



SECOND LEAGUE.

LUTON v. GAINSBOROUGH.

THE FOURTH VICTORY IN THE LEAGUE.

There was an amount of dash and vigour about the Luton forward play on Saturday, which made victory certain from the first. Gainsborough, who made a draw in Lincolnshire last November, were defeated here in 1897 by 4 goals to 0, and in January, 1899, lost by 4 goals to 2 on Luton ground. There were no less than three Reserves among the Town forwards on Saturday, and their presence seemed to infuse fresh energy into the whole line. Draper had made a special journey from his Regimental depot prior to joining the Bedfordshire men in South Africa. The local men were:—

Luton : Daw ; Dow and McCurdy ; Williams, Holdstock and J. Brown ; W. Brown, Moody, Draper, Brock and Eckford.

Little depended on the winning of the toss, as there was no wind. The home side started as if bent on winning, and from Eckford's centre, Moody scored the first goal after 20 minutes' play. A moment before this occurred, the linesman had put up his flag for a foul but, fortunately, it was not noticed. Bagshaw, the Gainsborough goal-keeper, fisted behind a corner in a rather needless fashion, the result being that Holdstock put through No. 2 within 5 minutes of the previous score.

The right wing man made some good runs for the visitors, but Luton had all the best of the play in the first half. Draper and Brock broke clean away, but the latter missed badly. The ball was netted a third time, but Moody had impeded the goal-keeper and nothing was allowed. Bagshaw saved from Eckford before half-time, when the score was:—

LUTON	2 goals
GAINSBOROUGH ..	0 „

In the second half Gainsborough played in a very determined fashion, but the brilliant defence of the home backs nullified every attempt to break through. Luton were as equally aggressive and the game ruled exceptionally fast. Brock appeared to be in very good form and played with considerable dash. During the opening stages he distinguished himself by sending into the goal mouth a well directed shot which was cleverly saved by the goalkeeper. In fact both goalkeepers were kept fairly busy, protracted struggles ensuing around both goals. After some 15 minutes' play Luton forced a corner. The ball was well placed and Draper, amid much excitement, scored the third goal for Luton.

In spite of these reverses Gainsborough did not abate the earnestness of their attack. Daw soon had his hands full. Brown relieved by a smart run down the field. At a difficult angle he essayed a well-directed shot at goal, but the goal-keeper brought off a clever save. Shortly after, a foul was given against Luton, a short distance from their own goal, and for a little time things looked exceedingly critical, the ball striking the uprights. Play of a give-and-take character followed, but during the latter stages of the game Luton had far the advantage, and attacked vigorously. They at length pierced the visitors' defence, and Brock scored the 4th goal, the game ending with the score—

LUTON	4 goals
GAINSBOROUGH ..	0 „

NOTE.

The victory was cheering to the spectators after a long series of failures. The last success was on Jan. 13th against Barnsley. However, the gate only realised £33, despite the beautiful afternoon, and this will not go very far for two weeks' wages and the journey to Bolton tomorrow (Saturday).