymouth, but their play will need to be a big improvement upon what they gave on Monday night.

In the match with Watford they played brilliant football, and were decidedly unfortunate, but there was not a semblance of that display in this game. Banes and Harris were practically the only players to win admiration. They stuck to their jobs, and came out with honour, but few of the others earned praise. Play hard they certainly did, but it was a case of skill being almost wholly on one side, and the Argyle were very unlucky.

There were 9,000 people present when Harris won the toss, and none were prepared for such a flattering start. The ball was taken down on the right. Russell failed to head a high ball as he leaped, and it was banged into the goal-mouth by Daly. Craig parried it, but could not hold it, and RENNIE promptly tanned it into the net. The Argyle gave the Town defence a lot to think about after this. Play was carried swiftly from end to end, but while the Town laboured in their efforts, the visitors played well together, and their passwork was accurate and judicious. It was some time, however, before Banes was seriously troubled, and the Town's forays commanded respect. Craig had to be alert, and much more was demanded from him in the first twenty minutes or so.

Matthews missed a good chance at the other end after clever work by Vidler, and Fraser saved a dangerous situation by a determined tackle of the opposing right-wing pair, while Banes also saved finely a header from the coloured player, Leslie. Banes saved well from Vidler, and then Leslie got the ball into the net with a great header as Sloan mis-directed a shot, but the inside-left was offside. It was shortly after this that the Town got their second goal. A corner kick was awarded when Daly and Hardie got into a scrimmage, and from the flag-kick YARDLEY headed a nice goal. This was just before the change of ends, and should have meant a safe position for the Town.

LUTON TOWN 2
PLYMOUTH ARGYLE 0

It required all the skill of Harris and Graham to turn the edge of the Argyle attack when the game was restarted, and once Fraser checked the right-wing when Vidler had paved the way for a shooting opportunity. Sloan put in a fine shot, but Banes saved magnificently, and all the clever combination of the Argyle came to nothing, thanks to the dour opposition they met. Still, there was little quibble as to the better side so far.

One of the best movements by the Town was spoilt through the referee pulling up Daly for offside when he was on the edge of the penalty area, with Rennie and Yardley in attendance, and only Craig and Russell in front. The referee dropped the ball to put the mistake right, but, of course, the Argyle were reinforced in defence then, and the danger practically nil.

A short attack by the Town gave Yardley an opportunity, but he skied the ball, and after Craig had cleared a good one from Roe, the Town were forced back into their own quarters. Harris put in a lot of skilful work, and Banes was often called into action. Vidler paved the way for the Argyle's first goal when there remained fifteen minutes for play. Banes saved in brilliant fashion when the left winger shot, but a repetition from the right wing enabled SLOAN to dash through and score. The Argyle were now playing so well that the equaliser was expected, and it came. The

Argyle right-wing made the thrust, and with the defence drawn to that flank, the ball was eluded into the centre and LESLIE, who had followed up to accept the pass, ran in and sent the ball past Banes into the net. It was a well deserved goal, and though the scoring was simple, the best forward on the field deserved the honour.

In the closing stages either side might have won with a little luck. Vidler once broke clean through, and seemed to have the goal at his mercy, but shot wide. At the other end, clever wing work gave Rennie one of his few chances, and he shot splendidly, but the ball travelled a few inches the wrong side of the post.

This was one of the poorest displays the Town have given this season. Though a goal up so early against the Argyle, they never settled down to the quality of play we know they can give, and seemed unable to do right for many minutes at a time. Passes went astray, positioning was bad, there was a lack of judgment and confidence, and even when two goals up, they always seemed to be working for "dead horse."

Banes won praise for his meritorious display. He saved two or three times in wonderful fashion, and pleased more with every match. Harris was his best assistant, and played a grand game throughout, though his kicking was not always sure. He was the one man that seemed able to apply scientific opposition to a clever attack. Graham began well, but fell away badly.

None of the halves was as successful as usual. Fraser, deputising for Millar, did some good work, but was not the force we expected. Fulton worked as heroically as ever, always going hard, but was not so nippy as usual, and Clark, while industrious and eager, and practically the one man that could use his weight when it was required, has played better.

The forwards had more dash than skill, and it was hardly believable that they were the line that made the Watford team look so poor. Daly and Roe were the better pair for combination, but Yardley was the man most likely to effect the downfall of the Argyle goal. He was always ready to challenge, but he did not feel Bedford well, and Rennie had a poor time of it, getting few chances to shoot.

The Argyle gave a scientific display. Craig had not a lot of work, and Russell showed that he is still a powerful back. He did not like the few tussles into which he got. Bland was unsteady. The halves worked coolly and deliberately, using the ball to the best advantage. The forwards played together splendidly, and both these lines were quicker on the ball than the Town. Leslie was quite the best forward on the field, though all the Argyle played well.

LUTON TOWN 2
PLYMOUTH ARGYLE 2

LUTON.—Banes; Graham, Harris; Clark, Fulton Fraser, Daly, Roe, Rennie, Yardley, Bedford

PLYMOUTH.—Craig; Bland, Russell; Mackay, McKenzie, Hardie; Matthews, Sloan, Richards, Leslie, Vidler.

Referee: Mr. C. F. Moon, Bristol.

BEDD AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

DIVISION I.

Baldock Town 4, R.A.F. (Henlow) 1.
Luton Amateurs & Ramblers 3, Waterlow's (Dunstable) 3.
Bedford Town 2, St Neots & District 0.
Bletchley Sports 1, Stevenage Town 1.
Biggleswade & District 2, Kempston Rov. 3.

DIVISION II.

Leagrave & Dis. 9, Bletchley Sports 1.
R.A.F. (Henlow) 4, Luton Kent's Athletic 5.

FOOTBALL

On the Town Ground.

SATURDAY MARCH 16th.

THE LEAGUE.—DIVISION III.

LUTON

V.

NEWPORT COUNTY

KICK-OFF 2.15. USUAL PRICES.