The League.--Division II.

NEWTON HEATH v. LUTON TOWN.

Played at Manchester on Saturday. Result:—

Newton Heath ..... 5 goals.
Luton Town ..... nil.

The teams were as follow:—

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

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

* * *

Under any circumstances, Luton could hardly have looked for much satisfaction as the result of their visit to Manchester, but the inability of Holdstock to take his place in the half back line caused the withdrawal of Brock from the forwards, and a consequent weakening of the attack. There was still plenty of skill in the forward play, but life, vigour, and dash were wanting, and the absence of those qualities made all the difference in the world.

* * *

At first Luton were all over the better team, McInnes keeping the men together in first-rate style, but whilst Tommy could make openings for his comrades and give them the best of chances, he could not give them just that little bit of dash which was necessary to turn the openings to account.

* * *

The first corner fell to Luton, following upon an attack by the right wing, and a free kick close in goal further brightened Luton's prospects, but though the visitors on this and several other occasions were unlucky in not scoring, it must be admitted that it was quite as much their fault as their misfortune, the attempts at shooting being woefully weak.

* * *

At length the play took a turn in favour of the Heathens, who were much more prompt to take advantage of the opportunities which presented themselves. Cassidy made a very good run, and put in a shot which Daw had plenty of time to clear, but he rather weakly knocked the ball on to Godsmark, who had no difficulty in registering the first goal.

* * *

Luton responded in a way that promised success and judicious passes by McInnes gave the right wing facilities for getting within shooting range, but unfortunately the shots were badly directed. Then the Heathens got going again, and Smith sent in a rattling shot which Daw failed to clear, Godsmark thus being enabled to score the second goal. A third goal quickly followed, Cassidy showing Dow a clean pair of heels and netting the ball.

* * *

Luton again retaliated, and McInnes and Durrant sent in shots which Barrett skilfully negociated, and the interval arrived with the Heathens leading by three goals to nil, a lead in no way deserved on the general play, but due entirely to superior judgment and determination in front of goal.

* * *

In the second half the homesters showed up much better, and Luton never looked like improving their position. The Heathens' fourth goal came from a fine run and a magnificent shot by Cassidy, and the same player put on the fifth just before the finish.

* * *

The victory should not have been so decisive a one on the day's play, but counting the ability to get goals as a part, and an important part of the game, there can be no question that the Heathens were much the stronger side. The combination of the forwards was not nearly so good as that of Luton, but then with Luton combination was the only quality apparent, and combination, unless it has a little grit in it as well, doesn't get goals.

* * *

The Luton defence was not nearly so reliable as usual. In the first half, Daw was very weak, and it was owing to this that the Heathens were able to score their first two goals. In the second half, he improved wonderfully, and played quite up to his best form. The backs were a bit erratic, and the halves were scarcely up to the work imposed upon them.

* * *