

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON TOWN V. MILLWALL ATHLETIC.

A DETERMINED STRUGGLE FOR SUPREMACY AND A "RECORD" GATE.

LUTON'S DEFEAT AND THE REFEREE'S RELATION THERETO.

What was appropriately termed "the battle of the League" came off on Saturday, when Luton played their first engagement in the Southern League with their great rivals, Millwall Athletic. The match had been anticipated for weeks and eager had been the discussion of the chances of victory. After the success of Luton last January by 3-2, most people prophesied a close, stubbornly-fought contest and this indeed proved to be the case. The day was dull and depressing, rain falling in the morning, but the turf was in fairly good condition. Half-an-hour before the start, some thousands of spectators had assembled, and the grand stand, now enlarged to seat 1,000 on-lookers, was soon fully occupied. The visitors were accompanied by three or four hundred of their supporters, and the game must have been watched by over 5,000 people. Among those present were Mr. Colin Gordon, president of the Millwall club, and treasurer of the League, Mr. W. Henderson, the club's secretary, and Mr. J. Oliver, of Tottenham fame, the donor of the championship shield. During the interval of waiting, the Red Cross Band played several excellent selections in front of the grand stand. Both teams were greeted with enthusiasm, Luton and Nicholson especially having a warm reception. How the Town secured the West Bromwich Albion back for the occasion, was narrated in detail in our last issue. Each side had its full strength, McCrindle re-appearing for Luton after a fortnight's absence. The Millwall team, who seemed a lithe, powerful eleven in their military-looking attire, would have had Law in goal but for his being detained by his duties at Borough-road College. Soon after 3.30 the teams appeared on the field as follows:

Luton Town—Bee, goal; M. D. Nicholson and McEwen, backs; Watkins, McCrindle, and Howe, half-backs; Gallacher and Finlayson, right; Galbraith, centre; Allen and Prentice, left, forwards.

Millwall Athletic—Walker, goal; Graham and Davies, backs; King, J. Matthews and H. Matthews, half-backs; Jones and Wilson, right; Robertson, centre; McKenzie and Geddes, left, forwards.

Referee—Mr. N. Whittaker (Secretary of the Southern League).

Linesmen—Messrs. W. G. Wheeler (Luton) and F. Kidd (Millwall).

It was about 20 minutes to 4, when, amid much excitement Robertson started for Millwall, the home team having won the toss, which, however, gave little advantage as there was no wind.

Within a few minutes, Geddes secured and centred along the line but McKwen cleared the danger. Directly afterwards the first free-kick of the day was given against H. Matthews, who fouled Finlayson. The home forwards then made headway and Galbraith beating his opponents, sent in a beautiful shot which bounced up Walker's body over the goal-net. The corner was well placed by Gallacher but Galbraith shot wide. Again the Reds attacked and from another corner, Graham mis-kicked, Walker only

CLEARING IN THE NICK OF TIME.

A good attempt was made by Allen after which Geddes and Prentice in turn spoilt chances by getting offside. Every point in the game, which was very fast, was watched with the keenest interest. At last, the Millwall forwards made a determined rush on the left, Bee giving a corner in effecting a splendid save from Geddes. From the kick, Finlayson headed behind. The referee now began to give dissatisfaction to the home supporters. Gallacher was badly fouled but Mr. Whittaker failed to take action but directly afterwards J. Matthews was penalised for fouling Finlayson. Another piece of vigorous play followed, in which Galbraith and one of the Millwall halves were concerned.

THE REFEREE SHOWED HIS INDIGNATION

by throwing the ball up. Play was for a time in Luton's favour and from "hands," McKwen sent the ball wide of the mark. A few minutes after, Howe unluckily handled in home quarters but Davies sent behind. Some splendid work was put in by Galbraith but Prentice missed a long pass from him. A free-kick against Gallacher for holding was not improved upon for Matthews missed the post. The home

forwards got down again and after a fine throw-in by Watkins, Prentice neatly scored for Luton from a scrimmage.

AMID TREMENDOUS ENTHUSIASM

after some 15 minutes play. The cheering lasted until after the ball had been re-started when the Reds soon pressed, Gallacher sending in two good centres. The visitors managed to transfer operations and Geddes middling across the Luton goal gave Jones an opening, which he failed to accept. On the home side, Howe, McOrindle and the right wing were now working finely. A foul against Nicholson for jumping to head the ball occasioned some surprise but J. Matthews landed the ball into the net untouched.

Play was of a vigorous character and several free kicks fell to each side, though Mr. Whittaker's decisions were often of a questionable character. The rival teams put forth every effort to score and the play abounded in exciting incidents. A good shot from Geddes was fisted away by Bee and then Matthews sent up, McKennie making an attempt, which the Luton captain cleared. The Millwall left made several spurts but were generally too well watched to be dangerous. The referee's decisions were now

BOTH UNSATISFACTORY AND PECULIAR.

H. Matthews fouled Gallacher badly, but no notice was taken by Mr. Whittaker, and again, when Howe was deliberately held by J. Matthews, a free-kick was given to Millwall. The height of absurdity was reached when McEwen was fondly encircled by Matthews' arms and another free-kick was awarded the visitors, the decision evoking loud outbursts of disapprobation from the crowd. Despite these disheartening occurrences, the Reds played gallantly and Walker was called upon by Finlayson. The home defence was, however, in turn penetrated, Geddes shooting across goal in dangerous fashion. Hands for Luton transferred play for a time; McEwen took the kick, Galbraith shooting wide. Just before time, the Millwall forwards once more rushed down and a miskick by Nicholson let in Wilson who headed in but Bee cleared well. At the interval, Luton led by 1 goal to nil.

The second half opened with some fast play. Each goal-keeper was called upon by Geddes and Gallacher. A couple of fouls against McKenzie and Jones produced nothing tangible, Watkins shooting behind. The home forwards then made two determined onsets, Galbraith leading the attack splendidly and Walker had to clear two hot shots. The referee, after passing unnoticed a decided trip by Geddes, eventually pulled up Matthews for a bad foul on Allen amid the applause of the spectators. The visitors were now adopting the "long kick and rush" method with considerable effect, and entering the home quarters, forced the Reds back. For some reason a free-kick was given against McEwen, and J. Matthews taking the kick, turned over to his brother, who promptly landed the ball in the net. This smart piece of work which registered

MILLWALL'S FIRST GOAL

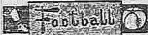
rather surprised the supporters of the home team. Inspired by this success, the Dockers' right made a determined rush, Bee running out to clear. The ball was now heavy and slippery and a new one was procured, which Graham at first declined to accept, but withdrew his objection when Mr. Whittaker insisted on the change. The incident was notable, and its significance was not lost upon the crowd. The Luton captain tried a long shot, which went wide, and then Jones breaking away, Wilson sent in a difficult attempt which Bee safely cleared, but McKenzie met the ball on its return and from a pass by Geddes put through a second time. The home goal-keeper was "floored" before he could get at the leather, but his appeal for a foul was disregarded. Twenty minutes had elapsed when the Dockers were thus put ahead, and the next decision of the referee

A GLARING MISTAKE,

must have convinced them that they had little fear of losing their lead. The ball was kicked on to Robertson's hand by McEwen in a most palpable fashion but Mr. Whittaker gave the free-kick against Luton! This was enough to dishearten any team, and when a goal-kick was awarded Millwall when Geddes deliberately fouled near his own corner-flag, the Reds for a time seemed to relax their efforts and almost give up trying. Bee effected two grand saves but running out of goal after clearing failed to get back in time to prevent Geddes' scoring a third point. Only two minutes afterwards J. Matthews, with a low, hard shot notched Millwall's fourth goal, to the Lutonians' evident surprise and the frantic delight of the visitors. Undaunted by these reverses, the Reds persevered and during the last twenty minutes had the best of matters. From a centre by Gallacher, Walker cleared a hot shot from Galbraith, and then Prentice narrowly missed scoring. Another gallant attempt was made by Galbraith and soon afterwards Finlayson scored Luton's second goal with

THE FINEST SHOT OF THE DAY

Spectators and players both now took heart and the Reds pegged away at the Millwall defence. A corner was well taken by Prentice, but Galbraith headed over. Then, amid much excitement, Allen just failed to beat Walker, but directly after from a centre by Prentice Galbraith registered Laton's third point with a neat over-head shot, his well-earned success eliciting loud cheers which, however, had hardly died away before Mr. Whittaker blew his whistle for "time," prematurely by several minutes, at least. Laton thus suffered defeat by 4 goals to 3. There was some "booing" by some youngsters at the finish, but the referee was not molested in any way,



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Millwall Athletic—Walker, goal; Graham and Davies, backs; King, J. Matthews and H. Matthews, half-backs; Jones and Wilson, right; Robertson, centre; McKenna and Geddes, left forwards.

Referee—Mr. N. Whitaker (Secretary of the Southern League).

Scorers—Mason, W. G. Wheeler (Luton) and F. Hild (Millwall).

It was about 20 minutes to 5, when, amid much excitement Robertson started for Millwall, the home team having won the toss, which, however, gave little advantage as there was no wind.

Within a few minutes, Geddes scored and control along the line but McEwen cleared the danger. Directly afterwards the first free kick of the day was given against H. Matthews, who fouled Finlayson. The home forwards then made headway and Galbraith, beating his opponents, sent in a beautiful shot which bounced up Walker's body over the goal-net. The corner was well placed by Gallagher but Galbraith shot wide. Again the home attacked and from another corner, Graham mis-kicked, Walker only clearing in the nick of time.

CHANGING IN THE NICK OF TIME.

A good attempt was made by Allen after which Geddes and Prentice in turn spilled chances by getting offside. Every point in the game, which was very fast, was watched with the keenest interest. At last, the Millwall forwards made a determined rush on the left, Bee giving a corner in effecting a splendid save from Geddes. From the kick, Finlayson headed behind. The referee now began to give dissatisfaction to the home supporters. Gallagher was badly fouled but Mr. Whitaker failed to take action but directly afterwards J. Matthews was penalized for fouling Finlayson. Another phase of vigorous play followed, in which Galbraith and one of the Millwall halves were suspended.

THE REFERENCE SHOWN HIS DISPOSITION

by throwing the ball up. Play was for a time in Luton's favour and from "hands," McEwen sent the ball wide of the mark. A few minutes after, Howe valiantly battled in some quarters but Davies was behind. Some splendid work was put in by Galbraith but Prentice missed a long pass from him. A free-kick against Gallagher for holding was not improved upon for Matthews missed the post. The home

after some 15 minutes play. The cheering lasted until after the ball had been re-started when the Reds soon pressed. Gallacher sending in two good centres. The visitors managed to transfer operations and Geddes' misfiring across the Lotus goal gave Jones an opening, which he failed to accept. On the home side, Howe, McKenna and the right wing were now working finely. A foul against Nicholson for jumping to head the ball constituted some surprise but J. Matthews headed the ball into the net untouched.

Play was of a vigorous character and several free-kicks fell to each side, though Mr. Whittaker's decisions were often of a questionable character. The rival teams put forth every effort to score and the play abounded in exciting incidents. A good shot from Geddes was turned away by How and then Matthews went up, McKenna making an attempt, which the Lotus captain cleared. The Millwall left made several spurts but were generally too well watched to be dangerous. The referee's decisions were now

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The second half opened with some fast play. Each goal-keeper was called upon by Geddes and Gallacher. A couple of fouls against McKenna and Jones produced nothing tangible, Watkins shooting behind. The home forwards then made two determined onsets, Galbraith leading the attack splendidly and Walker had to clear two hot shots. The referee, after passing unnoticed a decided trip by Geddes, eventually pulled up Matthews for a bad foul on Allen amid the applause of the spectators. The visitors were now adopting the "long kick and rush" method with considerable effect, and entering the home quarters, forced the Reds back. For some reason a free-kick was given against McKenna, and J. Matthews taking the kick, turned over to his brother, who promptly landed the ball in the net. This smart piece of work which registered

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