

LUTON WIN AGAIN.

BRENTFORD'S PROMOTION HOPES FADE.

(By "CRUSADER").

FOR the second game in succession LUTON TOWN brought off a dramatic finish, and in the latest instance they had the satisfaction of lowering the colours of BRENTFORD at Luton. Though the Town were expected to win, it was generally recognised that the game would be a stern and relentless struggle, and that Brentford, with promotion hopes at least second best, would make a determined effort to strengthen their position.

That effort duly came, and they seemed assured of a partial success until the last minute, when a characteristic goal by Rennie won the match. There was plenty of vigour, but the referee early cleared the air by penalising a visiting defender who began heel-rapping. There have been far worse games in this respect between the teams though the football was never very thrilling, and the 11,000 spectators were often bored.

Energy and dash were infused into the play immediately but the defenders on either side showed their mettle. The Town had the better of the game, but they were given little latitude when within range, and the Brentford halves fell well back to stave off the slightest threat. Indeed, there were frequently four or five Brentford players in the goal area, and they never wasted a fraction of a second in giving the ball plenty of boot.

Possibly the visitors came nearest to scoring in the first quarter of an hour, but these were the result of raids, and for the greater part the ball was in the Brentford half. Rennie later got in a fine shot, that Fox just diverted to the bar and the ball went over, and there followed a series of attacks that petered out in the face of stern opposition.

CLARK then scored a glorious goal from a free kick some thirty yards out. He had previously had a similar effort, but his aim was faulty. On this occasion the elevation was just right and the ball sped at rocket pace into the top of the net, Fox being without a ghost of a chance to get near it. The crowd rose to the scorer, and it put them in happy mood for the interval.

LUTON 1
BRENTFORD nil

The Town continued to be the better side for some time after change of ends, though their goal had the narrowest escape. Foster was the messenger of trouble, and his centre beat the positioning of the Town defenders with the exception of Fraser, who dashed back into the goal-mouth and cleared when Payne would probably have scored. The Town's efforts usually fizzled out when they reached the penalty area.

Then came a period of "frightfulness," for the visitors fought with more vim, and after Banes had cleared several efforts he was penalised for "carrying." Clark made a capital clearance, but the menace was renewed and after J. Lane had just missed with a nice shot, Payne forced Fraser to concede a corner. He placed the ball neatly, and W. LANE nodded the ball into the net.

The Town had to struggle hard against a team refreshed, and Banes and his backs were sore beset, but they emerged safely, and then the Town came along with their usual hearty closure. The left wing repeatedly broke through, and after Rennie had hit the post and Boylen had missed a simple chance by shooting too high, Hutchinson gave the centre-forward a pass when he was on the fringe of the penalty area. RENNIE lost no time in taking his shot, and the ball travelled well away from Fox, hit the upright and went into the net.

The cheering was almost frenzied and continued during the short period of marking time until the whistle went. One could not but feel sorry for Fox and his backs that they should have to capitulate after so gallant a defence, especially as the Brentford backs had played a very fair game, but Rennie had been afforded so few chances, and his previous effort was so deserving of success, that he merited this and the better team won, though the margin of superiority was not worth more than this one goal.

For the Town Banes and his backs did very well, with Richards as the most powerful feature. The halves were in determined mood, though Fraser had a tough handful in Payne. The Town left half, however, was rather too generous, for he refrained from even shouldering the visiting left-winger. Clark was a robust and resolute pivot, and Millar again

played a capital game. Yardley was the best of the attack, though Hutchinson decidedly showed promise as a winger.

LUTON TOWN 2
BRENTFORD 1
LUTON.—Banes; Kingham, Richards, Fraser, Clark, Millar; Boylen, Yardley, Rennie, Drinnan, Hutchinson.
BRENTFORD.—Fox; Dumbrell, Hodge; Davies, Bain, Salt; Foster, Lane (J.), Lane (W.) Blakemore, Payne.
Referee.—Mr. H. E. Gray, Ilford.