

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON V. CLAPTON.

A DRAW.—LUTON OUTWEIGHTED.

By some stupid blunder on Clapton's part in fixing the time for the kick-off too late, our first game with the denizens of the Spotted Dog last Nov. 10 was not completed by 18 minutes, as darkness, combined with a violent hailstorm, descended upon the scene of operations before the finish. When play ceased, Luton were leading by 4 goals to 1, and in a fair way to doubling their advantage. The match had consequently to be replayed, and three or four dates have been fixed, but various obstacles prevented its taking place until Saturday, when the Reds accordingly re-visited the Upton enclosure. In town, a pea-soup kind of fog prevailed, and the air was still misty at Forest Gate, but fortunately the ground was in good condition. The composition of the Clapton team was uncertain up to the start, but it was eventually discovered that Bob Clark, the goal-keeper was unable to play, owing to illness, and H. Earle, the Captain and centre-half, took his position between the sticks. Among the halves appeared J. Welham, of Tottenham Hotspur fame, and Sheldrake, of Chelmsford, played at centre-forward. The Luton eleven was identical with that which defeated Swindon. About 3,000 spectators were present, but at the start, the Clapton team, who came on the field by dribblets, were short of Mayes. The sides were:—

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

Clapton:—H. Earle (capt.), goal; "Bertie" Cook and F. W. Dodds, backs; A. Pursey, A. B. Mayes, and J. W. Welham, halves; Tillet and Hewett, right; Sheldrake, centre; "Fred" Hughes and "Alf" Milton left, forwards.

Referee:—Lient. H. Chase, R.A.

Linesmen:—Messrs. G. H. Barford and S. Smith.

Losing the toss, Luton started at 3.35 and quickly made things warm for the home defence. Jack shot across goal, and soon Dodds had to kick out, Pursey yielding a corner to Gallacher. From this, Earle fisted out, and then McEwen cleared a rush by Hewett. As usual, Clapton were setting a big pace, but the football displayed was of medium quality throughout. A series of desultory attacks by Luton ensued, and most of the play was in Earle's vicinity, though varied by occasional breaks-away by the Upton forwards. Finlayson got hurt early in the game, and doubtless, owing to this was not

SMART ENOUGH IN GETTING BID

of the ball. Welham soon became conspicuous by weighing upon Gallacher unmercifully, and in this operation, he was persistently "egged on" by the crowd. Just after Mayes had appeared, hands were given against Clapton, but McEwen sent the ball flying yards above the goal. A similar infringement against Howe allowed Welham to follow Mac's example. Jack sent the ball well in, and after Earle had saved, Gallacher just missed. The first foul happened to be against Luton, and at once some of the home crowd shouted "turn him off." This, however, produced the first serious attack by Luton, and Galbraith, after beating four opponents, got in a beautiful screw-shot, which deserved to score, but unfortunately went straight to Earle's hands. Two fouls were given against Hughes and Welham, the latter playfully

HOLDING GALLACHER UP IN HIS ARMS.

The first kick was placed by Watkins, and Earle gave a corner. From this Collins returned nicely, but Prentice headed wide, this being received with some applause. The next penalty produced a grand shot from Gallacher, which Earle got away, and hands against Galbraith directly afterwards brought welcome relief to the home defence. After a brief rush to the other end by Clapton, Luton returned to the assault. Earle being kept busy, and two corners accruing. A break-away by the home forwards brought Bee out of goal, and directly afterwards a foul was given against McEwen, Mayes landing the ball in the net untouched.

Mr. Chase to our surprise now penalised Galbraith instead of cautioning Welham for unwarrantable roughness. A throw-in to Clapton followed, and this Watkins headed behind his own lines; the corner produced a scrambling melee from which Bee only partially cleared—whereupon Hughes promptly

RUSHED THE BALL THROUGH.

amid an enthusiastic demonstration by the crowd 25 minutes from the start. This was bad business for Luton, but they pressed hard, Earle saving four times in succession. Once Dodds mis-kicked but the home captain cleared before Prentice could get to the ball. From Jack's centre, Gallacher tried the finest shot of the day but again Earle happened to be in the way and saved. A corner off Dodds was placed wide by Jack and a similar concession by Howe met with a like fate, while McEwen cleared well from Hewett. Play was for a while in Luton quarters, where a muddle between the back division resulted in Watkins nearly putting through his own goal. Happily nothing worse than a corner ensued and McEwen was again responsible for a grand clearance, Bee being next called upon by Hughes. The Reds quickly retaliated and a dash by Galbraith greatly troubled the backs, while Prentice shot just under the bar, the Clapton captain once more saving from Jack. Just before half-time, the "Doggies" made an onslaught through Tillett, and Bee, sticking too long to the ball, was charged down outside the post. The corner was fruitless and at the interval, Clapton led by 1 goal to nil.

The principal features of the first half were reproduced on crossing over. The only change, if any, was that Luton had more of the game than ever and eventually scored a solitary goal. Still the Stripes began well, and Cook placing a free-kick for hands off Howe, McEwen conceded a corner. One of the home side handled next and "Mac" sent the ball into Earle's hands, the London custodian directly afterwards yielding a corner from a splendid shot by Watkins. foul and yet another corner made things sultry for the home defence. Gallacher utilized a centre from Jack in decent style but Earle could not be beaten, until 8 minutes had elapsed when he ran out and Prentice converted a fine centre by Gallacher into

LUTON'S FIRST AND ONLY GOAL.

Meanwhile, Milton had a clear run but Collings hotly pursuing him, "Alf" shot wide. Galbraith followed suit and Cook had to put behind in self-defence. Mayer was next penalised for holding Finlayson, and then Hughes and Watkins had some disagreement during a tussle, "Connie" being cautioned in a very uncalled-for fashion. Hughes practised the same tactics upon Gallacher at the expense of a foul and soon after Earle ran more than three steps with the ball in clearing. This brought a free-kick close to goal but with Luton's usual wretched bad luck nothing came of it. The visitors continued to have the best of play but their

SHOOTING WAS DECIDEDLY "OFF"

though once Galbraith ought to have scored. Watkins had another try but Dodds headed away while the Clapton custodian saved repeatedly. On the other hand, Ree had only one shot to deal with, viz., from Hughes, the whole 45 minutes, but nevertheless when time arrived, the score stood: Luton 1, Clapton 1.