

The League.—Division II.

BARNSELEY v. LUTON TOWN.

Played at Barnsley on Saturday. Result:—

Barnsley	2 goals.
Luton Town	1 goal.

Although there was much to hope for, there was really very little to expect from Luton's visit to Barnsley. The Yorkshire men proved themselves a pretty tough lot last season, but they have been spoken of as much improved this, and the fact that they played the Fossils to a goal on the Locomotor ground showed them to be fairly well capable of holding their own.

The Luton team made the journey by the 8.55 train from Luton on Saturday morning, the players being as per usual:—Daw, goal; Dow and McDurdy, backs; Morrison, Stewart, and Williams, half-backs; Inglis, Brock, Fairgrievous, McInnes, and Eckford, forwards. The Barnsley team, in addition to our old friend McCartney, included Little, who on several occasions did wonderfully little to help Luton.

Notwithstanding the brightness of the weather, there were only about two thousand spectators, and they were doomed to have a very uncomfortable time during the first forty-five minutes. The homesters, winning too late, had all the advantages that were knocking about, but Luton were the first to press, and the game had not been long in progress when they were awarded a free kick in the vicinity of the Barnsley goal. Receiving from this, McInnes got in a beauty, which Greaves saved by tipping over the bar.

The corner was well placed, and after an exciting scrimmage the ball was landed in the net, Luton thus being given the lead. Encouraged by their success the visitors continued their aggressive tactics, and the wonder was that the Barnsley citadel was not captured on several occasions. Luton's combination was far and away superior to that of their opponents, who depended for the most part on individual rushes.

Greaves, however, played a capital game in goal, and kept out many dangerous shots. McCartney also defended in determined style. Brock came very near doing the trick with a shot which passed just wide of the mark, and then as the result of another fine attack, Eckford headed a splendid goal, but to the great disgust of the Luton players it was declared to be offside. The Lutonians, it may be stated, were terribly dissatisfied all the way through with the refereeing, which they consider robbed them of one point if not of two.

They continued to have all the best of matters up to the interval, but failed to improve their position, and thus crossed over with a lead of one goal to nil. Barnsley then re-arranged their team somewhat, and this seemed to produce better results. Twice they got on visiting terms with Daw in the first few minutes, and twice the Luton custodian cleared. Then Inglis got away, and McCartney was obliged to give a corner—a very unfortunate thing for Luton, as it turned out.

Lees secured the ball, and did a smart piece of travelling to the other end, where he transferred to Davis. That player worked his way to the front, and with only Daw to beat, had no difficulty in netting the ball. Now the teams were on an equality, the play naturally became more exciting, and the spectators held their breath when a long shot from Inglis landed on the bar and then dropped in the mouth of goal. There was a scrimmage, but Barnsley managed to clear.

The homesters next took a turn, and the Luton defence was provided with a good deal of work, in the course of which Dow showed up in great form. Lees at last got through, but shot just over the bar, and then Davis, with a good deal more luck, managed to succeed where Lees had failed. Luton were never able to get on terms again, and retired defeated, but not disgraced, by two goals to one.

The football all through was not of a particularly high order, but the best of what there was was shown by Luton, whose defence was sound and whose forward play was generally superior to that of Barnsley, but lacked somewhat in determination. A little more weight and dash seemed to be needed in the centre to put the finishing touches on efforts which were deserving of success. McCartney performed well for his side at back, but Little does not appear to have improved much on his Luton form.