

GAINSBOROUGH TRINITY v. LUTON TOWN.

Played at Gainsborough on Saturday. Result:

Gainsborough 3 goals.

Luton 3 goals.

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The teams were as follow:—

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

Luton: Williams, goal; McCartney and McEwen, backs; Davies, Stewart and Docherty, half-backs; Gallacher, Coupar, Little, McInnes and Ekins, forwards.

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Referee, Mr. Cooper, Blackburn.

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Gainsborough have been going so strongly at home this season, that the Luton supporters did not look forward to the visit to the Lincolnshire town with any degree of confidence. As a matter of fact, the Trinitarians had been beating all comers, and in the whole of their matches this season on their own midden, only a single goal had been scored against them.

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Under these circumstances, it was felt there was not much chance of Luton annexing the greatly-needed points. The team, however, were inspired by the usual degree of confidence in their own ability, and happily that confidence was pretty well justified by the event.

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The weather was unsettled, and the attendance consequently limited, the crowd being the smallest seen on the ground this season. Luton won the toss, and derived some advantage from the wind, but the homesters started off at a great pace, and were soon in the vicinity of the Luton goal. It seemed that the visitors were in for a lively time, for Wigmore hit the crossbar with a fast shot, and another from Webster rebounding off Williams, Wigmore again struck the bar.

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The Trinity defence, too, was very sound, and the Luton forwards could make very little headway. After a good effort by Foulstone and Scott, McCartney kicked away a shot from Foxhall, and a moment later Webster netted the ball, but was given offside. Luton then got going, but the right wing was pulled up by Munro and from a foul against the visitors, Webster succeeded in scoring the first goal for the Trinity with a splendid overhead kick.

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This was after ten minutes' play, but the reverse seemed to have an inspiring effect upon Luton, and a long, flying shot from Gallacher landed on the net. The homesters responded, and a fast low shot cannoned off McEwen on to Williams, who threw away with Foxhall close on him.

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Ekins took the ball to the other end and middled beautifully, but though the other forwards swarmed to the attack, pressure was relieved by Bayley. Raby soon afterwards missed a grand chance for the Trinity, kicking the ball high over the bar when he practically had the goal at his mercy.

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Luton now made a very determined assault on the Gainsborough goal, and Munro falling in attempting to clear, Bagshaw left his charge and rushed to the rescue, only to find himself eluded by McInnes, who equalised with an easy shot.

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The Trinitarians at this point infused a great deal of energy into their play, and after Williams had been brought to his knees by Scott, the spectators grew enthusiastic over a fine piece of all-round combination which resulted in Wigmore giving Gainsborough the lead with a beautiful goal.

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But Luton were not disheartened. They soon made their way to the neighbourhood of the Trinity citadel, and Bagshaw was called upon to save a fast shot from Little, whilst Ekins missed a chance by dallying too long. Then a misfortune befel the homesters, Bagshaw wrenching his knee. He resumed his place for a time, and saw a penalty kick given against his side, Pumfrey handling a shot from Little.

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Bayley took Bagshaw's place, and the latter, after stopping to see Little make the scores equal from the penalty, left the field, Bayley remaining in goal. Luton endeavoured to make the most of their opportunity, and kept the Trinity busy defending until the interval, but thanks chiefly to the brilliant efforts of Pumfrey and Munro, they were unable to score, the teams changing ends with the score at two goals all.

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When play was resumed, Morris took upon himself the duties of custodian, and Wignore dropped back to centre-half. From the kick-off, Gainsborough went straight ahead, and forced three corners in succession, but could not turn them to account, though Munro had hard luck in hitting the post. Luton replied, Gallacher showing up very finely, and Pumfrey and Bayley were for a time kept very hard at work, whilst Foulstone found McInnes and Ekins quite as big a handful as he could manage.

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Still, the goals would not come, and eventually the Trinity turned the tide of battle, but when they got by the backs they found their efforts defied by Williams, whose exhibition was, as a local writer remarks, "a perfect treat." The play was very fast, the ball being trundled from one end to the other with great rapidity, and at last, there was a terrific scrimmage in the mouth of the Luton goal, the ball ultimately being fisted away by McEwen as he fell to the ground.

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A penalty was awarded, and Munro scored with a shot which gave Williams no chance. Thus Gainsborough once more obtained the lead. They were not destined to keep it for long, however, Gallacher almost immediately getting in a good run and a well-judged centre. The homesters cleared from this, but Gallacher was not to be denied, and a moment afterwards equalised with a magnificent oblique shot from the touch-line, the custodian having no chance whatever.

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After this, Luton made a splendid and prolonged attempt to secure the winning point, and the home defence was sorely taxed. It looked any odds on Luton doing the trick, but eventually they were driven back, and a terrific shot from Webster went behind off McEwen. Nothing came of the corner, or of several shots which followed, and from now to the finish Luton peppered away at the Gainsborough goal. Once Coupar had a grand opening, but sent just the wrong side of the upright, and the game ended in a draw of three goals all.

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Although Luton ought to have bagged the two points, the gain of one was as creditable as it was unexpected, and the fact that they scored three goals against a defence which had only been previously pierced once—I am referring to the home matches, of course—speaks volumes for the strength of their attack.

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Perhaps among the forwards most praise is due to Gallacher, who played a really fine game. The other men did well, and the defence was good, though occasionally the tactics employed were a trifle too vigorous. Gainsborough were in their usually brilliant form, and on the whole, Luton may think themselves fairly fortunate that they were not added to their list of victims. It is certain that Luton have done what few other teams will do, that is, taken three points out of them.

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"Rover, writing in the "Morning Leader" on Monday, said:—"The doings of Luton and Woolwich Arsenal interest us more than anything else in the Second Division of the League. I am glad to say that both clubs did splendidly on Saturday. Perhaps chief credit belongs to the Luton team, who went to Gainsborough, and returned with three goals and a drawn game. Previous to Saturday the Gainsborough men had only had one goal scored against them at home all the season, so that the three goals captured by Luton reflects all the greater honour on the visitors. I don't know why it is, but a few teams have the knack of playing better away from home than they do before their own supporters, and Luton is one of those happy few. A team must be possessed of tremendous confidence in itself to be seen at its best away from home, and perhaps it is over-confidence that makes a side play but indifferently well on its own pitch. I have no doubt that the Luton people would be pleased to see their side score a sensational victory at home. Perhaps they may see it if favoured by the draw in the first round proper of the Association Cup. What price Clapton? Ah, well, they may bar the way."

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at home beat Lincoln City by 4 goals to 2, Newton Heath beat Grimsby Town by 2 goals to 1, Burnley beat Darwen by 6 to 1, and Newcastle United vanquished Small Heath by 4 to 0, whilst at Burton, Leicester Fosse gained a victory over the Swifts by 3 goals to 2.