

Football

SECOND LEAGUE.

LUTON v. WALSALL.

A WHOLESOME REVENGE.

There was a small account of 50 due since January 8th to settle when Walsall paid their return visit to Luton on Saturday, and some fun was anticipated. The stubborn fight made by the "Saddlers" at Manchester in the English Cup added to the interest of the fixture, and the general opinion was that Luton would have to work hard to win. The visitors had the same team as against Manchester City, except Hodson for Holmes. In the Luton ranks McCartney and Davies were resting from the unpleasant effects of the "mobbing" at Tottenham, and this gave Perrins and Birch a well-merited opportunity of emerging from the obscurity of the Reserves.

The teams were—

Luton: Williams; Docherty and McEwen; Perrins, Stewart, and Birch; Gallacher, Coupar, Donaldson, Little, and McInnes.

Walsall: Bunyan; Peers and C. L. Aston; Wilks, Caesar Jenkyns, and Taggart; Hodson, J. Aston, Devey, Johnson, and Griffin.

The referee was Mr. Beardsley, of Woolwich.

In bright sunshine Luton won the toss, and Devey started against the wind, Hodson at once shooting wide. However, Little got down finely, and from McInnes' pass Stewart put in a grand shot, which Bunyan fisted behind. From the corner placed by Gallacher, the ball was scrimmaged through after a fierce struggle, and only 4 minutes' play. "Caesar" Jenkyns was very rough on McInnes during the hurly-burly, and the crowd showed their disapprobation.

Having tasted blood, Luton renewed the struggle with spirit, and McInnes did some dashing work in several assaults on Bunyan's quarters. Three decisions of the referee against the home team were rather questionable, and the crowd were sarcastic on "Plumstead," particularly when Coupar was given off-side. After a while, play became vigorous, and some very rough play by Peers was duly penalised. The latter was so much in the wars that he had to leave the field for repairs to his "unmentionables" amid the laughter of the spectators.

Great dissatisfaction was caused when Mr. Beardsley refused, after consulting the linesmen, to allow a fine goal scored by Donaldson from a big kick of McEwen's. "We can't play 14 men," shouted some of the grand stand onlookers. Occasionally, Walsall got down to the Luton end, but Luton were bent on winning. After 20 minutes, Donaldson was badly fouled in running down the field and Perrins placed the kick splendidly, the ball going through off Stewart. The home forwards pressed again, and only offside against McInnes prevented a score. Devey was fouled by Docherty and a corner resulted. This was cleared beautifully by a run of the Luton left. Then Gallacher ran down and inside the 12 yards' line was "downed" by Aston and Taggart. After consulting both linesmen, Mr. Beardsley awarded a penalty and Stewart made no mistake about No. 3.

Just half-an-hour had passed when Luton were three up. Next, Jenkyns came to the fore, Williams saving an easy one from Devey. A nice return by McEwen was centred by McInnes and Little tried a beauty, which dropped just under the bar, Bunyan giving a corner. About 5 minutes after the previous score Birch put across with capital judgment and Stewart smartly scored No. 4. A moment later, Williams had to throw away from a rush, and Coupar gave Bunyan similar employment. The home team were doing all the pressing up to half-time, when the score stood:

LUTON 4 goals

WALSALL 0 "

On resuming play was all in the Walsall quarters. A corner resulted from a breakaway by the Walsall forwards, but Devey fouled Docherty, and the danger was cleared. Williams saved a stray shot, but Luton soon resumed business at the other end, where they had hard lines in not scoring from a foul close in. Little just shaved the cross-bar, while Bunyan effected two clever saves in succession from McInnes and Gallacher. To vary the monotony, a fine single-handed attempt was made by Devey, who got clear, but Williams saved brilliantly.

For 30 minutes it had been a case of Luton forwards v. Walsall defence, and the visitors' determined packing of their goal promised little scoring. However, after Donaldson had had several unfortunate cannons, Little centred hard, and No. 5 went through off Peers. After another bombardment, Little put in a swift cross shot from the wing, and Bunyan, thinking it a very soft affair, calmly stooped down and let the ball slip between his legs into the net. This made up the half-dozen, and the crowd went home to tea happy. Final score:

LUTON 6 goals

WALSALL 0 "