

LUTON v. BRIGHTON UNITED.

HOME COLOURS AGAIN LOWERED.

CLARKE INJURED.

On Monday the Brighton United team visited Luton to play the locals in the United League competition, and the result of the visit was a further defeat for the "stripes," the score at the finish being five goals to three. The homesters entered the field with depleted ranks, Dow, Kemplay, Sharp and Crump being absentees. The Brightonians were almost at full strength. The weather was showery, and there was only a moderate muster of spectators.

The sides were composed of the following:—

Luton: Goal, Perkins; backs, Clarke and Moore; half-backs, C. Ford, Ralley and Hewitt; forwards, Durrant and McInnes (right), W. Ford (centre), Brock and Ekins (left).

Brighton: Goal, Bullimier; backs, Carter and Caldwell; half-backs, Low, Farrell and Longair; forwards, Davidson and McLeod (right), McArthur (centre), Willock and Malloch (left).

Referee: Mr. G. West (Kettering); Luton linesman, Mr. A. Tearle.

Luton lost the toss and played from the farm end, a stiff breeze having to be faced. The "green backs," as the visitors were styled, secured from the kick-off and went away with a rush; but the locals returned well and were assisted by a free-kick against the strangers for a foul. Durrant thus early rendered himself conspicuous by sending in a grand centre, Bullimier fisting away nicely. "Roddy" McLeod next became prominent with a good run and a neat terminal shot which proved wide of the mark, following which the home outside right put in more useful work. The wearers of the green were already making it apparent that vigour was to be a characteristic of their display, and it was of that nature that incurred free kicks. Hewitt had a shy at goal on one occasion and missed by very little. Good play was witnessed on the home right and later on Perkins found it necessary to leave his charge in order to clear from three of his opponents, a feat which he accomplished amidst applause. Brock broke through well; but Carter managed to check him ere he could get close enough to shoot. The left winger became prominent again just afterwards and on this occasion he dispatched a low shot at Bullimier which lacked powder and consequently was easily cleared. A narrow escape was noticed soon afterwards, when Durrant centred cleverly and Brock shot hard at goal, W. Ford heading over the bar when the custodian had saved. Durrant obtained a flag-kick from which the ball was well placed by Luton and got away capitally by the visitors. Next Moore conceded a corner by heading over the line and McArthur managed to head through from an accurate centre. Carter capably disposed of a dangerous centre by Ekins, while a further smart exhibition by Luton terminated in Durrant steering over the line. A bad miskick by Clarke enabled three of the Brighton forwards to get within range, Perkins bringing off a marvellous save. A miss by Moore led to the ball being sent over the bar, the home keeper saving finely in the next minute. More hard luck for Luton followed a beautiful middle by Ekins; W. Ford shot into the side of the net and when the ball had been kicked off McInnes secured and struck the bar, the ball rebounding into play. Ekins followed up with a good effort. Brock had got well under weigh when he was checked by a throw in for Brighton being awarded, it being decided that the Lutonian had sent the ball into touch. This was a bad mistake by the Brighton linesman and

decided that the Lutonian had sent the ball into touch. This was a bad mistake by the Brighton linesman and should have been righted by the referee. More fouling by Brighton led to the locals sending ridiculously wide. In the next minute McArthur got away finely and wound up by notching a second point. Ralley now went to right back, while Clarke took the centre-half position. Another free-kick having been given against the seashiders, the "greens" went to the home end and Perkins was tempted out. With an open goal and absolutely free from attention by the custodian or backs it seemed that Davidson must score; but he sent tamely on the wrong side of the post, a feat which called forth a yell of derision from the crowd. It was really inexplicable how he managed to miss. Durrant got off splendidly and was looking dangerous when Caldwell held him deliberately. This occurred within the 12 yards line and there were loud cries for a penalty. Mr. West disregarded these and gave a free-kick from a point some yards further up the field. From this Clarke sent over the goal-line. W. Ford was the next sufferer from the roughness of the Brightonians, who were playing a very foul game. Just afterwards the referee found it necessary to address some remarks to the Brighton linesman and it appeared that he was admonishing that person. Ekins was foully charged with the result that his left arm was damaged, and barely had the free-kick been taken than another stoppage was necessitated by a like offence on the part of the strangers, who were now being deservedly hooted by the spectators. From this free-kick the ball was sent through, though unfortunately without a second player having touched it. Following a decision against Brighton for off-side Clarke was nastily fouled, and immediately after the re-start the homester was badly kicked and fell to the ground groaning loudly. The customary attention was given; but with no effect, and the injured man was carried off the field. It was ascertained that his leg had been damaged and medical assistance was obtained, the verdict being that one of the small bones had been fractured. The on-lookers expressed themselves freely as to the matter. When the game was resumed Ekins centred well and McInnes headed on the wrong side of the post. A superb exhibition of custodianship by Perkins was all else of note before the interval. The visitors were soundly hissed when they left the ground for the usual "breather," and they had deserved this by playing one of the roughest games witnessed in Luton for many a long day. The midway score was:

BRIGHTON, 2; LUTON, 0.

When the re-start was made it was found that the "stripes" had but four forwards, W. Ford having dropped back to centre half. A couple of free-kicks against the leaders for off-side preceded and followed a corner to Luton. From one of the free-kicks Moore put up so well that the ball struck the cross-bar and dropped in front of goal. One of the Brighton defenders sent over and thus gave another corner. This was well taken and Durrant scored a pretty goal. The "stripes," though a man short, were playing up pluckily, and it was only by the exercise of undue vigour that the strangers managed to preserve their advantage. A foul against Brighton on W. Ford led to another corner to Luton and after strong pressure by the homesters the ball was at length got away. At the home end Perkins threw away well, though at the expense of a corner, and McLeod followed this up by missing in execrable fashion. Perkins a little later was unfortunate enough to carry the ball into the net while making a first-rate effort to clear. Yet more reprehensible play by Brighton was punished, while shortly after McArthur profited by a mis-kick by Moore and put on the fourth goal for his side. It was considered by many that the Brighton centre man was off-side; but as a matter of fact he was put on-side by Moore playing the ball. Not long after this C. Ford sent up extremely well and Brock obtained the second notch for Luton. A magnificent attempt from the Brighton left gave Perkins a deal of trouble and it seemed to many that the ball went under the bar. Mr. West was of a different opinion, however, and gave a corner when the ball had been dragged round the post by the keeper. Another extraordinary save

was brought off by the custodian at the cost of a further corner; indeed, Perkins was giving a glorious display just now. The crowd laughed heartily when the referee felt it incumbent upon himself to give the Brighton linesman some tuition as to where he should stand when the ball was thrown in from touch. At this stage it was observed that C. Ford was figuring at right back, while Ralley was again amongst the halves. The onlookers were down in the dumps when Willock put on a fifth point for the visitors, for there were several minutes to go and it seemed likely that the seashiders would break through again. However, the Luton contingent pulled themselves together and gave the opposition defence plenty to do. A couple of corners accrued to the "stripes" in rapid succession, and when the second of these had been taken one of the Brightonians deliberately handled the leather in front of goal. A penalty kick was given and W. Ford was deputed to take it. He made no mistake, and so the lead of the adversaries was reduced somewhat. Later on a further flag-kick was obtained by the locals, though without the desired result. The Luton contingent exerted themselves strenuously afterwards; but it was all without avail and accordingly when the end came the scores still stood thus:

BRIGHTON, 5; LUTON, 3.