

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 Inard 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 McKwen, backs; Watkins, McGrindle (capt.) and Howe, half-backs; Brown and Finlayson, right; Galbraith, centre; Allen and Dimmock, left, forwards.

Ilford:—W. R. Osburn, 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

TUSSLE WITH WATKINS,

but soon recovered, Mr. Chase throwing the ball up. Drummond was continually in evidence, and cleared his lines three times in as many minutes, before Allen, securing from a throw-in by Watkins,

SCORED LUTON'S FIRST GOAL

with a fast "grunder," 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.