

LUTON AND THE UNITED LEAGUE.

DRAW WITH WOOLWICH.

BOISTEROUS WEATHER: ROUGH PLAY.

Though the Luton authorities had been very unfortunate in having to play two League matches away from home at Christmas-time, they had no reason to grumble at the fixture for Tuesday in the United League contest. Woolwich Arsenal is always a popular fixture at Luton and the experience of Tuesday showed that interest in the periodical meetings of the teams has not in any degree diminished. The weather was as bad as could be imagined, save that snow did not fall. There was a very high wind which was cutting in its coldness and rain descended copiously at frequent intervals. The ground was in a shocking state, pools of water standing at various points, while the turf was very slippery. As a consequence of these unpleasant conditions the play was not of the most scientific description. It was rather characterised by the bringing into play of unduly rough tactics, the home lot in this regard being more sinned against than sinning. The attendance was, considering the circumstances, surprisingly good. The grandstand was filled to overflowing and there was a capital muster on the terraces, the "gate" being computed at something like 3,000. The game was followed with eager interest by the crowd, and applause was not wanting.

The sides were constituted thus:—

Luton: Goal, Perkins; backs, Dow and Moore; half-backs, C. Ford, Williams and Crump; forwards, Brock and McInnes (right), Kemplay (centre), Burgess and Ekins (left).

Arsenal: Goal, Ord; backs, Anderson and McPhee; half-backs, Moir, Dick, and Davis; forwards, McGeech and Haywood (right), Hunt (centre), Hannah and Shaw (left).

Referee: Mr. J. C. Tillotson (Birmingham); Luton linesman, Mr. W. Ford.

The Luton captain won the toss, which was of considerable advantage, his side thereby obtaining the assistance of the wind. The "reds" were first to become conspicuous for good play, some dashing runs by the forwards enabling them to advance. However, Williams got in the way, and so all was well for Luton. A beautiful pass by Brock enabled the "stripes" to get away neatly, and for a minute or two they stayed in the Woolwich confines, a foul eventually driving them back. The influence of the bad state of the pitch upon the play was already very noticeable, the men having to literally plough their way through the slush and water. Brock and Kemplay were assisted in a first-rate run by McInnes, another capital exhibition by the home forwards being wound up by a good shot which Ord saved with difficulty. The locals maintained the pressure until C. Ford was penalised for a foul throw-in, this bringing relief to the sorely taxed Woolwich defence. A superb kick by Moore was the most important item in the next few minutes, the Arsenal relieving the monotony later on by breaking away. There was noticed a good deal of indiscriminate kicking and rushing afterwards, the combination of both sides being mediocre. The home lot were infusing a good deal of dash into their display, and they were certainly far more scrupulous in their methods than were their opponents. A lovely shot by Crump gave Ord a deal of trouble, a beauty from Williams going wide just after. Kemplay wound up a dashing run by beating the custodian and landing the ball in the net, Luton thus scoring the first point in the game. Following a foul against the visitors the Lutonians indulged in more attacks, a foul against Crump ultimately bringing relief. Williams steered over the bar with a well-meant effort. The "reds" were again detected in indulging in unfair tactics, Luton following suit later on. This was the more to be regretted in that the locals were attacking. A magnificent centre by Ekins produced a good save from Ord. The escape was very narrow, for a couple of the home forwards were close upon the custodian when he managed to obtain possession of the ball. Dow was deservedly cheered for a very fine display by means of which he robbed the Arsenal forwards and sent the ball careering towards the charge of Ord. A free-kick against the strangers was well taken by Moore and nicely sent on by Williams. The Woolwich custodian, however, succeeded in preserving his goal from capture, though let it be observed that the save was not devoid of an element of luck. Hand against Crump brought a corner to the "reds," following which another beauty from the foot of Williams travelled wide of the mark. The visitors indulged in some pretty passing, though without improving their prospects very materially. A throw-in close to the home goal-line led to danger being threatened; but the defence of the locals proved trustworthy. McInnes hoisted the ball over the bar after some excellent play by C. Ford. Brock was vilely ruled not far from the "reds'" goal, Kemplay sending him with a capable screw shot. Again the Woolwich "infants" swarmed to the attack, and once more the Luton defenders showed their mettle. Brock was "lowned" atrociously by one of the Arsenalites when he looked like becoming dangerous; he was charged in the back and sent spinning on his face. The free-kick was taken by Dow, who sent over the line. Moore was possible for a grand shot; this was kept out by Ord with extreme difficulty. C. Ford attracted the attention of the referee by unfair methods, and a corner fell to the visitors in consequence. Ord brought off a clever though somewhat risky save. Towards the end of the first half Hunt found himself in front of the home goal with nobody to beat but the custodian—and he failed. His shot was a beauty and would have beaten many players less capable than Perkins: as it was the custodian saved in a manner that evoked great applause.

rival score:

LUTON, 1; ARSENAL, 0

I had

LUTON, 1 ; ARSENAL, 0.

ly in the second portion, when the Arsenal had
ind in their favour, a foul was awarded against
visitors. This had the effect of beating them back
space ; but it was not long ere they were again
king, and a corner was given by Perkins. A hot
l of pressure followed, though with no result so
as the scoring was concerned. A grand centre by
s travelled right across the goal-mouth, McInnes
ng the ball wide of the mark. The leaders once
attacked, Kemplay being knocked off the ball
goal in a manner that many thought ought to have
ht the interposition of the referee. Mr. Tillotson
ot see the matter in that light, though, and so
nore the Arsenalites escaped. More pressure by
was noticed, and then fouls against Burgess and
ams had the effect of transferring the scene of
ations to the home end, where the defence was
rely tried. A nasty foul on Crump was taken cogni-
ce of by the referee. Williams incurred the
 displeasure of that official, and shortly afterwards Mr.
tillotson found it necessary to caution Molr. That
ayer was guilty of abominable behaviour towards
ins and he was soundly hissed by the spectators—
d deservedly so, for it was one of the worst exhibi-
ns during the game. McInnes was the next victim of
randue vigour of the visitors, who were now casting
ence to the winds and relying mainly upon physical
length. Williams was twice pulled up for fouls of a
s serious nature, following which the Arsenal players
t within range and shot well, though ineffectually.
rkins became conspicuous by reason of another
perb save. Burgess was pulled up for off-side when
se to the visitors' goal. After another sample of
oir's bad temper, Dow was stopped for fouling near
al, another fine save ensuing. Ekins dashed away
bsequently and struck the post with a grand attempt.
ore fouling by the "reds" was furnished, and Ord
eared splendidly once. Towards the end the Arsenal
oke away and scored in a scrimmage, Perkins having
ved once. The remainder of the game was very
sely contested ; but there was no more scoring, and
en the end came the teams stood on an equality with
e following totals :

LUTON, 1 ; ARSENAL, 1.