

A SHOCK AND A SURPRISE.

LUTON TOWN LOSE AT HOME.

But Recover a Point at Norwich.

By Crusader.

NORWICH CITY 1 goal
LUTON TOWN 1 goal

NORWICH CITY. — Jarvie; Hannah, Graham; Jobling, O'Brien, Lockhead; Knox, Anderson, Thompson, Thomson, Slicer.

LUTON TOWN. — Harford, Kingham, Richards; Black, Fulton, Fraser; Daly, Yardley, Rennie, Woods, Bedford.

Referee: Mr. S. L. Stenning, Ilford.

IT came as a refreshing consolation prize to gain a point at Norwich on Monday night after the trouble of Saturday, and while I am ever loth to say "I told you so," it is nevertheless a fact that the better conditions at Norwich and Exeter have shown the Town team in a better light. The going at Norwich was just about the same as at Exeter, and every player was more confident, kept his feet better, and was able to make the ball do much more. It was sheer hard luck to lose a goal at Norwich with the very last kick of the game, but a point from the "Nest" is a valuable prize, and helps to level up the loss of the point to the City at Luton.

Moreover, it will give both players and supporters a lot more heart for the struggle at Watford on Saturday, and if we get some rain before then Luton stock should go up considerably. In another column I am able to give a new light on the play of Morgan, and still have great faith in his ability to rise to the high expectations that his signature evoked.

SOUTHEND'S SUCCESS.

IT was a big surprise to the 10,000 spectators that Southend were able to take away the points on Saturday. That they deserved the victory on their merits none would deny, for while the Town had an equal share of the play, the visitors showed more finishing ability, and if their movements were fewer, the method of carrying them out showed a great deal more ability or adaptability to the prevailing conditions.

The sun shone with great power, the ground was terribly hard, and few of the players escaped sore feet. There was nothing much between the teams in the first half, though the visitors played well enough to indicate that they were not going to be beaten without a great struggle. They gave Harford many anxious moments, and he was extremely lucky to reach half-time with only one goal against him. This was scored by BORLAND after a clever run with Donovan.

Before then Rennie had hit the upright at Moore's end, and the Southend custodian had saved well on several occasions, but so well did his colleagues play that the possibilities of Southend scoring were always the greater. Rennie hit the upright on a subsequent occa-



HARFORD

LUTON TOWN'S GOALKEEPER.

sion, and two or three good chances were missed, but as the visitors were playing all out there seemed a real probability that the Town would take command after the change of ends.

After the turn round the Town did begin as though they would soon discount Southend's first half advantage, and the visitors' defence had a warm time, but they struggled through successfully, and when BORLAND got a second goal the issue seemed to be fairly clear, and certainly not in Luton's favour. This point came after a fine dribble and shot by Jones, Harford having great trouble to push the ball out, and the scorer was not slow to seize the chance.

Try as they would, the Town could not get together in workmanlike style, and their attacks were beaten off several times. When Brophy had to retire with a broken wrist they were not distressed by the handicap, for they re-arranged their team, and fought back with surprising virility. It only remained for BORLAND to head through a third goal from Borland's corner-kick to make the triumph complete, and the Town retired goal-less.

Harford kept goal well, and Kingham and Richards played stoutly at back, the former again doing remarkably well. The halves were not able to hold a very likely quintette, however, and though they did better in attack than in defence, the forwards were seldom able to carry on well enough to raise the burden from the defence. Fraser was the best of the halves, and if any man deserved mention in the forward line it was Rennie, who gave nice passes without getting much back.

Until there is a vast change in the conditions underfoot the Town are not likely to show much improvement.

come and the grounds are softer, I shall expect to see them recover the valuable ground they have forfeited in these early games. Ball control was easier for the lighter and quicker-footed Southend side, and they made the best of their opportunities.

Southend are a business-like team, sound in defence, quick and resolute at half, and nippy and skilful forward. Moore kept goal well, and of two good backs, French showed up the better. Armitage was a splendid pivot, and in the attack, where all played well, much was due to the delightful foot-work of Jones and Donovan, who fed their partners and Baron with nice passes.

LUTON TOWN 0
SOUTHEND UNITED 3

LUTON TOWN. — Harford; Kingham, Richards; Black, Morgan, Fraser; Daly, Yardley, Rennie, Woods, Bedford.

SOUTHEND UNITED. — Moore, French, Brophy; Dixon, Armitage, Johnson; Barnett, Jones, Baron, Donovan, Borland.

Referee: G. T. Gould, London.

AT NORWICH.

THERE was much similarity in the two games with Norwich, the main difference being that the Town played far better, considering they were away from home, on Monday than in the first encounter. Perhaps they were fortunate to gain a point, because the balance of play was with the City, but the defence is a part of the team, and the more important part in away games, and they withstood the hard hammering of the powerful City side in a manner that entitled them to principal mention.

The only goal of the first half fell to the Town, when BEDFORD netted with a low shot following a flag-kick by Daly, and they held this lead against the fierce rushes of the City until the very last kick of the struggle. Then ANDERSON beat Harford with a fine shot, the ball travelling right away from the goalkeeper. It was probably the best shot of the game, but it was not the best goal, dramatic though the achievement. There were two other occasions when the Town netted in the second half, and though I would not quibble about the position of Daly, I am certain Rennie was not offside when he scored.

Daly had made ground, and when Graham came forward he lifted the ball over him for Rennie to dash through, take the ball on his chest, and as Jarvie came rushing out the Town centre-forward cleverly lofted the ball over his head, ran on to regain possession and shoot into the vacant goal. It was a pretty won point, and a pity that the referee did not note the fact that Rennie was onside when the ball was played by Daly. It was one of very few errors, but it cost the Town a point.

When Anderson's equaliser came it was never expected. Local Pressmen had left their places, for the referee had been closely watching the time for quite two minutes, yet he did not blow before time was due. Bedford might have averted the equaliser had he gone ahead with the ball with the simple intention of keeping it out of the danger zone, but he tried to give it to Rennie, the pass was intercepted, and Hannah, who got it, lost no time in getting it to his forwards; then the damage was done.

Still, the City were worth a point, for they played well, and the former Luton players were keen on winning. They pressed heavily in the early stages, and Harford gave a fine display of goalkeeping, while Kingham and Richards were well-nigh invincible. The former is undoubtedly one of the finest and most consistent backs in the South of England to-day, but Richards was probably more valuable in this particular game. He gave a magnificent exhibition, and time after time his strenuous tackling, his height, and his enormous strength extricated the Town defence from difficulties.

He was able to challenge and hold his own with Jim Thompson, which is saying a good deal, for none was more anxious to put a further scotch on the Town than the Londoner, who played well, but was well marked by Richards. Fulton also came into his own with credit, especially in defence, while both Black and Fraser thoroughly justified their inclusion. They did not look so big as the City middle line, but they played quite as well.

Rennie was probably the best of the forwards, for though he did not get many chances of shooting, he passed nicely to his wings, and led the line well. Woods was a schemer as usual, and initiated many openings, and Yardley worked with unbounded energy. Both wingers were apt to centre too far forward, with the result that Jarvie received much of their work, but they were speedy, and, like the rest of the attack, showed far better form than in the previous games.

The City played much as in the previous meeting. Like Luton, they were eager to record their first win, and worked tremendously hard fore and aft, but they met a sterling defence, and in the end were lucky to share so unexpectedly with the last kick. Jarvie and his backs were sound, and the halves, O'Brien in particular, put up a sturdy show, while all the forwards did good work, though the 10,000 spectators were rather vexed that there were not more goals.