



SECOND LEAGUE.

LUTON v. LOUGHBOROUGH.

These two unfortunate teams met at Luton on Saturday afternoon, and after a scrambling game the home men won by 4 goals to nil. Luton and Loughborough enjoy the unenviable distinction of being at the extreme tail end of the League table, and that there were only two or three hundred spectators present was no more than could reasonably be expected. There was also a biting wind, and probably that had something to do with the sparse attendance.

Neither team on its advent on the ground at four o'clock could be said to have received a very enthusiastic reception, and it was also noticed that Loughborough were deficient of a couple of men, i.e., Roulstone, left half-back, and Bailey, left back. Stubbs took the place of Stopes at goal; W. Rose was substituted for Bailey at right back, and Adcock and Tebbs for Clifford and Jellis, forwards. There was no alteration in the composition of the Lutonians. They appeared as announced on the card.

For the first few minutes play was fairly equal, and was characterised by numerous spasmodic rushes up and down the field. Eventually the homesters, warming to their work, made a vigorous attack on Loughborough's goal, and Stubbs was kept pretty busy—a shot from Williams being particularly dangerous, the ball just going over the cross bar. Rose relieved, but the visitors failed to pierce the defence of McCurdy and Dow. Loughborough were again rolled back and a corner was conceded their opponents. This was not successfully negotiated, and for the next ten minutes play was uninteresting to a degree.

Dow eventually relieved the monotony by a capital sprint up the field, and Brown was instrumental in waking up the visitors' custodian. In fact, Stubbs had very few quiet minutes, shot after shot—the majority distinguished for their inaccuracy—being made at goal. A palpable foul was given against Hardy for grassing Brock inside the penalty line. Dow took the kick, and notwithstanding the disturbing influence of the wily Stubbs, the local captain brought off the first goal.

Loughborough tried their best to get on equal terms; but their best was bad, and they never looked like succeeding. The ball was for ever in visitors' territory, and shortly after the first goal was scored, in spite of the deplorable play of McKnes, Brock scored the second goal. This was followed by another bombardment of Stubbs' uprights. In the melee the ball off Brock struck the upright and rebounded to the feet of Hawkes, who quickly put the ball into the net. Loughborough remained in difficulties up to half-time, and when the whistle blew the Luton goal-keeper was handling the ball for the first time.

One of the chief characteristics of the second half was the intermittent attack of Luton upon Loughborough's goal. On more than one occasion opportunity was afforded the homesters to improve their score, but these advantages were lost by erratic shooting. The visitors appeared hardly ever to get a chance to score. Brown and Eckford put in some capital work on the wings, and Williams also did yeoman service. After half an hour's play Loughborough did succeed in forcing a corner, and Parker sent the ball through the uprights, but was given off-side. They were not given another chance, and in less than a minute from time Brock added the fourth and last goal for Luton.

Teams:—LUTON: Daw; Dow and McCurdy; Garrett, Williams, J. Brown; W. Brown, Hawkes, Brock, McKnes, and Eckford.

LOUGHBOROUGH: Stubbs; Bailey and Hardy; Eowlstone, Hodgkins, and W. Rose; Mumford, Parker, C. Rose, Adcock, and Tebbs.