

UNITED LEAGUE.

LUTON v. RUSHDEN.

A CREDITABLE PERFORMANCE.

Luton's visit to Rushden on Monday was an important engagement in view of our unbeaten record as champions of the United League, and there was some little doubt as to the result, owing to the tough struggle at Tottenham, and its after effects. Last season it may be remembered Rushden met Luton three times, twice in the United League, when the local club suffered a defeat at home by 3 to 1, and in the return fixture by the overwhelming total of eleven

goals to nothing. The other match was at Kettering, in the Kettering Cup final, when Luton were declared winners by a goal to nil.

The Luton team left here by the 11.56, Midland, and found a large crowd of 1,200 on the Newton-road ground, an exceptionally large gate for a Monday match. Both teams were the same as on Saturday, Mr. J. C. Tillotson having the following 22 under command :

Luton : Williams ; M'Cartney and McEwen ; Davies, Stewart, and Docherty ; Gallacher, Coupar, Little, McInnes, and Ekins.

Rushden : Baldrey ; Attley and Lilley ; Clarke, Bailey, and Parker ; Denton, Warner, Dunkley, Sale, and Redingfield.

The winning of the toss gave Luton the sun at their backs in the first half, and Rushden kicked off down the slope. From the vigorous attack with which the home team opened the exchanges it seemed that Rushden were going to make a bold bid for the 2 points that hung in the balance. During the first quarter of an hour Williams had to deal with several teasers. One particularly tricky one came from the Rushden right-wing, after Denton had made a grand sprint along the outside, and before the Luton defenders could thoroughly clear Sale had banged it into the net. Just 10 minutes after this Bedingfield, as the result of some neat passing from mid-field, got another out of Williams's reach, and, it need scarcely be said, the supporters of the home team were now on good terms with themselves.

But Luton's turn had not yet come, and when the game had been in progress 30 minutes they commenced business, a long shot from Gallacher, much to the surprise of the onlookers, taking effect. At the interval the Straw-plaiters were still one behind, but 13 minutes after crossing over Little brought the teams on an even footing once more ; and 5 minutes after that Ekins, making good use of an opportunity presented to him by a well-judged centre from Gallacher, gave Luton the lead. For about 10 minutes following this Luton continued to have the best of it, but towards the close Rushden made a grand effort to effect at least a draw. Denton especially gave the Luton defenders some trouble, and Williams brought off two or three very fine saves. But when Mr. Tillotson sounded his whistle for the finish Rushden found that the lead of 2 goals which they had held at an earlier stage of the game had been converted into a minority, the game ending :

LUTON 3 goals

RUSHDEN 2 ..

NOTES ON THE GAME.

The victory at Rushden was extremely welcome to the Luton club, for it makes our chances of the championship rosier than ever. Our chief anxiety now is "What will the Arsenal do?" Of course they have not so many games in hand as Luton, and may possibly drop a point at Southampton. We do not meet the Woolwich men in the United League until Jan. 17, and then it is at Plumstead, while the return game is fixed for the end of April. Meanwhile the League table stands as under :

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	Goals												
	Plyd.	Won	Lost	Drn.	For	Agst.	Pts.						
Luton	7	...	7	...	0	...	0	...	23	...	4	...	14
Woolwich Arsenal	3	...	3	...	0	...	0	...	9	...	3	...	6
Tottenham 'Spur	4	...	2	...	1	...	1	...	4	...	7	...	5
Kettering	5	...	2	...	2	...	1	...	10	...	12	...	5
Wellingborough	9	...	2	...	6	...	1	...	11	..	26	...	5
Rushden	3	...	2	...	1	...	0	...	6	...	3	...	4
Southampton.....	4	...	2	...	2	...	0	...	6	...	4	...	4
Millwall Athletic	7	...	1	...	4	...	2	...	9	...	11	...	4
Loughborough ...	6	...	0	...	5	...	1	...	3	...	11	...	1

A Rushden writer gives the following notes on the game : " It is always a pleasure to see Luton play, for it is a team which will give you a good game with a minimum of roughness. That this is the opinion of Rushdenites generally is shown by the fact that the attendance was larger than at any Monday match this season. Early in the game things looked rosy for Rushden, for we at one time held a lead of 2-0. This was reduced unfortunately before half-time, and after the interval our score was passed, but I do not consider any of the Luton points to have been nice clean goals—they were, on the other hand, rather weakly things, and looked rather soft. I don't say this in order to detract from Luton's win, for it was not till after the visitors had scored their last point that the severest tussle began.

It was a grand tussle, too ; and, go where you will in Rushden, you will hear nothing but praise for the manner in which our fellows played during the last twenty minutes. It was simply magnificent ! Luton players said so themselves, and their linesman, who is also their secretary, is credited with the remark that he never saw a team finish like Rushden in this match. It was wonderful. Shot after shot was rained in ; the men overturned each other like skittles (though no one could say it was a rough game) ; and our people were almost mad with excitement.

Williams, without doubt, was the saviour of the Luton side, and it is not often one has the pleasure of witnessing such superb goalkeeping. Never let anyone say, that Rushden cannot play the correct passing game. Their combination was beautiful ; and I make bold to say that seldom have the Luton defenders had such a warm time. That they managed to keep our fellows out is, of course, all the more to their credit ; but, as before stated, Williams was the man to whom they should tender their hearty thanks.

True, we lost ; but I am as proud of the display given by our lads as it is possible to be. They did magnificently, and with the least bit of luck would have won."