

POINT PICKED UP.

TWO BELATED GOALS AT EXETER.

(By CRUSADER).

We had a very pleasant journey, leaving Luton at 10.30 and arriving just after 3.30. The kick-off was at 6 o'clock, and by that time the air was much cooler, and apart from the hardness of the ground, the Town players had nothing of which to complain. There were from five to six thousand spectators. The teams were:—

LUTON.—Banes; Kingham, Richards; McGinnigle, Clark, Hale; M'Nestry, Yardley, Rennie, Armstrong, Slicer.

EXETER.—Davies; Gray, Miller; Clarke, Inglis, Denniston; Purcell, Houghton, Varco, Halliday, Lister.

Referee: Mr. T. W. Chamberlain.

Richards won the toss, but there was not much advantage. Exeter's right wing made the first advance, but Houghton sent wide, and repeated this a moment later. They came again, Houghton dribbling cleverly, but Varco was offside. The Town were not very quickly into their stride, but Yardley and M'Nestry got away, and the latter sent wide.

GROUND TROUBLES TOWN.

A free kick against Exeter's Clarke enabled the Town to get away, and M'Nestry broke through to shoot hard over the bar. Exeter came again, and Kingham cleared. The Town continued to be slow, and Lister sprinted through and centred. Varco got in a shot that hit the post, Kingham clearing. The bumpy ground was troubling the Town.

A mix-up on the Town right flank nearly let Halliday through, but Richards and Hale between them cleared magnificently. In vain the Town right wing strove to make progress. Exeter, by lusty play, held the upper hand, and Kingham and Richards had to work very hard.

A nice pass by Yardley sent M'Nestry through, but he was beaten by Miller close in. Lister slipped McGinnigle, and with Kingham miskicking in the goal-mouth, things looked bad until Hale again arrived on the scene. A corner followed, but this was of no avail. Exeter were having much the better of it, but could not break down a valiant defence.

LUTON'S DEFENCE.

Rennie and Slicer came with nice passes, but Miller took the ball off Yardley just in time. Banes had to save from Varco in another rush, and the Town defence was again penned in.

Exeter's left wing forced a corner, and after this was got away a free kick was given against Richards just outside the penalty area. From this McGinnigle saved what seemed a certain goal, and then the Town right had another turn, and M'Nestry put the ball right across the goal-mouth, Slicer returning it, but Gray luckily cleared from the goal line. Exeter came back, and Varco dropped a shot on the bar. A moment later Varco and Purcell got right through, and Richards kicked off the line when Banes was beaten. Half-time:—

EXETER CITY 0

LUTON TOWN 0

The first incident of note on the re-start was an attack by Armstrong that sent Slicer away, but he sent too high. Davies cleared from M'Nestry. The Town were playing better, and McGinnigle put the ball in the goal-mouth, but there was no one to take advantage of it.

HALVES NOT QUICK ENOUGH.

Play became tame for a period, and then Kingham was in the picture for his neat dribbling work and putting Varco offside. The Town halves were not quite quick enough for the rushes of the home forwards, but Varco was again put offside by Kingham.

M'Nestry forced a corner, and Davies

fisted away. Play was in the home half for a time, but eight minutes from the end the home men got away, and Lister had a great run. He centred well, and Kingham took the ball. It passed to Banes, who knocked it on to the bar. It fell into the goalmouth and HOUGHTON rushed the ball through.

SLICER'S GLORIOUS EQUALISER.

The Town began to put some more spice into the game now, and a strong attack was made, and Armstrong, Rennie and Hale had shots that were blocked. Two minutes from the end, however, M'Nestry got the ball from McGinnigle and swung it right across the goal. SLICER dashed in and scored a lovely equalising goal with a glorious first-time shot. Slicer had to be carried off the field, because he had hurt himself in falling. He recovered after a little while.

Exeter tried hard in the last few minutes, but time came with the score:

EXETER 1
LUTON 1

COMMENTS.

It was one of the pleasantest games we have had at St. James' Park, and the players kept their heads very well. The quality of the play was affected by the very hard ground, and time after time the ball ran off at a tangent.

The City played strong, bustling football, and had their inside-forwards been able to avoid the vigilance of the Town backs, the City would have repeated last season's victory. They had the better chances, few though they were.

The Town defence took the honours, for both Kingham and Richards fought with great zeal and stubbornness, when the speedy rushes of the home vanguard swept through the middle line. Kingham's kicking was not so good in the first half, but his tackling was always well timed, and his speed was a splendid asset. Richards was himself and again at the top of his form. Banes was safe and made several good saves, but most of the work was from headers.

In the middle line there was an inclination to delay in sending the forwards away, and Clark and Hale were disposed to pass to each other too much when the forwards were waiting. Clark hustled Varco well, and Hale got through a tremendous amount of work, and confirmed the good impression made on Saturday. McGinnigle again found the speed of the play very trying at the start, but he played a fine game, and his passing in the second half was well timed, and deserved better results.

The extreme wings played finely when they got the chance. They did not get many nice passes, and once more combination was lacking. The inside-forwards could not get going on the lively ground, and many passes went astray. There were very few shots, and most of the work for Davis came from the centres of the wingers.

The display generally was below what we expect, but there will be better work when they are together. There must be more shooting, however, and opposing defenders are getting too much room. It was so in this game until Exeter had scored, then there was a determination that had the Exeter defence shaky, and though it is always regarded as lucky to snatch a game out of the fire so near to the final whistle, there was no fluke about the goal. It was a great goal, for Slicer had only a narrow space at which to shoot, and the goalkeeper was at home. He met the ball on the drop, and it flashed into the net at a terrific pace.

The Town team to visit Crystal Palace will not be chosen until to-morrow. There may be further changes, for the management are desirous of finding the best at disposal.

Yesterday at Harpenden.—Harpenden 225 for 4 wickets (declared), (C. D. Van Namen 115); Letchworth 177 for 9.