

FOOTBALL.

LUTON LOSE AT WOOLWICH.

A HARD-FOUGHT GAME.

MORE LEAGUE POINTS GONE.

On Saturday the return game in the English League contest between Woolwich Arsenal and Luton was decided at Plumstead, when the outcome was a decisive victory for the Arsenal by three goals to a blank. It will be borne in mind that when the sides met at Luton in the previous week the outcome was a win for the "reds" by two to none. The Arsenal supporters were confident that this triumph would be repeated on Saturday. On the other hand the Luton sympathisers concluded that their favourites could scarcely give so thoroughly bad a display two weeks running, and accordingly anticipated an even game if not a victory for Luton. The teams were not constituted quite as in the previous week. On the Arsenal side White stood down in consequence of an injury sustained at Luton, while the visitors substituted Little and Perrins for Clark and Davies at centre-forward and right-half respectively, Ekins resuming at outside left. The "stripes" left home in the morning, it being intimated that they were in capital fettle as the result of abundance of exercise during the week. Two or three hours later a guarantee train departed from the G.N. station Woolwich-ward, this being patronised by some hundreds of enthusiasts. There seemed no prospect of the extraordinary delay which was experienced last season on the railway, and the weather being fine all were in good spirits. As usual the run to London was expeditiously performed. On the South Eastern line progress was the reverse of rapid, however, and it was just upon the time announced for the start when the Lutonians reached the ground. It had been expected that there would be a great gathering of the clans to witness this encounter; but the vastness of the assembly was nevertheless surprising. There were already several thousands present, and spectators continued to arrive until long after operations had commenced. The crowd numbered upwards of 12,000—a "gate" which would be highly acceptable to the Luton authorities. There was some delay at the outset owing to the late arrival of the referee; but after 10 minutes' wait that official appeared and operations were at once commenced.

The sides were:—

Woolwich Arsenal: Goal, Ord; backs, McAuley and Caldwell; half-backs, Anderson, Farrell and Davis; forwards, Brock and Crawford (right wing), Stuart (centre), McAvoy and Haywood (left wing).

Luton: Goal, Williams; backs, McCartney and McEwen; half-backs, Perrins, Stewart and Docherty; forwards, Gallacher and Coupar (right wing), Little (centre), McInnes and Ekins (left wing).

Referee, Mr. J. Stark; linesmen, Messrs. Peters (Kettering) and Rudkin (Loughborough).

The Red Cross Band completed a well-rendered selection just as Stewart failed to guess correctly in response to Crawford's invitation, this initial want of luck rendering it necessary for the Lutonians to face an appreciable breeze. Little started the play 12 minutes after the advertised time and soon all was bustle and excitement. The "stripes" made their way down neatly at the commencement and a sigh of relief escaped from the Arsenal section of the crowd when Coupar, receiving from McInnes, shot over the bar. A bad pass by Coupar presented the Arsenal left-wingers with a chance of breaking away which they were not slow to seize, though nothing useful accrued, the ball finding its way over the visitors' goal-line. Little was next in evidence and the Luton right wing went away well; but Davis was found to be in fine form, the upshot being that the ball was soon seen speeding towards the Luton extremity. McCartney relieved when the pressure was applied strongly and Perrins followed suit, while McCartney got his head in the way of a hot one from McAvoy. When play had been in progress some three minutes disaster came to the visitors, the Arsenal scoring in very fluky fashion. Brock sent in well over McCartney's head and Williams, who rushed out, failed to negotiate the ball, which trickled easily into the net. This early success was, as may well be imagined, provocative of great enthusiasm, the cheering continuing until the ball had been taken to the middle line. After the re-start Gallacher was punished for fouling; Caldwell placed splendidly and Stewart headed away with considerable smartness. Receiving from the opposite wing Ekins tried hard to score when right in front of goal; but he just failed to secure the ball. Haywood shot wildly over the bar, McInnes following suit when he seemed certain to equalise. Little also missed in disappointing style. A corner was conceded by Caldwell when Ord had been severely tested; from this Coupar headed in splendidly and Ord effected a grand save. A magnificent attempt by Caldwell gave Williams a good deal of trouble, and the spectators generously applauded both players. Gallacher was adjudged off-side on receiving from Little. Throws-in on the Luton right enabled the Arsenal to advance, McCartney clearing well when called upon. Some amusement was caused by the referee stopping the game half a minute after one of the linesmen had signalled a foul, the free-kick being duly awarded in the end. Ekins accepted a neat pass from his captain, though he could only manage to steer over the line. Gallacher centred capably, Docherty following the example of the outside left immediately after. The ball was forced over the Luton line and later on McInnes was the victim of the close attentions of the home left half. Davis was, however, playing an especially fine defensive game, if his methods were somewhat displeasing. Coupar showed up well when the free-kick had been taken, his wing-mate eventually running the ball into touch. A capital opportunity was presented to the "stripes" by McEwen, who placed well in the home goal; but Little incurred the displeasure of the referee by jumping, and so the chance was not taken advantage of. Coupar secured possession in clever style, though only to steer into touch, and a foul throw did not better the Lutonians' position. From the Arsenal left the ball was sent in front of

From the Arsenal left the ball was sent in front of goal, and here Stuart was adjudged off-side. Again the leaders attacked smartly, the leather ultimately finding its way over the goal-line. Haywood mis-directed his shot when the goal seemed at his mercy, McAvoy making some amends by shooting well. Just now the home attack was very effective, the opposition defence being very severely pressed. McCartney and Stewart both distinguished themselves at this time. When a brief cessation had been rendered necessary by a slight mishap to one of the "reds," Stewart was rightly pulled up for foul play, the danger being all the greater from the fact that the offence had been committed not far from goal. The Lutonians managed to clear, though, and so all was well. Profiting by a bad miss on the part of Caldwell, Gallacher burst through, but the right winger did not improve upon his opportunity. McCartney relieved capitally at the other end and Brock lost the ball badly just after. A grand curling shot by Ekins caused no little anxiety to the home defenders. The ball was got away after a severe tussle, though only to be returned at once. The Lutonians experienced extremely hard luck in failing to score at this stage. Docherty was deservedly punished for a bad foul, one of the Arsenalites heading over from the free-kick, Haywood following up by kicking wide in the next minute. Following a foul against the Arsenal McInnes was seen close in goal, and it seemed that nothing could avert the downfall of the home fortress; but instead of shooting at once the forward dallied and on being tackled sent tamely over the bar. This was the best chance of the day and the failure was very regrettable. Some extremely fine forward work by the home lot led to McCartney giving a corner by heading over. This was not taken advantage of, and Ekins raced away at top speed, though only to be sharply checked by McAuley. McInnes was left, by a miskick on the part of Caldwell, with an open goal; but once more he dashed the hopes of the Luton supporters by weakly shooting outside. Little was responsible for a good effort when he had received a neat one from Coupar. Stuart was checked for off-side, the ball beating Williams and going into the net. There were many who disputed this decision of the referee, and it cannot be denied that it was hard lines for the leaders. Pretty play by the Lutonians enabled them to carry the fray to the home end, where McInnes was penalised for breaking the off-side rule. Williams effected a grand save from Haywood, while Ord dealt excellently with a beauty from Ekins. A foul on McEwen was allowed to pass by the referee, though it was very palpable. Williams cleared a tremendously hard shot, Brock following up by sending out at a great pace. Ekins lingered too long and was robbed when he should have succeeded in centring easily. From a bunch of Arsenal forwards Williams punched away pluckily, and another rush of the "reds" was well stemmed. Brock lodged the ball on the net after a little. Nothing more of importance was done before the interval, when the positions were:

ARSENAL, 1; LUTON, 0.

It was hoped by the Luton spectators that their favourites would do better with the wind in their favour; indeed, it was conceded that the men had done well already. The second half opened auspiciously for the "stripes," Coupar early becoming conspicuous with a splendid attempt which was but little wide of the mark. The "reds" retaliated, Williams saving neatly. The visitors were infusing a great deal more dash into their efforts than formerly, and Gallacher was responsible for an especially hot shot just now. Ekins rushed off with the ball at his toe, though only to send over the touch-line. The Arsenal left wingers completely beat McCartney and sent over the bar. Ekins was punished for a foul; but the free-kick did not long keep back the "stripes," a foul against the Arsenal further improving the position of the visitors. The ball was well placed and Little shot so well that the leather struck the top of the upright and bounced on the net. This was a particularly narrow escape for the homesters. Stewart was the victim of the unwarrantable attentions of his adversaries and, the place-kick being very well taken, McInnes hooked the ball well into the mouth of the goal, Gallacher misdirecting it when Ord had partially cleared. The Arsenal were checked by offside when they seemed to be in a good situation, while at the home end the Luton outside right sent over the line in an attempt to centre. McInnes imitated this undesirable example when he had received from Little, who was playing in particularly fine style hereabouts. Following a period of pressure by the "reds" Little secured and gave Ord a deal of trouble. A very nasty foul on Ekins was committed when the Lutonian seemed certain to score. After consulting with the two linesmen Mr. Stark awarded a penalty-kick, and McCartney was deputed to take this. Some delay was caused by the Arsenal players rushing

forward and when at length McCartney took the kick Ord was within a yard of him and received the ball on his body, the danger being eventually averted. The referee erred greatly in allowing the custodian to leave his line, the proceeding being most unwarrantable. The failure of the Lutonians was very acceptable to the crowd and a roar of applause went up. From a long attempt by Docherty Ord saved wonderfully well, as he did a minute or two afterwards when Little dispatched one of his very best at the goal. The Luton centre man was brought down very badly in the next minute. The Arsenal, who were stimulated by the failure of the visitors to score, indulged in a sturdy and long-continued attack, Williams distinguishing himself during this period of pressure. Caldwell, when Little had been beaten in pace, kicked at the receding Lutonian with great force, and it was a good thing for the centre-man that the Arsenalite failed to reach him. The referee promptly awarded a foul and Perrins placed so well that a corner was forced. This was not productive. Not so a like kick at the Luton end, where Brock headed through from a corner, and thus increased the lead of the homesters, this being the occasion for more shouting. Minor decisions against the sides were noticed, Brock at length relieving the monotony by missing with a tremendous shot. After Stewart had been pulled up for jumping McInnes sent in a terrific shot which Ord saved marvellously. The left-winger was declared to be off-side when in front of the custodian just after. A ridiculous foul by Ekins brought about a further downfall of the Luton goal, Davis putting up well and McAvoy sending past Williams. Thereafter McInnes gave Ord more trouble ; but for the most part the Arsenal were having the best of matters. Several strong attacks were indulged in, and at one period the visitors were fortunate in averting the capture of their citadel. Towards the end the "stripes" improved a good deal and the home defence was very severely tested. The visitors, however, failed to reduce the Arsenal lead, and when the end came the score stood thus :

ARSENAL, 3 ; LUTON, 0.

FOOTBALL FACTS AND FANCIES.

Like everybody else hereabouts I was expecting that the "stripes" would give a far better display at Plumstead than in the previous week at Luton—it could not, indeed, have been very much worse. The better show was made, and that is why I am disappointed that the result was a win for the Arsenal by a bigger margin than at Luton.

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Readers will want to know the reasons for this failure to retrieve the Luton fortunes. Primarily, then, the fault lay with the referee. In dealing with Mr. Stark I must not forget the fact that I received a severe literary castigation at that gentleman's hands when he had visited Luton some time since. Yet it is difficult to speak of him with that kindness which one could wish in regard to Saturday's game.

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There is no doubt that he made a terrible mistake about the penalty-kick which he very properly awarded. It is a pity, indeed, that the referee has not power to award a goal under such circumstances, for there was no doubt that Ekins would have scored had he not been brought down in dastardly fashion.

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The Arsenalites encroached when McCartney prepared to take the kick and after some dallying it was intimated that the kick must be taken, or that the consequences would be unpleasant. Ord was then allowed to rush up from the six yards line to within a yard of McCartney and so utterly balk that player.

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To the amazement of the Lutonians the responsible official omitted to order the kick to be taken over again. Penalty-kicks are valueless and farcical under such circumstances, and there is no doubt that the referee committed a grave dereliction of duty in not seeing to the matter better.

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What happened was a scandalous proceeding and one that does not reflect credit on either the Arsenal players or the referee. The former behaved in unsportsmanlike style and the latter was palpably weak; indeed, my feeling is that the League ought to have their attention called to the matter.

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It may be observed that the loss of this goal did not lose the match. I am not so sure about that. The locals were leading by a fluky goal to none and the Lutonians were going great guns at the time. The failure of the "stripes" put the homesters on their mettle. Had the penalty-kick succeeded I have not the slightest doubt that Luton would have won. Thus my verdict is that the Lutonians have to thank Mr. Stark's weakness for the loss of these two League points.

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Here is the way that the *Sportsman* describes the incident: "The losers, however, deserve commiseration. Arsenal, with the wind in their favour during the first portion of the game, could only force one goal, while on changing over Luton played well enough to equalise during the first quarter of an hour, and Ekins was making an excellent attempt in that direction, having got within the 12 yards line, when he was most foully kicked by Anderson. Had the referee exercised his prerogative under the rules, and sent Anderson off the field without any warning for 'violent conduct' he could not have been blamed, but he contented himself with awarding Luton a penalty kick."

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"In taking the kick, however, Luton never had fair play, and the referee was certainly to blame for not seeing that they got it. McCartney took the kick, and Ord, the Arsenal goalkeeper, took his stand six yards out. When the Luton man advanced to take the kick Ord deliberately advanced towards the ball as well, in distinct contravention of the rule. McCartney refused to take his kick at first, and when he did Ord had advanced to within two yards of the ball and stopped it. An appeal by Luton was disregarded, and from that point a rough game ensued, in which both sides were to blame."

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The *Daily Chronicle* says: "Luton were unquestionably unlucky. After losing a fluky goal in the first three minutes they comfortably held their own subsequently, and earned a penalty-kick. The negotiation of this was positively a farce. The Arsenal goalkeeper came out on the six yards line, and then, just as McCartney was preparing to take the kick, Ord came nearer; so much so that he was within a yard or two of the ball when it was actually kicked. The consequence was that the ball rebounded, and so vice went unpenalised, the referee neglecting to order the kick to be taken over again. After this the Luton men fell to pieces, apparently in disgust."

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I have seen other comments much of the same nature; but these two will suffice to prove that my judgment is not that of a prejudiced partisan. The treatment which Luton received from the referee was, indeed, so abominable that it is difficult to write temperately concerning it.

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It is always the same, no matter what is at stake. The Lutonians are bound to get all the bad luck and their opponents the profit. This was indeed the case on Saturday, when the sides were so equally matched that a win by three to none for the Arsenal was ridiculous.

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In the first half the operations were so even that the "reds" failed to break through after securing a lucky goal in the first few minutes. On the other hand McInnes and Little missed some very easy chances, the former finding himself under the bar with the ball at his toe twice. Yet he failed, the ball going over. How he could possibly have missed passes my comprehension.

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After the interval the Lutonians played with so much spirit that they had vastly the best of the exchanges for nearly half the second portion. They came close to scoring several times and it was the penalty-kick that put an end to their dash.

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The "reds," on the other hand, were encouraged by the delighted shouts which hailed the failure of the Luton men, and they pulled themselves together well. Their two goals, though, were very ordinary affairs, one coming from a doubtful corner, and the other from an absurd foul by Ekins.

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Coming to compare the performances of the rival teams one would say that the Arsenal appeared not to be in such good form as in the previous week, whereas the "stripes" displayed far greater ability. The explanation may be found in the fact that the Arsenal showed up less prominently because of the improved form of their adversaries.

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It is difficult to point out where the Luton men failed, except it be in the case of McCartney, who was undoubtedly the worst man on the side after the penalty-kick failure. He completely lost his head and let the left wing through time after time. This failure was to some extent to be accounted for by the fact that "Mac" did not keep up sufficiently near to his halves.

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So far as the combination of the forwards was concerned it was an absolutely missing quantity, excepting that Little fed the inside men very well indeed. The centre-man, however, starved both the extreme wingers, so that neither was able to display the good form which we customarily witness on their part.

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Mention of Little brings the reminder that he was absolutely the best man on the Luton side. He gave a display which surprised as greatly as it pleased the Luton people present, and it was not his fault that he did not score on several occasions. The work which he performed was extremely meritorious, and I am pleased to be in a position to honestly pay this tribute. Little, however, should have paid more attention to the outside men.

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Once again let me turn from the pleasing to that which was distinctly the reverse. I refer to the failures of McInnes. After the excellent shows which we have witnessed from the inside-left from the beginning of the season one was not prepared to witness such dismal failures as he gave us on Saturday. For a man of McInnes's calibre to get under the bar with the ball on two occasions and then fail was a thing none of us could understand. For the rest he played a pretty game on the whole.

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So far as Ekins was concerned the team might almost

as well have been without him as with him. He rarely did anything useful, and it was through a ridiculous foul on his part that the third goal was scored. True, he was not afforded many opportunities by the centre-forward, but that did not altogether account for the execrable display which he made.

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Coupar and Gallacher were prominent at times on the right-wing, and both made some bad mistakes. It occurred to me on Saturday that this clever pair have not hitherto combined nearly so well as in former seasons. Why is it? They have the ability and should use it.

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Stewart was by far the best of the half-backs. He performed an immense amount of work, and was always to be found where the fray was thickest. Doherty, for once in a way, was of little use to his side, but Perrins performed better than might have been expected under the circumstances.

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I have already referred to the display of McCartney, and I deem it kindest to say no more concerning that player. McEwen got in some very useful kicks, but he had a rather big handful in Brock and Crawford. Williams saved very smartly more than once. It seemed to me that he might have stopped the first goal, which resulted from a complete muddle.

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The custodian on the other side was distinctly brilliant. Putting aside the indefensible breach of the rules he committed with regard to the penalty kick, he gave a display which must have delighted everyone present. At the same time it must not be overlooked that he was very lucky, most of the hot shots coming straight at him. Had one or two of the shots by McInnes and others been a yard wider no goalkeeper on earth could have saved them.

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The backs were as usual in fine fettle. Caldwell completely forgot himself on one occasion, however, and kicked at Little in a way which deserved the punishment meted out. This was nothing nearly so bad, though, as the offence by Anderson which led to the awarding of the penalty kick. The right half thoroughly deserved to have been ordered off the field at once.

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Davis played a capital game and the centre-half pleased me, but I cannot say so much for the centre-forward, who did not appear to me to shape very well. Of the wingers I have little but praise to utter, though their shooting was not of the best. The left-wingers frequently beat McCartney, and after the interval this led to the burly back completely throwing his discretion to the winds.

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Of course the crowd were delighted with the outcome. It was only reasonable that they should be, but some were so sportsmanlike as to concede that the Lutonians were distinctly unfortunate to lose. Although one must admit that the "reds" were a bit smarter on the ball than the visitors I will not concede that they were cleverer.

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Looking back on these two meetings with the Arsenal I must confess to entertaining a strong feeling of disappointment. Last week the Lutonians deserved even a bigger thrashing than they got. This week they if anything deserved to win. It was not surprising that after the penalty-kick fiasco the "stripes" fell away. The "gate" was magnificent, and must have done the hearts of the Arsenal directors good.

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We are due at Loughborough to-morrow, and after the performance of Tottenham Hotspur at that place I imagine Luton ought to win. In this connection it is instructive to remember that on both the occasions on which Luton met Loughborough last season the "Luffs" were compelled to lower their colours. The meeting at Loughborough at the end of last season ended in a victory for the Lutonians by five goals to two.

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Concerning the penalty kick blunder, which the *Daily Mail* considers "cost Luton the match," a great deal of nonsense appeared in the *Morning Leader* over the signature "Pat."

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The writer says: "When the referee has given the signal is the penalty-kick taker to take his time, or opponents wait his convenience? Was not Ord within his right in starting the instant the whistle went? Surely it would be preposterous in a handicap to say the scratch man shouldn't start till the limit man has moved, and I contend that the penalty-kick taker who dallies for an opening after the signal has gone is to blame if he fails, and not the goal-keeper who takes advantage of such weakness and brings off a coup in which the chances are 100 to 1 against him."

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The best reply to this childish argument is contained in the following allusion by the *Daily Chronicle*: "One might just as stupidly argue that a game starts with the referee's whistle. It does not. No opponent to the kicker-off may advance within 10 yards of the ball until it is kicked off. The penalty-kick law is also clear. 'The opponents' goal-keeper . . . shall not advance more than six yards from the goal-line. . . . The ball shall be in play when the kick is taken.'"

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The action of the custodian was utterly indefensible, for he acted in direct contravention of the rules of the game. The referee was even more strongly to be criticised. It was his duty to see that McCartney was not interfered with, and he grossly neglected that duty. I learn that he has been reported to the League authorities, and I am glad of it. The worst of it is that the points are irrecoverable.

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Before leaving the subject of Saturday's match just a growl concerning the dilatoriness of the South Eastern railway. The guarantee train was not only very late, but a large number of passengers were allowed to crowd in at Maze Hill—surely an irregular proceeding.

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The League table on Monday stood thus:—

						Goals.			
	Plyd.	Won	Drn.	Lost	For	Agst.	Pts.		
Manchester City..	7	7	0	0	22	3	14		
Burnley.....	7	6	1	0	21	4	13		
Small Heath	6	5	1	0	14	7	11		
Newcastle United	6	5	0	1	15	9	10		
Woolwich Arsenal	8	4	1	3	17	16	9		
Newton Heath ..	6	4	0	2	13	4	8		
Grimsby Town ..	6	3	1	3	14	13	7		
Darwen.....	7	2	2	3	10	20	6		
Luton	5	2	1	2	7	7	5		
Gainsboro' Trinity	7	2	0	5	11	20	4		
Walsall	7	2	0	5	15	14	4		
Blackpool.....	6	1	1	4	5	14	3		
Leicester Fosse ..	5	0	2	3	2	6	2		
Loughborough ..	6	1	0	5	3	14	2		
Burton Swifts....	6	1	0	5	7	16	2		
Lincoln City	6	0	2	4	10	19	2		

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Would that the Luton players had performed at Woolwich in the same way that they did at home on Monday. The Hotspurs were utterly routed and out-played, a fact which was to be accounted for by the homesters being caught in their very best form.

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We had heard so much of this "team of all the talents" that we began to think that we were easily to be snuffed out. But if the game of Monday is to be relied upon we need not seriously fear elimination from the English Cup by the 'Spurs, much as their ranks have been strengthened this season.

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The supporters of the 'Spurs came down in good numbers and they were in a vaunting humour—before the match. As time went on they curled up completely, and they seemed unable to realise that their pets had received so complete a thrashing at the hands of a team that they affected to despise.

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It may be that the visitors were below form; but then so were Luton a fortnight ago when they succumbed to the Arsenal. The same reason applies in both cases—that the victors were considerably smarter on the day's play.

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I was both surprised and delighted at the splendid style in which the Lutonians performed. It was difficult to realise that this was the same side that had fallen twice to the Arsenal. On Monday's form very few teams would have beaten them. Throughout they looked a winning side all over.

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So well did the locals start that it was soon apparent that it would be their own faults if they did not win, and for once in a way they maintained, and even increased, their excellence. After the first goal had been scored there was only one team in it.

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The return to form of the homesters was very gratifying to the spectators who loudly cheered the men at frequent intervals. It was high time that some such advance was made.

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There was scarcely a weak point in the team. The forwards were very quick on the ball and combined well, while the defence was steady. It was the dash which the men infused into their display that won the game.

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The hero of the hour was Little, who gave a splendid exposition. His many dashing runs and flying shots were followed with delight, and all of us were glad to observe that he fed his wings well. So long as Little maintains the form of the last two games we need not trouble about the centre.

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Ekins, too, pleased us all by an indication that he had returned to form. His sprints along the line and swinging centres reminded us of bygone days, while the goal which fell to his share was a beauty. I hope to see this kept up.

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Gallacher was also in better fettle than formerly, his middles being more of an approach to previous seasons' excellence than his shows during the present season. Coupar and McInnes deserve their full share of the credit, the former doing especially well.

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Of the halves it is impossible to speak too highly; they all played a glorious game. McCartney in some

measure atoned for Saturday by working like a horse and with good effect, while his companion was impassable. That Williams preserved his charge from capture was an achievement deserving of every praise.

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The 'Spurs' front rankers may be a very clever lot; but against a defence such as that they had to face on Monday they could not be expected to shine—very few sets of forwards would have done. They were weak in front of goal, which was altogether the reverse of what I had expected.

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The halves seemed to me a moderate trio, with the exception that Stormont distinguished himself for some capital play—and some very foul tactics too. The excuse for the half-backs is that the Luton forwards were at their best.

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The Hotspur backs were in grand form, both kicking splendidly throughout. The home quintette formed too big a handful for even such a clever couple as these, however. The keeper played a very good game and prevented the score from mounting rapidly, as it must have done with a less capable man in charge of the goal.

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The *Daily Chronicle*, commenting on the outcome, says: "It is clear that Luton are by no means demoralised by their recent reverses." I believe this to be the truth, and that is why I am expecting good results in the League even yet. That Luton are a better team than Woolwich Arsenal I still firmly believe.

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"The Keeper," writing in the *Daily Mail*, considers that the display by Luton was "brilliant in the extreme" and says that "their fine exhibition of dashing and withal scientific football was to me something of a revelation." The writer thinks that less than five goals would represent the difference in the teams, and then comes this significant utterance "but now I can quite understand how Luton beat Newton Heath at Manchester in September."

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Hotspur 7, Millwall 0; Luton 5, Hotspur 0. How are we to work out this puzzle? It looks as though Millwall ought to be smothered when they meet Luton; but then it is football we are talking about!

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On Monday the Kettering team are to visit Luton in search of United League points. If all goes well at Loughborough the Lutonians ought to win with comparative ease, despite the recollection of last season's downfall at Kettering.

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The Arsenal had a very fluky victory at Wellingborough on Monday by three to two. All the goals of the winners were scored in the last 20 minutes.

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The United League table after Monday's matches stood thus:—

	Plyd.	Won	Drn.	Lost	For	Agst.	Pts
	Goals						
Luton	3	...	3	...	0	...	6
Woolwich	3	...	3	...	0	...	6
Southampton	2	...	2	...	0	...	4
Kettering	3	...	1	...	1	...	3
Tottenham	3	...	1	...	1	...	3
Rushden	1	...	1	...	0	...	2
Millwall.....	2	...	1	...	0	...	2
Wellingborough ...	7	...	1	...	0	...	2
Loughborough	4	...	0	...	0	...	0

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