

Football



SECOND LEAGUE.

LUTON v. GRIMSBY.

A GALLANT VICTORY.

Never was a win more desirable than on Saturday. You may ask why? I answer for many reasons. First and foremost, to give the men confidence and courage when kicking off against the Bolton Wanderers to-morrow; and secondly, to inspire the First Leaguers with a wholesome dread of the team. It is therefore intensely gratifying to record a victory such as any team might well be proud of. The team had been in training at Wheathampstead since the Arsenal match, and on Friday afternoon they left by the 4 o'clock train travelling via Hatfield and Peterborough. After a tedious journey they reached Cleethorpes about 11, and made their headquarters at the Cliff Hotel. On Saturday morning they resumed their travels, and reached Grimsby about 1.30.

The kick-off was at 2.45, and the teams entered a crowded arena, no less than 5,000 spectators assembling. Mr. Tomlinson, Sheffield, refereed, and had command of the following teams:—

Grimsby: Whittaker; Lindsay and Frith; Chadburn, Bell, and McLean; Goldie, Robinson, McQuirns, Fletcher, and Gray.

Luton: Williams; McCartney and McEwen; Davies, Stewart, and Docherty; Gallacher, Couper, Donaldson, Little and McInnes.

Stewart won the toss, so that Grimsby set the ball rolling. According to custom for ages immemorial on the East coast, a gusty wind was blowing. As, however, it passed across the pitch, there was no advantage gained by Stewart's success. Grimsby went off at a terrific pace for the first 10 minutes. In almost as many minutes they forced three corners. These were all well cleared, fortunately, and the Luton men settled down with a grim determination that spoke ill for the fate of the brawny fishermen.

Little soon found the net, but was ruled offside. Then followed a corner. Whittaker failed to clear smartly, and let the ball dance round his feet so long that the visitors claimed it had passed under the bar.

The referee decided against the appeal, and the game continued. McInnes turned the luck by running up the wing. When in the Grimsby territory he squared the ball over to the right. Gallacher made a lovely centre, and Little, rushing into the goal mouth, headed through very neatly.

The game was only about 10 minutes old and such an early challenge braced up the Grimsbians to almost superhuman efforts. From the kick-off they pierced the Luton defence. Robinson got the ball from a pass. With good cause the visitors appealed for offside, but Robinson continued his course until within five yards of Williams, when he shot straight at the custodian.

"Dick" collared with his usual smartness, and saved what looked like a certain goal. Though chagrined, the spectators could not help but cheer such a fine performance. Excitement was almost unbearable for players and onlookers. The Grimsby men, encouraged by the occurrence, continued to attack, and put some fire into the game. Fletcher got down the centre, and from a long kick struck the bar. Gray rushed forward just in time for the re-bounce, and with a quick shot beat Williams.

After half-an-hour's play the game was therefore even. During the next fifteen minutes the pace slackened, and the interval came with no change:

LUTON	1 goal
GRIMSBY	1 goal

After the change at half-time Grimsby led Luton 1-0.

After the change of ends Grimsby had to put themselves on the defence, and both Lindsay and Frith had their hands full. For a quarter of an hour the Luton forwards peppered away. At last Donaldson got in a stinger, which Whittaker attempted to hold, but could not, and Luton "went up one." The point was well got, for Donaldson had to work round Lindsay before getting a chance to kick.

The third and final goal came soon afterwards. Skipper Stewart brought the ball down, and passing through to the left gave Little an opportunity, of which he smartly availed himself. The ball struck Lindsay with great force, and re-bounded again towards Little. This time "Tommy" took unerring aim and found the net in a trice. Towards the finish the game got rather rough. Final reading of the score:

LUTON	..	..	..	3 goals
GRIMSBY	..	..	..	1 goal

McEwen was the best back on the field. Lindsay was again conspicuous for his "free kicks" and free kicking. Robinson, Grimsby's inside right, is an amateur, and Saturday's match was his first League game. He is a smart young fellow, and worth his place.

All the Luton men did finely, and no better testimony to that fact can be produced than the final and satisfactory score.

The keen disappointment felt by the crowd tempted several "roughs" to vent their anger on the Luton team. Stewart, Davies, and one or two others were pelted while leaving the field, the former receiving a stone at the back of the head. Luckily friendly shelter was soon obtainable, and he escaped severe injury.

A Lincolnshire paper says of the encounter:—"The visit of the straw-plaiters to Abbey Park on Saturday had been anticipated with considerable interest, for various reasons. As prolific scorers at home, the team had become notorious, and their away results indicated a good game. It was the first visit also of Luton, and in view of their cup fixture against the 'trotters' next Saturday, the football loving Grimsbarian was afforded the opportunity of testing their chances of success on the 29th by their present display. The Luton left wing played a splendid game. After the change of ends Fletcher was displaced by Golding, and Luton had the best of the game. The play became extremely rough, there being several regrettable incidents, notably an unwarrantable interference on the part of one of the linesmen. Eventually Donaldson added to Luton's lead, Whittaker being unable to save. A minute later, and he repeated the experiment. Thus the game was practically in favour of the visitors. Grimsby endeavoured to score, but the defence of Luton was in rare form."

Another Grimsby writer says fortunately no one was injured, though it must be said that the referee and linesmen had their hands full. Upon the form displayed by Luton he thinks, after having witnessed Bolton Wanderers perform on several occasions, that Luton ought to stand a very good chance of winning to-morrow's match. Speaking of Luton's right wing, he adds that its brilliant form fairly electrified the crowd, and try as they would the home team could not check the dashing and clever reprisals of Gallacher and Coupar. The second half could not in any way be compared with the first, as, after Whittaker had muffed a good but not difficult shot from Donaldson, the Fishermen appeared to lose their heads, and while they were paying attention to the men, Luton—equal to every move upon the board—were always putting in dangerous shots at Whittaker. Without exception every member of the team knew his work, and brought to bear upon it a great amount of judgment. There were no two opinions on the part of the crowd at the Abbey-park ground that the best team won.

The "Athletic News" says: "Scarcely once during the 90 minutes' display did the 'Fishermen' do themselves justice. Ragged combination, indiscriminate kicking, and general fooling the ball stood in marked contrast to the clever exposition by Luton, who, in the second half especially, made rings round their opponents. The front line was streets in front of the Grimsbarians, their tricky play and judicious passing keeping Lindsay, Frith, and Whittaker incessantly busy. Except on two or three occasions, Grimsby never got within shooting range of the Luton goal, and even then the two clever backs on the Strawplaiters' side muffed their efforts. Goldie, who was put outside

right for the town, was not in his element, and in the second half "Ginger" Fletcher exchanged places with him, but it gave no advantage to the side, the whole of the forwards playing poorly, whilst the back division was little better. On Saturday's play, Luton fully deserved their victory, as being the superior team, and if the form is maintained next week the 'Trotters' have a tough job on hand. Mr. Tomlinson, of Sheffield, had to deal with a considerable amount of roughness."

"The best thing of the afternoon (says the same contemporary) was the victory of Luton at Grimsby. They have twice beaten the Fishermen, and netted no fewer than nine goals to one. It is years since any club did that with Grimsby."