

LUTON AS DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONS.

A SPLENDID DISPLAY.

On Wednesday afternoon the clubs again met at Luton in order to fight out the question of supremacy. The weather was admirable, and there was a fairly good muster of spectators, close upon 2,000 being present. The turf was somewhat soft, while a strong wind prevailed. The sides were:

Luton Town: Goal, Bee; backs, Collins and McEwen; half-backs, Watkins, McCrindle and Howe; forwards, Gallacher and Finlayson (right), Galbraith (centre), Prentice and Dimmock (left).

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

The referee was Mr. T. Saywell (Chatham), and the Luton linesman was Mr. J. Bennett.

Winning the toss gave the homesters a decided advantage, for the wind was very strong. No sooner had the ball been started than the homesters, who wore white for the occasion, raced away to the other end and commenced a strong attack. Gallacher forced a corner, and then from a splendid pass by Collins Prentice headed past. A foul against the 'Spurs enabled McEwen to send in beautifully and Ambler was hard put to it to save. Gallacher sent across the goal splendidly more than once, and then a corner, obtained by Prentice, led to a great struggle in front of goal. Time after time the ball was sent in, and Ambler's charge escaped marvellously. Payne put in a decent run, but the play was not long at the home end, for in a minute or so Dimmock was noticed to head on the wrong side of the post from a pass by Gallacher. Julian was showing up prominently at centre half-back, and he persistently dogged Galbraith's steps. Prentice failed with a weak one, and Howe was unlucky with a capable effort. Luton were penalised for a foul, but the onward march of the "whites" was not long delayed, for in less time than it takes to write they were swarming round Ambler's citadel. From a corner a couple of hot shots were sent in, and from the second of these the homesters claimed to have scored; indeed, it seemed to most of those present that the leather went between the posts. However, the referee decided otherwise. Undeterred by this want of luck the Lutonians maintained their high standard of play. Dimmock sent yards too high, and subsequently Gallacher distinguished himself during some closely-contested encounters near goal. That player on one occasion sent the ball into Ambler's hands at a great pace, but the keeper managed to clear. The Lutonians decided to stay at the opponents' end for a considerable period, and they pressed very severely. During this time Ambler was deservedly hooted for a particularly vicious kick of which Dimmock was the victim. This, however, escaped the notice of the referee. A foul against the Hotspur men was noted, and thereafter Finlayson dispatched a beauty at Ambler. Galbraith sent wide, the direction of the shot being altered by Julian, who managed to interpose his foot in the nick of time, for the ball was travelling at such a pace that it would have been impossible for the keeper to save. Dimmock once more tested the opposition custodian with a grand one, and Gallacher was about to repeat the dose when he was pulled up for off-side. At length the long-awaited score came. A corner fell to the home combination, and from this the ball was forced through, Finlayson appearing to touch it last. His success was deservedly applauded. Hands against the leaders did not long delay their progress, but a little later a foul was given against Galbraith for impeding Julian. The ball—by the way a new one had been substituted—was

repeatedly carried over the Hotspur goal-line. A good centre by Dimmock enabled Gallacher to send in at a great pace, Jull managing to save, though at the expense of a corner. The homesters maintained a terrific bombardment, and in the midst of this Finlayson was responsible for a capable attempt. Corners fell to the Luton men in rapid succession—first on one side of the field and then on the other—four of these free-kicks being secured in as many minutes. A foul by Prentice enabled the strangers to raise the siege, but the relief was only temporary, for in a very short time Prentice was observed to head over the bar. Hands against Luton was balanced by a decision for fouling against the 'Spurs, and Dimmock sent out when his comrades had worked their way up well. Close on half-time Gallacher succeeded with a magnificent long shot, and when the interval arrived the score was :

Luton, two ; Hotspur, none.

Early in the second portion a foul was credited to Welham, but Galbraith retaliated. The Luton representatives continued to have vastly the best of the exchanges, despite the fact that they were now facing the wind, and in spite of their most strenuous efforts the Hotspur players were unable to make much headway. Burrows was punished for fouling rather badly, and later on the home backs displayed remarkably good form. Some pretty passing by the home forwards enabled Galbraith to get into a nice position for shooting, which he did with such excellent effect that his side were placed three up. This notch was splendidly obtained, and the success was enthusiastically cheered, it being felt that the home contingent were now fairly safe. After Prentice had troubled Ambler, Dimmock fouled an adversary, and then Bee was required to handle the ball for the first time during the game. When Finlayson had been pulled up for foul tactics, the visitors obtained a corner, but this was unproductive. The Luton right wingers both dispatched admirable shots at Ambler, and more than once combined attacks were made by the Lutonians. Eventually the fine play of the homesters was once more rewarded, Gallacher heading past Ambler from a pass by Dimmock. The Hotspur men occasionally exhibited flashes of brilliancy afterwards, but they were always held at bay, and when the whistle sounded the "whites" were enabled to claim the title of champions of the ninth division with the following total :

Luton, four ; Hotspur, none.

The winners all exhibited admirable form. Even Dimmock rose to the occasion and played as he has not previously played this season. Some of his centres were remarkably good, and he fully deserves a word of commendation. The presence of Galbraith gave cohesion to the front rank, and the forwards put the opposing quintette into the shade. The half-backs were reliable and the backs did wonderfully well. Bee had comparatively little to do. The visitors' defence was sorely taxed, and under the circumstances it must be conceded that they displayed capital style. The attack was repelled repeatedly by the brilliant defence offered by the homesters. Mr. Saywell made one or two important errors, but on the whole he afforded satisfaction.