



SECOND LEAGUE.

LINCOLN CITY v. LUTON.

ANOTHER DISAPPOINTMENT.

The Luton men made another raid on Saturday in the big flat shire, from which the previous week they succeeded in carrying off a point at the expense of the Trinitarians at Gainsborough. It was their first appearance at Lincoln, and their visit was awaited with a good deal of curiosity. Everything seemed to point to a keen and close contest, for though the visitors had a good deal better record, the advantage of ground being with the Cits the chances appeared pretty equal. The draw at Gainsborough had inspired the home side with a great respect for their opponents, for no other team had previously succeeded in taking even one point from Northolme, and the Cits were anxious to do better than their neighbours.

Lincoln were, of course, again without Sidney, his place being filled by MacFarlane, but otherwise the team was as usual. The visitors, who had brought no fewer than five men in reserve, were at full strength, playing the same team as at Gainsborough, and the sides faced each other as follows:

Luton: Williams; McCartney, McEwen; Davies, Stewart and Docherty; Gallacher, Coupar, Little, McInnes and Ekins.

Lincoln City: Wilkinson; MacFarlane and Eyres; Hannah, Morris, and J. Simpson; Hall, Hulme, Robertson, Fletcher, and Ross.

Referee: Mr. Jeffries, Masboro'.

Rain was falling when the teams took the field, and there were 1,000 spectators present at the commencement of hostilities.

Eyres, who captained the City men, won the toss, and chose to kick with the wind towards the railway goal. The Luton men at once got away on the right, and a foul was given against the Cits. From the free kick the ball was sent down to the City goal, and the visitors looked distinctly dangerous. Hall, however, got possession, and a race ensued between him and McEwen, the back conceding a corner. From this MacFarlane passed to Morris, who sent on to Hall, the last-named putting in a shot which was saved at the expense of a corner. The homesters continued to press, and Williams had to rush out and save. Ross was conspicuous with a good run, but was fouled, and then for a time the Luton men had the best of matters, Wilkinson having to fist away.

The Cits, however, took up the attack, and Hall, Hulme, and Robertson had chances of which they were unable to take full advantage. A corner fell to Lincoln, and from this a scrimmage ensued, but only a corner, which was sent behind, resulted. Luton crossed the line, and Wilkinson and Eyres in turn had to clear, the former from Stewart. Play was transferred to midfield, and a foul brought Lincoln down. A similar free kick quickly relieved, however, but MacFarlane with a huge kick sent the ball out. Ross and Fletcher raced away, but McCartney kicked out, and the Luton right wing invaded. Ross got possession, and looked like getting through, but Davies was one too many for him. Just after the home left winger got down, but only a goal kick resulted.

Again the Cits attacked, and a pass from Robertson gave Hall an open goal, but he sent outside, to the disappointment of the crowd. Then Hulme sent the ball flying across the goalmouth. Luton got down but a foul relieved. MacFarlane repulsed from Gallacher, and then the Cits getting down, Morris scored with a long shot after 30 minutes play. This greatly inspired the homesters, and they continued to have the best of the play.

Ross and Robertson led an attack on the Luton citadel, and a pass from the latter gave Hulme a clear opening, but he sent wide. This was another splendid chance thrown away, but it is only fair to remember that the ground and ball were very slippery. Soon after a beautiful oblique shot from Hall appeared to be sailing into the net, but it just missed. The visitors now had a turn, and Wilkinson smartly punted away a ground shot from Stewart. At the other end Robertson sent out, and then Macfarlane and Eyres repulsed in turn. Not to be denied, Luton made another attempt, McInnes sending wide. The Cits now took up the attack vigorously, and some smart forward work resulted in Fletcher sending in a good one which McCartney returned. Ross met the ball, and scored No. 2 with a grounder which gave the defence no chance.

Luton got down, but the City forwards rushed away in line, and Williams, who was left unsupported, was beaten a third time by Hulme, the ball slipping through the custodian's legs. This goal, coming after only three minutes interval, evoked a great outburst of cheering, the spectators making up in enthusiasm what they lacked in numbers. The Cits continued to have matters much their own way, and from a scrimmage the ball was bundled through by Robertson, but after consulting the linesmen the point was disallowed, though the decision indeed was a strange one. Directly after the Cits got another legitimate point, the credit of which was divided pretty equally between Fletcher and Robertson. The game continued all in City's favour, and half-time arrived with the score :

LINCOLN	4 goals
LUTON	0 ..

The opening exchanges were in the City half, but the homesters getting away Hulme put in a good shot which Williams saved well. The visitors improved, but Ekins shot wide, off-side having previously been given. Play continued for some time in the home half, and then Robertson beat Stewart and Docherty, the movement ending in a good shot from Hall, which the visiting goalkeeper saved. Luton had now more of the game than their opponents, and the home backs were given something to do. Robertson got down, but was off-side. Then Gallacher raced away, and centred, but MacFarlane, who was playing a good game, got to the ball before Little. Even exchanges followed, and a magnificent run by Hall deserved a goal, but his final shot went over.

Luton pressed hard and a foul was given against the Cits. From this Wilkinson fisted away at the expense of a corner, Stewart sending out. The City forwards raced away in fine style, and a shot from Robertson struck the inside of the upright, but rebounded into play. The Luton men were pulled up for off-side, but they continued to press. Gallacher put the ball in the net with a good shot, but the whistle had just blown for off-side against him. Morris nearly headed through his own goal, but Wilkinson managed to place the ball over the bar. From the corner Stewart put in a good one, but again the home custodian cleared at the expense of a corner, which this time was sent behind.

Play continued greatly in favour of Luton, but although they had most of the play they rarely became very dangerous. Then the Cits turned the tables, Ross breaking away and putting in a good centre. Only good defensive play saved the Luton goal, for three shots were rattled in by Hulme, Robertson, and Hall, the latter grazing the crossbar. The visitors now played up with great determination, and Little scored an off side goal. Wilkinson was again puzzled, and thrice saved difficult shots, but at last Stewart opened the scoring after the half had been in progress 25 minutes. From a free kick Luton again netted the ball, but it had not come into play. "Play up, City," was now the cry, but they could do nothing against the wind.

Play was now somewhat tame, and the Luton men deserved every credit for the manner in which they struggled on to reduce the Lincoln lead. During one of the home team's break-aways Hulme scored an off-side when in a good position. Again the visitors attacked, and the City goal had a narrow escape. Ross made a good run, but McCartney kept him from shooting. The game assumed a more open character in the last few minutes, the light being very bad. The ball was lost and another had to be requisitioned. Luton pressed, but "hands" relieved, and Hulme got in a good shot. The

visitors again got down, and McCartney scored with a long shot, Wilkinson probably being unable to see the ball. Just after the whistle blew with the result:

LINCOLN	..	..	..	4 goals
LUTON	..	..	..	2 „