



ENGLISH CUP—THIRD ROUND.

LUTON V. ILFORD.

THE REDS QUALIFY FOR THE FINAL AFTER A POOR GAME.

Having vanquished City Ramblers by 8-2 and St. Albans by 6-1, in the first two rounds, Luton had the misfortune to be drawn away for the third round and accordingly visited the Essex club on Saturday. Owing to the second-rate character of previous games with Ilford, the fixture attracted but a small band of the Town supporters. Though lacking Gallacher and Prentice, who were not sufficiently fit to play, the Reds were confident of victory. It was a gloriously fine day and the visitors, who had arrived an hour before the time fixed for the kick-off, were on the field long before their opponents appeared. When, with the usual unpunctuality of "the London amateur," some of the Ilford men became visible, it was seen that Linard and Roberts were absent, King and Fry from the Reserves constituting the left wing. The sun was shining brilliantly, and there was a fresh breeze across the ground. Early in the afternoon, the crowd only numbered some hundreds and at most, the "gate" barely exceeded 1,200, the meeting between Tottenham and Clapton at Upton having proved a more powerful "draw."

The start was delayed 12 minutes beyond the official time by the late arrival of the home players, Gallon not appearing on the field till shortly after the start, when the sides were as follow:—

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

Ilford:—W. R. Cosburn, goal; J. O. Drummond and F. Markham, backs; C. D. Regan, H. G. Watts (capt.) and E. Markham, half-backs; E. Porter and A. Porter, right; J. Gallon, centre; J. C. King and G. Fry, left, forwards.

Referee:—Mr. H. Chase, R.A. *Linesmen*:—Messrs. Markland and Worboys.

McCrindle lost the toss, and Galbraith kicked off. Though handicapped by the brilliant sun, the visitors got away at once, Dimmock forcing a corner which was fruitless and soon followed by a mild foul against Galbraith. The kick was well returned, some work by McCrindle and Galbraith enabling Allen to try an overhead shot, which missed the mark. The Ilford captain was next fouled by Galbraith and still Luton attacked, a centre by Brown seeming certain to result in a score but Drummond saved in the nick of time. It was now Ilford's turn but offside checked their first assault. Amid the cheers of their supporters, the home side essayed another rush, McEwen compensating for a poor kick by Nicholson with a useful clearance and then King got in a long shot which Bee saved with ease. The latter was hurt in a

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SCORED LUTON'S FIRST GOAL

with a fast "grounders," which completely beat Cosburn. This success, after 15 minutes' play, was received in silence, the only encouragement coming from the cheers of the little band of Luton's supporters present. Directly afterwards, Markham gave a corner, and the flag-kick being taken, the ball appeared to enter the net from Brown before Cosburn cleared, but nothing was allowed. A foul against McEwen brought the Ilford men into close quarters but Gallon kicked behind, Bee subsequently coolly throwing away from Regan. A fine opportunity was given Dimmock, but he was content to force a corner off Drummond. This led to an exciting incident one of the Ilford back division

HANDLING A FEW YARDS FROM GOAL.

Galbraith took the kick and his aim was true, unhappily the ball was untouched in transit. The Luton centre was working splendidly, but both outside men made poor use of his fine passes. Nicholson was penalised for what seemed a fair charge, the crowd making a noisy demonstration. Brown was very weak at times, and after having offside given against him, "Roland" had almost a clear opening but hesitated until Drummond dashed in and cleared. After a space Ilford

THREATENED DANGER FOR THE FIRST TIME

during the game. Profiting by a miskick by McEwen, the home centre ran down, Nicholson saving at the expense of a corner. This brought forth a smart clearance from Bee and Dimmock got away, until Drummond pulled him up, and kicked behind. However, Luton speedily transferred play, and Cosburn was troubled; Drummond, who was working like a horse, subsequently gave a corner, from which Galbraith headed against the goal-post, offside being then given against one of the Luton forwards. After one more corner, badly negotiated by Brown, Regan handled, and the kick, taken by McEwen, produced two fine saves by Drummond. Half-time now arrived with the score:—Luton 1; Ilford 0.

So far, Luton had easily held the upper hand and their superiority was still more marked in the second half, poor though the play was all through the game. The Ilford spectators showered wholesale abuse on the Luton players for what they termed brutal roughness in play. The visitors could afford to smile compassionately when three fouls in quick succession for holding or pushing were given against the home side shortly after the cross-over. Free-kicks for hands and a fourth foul aided the Reds' attack, but

DRUMMOND STAVED OFF DANGER REPEATEDLY;

Meanwhile Regan sent in a long high shot which struck the cross-bar, amid loud applause. This seemed to inspire the locals with fresh energy, for they made desperate efforts to break through, but perhaps owing to excitement, their rushes were disorganised, and Luton had no cause for worry, Nicholson clearing in very cool fashion. Luton's second goal came in about 25 minutes in this way, Watkins sending up, Brown after a short run passed to Finlayson who centred across the goal to Dimmock, the latter scoring with a clinking shot. The Ilford men appealed for offside, but Mr. Chase pointed to the centre ring. Howe, Galbraith, and Watkins in turn showed up with effective play, while Drummond for Ilford proved the saviour of his side time after time. Following a foul against Galbraith, Nicholson gave a corner, but Markham shot harmlessly wide. Occasionally "Edgar" Porter made a dashing sprint, but McEwen was generally on the spot. The only other feature of note was an excellent centre by Brown, about the only good thing he did, which Allen narrowly missed converting. Time then arrived with the score, Luton 2, Ilford 0, and the Reds thus qualified for the final round in the 9th division.

LUTON RESERVES V. KETTERING RESERVES.—

A mixed team of the Luton Reserves, including two masters from Grovenor College, Street and Holdstock, of the Excelsiors, Scott, of the Falcon, King, of the Montrose, and J. Jack, the latest recruit from Leith, encountered a strong eleven from Kettering on the Town ground on Saturday. There was a large crowd. Mr. G. W. Walker was referee and the sides mustered as follows:—*Luton Reserves*:—Fox, goal; Street and Chesher, backs; Holdstock, H. G. Ashton, and King, half-backs; Gazeley and another, Scott, Prime, and Jack, forwards. *Kettering Reserves*:—Pack, goal; Toseland and Meeham, backs; Panter, McDermott, and Starr, half-backs; Hitchcock, Panter, Bates, Robinson, and Holywell. The visitors won the toss, but in spite of the bright sun being in the faces of the home team, the latter pressed early in the game, and ought to have scored. Kettering then attacked, the forwards playing a good passing game, but the Luton defence, especially Fox in goal, averted danger repeatedly. The visitors, however, managed to score twice before the interval. In the second half, each side scored once, and the Luton Reserves thus suffered defeat by 3 goals to 1.

SCHOOLBOYS' LEAGUE.—St. Matthew's v.

Higher Grade.—This match on the Town ground on Saturday morning resulted in an interesting match, ending in favour of the Waller-street lads by 5 goals to 2. The St. Matthew's boys made an excellent start, scoring the first goal, but then Higher Grade put on five goals in succession, the half-time score being Higher Grade, 3, St. Matthew's 1. In the last 20 minutes, the Hightown lads pressed hard and registered a second point. For the winners, Randall, who scored three goals, Hobbs and Page were best, Whithy and "Tiny" Worboys being conspicuous among the losers.

HERTS JUNIOR CUP.—

In this competition on Saturday, Lilley received a visit from Hertford Caxtonians. The match was played in Putteridge Park, and ended in Lilley's defeat by 6 goals to nil.

Football Notes.

There are some places and clubs that improve upon acquaintance, but Ilford is certainly not one of them. Experience of the two previous games with the Essex men led me to expect very little. Our first visit to Ilford resulted in a miserably slow and lame match, and matters were no better on Saturday; indeed, in many ways, worse than the Chatham affair of the previous week, which has, so far, won the proud distinction of furnishing the poorest game of the season.

Owing to the inborn dilatoriness of "the London amateur," the start was 12 minutes late, and I think, considering the season of the year, Mr. Chase would have been thoroughly justified had he started the game at the fixed time, 2.30, when, by the way, not half the home players had deigned to put in an appearance. The small attendance was very disappointing, the receipts, I hear, barely reaching £30, which means a loss to Luton. Once more a big match at Upton proved a more powerful attraction to local footballers, Millwall being engaged there last January, while the "Spurs" on Saturday were Clapton's antagonists.

The match, or what there was of it, was a peculiar one. Anything like good football was absolutely lacking. So sound was the back division on both sides, that the goal-keepers had almost a sinecure. Though Luton took six corners to Ilford's two, it is strange but true that Cosburn handled but twice all through the game, while Bee was called upon four times, half of these, however, being long easy shots! This fact more than any other is excellent testimony to the fine work of Drummond, who repeatedly cleared shots which must have seriously troubled the Ilford custodian.

Not only was the play of a scrambling, kick and rush description, but there was the same unpleasant flavour about the whole thing, associated with both previous encounters. Teams like Ilford never play the proper game themselves, and make it their business to upset anyone else who endeavours to start on a higher plane of action. On this account the contest was by no means of a sweetly agreeable nature, and fouls of the petty "nastiness" order were continually cropping up. Very few, however, were of a vicious kind, and though most of them were awarded against Luton, the Ilford men had no less than three fouls straight off the reel given against them.

The crowd deserves a par. to itself. For ignorance of the game, abusive language, and sheer one-sidedness, the Essex spectators want some beating. Some of the spectators made a practice of persistently yelling "foul" whenever a Luton man approached one of their pets, and a row of committee-men outside the Press-box scattered wholesale some very choice (?) epithets, from which I select the following: "Butchers, beasts, — cads, tigers, &c."

I was not surprised to read that the previous Saturday, Mr. Whittaker found it necessary to stop the game with Clapton in order to eject one of the unruly Ilford following.

Both strings of forwards were much below full strength and the shooting was feeble on each side. Galbraith was best of the Luton five and worked extremely hard, but so severely was he marked that he was not given a single chance of shooting at goal. Allen and Finlayson, the other inside men, were sterling "triers." The weakness was on the wings, Brown being lamentably "off" and Dimmock tolerable, but much too slow in getting rid of the leather. In common with all Lutonians, I am anxiously awaiting the re-appearance of Prentice and Gallacher, and Jack's first trial.

The Luton halves quite out-matched the home forwards, Howe being in champion form, while Watkins had a "day out" with the Ilford left. The backs had not much to do but McEwen showed up best. Nicholson seemed bent on enjoyment, and I think the loud jeers of the crowd rather enhanced than diminished his merriment. Still I must confess my belief that he now and then suffered the "foolery" element to go too far.

As for the losers, they never shaped like scoring. Edgar Porter was the only forward

of service, and made some dashing runs. Gallon's merits have been extensively "trumpeted" abroad, but he could do nothing with McOrindle, and the left wing was useless. Regan was best of the halves, Watts being no match for Galbraith, and the backs defended splendidly. Drummond, in particular, was ubiquitous and indefatigable. Both Luton's goals were from clinking shots, which gave Cosburn "no earthly."

In the County Cup tie between the Monts and Dunstable, the latter made a bold bid for victory. At one time they led by three goals but lack of "staying" powers lost them the day. The visitors were heavier and bigger all-round and certainly had few scruples about utilising their weight and vigorous methods prevailed throughout. In consequence of the roughness displayed on both sides, the football was of second-rate quality and it was a very unsatisfactory debut for the competition in Luton. Apart from the mishap to Beasley, matters reached such a lively pitch, that at the finish the Dunstable captain left his goal, and in ridiculous fashion, rushed about the field, "going for" opponents promiscuously.

For the Dunstable men, Smart played an exceptionally fine game at back, the halves were almost as good, and Brown was the pick of the forwards. As to the Monts, Sanders was in excellent form before his accident, and Hoy after the interval played grandly. The halves worked hard but the forwards, except Roe and Hoy, were very much "off" in the first half. In the second portion, all did well, except perhaps in front of goal.

I understand that Dunstable have since lodged a protest. Dr. MacArthur set Beasley's broken arm, and the patient is now making good progress.

The Reserves had a ridiculously easy task at Bedford, Tearle only handling once throughout the game, and taking not a single goal-kick. Owing to the wretchedly bad ground and worse ball, football was out of the question, and the visitors, determined to enjoy themselves, indulged in a lot of amusing foolery. Though pressing the whole time, they only got the leather through half-a-dozen times, whereat the Bedford juniors, who were fully prepared for a 15-0 defeat, retired in raptures of delight.

As may be imagined, the Luton forwards were by no means great in the scoring line, but Whitby, Hulatt and Groom did fairly well. The halves were passable, and Collins at back placed several free-kicks very nicely. Ampthill are to be their next victims, and as the tie is to be played on the Town ground, I expect to see a more respectable score run up by the Reds.

The match on Saturday between Kettering second string and the Town "Reserves' Reserves" may be described as a scrambling affair. Fun was a big element, the crowd enjoying itself hugely. As far as play went, the visitors were easily superior, the forwards being very smart, and a much heavier score might have been expected.

Great credit is due to Fox for a really first-class display in goal. Chesher also defended grandly, and his partner, Street, showed favourable promise. Among the forwards, Scott played pluckily at centre, Jack had few opportunities yet shaped very well, but Prime, the cause of most of the merriment, was obviously new to the game, though his prowess in county championship running will not be questioned.

I hear that St. Albans have arrived at the conclusion that something is radically wrong with their front rank, and during the next few friendly games some experiments will be tried with a view to strengthening it. While the forwards are weak, the defence is considered very strong. Bert Sanders, of Luton and Montrose fame, played a good game for them in the Amateur Cup against Maidenhead, and the Saints are anxious to secure his services on every possible occasion.

Clapton have written to say that they are ready and willing to re-play the League fixture with Luton on some Wednesday in January, but a short note was sent in reply that the Reds have yet something to say as to the little episode of November 10th, and Clapton's kind offer is, at present, "declined with thanks."

I hear that the Town committee are considering the practicability of a Southern tour. Hastings Athletic have invited Luton to share their seaside hospitality, and if a few other clubs that way are agreeable, no doubt, the novel idea—for Luton—may be carried into effect.