

LUTON AND THE UNITED LEAGUE.

DEFEAT OF SOUTHAMPTON.

On Monday the "seasiders" travelled to Luton to decide their return fixture with Luton in the United League tournament. The home team was not by any means at full strength, the injuries which Perrins had sustained on Saturday at Small Heath preventing his appearance, whilst McCartney was also unable to don the colours. Indeed the difficulty of making up the team was such that two hours before the match was timed to commence it was uncertain how the side would be constituted. Birch, who was wired for, was fortunately able to make the journey to Luton, while Davies, though still far from well, was pressed into service. Little also was an absentee, this letting in Catlin at outside left. The Southampton team also was not quite at full strength. Such well-known players as Farrell, Turner and Meston were absentees, but it was openly stated that their substitutes were considered almost equal in point of ability to those whom they were replacing, with the possible exception of Farrell. The fact that these prominent players were standing down appeared to indicate that the Southampton authorities had abandoned all hope of cutting a respectable figure in the League table, for it could scarcely be said that the game with Newcastle on Saturday was more fiercely or stubbornly contested than was that of Luton at Small Heath. In order to let away Davies to attend the Football Association meeting in London in the evening the start had been fixed a quarter of an hour earlier than the advertised time, but as trains wait for no man this had to be again altered, Mr. Tillotson having failed to reach the Birmingham Station in time. There was a surprisingly good muster of spectators and the weather was brilliant. The sides were constituted as follows:—

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

Southampton : Goal, Clawley ; backs, Nicol and Haynes ; half-backs, Reynolds, Chadwick, and MacMillan ; forwards, Brown and Buchanan (right), McLean (centre), Steven and Keay (left).

Referee : Mr. J. C. Tillotson (Birmingham) ; Luton linesman, Mr. A. Tearle.

It was just on half past 3 when hostilities commenced. In these days it seems almost superfluous to mention the matter of the toss, for we take it as an almost inevitable custom for Stewart to lose it. Monday was no exception and accordingly Luton faced what wind there was and played from the railway end. The presence of the International and old "Villan," Reynolds, evoked a good deal of attention from the crowd and his movements were watched with considerable interest, albeit those same movements were exceedingly stiff and indicated that "Jerry" had seen his best days. The visitors were first to become prominent; they came down in good style and signalled their success by sending very wide over the goal line. A foul against the strangers on Stewart had the effect of driving them back, another similar offence being noticed a minute later. This second free-kick proved disastrous for the ex-Saints. The place-kick was splendidly taken by Davies and McInnes experienced little difficulty in scoring a beautiful goal. This success, which came to the homesters less than five minutes from the start, was necessarily enthusiastically applauded. McMillan was pulled up for a nasty foul on Gallacher, following which the home right-winger, receiving from Donaldson, steered wide. Coupar secured well and shot hard, but without avail. Considerable amusement was caused by McInnes—the light-weight as well as light-haired—being pulled up for an alleged foul on Reynolds. Davies, who was far from displaying weakness, cleared splendidly after a throw-in which threatened danger. The home inside-left, taking a pass from the opposite wing, dispatched a fine attempt at Clawley's charge, the ball travelling only about a foot above the bar. Next came a determined assault on the part of the Luton front rank, this ensuing upon a pretty centre by Catlin, who was already showing that he could play good football on occasion. During a melee Stewart failed egregiously and following another scrimmage the ball was kicked away. Donaldson once more became a victim of the illicit attentions of the ex-Burnleyite, Nichol, Docherty kicking clean over the cross-bar from the free-kick. Another narrow miss was credited to Stewart, and then some laughter was occasioned by Catlin being penalised for fouling the International right half. Donaldson and Coupar advanced in capital style and looked like scoring, but Clawley luckily saved. At the home end Birch gave away a corner which proved unproductive, a foul by Chadwick on Coupar bringing further relief to the locals. Just afterwards Donaldson found himself in front of goal with a grand chance of scoring, when Catlin spoiled the opportunity by jumping at an opponent. Clawley got away in good style a long shot from Stewart and once more McMillan was punished for foul tactics. Buchanan and McEwen got seriously at loggerheads just now, the intervention of the referee becoming necessary. McEwen mercilessly floored his opponent subsequently, but it was the opinion of the referee that he had used unnecessary violence and he was accordingly punished. A dangerous advance on the part of the Southampton forwards was checked by off-side, following which Donaldson secured but steered erratically. A corner was forced by Gallacher off Haynes and a neat header by Catlin was well saved by Clawley. Reynolds cleared nicely, but the ball was returned and forced through the Southampton goal. Mr. Tillotson promptly disallowed the point on the ground that Clawley had been impeded by Donaldson. Free-kicks were plentiful in the next few minutes, and at this stage they were pretty equally divided. Both sides had narrow escapes of scoring, one by Donaldson, who secured splendidly from a rebound, being a particularly close shave. Haynes distinguished himself by

missing the ball altogether, but Clawley was equal to the occasion and threw away. The "seaside" were next to come into evidence, but Stewart interposed in the nick of time and kicked into touch. A beautiful shot by Brown was well punched out by Williams. Gallacher secured and racing away sent in brilliantly Clawley saving at the expense of a corner, being charged into the back of the net by Donaldson. Again from a swinging centre by Docherty danger came, but this time it was Gallacher who fouled the custodian. McEwen sent up well and Donaldson looked like scoring when one of the rear guard dashed across. At the interval the homesters held the lead as follows:—

LUTON, 1; SOUTHAMPTON, 0.

Shortly after the resumption Williams effected a good save from Brown, Gallacher emulating the feat of his vis-a-vis by sending across the goal smartly. The home forwards, by the way, were now playing a somewhat ineffective game, several bad misses being credited to them. A particularly smart effort was that of Gallacher who secured capably on the line but unfortunately ran the ball out. Chadwick brought himself into prominence by dispatching a really good shot at the home fortress which was well saved by Williams. Nicol was penalised for handling, and following the free-kick Williams saved a hot return by Reynolds. Donaldson forced a corner which McInnes headed behind. The locals later on took up the attack with considerable persistence and for some time the Southampton defenders had a very warm time of it. At one stage Clawley narrowly escaped being beaten, Donaldson being stopped for charging that worthy. Gallacher somehow or other did not appear to be able to gauge his distance from goal and several tries from his foot travelled wide of the mark. From a well placed free-kick by Docherty Clawley fisted over at the expense of a corner and another big struggle ensued. Comparing winding up this time by sending in too loftily. Three capable but unsuccessful attempts were registered to Gallacher in rapid succession. Next Donaldson, receiving from Gallacher in front of goal, was charged off the ball and Clawley cleared. Again the home centre forward dashed up and sent in a beauty which struck the bar and rebounded into play. Gallacher was lying handy and this time made no mistake and sent the ball into the net at a great pace, thus increasing Luton's lead and making victory almost a certainty for them. A fine save by Clawley from McInnes was followed by Gallacher landing the ball on the net. Receiving from Gallacher McInnes beat Clawley only to find that the score would not be allowed owing to some infraction of the rules. Donaldson was similarly unfortunate a little later on, and it was difficult to determine whether his offence was that of lying off-side or that of fouling an opponent. As time went on the Southampton players improved somewhat, but when they discovered that try as they would they could not break through the home defence they abandoned their hopes and their play became slack. The "stripes" on the other hand made good use of every opportunity and had hard luck in not scoring at least once before the finish. However, no more scoring took place and the game ended in an easy victory for Luton as follows:—

LUTON, 2; SOUTHAMPTON, 0.

STOPSLEY MONTROSE v. MR. WALLER'S XI. (of Luton).—Played at Stopsley on Saturday last, when the visitors brought a very strong team to play the villagers; but the homesters, after a very good game, won by four goals to nil. The Stopsley Montrose team was as follows:—Goal, W. Randall; backs, F. Cain and A. Whittemore; half-backs, W. Tuffnell, Sid Smith, and A. Cain; forwards, A. Lawrence and H. Gutteridge (right), G. Cain (centre), W. Plummer and E. Whittemore (left).

LEA ROVERS v. PARK ROVERS.—Played on the East Ward Recreation Ground on Saturday, and ended in a win for the Lea Rovers by one goal to none. H. Ironmonger scored the only goal of the match. The referee was Mr. Berth.

EXCELSIOR v. UNITED.—This return fixture took place on the Excelsior ground on Saturday. In the first half the visitors had the best of the exchanges, but the backs kept up a splendid defence, and the game was half an hour old before Fairhurst opened the account with a splendid cross shot. This was quickly followed by one from Silsbey. Thus half-time arrived with the United leading by two to nil. In the second half the homesters bombarded the visitors' goal; but the United kept up a fine defence, and it was 20 minutes before time when one of the backs headed through off Dimmock's centre. Then Bird quickly equalised with a hot shot, a fast and exciting game ending in a draw of two all. The Excelsior team was:—Goal, Davis; backs, Burgess and Flitton; half-backs, Crawley, Sub. and Lawrence; forwards, Tearle (captain), White, Dimmock, Bird and Parsons. Mr. Burgess refereed satisfactorily.

LUTON PHOENIX v. RED STAR.—Played on the Phoenix ground and ended in a draw of one goal each. The Phoenix team was:—Goal, Gardner; backs, Gooch and Scales; half-backs, W. Brown, Barford and Scales; forwards, Wilson and Clark (right), Taylor (centre), A. Brown and Cook (left).

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