

A POOR GAME.

BUT LUTON TOWN GET THE POINTS.

LUTON TOWN'S game with TORQUAY UNITED, on Saturday, was not a very thrilling affair. On the run of the game there should have been a much bigger margin of success, and it was the fault of the forwards that considerable headway towards parity of goal average was not realised. Yet the forwards played skilful football—too skilful at times, and if Birch and Drinnan had released the ball a bit oftener, Rennie might have made more than one true mark on the United's goal record.

Torquay were clever in places, but the Town were more clever in more places. As a team the visitors cut little ice, but one wondered what would have happened if they had all played with brains as bright as those of their manager, Frank Womack. Considering his years, and the fact that he was assumed to have finished when he went to Torquay, he gave a splendid exhibition, and if the inside forwards and the halves had been as good as the backs, the Town would not have won. Torquay's wingers were quite useful, but the inside men could not respond to their clever play, and the halves were not much better than lusty kickers.

A characteristic goal by RENNIE, two minutes after the start, infused the crowd with hope of seeing many goals, and, truly, the Town should have had better results from their good approach work. BIRCH notched the second with a wonderful shot, very much like Rennie's, and from a similar position, and near the interval, during a hot assault, Yardley headed on to the post, and the goal had a lucky escape. Still, Milsom had not a great amount of work, and we wanted to see a few more shots like those that were successful.

Now and then the fleet wingers of the United gave trouble, but once only was Banes' charge in danger of failing, and that was due, I think, to some slackness among the Town defenders. As a rule Richards and Smith were so well positioned as to be able to cope with anything that was left for them after the halves had been overcome, and so at the interval the Town enjoyed a handsome lead:—

LUTON TOWN	2
TORQUAY UNITED	0

In the second half the visitors endeavoured to set the pace, but after Banes had dealt with two right wing efforts the Town dictated the run of the game. Nothing of real moment occurred until the second period had been going for seventeen minutes, and then DALY

got a long pass from the middle, sprinted clear, and made a rather poor shot. Milsom seemed to have the ball well covered as he went down, but it passed under him and into the net. He was deceived by the pace being less than he had thought, and the ball appeared to wobble and twist as it approached.

It was a somewhat desultory game afterwards, with the Town having the better of a lot of midfield finesse. Sometimes the visitors made a skirmish, but the main interest was in the endeavours of Yardley, who worked very hard along with Drinnan and Fraser. With 15 minutes for play Smith was penalised, and the only reason for the decision, so far as I could see, was that Smith made a quick, stabbing sort of tackle. He got the ball all right, but an opponent was injured, and the referee gave a free kick for what I thought he might have interpreted as dangerous play. The kick was over 40 yards out, but Womack gauged the shot splendidly; Banes got his arms to the ball, but it spun out, fell against the post, and HILL, close at hand, soon netted.

The Town came near scoring again in the closing minutes, but failed to do so. Banes was at fault over the goal, but it was the sort of error that the best make at times, and I doubt if he will fail again like that this season. Richards was a superb back, and Smith was a splendid partner. Walker did not settle down, but subsequently did useful work. Clark and Fraser were doing as well as ever, and Clark is improving out of all knowledge. The forwards were very clever, and Drinnan full of tricks, but there was too much close work. Rennie gave some beautiful passes, but could not get the ball back as he desired. Drinnan's footwork was dazzling, and Jim Yardley put up a very good game on the extreme left. He owed his prominence to Fraser, Rennie and Drinnan. These three fed him religiously, and he did not let them down. The other wing pair accomplished good work, Daly's speed being a fine foil to the activities of Birch, and the line at times showed a high standard of skill. There were nearly 6,000 spectators.

Result:—
LUTON TOWN 3
TORQUAY UNITED 1
LUTON TOWN.—Banes; Richards, Smith; Walker, Clark, Fraser; Daly, Birch, Rennie, Drinnan, Yardley.
TORQUAY UTD.—Milsom; Womack, Fowler; Bruce, Cann, Smith; Kelly, Keeling, Hill, Robinson, Waller.
Referee.—S. L. Stenning, Ilford.