

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON v. READING.

A WELL-WON SUCCESS.

The Berkshire team have been going very strongly of late and it was generally anticipated that their meeting with Luton on Saturday would produce a close and hard struggle. The event turned out contrary to expectation for the home side won hands down and were superior at all points, except in goal, where Cannon's fine display could hardly have been improved upon. But to the game. It was a fine day but the ground was still very heavy. The "gate" was better than for some weeks, about 3,000 spectators being present.

The visitors were without Deane, their captain, Shen and Skurray and played Warburton and White of the Reserves in their stead. Luton, on the other hand, lacked Chesher, who was unwell, Collins taking his place at back. The Reading men arrived late and it was nearly a quarter to four, when the sides took their positions as under :

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

Reading :—Cannon, goal; C. White and Justins, backs; Warburton, A. W. White and Knight, half-backs; Mills and Stuart, right; Dickenson, centre; Kelsey and Fletcher, left, forwards.

Referee :—Mr. J. Albert (Chatham), R.A.

Linesmen :—Messrs. Webb and S. Bennett.

The toss was won by McCrindle but there was not much in it. On Dickenson kicking off, the visitors were the first to press, a small Reading contingent present loudly cheering their auspicious start. Luton, however, quickly took up the running and the crowd were both delighted and surprised to see their team score in less than five minutes; Jack securing near goal and centering finely to Galbraith, who promptly shot through while Cannon was at the other side of his goal. Having tested the sweets of success, the Reds attacked again in dangerous fashion and from a centre by Jack, Gallacher hit the wrong side of the net when another score seemed a certainty. Reading were not idle and Dickenson made a dash down the field, Watkins giving a corner. In clearing from this, Howe unfortunately landed the ball at Mill's feet, the Reading right-winger shot into goal, where

DICKENSON EQUALISED AFTER A BRIEF MELEE.

Two goals in eight minutes looked promising for the score-sheet. The game became very fast and stubbornly contested, but ruled entirely in Luton's favour for the rest of the half. The Reds soon forced four corners in succession and had a free-kick for hands awarded them in front of Cannon but offside checked further progress. Gallacher's centres soon came in handy but his colleagues had little luck with them, generally missing by inches. Cannon in goal proved the chief obstacle. The Reading goal-keeper was tested with all sorts of shots, a clever head-in by Prentice from Jack and a splendid shot by McCrindle just under the bar being finely cleared while Finlayson struck the goal-post with a beauty, the ball

NEARLY REBOUNDED INTO THE NET.

As for the visitors, the forwards were always at work and once Dickenson broke clean away and had only Bee to beat when Stuart was ruled offside. Justin giving a fifth corner, Gallacher caused Cannon to bring off a smart save, and twice afterwards had hard luck in missing the mark. The Luton right-winger muddled nicely across goal but Prentice and Galbraith both failed to utilise the opportunity.

THE FIRST FOUL OF THE DAY

was now given against White, Finlayson being the injured party, and the Reading goal had an almost miraculous escape, McGrindle sending in a grand attempt. Cannon only cleared in the nick of time from this and again from Galbraith. Shortly after Gallacher centred and the home captain tried once more, Cannon saving grandly on his knees and clearing from a smart return by Prentice. The visiting custodian was loudly cheered for his magnificent defence, which alone prevented a heavy score. At half-time, the scores remained even: Luton 1, Reading 1.

On crossing over, the "biscuit" boys first attacked on the left, Bee saving, but then Jack got away and Cannon cleared twice in sharp succession. For some reason not apparent, a foul was given against McGrindle and from this Knight placed the ball in the net untouched. Stuart was twice penalized for questionable play and McEwen likewise, Mills being the doubtful victim in each case. However, Luton soon attacked in earnest. Jack was ruled offside about twenty yards from goal and Justin mis-kicking, the home left-winger secured again and sent in; Galbraith made a swift dash down to the goal-line, and very cleverly

BEAT CANNON A SECOND TIME

amid enthusiastic cheers, only five minutes having elapsed. The Reds made headway in fine style, but twice were stopped by infringements of the offside rule. At last, the Luton forwards bore down on goal; Gallacher sent in a flying shot, which Cannon ran out to save, but Galbraith and Prentice rushing down upon him, he only partially cleared, and before the Reading goal-keeper could return, Prentice

SHOT INTO THE OPEN GOAL.

This third point coming barely three minutes after the last score enraptured the crowd, and the cheering was loud and prolonged. But only two minutes afterwards, Stuart broke clean away—though palpably offside—and with the aid of his mates, rushed the ball through, after Bee had saved twice in a sharp scrimmage. The referee did not disallow a score, as everyone expected, but pointed to the centre-ring, Reading being thus credited with their second goal. Play was extremely fast and lively, as might be imagined after this surprisingly quick work, but hardly three more minutes had passed when Galbraith,

AFTER A GRAND SINGLE-HANDED RUN,

registered a fourth goal, beating the Reading goal-keeper in splendid style. Another outburst of enthusiasm followed Hughie's feat. Yet the visitors were by no means done with, and a clever shot from C. White rebounded from the post almost over the goal-lines, but he kept the ball out, though Reading appealed for a goal. The game was a little too vigorous at times, and several fouls were given, but apart from sundry rushes by the visitors, Luton were having all the play, Cannon being given plenty to do. Galbraith nearly repeated his previous performance, and Finlayson must have scored, but for an unfortunate "cannon" against the centre man. Meanwhile, Prentice shot into the net a fifth time, but was offside, but after Cannon had "skied" the ball in saving from the Luton centre, the little Gainsboro' man added one more legitimate point. Time arrived shortly afterwards, with the score:—Luton, 5 goals; Reading 2.