

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON V. ILFORD.

ANOTHER ROUGH GAME—GALBRAITH ORDERED OFF AND LUTON DEFEATED.

After defeating the Essex club by 2-0 in the English Cup last November, Luton had to re-visit Ilford on Saturday to play off the first fixture with them this season in the League. Last week, Luton were deprived of a game through West Herts scratching while Ilford suffered defeat on their own ground from Southampton St. Mary's, whom Luton had vanquished the Saturday previous in Hampshire. Everything, therefore, seemed to favour Luton's chances of beating Ilford for the third time at home. The visitors mustered full strength with the exception of Watkins, who was replaced owing to illness by Chesher. The home side was also very strongly represented, including T. N. Perkins, the Casual and Cantab forward. The day was damp and chilly but, considering the weather, the ground was in excellent condition. Luton were first to turn out and after ten minutes delay, caused by the late arrival on the scene of the home team, the men lined up as under:—

Luton:—Bee, goal; M. D. Nicholson and McEwen, backs; Chesher, McCrindle, and Howe, half-backs; Gallacher and Finlayson, right; Galbraith, centre; Prentice and Jack, left, forwards.

Ilford:—W. R. Cosburn, goal; J. O. Drummond and E. Markham, backs; C. Regan, H. G. Watts and F. Markham, half-backs; E. Porter and A. Porter, right; T. N. Perkins, centre; A. C. Linard and J. Gallon, left, forwards.

Referee:—Mr. E. E. Stuart (Watford) R.A.

Linesmen:—Messrs. Walsh and Markland.

At the start, there were scarcely more than 600 spectators. Luton were unfortunate enough to lose the toss and had to play with the wind dead in their faces. Galbraith kicked off but Ilford rushed away at once and McCrindle and Chosher in turn gave corners which produced nothing. Showing some good combined play, the Luton men attacked in turn, Drummond having to give a corner. From this, Galbraith shot over the bar. The Reds promptly returned to the assault, and Jack centring into goal, Gallacher scored.

THE FIRST GOAL OF THE DAY

after a brief scrimmage. This was after 4 minutes' play. On the kick-off, the visitors pressed again, but Jack was ruled offside. Then F. Markham fouled Kinlayson in a disgraceful fashion just outside the 12 yards' limit. McCrindle placed the first free-kick of the afternoon, but Galbraith put over the bar. From hands, Howe sent behind, and then the Luton right by some beautiful combination once more entered Ilford territory, but the backs relieved. It was now Ilford's turn, and after a rush by Perkins, a foul was given against Prentice. Drummond placed the kick, Prentice foolishly "kicked" the ball towards his own goal, and Watts, getting possession, at once shot in.

EQUALISING FOR THE ESSEX MEN.

only eight minutes after the last score. The Stripes were greatly inspired by this success, and McEwen had to head behind from Gallon, but F. Markham shot wide from the corner. Two fouls in succession were given against Galbraith, McEwen clearing well on each occasion. Hands for the Reds relieved, but Gallon got away and was ruled offside. E. Porter now made a tremendous sprint down his wing and centred opportunely across goal, where Perkins received and smartly touched the leather inside the post at Bee's left hand. Ilford were thus ahead, 21 minutes from the start. The Reds put forth every effort to reduce the lead, though playing against the wind. Jack sent in a good centre, but Galbraith was ruled offside. Luton running down once more, Drummond was hard pressed in clearing. Jack centred again, but Prentice, instead of playing the ball, passed to Galbraith, who was again given offside. On giving the free-kick, Mr. Stuart was seen for some reason—we were afterwards informed, for swearing—to

ORDER GALBRAITH OFF THE FIELD.

The Luton centre protested against this decision, and the game was stopped for five minutes for discussion of the point, all players and officials clustering round the referee. The latter declined to give way or proceed with the match unless Galbraith obeyed his order. This Galbraith reluctantly did amid the hooting of the crowd, and for the remaining 15 minutes Luton played with four forwards. In spite of this handicap, the Reds had all the best of the game, Gallacher twice calling upon Cosburn. A foul against F. Markham—a third soon followed—should have been turned to account, but Nicholson placed behind. The crowd and the Ilford committee abused the visiting players wholesale, and on the slightest provocation yelled "Turn him off." Gallacher, who was playing grandly, caused Cosburn to bring off a fine save just before half-time, when the score stood:—Ilford 2, Luton 1.

The Reds continued to have the best of matters all through the second half, but the forward rank was greatly weakened in scoring powers from the loss of Galbraith. The four played pluckily, but failed to break through the stubborn defence of the home team in goal. Prentice and Jack exchanged places towards the finish. Always to the fore, Gallacher caused Cosburn to clear three times in a few minutes, while the Ilford custodian got away a beauty from Howe. Two corners proved of no avail to Luton, but Finlayson lost

A FINE CHANCE FROM JACK

owing to hesitation. Fouls followed against Nicholson, McCrindle, A. Porter and another home forward for pushing Bee. Perkins put through, but had previously handled the ball, and another free-kick for hands against Ilford, was placed right into goal by Nicholson, but luckily got away. After Bee had saved, Gallon made a sudden rush on the left, robbed Nicholson, and

SINGLE-HANDED SCORED ILFORD'S THIRD GOAL with a high shot, half an hour from the interval. McEwen was penalised for fouling K. Porter, and the referee ran after the Luton back to caution him. Then Regan fouled Prentice, and "Mac" took the kick, but Finlayson shot wide. The Reds made desperate efforts to pull the game out of the fire, but Cosburn saved marvellously, once from Prentice when within a few yards. The ball on one occasion seemed to cross the goal-line, but Luton's appeal was disregarded. Mr. Stuart now made two faulty decisions, giving fouls against McCrindle and Chesher, when the former was simply playing the ball, and "Manny" fairly charging his opponent. Just on the stroke of time, Prentice gave Finlayson the chance of a life-time in front of goal, but, alas, "Finny" shot over the bar. The game thus ended in Luton's defeat by Ilford for the first time by 5 goals to 1.