

LUTON AT RUSHDEN.

MORE UNITED LEAGUE POINTS.

Prior to Monday the Rushden team had played a couple of games in the United League competition, and had won them both without having a goal scored

against them. It came to the turn of the Lutonians to try conclusions on Monday with the "Rushers," and there was a good deal of anxiety hereabouts as to the outcome. The Northants. teams are by no means easy to beat—as witness the sensational stopping of Luton at Kettering last season—and the Rushden players have been performing in especially fine form this season. There was room, therefore, for wondering whether the Lutonians would succeed in taking down the numbers of the Rushden lot. Of course the hard game played by Luton on Saturday did not tend to enhance their chances of success; but, as some set off against this, the Rushdenites had been engaged in a hard-fought cup-tie with Wellingborough, a close game ending in a win for Rushden. The Lutonians made the journey in good time, and they were welcomed by a crowd numbering upwards of a thousand, the weather being delightfully fine.

The sides turned out in the following order:—

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

Rushden: Goal, Baldry; backs, Attley and Lilley; half-backs, Clarke, Bailey, and Parker; forwards, Denton and Warner (right), Dunkley (centre), Sale and Bedingfield (left).

Referee: Mr. J. C. Tillotson.

Luton won the toss, which gave them the advantage of having the sun at their backs, though they had to play uphill during the first half. The opening exchanges were in favour of the locals, who were first to score. Denton made his way down the wing in fine style and crossed to Sale, who lowered Williams's colours. This success was repeated a few minutes afterwards, Bedingfield this time doing the needful. The Lutonians were by no means dismayed by these reverses. Playing up in good style they showed the homesters some of their best form and half an hour from the start Gallacher reduced the home lead with a beautiful shot. Though both elevens tried hard to improve their positions there was no more scoring before the interval, when the positions were:—

RUSHDEN, 2; LUTON, 1.

After the re-start nothing of first-rate importance transpired for some time, the exchanges being fairly even. About a quarter of an hour elapsed, indeed, before the visitors managed to draw level. Five minutes or so later a grand centre from Gallacher presented the Lutonians with an opening which they were not slow to seize, and they thus obtained the deciding point. Stimulated by these successes the "stripes" gave a fine exposition; but later on the homesters tried strenuously to retrieve their fortunes, several very plucky efforts being credited to the forwards. Williams was severely tested more than once and he acquitted himself manfully. Try as they would the locals were unable to penetrate the defence of their opponents and a stubbornly contested game terminated in a creditable win for Luton. The winners gave a very good display and they are entitled to hearty congratulations on their achievement, for it is not very likely that many United League teams will find it possible to obtain a like result at Rushden. The victory was all the more acceptable inasmuch as it strengthened Luton's chances of obtaining the championship. The prospects, indeed, are very bright, for with nearly half their fixtures completed the Lutonians have not dropped a point and hold a commanding lead on the League table. Woolwich Arsenal are doing well also and they promise to be formidable competitors. The Luton record ought to be greatly improved during the coming month, for they have three fixtures all to be decided at home. The visitors will be Rushden, Kettering and Loughborough. So far as the Northants. sides are concerned they ought to be defeated, and if the "stripes" do not capture points from the "Luffs" it will be a wonder, despite the good games the Leicestershire men occasionally play. For the sake of completeness the final score at Rushden must be appended; it was:

LUTON, 3; RUSHDEN, 2.