

LUTON V. MILLWALL ATHLETIC.

Only 1000 spectators were attracted to the Town ground on Monday afternoon by the first visit of Millwall to Luton this season. It was a beautifully sunny afternoon, and the game was a vast advance on the display against Blackpool. The Millwall men brought full strength except Turner, and Crawford, a half back, played outside right instead. Luton were without Brook, Malross, and Williams, and played reserves in their stead.

Mr. Peters, of Kettering, had charge of the teams as follows:

Millwall: Allen; Burgess and Davis; Morrison, Stewart and Miller; Crawford, Calvey, Hill, Peter Turnbull and Gidson.

Luton: Perkins; Dow and Moore; Crump, Bailey and C. Ford; Durrant, W. Ford, Kempsey, Hootwood and Dinmock.

Luton lost the ball and started against the wind. Thanks to a good return by Dow, the home forwards pressed at once, and Durrant was within an ace of scoring, just grazing the post. Calvey made a fine individual run, but the ball went behind. Perkins cleared with a beautiful drop kick, and Gidson shot outside the net. Nice work by Durrant and Ford brought Luton to the other end, and twice the Millwall goal had narrow escapes. Perkins saved cleanly a couple of low shots, and tipped a high shot from Calvey over the bar. Following the corner, Burgess was penalised for fouling. Some clever heading by Hootwood and Kempsey was spilt by Dinmock shooting wide.

After 20 minutes' play, "hands" were given against C. Ford near the touch-line, and Davis placing well, Crawford, who was standing close up and looked offside, just slipped the ball inside the net. It was not a very satisfactory goal, but it counted as Millwall's first. "Ginger" Turnbull tried a hard one, but Calvey was almost embracing Perkins and was ruled offside. Miller was very rough on Dinmock, and from a foul against him Millwall contended a corner.

A mighty roar of derision greeted a bad shot by Gidson, who had been a passenger so far. Calvey sent in a high, twisting shot, which Perkins skillfully saved. Crawford was constantly offside, but Millwall gained two corners, Calvey winning in the attack. Allen had the best save from Hootwood. Just before half-time, there was a lively scrimmage in front of

Millwall		1 goal
Levon		0 ..

Rebounding, two fouls were given against the visitors, Golden being one of the offenders. Stewart put the ball over the bar in the most old way. Loud applause greeted a splendid save by Perkins, who threw himself at full length in his goal to clear a nasty shot from Calvey. Play continued fairly even, but Millwall played the more robust game. Allan saved a fine shot by Crump, and Levon had very hard time in not scoring, a shot by W. Ford just re-bouncing off Davis in goal, when the Millwall custodian was quite beaten. Kempsey made a run down the field; Allan ran out and was penalised for "carrying" the ball. The kick was splendidly taken by Dow, and the ball went through a forest of legs into the Millwall net.

Thus Levon equalised after 20 minutes. Soon afterwards, Perkins enthused the crowd by three brilliant saves in quick succession. Millwall took three corners without result, and hands against Halley alone up produced nothing. Play became quite exciting, as Millwall made desperate attempts to win. A flying shot by Calvey was cleared overhead with wonderful judgment by Perkins, and Golden was jostled as he headed behind. About 15 minutes before the finish, C. Ford was hurt in a collision with Stewart, and soon retired from the field.

With only 10 men, Levon had to act smartly on the defensive, and an exciting battle took place in the home goal, the ball striking both the cross-bar and upright, yet Perkins saved in marvellous fashion, to the huge delight of the crowd.

At last, Dinmock got in a run, and Davis mis-kicking, Kempsey was left with only Allan to beat, but, unfortunately, he over-ran the ball. Twice more Perkins saved brilliantly, once dashing out amid a crowd of opponents and then putting the ball round the post. Alan, from the corner, Stewart headed the winning goal of the match—3 minutes before the finish. Goals:—

Millwall		2 goals
Levon		1 goal

The "United League Champions" flag drooped sadly over the Luton Town ground on Monday, for the champions of last season are now in the ignominious position of bottom in the League. Millwall are now practically certain of the championship, their record being: 16 matches played, 11 won, 2 lost, 3 drawn, 32 goals for and 15 against; 25 points. Look at Luton's figures and blush: 17 matches played, 2 won, 12 lost, 5 drawn, 21 goals for and 57 against; 7 points.

It was a fine match, for interest, excitement, and scientific football. But what a contrast there was in attendance to the thousands of three or four years ago, when Millwall's visit used to produce the record "gate" of the year! It was sadly eloquent of the decline of football enthusiasm in Luton with the reverse of the Club's fortunes.

One man came out of the match with brilliance and distinction, and that was Perkins. Those who were present on Monday have the satisfaction of knowing that the display of goal-keeping they then witnessed will not soon be surpassed. In the second half especially, Millwall fairly bombarded the Luton goal, but Perkins was equal to everything that came along, until, in the last few minutes, our old captain, "Billy" Stewart, applied his head to a corner-kick and just eluded Perkins' vigilance. But before that, Perkins had saved a "header" from Hill and some powder shots from Calvey with almost superhuman skill. There was loud cheering for Perkins at the finish, and some of his admirers would have "chaired" him in the dressing room, but the wily and modest custodian dodged them like he would an amateur forward and got clear of their kind attentions. All Lutonians will wish Perkins the best of luck, for he has done the Town Club sterling service, and the last game he played for Luton on Monday will long be remembered.

Millwall had the best of the game, and though, for the sake of Perkins, a draw would have pleased everyone, yet Millwall would have been unlucky to have lost. True, Luton missed two good chances, and the forwards were again devoid of any plan of campaign. Kempley seems a most unfortunate player. He works hard, but his lack of judgment made him come off second best almost every time. W. Ford was almost useless, and is now showing very disappointing form, but Darnant was a trifle better than on Saturday. Bostwood and Dismock played fairly well on the left, but were out-classed in experience.

The same criticism applies to Kelley, who stuck well to Hill, the old Sheffield United forward, but was occasionally over-weighted. Crump played a better game than for some weeks, and Dow was splendidly safe. I thought Charlie Ford looked well after Gibbs and "Ginger" Tarbush, neither of whom did anything much in the first half.

Of the Millwall forwards, Calvey, the captain, was most conspicuous, and he worked unflaggingly. Sometimes he dribbled too much, but his locomotion always spell danger, while his shooting was deadly. Crawford persistently hung offside. Stewart, the old Luton captain, showed up only moderately, and has played many fine games for Luton, but he told me he did not want to be too hard on his old club. Miller and the backs were occasionally given to "feeling," but Allen had little to do in goal.