

THE UNITED LEAGUE.

On Monday, Luton went to Millwall, taking the following team:—Farr; Williams and Sharpe; Ellingham, Crump and Garrett; Draper, Brock, Kemplay, Ford and Ekins. It was hardly to be expected that such an eleven would hold their own with Millwall, who were at full strength with the exception of Stewart, and the result was a victory for the Dockers by six goals to two. Luton scored their two goals in the second half, against three obtained by Millwall during the same period. The weather was very bad, but the play on the whole was good. Farr again gave a smart exhibition, and the other Reserves performed very well indeed.

On Wednesday, Luton entertained Kettering, the following doing duty on this occasion:—Farr; Sharpe and Hawkes; Ellingham, Williams and Crump; Draper, Brock, Kemplay, Ford and Ekins. The referee was Mr. H. C. Platt, of Clapton. From the composition of the team, it looked any odds on Farr getting plenty of practice, but Luton attacked rather smartly at the outset, notwithstanding. Then the play opened out, and Kettering obtained a corner which was not turned to account. Winterhalder next got in a centre, from which Woodward had a clear goal, but Farr saved beautifully. Directly afterwards, Winterhalder put in another middle and Beaver headed in. Farr saved, but before he could recover himself, Dixon headed into the mouth of goal, and Woodward put on the finishing touch.

Luton made a vigorous response, and Ekins put in a centre from which Brock headed over. A corner was splendidly placed by Draper, and Brock had a rare opening, but sent over the bar. The Luton halves and backs now got sadly mixed, and Kettering as a consequence paid frequent visits to Farr's vicinity, but eventually they were driven back, and a couple of beautifully placed corners by Draper ought to have been utilised, Kemplay stopping the second right in the mouth of goal and then failing to put through. Luton came again however, and had extremely hard luck in not scoring from a scrimmage, in which Williams was prominent. Kettering had rather the better of the remainder of the play before the interval, but their shooting was weak, and the nearest thing for a goal was a grand shot by Hawkes at the other end.

The second half was not many minutes old, when Luton went down on the right, and Kemplay receiving, passed out to Ford, who equalised with a nice shot. Kettering came very near getting the lead almost directly, Farr clearing a couple of hot shots, one of which hit the bar, somewhat luckily. Another shot struck the upright, and then Farr saved well from a scrimmage. Ford and Ekins went away from a corner in fine style, and Ekins finished up with a brilliant run and an equally brilliant shot, which Baldrey saved just underneath the bar. This performance of Ekins elicited the loudest applause of the afternoon. The ball was quickly taken to the other end, however, and after a bit Woodward gave his side the lead with a shot which Farr failed to hold. After this Kettering more than held their own in actual play, though twice Luton came within an ace of scoring, once when Draper hit crossbar, and again when Crump put in a lovely long shot. Baldrey knocked the ball up, and it fell on the bar and bounced in front, but a clearance was effected at the expense of a corner. There was no other incident worthy of note, and the game ended in a win for Kettering by two goals to one.

Had the result been otherwise, it would have made no difference to Luton's position, as they had already firmly established themselves at the bottom of the League table. Thus they have gone straight from the championship to the wooden spoon—an almost unique record. There is no need to say much about the play, except perhaps that Luton did even better than might have been expected. Crump and Williams were the shining stars, though they both made mistakes as a consequence of doing too much work. The Reserve men gave a very good account of themselves.