



## SECOND LEAGUE.

### LUTON v. LINCOLN CITY.

#### ANOTHER DEFEAT.

The weather on Easter Monday afternoon had such strange variations that the crowd was not up to the usual Bank Holiday standard. The wind was blowing a half-gale, and while the sun shone brightly for five minutes, a hail-storm descended in the next. Lincoln City, who had beaten us up North by 2-0, turned out exactly as announced, but Luton had a poor team. Owing to the injury to Dow, Harry Williams played back and two reserves, E. Dimmock and Hawkes, were put among the forwards. Mr. Price, of Nottingham, refereed with the following teams:—

Luton: Daw; Williams and McCurdy; Brock, Holdstock, and McInnes; Brown, Hawkes, Burbage, Eckford and Dimmock.

Lincoln: Webb; McMillan and Gibson; O'Rourke, Bannister, and Cowley; Pugh, Scott, McCairns, Hartley, and Henderson.

Luton kicked off against the wind, and after a run by Brown, Daw had to save from a dash by the Lincoln left. The wind made play very uncertain and kept the ball in the Luton half. Daw ran out to save a second time and was awarded a foul. McCurdy came to the rescue pretty frequently when Lincoln were pressing. Burbage was running down finely when "hands" against a Lincoln man spoilt a promising chance. Another run by Burbage was stopped with a foul by the visitors and Holdstock put behind. At the other end, a free-kick was given against Burbage but nothing resulted as Hartley was ruled offside. Daw next steered the ball overhead and the corner was cleared, but from a free-kick against Brock, McCairns shot the first goal after 20 minutes' play. Luton made a vain appeal for "hands."

Both sides were working hard and Burbage made a clever run but his shot was saved by Webb. Only 9 minutes after the last goal, Hartley tried a hard shot, which slipped off Daw's hand into the net. Eventually, Luton secured a couple of corners, Webb saving a beauty from Williams. The Lincoln left wing transferred play by pretty combination and Daw had to fust out smartly. Burbage made a dash close upon the Lincoln goal, and seemed certain to score, but Gibson knocked him off the ball. Some more hard luck befell the home side when Webb completely lost the ball and no Luton man happened to be on the spot. Close upon half-time, Dimmock placed three corners in succession without result, and the teams crossed over:—

LINCOLN, 2 goals; LUTON, 0.

In the second half, McInnes and Eckford changed places. Luton made the first attack but Henderson forced a corner for the visitors. The home forwards retaliated with a couple of corners at the expense of Lincoln but these were badly placed. The ball was kicked into touch half-a-dozen times in succession. After a lot of slow play, during which "Roland" Brown and Brock seemed to show the only signs of vigour, Dimmock managed to place a corner kick into Webb's hands.

Lincoln were always plodding, while Luton seemed to lack dash and energy after their efforts in the first half against the wind. Daw saved from Pugh and Henderson in succession. From a well-judged pass by McInnes, Brown tried a flying shot which the wind carried a few inches over the bar. Three minutes' delay was caused by Gibson's kicking the ball right out of the ground. Play was wretchedly slow and uninteresting towards the finish, when Lincoln played strictly on the defensive with three backs and four halves. The game ended:

LINCOLN, 2 goals; LUTON, 0.

#### NOTES.

Luton made a poor show and did not deserve to win on the play. The halves were particularly weak and but for the good defence of Daw and the backs in the first half, Lincoln must have scored more often. The Lincoln forwards, especially the left wing, showed pretty combination throughout the game. Their captain, Gibson, was an impassable barrier to the Luton attack, and kicked with excellent judgment.

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Burbage put in some dashing runs in the first half, but the opposition was too strong for him and he was feebly backed up. "Roland" Brown was the only forward who worked consistently hard during the game, and Harry Williams was much below par. The whole display was a pitiable proof of the decline of Luton football.