

FOOTBALL.

LUTON AND THE UNITED LEAGUE.

VISIT TO TOTTENHAM.

A SCENE.—THE LUTONIANS MOBBED.

Yesterday (Thursday) the "stripes" visited Northumberland Park to play their return game in the United League contest with the 'Spurs. The event had been looked forward to with the utmost eagerness both in Luton and Tottenham, and either set of partisans were confident of the ability of their favourites to win. The importance of the game will readily be understood when it is stated that a victory would ensure the championship of the League falling, in all probability, to Luton. Since the miserable fiasco some years since when the 'Spurs beat the Lutonians on their own ground in a cup-tie the balance has always been on the side of the Luton men, and it was anticipated that they would maintain this record yesterday, despite the prowess of the 'Spurs. The sides had met twice previously this season. Early in October the Tottenham players came to Luton in a United League fixture and were disposed of with consummate ease by five goals to none. In the following month the teams again met, this time at Tottenham in an English Cup-tie, when the "stripes" secured the odd goal and won by four to three after a very exciting game.

Yesterday the sides were constituted thus:—

Tottenham: Goal, Cullen; backs, Knowles and Montgomery; half-backs, Hall, Jones and Crump; forwards, Hartley and Davidson (right), Joyce (centre), Stormont and Black (left).

Luton: Goal, Williams; backs, McCartney and McEwen; half-backs, Davies, Stewart, and Docherty; forwards, Gallacher and Coupar (right), Donaldson (centre), McInnes and Catlin (left).

Referee, Mr. Rudkin (Loughborough); linesmen, Messrs. H. S. Jackson (Luton) and H. D. Casey ('Spurs).

Luton, who were without Little and Ekins and gave a trial to Catlin, travelled by the 12.25 Midland train and reached Tottenham in good time. There was a splendid "gate," several thousands being present. The weather was not of the best, a cold wind sweeping from end to end of the ground throughout the game.

Luton won the toss and played with the wind at their backs. The 'Spurs started well; but were checked by off-side. Luton worked down well, only to be repelled, while McEwen checked the home right wingers. Davies cleared splendidly when the 'Spurs were dangerous. A beauty from Joyce produced a corner, Williams saving well, the resultant corner being unproductive. Knowles stopped Donaldson cleverly. McEwen cleared from the home forwards, while Crump missed badly when right in front of goal after a scrimmage. The 'Spurs were having the best of matters. A foul against the homesters on Donaldson removed the play. A grand kick by McEwen brought danger, while Knowles cleared a long one from McCartney. Receiving from Donaldson McInnes severely tested Cullen, whose save was an excellent one. The 'Spurs' left wing beat McCartney but off-side relieved Luton, who were playing in white. An outburst of hooting greeted a sample of strong play by Luton. Gallacher, receiving from Coupar, sent weakly over the line. Donaldson was fouled by Jones; the free-kick was well taken by McCartney, but the home defence proved itself reliable. Coupar scored neatly, but Knowles secured and sent into touch. Crump was pulled up for fouling Coupar. Right in goal Donaldson caught the ball and threw it on, the customary free-kick relieving the 'Spurs. Another miss at the Luton end was noted, Stormont failing to improve upon a capital centre by Hartley. McInnes sent wide at the other end. The home forwards were playing a very pretty game, though Joyce was being too carefully watched by Stewart to be very dangerous. Montgomery came into collision heavily with Donaldson, and the Lutonian did not have the worst of the charge. Stormont sent in finely and Williams effected a grand clearance, though heavily charged down. The custodian saved splendidly just afterwards from Joyce. The crowd were especially demonstrative, kicking-out by Luton seeming to annoy them greatly. Joyce secured 20 yards from goal and, though stoutly pursued by Davies, got through and scored a glorious single-handed goal. This happened about 25 minutes from the start. A capable centre by Black was not taken advantage of. The referee was not very strong in his decisions. At this stage four 'Spurs' forwards advanced in line and were all off-side, and yet the whistle was not blown. The Luton goal had a very narrow escape of being captured just now, while Stormont sent high over the bar. Donaldson was loudly "booed" for flooring Crump and a free-kick was given; but no foul had been committed. Montgomery cleared well. From a centre by Coupar Donaldson missed a grand chance right in front of goal, the ball wanting just touching. A free-kick to Luton proved unfruitful. Gallacher had the worst of a bout with Knowles, while Donaldson was punished for some high kicking. The Luton centre was cautioned for another offence near the home goal. There was a good deal of vigorous play just now, both sides indulging in the heavy charging. As a result the play deteriorated. McEwen jumped in effectively and saved from the 'Spurs' front rank. Shortly afterwards the homesters indulged in a determined attack, with the result that Stormont headed the second goal. Gallacher forced a corner after a good header by Donaldson; the right-winger sent over the goal-line afterwards. A long one from Gallacher curled with the wind over the bar. The only other point of interest before half-time was a fine save by Cullen. At the interval the homesters led with the following figures:—

'SPURS, 2; LUTON, 0.

Immediately after the re-start a corner accrued to

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Immediately after the re-start a corner accrued to Luton from a capital save by Cullen; Coupar steered over the goal line from the flag kick. McCartney was an absentee for a minute or two. Hartley shot well and Williams threw away cleverly. The keeper saved from Joyce in the next minute. Coupar was pulled up for fouling. Soon afterwards McInnes scored easily from a good centre by Gallacher. Donaldson broke through well and beat the back, only to send weakly over the line. An offence by Luton was duly execrated, while just later Hartley was punished for jumping. A brilliant run by the home left was deservedly cheered; but off-side spoiled the effort. Stewart headed away well, while Knowles sent wide with a long-range effort. Gallacher got clear and sent over with a capital attempt. Stormont almost managed to get through. Stewart headed away twice, while Williams saved neatly. Joyce secured and tricked McEwen nicely; but in the result he sent wide of the mark. Catlin got away excellently, though only to be pulled up smartly by Knowles. A free-kick for a foul against the 'Spurs brought danger; but after a sturdy scrimmage the ball was got away. McCartney was penalised for a bad foul on Black; but just after the 'Spur was punished for a like offence against his bulky adversary. The crowd yelled with delight when it seemed that the referee had penalised Luton; the shouts became derisive when the decision was seen to be the other way. From a corner Luton equalised, Stewart heading through. Joyce was brought down by McCartney not far from goal; but the referee disregarded demands for a penalty. Rain was now falling heavily and beating into the faces of the Lutonians, this rendering the ball very greasy. The rival sides infused great dash into their efforts and attacked hotly in turn. Towards the end the 'Spurs became dangerous more than once and some illegal tactics were indulged in by both sides. Just before the whistle blew the homesters managed to send the ball into the net; but Williams had been badly fouled and so the point was disallowed. While the spectators were expressing their disapproval of the decision in the customary fashion Mr. Rudkin indicated that the operations had reached their termination, and so a well-fought game ended thus :—

LUTON, 2; 'SPURS, 2.

Thereafter a disgraceful scene took place. The players and referee were surrounded by an angry and violent crowd, and it was with the utmost difficulty that they managed to make their way to the grand-stand. Some of the Lutonians were struck by stones and others kicked, while the referee himself was hustled. McCartney fared worse than his comrades, for he was assaulted, several persons in the crowd striking at him. By dint of utilising his weight and by administering a few heavy blows to his assailants the back succeeded in getting to the dressing-room, and at least one of the partisans had good reason to regret his temerity in interfering with "Mac." The scene was one of the utmost turbulence and for a time it seemed likely that the Lutonians would receive a bad mauling. Fortunately for the Tottenham authorities the men escaped, though not altogether scatheless. The outbreak was discreditable in the extreme, and it was especially noteworthy that even occupants of the grand-stand by their unseemly behaviour tacitly encouraged the malcontents. It was one of the worst experiences that the Luton team has ever been called upon to pass through.