

SECOND LEAGUE.

LUTON v. BLACKPOOL.

A FINAL DEFEAT.

This last League match of the season was played at Blackpool in wretched weather and before a gate of less than 300. So heavy was the rainfall that only two thirty-fives were played, and at that the players and spectators had more than enough. Luton won the toss, and Clarkin quickly sent in two successive shots, the first testing Williams. There was a lot of uninteresting play in the first half, the state of the ground militating against accurate shooting.

Luton rushed off, and Blackpool's goal looked in danger, but the shot went wide. Luton's first corner went over. Leadbetter and Parkinson raced away, but the latter failed to keep up with the ball, and it went out. After Luton had paid a momentary visit to Douglas, Blackpool again got down, but Williams was always on his guard. Wilson tricked three of the Luton men and was deservedly applauded, but there was no score at half-time.

There was no interval, the players simply crossing over. Luton had their second corner of the match, but it was headed out. Blackpool got up, and offside relieved. Luton hung round the home goal, and in a scrimmage one of the Blackpool players was fouled. The free-kick was no advantage, and immediately after it was taken Luton were awarded a free-kick close in, but danger was averted. Just as Leadbetter was about to shoot he fell over the ball. Douglas next ran out to kick, but he missed, and had not Parr rushed up and cleared, a goal would have resulted, for Douglas was yards out. Blackpool's first corner was fruitless.

Luton were penalised for a foul, and from the free-kick Blackpool got an offside goal, Clarkin putting in the swiftest shot of the match. A fruitless corner fell to Blackpool, and following this Leadbetter sent in a long high shot which the wind blew out. It was a grand attempt all the same. In the last few minutes play ruled very fast, and after some midfield play Clarkin got possession of the ball, and scored the only point of the match. A moment later Leadbetter had the goal at his mercy, but he signally failed. Though Luton lost by 1 goal to nil they were undoubtedly the best team, and the forwards were conspicuous for some good passing.

The teams were:

Blackpool: Douglas; Parr and Sterzaker; Wilson, M'Hardie, and Norris; Clarkin, Banks, Martin, Parkinson, and Leadbetter.

Luton: Williams; McCartney and McEwen; Davies, Stewart, and Docherty; Gallacher, Coupar, Donaldson, McInnes, and Little.

The "Athletic News" says: "It was impossible for any of the players to do justice to themselves, but a word of praise is due both to Williams and Douglas for the manner in which they kept goal, considering that they were surrounded with miniature lakes. Luton showed some pretty forward play at times, but accurate shooting was out of the question. In the first half there was no scoring. It was not until the last five minutes had arrived that Clarkin won the game for Blackpool by beating Williams with a soft shot. The custodian, however, was not to blame, the slippery state of the ground being alone responsible for his failure. Both Parr and Sterzaker kicked well, and the same remark applies to McCartney and McEwen. Little should have scored in the second half for Luton. If anything, the visitors as a team were the smarter of the two, but under such conditions as were experienced, it would hardly be fair to cast aspersions on any of the players. All tried their best, and it was painful at times to see them struggling to keep their equilibrium."