

FOOTBALL.

LUTON v. GAINSBOROUGH TRINITY.

A DRAW AT GAINSBOROUGH.

The visit of the Lutonians to Gainsborough in the Second League contest was looked forward to with some apprehension by many hereabouts; and there was good reason for this feeling, for the Trinitarians had not succumbed this season on their own ground. On the other hand it was pointed out that the Trinity had been decisively beaten by four goals to none when they visited Luton; but against this it was urged that the visitors on that occasion did not deserve to be so badly thrashed. The Luton team made the journey by the Great Northern Railway and reached Gainsborough in good time. McRoberts was away from the home side through a domestic bereavement, and Raby filled the vacancy. The Luton contingent was as usual. The unsettled state of the weather undoubtedly had a bad effect upon the attendance, which was the thinnest seen at any of Trinity matches this year.

When the signal was given for commencing, the following faced the central ring:

Trinity: Goal, Bagshaw; backs, Bayley and Pumfrey; half-backs, Foulstone, Morris and Munro; forwards, Webster, Raby, Wigmore, Scott and Foxhall.

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

Referee, Mr. Cooper (Blackburn).

Luton were successful in the toss. Trinity kicked off with the wind in their faces, and, forcing the attack, were at once in the vicinity of the Luton goal. Wigmore struck the cross-bar with a fast shot, and Webster hit the goalkeeper on the body, and the ball bounding into play again Wigmore hit the cross-bar. A good effort by Foulstone and Scott looked particularly promising, but the latter headed out. McCartney kicked away a shot from Foxhall, and a moment later Webster netted the ball, but the referee refused the point on the ground of off-side. The Luton right wing made an effort, but Munro returned the ball and from a foul to Trinity Webster succeeded in scoring the first goal after 10 minutes' play with an overhead kick. This seemed to pull the Lutonians together and they paid their first visit to Bagshaw's charge, a long flying shot by Gallacher landing on the top of the net. Pumfrey put in some useful work after this, and the Trinity forwards broke away, but a fast low shot cannoned off McEwen on to Williams, who threw away with Foxhall close upon him. Ekins had a clear course, and taking the ball down centred beautifully, but Bayley tackled pluckily, and relieved well. Raby missed the chance of the afternoon from a throw-in, kicking the ball high over the bar, when he practically had the goal at his mercy. Try as they would the Trinitarians could not score, Wigmore just missing the net from a scrimmage. The visitors then showed great determination, and an attack on the home goal followed. Munro fell in attempting to kick away, this giving the visitors an easy opening. Bagshaw left his charge and made several ineffectual efforts to fist away; but McInnes had no difficult task in scoring. Scott brought Williams to his knees, after tricky play by Raby, and Foxhall nullified a pass from Wigmore by kicking out. Pumfrey cleverly dispossessed Gallacher, and from his return kick a fine display of all-round combination resulted in Wigmore giving the homesters the lead with a beautiful goal. Bagshaw saved a fast shot from Little, after Ekins had missed a chance by dallying too long. Play was stopped to attend to an injury to Bagshaw, and though he appeared to be in pain he resumed his position. A mis-kick close in gave Little an opportunity to shoot. Pumfrey handled the ball and Luton were awarded a penalty. In consequence of Bagshaw's injury Bayley took his place, and though he came out six yards the scores were made equal. At this juncture Bagshaw left the field, Bayley going into goal. Playing with only 10 men somewhat disorganised the Trinitarians, and the visitors persistently attacked. Pumfrey and Munro, however, acquitted themselves well and time after time repelled the incursions of the Lutonians. Then the Gainsborough lot appeared to settle down and attacked strongly. The Lutonians defended gamely, however, and so the half-time score was:

LUTON, 2; GAINSBOROUGH, 2.

After the interval Morris occupied the position of custodian and Wigmore dropped back to centre-half. From the kick-off Gainsborough went straight ahead, and forced three corners in succession. Munro hit the post, and Raby only missed by inches. Gallacher played a fine forward game for the visitors, and Pumfrey and Bayley were kept hard at work for a time kicking out some well-directed attempts. Foulstone was in form hereabout, and more than once brought Ekins and McInnes up in good style, and once a long dropping shot landed on the top of the Luton net. Raby passed out to Webster and a corner was forced; but nothing came of it, Williams playing a very reliable game, and the way he stopped several shots was a perfect treat. McCartney relieved with a huge kick; but again Trinity attacked. Webster put in some useful work when he obtained the ball, and Foxhall brought forth applause for a grand shot. Mid-field play followed. Afterwards the homesters pressed and then an all-round attack by the Luton forwards proved too much for the home backs. Little was on the point of shooting when with his customary dash Wigmore relieved. A fine run down by Raby and Webster completely baffled the Luton defence and Williams was compelled to concede a corner. The Luton backs eventually cleared though not without a struggle, and Little transferring play to the other end, Wigmore was again conspicuous. In a scrimmage in the Luton goal-mouth one of the backs fisted out, and a penalty was awarded Trinity. Williams came out the usual six yards, but Munro gave him no chance, and his shot once more placed Trinity ahead. A run on the right by Gallacher was unproductive though his centre was excellently judged, but he came again a moment later and from the touch-line equalised with a grand shot that Morris had no chance with. Luton were now struggling strenuously, and just missed scoring from a centre by Ekins. The home defenders at this point were taxed severely. The Trinity attacked hotly, and a long cross shot brought Williams down to his knees. Gallacher kept up his form and brought Morris out of his goal in a hurry to clear, and Luton sent several long shots at Trinity goal none of which were effectual. So the game progressed, each side pressing in turn. There was no more scoring, however, and the outcome of a splendidly fought match was the following:

LUTON, 3; GAINSBOROUGH, 3.