



SECOND LEAGUE.

LUTON LOSE BY 3-0 AT BOLTON.

If rumour be true, Luton had to be subsidised to the extent of £5 before they could journey northwards to fulfil their return with the Wanderers at Bolton. The Beds. men are badly off as regards finances. They are equally badly off for points, only having Loughborough below them in the table. Small wonder, therefore, that the crowd at Burnden Park could hardly be described as a crowd at all. Less than 4,000 spectators do not look much scattered about the commodious enclosure of the Wanderers. The Luton team made their appearance without their centre forward, Draper, who has been called up for service at the Cape. On the home side numerous alterations were necessary owing to injuries, and as a curiosity it may be pointed out that no fewer than four of the Brown family were engaged either on one side or the other.

The spectators were not long left in doubt as to the probable issue. From the beginning the Wanderers were all over their visitors, whose goal repeatedly escaped owing to the wretched shooting of the home forwards. Times without number the ball was worked within easy shooting range, but the goal escaped repeatedly when it seemed certain to fall. The spectators fairly groaned at the home forwards, who blundered most unaccountably. It was only at very rare intervals that trouble was given at the other end, but the goalkeeper did stop one excellent shot from Eckford, and that was about all. It was close on the interval when Jack made amends for some grievous errors by scoring with a shot that struck the bar and dropped inside.

The second half was largely a repetition of the first, the Wanderers having the bulk of the play. Morgan added a second goal smartly from a centre by the left wing, and later on Dow helped the ball into the net, the verdict being 3 to 0 against the visitors. It was not a game to enthuse over, but the Wanderers got all they deserved. Morgan was about the only forward worth naming, and "Sparrow" Brown was more like himself than he has been for some time. Both Halley and W. Brown were safe at back, but it must be admitted that they were given plenty of latitude.

Several of the Luton players are worth places in a better team. W. Brown and Eckford in the front rank, Holdstock at half, and M'Curdy at full back, put in some good work, and Daw was very alert between the posts. As a whole, however, Luton are only a moderate lot, and if the Wanderers had been up to the mark the Southerners would have gone home with a much heavier beating. In their two engagements with the Boltonians, they have dropped four points and 5 goals to none.

NOTE.

To the above report, the "Athletic News" adds the following:—"Luton were only able to make their journey to Bolton through the financial help of their opponents. This is a pitiable position to be in, and does not say much for the enthusiasm of the Bedfordshire people. Followers of the Wanderers looked upon it as a golden occasion for mending their goal average, and so it ought to have been had the forwards shaped at all. As a matter of fact, they were slovenly to a degree, and frequently raised the ire of their supporters by what seemed to be sheer carelessness. Three to nothing may appear satisfactory to an outsider, but Luton are a very weak lot, and did well not to have a dozen goals piled up against them. Those who saw them were not a bit astonished at their humble position in the table."