

FOOTBALL.

LUTON AND THE ENGLISH CUP.

DEFEAT OF THE SAINTS.

The Luton Town men have not been favoured by Fortune in regard to the draws for the English Cup qualifying contest, for Saturday was the second day that they had been down to play away from home in the competition. The adjoining cathedral city was the scene of the second round so far as the "reds" were concerned, and the contest was looked forward to with extreme interest. For some time past the Albanians have been longing to measure themselves against their professional neighbours, and it was understood that their chances were highly esteemed by their supporters. In Luton the match was eagerly anticipated as an excellent opportunity of settling the question of superiority once and for all. The Midland Railway Company ran a special trip, which was largely patronised, while some hundreds travelled by the ordinary trains; indeed, the Luton contingent numbered about half the crowd. The encounter took place in the new Clarence Park, but no grand-stand was available, and ladies were compelled to put up with the meagre accommodation provided in an enclosure. So long as the weather held fine this was bearable, but when rain poured down heavily things were the reverse of comfortable.

Mr. S. R. Carr was referee, and at 3 o'clock he took charge of the following players:—*St. Albans*: Goal, J. Dickerson (captain); backs, U. H. Aylen and W. A. Sargent; half-backs, F. Mardall, A. Taylor, and J. W. Sharpe; forwards, E. N. Sharpe and A. R. Laughton (right), F. B. Gresham (centre), W. Giddens and J. J. Heath (left). *Luton Town*: Goal, E. Bee; backs, W. Cheshier and J. McEwen; half-backs, J. Watkins, R. McCrindle (capt.), and A. Howe; forwards, W. Brown and J. Finlayson (right), H. Galbraith (centre), W. Prentice and J. Dimmock (left). The home team included several strangers, a strong detachment from Crouch End being conspicuous. The linesmen were Messrs. Payne (*St. Albans*) and H. Shane (*Luton*). *St. Albans* obtained choice of ends and availed themselves of a strong wind. From the start the "reds" got down by means of first-rate combination, and Brown sent out in the first minute. Cheshier put in a lofty kick into touch, for which he was loudly hooted, and then hands against Galbraith was noted. A like decision against the Saints followed, and then Prentice and Dimmock gave a pretty exhibition of passing right up the wing. A long shot by Galbraith was nearly assisted through by one of the *St. Albans* backs, and another attempt of a like nature from the centre man almost resulted in a score. Howe showed up very prominently, and off-side against the homesters was awarded. *Luton* had up to this stage done almost the whole of the pressing, but the Saints' right-wingers had a try and managed to make their way well into the visitors' confines. Dimmock signalled his re-inclusion in the "reds'" front rank by sending in a fine centre right across the goal, and the same player compelled Dickerson to clear with a splendid attempt. The keeper managed to save, but Galbraith secured and sent into the net. Thus the first point was registered to the strangers after ten minutes' play. Immediately afterwards Brown centred well, and subsequently Dickerson narrowly escaped disaster when saving a high, dropping shot. Dimmock finished up a grand run by as capable a shot, and Galbraith "went for" the custodian in no gentle fashion. A corner against *St. Albans* was unproductive, Brown sending behind, and thereafter the Hertfordshire men worked their way up by repeated throws in. A mis-kick by McEwen almost let them through, but by some extraordinary means the *Luton* defenders managed to preserve their charge from capture. Bee was forced to kick out just after, and *St. Albans* were loudly applauded for getting so close to the visitors' citadel as to be in a position to shoot over. Taylor was up to now the most conspicuous of the *St. Albans* representatives, and he was a very pronounced thorn in the sides of the opposing forwards. A foul, the first in the game, was punished, and then Prentice and his wing companion passed extremely well all up the left side. The scene of operations was rapidly removed to the other end, however, and McEwen gave a corner with a heavy kick which was mis-directed by the wind. Following a neat display by the visitors' forwards, the Saints made their way into the proximity of Bee and sent over. A foul against *Luton* was awarded, and then Brown sent the ball into Dickerson's hands. The same player just afterwards put in a capital centre and Galbraith turned the ball over to Prentice, who scored very cleverly. Galbraith missed with a long-range attempt, and Finlayson created amusement by shooting far too high. Inaccuracy characterised the shooting of the Albanians also, and a bad show of this kind was chronicled hereabouts. Cheshier gave away a corner, but nothing tangible fell to the home side in consequence, and Mardall sent high over the bar. McEwen was called upon to exert himself two or three times in rapid succession, and the clever little back invariably proved himself ready for all the demands upon his resources. A couple of fouls against *St. Albans* were set down in as many minutes, and on the second occasion the referee was noticed to hold a brief conversation with one of the saintly ones. Brown sent over the cross-bar, and, maintaining the pressure, *Luton* forced a corner. This was unprofitable, the ball being headed over, and Dickerson managed to keep out a hot attempt which followed a second corner which fell to the *Lutonians* just after. Prentice showed good style in mid-field, but Dimmock was stopped for fouling, undesirable tactics which were imitated by one of the cathedral city players with a like result. Brown troubled Dickerson by cleverly heading in, and a determined onslaught on the *St. Albans* fortress was concluded by Watkins sending out. A corner against the homesters presented the *Luton* men with the desired opportunity, and Dimmock put on the third notch. Hands and a foul against the Albanians were duly punished, and subsequently McCrindle took a snap-shot which failed by the merest trifle. During the last few minutes before the interval *St. Albans* had much the worst of matters, corners falling to their adversaries in rapid succession. The state of the scoring at the mid-way stage was:

Luton, three; *St. Albans*, none.

During the early part of the game the weather had been fair, but before the interval rain fell heavily, and the unfortunate beings who lined the ropes came in for a full share of the downpour. The storm continued nearly half way through the second half, and not only seriously interfered with the comfort of the onlookers but rendered matters the reverse of pleasant for the players, who were drenched. The ball became heavy and the turf slippery, and it can be well imagined that play under such circumstances was not of the best. The Lutonians, however, went off in the second half with great dash, and scarcely a minute had elapsed from the re-start when Prentice increased his side's lead. After a foul against St. Albans, Brown sent through from a pass by Prentice, and thus the leaders were five up. Prentice continued to play pluckily, and later on Galbraith forced a corner, which was not improved upon. The Saints thereafter exerted themselves more strenuously, and for the first time in the match became really dangerous. A foul against McCrindle was noticed, and then McEwen stemmed a rush of the Albanians. A couple of sturdy attacks by the homesters followed, but the Lutonians aroused themselves and made matters uncomfortably warm for the home defenders. Free kicks against either team were of little avail, but at length the St. Albans forwards managed to break through, and Laughton beat Bee with a smart return after the custodian had once cleared. This success provoked enthusiastic shouts, and a stranger might have thought that the homesters still had some chance of winning. To demonstrate the impossibility of this the Luton front rank put in some splendid play, and Prentice increased the total from a good kick by McCrindle. Keeping up the pressure the leaders strongly attacked Dickerson's goal, but after several attempts the siege was raised by Dimmock sending over. A foul against Luton was followed by Finlayson essaying a long shot, which failed, however. Howe became prominent by means of a tricky run and a long shot, and subsequently a corner fell to the "reds." Prentice headed in very smartly, and Dickerson only managed to clear by giving another corner. Dimmock sent out from this, but the same player secured yet a further corner, though this was as unprofitable as its forerunners. From hands against St. Albans a great struggle ensued, and in the *melee* Prentice almost scored. The same player sent through just afterwards, but he was adjudged off-side. Towards the end of the game the Lutonians did pretty much as they pleased, but instead of endeavouring to increase their advantage they contented themselves with giving an exhibition of scientific play. No further scoring took place, and so when the end came the result was :

Luton, six ; St. Albans, one.

Despite the strengthening process which had been gone through by the Albanians they were no match for their foemen, who were superior all round. Taylor was the only player on the losers' side who was able to do much against his clever opponents, and it should be admitted that he gave an admirable display. Dickerson in goal did splendid service, and one or two other members of the team were prominent at times ; but on the day's form the Albanians were immeasurably inferior to the victors. Dimmock showed good style on the outside left and combined well with Prentice, who was always to the fore. Galbraith was in fine form, and the right-wingers did well, though Brown should often have centred early instead of carrying the ball into the corner. Of the half-backs Howe was most prominent, while both backs performed well. Bee had comparatively little to do in goal. The overwhelming majority in favour of the "reds" should settle the question of superiority once and for all.