

UNITED LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP.

LUTON DRAW AT PLUMSTEAD.

THE FLAG ALMOST A CERTAINTY FOR LUTON.

The Luton team proceeded to Plumstead on Monday in order to re-play their away game with the Arsenal in the United League competition. The event was of considerable importance so far as the championship question was concerned, for a win for Luton would have rendered it certain that they would be hailed as champions of the League at the end of the season. Instead of a victory the "stripes" secured the next best thing in the shape of a draw, so that their chances of securing the League flag were considerably improved. It will be remembered that when the elevens met at Woolwich a month ago "King Fog" thwarted the designs of the authorities and rendered it requisite for the contestants to meet again. On January 17 Luton for the first time in the history of their meetings with the "reds" had their best team engaged; but on Monday last they were by no means fully represented. Coupar was absent indisposed and Birch was unable to play, these abstentions letting in Little at inside right and Durrant (of the Luton Stanley) at outside left. It was further stated that Stewart was suffering from an injury to one of his feet and Perrins travelled to Woolwich as emergency man. The weather was bitterly cold but bright, the sun shining brilliantly during the afternoon. The "gate" was an excellent one, between 3 000 and 4,000 spectators being present.

It was about twenty minutes past 3 when the men faced the line thus:

Woolwich Arsenal: Goal, Ord; backs, McAuley and McConnell; half-backs, Haywood, Farrell and Anderson; forwards, Brock and McGeogh (right), Hunt (centre), Hannah and White (left).

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

Referee: Mr. Peters (Kettering); Luton linesman, Mr. H. Galbraith.

Luton won the toss and necessarily took advantage of what wind there was, the Arsenal having the sun shining strongly in their faces. A heavy punt by one of the "reds" sent the ball well into the Luton quarters; but it rolled harmlessly over the line ultimately. Some extremely effective passing by the Luton right-wingers and Donaldson ended in the centre man getting clear and sending behind with a clever shot. Following a grand kick by McEwen Little secured and sent in at a great pace, the ball going plump into Ord's hands. Some laughter was caused by the referee overruling a decision by Galbraith, who had awarded a throw-in to the Arsenal when it should have been given to Luton. More long kicking by the home rearguard led to a strong attack by the "reds"; but Stewart was thereabouts, and the injury to his foot did not stop him from effecting a grand clearance. A foul on Donaldson escaped the notice of the referee, although it was palpable to most people present. The Luton left-wing pair gave a good display, Durrant doing especially well for a youngster; but McAuley was merciless in his charging, and he "bashed" the slim youth very badly. Durrant, however, did not seem to mind very much, but came up smiling with rare pluck. He and McInnes on one occasion just now threatened danger; but weight utilisation on the part of the Arsenal defenders had its inevitable effect, and so the attack was repelled. The first foul in the game—and this was not the last by any manner of means—was given against Little, whereupon cries arose of "Well played, Tottenham," and other like taunting expressions. McEwen saved neatly when the Arsenal

attacked. The pace was a cracker considering that the ground was slippery after the thaw. Williams found it necessary to fist away smartly, and a further assault by the homesters was terminated by Stewart sending well up the field. Matters had for a minute or two looked very ugly for the "stripes," the home forwards playing an exceedingly good game at this stage. McCartney became prominent for some first-rate heading, while McInnes secured cleverly just afterwards. Haywood was punished for jumping and as the result of the free-kick the Lutonians were enabled to attack. Donaldson, however, pushed an opponent when quite close to goal, and the result of the free-kick was that the visitors were beaten back for the time being. White got off at a good pace and was encouraged by the cheers of the home sympathisers, these changing into groans of disappointment when the player sent weakly over the goal-line at the finish. Brock was neatly robbed by Docherty, and a foul thrown-in by Haywood was taken cognisance of in the usual way. Docherty centred finely; but some splendid head work by the Arsenal had the effect of clearing the lines. Forcing play by the strangers enabled them to again become dangerous, Little finishing up by sending behind. Durrant was somewhat too prone to getting off-side, and at one stage he was pulled up by the referee just before he succeeded in sending into the net. The same player followed up neat passing by dispatching a pretty shot at goal, while Donaldson and Gallacher were conspicuous for effective work. "Donny," as the Lutonians have dubbed their popular centre, failed with a long-range try. A foul against Little for jumping was sandwiched between a couple of grand displays by McCartney, one being an especially fine clearance. Again Durrant was checked by off-side, and then Gallacher and Donaldson burst through the halves and backs, the former sending tamely over the bar when the goal was absolutely at his mercy. "Hard luck" remarked a Lutonian; "very bad shooting" retorted an Arsenalite, an observation in which the visitor was impelled to concur. The right winger once more sent wide, following which Durrant gave a good display against Davis, sticking to the ball like a leach and eventually beating the Arsenal man. Little shot well and from the rebound he hoisted the ball just over the bar. A foul was awarded against McEwen; McAuley took the kick and sent the ball very high over the cross-bar. McConnell was conspicuous for useful defensive work later on, and when a good save had been credited to Ord Gallacher once again sent over the line. A foul against the Arsenal on Donaldson was given and McEwen sent up splendidly. Ord cleared and Stewart shot hard from the return whereupon McAuley deliberately handled the ball. The offence being committed within the 12 yards mark a penalty was granted, and Davies easily scored. This success fell to the Luton representatives when play had been in progress about half an hour, and it was thoroughly deserved, for the "stripes" had had by far the best of the exchanges. Soon after the re-start Anderson was heavily struck on the head by the ball and was so dazed as to find it requisite to retire for a few minutes. Donaldson shot feebly, following which the Arsenal pressed and McEwen relieved. A very soft effort came to Williams when the ball had rebounded from Stewart to one of the "reds," and immediately afterwards "Dick" effected a magnificent save from Hannah. A corner fell to the Woolwich "infants" off McInnes. Durrant was undeservedly stopped for alleged off-side by the referee and after the free-kick a corner was forced as the result of a hot tussle. More exciting moments came, McEwen winding up by kicking hard into touch, a performance which evoked jeers from that section of the crowd who failed to perceive that it was the correct game to play. Following a foul against Stewart the Arsenal indulged in further forcing play, and after a deal of heading and scrimmaging the ball was sent past Williams, McGeoch having the credit of scoring. Twice in rapid succession McCartney attracted attention by reason of brilliant clearances, while Docherty also became conspicuous. There was no more scoring before the interval, when honours were easy with these figures:

ARSENAL, 1; LUTON, 1.

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The second half started auspiciously for the Lutonians. A centre by Durrant produced a corner, and when the kick had been excellently placed the left winger pounced upon the ball and beat Ord completely. This occurred within a couple of minutes of the re-start, and the success of the strangers was received very frigidly. A good exhibition on the part of McCartney was succeeded by a foul on McInnes, this leading to a further onslaught by Luton. This was terminated by the awarding of a foul against Donaldson. Hands against the "reds" brought the visitors up again and McInnes had a very easy chance right in front of goal; but he dallied and was brought down. Donaldson showed up prominently and then McEwen cleared grandly from two or three of the Arsenal forwards. A corner was conceded by Stewart, and when this had produced a keen struggle Donaldson was fouled in front of goal, and so relief came. Durrant, who was nastily fouled at one stage, tried hard to score with a screw shot, while Little sent over the bar. The Lutonians were now having all the best of matters, the "reds" being confined to their own half for several minutes. It was a particularly warm period for the Arsenal defence, and was eventually put an end to by a foul against Gallacher. Next the Arsenal pressed and McCartney gave away a corner, Docherty having just previously sent the ball high over the grand-stand. Durrant gave a very plucky display hereabouts, and again Donaldson was the victim of illegal behaviour by the homesters. Durrant sent in prettily after the free-kick; but the ball found its way over the bar. McCartney again distinguished himself, while Donaldson sent away with a good kick when the homesters looked threatening. More fouling was indulged in and once the Arsenal forced a corner, which was neatly disposed of. Docherty cleared when the home lot had obtained a foul against Stewart, while Williams threw away well shortly afterwards. The "stripes" retaliated and were once more seen attacking at the home end. Durrant was badly fouled when within the 12 yards mark; but Mr. Peters took no notice of the infraction. The home outside right sent wide when he had managed to get in front of Williams with the ball at his toe. Docherty had been very leisurely strolling up when it was his duty to throw in from touch, and the attention of the referee was at length attracted, whereupon the left half was admonished in due form. A long one from Durrant was neatly dealt with by Ord and afterwards McEwen presented his adversaries with a corner, which proved useless. Time was now rapidly approaching, and it seemed likely that Luton would succeed in holding the lead. But it was not to be. Stewart gave away a corner when a long way from the goal-line, and in the scrimmage which ensued the ball was sent through by Hannah. This was four minutes before time arrived. Subsequently both sides tried hard to obtain the advantage; but it was all fruitless endeavour, and the end arrived with the totals standing thus:

LUTON, 2; WOOLWICH, and