

Football

SECOND LEAGUE.

LUTON v. NEWTON HEATH.

A DISAPPOINTING LOSS.

The rough and boisterous wind spoilt the chances of good football on the visit of Newton Heath to Luton on Saturday, but the weather kept fine, about 2,000 spectators being present. The Manchester team had won two away matches at Blackpool and Barnsley, and came to Luton with some confidence. In the local team, C. Ford and Smith were given a rest. Mr. J. Stark refereed with the following 22 men:—

Luton: F. Gentle; Dow and Williams; Birch, Ralley, and Crump; Brock, McInnes, Kemplay, W. Ford, and Ekins.

Newton Heath: Barrett; Stafford and Erentz; Draycott, Griffiths, and Cartwright; Bryant, Morgan, Lee, Gillespie, and Cassidy.

Losing the toss was a serious affair for Luton, as they had to play against sun and wind. The conditions were greatly in favour of the visitors, but Luton made a plucky show, W. Ford and Ekins displaying good combination. After Dow had saved several times, Bryant got away and shot hard. Gentle dropped the ball in front of goal, and Lee, luckily for Luton, missed the chance. Directly afterwards, Gillespie netted the ball, but was ruled offside. A fine run was made by the home forwards, and, from Ekins' centre, Brock lost a glorious opening. Only 9 minutes had passed when Newton Heath scored in the tamest fashion through Lee. Gentle shaped poorly at this, but did better with a beauty from Griffiths, the Heathens then forcing two corners.

It was desperately hard work for Luton playing against the rough wind. Bryant sent in frequent shots from his wing, and the home defence was kept busy. Only two shots, however, came to Gentle during a long bombardment. The home forwards did not make the best of the chances that fell to them, Kemplay being especially erratic. Williams twice distinguished himself by tricky play against Bryant, and greatly entertained the crowd. At last Luton forced the attack, and from Ralley's pass Brock sent in a hot shot, which Barrett saved none too easily. Following this, Luton took their first corner, which Birch placed behind. Just before half-time an exciting bully took place in front of the home goal, but, despite three corners and vigorous onslaughts by the Manchester forwards, Luton prevented any more scoring. There was loud applause by the Luton spectators at the interval:—

NEWTON HEATH	..	1 goal
LUTON	..	0 ..

Resuming, Luton started in good spirits, and Brock at once shot outside the net. The Newton men made a couple of attacks, but Luton pressed for some time. Williams sent up splendidly, but Kemplay rushed the ball away. Ralley next fouled, and the visitors failed to score, though they looked very dangerous. The ball was constantly in touch, and the Manchester men did their utmost by kicking out and "dawdling" to waste time.

Cassidy and Stafford both showed "nastiness," and the referee gave a foul against the former. A shot from Lee was saved by Gentle, who was prostrate on the ground, and a fruitless corner resulted. A little later Mr. Starke stopped the play to admonish some of the spectators. Only a few minutes now remained, and Luton made some random efforts to equalise. A grand shot from Dow led to three corners for Luton, but the Heathens kicked out and wasted time, until the finish came with the score unaltered:—

NEWTON HEATH	..	1 goal
LUTON	..	0 ,,

NOTES.

By the smallest possible margin of one extremely "soft" goal to *nil*, Newton Heath vanquished Luton on Saturday. It was a great disappointment in every way, though the play of the locals scarcely deserved more than a draw. In the first half, when they fought against a half-gale, Luton showed really good form, and their supporters felt confident of a win on changing ends. Whether the men were too exhausted by their previous efforts or not, the fact remains that Luton's attack in the second half altogether lacked spirit and dash. The forwards seemed to have no idea of goal getting, and Newton Heath did not scruple to kick into touch repeatedly.

Kemplay was painfully wanting in judgment, though he certainly worked hard. It seemed to be his misfortune or his fate to head the wrong way on almost every occasion, dribble too long, or place the ball neatly at the toes of an opposing back. Brock was not fed enough in the second half, and Ekins seemed too nervous about his knee to bustle opponents. Ford began well, and McInnes appeared to be working single-handed.

Some grand work in defence was done by Dow in the first half, and Williams brought off some brilliant feats in tackling. The halves were not at their best, though they had no easy task in coping with the formidable Manchester vanguard. Crump was fairly good, but Birch was slow at times. Apart from his mistake with the solitary goal, Gentle played creditably in goal.

Mr. Stark gave more satisfaction as referee than he did in the Loughborough match, but he has not sufficient tact to dispense with "lecturing" the crowd.