

TWO DRAWS.

HOW LUTON TOWN KICKED OFF.

Changes Predicted.

By Crusader.

At Exeter on Saturday:—

EXETER CITY 2
LUTON TOWN 2
EXETER.—Alderson; Howson, Miller;
Ditchburn, Mason, McMullan; Purcell, Mc-
Devitt, Guyan, Hemingway, Death.
LUTON.—Harford; Kingham, Smith; Clark,
Morgan, Fraser; Daly, Yardley, Rennie,
Drinnan, Bedford.

Referee:—Mr. E. C. Sambrook, Swansea.

At Luton on Monday:—

LUTON TOWN 1
NORWICH CITY 1
LUTON TOWN.—Harford; Kingham,
Smith; Clark, Fulton, Fraser; Bedford, Yard-
ley, Rennie, Drinnan, McInnes.
NORWICH.—Jarvie; Hannah, Richmond;
Brown, O'Brien, Lockhead; Porter, Thomson
(N), Thompson (J.), Scott, Slicer.

Referee:—Mr. S. L. Stanning, Ilford.

LUTON TOWN have not aroused a tremendous enthusiasm by their opening performances, and it seems evident that for the home game on Saturday with Southend United, changes will be made. Personally, I do not regard these as being wholly necessary through the fault of the players, but rather because the conditions are not conducive to eliciting the best from some of the players. Mr. A. Latchmore, of Hitchin, informed me on Monday night that he has records of the rainfall since 1850, and this August has been the driest since 1861—a matter of 68 years—for this district. It has been far worse than 1921, though in that year the months of June and July were drier than those months of this year. Through lack of rain, the Town ground is very hard indeed, and on Monday night, the players did not do nearly so well as against Exeter, where the ground had benefited by heavy rain during the latter part of the week.

There are other players who find heavy grounds too severe a tax, and do best on the lively turf, and for that reason I expect changes. In any case, I should like to feel sure that there would be rain before Saturday, for the ground will stand a lot of water.

Last season, the opening home game was won, and the first away was drawn. The misfortune through Morgan's injury on Saturday may have had much to do with the failure on Monday night, for both he and Daly had to stand down. Morgan's absence may have been felt more than Daly's. In neither game, however, has there been good combination. So far as personal relations are concerned, the players have the right team spirit, but there has been little cohesion in either game. Morgan was able to rally his men on Saturday when trouble was at its worst, and this influence was missing on Monday, though the players were all out.

The rearguard has been heavily worked, but in the middle and forward lines, amendment is necessary, whether it comes by re-drafting the team, or by a change in training. In the latter respect, however, it is only in the matter of ball practice, for in both games the players showed that they could stand the pace better than their opponents. The Town finished the fresher side in each of these games, and the defences of both Exeter and Norwich were glad to hear the final whistle.

It was disappointing to drop a point at home on Monday, but may be it will be recovered with interest at Norwich.

IT was a better performance than most people would think for the Town to bring a point from Exeter City on Saturday. They had a tough struggle, as I anticipated, for the City side looked much more formidable on paper than any team turned out last season. There can be no doubt that the City will have a better season, for they are a big, strong side playing hard and earnest football, and with one or two wise heads among them.

They swept the Town off their feet in the early stages, and snapped up two chances in the first six minutes, with the result that the Town were struggling against odds for the rest of the game. Few of the Lutonians at the match felt that there was much chance when Morgan was assisted from the field after a little over fifteen minutes' play, his eyebrow badly cut open, and his team two goals in arrears. Subsequent play, however, showed the Town up in much better light, and they deserved the point because of the brave struggle they made.

The first goal was scored by HEMINGWAY after less than three minutes' play, that player sweeping the ball out for Purcell to dart through and return the ball for the scorer to shoot into the net from close range. The second came as a typical rush by the City. McMullan lifted the ball into the Town goal area; loud appeals for offside were unheeded, and GUYAN managed to get the better of a tussle with Kingham, and scored with a quick hook shot as he fell.

It was some time after this that Morgan had to leave the field, and he must have been cheered on his return, for as he crossed into the field of play, BEDFORD beat Alderson after a clever run on receipt of a wide pass from Clark. In the play before the interval, there was not much to choose between the teams, and though the Town made several assaults, there was not enough understanding, and the shooting was both infrequent and lacking in accuracy, and so at the interval, the score stood:—

CITY 2
TOWN 1

In the second half, the game was more even, and the Town players made better efforts to get together. They were rewarded in some measure, though the home defenders were not often in serious plight. At the other end, Harford made several saves, and the City had one or two unlucky experiences, Death once hitting the goalkeeper and the upright, and on a further occasion, Harford made a brilliant save by diving at full length, and though losing the ball, managed, by a great effort, to foil the forward who tried to shoot over him into the net.

Rennie was too well watched to get in a shot, and though Yardley, Drinnan and Bedford all had tries, they were out of their reckoning until nine minutes from the end. Then the best bit of play by the Town forwards met with reward. Clark, Daly and Yardley joined in a quick bit of passing, and the last-named sent forward to Drinnan, to run round Howson and with a very nice left-foot shot, to beat Alderson and put the Town on level terms.

It was not easy to hold equality to the end, but there were moments when the Town seemed likely to do even more than that, for twice the right wing got through, and Yardley was unfortunate to be pulled up for handling once, while on the second occasion, Daly got the ball squarely across the goal, but there was no one to put on the finishing

touch, and the end came with the points shared.

The Town defence was unsteady at the start, but improved greatly, and in the second half inspired confidence by the quickness of the tackling and the sureness of the kicking. Harford kept goal well, and Kingham and Smith were a fine pair of backs. In the middle line, Morgan played remarkably well in spite of an injury that necessitated three stitches in the wound over his left eye. This was caused through a kick when he was tackled by Hemingway. Fraser put up a rousing defiance to the City right wing, and Clark, who was slow off the mark, came on a lot after the first half-hour.

In the forward line, there was no outstanding figure, and they never got going in the best style, the passing being at fault, and the marksmanship being poor. Rennie gave out some nice passes, but was usually crowded out when he tried a shot. The wing work was below expectations, there being few movements worth while, until the second half.

There were 8,000 spectators, and Mr. Sambrook handled the game splendidly.