

GLEAMS OF HOPE ARE 9/60 APPEARING

BIRMINGHAM CITY 1, LUTON TOWN 1

ON the basis that half a loaf is better than no bread this was a very welcome point to the Town at St. Andrew's this afternoon. But the aim, of course, was to equalise the respective positions at the foot of the table.

Yet in this play I glimpsed a gleam of hope, if only the Club can find a couple of forwards with shooting power.

This was a fine, fighting display by the defence, in which wing-halves Groves and Brown switched just before the start and played an outstanding part.

Both were in the thick throughout and Groves was back to his old form, tackling hard and showing good footwork. Brown, too, showed a continuance of his recent splendid form and the display of young Daniel, in only his third League match, was an eye opener.

Never flustered — even by the reputation of Hooper — he was always cool and calculating, showed good positional sense and more than that always sought to make good use of the ball.

Dunne was adequate enough and Kelly strong in the middle, without producing a dominant quality.

Behind them, Baynham brought the house down two or three times for remarkable saves, and by and large, the defence tamed a not-too dangerous forward line.

Forward it was Bingham who took the main honours, but the same old story of lack of punch in the inside positions was all too evident.

Cummins did a tremendous amount of work in mid-field, kept play more open than he has been doing and was the best of the inside trio.

Pacey was a trier throughout but he found Smith, the England centre-half, a stumbling block and did not manage a shot at goal until four minutes from the end when he so narrowly missed giving the Town the other invaluable point.

Kilgannon one must admire because of his capacity for hard work and for never giving up, but there were times this afternoon when his reactions were too slow.

In the early stages I thought that Gregory was to have a more successful time than had been the case previously this season.

He showed he had the beating of Farmer but his finishing was very poor.

Unfortunately, the Town forwards had not the punch to take full advantage of it. But that is a story of which repetition tends to be boring.

It was in the circumstances a good performance to take a point from this tension-laden game. It could so easily have been two.

Attendance: 19,007