

ENGLISH CUP RE-PLAY.

LUTON v. TOTTENHAM SPURS.

THE TOWN OUSTED AT LAST.

The English Association having fixed Toffee Park, Holloway, as the scene of the third meeting between these English Cup rivals, the Luton team journeyed to North London on Monday. It was a gloriously fine day, but the ground, which was flooded when Luton last played there against the 2nd East Glouces, was sodden with Sunday's rain. Owing to the accident to Hewitt, the forward line was again changed by the inclusion of Draper and Galbraith, from the Reserves. In the Tottenham team, Evans replaced Mella, who was injured at Shippey, and McNaught appeared among the halves. About 7,000 spectators were present.

Mr. Strawson was again referee, and had Messrs. Co-ey and Gibbons location, with the following teams:—

Luton:—Perkins; Dow and Williams; C. Ford, Sharp and Crump; Draper, Moloney, Kempley, Galbraith and Ekins.

Tottenham:—Collen; Evans and Cain; Jones, McNaught, and Stormont; Smith, McKay, Joyce, Cameron and Bradshaw.

The match proved a great attraction, and crowds of people were pouring in when Joyce kicked off against sun and wind, Moloney having won the toss. The treacherous ground, and the over-exaggerance of both sets of players to score, spelt the game from the point of view of scientific football. Owing to their manifest weakness in front, Luton were practically sure of defeat from the start.

Abundant fouls were awarded by Mr. Strawson, the first being against Stormont, but from a second against C. Ford, McKay headed over a centre from Cameron. Profiting by a neat pass from Galbraith, Ekins put across a fine centre, but Draper shot wide. The Luton goal had a lucky escape when Williams failed to get to his kick, yet the ball went behind. Collen had the first save of the day—a long, easy shot—and then Perkins kicked out from Smith. The Spurs put in some good work, assisted by a foul against Kempley, and Luton replied, Moloney sending over the bar a centre from Ekins—an unlucky loss of a fair chance.

With the Luton front line disorganised, the back division had to bear the brunt of the fight. For some time they frustrated the scrambling efforts of the Spurs' forwards. After Joyce had missed an opening, the ball was centred from the right, though the referee passed unnoted a bad foul on Crump, and Bradshaw banged the leather through from Perkins' return. The first goal of the day arrived 19 minutes from the start.

The Spurs made fresh efforts, and Perkins had to tip a high shot over his head. Luton also took a corner, but the ball was scrimmaged behind. Of the next 6 fouls, all but one were against Luton, and even the London crowd recognised the referee's partiality. Just 10 minutes after the last score, Cameron scored No. 2 with a clever shot, which hit the mark within the angle between the cross-bar and upright. Fouls against Williams and Crump helped Tottenham considerably, and an impetuous rush by Joyce upon Perkins was at last penalised by a free-kick in Luton's favour. Jones was rather vigorous, and severely marked Ekins. A short stoppage was made for an injury to McKay, who was afterwards repeatedly offside. Perkins saved smartly from Cameron, and then witnessed an awful miss by Smith, who had a clear opening. Just before half-time, Collen had his second handful from Crump, and the teams crossed over:—

Spurs	...	2 goals
Luton	...	0

Many folk who hold a higher opinion of Tottenham's Cup-tie form than myself, expected to see them treble their score in the second half, but all we saw was a wearisome succession of failures in goal-scoring, the monotony of which was only broken by random, straggling runs by the Luton forwards.

Kempsey exchanged places with Galbraith, and early in the second half, Draper made a good run down the field but was fouled twice, without Mr. Stevenson giving the slightest attention. Ekins lifted the ball down as he was getting away, and the referee did not forget to see it. Perkins saved well from Bradshaw, and aroused great enthusiasm by a brilliant clearance in a hot scrimmage on his goal-line. Another onslaught was made by the Spurs, and Perkins was enticed out of goal. This gave the Tottenham forwards a fine chance, but they failed miserably.

Galbraith passed well to Draper but he was offside, and then Smith fouled Cramp. Mr. Stevenson failed to notice a flagrant offside infringement by McKay and Bradshaw sent the ball flying over the bar, while Perkins saved coolly from McNaught. There were plenty of goal-kicks for Luton, and after taking one of them, Dow was badly "winded," recovering soon afterwards.

For kicking at Cramp, Smith had a foul given against him, and this gave Luton an opportunity of retaliation. Unhappily, the ball went behind, but Luton came again, Cullen saving a decent shot from Draper. For the second time, Joyce fouled the Luton goal-keeper, and the visitors began to have more of the game. Indeed, a centre by Ekins might certainly have been converted by Kempsey, who was close upon Cullen. Both teams had had more than enough, and the bored spectators were glad to hear the final whistle:

SPURS	..	..	..	3	goals
LUOTON	..	..	..	0	..

Football Notes.

With such an attenuated team as Luton were able to muster on Monday, there was not the slightest prospect of victory, and the Town directors have the consolation of receiving £80 for accepting the inevitable, together with £150 from the two previous drawn games. From a financial standpoint, the English Cup tie have been a god-send to the Luton Club. It was a mistake to have the game played at Tufel Park, as the ground is one of the worst in London, but it seems that the two clubs could not agree about having the re-play at Tottenham.

Luton were willing to visit Northumberland Park on payment of £75 and half the gate. Mr. Brettell, the Spurs' secretary, pointed out to me that this was a very unreasonable demand, as it meant that they would only get £25 from a £200 gate. The Spurs were willing to give £75 and half the gate over £150, which, I think, was not much more reasonable than Luton's terms. However, the disagreement involved the payment of 20 per cent. of Monday's proceeds to the Tufel Park proprietors, and as both clubs want money, this was more foolishness.

Some of the London papers have made themselves ridiculous by praising the "immeasurable superiority" of the Tottenham team. In my opinion, very small credit is due to them for winning by 3-0 against such a make-shift team as Luton had to put in the field. With Moore, Durrant, Hewitt and W. Ford absent on the sick list, it was surprising that the Town men made a show at all.

The failure on the Luton side was, of course, among the forwards, where Hewitt's dashing cup-tie form was sadly missed. Draper and Galbraith were quite out-classed in smartness, while Kempsey was moderate and missed a good chance. In default of decent partners, Ekins and Moloney worked in vain. The halves kicked in very random fashion, and bad as the forwards were, the intermediate line were to blame for some of their weakness, as they repeatedly passed the ball to a Tottenham man.

Once again the backs and Perkins saved the day from utter disgrace. Dow has improved 50 per cent. since the opening of the season, and Williams did splendidly. The Luton goal-keeper effected some really brilliant saves.

Against a determined defence, the Tottenham forwards made a poor show, and I am not so sure that they will defeat Newton Heath, even at Northumberland Park. Though constantly pressing most of the last 45 minutes, the Spurs' front line failed repeatedly in front of goal. Cameron showed the best science of the Eve, and Joyce has given a moderate exhibition in all three games against Luton. The defence had no easy task, and McNaught was the shining light.