

A USEFUL POINT

Picked Up by Luton at Gillingham

(By Crusader)

LUTON TOWN did not manage to get the brace of points at Gillingham, but did the next best thing. They brought away one, and the little handful of Luton followers who saw the match must have been satisfied, all things considered, though they would agree that on the course of the game as a whole the Town should have had both points.

A STIFF breeze made control very difficult, and the curious ground, which has a decided slope across the pitch, instead of from goal to goal, did not tend to help in this direction. Gillingham, desperately in need of points owing to their very lowly position in the League, were all out from start to finish, and made a very strong fight.

PLAY was often too vigorous, and it was evident that some of the Town players did not relish the reckless tactics of the home side, though none shirked the tussle.



W. THAYNE.

In the second period especially the whistle frequently sounded for infringements because of the unorthodox tackles of the home defenders, who were sorely pressed.

IN the first period Gillingham did much more pressing, but there was not a great deal of danger to the Town goal, because while the home forwards could be clever at times, the ball was often in the air, and the big kicking by the halves and backs usually gave the Town defenders plenty of time to adjust position. Coen had to handle often but shots were generally from long range.

ON the other hand, the Town kept the ball down well, and Holland had more difficult work when shots were possible. Very soon after the kick-off he was nearly beaten by Ball, who broke through and shot well, but the goalkeeper managed to get the ball away after a struggle. Later, he was beaten by a shot from Stephenson, but the whistle went for offside against Ball, who made no attempt to interfere with the play at all.

ROBERTS was badly fouled on another occasion a yard from the penalty area, and Stephenson drove in a great shot, which was only a few inches the wrong side of the upright, with the goalkeeper groping across goal and quite unable to get near the ball.

THE only goal of the half was scored after just under half-an-hour, and should have been prevented. A sweeping kick into the Town goalmouth fell awkwardly and swerved away from Mackey, who would have had it had it gone straight. BALDWIN'S head bobbed up and caught the ball on the bounce, and sent it towards goal; Thayne and Coen went for it together close to the post, but somehow it beat both of them, just touched the upright and curled over the line.

THE Town were not long in arrears after the change of ends, for after strong attacks had been beaten off, Crompton lifted the ball well over from the right wing, and BALL beat Holland with a beautiful header, the ball crossing the line as Stephenson rushed in to make certain. Heavy pressure on the home goal followed, and had the finishing been good the Town must have won.

HOLLAND made several very fine saves, notably from Martin, and the right wing, making good use of the slope, got the ball in front of goal again and again. Gillingham defended fiercely, and their tackling was never very gentle, but free kicks were beaten out, and Holland was a safe custodian.

LATER, Gillingham opened out better, and their forwards, playing with great vigour, came near scoring on two or three occasions. Baldwin was a great worker, and strove desperately to get the better of Thayne and the backs, but they were very steady, and perhaps the nearest attempt was a shot from Balcombe, which passed right across goal and out by the farther post. The Town made further efforts towards the finish, but they could not overcome a very resolute defence.

THE Town defence was very steady under pressure, and stood up to the warm work of the home forwards pluckily enough. Thayne and the backs did very well, but Smith was not so conspicuous as usual, and Colquhoun did his best work as an attacking agent. Martin gave a very fine display in attack, but the line as a whole did not settle down so consistently as usual, though always better footballers than the opposition.

GILLINGHAM		1
Baldwin		
LUTON TOWN		1
Ball		

GILLINGHAM. — Holland; Marsden, Lester; Randle, Barrie, Kidd; L. Balcombe, Anstiss, Baldwin, Doncaster, Williams.
LUTON. — Coen; Kingham, Mackey; Colquhoun, Thayne, Smith; Crompton, Martin, Ball, Roberts, Stephenson.

Referee: R. G. Rudd Kenton.