

JUST ON TIME

LUTON MANAGED TO GET SQUARE.

Brentford Nearly Win.

By Crusader.

LUTON TOWN did not make a very satisfactory start on Saturday. On the whole they could be accounted rather fortunate to retain a point, for it was only after eighty-eight minutes play that they managed the equalising goal. The conditions were rather better than expected, for there had been a cool morning, nevertheless, the sun was strong enough to cause much discomfort to the players.

It was an unpleasant game at times, and the man mainly responsible for it was the one who had least need to resort to dirty play. Lane was the guilty individual, and he and Clark were at loggerheads after a few minutes' play. One or two others were to blame later, but in the first half-hour there had been half-a-dozen free kicks against the "Bees," and only one against the Town.

Brentford lost the toss, but started like a winning side, and apart from an occasional raid when the Town extreme wingers managed to get the ball, Fox saw little danger at his end. On the other hand, Banes was frequently in action, and the "Bees" forced more corner-kicks during the first twenty minutes than occurred during the rest of the game. In this period Banes acquitted himself magnificently, and made brilliant saves.

His backs also did well, and they had plenty of opportunity, for the halves were unable to cope with the swift transfers of the Brentford forwards, and the uncanny manoeuvres of Lane, who never got the ball without making good use of it. When the Town did get possession they found the Brentford halves fiercely determined, and if they were overcome a stout pair of backs refused to give in.

McGinnigle could not deal effectively with Payne, and after being beaten two or three times he was slipped by the outside-left, who transferred across the goal-mouth. The only other Brentford forward that had kept up with the left-winger was Foster, and he had wisely closed into the middle, so that all that was required was a straight shot from close quarters, and Banes was beaten. Thus Brentford took the lead after twenty-five minutes.

They looked like adding to their score, and would have done so but for the splendid resistance of the Town backs, but in the last ten minutes before the interval the Town improved considerably, the halves getting the ball to the forwards with more accuracy, and there were two or three dangerous assaults. Rennie went close with a couple of hot shots, and Page nearly rushed an equalising goal from a corner-kick.

Brentford deserved their lead at the change of ends, but they were within an ace of losing it very soon after the re-start, for Page and Rickett nearly managed to do the trick following a corner by Slicer. However, the "Bees" came back, and Kingham was applauded for grand work in the goal-mouth. Still, the Town were having a better share of the game now, which was even. Brentford were very determined to hold their lead at any cost, and Fox was not often troubled seriously, though his goal nearly fell to a fine shot by Slicer.

McGinnigle, who had improved wonderfully this half, was prominent on several occasions with fine co-operation with his wing, and Rickett should have done much better with some of the passes he received. Two minutes from the end, when many of the spectators had left the ground, there came a movement initiated by McGinnigle, and

M'Nestry made a brilliant dribble right to the Brentford goal, and then gave Page the easiest possible chance, of which full toll was taken, and the game was drawn.

Banes was at his best in goal, and Kingham and Richards played right at the top of their form. None of the halves was outstanding, but Hale showed that he is going to be a useful player. McGinnigle took some time to settle down, but he is a clever player, and Clark played fairly well without being at his best. He won't often have such a lively inside three to meet as in this game.

The forwards were the most disappointing department. The wingers, who might have done much damage, because they were so much faster than their opponents, did not get nearly enough work, nor did they often receive the right sort of pass so that they could make the best use of their speed. Both centred well, and M'Nestry's dribble just before the end was a clever effort. Page worked hard and unselfishly without being a conspicuous success, and Rickett, after a quite good start, fell off badly.

Some of the crowd were not too kind to the youngster, but he must not take that to heart. Everybody wanted to see him do well, and they will still have faith in him. We can all be wise after the event, and some of us find it our business so to be, but this game seemed just a bit too severe a test for such a young professional. Still, he will come on all right, and if he can add a little more speed to his cunning he will soon make good.

Rennie also came in for criticism; in some instances because he did not bestir himself a great deal, and in others because he did not get into the thick of the fight at close quarters. Most centre-forwards are expected to do this, but Rennie has not scored his goals by these methods. He wants the type of player of Harry Woods two seasons ago, who could push the ball through the middle for the centre-forward to take on the run. He is not getting that, though once Page did give him a neat pass, and a goal was missed only by inches.

Personally, I have not much use for a centre-forward or an inside man who roves a lot. The main thing is to have an eye for the position that the ball is likely to reach, and to be ready to pounce. We have had a good deal too much of inside men playing in the half-back position. It is all right if they can do the two, if they are craftsmen of the type of Lane, but otherwise they should realise that they are members of the attack.

Brentford have a strong, well-balanced side. Plenty of weight, an abundance of dash, and the fact that they have a team that has played together for a full season gave them an advantage over the Town on Saturday. Stevenson and Adamson were sound at back, and the halves were a dour and hard-fighting trio. Lane was the brains of the attack, and if Gamble had been a little more experienced he might have scored two or three goals.

There were nearly 12,000 spectators.

LUTON TOWN 1
BRENTFORD 1
LUTON TOWN.—Banes; Kingham, Richards; McGinnigle, Clark, Hale; M'Nestry, Rickett, Rennie, Page, Slicer.
BRENTFORD.—Fox; Stevenson, Adamson; Davis, Bain, Salt; Foster, Lane (J.), Gamble, Roberts, Payne.
Referee.—T. J. Botham, Walsall.