



English Cup.—Divisional Final.

LUTON v. QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS.

LUTON'S WANT OF DASH.—AN OPPORTUNITY LOST.

The career of the Town Club in the English Cup has not been wonderfully "safe" this season. At Lowestoft, Luton only won by 2-0, and Watford were just knocked out on our own ground by the narrow margin of 3 goals to 2. This poor record was not improved on Saturday, when the Queen's Park Rangers, a new and rising "pro" club at Kensal-rise in West London, come to do battle for the championship of the Division. The Rangers were beaten at home by Reading on the previous Saturday, but defeated Richmond last Wednesday by 2-0. In the course of the competition, they have beaten West Hampstead 5-0, Wandsworth 7-1, and Civil Service 3-0.

There is no doubt that the Rangers were confident of winning. They brought several hundred supporters to see their expected triumph and these certainly could not grumble at the result—a draw.

It was a fine, frosty afternoon. The crowd was rather small at first owing to the early start, viz., 2.15. Afterwards, perhaps, 3,000 were present, but the "gate" ought to have been larger. The Rangers were without Turnbull, their forward from Millwall, and Knowles, the old Tottenham back. Instead of the latter, Hugh Gaylard from the Reserves was playing. The Luton team had Dow again in his place, but Harry Williams was still among the spectators. Mr. J. Tillotson, the experienced Birmingham referee, had charge of the men as follows:—

Luton: Daw; Dow and McCurdy; Morrison, Stewart, and Ralley; Brown, Brock, Fairgrieve, McInnes and Eckford.

Queen's Park: Clutterbuck; H. Gaylard and McConnell; Crawford, Hitch, and Skinner; Smith, Haywood, Bedingfield, White and Evans.

Play was desperately keen at the start, but of a scrambling, excited description. The Rangers forced a corner without result, and then a foul on Fairgrieve was well placed by Dow, Clutterbuck kicking down the field. Gaylard conceded a corner to Luton and Eckford placed it beautifully but the Rangers' defence was very sound. After some more pressing by the home team, another foul was given against the visitors. Eckford again placed nicely, but Fairgrieve got offside.

The scene of operations was changed by Smith, who made a clever run down the right wing, but Daw rushed out and fisted away. Brown did some smart work, but the Luton forwards were too excited to be dangerous in front of goal. Gaylard used his weight freely against McInnes and Mr. Tillotson penalised him. From Dow's place-kick, Luton were again disappointed, as the ball bounced over the cross-bar, Brock afterwards sending behind from the corner. A foul, this time against Hitch, gave Brown another opening, but his inside men were too slow.

After this period of profitless attacking, the Rangers had a turn and Daw had to give a corner from a run by Evans. Another foul against the visitors relieved, and some big kicking was done by the backs on both sides, after which Ralley gave Clutterbuck a handful. Lack of dash by McInnes and Eckford lost Luton an opening. A rather doubtful foul was given against Stewart, who simply tried to secure the ball when it was "cuddled" by a prostrate opponent. This caused Daw to save smartly. Luton got away splendidly, and a grand centre by Brown should have been converted by McInnes. Next a lovely shot by Brown grazed the top corner of the uprights. These continual failures in scoring were agonising for the spectators. Only 2 minutes before the interval, Evans broke clear away, Dow miskicked badly so that the Rangers' forward easily ran close in and scored, Daw being practically helpless. Directly afterwards, White put through again, but was offside. At half-time the score was:

RANGERS 1, LUTON 0

The second half opened poorly for Luton, as Dow made another mis-kick, which, fortunately was not so dangerous as before. The Rangers' right-winger, Smith, was conspicuous all through the game, and did some smart work in the second half. Though 3 yards offside, he was allowed to centre across the Luton goal-mouth—Dow mis-kicked for the third time but Daw saved grandly, though almost buried under a heap of struggling players. Mr. Tillotson awarded a free-kick to Luton on the goal-line.

A good run by Fairgrieve brought out Clutterbuck. The visitors' goal-keeper won applause for saving a magnificent shot from Morrison. After 16 minutes' play, Luton equalised, McInnes breasting the ball through from Clutterbuck's return of a shot by Brown. The crowd were delighted and the game was restarted with extra vigour. Brown forced a corner, but no one was up to improve on it. McCurdy got hurt, but before this Bedingfield, with an open goal, had shot miles wide.

Luton seemed too feverishly anxious to score, while the Rangers towards the finish were content to act on the defensive. Ralley shot into Clutterbuck's hands from a foul and Eckford made a plucky run but everything the Luton forwards did finished badly at the critical stage—in front of Clutterbuck. McInnes tried an individual effort but was charged down near goal. With Eckford, he made another rush, but the custodian ran out and cleared. For the visitors, Smith, though repeatedly offside, did most damage. The game ended in a disappointing draw:—