

LUTON AND THE ENGLISH CUP.

DRAWN GAME AT TOTTENHAM.

On Saturday the finals in the qualifying series of contests for the English Cup were played throughout the country, when a score of clubs were engaged in the 10 divisions. This was the third time in four years that Luton Town had reached the penultimate stage, and considerable interest was consequently manifested in the local team's meeting with Tottenham Hotspur. In the matter of choice of ground the "reds" have been singularly unlucky, their opponents being drawn first in each of the four rounds. Thus they were compelled to make the trip to Northumberland Park, Tottenham, on Saturday. The facilities on the railways were not largely taken advantage of, but a fair number of sympathisers undertook the journey to the Hotspur ground. So far as could be gathered these were by no means sanguine, for Galbraith was once more an absentee, his place being filled by Groom, while Jack was ineligible to take his place at outside left. They had a crumb of comfort, however, in the knowledge that Gallacher was to re-appear on the right wing.

The start had been announced for 2.15, but it was a few minutes later when the signal was given for the commencement of hostilities. The weather was delightfully fine, the sun shining brilliantly, and there was a large attendance, some 4,000 spectators being present. The referee (Mr. Bissaker) took charge of the following elevens:—

Tottenham Hotspur: Goal, Ambler; backs, Burrows and Jull (captain); half-backs, Welham, Julian and Shepherd; forwards, Cutberly and Goodall (right), Hunter (centre), Eccles and Payne (left).

Luton Town: Goal, Bee; backs, Nicholson and McKwen; half-backs, Watkins, McCrindle (captain) and Howe; forwards, Gallacher and Finlayson (right), Groom (centre), Prentice and Dimmock (left).

Lineamen: Messrs. G. Horn (Luton) and H. D. Casey (Hotspur).

The homesters won the toss and elected to play against the wind, their opponents having the disadvantage of facing the sun. The crowd was very enthusiastic, and during the first few minutes they cheered every passable bit of play very lustily. The Lutonians had a good deal the best of matters at the outset, and more than once they managed to get the ball to the Hotspur end, though only to send it out of play. The 'Spurs, who had donned white uniform for the occasion instead of their ordinary red, got down and had a try at Bee's charge, but the visiting backs were in superb form, and the ball was quickly returned over the centre line. Ambler was sorely tried by Gallacher, and then Howe and Julian were prominent for their respective sides. The Luton left wingers made their way up in good style, and with a good centre enabled Finlayson to head in, but the leather unfortunately went too high. Dimmock, who was in better form than usual, threw away an admirable chance of centring just now, but later on he made amends by combining excellently with Prentice. The locals shot out at the Luton end, and subsequently Nicholson exerted himself brilliantly. Burrows was called upon to clear, and then Groom sent in a decent shot which was carried wide by the wind. Goodall and his wing-mate rushed off into the Luton quarters, but they were compelled to get rid of the ball, and when the "reds" had returned to the other end Prentice headed out from a splendid pass by Gallacher. The latter experienced hard luck immediately afterwards, a capital shot from his foot compelling Ambler to tip the ball over the bar. A corner followed, but the danger was averted by means of some excellent defensive tactics on the part of the backs, and then McKwen was called upon to exert himself in order to preserve his side's citadel from downfall. Shepherd sent out over the visitors' line, and just after McKwen was once more called upon to clear. Nicholson gave another sample of his ability, his coolness and cleverness compelling applause from the spectators. Gallacher forced another corner, but he sent the ball behind the goal-line when taking the kick, and the next point of interest was a free-kick being awarded against Julian for charging an opponent in the back. Luton thereafter attacked hotly, and McCrindle sent out, the wind taking the ball out of the line of the goal. Burrows conceded a corner, and in the next few minutes Nicholson and Howe were applauded for good play. Finlayson narrowly missed on two occasions, the leather on one occasion going a yard the wrong side of the post. The "reds" were now doing all the pressing, and the home defenders were hard put to it to preserve their fortress from capture. Finlayson once more rendered himself noticeable by a very fine shot, and though he was unsuccessful on this occasion he was rewarded just after by being put in a position to obtain the first notch of the match. The small contingent of Luton supporters present did not fail to express their satisfaction at this achievement, and it must in justice be conceded that the local spectators did not forget to cheer. Stimulated by this success, the leaders returned to the charge and shot after shot was rained in. The 'Spurs' left wing men exhibited good style and Julian displayed something like an approach to his old form, but in this half he was not very conspicuous. The Hotspurs made their way towards the Luton uprights, but hands relieved the pressure. Groom dallied when he was presented with an open goal, the result being that he was robbed. Dimmock centred well, and from the opposite side Gallacher put in a capital attempt which Prentice converted. The interval came half a minute later with the scores standing thus:

Luton, two; Hotspur, none.

For some time after the resumption the visitors held the upper hand, but they were unable to make much headway, and later on they seemed content to rely upon defensive play. On one occasion Prentice narrowly missed heading through from a pass by Finlayson, and then a brief cessation was caused by the inside right man getting injured, though the accident was fortunately not very serious. Finlayson signalled his return by testing Ambler's ability. Bee was called upon to clear, which he did only partially, and when the ball was returned Cutberly sent it through. This success was loudly cheered. The Hotspur men went off at a great pace after this, and for some time they had by far the best of the exchanges, their display being characterised by great dash. Various minor points were chronicled to either side, and in the course of the proceedings Nicholson and McKwen were freely booed for kicking into touch when pressed. At length Bee conceded a corner—or at all events the referee decided that way—and from this the Tottenham players equalised amid deafening applause. From this stage to the finish matters were fairly even, but no further alteration was made in the totals. Gallacher, though, experienced terribly bad luck on one occasion, a very fine long shot falling to score by very little. The final score was:

Luton, two; Hotspur, two.

Excellent form was displayed by both sides, and on the whole the play was fast. The "reds" looked like running out easy winners during the first half, but after the interval they made the mistake of adopting waiting tactics, with the result that they were sorely pressed continuously. The 'Spurs' defence was exceedingly strong, and some of their forwards were capable. The Luton backs and half-backs did splendidly, and the wing men amongst the forwards were in good form. Groom did not distinguish himself as Galbraith's understudy. The result was an agreeable surprise to the Hotspur supporters, who expected to sustain a reverse.