

# THE LEAGUE—DIVISION II.

## GAINSBOROUGH TRINITY v. LUTON TOWN.

Played at Gainsborough on Saturday. Result:

|                            |         |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Luton Town.....            | 3 goals |
| Gainsborough Trinity ..... | 2 goals |

The teams were as follow:—

Gainsborough—Richardson, goal; Bayley and Pumfrey, backs; Foulston, Morris and Munro, half-backs; Wigmore, Walters, Scott, Hughes, and Foxall, forwards.

Luton—Perkins, goal; Dow and Moore, backs; C. Ford, Sharp and Hewitt, half-backs; Durrant, McInnes, Kemplay, W. Ford, and Brock, forwards.

Referee, Mr. Cowley, of Sheffield.

After the Darwen match, a good many people at Luton were quite cocksure about the ability of their little lot to take a couple of points out of the Trinitarians at Gainsborough, notwithstanding that all experience goes to show the extreme difficulty of winning League matches away from home. But there is no middle course with your average spectator; he is either all hope or all despondency, either up in the boughs or down in the dumps.

And those people who were pretty well on the verge of despair a fortnight or so ago, because Luton had not won a match, are just the ones who now expect them to beat everything that comes in their way. It is foolishness, utter foolishness, this going from one extreme to another, and although it would be very easy now to be wise after the event, I will say that whilst there was no reason why the supporters of the team should not hope for the best, there was nothing to justify the confident expectation of victory.

It was true, Gainsborough had not won a match and Luton had, but I remember that last season the Trinitarians lost their first four matches right off the reel, at an expense of fifteen or sixteen goals, and then turned round and beat nearly all comers. After seeing their ground on Saturday I can understand to some extent how they managed it.

The middle of the pitch is all that could be desired, but the grass for about twenty yards in front of each goal is so long and tufty that visiting backs and forwards are alike puzzled to know what the ball is going to do. This curious variation in the grass is accounted for by the fact that the centre of the ground is used in summer for cricket, and is kept in good order, but the outfielding, like that on the People's Park, is left to take care of itself. I reckon it to be worth at least one or two goals to the home side.

OUR Annual Autumn Sale commences on Saturday next. Get a catalogue if you have not already done so.—M. Marès, Luton.—[ADVT.]

The Luton team left Strawopolis at half-past eight in the morning, and reached Gainsborough shortly after one. They were without Ekins and Williams, both of whom were on the injured list, and Brock and Moore were brought in to fill the vacancies. There was not a very large crowd when the kick-off took place at three o'clock, but subsequently the spectators numbered nearly a couple of thousand, which seems to be about the average.

The weather was gloriously fine, but the sun was rather too dazzling for Luton, who were called upon to face it. The visitors, however, started in very determined fashion, and Durrant looked like getting clean through, but was fouled just outside the twelve yards' line. Charlie Ford misjudged the free kick, but the visitors returning to the attack, Hewitt placed across to Durrant, who was given off-side just as William Ford beat Richardson from the right-winger's centre.

Whether Luton were discouraged by this little piece of bad luck, or whether they were feeling the effects of their journey, I cannot say, but for the next quarter of an hour the Trinitarians had matters pretty much their own way, attacking again and again. At last the left wing got away in very nice style, and Hughes, cleverly tricking Dow, worked his way to the front of the goal, and put in a shot against which Perkins had no chance whatever.

The homesters continued to press, the left wing giving no end of trouble, and eventually a corner was forced. This was well taken by Wigmore, a big struggle ensued, and the ball coming out to the last-named player, he shot just by the post. Luton retaliated, but a couple of fouls against Hewitt relieved, and at the next time of asking, McInnes was given off-side.

Two free kicks for Luton threatened the Gainsborough goal, Ford from the second missing by inches. Then the Luton forwards went away, and one of the neatest bits of play imaginable by Kemplay, enabled William Ford to transfer to McInnes, and the latter equalised with a splendid shot. It was a very fine all-round effort, and thoroughly merited success.

Soon afterwards, Richardson's charge was again in jeopardy. Durrant, receiving from Kemplay, raced away and sent in a shot which the custodian fumbled and only just managed to turn round the post. In the melee which followed the corner kick, Kemplay was very badly charged in the back, and play had to be suspended for a few moments until he had recovered.

Brock next got in a couple of centres, but one from Durrant was more dangerous, and William Ford grazed the upright with a good shot. Ford himself initiated another attack, but Brock, on getting the pass, sent behind. The homesters now assumed the aggressive, and after a fruitless corner, Foxall got in a beautiful centre, from which Walters headed just over the bar. Hewitt experienced similar luck a moment later at the other end, and then the whistle sounded for half-time, honours still being easy.

When hostilities were resumed, the homesters, by the aid of two free kicks, were able to menace the Luton goal, and Perkins saved and cleared beautifully from Scott. Luton then went down the field, and Richardson saved well from a smart shot by W. Ford. Durrant followed on with a good centre, and Kemplay looked a certainty for another goal, but his shot being a grounder, the long grass retarded its progress, and Richardson easily saved.

Durrant, however, got in a hot one almost immediately, and the custodian being unable to do more than stop it, Kemplay, who was quickly on the spot, landed the ball in the net, making the score two to one in Luton's favour.

Gainsborough responded with a corner, from which Luton cleared, and going down the field, Hewitt gave Richardson a teaser. A corner followed, and then the homesters went away with a rush, and would almost inevitably have scored had not Perkins made a desperate effort and got the ball away before the forwards could reach it, after passing the backs.

Play for the most part favoured Luton, however, and several corners fell to them, but they could not be turned to account. Then came an instance of how the play was affected by the nature of the turf. Munro kicked the ball hard, and the Luton defenders never attempted to follow, taking it for granted that it was going behind. But Foxall was a little wider awake, and the ball stopping almost dead, he was quickly on it, and hit the outside of the upright with a spanking shot.

A concerted movement again took the Luton forwards into Gainsborough quarters, and Brock, taking a pass from W. Ford, put in a good centre, from which McInnes, making himself a grand opening, shot just by the post. After a further period of pressing by Luton, the Trinitarians got away on the right, and Sharp, holding the man off for Moore to take the ball, the back seemed not to comprehend, and the result was that Wigmore put the leather across the mouth of goal, and Foxall scored with a clever overhead kick.

The Luton people can make a tolerably good noise when occasion offers, but the enthusiasm evinced at this performance by the Gainsborough spectators would quite put to shame any similar demonstration made by an equal number of

Lutonians. But the pity of it was, from a Gainsborough point of view, that the plaudits were brought to a premature conclusion, for within less than two minutes, Durrant had gone down the field and put in a lovely centre, and Brock had breasted into goal. Thus, once again the visitors established a lead.

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It was a wonder that other goals did not follow, for two shots in quick succession by Durrant and McInnes were so finely saved by Richardson that even the spectators could hardly believe the evidence of their own eyes. Luton were just as fortunate at the other end, when Perkins, through no fault of his, failed to clear a shot from Foulston. Who it was that did get rid of the ball at that juncture I cannot say. I only know that someone managed the business, though the goal was surrounded by players.

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Charlie Ford next endangered the goal by indulging his propensity to dribble—it was the first time he had done it all the afternoon—Foxall nipping in and swinging the ball to the front, where Scott, with a rare chance, shot high over. Soon afterwards, Master Charlie repeated the same tactics, with the same result, and then took his revenge in a bad bit of jumping, for which he received a caution from the referee.

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There was not much in it during the last few minutes of the game, both goals being attacked in turn, but just at the finish Hughes, by an extraordinary piece of luck, dribbled right up the field, eluding all who sought to tackle him, and finally passing out to Foxall. The latter put in a beautiful shot, which Perkins only got hold of with the tips of his fingers. It dropped down in front of goal, where a scrimmage took place, and the spectators yelled their loudest for a goal.

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The excitement was intensified by the fact that the referee ran across to consult one of the linesmen, and people thought it was as to whether he should allow a goal or not. But it was nothing of the sort. He only wanted to compare notes as to time, and blowing his whistle at once, the game ended in a well-merited victory for the visitors. Mr. Cowley, it may be added, never had the slightest doubt about giving no goal when the claim was made, as he was on the spot and could see for himself.

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To give the Gainsborough folk their due, I must say that though they were prepared to back up their team through thick and thin, they admitted readily enough that Luton were the better lot, the forwards especially taking their eye. The Trinity captain, too, was sportsman enough to congratulate McInnes upon his very smart young players.

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McInnes himself, it should be added, is, and has been for a month past, suffering from a severe cold on the chest, but one would never have known from the character of his play, that he was not in the best condition. He played a thoroughly good game, and the same may be said of Kemplay, who shows more cleverness every time he performs. As for William Ford, I think his exhibition was the best he has given since he has been with Luton. He combined well with Kemplay, and gave many good passes to Brock, who, however, did not seem to be quite up to the mark.

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But possibly one of the most effective of the forwards was Durrant, whose play in the last three matches has amply proved what I said a time ago, namely, that nothing but a little more dash was required to enable him to hold his own with any man. Since this dash has been forthcoming he has not been like the same player. He has rare speed and a wonderful command over the ball, and if he will take full advantage of Tommy McInnes coaching, I believe before the end of the season he will be a better man than Gallacher ever was.

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I make these remarks because I notice that some of us who ventured to criticise Durrant's play have in turn been criticised. Now I always endeavour to take a man as I find him, apart from local or other considerations, and I hold that the very worst service one can render a young fellow is to make him think he is doing his best when you honestly believe him to be capable of something a great deal better. I pointed out where I thought the fault lay, and Durrant's form in the Darwen and Gainsborough matches is ample justification for what I said.

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To return to Saturday's match, I may say that the half-backs also showed that they were not above taking a tip. They kept very much more in touch with their forwards, and the consequence was better play all round. Sharp, despite a bad kick, stuck to his work with great pluck, and C. Ford, apart from the blemishes to which I have previously referred, played in capital style. Hewitt was a trifle inclined to let his enthusiasm run away with him.

Terribly in earnest is Hewitt, and an incessant worker. But he is apt to attempt too much. No man can do two men's work, and the one who tries it is bound to let some of his own go undone. My advice to Hewitt is to stick to his own place, and if any others fail to do their bit—well, so much the worse for them. I am the more moved to speak thus plainly, because Hewitt is such a champion little worker that it is a pity to see any of his efforts going to waste.

As to the backs, I can only say that Moore played a surprisingly good game, and kept it up the whole ninety minutes, while Dow's work was such as to thoroughly justify the good impression he made on his first appearance. Perkins also performed with his usual success in goal, and some of his clearances were very smart indeed.

Little need be said of Gainsborough. They have a capital pair of backs, men who want a lot of getting round, three fairly good halves, and a clever left wing. The team altogether are a pretty smart lot, and though I don't think they are as strong as last year, they may be depended upon not to give points away to every visiting club.

I think a special word of praise is due to trainer Lawson, seeing that the superior condition of the Luton men has had a great deal to do with their recent successes. Indeed, all the way through they have invariably been seen to the greatest advantage in the second half, and that is the best testimony that could possibly be adduced as to the effectiveness of the training.

New stock of new autumn and winter suitings, trouserings and overcoatings, are now on show. All the newest tints and shades. A grand selection of materials. A trial solicited.—S. Bassett, practical tailor, 29, Wellington-street.—[ADVT.]

The Arsenal visited Manchester on Saturday, full of confidence, and that confidence was strengthened by the fact that they scored the only goal of the first half in their match against the City. The latter, however, came on wonderfully in the second half, outclassing the Arsenal at all points, and running out the winners by three goals to one.

One of the greatest surprises of the day was the defeat of Newton Heath at Burton by five goals to one. After the manner in which Luton recently rubbed it into Darwen, Leicester Fosse no doubt thought themselves pretty safe in their visit to Lancashire, but they were beaten by three goals to nil. At Burslem, in spite of Tom Clare having the misfortune to get his leg broken, Port Vale beat Grimsby by two goals to none, and Glossop North End obtained a similar victory over Lincoln City. Walsall and New Brighton Tower made a draw at one goal each.

The following is the League table up to date:—

|                      | Goals |      |      |      |     |       |     |
|----------------------|-------|------|------|------|-----|-------|-----|
|                      | Pld.  | Won. | Lst. | Drn. | For | Agst. | Pts |
| Burslem Port Vale    | 6     | 6    | 0    | 0    | 16  | 1     | 12  |
| Newton Heath         | 5     | 4    | 1    | 0    | 9   | 6     | 8   |
| Walsall              | 6     | 3    | 1    | 2    | 15  | 5     | 8   |
| Woolwich Arsenal     | 5     | 4    | 2    | 0    | 15  | 8     | 8   |
| Small Heath          | 5     | 3    | 1    | 1    | 15  | 7     | 7   |
| Lincoln City         | 7     | 3    | 3    | 1    | 11  | 12    | 7   |
| Glossop North End    | 5     | 2    | 1    | 2    | 10  | 6     | 6   |
| Burton Swifts        | 5     | 3    | 2    | 0    | 13  | 10    | 6   |
| Leicester Fosse      | 6     | 2    | 2    | 2    | 9   | 14    | 6   |
| New Brighton         | 4     | 1    | 0    | 3    | 7   | 6     | 5   |
| Luton                | 5     | 2    | 2    | 1    | 13  | 7     | 5   |
| Manchester City      | 5     | 2    | 2    | 1    | 12  | 10    | 5   |
| Loughborough         | 4     | 1    | 2    | 1    | 2   | 11    | 3   |
| Darwen               | 4     | 1    | 3    | 0    | 5   | 14    | 2   |
| Barnsley             | 5     | 1    | 4    | 0    | 6   | 11    | 2   |
| Gainsborough Trinity | 5     | 0    | 4    | 1    | 7   | 15    | 1   |
| Grimsby Town         | 5     | 0    | 4    | 1    | 5   | 18    | 1   |
| Blackpool            | 4     | 0    | 4    | 0    | 3   | 13    | 0   |