

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, McDavitt, Goyan, 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, Yardley, Rennie, Drinnan, McInnes.

NORWICH.—Jarvie; Hannah, Richmond; Brown, O'Brien, Lockhead; Porter, Thomson (N), Thompson (J.), Scott, Slicer.

Referee:—Mr. S. L. Stenning, 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.

AT LUTON.

Norwich made a good start by winning the toss, and Andy Rennie's first experience as captain was not fortunate, for the Town had to face the sun and a slight breeze. The first incident of real note was a lusty and inconsiderate charge by Fraser, and this gave Jim Thompson a chance for one of his patent drives from just outside the penalty area, but he kicked the ground, and the ball trickled to Harford, who got rid of it easily. The Town left winger, McInnes, soon made his presence felt, for in his first run down he managed to get in an awkward dropping shot that Jarvie was glad to touch upwards, and the ball fell on to the bar and dropped behind.

Give and take play followed, Brown for the City and Fulton for the Town being noticeable, and then McInnes again shone, for he gave Rennie a pass, and the centre-forward squeezed between the backs and drove in a grand shot that crashed against the bar, and when Yardley headed in from the rebound, Jarvie was in the right place. A bad miss by Porter followed at the other end, and then Kingham won applause for a magnificent tackle that despoiled Jim Thompson when the big fellow was almost on the goal-line.

After Rennie had been foiled in a quick assault in front of Jarvie, the City got away after good work by Jim Thompson, and from his pass, Porter centred hard. The ball struck Fraser's arm, and on the requisition of the linesman, a penalty kick was awarded. Brown took the kick, and instead of shooting hard, he tried to steer the ball to the left of Harwood, but he missed the target completely. This was poetic justice, for Fraser never saw the ball till it struck him, and certainly had no intention of "knocking on."

There were lively scenes in front of Jarvie after this, Drinnan being prominent without being successful. He had a very good chance from a pass by Rennie, but tried to dribble close in, and his shot was directed against an opponent, and the defenders withstood the ensuing scramble. Fraser was in the picture with energetic efforts, but the home forwards could not overcome a stout defence, though once the crowd behind the goal appealed loudly and almost unanimously for a penalty kick when Hannah got the ball away from Rennie, the allegation being that he had handled. The Town pressed hotly, but the interval came without a goal.

TOWN	 nil
CITY	 nil

In the early stages of the second half, Fraser and Kingham were prominent in stemming fierce dashes by the City, and then the Town had a successful turn. Bedford, after twice sending the ball against an opponent through delaying his centre, responded to good play by Clark, Yardley and Rennie, and his final pass to RENNIE was just right for the crack shot to fire into the net on the move, and so the Town took the lead.

Harford made brilliant saves in the next ten minutes, for the City attacked furiously, and won several corners in quick succession. He punched away three times, and Smith

saved a certain goal by kicking away from the toe of Jim Thompson when that worthy had worked close in. There was a brief respite, and then the City came again, Norman Thompson making a clever move before passing to JIM THOMPSON, who shot a grand goal from over 20 yards range and levelled the scores.

The Town had the better of the game after this, though the City were often dangerous. The Norwich defenders toiled away, fighting every inch of ground, and clearing lustily, though once Clark dropped the ball on to the bar, and both Bedford and McInnes flashed the ball across the goal-mouth time after time. Yardley also skimmed the bar from a difficult position. At the other end, Kingham and Smith were severely tested at times, but neither side scored again.

Harford kept goal finely, and had not the slightest chance to save the goal that was registered against him. He dealt splendidly with corner kicks, too, punching away many times over the heads of a rack of players. Kingham was the better of two fine backs, and they could be excused inaccuracy of length kicking under the conditions. They were compelled to work very hard, for the middle line was uncomfortable, and made many mistakes. Fraser was the best of the three, and though Fulton and Clark put in a lot of good work, they did not get the ball under control so well as Fraser.

The forward work was moderate, there being very few line passing movements, though now and then the respective wing pairs showed glimpses of harmony, and Rennie made some beautiful passes to the extreme wingers. There was little co-operation, however, and the marksmanship was not good, but Rennie got precious few chances. When one came his way, he was usually surrounded by eager opponents. Bedford did not do badly on the extreme right, and McInnes will do well when he has confidence. Drinnan has clever feet, but does not keep position enough, being well behind the others as a rule. Yardley worked hard without any luck, as did Rennie.

Jarvie kept goal splendidly, though he is by no means a big fellow. Richmond and Hannah were strong kickers, and stout tacklers, as were all the middle men. The forwards worked nicely at times, and the whole line did well. They kept the game open, and were very dangerous when they got on the move.