

LUTON TOWN v. DARWEN.

Played at Luton on Easter Monday. Result:

Luton Town	3 goals.
Darwen	nil.

The teams were as follow:—

Luton: Williams, goal; McCartney and McIlwen, backs; Davies, Stewart and Docherty, half-backs; Gallacher, Catlin, Coupar, Donaldson, McInnes and Little, forwards.

Darwen: Kinsley, goal; Moore and Jackson, backs; Kenyon, Tyers and Dyson, half-backs; Sugden, Crook, Bleasdale, Cumpstey and Barnes, forwards.

Referee, Mr. J. B. Brodie (Stafford).

The gate on Monday reached much more respectable dimensions than that of Saturday, but still, the fact that there were only about three thousand spectators showed that the supporters of the Club had not fully recovered from the effects of Friday's killing frost. The Luton team was very weak, much weaker indeed than it need have been, for the breaking up of the right wing to put Coupar centre, with Catlin inside-right and Little outside-left, was certainly not making the best use of the material at command.

The start, however, was rather a sensational one, for Luton going straight away from the half-way line, Gallacher put the ball across the mouth of goal, and McInnes headed through. Unfortunately the latter player was offside, and the goal did not count. Soon afterwards Davies hit the crossbar was a lovely shot, whilst later on Coupar got quite clear and transferred to Gallacher, who was spoiled by Jackson.

Once, too, when Gallacher put in a clipping shot, Kinsley knocked the ball down in front of him, and it was only after a desperate scrimmage that Darwen averted disaster, but for the most part the play during the first half was of the most mediocre description. One side was just about as bad as the other, and it was lucky for Luton that they were not playing against a smart eleven.

Half-time arrived with a blank score-sheet, the Luton forwards having been quite unable to re-

spond to the plaintive appeals for just one goal during the holidays. In the second half the front string was considerably strengthened by the simple expedient of Little and Catlin changing places.

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The homesters at once began pressing, and Gallacher grazed the crossbar with a fine shot. Kinsley next punched out from Stewart, who joined the other half-backs in forcing the play. At length a corner was obtained, and Docherty placing, Gallacher registered the first point with a shot which struck the inside of the bar and glanced off into the net.

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The cheering with which the spectators greeted this performance showed that they had learned to be thankful for the smallest of mercies. The cheering was renewed almost immediately, McCartney placing well from a free kick, and McInnes netting the ball.

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The play had now resolved itself into a series of attacks on the Darwen goal, the visitors scarcely ever being able to raise a gallop on their own account. Kinsey just diverted a grand shot from Stewart, and McInnes had hard luck with one which struck the inside of the bar and then failed to take effect. Several corners were obtained and taken without anything tangible accruing, and then the Darwen forwards did on two or three occasions work their way up the field, but without getting particularly dangerous.

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Some good work by McInnes eventually resulted in another corner for Luton, and Gallacher nicely judging his kick, Catlin headed a third goal. A moment later, Catlin almost did the trick again from a centre by Gallacher, and the Darwen goal experienced several other narrow escapes, but time arrived without any alteration in the score.

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In the second half, Luton really played a very good game, but the first moiety was too bad for description. McInnes and Gallacher were far and away the best of the forwards, though Catlin played a very fair game at outside-left. Not much fault could be found with the defence, the men being pretty evenly balanced. Darwen were a very poor lot, and it is a mystery to me now they have won six games in the Second League this season.

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