

Played a Kettering on Monday. Result:—
 Kettering 1 goal.
 Luton Town nil.

The teams were as follow:—

RIGHT.		LUTON TOWN.		LEFT.	
		Williams (goal).			
McCartney				McEwan.	
Perkins.		Stewart.		Docherty.	
Gallacher.	Coupar.	Galbraith.		McInnes.	Ekins.
O					
Parker.	Millar.	Allan.	Heskin.	Panter.	
Atherton.		Cowan.		Pell.	
Draper.		Wallace.			
		Perkins (goal).			
LEFT.		KETTERING.		RIGHT.	

Referee, Mr. T. W. Saywell; linesmen, Messrs. E. Gibbs (Luton), and O. Bullock (Kettering).

Luton were particularly unfortunate in their match on Monday. They were unfortunate in having to play the first half against a strong wind, they were more unfortunate in having to play against at least one man whose methods were open to the severest censure, and they were still more unfortunate in having to play before spectators who are a disgrace to the sport, or who were, at any rate, on Monday.

I have been into Northamptonshire a good many times, and have never come away with a very favourable impression of the demeanour of the crowds which assemble there, but the Kettering lot fairly surpassed themselves on Monday. The game had not been in progress many minutes when Mr. Saywell had to call the attention of the Secretary to the fact that some of the onlookers were making use of bad language, and a little later he threatened to stop play altogether if such conduct were continued.

The pity of it was that he had not the courage to put his threat into execution. But it would have required a very bold man indeed to treat such people as they ought to have been treated, and Mr. Saywell being only ordinarily courageous, I was not surprised that he stopped short of the drastic action to which he had referred. I think it very probable that had it been my misfortune to occupy his position, I should have followed precisely the same course.

As it was, he came in for the severest condemnation, expressed in anything but Parliamentary terms. A decision in favour of Luton, however just, was received with hooting and jeers, and in face of this conduct neither Mr. Saywell nor any Luton player was able to do himself justice. I don't suppose the Kettering people are always as bad as they were on this occasion, but they seem to have developed an unreasonable prejudice against Luton, and they did their best, or their worst, on Monday to give full vent to it.

The gate was a very small one, and as there was a pooling arrangement between the two clubs, this was a matter of some moment to Luton, whose share came to the magnificent total of £3. When Kettering visited Luton, their half amounted to £26, and after making allowance for the fact that one game was on Saturday and the other on Monday, the difference is still very striking.

To Cyclists and others. The Invicta Diamond Jubilee Sweater. See designs in window. The most Stylish and useful Sweater made. Can be worn two ways. S. Bassett, the athletic outfitter, 28, Wellington-street.—[ADVT.]

A quarter-past five was the time fixed for the kick-off, and Kettering winning the toss, started with the advantage of a strong wind blowing direct into the Luton goal. The Ketts were, of course, speedily in evidence, but the shooting for a time was very erratic, until Panter got in a clinking shot, which Williams saved in excellent style. Directly after, he kicked out a long one from Wallace, and then Stewart just, and only just, managed to clear from Parker.

After repulsing one or two further attacks, Luton got away, Ekins centred, and Gallacher shot, but without result. Hands against Cowan gave the visitors another chance, and Perkins had to save from Docherty, while a beautiful return by Davies was nullified by Gallacher handling the ball. Coupar was a moment later badly brought down by Draper, who also went for Gallacher in very vicious fashion, just after the latter had put in a fine run and a brilliant centre. Ekins made an equally good run, and his shot was a trimmer, Perkins bringing off a grand save.

It was here that the referee had for the second time to caution the spectators, but the caution unhappily had little or no effect. From hands against Stewart, the Ketts again got down, Wallace placing and the ball being headed through, either by Heskin or Panter, both of whom were off-side, the goal, as a consequence, not being allowed.

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Luton now went up the field very prettily, and Gallacher sent just wide of the mark. Wallace subsequently nearly put through his own goal, and then Luton again got away, only to find Gallacher given off-side. Perkins, however, was soon called upon to save a lovely shot from Perrins, and Williams fisted out a good one from Millar at the other end. Allan, who was palpably offside, headed in from a centre from the right wing, but Williams tipped over the bar, and there was tremendous hooting when the referee refused to allow a corner.

Almost immediately, Williams had to fist out a beautiful curling shot from Atherton, and he effected a wonderful save to a fast low shot from Panter. Then from a free kick for hands, McCartney placed, and the whistle sounded for half-time just as the ball landed in Perkins' hands. Thus when the teams crossed over there had been no score.

Up to this point, Luton had played a capital game under very disadvantageous circumstances, and it was expected that they would do still better in the second half. Unfortunately, however, the wind dropped, and what made matters very much worse, play had not been resumed more than a couple of minutes, when, from a foul against Ekins, Heskin scored, Williams for once failing in his endeavour to clear.

After this, the Ketts played up with all the energy at their command, and Luton on the other hand became completely demoralised. Once, Perkins had the hardest work in the world to save from a hot shot from McInnes, but during the greater part of the second half, Kettering were all over the better team, Panter, on the outside right, playing a particularly fine game, with Parker and Millar also doing very smart work.

No further scoring took place, and the game therefore ended in a win for Kettering by a goal to nil. But I am convinced that the spectators had far more to do with winning the match than the team had, as the Luton men scarcely knew whether they were on their heads or their feet, and the referee allowed the homesters more latitude than he would have done under other circumstances. It is nothing less than a scandal that a man should have to perform his duties under such conditions.

Atherton played a good, if unnecessarily vigorous game at half-back, and Cowan also did a lot of useful work. Wallace acquitted himself very fairly at back, and Perkins in goal was as safe as a rock. As to Draper, who is the captain of the team, the less said about him the better.

The honours of the day, however, rested with Williams, who had more work, I should think, than he has had at any time since he has been with Luton, and the manner in which he did it elicited cheers even from the Kettering people. All shots, curling shots, cross shots, high shots, and low shots, seemed to come alike to him, and but for his splendid exhibition, Luton's defeat would have been far more severe. As to the other men, I can't say anything good about them, and in view of the matters to which I have referred, I think I am justified in refraining from saying anything bad.

I may say this, however, that the forwards, who have been so weak of late, were again all at sea, and unless they show a vast improvement, we shall stand no chance at all at Loughborough.

The Luton Stanley playing at Luton Hoo on Saturday beat the home team by seven goals to nil.

The Beds Association have decided to give both the winners and runners-up in the Cup Competition gold medals.

Luton Melrose v. Luton Clarence.—Played on the Melrose Ground on Saturday, the Clarence being beaten by three goals to nil. Goals were scored by Rayment, Saunders and Morria.

As was generally expected, Aston Villa beat Everton in the final for the English Cup, but only by three goals to two. There was a record attendance, the official return showing that 65,024 persons visited the ground.

As many expected, the English Football Association have reversed the decision of the Beds Football Association in regard to the re-played tie between the Ose Springs and Dunstable, so that the teams will have to meet again, which makes the fourth time. A meeting of the Emergency Committee is to be held to-night (Wednesday), and the game will be played at Leighton either on Good Friday or Saturday, as the final is fixed to take place on the Town ground on Easter Monday morning. The winners will have to meet the Luton Reserves.

The competition for admission into the League Second Division, says "Pearson's Athletic Record," bids fair to be more than usually keen this year. Of the clubs which will be forced to seek re-election, Lincoln City will probably encounter the strongest opposition, and from all appearances several outside combinations will be seen in the body during the season 1897-8. It is now practically certain that the two Burton clubs will amalgamate, and though this will cause an additional vacancy, the candidates for Second League honours are more than usually numerous. Already Luton, Chorley, Fairfield, Oldham County, Port Vale, Middlesbrough, and Nelson, have made application to Mr. H. Lockett, the League secretary, and as the season has yet a few weeks to run, there is every reason to expect that this list will be augmented.

Millwall at home on Monday beat Wellingborough by three goals to nil. They are now two points ahead of Luton, but they have two stiff matches to face—the Arsenal and Loughborough—whereas Luton have only one that ought to inspire them with any fear. At Kettering on Tuesday, the Ketts scored 5 goals against Tottenham Hotspur's 2, and the League table now reads:—

		Goals.					
	Pl'd.	Won	Lost	Dr'n.	For	Agst.	Pts
Millwall Athletic..	12	9	2	1	38	21	19
Luton Town.....	12	8	3	1	36	14	17
Woolwich Arsenal	13	6	4	3	27	31	15
Rushden	12	5	6	1	23	31	11
Loughborough....	10	5	4	1	24	20	11
Kettering	12	3	6	3	20	23	10
Wellingborough ..	12	3	7	2	16	36	8
Tottenham Hotspur	11	1	8	2	21	29	4