

FOOTBALL.

LUTON v. BARNSELEY.

A NARROW DEFEAT.

HARD LUCK FOR THE LUTONIANS.

On Saturday the Luton men journeyed to Barnsley to play their second game of the season in the English League. This is Barnsley's first season in the League and the teams had never met before. The weather being fine there was a large crowd present. Mr. Whitstead (of Grimsby) was the referee, and the Luton side was as follows:—Goal, Perkins; backs, Williams and Moore; half-backs, Clarke, Sharp, and C. Ford; forwards, Durrant and Kemplay (right), W. Ford (centre), McInnes and Brock (left). The captain of the home team was a gentleman of the name of McCartney, not unknown in Luton, and he lost the toss.

With the wind behind them Luton had rather the best of the opening play, but on the whole the play was very even and no scoring took place before the interval. Once, though, the home side found the net, but this was a free-kick which was not touched by a second player. In the second half Luton played much the better game and at one time seemed almost certain to win. Ford and McInnes beat McCartney and "Tommy" scored the first goal of the match. A little later the referee awarded a penalty kick against Luton, for what reason no-one seems to know and McCartney took the kick, Perkins saving splendidly. The referee, however, for some cause best known to himself ordered the kick to be re-taken, and this time McCartney scored. The penalty kick business seemed to knock the stuffing out of the Luton men and for a few minutes their play was very rocky. In consequence of this Davis was enabled to score for Barnsley, this proving the winning goal. The visitors, pulling themselves together made a spirited attempt to better their position, but they were unable to score and the game ended thus:

BARNSELEY, 2; LUTON, 1.

It was a lucky win for the home side Luton on the whole having rather the best of the play in a fairly even game. None of the visitors played brilliantly, but all were fair, Sharp being the pick of the halves and McInnes of the forwards. McCartney played a reliable game for the victors and was too heavy for Brock.

The *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* has the following report:—“At Barnsley, in splendid weather, with a westerly wind. Lees was unable to play for Barnsley, Smith taking his place. The visitors won the toss, and Murray kicked off against the wind, their forwards initiating a heavy attack on the home quarters, Ford and Kemplay heading the rush. Nixon in the first instance, and McCartney in the second, cleared brilliantly. The game became fast, and the exchanges were rapid. From Kemplay the ball went out near the home goal, and the Barnsley left went grandly down. From Burleigh Davis secured possession near the line, and a beautiful shot was just got away by Perkins. After one or two smart exchanges, McCullough and Gee broke away. Murray put in a fine effort which Davis put against the net, and another rush was finely relieved by Moore. Again the visitors attacked, and Ritchie brought Brock up finely, after which Barnsley again attacked, but Murray headed back, and Greaves had to handle from the visitors' centre, W. Ford. A foul against the visitors near the 12 yards' line was useless, and the home centre put to Davis, who shot close in, Moore staying the ball and giving a corner, which proved useless. A foul on the visitors' line entered the net uselessly, and a grand effort of Davis was missed. The visitors' right broke away, and Durrant put in smartly, Greaves sending over. The home left play became weaker. From Williams' capable return Brock got away, and had the goal at his mercy, but sent far across. The next moment Barnsley again rushed away, Smith kicking well, but the attempt failed. The visitors' right made a grand effort. Kemplay shot hard, and Ritchie saved luckily. Barnsley now attacked heavily, and Murray's shot was grandly returned. After this Greaves saved brilliantly from Ford, and keen play followed to half-time, when the score was:—Barnsley, 0 goal; Luton, 0 goal. Kemplay, W. Ford and McInnes initiated a pretty attack for the visitors, but McCartney returned, and Barnsley rushed away. The backs sent the ball far down the field. The visitors' right put in prettily. McCartney mulled in endeavouring to clear. Greaves returned once from W. Ford, and McInnes, from two yards distance, scored smartly. Barnsley made great efforts at this stage, and Perkins had to return twice from rather weak shots. Davis sent out close by the bar, and McCullough was off-side when shooting. Kemplay, after a grand run, shot wide. Another shot missed its mark. Barnsley took up play. The right pressed, and a good shot from Smith went over. Another good attempt failed. McCullough shot, a foul was claimed, and a penalty given. McCartney took the kick, and was again fouled, and kicking again scored. Barnsley again attacked, and amid tremendous excitement Davis scored. The game was full of life to the finish.”

that the Lutonians had had an exhausting train ride in the forenoon. After the game it was rumoured that the outcome had been a draw of no goals.

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This intimation was hailed with satisfaction by all. But a rude awakening came later on, when the official telegrams conveyed the news that for a third time in succession the men had lost by a single goal.

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I had thought there was a capital chance of winning, as the constitution of the Luton side was about as good as could be wished. Kemplay was given his chance, while Sharp was once more tried at centre half and Moore at back.

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The men played a rattling good game and they were unlucky to lose. I know it will be said that we are fruitful in excuses when defeat comes; but there are always reasons for losses, and there is no harm in indicating them.

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The Lutonians are very sore about the penalty kick which was ordered to be re-taken. I can quite understand the indignation. McCartney, however, would not be inclined to sympathise, for it would afford him intense pleasure to score against his old club.

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It is gratifying to me to notice that the outside critics agree that there is nothing for Luton to feel ashamed about. "Rover" says: "Although Luton lost at Barnsley, they have nothing to feel disheartened about. It was a penalty goal that 'did for' the visitors."

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Another critic says that: "The visitors' defence, too, was strong, the halves good, and the forwards of very level merit, Kemplay, W. Ford and McInnes showing considerable dash. They may go far." It was McInnes, by the way, who scored the goal for Luton.

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The *Athletic News*, regarding the matter from the point of view of the Barnsley team, says: "Though the result was satisfactory enough, inasmuch as it ended in their favour, they did not show an undue amount of superiority over their opponents from Luton. Still, a victory will give them spirit."

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The result was discussed in Luton with a good deal of spirit. I heard one kindly disposed person remark that a period of bad luck was inevitable, but that the men would eventually do well. Which is exactly my opinion.

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I suppose nobody imagines, for instance, that a victory will be secured by the "stripes" at Leicester tomorrow. Yet the idea is not so ridiculous as it may appear at first sight. The way in which the Fosse men were "chawed up" at Woolwich shows that they cannot be anything very great. I shall not be very much surprised if we draw at Leicester, though one must candidly confess that it does not seem very probable.

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As to the Hotspur match on Monday there is sure to be plenty of excitement. Judging by what I saw at Tottenham I should say that there will not be much in it at the finish. The 'Spurs have not been setting the Lea on fire with their brilliance, and the fact that the locals are playing at home may give them courage. Let us hope that the 'Spurs will not succeed in making up the total of points captured from Luton to four.

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The Reserves played a rattling good game against the Leighton Cee Springs on Saturday. The side included Hewitt, Ekins, and Galbraith, and the men showed a better ability to score than the seniors have done up to now.

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