



SECOND LEAGUE.

LUTON v. WOOLWICH ARSENAL.

THE TOWN AGAIN UNLUCKY.

Owing to the terribly rough weather of Saturday, only a small band of Lutonians accompanied the team to Plumstead, where they played the return 2nd League match with the Woolwich Arsenal team. Rain fell steadily during most of the afternoon and only about 3,000 spectators were present. The pitch was in an awful condition, and was cut up so badly in places that correct play was out of the question. The home team performed much better in the mud than Luton, and in the end won a decisive victory by 6 goals to 2. They deserved their points, as from start to finish they played a winning game, combining well and attacking with a determination that is often lacking. McConnell was absent from the Arsenal ranks, and McAvoy was brought in to partner McPhee. Shaw, who hails from Durham, and is playing as an amateur at present, was given a further trial at outside left, and although the conditions were not favourable to a good display, he exhibited form that should justify the Arsenal executive in retaining his services. Luton experienced rather hard luck, as Hewitt, who took Birch's place on the left wing, got injured early in the game in a collision with Dick, and was practically of no further use to his side. He limped about for some considerable time, but eventually retired for good. This, of course, upset the Luton combination considerably, Ekins being out of his place at inside left. In the course of the game Dow and Shaw collided, and the Lutonian suffered with a bleeding nose. While he was off the field a few minutes the Arsenal made matters very warm, and a goal resulted.

The teams were as follows:—

Woolwich Arsenal: Ord; McPhee and McAvoy; Moir, Dick, and Davis; Hunt, Haywood, McGeoch, Hannah and Shaw.

Luton: Perkins; Dow and Moore; Ford, Williams, and Crump; Brock, McInnes, Kemplay, Hewitt and Ekins.

It will be noticed that Sharp and Durrant were missing from the Luton team. The visitors won the toss and had the advantage of the wind. They made a sensational start, as less than a minute from the kick-off, Ekins put in a fine run and McInnes passed to Kemplay, who headed through a splendid goal. However, the Arsenal men speedily equalised, Haywood beating Perkins with a capital shot. After this play settled down, and neither side could claim any material advantage. Hewitt was badly fouled by Dick, and the Luton player suffered in consequence, hurting his knee so badly as to be practically of no further use to his side. He and Ekins changed places, but the outside-left seemed altogether out of place in his new position. The Reds kept the ball down, and accustomed themselves to the muddy ground better than the visitors, and Perkins was frequently tested in goal. Dow played well at back, as did Ford at half, but Crump was weak, and danger was threatened from the rushes of Hunt and Haywood. After Ord had saved a couple of good shots by Kemplay and McInnes, the home team got busy again, Hannah and Shaw being most prominent, but the visitors kept them out, and breaking away to the other end, Kemplay gave Luton the lead after about 30 minutes' play.

Shaw, soon after this came into collision with Dow, and the Luton full-back stood off with a bleeding nose. While he was resting the Arsenal pressed, and a smart attack ended in Hunt equalising. The home team now had much the best of the play, and looked like adding to the score in less than a minute. The defence, however, prevailed, and a run by Ekins transferred play to the other end, where McPhee came to the aid of the Reds. It was not long before Luton were again hard pressed, and a poor return by Moore let in Hunt, who scored a very soft goal. The Arsenal further improved their position before half-time, as from fast play in front of goal the ball went to Hunt, who scored with a clinking good shot, the ball going in off the goalkeeper at a terrific pace. The score at half-time thus:—

ARSENAL	...	...	...	4
LUTON	...	...	...	2

After changing ends it was thought the Reds would further add to their score, especially when Hewitt left the field for good, leaving Luton with only ten men. They had much the best of the game, but could only augment their figures by two. Both these goals were scored by Haywood, the first after twelve minutes' play, and the second towards the close, after Perkins had saved several shots in fine style. The result, therefore, was:—

ARSENAL	...	...	...	6
LUTON	...	...	...	2