

FOOTBALL.

THE SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON v. CHATHAM.

A POOR GAME.

On Saturday Luton Town and Chatham met for the first time this season in the Southern League competition, the encounter taking place on the Dunstable-road enclosure. The day was brilliantly fine, though a cold wind swept over the ground, and there was a goodly crowd, the numbers running into thousands. The result was regarded as a foregone conclusion, Chatham having been soundly beaten by the locals last year. The homesters were considerably weakened, however, by the enforced absence from their ranks of Gallacher and Prentice; the first-named had been advised to take further rest with his damaged ankle, while the left-winger had been injured while at practice.

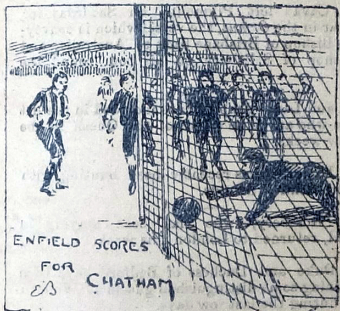
The start was a few minutes late, and the Luton men commenced operations a man short, but Nicholson soon appeared and took up his accustomed position. The teams were then discovered to be constituted as follows:—*Luton Town*: Goal, Bee; backs, Nicholson and McEwen; half-backs, Watkins, McCrindle (capt.), and Howe; forwards, Brown and Finlayson (right), Galbraith (centre), Allen and Dimmock (left). *Chatham*: Goal, Jones; backs, Robertson and Brockwell; half-backs, Fletcher, Brisley, and Lewis; forwards, Humphrey and Enfield (right), Quarrington (centre), Guthrie and Stanford (left). Mr. A. Roston Bourke had charge of the whistle, and the linesmen were Messrs. C. E. Bozall (Chatham) and G. Horn (Luton). Luton lost the toss and had to play towards the pavilion, this giving them the disadvantage consequent upon facing the bright sun-rays. The Chatham men were arrayed in red and blue, and there was some similarity in the colours of the respective uniforms. The game had not long been in progress when Brisley fouled an opponent and was duly noticed by the referee. McEwen took the free-kick and sent between the posts, but unfortunately the ball did not touch any of the other players, so that nothing of benefit resulted. Nicholson, whose advent was duly signalled by the crowd, kicked grandly after Luton had attacked in force, Galbraith distinguishing himself during the assault. Another foul against the visitors led to a hot struggle, but Watkins eventually sent behind. The "reds" were now having much the best of the exchanges, and a little later they shot over the bar. Galbraith was playing a fine game, but he was too closely watched to be able to do much damage. A good exhibition of clearing was given by McCrindle, and this was followed by some excellent combination on the part of the home backs. By repeated throws-in up the line the Chatham men improved their position, but the home side beat back their adversaries and advanced in turn, Brown showing good form. The same player just afterwards failed to profit by a capital centre by Dimmock. A foul against Watkins was awarded, but the kick was unproductive. The half-back atoned for this by sending in a brilliant attempt which unfortunately proved to be somewhat too lofty. The visiting side were hereabouts being very hard-pressed, and their curious defensive tactics evoked great laughter. A scrimmage in front of Jones's charge almost resulted in the opening notch falling to Luton, but the custodian and backs acquitted themselves so well that the downfall of the citadel was staved off for the time. From a centre by Finlayson Galbraith sent in a fast attempt which was disposed of in marvellous fashion. Hands against the "reds" led to Bee being twice called upon to save, which he did splendidly. The game was not long suffered to continue at the home end, however, for in a minute or two the Luton forwards raced away to the Chatham confines and Brown managed to score with a long shot. It seemed, though, that Jones should have managed to prevent this result. The opening of the scoring took place less than 20 minutes from the start. After the kick-off Allen essayed a long one which the goal-keeper just kept out, and the same player and his wing mate had other tries just afterwards. Brown tried a somewhat wild one, and next Dimmock headed in a beauty, Jones having all his work out out to clear. Galbraith was badly fouled, and McEwen sent into goal admirably while Watkins, when the ball had been

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Luton, two; Chatham, none.

The dash with which the leaders went

Judging from the dash with which the leaders went off in the second portion, it seemed that they would be enabled to materially increase their lead. Very shortly after the resumption Brown took advantage of a pass from Dimmock to send the ball past Jones; but he was standing close to the goal-mouth when this happened, and the notch was accordingly disallowed. Bee was forced to clear his lines, a task which he executed very capably, and this escape was celebrated by Galbraith making an excellent attempt to lower the Chatham colours, a task which he failed to accomplish. Again Brown headed through, but he was once more adjudged to have been in an off-side position when he received the ball. Two corners against the visitors were noted in rapid succession, and from one of these Finlayson sent the ball into the side of the net. A brief cessation was necessitated by one of the Chatham players colliding somewhat roughly with McEwen, the blame of which rested upon the man who got the worst of it. Happily the accident was not serious, and the suspension of play was but momentary. Hands against Dimmock was followed by a tremendous assault upon the visitors' citadel, and the mystery was how the defenders managed to preserve their fortress from capture. The attack was wound up by a capable attempt on the part of Finlayson. Howe, who had been maintaining his high standard of play, was frequently applauded hereabouts. Dimmock and Finlayson had unsuccessful tries, and Allen headed over from Brown. Chatham gave a corner, and then for once in a way a little luck fell to the visitors, a free kick being given against McEwen for a foul. The advantage was but momentary, however, for the home forwards were soon found busily engaged in the neighbourhood of Jones's goal. Decisions against the strangers were noted time after time, but at length they managed to break through and score



ENFIELD SCORES FOR CHATHAM

through the agency of Enfield, the display by the Luton defence being the reverse of admirable. Stimulated by this success the visitors showed far better form, but the show by both sides was wretchedly poor, and the homesters were continually enjoined to "play up." Minor points were chronicled against either side, and later on Dimmock sent the ball right across the goal after a splendid run by the local forwards. Allen subsequently sent the ball past Jones, but Mr. Bourke decided that the left-winger was off-side, and so the point was not allowed to count. At times something like good football was witnessed, but on the whole the form displayed was exceedingly mediocre, and there being no alteration in the totals the following was the final result:

Luton, two; Chatham, one.

The result was extremely disappointing to the spectators, who had anticipated a much easier victory. A one time, indeed, it seemed that the Lutonians would run up a heavy score; but the neglect to avail themselves of opportunities prevented this. McEwen and Howe were most conspicuous amongst the defenders, while Galbraith was the only forward who did anything really useful, though Finlayson assisted him well at times. The backs and goal-keeper on the Chatham side had plenty of work, and on the whole they discharged it capably. The forwards were fairly smart. On the whole, however, the game was the reverse of brilliant.