

LUTON AND THE UNITED LEAGUE.

DEFEAT OF WOOLWICH ARSENAL.

The fact that the locals had made clear their title to the championship of the United League necessarily detracted somewhat from the interest in the encounter between Luton and the Arsenal which took place on Saturday—and, by the way, wound up the season of the homesters so far as home engagements are concerned. Still, there was a good attendance of spectators, this being partly attributable to the fact that brilliant weather was enjoyed and partly to the interest which enthusiasts took in the question whether the "stripes" could for once in a way manage to administer a defeat to the "reds." For be it remembered that the Lutonians succumbed twice in the English League engagements, while in the away match in the United League they could not do better than draw. To the gratification of all their supporters the Luton men succeeded in going one better on this occasion by defeating their doughty opponents after having had all the best of the game. Thus the season on the home ground was wound up in satisfactory style.

The sides were constituted thus:—

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

Luton Town: Goal, Williams; backs, McCartney and McEwen; half-backs, Davies, Stewart and Perrins; forwards, Gallacher and Coupar (right wing), Donaldson (centre), Molnes and Little (left wing).

Referee: Mr. G. West; Luton linesman, Mr. E. F. Walsh.

Walsh.

Luton lost the toss and played from the railway end. They early attacked and the ball went behind the goal-line twice in quick succession, while Gallacher shortly afterwards steered high over the bar. Returning to the attack Coupar secured and sent on to Little, who shot wide, while a try from McInnes was too lofty to score under Association rules. Caldwell was laughed at for handling the ball awkwardly, and from the free-kick McEwen sent over the bar. A splendid shot from Coupar procured a corner from Caldwell, and later on the Arsenal journeyed to the home end. Their final effort was just as weak, however, as any that had preceded it. Hannah was heavily charged by McCartney hereabouts and was brought down with a resounding crash. An administration of the bottle and some attention by rubbers soon brought about a cure, though. Davis committed a nasty foul on Coupar, as though to level things up a bit, and the free-kick was so well placed by McCartney that a tight scrimmage ensued in the Arsenal goal-mouth. After a good deal of swaying about Donaldson scored smartly, thus giving his side the lead. The home sympathisers did not forget to shout. Soon after the re-start Davies effected a splendid clearance from the Arsenal forwards, who were putting in some remarkably useful work, while Williams fisted away vigorously on two occasions when hard pressed. The Arsenal were now playing in very good style and seemed determined to leave no effort unmade to draw level. Gallacher gave a first-rate display by executing a dribble and shooting hard. Though unsuccessful, it was a capital exhibition and was deservedly applauded. Again "little Tommy" sent high over, and hands against McEwen relieved the Arsenal defenders for a spell. The Arsenal captain (Davis) had a good though ineffectual try, following which came a foul by Perrins. McInnes headed in finely from Gallacher, who gave another clever show. The inside left peppered Ord once more, and it seemed to the spectators that in dealing with the swift shot the custodian stepped back through the goal. The locals appealed; but Mr. West did not coincide with them, and so the score was not allowed. A couple of fouls against Davis on Gallacher and Coupar were deservedly punished, following which Hunt broke away and scored with a smart long shot. It appeared as though Williams ought to have judged the attempt better; it was straight, though fast, and seemed to give plenty of time to cover the goal. McInnes, who was in the meantime fouled for jumping, sent in very well from a centre by Gallacher, while Donaldson headed in so well as to give a good deal of trouble. The Arsenal custodian, indeed, was fortunate to prevent the Lutonians from scoring just now, for they were going at a splendid pace. White shortly afterwards beat McCartney easily enough but wound up by shooting wide. A corner fell to Luton later on and when this had been taken the homesters appealed for a penalty-kick, the allegation being that one of the defenders had punched the ball out. The referee did not grant the appeal, however. Donaldson secured and became responsible for a very hard drive at goal, the ball travelling across the goal-mouth in tantalising fashion. The home centre man was next pulled up for off-side—a decision which, to put it mildly, was incorrect. McInnes was presented with a splendid opening in front of goal; but at the crucial point he slipped and so threw away a capital opportunity. At the interval the positions were unchanged, as follows:

LUTON, 1 ; ARSENAL, 1.

After the resumption a very fine centre by Little was allowed to pass unimproved upon though Coupar made a gallant effort to score. Donaldson headed in well and a corner accrued to Luton. McCartney shot hard after this and Ord got the ball away in good style. The Arsenal linesman awarded a throw-in to his side hercabouts ; but so decided was the objection on the part of the spectators that the attention of the referee was attracted, and he promptly reversed the decision. The "stripes" were penning their foemen in, and so determined was their onslaught that an increase of the scoring was inevitable sooner or later. A big scrimmage took place after a bit, and when Ord had saved once or twice grandly Gallacher scored in very smart style. This success was very warmly applauded by the crowd. When Perrins had failed with a well-intentioned effort Donaldson had a very narrow escape of scoring, while the same player headed just wide of the mark soon afterwards. Luton made backs of their opponents and had all the best of the play. A couple of corners were forced without result. Ord had a narrow escape soon afterwards ; he punched the ball out and it rebounded at a fast pace from one of the men in front of him, and he experienced considerable difficulty in keeping it out of goal. Following a foul committed by Caldwell, Stewart very nearly scored, while Little shot wide after a splendid kick by McCartney. Donaldson was once again conspicuous, while Little forced a corner after having been nastily tripped within the penalty line. More narrow escapes of scoring were set down to the homesters, who maintained their lead to the close, and in the result obtained a couple more League points with these figures :

LUTON, 2 ; ARSENAL, 1.