

LUTON AND THE ENGLISH CUP.

"THE REDS" BEAT CITY RAMBLERS.

A RUNAWAY GAME.

The history of the Town Club in relation to the English Cup contest has been of a very encouraging character, for in two of the last three seasons they have fought their way through the qualifying series of contests and been pitted against Northern combinations in the first round of the competition proper only to meet with defeat. The performances of the team in the Cup matches last season were extremely meritorious, for after beating a strong team of Old Westminsters and eventually qualifying for the title of champions of the division they only just failed to beat the "Nops" at Middlesbrough, the elements on that occasion conducing very materially to their defeat. This season the ninth division—in which the Town men are included—does not contain any more formidable organisation than the Casuals, and the locals should be able to once more prove their right to be included in the batch of teams which contest for the trophy. The opposition side on Saturday was the City Ramblers. This well-known London combination had obtained choice of grounds, and they acquiesced when overtures were made to them to change the venue to Luton. There was not nearly so much interest evinced in the encounter as in that of the previous Saturday, but the spectators were fairly numerous. The weather was propitious, and the turf was in excellent order.

With fair regard to punctuality the elevens took the field in the following order:—*Luton Town*: Goal, E. Bee; backs, M. D. Nicholson and J. McEwen; half-backs, J. Watkins, R. McCrindle (capt.), and A. Howe; forwards, W. Gallacher, J. Finlayson (right), H. Galbraith (centre), F. Allen, and W. Prentice (left). *City Ramblers*: Goal, J. May; backs, C. McGahey (captain) and G. Ritchie; half-backs, W. Ingram, D. Hamer and F. J. Bentley; forwards, G. Meggs and J. W. Meggs (right), W. H. Nolloth (centre), W. H. Bentley and M. Poole (left). The referee was Mr. Rouse, and the linesmen were Messrs. C. A. Meggs (City Ramblers) and A. E. Barford (Luton). Luton won the toss, and chose to defend the pavilion goal. When Nolloth had started play the first point of importance was that Allen, by a badly-judged pass, spoiled what appeared like a capital opening. Finlayson sent outside with a long shot, and the Ramblers were then pulled up for getting off-side. By means of several throws-in from touch Luton got down, but over-ran the ball. The home front string forced their way through the opposing defence and managed to secure a corner, which was fruitless. Finlayson sent over the goal-line a little later, and subsequently from a fine pass by Gallacher, Allen managed to send the ball into the net and thus give the initial point to the homesters. Following up this success the "reds" pressed determinedly, and McCrindle dispatched a capable attempt on May's charge. Galbraith forced the keeper to handle, and later on the leather was sent behind from a free kick against the Loudoners. Gallacher sent in well along the line when an opening was made, and May again had to exert himself to the full. Prentice headed over from a good centre by Gallacher, and Galbraith tried again, though once more without the desired result. The Ramblers next tried to get into Bee's neighbourhood, but they were back, and Prentice was punished for lying off-side. Finlayson was stopped by Hamer when the locals appeared to have got into a good position for scoring. From a long throw-in Prentice eluded May's vigilance, and the homesters were now two to the good. The Luton forwards thereafter gave a splendid exhibition of passing, Galbraith combining exceedingly well with the right-wing pair. The referee solved a knotty point by throwing up the ball in mid-field, and hands against the Ramblers was next noted. Watkins displayed fine form, and Prentice headed out later on. A free kick against the "reds" was taken, and the Lutonians increased their total, Galbraith put the finishing touch



GALBRAITH'S GOAL

on a pass by Allen. The Ramblers' goal hereabouts had a narrow escape, Ritchie defending magnificently, while Howe retaliated finely for the other side. The strangers managed to get into the home confines, and J. Meggs shot well. Nolloth secured immediately and struck the cross-bar, but he was adjudged to have offended against the off-side law. Nicholson took a free kick against the visitors, and Prentice barely failed to head into goal, the leather passing harmlessly over the line. The Londoners' custodian conceded a corner from an attempt by McCrindle, and when Prentice had headed over the interval arrived with the scores standing thus :

Luton, three ; Ramblers, none.

A foul against the Luton captain was chronicled early in the second period, and McEwen was called upon to relieve from Nolloth. Rapidly proceeding to the other end Gallacher obtained a corner off Ritchie, who tackled him sturdily. Hands against the game little back right in goal threatened to be dangerous, but the kick was resultless, and hands against Howe led to a transfer of the operations to the Luton end for a brief space. The "reds" slackened down considerably for some time, but at length they responded to general cries of "Play up, reds," and the City men's defence was sorely taxed. Gallacher managed to deposit the ball on the net from a distance, and when hands had been awarded against the home centre forward Bee was compelled to save from Bentley. The Ramblers pressed for a time and showed better style than previously. Prentice, who had been rendering himself ususally conspicuous, was again stopped for getting off-side, and then McGahey came through well. Gallacher scored with a grand long shot, and Finlayson narrowly missed with a beautiful attempt which was just as capably fisted out. Bee was afforded another opportunity of showing his reliability, and after Finlayson had struck the bar Prentice put through. With such a large balance in their favour the homesters went in for an indulgence in the "running round" process, and for some minutes the Ramblers' backs and half-backs experienced a bad time. Galbraith at one stage sent in a shot which May disposed of marvellously and then Allen sent out. Prentice once more experienced hard luck, the pass on this occasion coming from Gallacher. Nolloth subsequently brought about an alteration in the scores, the shot with which he succeeded in reducing the lead of the Bedfordshire contingent being very clever. Not long afterwards Prentice passed to Gallacher, who raised the home total to half a dozen. The outside left-winger forced a corner off McGahey, and in a minute or so Galbraith scored in first-rate fashion. Nolloth retaliated, and just on the call of time Prentice managed to once more defeat May. The final result was :

Luton, eight ; Ramblers, two.

The scores may fairly be said to represent the play, the losers being entirely outclassed. The winning forwards played a grand game, and it should be said that Prentice was far more prominent than usual. The half-backs were excellent and the backs were well-nigh impassable, Nicholson showing a pronounced improvement as compared with his previous week's show. For the losers Ritchie and McGahey were most prominent, while Nolloth was also in good form. The decisions of the referee were throughout acceptable to the spectators, whose conduct was irreproachable. The ease with which the Lutonians have got through the round may possibly be regarded as an indication of the probable result of the contest in the division.