

ENGLISH CUP.

LUTON V. CITY RAMBLERS.

AN EASY VICTORY BY A BIG SCORE.

Last year the Town had a bye in the first round of the qualifying competition of the National trophy, and consequently did not play their first game until November 4th, when the Old Westminsters yielded to their victorious career. The draw this year gave the City Ramblers the choice of ground, but they yielded their privilege for "gate" considerations, the game accordingly taking place at Luton. The result was so much of a foregone conclusion that the excitement and interest occasioned by the Millwall League encounter the previous week was conspicuous by its absence on Saturday. The crowd scarcely numbered 2,000, and the weather was dull. After the heavy rains, the ground was a trifle heavy on the surface. Owing to illness, Mr. Roston Bourke was unable to fulfil his engagement as referee, and Mr. F. Rouse, of Southall, supplied his place. M. D. Nicholson made his second appearance for the Town, whose team was exactly the same as against Millwall. The Ramblers mustered their best available strength, both sides appearing as follows:—

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

City Ramblers:—J. May, goal; C. McGahey (capt.) and G. Ritchie, backs; W. Ingram, D. Hamer, and F. Bentley, half-backs; G. Meggs and J. Meggs, right; W. H. Nolloth, centre; W. H. Bentley and M. Poole, left, forwards.

Linesmen:—Messrs. C. A. Meggs and E. A. Bedford

About five minutes late, Nolloth kicked off, Luton having won the toss. The Reds at once gave McGahey employment, the Ramblers' captain checking a smart dash by Allen. A corner soon followed, but Prentice neutralised by placing behind. Scoring was quickly opened by the Reds, for in less than five minutes, Allen neatly headed through from a beautiful centre by Gallacher. The Ramblers' defence continued to have a busy time, both backs and goal-keeper clearing repeatedly early in the game. Nicholson showed his prowess, and it was some time before a long shot from Nolloth gave Bee his first goal kick. The Luton right made some spirited attacks, Hamer saving once in the mouth of goal.

THE SECOND GOAL NOW CAME ALONG.

Thanks to a throw-in by Watkins, Gallacher sent in beautifully, and Prentice put on the finishing touch. About 23 minutes had now passed, and play was for a time rather tame. The home forwards at times made rings round the visitors' defence, while the halves, particularly Howe, were always to the fore. Twice Watkins tried a long shot without effect, and Nicholson checked a run by the two Meggs. The Reds forwards now showed some grand combination, their beautiful passing completely baffling the Ramblers' back division. Then Howe sent up to Prentice, who transferred to Allen; the latter passed to Galbraith, who

SCORED THE THIRD GOAL

with a pretty shot, a quarter of an hour before the interval. The visitors right once got away, and a strange miss by McEwen looked dangerous, but Nicholson rectified the slip in good style. The Ramblers had a lock in for a while, McEwen having to head away a shot from Poole and Nolloth made a fine attempt, which struck the cross-bar, but was ruled offside. May had to dispose of two hot shots from Prentice and McBride, giving a corner from the latter, which proved fruitless. Play had been mainly in the visitors' quarters, and Bee did not handle the ball up to half-time, when the score stood—Luton, 3 goals. Ramblers 0.

The second half opened with a decided spurt by the Ramblers, who greatly quickened the pace, and for a short time play was in the home quarters. Bee saving from Bentley, and Nicholson from Nolloth. The Luton right, however, soon got into their stride, and a grand run by Gallacher forced a corner; then Ritchie handled the ball near his own goal, but neither of the kicks brought any advantage. Gallacher landed the ball just on the top of the net, and then operations were transferred to the Luton end, where Nolloth and Bentley again came to the front, Bee having to handle twice. The Ramblers were now playing at their best, and were often applauded. Luton were not napping by any means, and Galbraith passing out to the wing,

GALLACHER SHOT A VERY FINE GOAL,

the fourth of the day, from a difficult position in the out-field, his feat being loudly cheered. The Reds now began to attack seriously, and May fisted away a hot shot from Finlayson, McGahey next clearing in the nick of time. But the combined onset of the Luton men could not long be resisted, and McCrindle putting up, Finlayson sent in a beauty, which Prentice instantly converted into the fifth goal. Two grand shots hit the bar from both Galbraith and Finlayson, and then the home forwards showing some fine combination, seemed likely to score every moment, this being

THE MOST EXCITING PERIOD

of the afternoon. A splendid long shot by Galbraith was just fetched out from under the bar by May amid a great demonstration. Gallacher narrowly missed scoring from a cross-shot by Prentice, the latter missing a similar chance from the right directly afterwards. Then, to everyone's surprise, Nolloth and J. Megge broke away, and, making a smart run, the former veteran player beat Bee for the first time with a clever shot, which was loudly applauded. The game was now both fast and interesting. Only ten minutes, however, remained, and in this time, though it was nearly dusk, no less than

FOUR GOALS WERE SCORED.

The sixth point for Luton, smartly secured by Gallacher from Prentice's centre, was followed by a second notch to the Ramblers, for which J. Megge was responsible. The Reds pressed with irresistible dash, and before the whistle blew, Galbraith and Prentice brought their goal-score up to eight. Luton thus qualified for the second round in a handsome fashion, victory resting with them by 8 goals to 2. During the afternoon, the Town Band played some good music.