

FOOTBALL

LUTON TOWN v. NEWTON HEATH

HEAVY DEFEAT FOR LUTON.

The return League match between Luton and Newton Heath was played at Manchester on Saturday, when the visitors had to acknowledge defeat by 5-0. Luton were without Holdstock, Brock dropping to half-back, while Durrant took the latter's place on the right wing. The Heathens had made several alterations in their team, and the sides lined up thus:—

Newton Heath: Barrett; Stafford and Erentz; Morgan, Griffiths, and Ambler; Godsmark, Smith, Leigh, Jackson, and Cassidy.

Luton: Daw; Dow and McCurdy; Brock, Wilkies and J. Brown; W. Brown, Durrant, Melanes, Ekford and Dimmock.

The visitors opened well and pressed strongly, the home side starting very weakly. In the first few minutes Luton had opportunities to score, but the shooting was very poor, and Barrett was not much troubled. Brown and Durrant were each responsible for weak attempts, and next Newton Heath got away and a shot was sent in from the left wing. Daw stopped it, but his clearance was weak and Godsmark was able easily to head a goal for the home side. This early reverse seemed to completely demoralise the Lutonians and they fell to pieces quickly, the Heathens meanwhile improving and getting into their proper stride. Melanes led an attack on the homesters' goal, but the ball was sent behind, and in the next minute play was transferred to Daw's end. Cassidy beat Dow and shot, Daw saving but again failing to clear well, with the result that Godsmark put on a second goal. Again before half-time the Manchester men scored, Cassidy sending through with a shot that was quite out of Daw's reach. Although Luton were not doing well they had one or two chances presented them of scoring. They did not take advantage of them, however, and when half-time came the position was:

NEWTON HEATH, 3; LUTON, 0.

There was no improvement in Luton's display in the second half except that, very fortunately for his side, Daw played up to his usual form in this part of the game. The visitors' forwards at times struggled to put a better complexion on matters, but they were not well supported by any means. When, however, the forwards did get near goal they shot badly, and the Newton Heath goalkeeper did not get nearly so much work to do as he should have had, bearing in mind the occasions on which the Luton attacking force was in the neighbourhood of his charge. The defence on the Southerners' side was not so good as it has been in previous matches, and this had a great deal to do with the bad result. Playing in moderate style the Heathens were often dangerous and although Daw saved smartly on a number of occasions he was unable to prevent his opponents scoring twice more. This being so the game ended in a win for the Northerners, with the following score:

NEWTON HEATH, 5; Luton, 0.

SECOND DIVISION.

Inavicta	11	8	3	0	23	8	19
Stuart Rangers ...	11	5	5	1	33	12	15
Stopsley	12	5	2	5	20	18	12
Old St. Matthew's	11	4	3	4	14	13	11
Montrose	12	4	2	6	15	19	10
Norton Rangers ...	11	3	2	6	12	16	8
St. Andrew's	12	2	1	9	7	32	5

The match Casuals v. Clarence is not included in this table.

FOOTBALL FACTS AND FANCIES.

The story of Luton's visit to Newton Heath on Saturday is a dismal one and may be passed over without very much being said in regard to it. The Heathens, who hold a very creditable position on the League table, trounced the poor unfortunate Southerners to the tune of 5—0.

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The game seems to have been a very poor one, even the homesters, although winning by so large a margin, failing to please their supporters. This at first sight reflects badly on Luton, but in reality the Mancunians were very lucky to win by so many goals.

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Chief blame for the defeat is attributable to the Luton defence, which was not nearly so sound as we have been accustomed to see it. Daw for once in a way made a couple of sad blunders early in the game which cost his side two goals and the chance of making a decent show.

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The forwards, without much assistance from the halves, made several attacks, but were terribly at fault in the shooting department. More than once the ball was skied when there appeared to be a good chance of scoring, and it was very seldom that the Heathens' keeper had to deal with a really difficult shot.

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The absence of Holdstock was felt in the half-back line, which in consequence was disorganised, while the backs, with so much work falling upon them, were often beaten. Apart from the fatal blunders of the earlier part of the game Daw did not do badly.

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A writer in the *Athletic Field* says:—"The defence was to blame for the big score. The halves were weak, and although Dow at times showed great resource he committed many faults. In the concluding half Daw atoned for his mistakes by splendid work. As far as combination went the Luton five were better than the home lot. As marksmen, however, they were complete failures, and this weakness explains to a great extent their heavy reverse."

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The *Athletic News* had the following:—"Five goals to none suggest somewhat of a run-away. Newton Heath beat Luton on Saturday by this number of points, yet it cannot be said that taking the game through they were as superior as the score represents."

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This writer also says of the Luton men:—"They seemed to recognise that the first goal was obtained more by good luck than good management, and it was a pity that many creditable combined runs initiated by the old Notts. man, McInnes, were not turned into goals. Barrett was several times seriously troubled, but he was not found half the work he should have been called upon to discharge, considering the openings his opponents had."

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Summing up the performance of the losers there is this further passage:—"The visitors' forwards at times showed very creditable form, and had they been supported by a sound defence would have provided the rear division of the home team a great deal more work."

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The effect of the loss is to drop Luton again to the companionship of Loughborough at the bottom of the League chart. Comparison with the record of the two or three clubs just above Luton does not give much hope of the club finishing in any higher position unless something out of the way happens. There is not much consolation in the fact that the locals cannot possibly get below the "Luffs."

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Saturday's Second League results were:—

Small Heath.....	3	v.	Woolwich Arsenal...	1
Sheffield Wednesday	2	v.	Leicester Fosse	0
Bolton Wanderers ...	2	v.	Walsall	0
Lincoln City	1	v.	Barnsley	1
Gainsborough Trinity	5	v.	Middlesbrough.....	0
Burton Swifts	2	v.	Chesterfield	1
Newton Heath.....	5	v.	Luton Town.....	0
New Brighton Tower	2	v.	Grimsby Town	1
Burslem Port Vale ...	2	v.	Loughborough	1

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The League table on Monday stood thus:—