



SECOND LEAGUE.

LUTON v. GRIMSBY.

A VERY CREDITABLE DRAW.

The Luton team left early on Saturday morning to play the first League match of the season at Grimsby, where last year they suffered defeat by 5 goals to 0, though at home Luton won by 3-1. It was a special fete day for Grimsby, as it marked the opening of the Club's new field at Blundell Park. The large covered stand was packed, and it was estimated that over 5,000 spectators were present.

The Town team was the first to appear, and they got a fine reception. The Luton men were also cordially received, looking smart and neat as they did in their dark shirts. There was a big roar when the Town won the toss, and set Luton to kick off, the teams being placed as under:—

Grimsby: Whitehouse; Beveridge and Nidd; Griffiths, Gray, and Nelmes; Jenkinson, Richards, Cockshutt, Ratcliffe and Greenwood.

Luton: Daw; Dow and M'Curdy; Morrison, Stewart and Williams; Inglis, Brock, Fairgreaves, McInnes and Eckford.

Referee: Mr. A. G. Hines (Nottingham),
Linesmen: Messrs. Walker (Brigg) and Veal (Louth).

The home club quickly got to work, and from the very moment of the kick-off, Grimsby asserted themselves, and some very pretty wing play by Jenkinson and Richards was witnessed. The Luton backs were very quick on the ball, and Grimsby, so far, were not able to get within shooting distance. After Eckford had made a spirited attack on the outside left, and had been smartly pulled up by Beveridge and Griffiths, the Town raced away again, and the ball was sent over to Ratcliffe, and he with the assistance of Cockshutt got within short range. "Cocky" let fly at the first chance, and catching Daw out of position scored the first goal exactly 6 minutes after the start.

Immediately after the restart a very exciting bit of play was witnessed in the home goal-mouth. This was owing to Beveridge very unwisely mixing himself up with the Grimsby half backs, and McInnes nearly scored. Whitehouse, however, came out, and partly averted danger, but the ball was passed over to the right wing, where Eckford was standing. He had a fair, open goal, but failed to steer the ball between the posts. It was very evident so far that Grimsby's weakness was in the back division. Griffiths, however, frequently came to the assistance of Beveridge, and prevented Luton becoming really dangerous.

The Luton centre was now conspicuous for good combination with his wings, but Beveridge cleared finely. Nelmes tried a long shot, which went outside. Jenkinson forced a corner, which was headed outside. So far the Luton men had not been very conspicuous, Eckford and Morrison being the principal men on the side. Very good combination was now seen among the Grimsby men, Richards taking a fine pass from Jenkinson. Then Nelmes had a shot which McCurdy saved, but the ball came again to Richards, who put in a rattling shot, which just went outside.

A similar effort on the part of Cockshutt only just missed its mark, and the spectators had plenty to cheer, hereabouts. Jenkinson and Richards were busy, the former, after beating McCurdy and Williams, just failing to turn in the ball. We had then a remarkable piece of play on the part of Nidd, who, like Beveridge, had a penchant for playing well amongst the halves. The ball came out to the clever left back, who at once tried a long shot on his own. It came from a tremendous range, and as it sailed into the far corner of the net Daw could well be excused failure in negotiating such a shot. After 22 minutes, the score stood: Grimsby 2, Luton 0.

A foul against Nidd at pretty close quarters was the first chance that Luton had had for some time. Brock took the ball from the kick-off, and put in a very fine shot, which just went over the bar. Whitehouse was now called upon and brought off a very fine save, causing a lot of laughter by stepping aside and letting an opponent go head over heels. A thunderstorm came on, and the scene over the Humber, with the great streaks of lightning, was a brilliant one. Just prior to the downfall, however, the spectators were given another treat in an attack at close quarters, which resulted in a shot cannoning off a Grimsby man into the net. Nothing of note occurred until the call of the interval:

GRIMSBY	...	...	...	3
LUTON	...	...	...	0

Luton restarted in a very sensational manner, and from a fine run down on the left wing, Brock secured, and, beating Beveridge, had a clear course before him. Whitehouse had to rush out, but before he could reach his man Brock had sent the ball into the net. This was only 10 minutes from the start. Grimsby then took up the attack strongly, and for a long time all the play was confined to the Luton quarters. McCurdy showed splendid defensive powers, and relieved the pressure with big kicks. Beveridge almost let in McInnes, Nidd just coming up in the nick of time, and transferring the ball to the Grimsby halves.

Whitehouse was also called upon to save a long shot from Williams at half. He was knocked down and kicked when on the ground. Eventually Brock beat Whitehouse with a fine low shot. A fine piece of play on the part of McInnes, Fairgreaves, and Brock resulted in Fairgreaves shooting the equalising goal when close in, Whitehouse having no chance. Final:

GRIMSBY	...	...	...	3
LUTON	...	...	...	3