

TOWN DOWN AT BRENTFORD

HARFORD INJURED.

By Crusader.

LUTON TOWN were not able to close the successful run of BRENTFORD at Griffin Park on Saturday. The "Bees" have thus won every home game this season, collecting twenty points from their ten games. Though they were lucky to benefit by misfortune to the Town goalkeeper less than twenty minutes from the start, enough was seen of them to make one fairly certain that they will not be far behind Plymouth Argyle, if not in front, at the end of the season.

The Town's re-shuffling could not be accurately criticised on this game. Naturally, there was an unsettlement at the outset, but the players appeared to be getting together when Harford was injured and unable to take any further part in the game. If for no other reason, it was a pity that the Town suffered yet another misfortune, since it left us with no real idea as to the improvement or otherwise consequent upon the several changes.

A rough wind affected the play, and though the Town had the advantage in the first half, they could make comparatively little headway. Their attempts were nipped in the bud before Fox was troubled. On the other hand, the Town defenders found much difficulty in stemming the rushes of the home forwards, and Harford had several opportunities to show his prowess, punching away shots from either wing, and getting rid of the ball in the face of keen challengers among the "Bees" inside forwards.

It was a rather lucky goal when it came. Harford had to concede a corner, and Payne's flag-kick was swept out of the goal-mouth by the wind when Harford rushed out to punch away, the result being that it went right to the bald pate of J. LANE, who headed past the goalkeeper, and the ball crept just inside the post, though Kingham tried his utmost to get at it and flit it out. This was a spur to the "Bees," and as their defenders kicked strongly and beyond the Town halves, their forwards were often dangerous.

After Harford had repelled three efforts, the "Bees" right wing advanced, and the ball was swung across. Harford saved, and when Blakemore rushed in to shoot at close quarters, Harford dashed out to foil him. Blakemore sent the ball high over, and Harford met Blakemore's boot and went down. He received attention, and returned into goal, but the goal-kick had hardly been taken before Harford had to be helped off the field. Kingham took his place, and was soon brought into action.

The "Bees" had the better of the game to the interval. Their forwards were very persistent, and with the Town team disorganised, there would have been more goals but for the strenuous tackling and resolute opposition of the Town defence generally. The forward line did not give much anxiety to Fox, though now and then the raids were quickly carried out, and a few corners were won. One or two scrambles took place in the home goal-mouth, but the

defenders massed well, and shots usually rebounded from the crash. Kingham made some good saves, and Fraser and Richards defended stoutly, so that at the change of ends the score stood:—

BRENTFORD 1

LUTON nil

The story of the second half might soon be told. In the early stages, the Town threatened to draw level, Drinnan being prominent, but the "Bees" gradually asserted mastery, and many chances were missed through bad finishing, though it should not be overlooked that the Town halves and backs were tackling tenaciously, and sticking hard at it, albeit they could not get the ball far away. Kingham made good saves, and Fraser and Richards headed away hot drives and many centres.

The second goal came midway through the half and almost in the same fashion as the first. Payne got a flag-kick well over, and J. LANE happened to be in the right spot. The ball flew from his head into the net, the wind carrying it at a great pace away from Kingham. The efforts of the Town were spasmodic, and though Daly and McInnes got the ball into the middle now and then, not a shot of real sting went near Fox. The most promising efforts arose chiefly from free kicks against the "Bees" intermediate line, but the backs dealt with them, and when the end came none was sorry.

Harford could not have done any better than Kingham had he been able to stay on the field, but the defence was greatly handicapped. Fraser was a powerful defender when he took the right back position, and he had also done well at centre half. Richards defended with his customary stubbornness, but there was a lack of co-operation between him and Millar. In the middle line, Yardley put up a dour show, and, as at Walsall last season, was such a "sticker" that he made one feel that he might make good in this position. Fulton put up his usual tireless game, and Millar, against the cleverest wing on the field, held his own pretty well.

The attack never lost heart, though when Yardley was withdrawn, the task was almost hopeless against a defence that shares with Plymouth Argyle the honour of having been beaten fewer times than any in the League. Daly put plenty of life into his lonely job, and was very troublesome. McInnes was tricky, and when he took his courage in his hands he did well against lusty opposition. Drinnan was very clever, but inclined to do too much dribbling, evidently anxious to shine against his former club-mates. Clark was not so successful as a leader, though working heartily.

There were nearly 10,000 spectators.

BRENTFORD.—Fox; Stevenson, Adamson; Davies, Bain, Salt; Foster, Lane (J.), Lane (W.), Blakemore, Payne.

LUTON TOWN.—Harford; Kingham, Richards; Fulton, Fraser, Millar; Daly, Yardley, Clark, Drinnan, McInnes.