

A DRAW AT FULHAM.

LATE EQUALISING GOAL FOR LUTON.

By Crusader.

IT was not a very good game at Craven Cottage on Saturday, but LUTON TOWN'S defence was so good that a point was earned. FULHAM got their goal early on, and the end was in sight before the Town snatched the equaliser unexpectedly, but deservedly because they never ceased trying, and there was certainly more merit in their success than in that of the home side.

ALLEN scored for Fulham after ten minutes. There had been a free kick against the Town, and a scuffle took place in the Town goal-mouth as a result. Banes saved, and Richards headed two or three times, but the ball could not be driven away, and it fell opportunely at the feet of the Fulham leader, who lost no time in making use of his chance.

The equalising goal was secured five minutes from the end. Fraser did the spade work, for after overcoming the home right wing, he raced along, and then plied Rennie. The centre-forward gave to Baker, who did his best bit of work, a splendid centre from the line beating the defence for BIRCH to dash forward and head into the net with Beecham helpless to save.

Apart from the scoring of the goals the most thrilling moments came when Banes made two or three remarkably fine saves. Two in the second half from Allen, a header and a fast ground shot, evoked applause even from such a grudging crowd as the Fulham folk, and it was undoubtedly the quality of the Town defence that averted defeat.

Fulham were the more polished team, chiefly because their forwards were a more impressive combination, but in all other respects the Town were quite as good. I do not think the Fulham defence would have done so well as the Town's had the pressure been equal, though there were periods in the first half when they were fully extended, and a stronger punch at close quarters might have given the Town a lead.

On the whole, the Town had rather more of the game in the first half, but Fulham enjoyed the advantage in the second, and only the relentless and dogged work of the Town halves and backs and the skill of Banes kept them

at bay. To the Town rearguard, therefore, were honours mainly due. Banes proved to be in brilliant form, and Richards and Smith have never played better. They were confident and judicious, and had good understanding with the men in front.

The halves played a strong, defensive game, and at times opened out the game in a manner that deserved better reward. Fulton was industrious and untiring, and though beaten for pace by Penn, he bothered that flier unceasingly. Clark again played grandly as pivot, and is thoroughly justifying his preference, while Fraser was once more the best half-back on the field. It is worthy of note that the six have played in all the six League games this season.

The right wing pair were the most aggressive part of the Town attack. Birch again played skilfully, and though rather slow at times in getting off the mark, on occasion he simply outwitted Barrett by unexpected swerve and clever manipulation. Daly introduced more fire than usual, and was often dangerous. On the left wing Yardley strove as manfully as ever, forcing many attacks, and Baker showed promise, though not a star. Rennie did not get many chances, but distributed well, and only needs the restoration of confidence to weld the line.

Fulham's rearguard owed much to the reinforcement from the middle men. Rosier was a sound back, and McNab played finely at centre-half. In the forward line Allen and Penn were the most troublesome elements.

There were 13,800 spectators, and the receipts were £799.

FULHAM 1

LUTON TOWN 1

FULHAM. — Beecham; Rosier, Gibbon; Henderson, McNab, Barrett; Temple, Haley, Allen, Hammond, Penn.

LUTON. — Banes; Richards, Smith; Fulton, Clark, Fraser; Daly, Birch, Rennie, Yardley, A. Baker.

Referee.—Mr. G. Franklin, Portsmouth.