



SECOND LEAGUE.

LUTON v. BARNSELEY.

A GOOD WIN.

The second half of the Luton football season began auspiciously on Saturday with a 4-1 victory over Barnsley St. Peter's, who defeated Luton by 2-1 in Yorkshire last October. The visitors arrived over-night with the veteran McCartney, the old Luton back, and a great many local spectators were anxious to see how "Father," as the portly back was nick-named, shaped with his new team. It was a wet and misty afternoon with the ground very heavy, and about 2,000 onlookers were present, when the referee, Mr. J. E. Carpenter, of Leicester, started with the following teams:—

Luton—Perkins; Dow and Moore; Sharp, Williams, and Crump; Brock, McInnes, Kemplay, Birch, and Ekins.

Barnsley: Greaves; Porteous and McCartney; Howard, Burleigh and Craven; Davis, Hepworth, Lees, McCullough and Jones.

In the local team, the two Fords and Durrant were resting, and Birch played his first game on Luton ground this season, though he appeared at Burton and Lincoln during the Town's Christmas tour.

A cheer of recognition went up as "Mac" went to toss with McInnes, but there was no advantage in winning the spin of the coin. Barnsley started, and the game became fast and lively at once. The visitors' centre forward got dangerous, but shot over the bar. Luton then took up the running, aided by a free-kick, and a mis-kick by Porteous gave Kemplay an open goal, of which he promptly availed himself by banging the ball past Greaves in a trice. The referee had to consult the linesmen before awarding a goal, but, as a Barnsley man put Kemplay on-side by playing the ball, the Luton crowd had the satisfaction of seeing the first point registered in four minutes from the start.

In spite of the muddy ground, the players went for all they were worth. McInnes forced a corner off McCartney, and Williams sent in a grand shot, which the keeper saved. Then Perkins had to clear from Davis, and a foul by Sharp brought the visitors close to the home goal. "Father" placed the kick, and from a crowd of players, Jones shot the ball into the far corner of the Luton net, thus equalising matters 8 minutes after the first score.

Perkins had to save smartly from Burleigh, a corner resulting, but the Barnsley goal-keeper had far more to do. The local halves and vanguard forced the onslaught, and a perfect bombardment of the visitors' goal followed, amid great excitement. A foul was given for Luton close up, but Williams had no luck with two attempts. At last, Sharp sent in a hard shot, Greaves just stopping the ball on the ground; however, Birch was close handy, and hustled through goal No. 2 amid loud cheers. In the remaining quarter of an hour, Birch again showed up with dashing work, which must have brought another goal but for Brock being offside. As a result of an offside rush by Jones, Perkins got a baptism of mud. Half-time score:

LUTON 2 goals

BARNSELEY 1 "

A mist came over the ground, and threatened to make the finish doubtful, but it cleared off sufficiently to avoid risk. A few minutes after the start, the Luton forwards ran through all opposition, and Kemplay scored No. 3. The crowd next witnessed a strange and unusual event, three fouls in succession being given against Ekins for some very palpable pushing. "George" is a most gentlemanly player, and scorns the petty, secret methods of the ordinary professional. So when he indulges in the wicked luxury of a foul, a referee with half an eye can spot the infringement half a mile away! The crowd smiled accordingly, and our only straightforward, honest "Georgie" blushed.

Porteous got hurt in a rush by McInnes, who would otherwise have scored, and Ekins made a wonderfully fast sprint down his wing, but hesitated too long before shooting. Crump very artistically sent Davis sprawling in the mud, as the Barnsley winger was trying to emulate Ekins' speed, but the foul was of no use to the Yorkshire men. Greaves ran out and kicked away from a dash by the home forwards. Some 23 minutes had passed, when McCartney was sent off the field for "chipping" the referee. This, of course, made matters awkward for the visitors, and deprived the rest of the play of much interest. Ten minutes later, Birch utilised a centre from Ekins and scored No. 4. Luton had all the rest of the play, and Barnsley had narrow escapes, Perkins only handling the ball once in the second half. The end came:—

LUTON 4 goals

BARNSELEY 1 goal