

LUTON WIN AGAIN.

TWO GOALS IN HAND OVER NEWPORT

By Crusader.

ONCE more the followers of Luton Town were more satisfied with the result than with the game put up by the victors. There can be no question that at certain periods of the game the Town played really splendid football, their pace and accurate transference, combined with determination and energy, completely abbergasting the plucky Newport County halves and backs. At other times they deteriorated into a very commonplace lot, and irritated the crowd, who wanted them to maintain the higher standard. It is not always possible to do so for the full run of the game, but I have no doubt whatever that they could keep it up for longer periods than they are disposed to do.

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There runs through the team a streak of apathy; where it begins and where it ends cannot be fathomed, but there it is. In the first half the team spirit of the Town was such as to indicate a crushing defeat for the County, but in the second half, in particular, they worked in spasms, and but for that the County must have gone home with a much higher opinion of the Town than was actually the case. Newport are far from a poor side; their football is good, and every player showed skill, but when the Town developed attacks in masterful spirit there was little hope for the "Ironsides."

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There were four goals in the first half, and three of these were scored by the Town before their opponents found the net. DALY opened the scoring about two minutes after the kick-off, although each goal had been raided in that brief period. It was a three-man effort, for Yardley cleverly plied Rennie, and the centre-forward shot the ball out to Daly so accurately that the winger had only to put his best foot first in order to get within striking distance, and Maidment was well beaten.

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The second came after a rather prolonged assault by the visitors had been beaten off, and it was quite a gem of a goal in its way. CLARK had not been very conspicuous until then, but suddenly he ran through, eluding two opponents, and winding up his effort with a characteristic shot that left the goalkeeper amazed. That goal made a lot of difference to Clark, and this flank was the better all through the game, though the left flank did well. It was not a long time after this that Fraser initiated the movement that enabled McInnes to swing the ball across, and RENNIE took a shot without waiting for deliberate aim, and Maidment dived in vain at a ball that passed just inside the upright.

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Newport had fallen away considerably, but they then took advantage of an obvious easing up, and after being repelled two or three times they came again, and THOMAS scored with a beautiful shot which Harford had no chance of saving. Still, the Town went very close to increasing the lead again before half-time, and all the forwards took a part in the many advances that kept Anderson and Reid hard at work, though Maidment was not engaged so often as he might have been.

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The second half opened with the Town threatening more goals, but gradually, perhaps owing to a falling off in the resistance, the play became somewhat colourless, and Maidment dealt with everything that came his way when he had the chance. Often, however, his goal bore something of a charmed life, and shots were almost rained in at times, while his colleagues frequently got in the way of the drives of Rennie, and Reid had one unpleasant reminder of the powder behind the centre-forward's shots.

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Only at rare intervals did the County test Harford, but the crowd were growing restless, and it came as a relief when the Town's fourth goal was scored. McINNES was the marksman, and he shot from an acute angle at such a rate that Maidment's effort to get the ball completely failed, and it appeared to strike his leg and turn into the net. From the kick-off the visitors got going in good style on the right, and when G. RICHARDSON captured the ball as it beat Kingham, he trapped it and shot hard into the net. The closing stages were uneventful.

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The Town rearguard did not have a very heavy task, taking the game throughout. Richards against showed up prominently, and his headwork was of immense value when the visitors were dropping high centres into the goal-mouth, while there was none big enough in the visiting attack to upset him, though G. Richardson is no chicken. Kingham was clever as usual, but at times did not seem to exert himself unduly, and Harford had nothing of exceptional difficult to deal with.

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The exchange of places by Fulton and Clark made for the improvement anticipated. Fulton is surely playing better than ever he did, and has never shown such ability to keep the ball down as he is doing now, while he keeps on top gear remarkably well for the whole of the game. Clark is more reliable, too, and brings into his game more forcefulness on the flank than he does in the middle, while Fraser is playing splendidly, though it took him some time to find his best in this game, after he had sustained an injury early on.

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The forwards were somewhat puzzling, for at times they reached a standard that would overcome any opposition, and at others they looked very moderate. It would be difficult to say who was the best and who was the worst, though for

improvement I thought Yardley deserved a good word, as he evinced a better understanding of the requirements of Daly. Rennie manifested further improvement in his leadership, and if there is a more accurate feeder of the wings in this country I should like to see him. He has yet to do a really big thing in the matter of marksmanship this season.



On the left Drinnan played well enough to justify his retention of the position, though not so conspicuous as against Fulham. I thought he lay too far back in this game, but possibly he was led to do so by the injury sustained by Fraser, who limped for a long while. Still, he got some nice passes to McInnes, and the latter was clever in making ground, though his finishing called for more consideration of the inside forwards — as usual.



Gittins was the pick of the visiting attack, if not the best inside forward on view. He initiated many movements in the cleverest fashion. Thomas also showed dainty footwork in a clever line. The halves were passable, and at times they left too much to their backs, for Anderson and Reid had a lot of work. They could both have done better, but Maidment was a good goalkeeper.



There were 8,825 spectators paid for admission.

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LUTON TOWN. — Harford; Kingham, Richards; Clark, Fulton, Fraser; Daly, Yardley, Rennie, Drinnan, McInnes.	
NEWPORT COUNTY. — Maidment; Anderson, Reid; Richardson (S.), Nairn, Riley; Morris, Gittins, Richardson (G.), Thomas, Rutherford.	
Referee. — Mr. A. A. Archer, Market Harborough.	