

UNITED LEAGUE.

LUTON v. BRISTOL CITY.

ANOTHER DEFEAT.

The beautiful, sunny afternoon of Monday ought to have attracted a large crowd to the Town ground to see the game between Luton and the Bristol club, but barely a hundred people were present at the start, and the "gate" never much exceeded 600. Both teams had reserve men in the front rank, the City having suffered as much as Luton, of late, through injuries.

The teams were as follows, Sergt. Barrow being referee:—

Luton: Perkins; Dow and Moore; C. Ford, Williams and Sharp; Brock, McInnes, Galbraith, Boutwood and Crump.

Bristol: Monteith; Barker and Caie; Stewart, McLean and Hamilton; Langham, Gard, Murphy, O'Brien and Potter.

The ground was in splendid condition for a fast game. Monteith was first called upon by a grand shot from Williams, and Langham got in a fine run to the Luton end, but Dow cleared. However, Perkins soon had to save smartly from Gard. After 12 minutes' play, Bristol pressed hard, and a swift low shot came to Perkins from Potter. The Luton custodian had little time to clear, as the City forwards were rushing down upon his charge. He just managed to pick up the ball, but Gard pounced on it immediately, and scored No. 1 for Bristol City.

Hard work by McInnes gave Boutwood a chance, but he only forced a corner off Monteith. The spectators grumbled very much at Galbraith, who seemed to head and kick the wrong way with strange regularity. The Bristol team made three visits in succession to the Luton goal, but Perkins was at home whenever wanted. Both Langham and Potter were conspicuous on the wing for the visitors, who seemed to show more method than Luton in keeping the lively ball under control. After a while, Brock raced clean away, but Crump's shot was cleared by Monteith in clever fashion. Next Galbraith put up nicely, and Tommy McInnes had hard lines in hitting the cross-bar. Luton came again, and Barker put behind a shot from Crump. Perkins had a clear shot from Murphy, which he nearly took over the line, and then a foul against Ford made him bring off a smart clearance in an exciting scrimmage. Close upon half-time, Williams, who had been working very hard, sent in a neat shot, which Monteith saved. Interval score:

BRISTOL	...	...	...	1 goal
LUTON	...	...	...	0 "

Resuming, Luton woke up and gave the Bristolians abundant work in defence. Monteith did wonders in goal, once saving at full length on the ground, while Brock nearly did the trick. After 5 minutes' play, Potter sent in a high shot, and, from Moore's foot, the ball sailed into the net before Perkins could clear. Luton next had a look in, Boutwood nearly "bustling" Monteith through his goal, but 10 minutes later, Potter centred hard and Murphy scored No. 3 with a clean shot. Gard shot splendidly but Perkins saved and repeated the feat a second later from Langham.

Greatly to the joy of the local spectators, McInnes scored a beautiful goal for Luton, from a throw-in, about 12 minutes from the finish. The Luton men improved in dash, but the City defence was too sound to be penetrated. Murphy got in a clear run, but Dow just beat him as he was on the point of shooting through. Result:—

BRISTOL	..	..	..	3 goals
LUTON	..	..	..	1 goal

It was a smart and interesting game. The local forwards were very weak in front of goal, though McInnes worked untiringly, and Boutwood played in very promising style. Williams was in splendid form at centre-half, but Perkins had no luck at all. The Bristol men, who expect to be champions of the Southern League, had a clever and dashing line of forwards, Langham, of Notts County, being the shining light, and Murphy being conspicuous at centre. Stewart, the old Everton captain, was among the halves, and Barker, who gets his International cap this year, played a magnificent game at back, while Caie, the old Arsenal centre-forward, was most effective as his partner. Bristol City divided a £550 gate with Sunderland, and are in a very flourishing position, which Luton may well envy.