

The League.==Division II.

LUTON TOWN v. LOUGHBOROUGH.

Played on Saturday at Luton. Result:—

Luton Town 4 goals.

Loughborough nil.

Teams:—

Luton: Daw; Dow and McCurdy; Garrett, Williams, and J. Brown; W. Brown, Hawkes, Brock, McInnes, and Eckford.

Loughborough: Stubbs; Hardy and Bailey; W. Rose, Hogkin, and Roulstone; Tebbs, Adcock, C. Rose, Parker, and Mumford.

Referee, Mr. W. J. Jones (Leicester).

Previous to this match, Luton and Loughborough were bracketed together at the bottom of the League, though happily, badly as we have done this season, our record in the field does not deserve comparison with that of the Leicestershire lot. And if the display in this particular match was of a very poor order, there is one redeeming feature about the result, which had the effect of lifting Luton to a position fourth from the bottom of the table.

The visitors took the field with only nine men, two of their players arriving late. From the start until the last ten minutes or so, with one exception Loughborough afforded very little trouble, but though Luton, as will be seen from this, had things pretty much their own way, the attack was sadly weak in front of goal. With a little more sting in the shooting we might easily have had a few more goals—points which would possibly be of considerable value if we are to escape being in the last three, and that is a position which, I believe, it is the desire of the directorate that the team shall secure.

Williams was the first one on the Luton side to take a shot, but he sent over, and directly afterwards Eckford hit the post with a bang, this being one of the hottest shots of the afternoon. Following a corner which was uneventful, Dow took a turn at attack, and gave Brock a capital opportunity of opening the score, which, however, he missed.

During all this time, Luton were at a disadvantage through their opponents playing only one back, and frequently rendering the forwards offside, but in one of the attacks Hardy overstepped the mark by jumping at a player and a penalty was awarded, the outcome being a goal to the credit of Dow.

Hereabouts the absentees put in an appearance, but so far from improving matters, their advent was attended by disaster, Brock almost immediately receiving from the right and putting on a second goal. Luton were soon down again, and still another point fell to them through Hawkes, though it may be regarded as a very lucky one, as that player was unquestionably standing in an offside position when he received the ball.

Just before the interval, Daw was called upon to clear for the first time during the game, and the teams crossed over with Luton leading by three to nil. Resuming, the homesters continued to press, and Brown and Eckford frequently placed some good centres, which, to the disappointment of the spectators, were not turned to account. One rather exciting melee took place in front of the Loughborough uprights, a foul being awarded against Stubbs for carrying.

No advantage, however, accrued, the danger being averted by the visiting defence, which was very lively, and a fine shot from Roland Brown just afterwards was neatly turned over the bar, Stubbs being applauded for this success. Things wore on in this fashion without any advantage accruing to the home side until near the finish, when Loughborough became venturesome, and called upon Daw on more than one occasion. A shot from Parker, as a matter of fact, found the net, but the whistle had just gone for offside, so Loughborough didn't even get a solitary goal, and goodness knows they could do with it bad enough. Just on the call of time, Brock rather smartly put on the fourth goal.