



LUTON v. WOOLWICH ARSENAL.

TWO LEAGUE POINTS LOST.

A DISAPPOINTING GAME.

In the presence of 5,000 enthusiastic supporters, the Luton team sustained their first defeat in the Second League on Saturday. The game will be a memorable one, but not in the sense anticipated. The kick-off was at 3.30, and for half-an-hour before then the Red Cross Band dissipated the tedium of waiting by playing several enlivening airs, Mr. Greenwood conducting.

The teams entered the field close together. The Arsenal men were conspicuous in Turkey-red shirts and white knickers—a good contrast to the white and black of the Luton team. Stewart lost the toss, but as there was no wind blowing, the choice gave no distinct advantage. The visitors decided to kick downhill. Mr. Carpenter, of Leicester, was referee, and he had the following men under his control :

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

Woolwich Arsenal : Ord ; McAulay and Caldwell ; Anderson, Farrell, and Davis ; Brock, Crawford (capt.), McAvoy, White, and Heywood.

Neutral Linesmen : Mr. Wilson (Surrey F.A.), and Mr. Brierley (Leicester).

Punctually to time Clarke kicked off, and Luton got away in the first canter, until pulled up by Davis and Caldwell. Clarke returned, and hands were given against Farrell about 40 yards out of the visitor's goal. A throw-in was the only result, and from this the Arsenal got away on the left. Heywood was enabled, by a mistake on the part of McEwen, to pierce the defence and centre to McAvoy, who with a fine turn of speed, got dangerously near Williams. Fortunately his shot was of a wild character and the spectators breathed again.

A foul on Coupar gave Luton an opening. McCartney placed well and Clarke was seen to shoot magnificently over his head, just missing the upright. From the goal-kick White got down and in a collision with McCartney, came off second best. After a corner had been conceded by Luton, Gallacher got away but failed to get dangerous. Docherty made a useful clearance.

It was becoming apparent to the most blind supporter that Luton were hardly holding their own. The Arsenal forwards were always on the ball, and the defence seemed hardly able to cope with them effectually. At the same time it must be borne in mind that the visitors' defence was showing questionable tactics, and that the referee had given several blind decisions. He again made an apparent blunder in giving a corner against Luton when McEwen had been fouled. Fortunately the linesman came to the rescue and the decision was reversed.

Heywood and White next showed up prominently, the former shooting with unerring aim. Williams managed somehow to get the ball over the bar, a creditable piece of work. McEwen had next to give a corner, and Davies did likewise, Heywood in putting up dropping the ball on the net.

The next corner came from McCartney, and it proved fatal, for Davis, the left half, received the ball on his toe and scored with a shot that gave Williams not the slightest chance. To gain the lead after 16 minutes' play was no small matter, and the visitors could not repress their delight.

From the kick-off it looked as though Luton would retaliate, for Gallacher sent in a fine shot, missing the post by inches. But they failed utterly to exhibit any combination, and their kick and rush tactics did not pay. Little, somewhat unjustly, was penalised for a mild charge. This gave the Arsenal another chance, and McAvoy skimmed the bar with a beauty.

Shortly afterwards Coupar was seen stretched on the turf, having sustained a severe kick in the abdomen from Davis. From the place kick, a spirited scrum resulted, untimely closed by Stewart kicking over. Fouls came rapidly from both sides. Unfortunately, through the negligence of the referee, the culprit frequently got off without being punished, and as often as not a decision was given contrary to all expectations.

tions.

Docherty put up from a foul on Stewart, and a fine display of headwork was shown by Clarke and Coupar, the latter heading into goal, causing Ord to handle for the first time. For a time Luton had a look in, the forwards peppering away with vigour, and forcing a couple of corners in succession. From the last sally, Crawford and Brock got away, and the visitors assumed the attack once more.

The referee was again ironically cheered for a curious offside decision, reversed on appeal to the linesman. Little got a shot in, but there was hardly enough speed on the ball to render it dangerous. Another of the many disagreeable periods in the game followed, one of the Arsenal men squaring up to Gallacher in a menacing attitude. Little threw away a chance by placing the ball from a corner kick outside, but he atoned shortly afterwards by good attack, forcing a corner.

McInnes, who had been playing a determined game, was the next victim of rough play, receiving a kick in the back. Stewart was fouled when everything pointed to an equalizing shot from Davies. With the goal clear, he was preparing for a kick when the whistle blew. The respite gave the Arsenal time to pack the goal, and the efforts of the Luton forwards could not beat the defence down.

It certainly looked as though Little had netted the ball, and the shout went up, "It's a goal." When the men broke away it was seen the leather had passed outside. Had it gone through, probably the offside rule would have applied. The goal kick had barely been taken when half-time was called.

ARSENAL	...	...	...	...	1
LUTON	...	...	...	...	0

Knowing the Arsenal's weakness for a spirited first half and a fizzle in the second, there was hardly a man on the ground who did not expect to see the home team make a creditable draw, and the hope rose high when McInnes got close in and on the point of shooting. Down to zero went enthusiasm. Caldwell, the left back, had upset him in the nick of time.

The flicker was but momentary. Williams had to give a corner, and within six minutes from the start Heywood netted the ball. As Williams made no attempt to save, it was expected something was wrong. Apparently there was, but the referee failed to see the objection until approached by Mr. Brierly, the linesman. Most obligingly he then disallowed the goal.

Uninteresting play followed in midfield, fouls coming as thick as blackberries. At length Clark and McInnes got out of the bully and made tracks. A judicious pass from the centre forward served to dodge Farrell and Caldwell. In the meantime Anderson and Davis had reached the goal, and with McAulay made a brilliant defence. The ball got too lively to be kicked hard, and when it reached the goal Ord made an easy clearance. Crawford and Brock got away until tackled by Stewart. "Billy" returned, and another charge was made, this time being effectually repulsed, though not before one of the Luton men was badly fouled within the penalty line.

These little successes heartened the homesters greatly, and had the defence been as sound as usual, and the half-backs attempted combination, there was plenty of time in which to score. However, it was not to be, although Clark was within an ace of doing so several times in succession, one time sending the ball just in front of the goal, and another just outside. These rushes were getting dangerous. Receiving the ball from Clark, Gallacher shot like lightning. Well for the Arsenal, Caldwell was inadvertently in the way, for Ord would have had no chance of stopping it. From Caldwell the ball rebounded to Stewart. He passed to Clarke, who, with McInnes, caused Ord to handle.

Gallacher was badly kicked by Caldwell a minute later close in. A foul was given and taken, when White fouled Davies. Another bully followed, from which McAvoy emerged on the Luton side. Passing out to the left, they got past McCartney, and the centre-forward found the net for the third time. Off-side was given, and the point disallowed.

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Time was passing far too rapidly to be pleasant, and determination was written in the face of every man. Davies centred, and Stewart headed into goal. McInnes tried to rush the ball through, but Ord, with commendable coolness, stuck to his task, and made a fine save.

Docherty on the left, had the misfortune to fall when staying a rush by Brock and Crawford. Not to be outdone, he deliberately sent the ball up the field by means of his hand. Referee and linesman were close, and failed to notice the trick, and the game proceeded. Brock was so overcome with amusement that he curled up with laughter by the side of Docherty, unable to follow the ball.

For the last few minutes Little and McInnes changed places, but no improvement resulted. Knowing how near was the end, Luton seemed to give up playing. That is the only explanation of the facile way in which McAvoy broke through between Stewart and Davies, passed McCartney, and scored No. 2. Hardly had the ball been set rolling once more before the final whistle blew, with the score reading :

ARSENAL	...	...	...	...	2
LUTON	...	...	...	...	0