

A FINE BID FOR VICTORY.

When the 'Spurs and Luton drew for a second time last week in the divisional final of the English Cup qualifying series it became requisite to arrange for the meeting-place for a third time of asking. Negotiations were conducted between the rival sides, but with no satisfactory result; indeed, the outcome seems to have intensified the straining of relations which has for a season or so been perceptible between the two clubs. The question of ground was referred to the English Association, despite the fact that it was known to both sides that 20 per cent. of the gross takings would have to be paid for hire. The Association ordered the clubs to play the match at Tufnell Park, a decision which did not afford anything like satisfaction in Luton at least. The ground is anything but a good one. It is of curious shape, is not by any means level and is not efficiently drained. Thus the men on Monday had to perform on a pitch that was saturated with wet and was as slippery as could well be, this being a condition which handicapped the players considerably. It had been thought that the fixing upon Tufnell Park would seriously affect the "gate"; but this matter at least there was no cause for complaint, for something like £214 was taken. It became known in Luton that the incapacitation of Hewitt and Durrant would let in Galbraith and Draper, W. Ford still being unfit to appear. This gloomy intelligence kept away many Lutonians who would otherwise have been present, and it was not surprising to find that a mere handful of enthusiasts travelled by the special train which departed from Luton shortly after mid-day. Kentish Town was reached in good time and a few minutes' walk brought the visitors to the ground. The early arrivals were more fortunate than those who came later on. They passed the turnstiles in comfort and secured good positions. As heavily laden trains began to arrive from Tottenham and elsewhere in the locality the pressure increased, and by-and-bye there was a tremendous crush at the turnstiles. The arrangements for controlling the crowd were little short of scandalous; there were not nearly enough policemen, and the consequence was that people were crushed and squeezed in extraordinary fashion. Indeed, the struggle on the part of the crowd to gain admittance to the ground was so fierce as to deter at least two Lutonians from entering. Once inside, the spectators were all right. At the entrance end the stands were a sea of faces when operations commenced, and it was computed that some 9,000 persons were present. Before proceeding to detail the play, it ought to be said that while the Lutonians had serious absences in the cases of Hewitt and Durrant, the 'Spurs were without Mela, who had sprained his back in the match with Sheppey on Saturday. However, McNaught was well enough to resume at centre half, and his inclusion proved a great advantage to his side.

The teams were:—

Luton: Goal, Perkins; backs, Dow and Williams; half-backs, O. Ford, Sharp, and Crump; forwards, Draper and McInnes (right), Kemplay (centre), Galbraith and Ekins (left).

Tottenham: Goal, Cullen; backs, Erentz and Cain; half-backs, Jones, McNaught, and Stormont; forwards, Smith and McKay (right), Joyce (centre), Cameron and Bradshaw (left).

Referee: Mr. J. Strawson; linesmen, Messrs. E. Gibbs (Luton) and H. D. Casey (Lottenham).

Luton won the toss and played with the wind and sun at their backs. The start was made punctually, excitement ruling high amongst the onlookers. The 'Spurs were first to show up prominently, and it was not long ere Bradshaw put in a brilliant centre which Williams dealt with just in time. Again the 'Spurs threatened danger; but nothing came of the attack, and a foul brought relief to the Lutonians. They advanced fairly well, indeed, though the upshot was that the ball was tamely steered over the line. Once more Luton swarmed to the assault; and then O. Ford spoiled the chances by attracting the notice of the referee. It did not require much of an offence to do this, by the way. The gentlest of pushes was as sharply visited as a rank foul, and the Lutonians as time went on began to feel that it was dangerous for them to look at an opponent, let alone charging him. It seemed to most people that the official was far too officious. But to resume. As though in revenge for the judgment against him O. Ford cleverly robbed Bradshaw when that player seemed to have got up a good pace, and then ensued some defensive work by Luton which would not have disgraced a First League club. From a centre by Cameron after a throw in McKay headed over. Luton made their way to the other end, where Draper, accepting a pass unwittingly given by a 'Spur, sent over the goal-line very tamely. Indeed, it was already apparent that the great weakness of the Lutonians was with the substitutes forward. They were hopelessly outclassed and rarely did anything of value. McInnes by a refreshing example of sturdy play enabled his comrades to trouble the Tottenham defence, though it was not long before the 'Spurs were once more to be found in Luton territory. Here Williams miskicked badly and let through his opponents, Bradshaw winding up by sending a good deal following a save by Cullen came a good deal of heavy kicking in mid-field, and hereabouts Tottenham gave a very smart display, their cleverness being unmistakable. Pretty passing on the right enabled the 'Spurs to break away; but Crump, who was showing up prominently, came to the rescue in fine style. A foul against Erents on Ekins was

balanced by one against Luton, from which Smith sent over the line. McNaught was playing a beautiful game at centre half. It was not so much his clever tackling and neat headwork that was noticeable as his accurate feeding of the forwards. He was in fine fettle, though not looking very robust, and he rendered invaluable service to his side. Later on McInnes shot over the bar from a centre by Ekins, and at the other extremity Perkins saved from Jones. Joyce, who was conspicuous repeatedly, was cheered for a capital overhead effort which rendered it necessary for Perkins to clear. The keeper dealt with another beauty from Joyce; but before he could recover himself Bradshaw had fastened upon the ball and sent it into the net with a grand shot. It ought to be conceded, however, that the attempt was of such a nature that it is doubtful whether Perkins could have saved under any circumstances. Another point that should be mentioned is that immediately preceding the scoring of the goal Mr. Strawson unaccountably failed to take cognisance of a vicious foul by a 'Spur. Just after the re-start Cain put in a long kick with the result that the ball bounced up and almost found its way into the net, Perkins tipping it on the net at the cost of a corner. From this Jones steered wide. Fouls against Sharp and Williams were given, the latter being a bad one. McNaught from the place kick transferred to Bradshaw, who shot hard but far from straight. A corner to Luton brought a period of sturdy pressure but no tangible result, a foul against Crump eventually raising the siege. Dow, who had been exhibiting superb form, centred with a grand long kick, this also failing. The 'Spurs were more fortunate, for after some rocky play by the Luton halves Cameron obtained possession and beat Perkins with a shot that was absolutely unstoppable. This was 28 minutes from the start, and the scoring of the second point was generally regarded as having practically settled the game. For a minute or two the Luton lads played as though dispirited, and the Tottonians were able to remain in Luton territory. Perkins gave an unproductive flag-kick, and afterwards the custodian was nastily fouled by Joyce. More pressure by the 'Spurs was followed by Sharp securing when in a good situation and tamely shooting outside the posts. McKay sustained an injury and retired. Fine play by Ekins led to a capable centre by Crump. Just afterwards, Smith secured close to the Luton goal, which had been left by Perkins in order to clear, and to the general surprise the ex-Preston man missed what seemed a certain goal. A long attempt by Crump did not come off, and all the other play of interest in the first half consisted of some bustling of Perkins. At the interval the positions were:

'SPURS, 2, LUTON, 0.

It was expected that in the second portion the 'Spurs, with the wind and slope in their favour, would pile on several goals, and they started as though determined to do it. After a bit they became listless and unconcerned, and the second half was infinitely tamer than the opening period. Indeed, had the Lutonians had a reliable front string they might have found it possible to do something admirable. As it was they played like a beaten team, though in justice to the defence it ought to be said that this part of the team was beyond reproach. Even the Tottenham supporters literally applauded Perkins and the pair of Luton backs, who gave a magnificent display. Neither was allowed a minute's rest; all was bustle and hard kicking, for the very good reason that they had no assistance worth speaking of from the forwards. In saying this it is not desired to belittle the efforts of McInnes and Ekins, both of whom were very prominent. In speaking of the second half it should be explained that McKay appeared when the resumption was made. On the Luton side an alteration had been made, Galbraith going to the centre and Kemplay to inside left. This change did not, however, work very well. Early in the moiety Draper got off nicely and was twice fouled, once being when near goal. A corner fell to Luton and C. Ford sent over the bar. Ekins was punished for patting the ball down with his hands and a foul against Luton was equalised by one against Stormont. Perkins ran out at one stage and cleared finely. Just afterwards the keeper brought off a glorious save. The ball had been sent in and dealt with; it was returned and hit the bar; it again found its way in, when Perkins dealt with it admirably. This was quite the best sample of play throughout a far from brilliant game. Jones missed later on with a useful try, while Draper became responsible for a good centre. Joyce developed a tendency to foul the custodian, and he was very properly checked more than once. A good attack by Luton brought a fine shot from the right and Galbraith headed in well, Cullen saving twice in first-rate style. Mr. Strawson pulled up C. Ford for such a trivial offence that even Mr. Bentley, the President of the League, was overheard to inquire what it was for. It was a ridiculous decision. Subsequently a beauty from Ekins presented Kemplay with an opening; but that player slipped at the crucial moment, and so the opportunity passed unheeded. The remainder of the game was most uninteresting, and the spectators wished heartily for the whistle to blow. This it at length did, when the 'Spurs had qualified for the first round of the competition proper with the following figures:

'SPURS, 2; LUTON, 0.