

UNITED LEAGUE.

LUTON v. BRIGHTON UNITED.

A WRETCHED DISPLAY.

The new professional club established at Brighton made its first appearance in Luton on Monday afternoon. The defeat at Glossop made the local spectators not very sanguine of the result and there were never more than 500 present. What they saw was a rough, unpleasant scramble, in which fouls and feeling easily beat science. Brighton did not bring Hendry, the late Sheffield United captain, but played a strong eleven, McAvoy, who came as reserve, going on the line. Mr. G. West, of Kettering, was re'eree, with the following teams:

Luton: Perkins; Clarke and Moore; C. Ford, Ralley, and Hewitt; Durrant. McInnes, W. Ford, Brock and Ekins.

Brighton: Bullimer; Carter and Caldwell; Low, Farrell and Longair; Davidson, McLeod, McArthur, Willock and Malloch.

Several changes were made in the local team; Ralley, of the Reserves, took Sharpe's place at centre-half owing to the latter's poor display at Glossop, and Dow was incapacitated from playing at back, while Williams and Crump also stood down.

The first part of the game was in Luton's favour, but Brighton soon pulled themselves together and shaped like a winning team. They showed plenty of vigour and dash, and used their superior weight without stint. The result was that in 10 minutes, McArthur headed a neat goal, from a corner given by Moore. Perkins had soon to save from Malloch, and at the other end, W. Ford sent in a beauty, which Bullimer cleared well. Directly afterwards, McInnes shot splendidly, and the ball rebounded from the cross-bar, but the goal-keeper was not to be beaten.

Ekins raised fond hopes by a good run and centre, but again Bullimer was to the fore. Brighton, however, continued to play a strong game, and 18 minutes after the last score, Longair centred from the touch-line, and McArthur completely beat Perkins with a clever shot. There were loud protests by the spectators that the ball was over the line before the goal was scored, but it was a near thing in any case. My impression was that the ball was merely touching the line and not wholly over it, as the rule directs.

With the growing weakness of the referee in checking rough play, the exchanges became all the more vigorous. Amid loud laughter, Davidson made an awful miss, when Perkins had run out of goal. Durrant was badly fouled within the 12 yards line, but the referee only awarded an ordinary free-kick, from which Clarke shot over. Bullimer saved on the ground from a run by Durrant, and then 3 fouls in succession were given against the visitors, C. Ford ultimately sending the ball into the net untouched.

There were renewed hostile demonstrations by the spectators, when Clarke got floored in a tussle with Farrell and was seriously hurt. The injured player was lifted off the field, suffering from a severe twist and, it is feared, a broken bone in the ankle. For the rest of the game, Luton had only 10 men, and just before half-time Perkins affected two wonderful saves with the Brighton forwards quite clear. Interval score:

BRIGHTON 2 goals

LUTON 0 ..

The home side started the second half in promising fashion and pressed Brighton hard for some time, Durrant opening Luton's account from a corner kick. After effecting a clever save from McLeod, Perkins dropped through his own goal a shot by Davidson and the score stood at 3-1 for the visitors. Shortly afterwards, McArthur got away and shot No. 4, which was altogether offside. A smart rush by W. Ford produced Luton's second goal. As if to atone for his former mistakes, Mr. West gave a corner when Perkins had scooped out a shot from Willock, which seemed to have crossed the goal line. For a while, Luton only played one back, and the visitors were often put offside. Twice the home goal had narrow escapes, but ultimately Willock got clean away and scored No. 5. Thanks to a fast run by Brock, Luton forced a corner and one of the defenders fisted the ball out. Mr. West awarded a penalty kick. W. Ford took it and shot through the goal-keeper's legs. A poor game thus ended:

BRIGHTON 5 goals

LUTON 3 ..