

The League.—Division II.

LUTON TOWN v. LINCOLN CITY.

Played at Luton on Monday. Result:—

Lincoln City 2 goals.

Luton Town nil.

The teams were as follow:—

Luton: Daw; Williams and McCurdy; Brook, 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.

For a holiday match, there was what one might call a very select crowd on the Bury Park ground on Easter Monday, not more than fifteen hundred spectators putting in an appearance. The amount of patronage bestowed, however, was quite as much as the game was worth. During the first half, the play was of a fairly interesting character, but it degenerated terribly in the second, and there were times when some of the men didn't seem to care a straw whether they kicked the ball or not.

The wind was very strong, and Lincoln winning the toss, started with a big advantage. They were thus able to attack at the outset, and Daw effected a fine save from a shot by Cowley. Eckford made the running to the other end, and almost succeeded in getting through, while Burbage did ditto a minute later, but was fouled by Gibson. Williams placed, and Dimmock put just wide.

A corner and two or three free kicks for Lincoln followed, and at last from a foul, Gibson placed and McCairns scored whilst Luton were appealing for some infringement, which the referee did not recognise. Luton retaliated, and Burbage twice became dangerous, but his attempts were frustrated. Then the Citizens transferred the play to Luton territory, and Hartley scored a soft goal, Daw knocking the ball down and letting it roll into the net.

Luton made a vigorous response, and from a corner placed by Dimmock, Williams put in. Webb fisted out, but another shot resulted in another corner, which yielded nothing tangible. Daw saved splendidly from a shot at the other end, and then Burbage again became conspicuous for Luton. Once he was only just prevented from running the ball into goal by the combined efforts of the two backs, and then from a free kick he put in a header, which Webb saved without clearing, but a couple of other forwards who rushed up both missed the ball. Two more corners fell to Luton, and then half-time was called, the Citizens crossing over with a comfortable lead of two goals.

If the spectators had any hopes that Luton, with the wind, would pull the game out of the fire they were doomed to bitter disappointment. The visitors, who played three backs and only four forwards during the second half, resorted to kicking-out tactics, and this seemed to quite take the heart out of the home team. Their efforts grew less and less keen, and they really never looked like improving their position.

Burbage, who had made some dashing runs in the first half, died away altogether, and Brown was the only one of the forwards who appeared to take matters seriously. He really did all that a man could do, beat his man time after time, and sent in some capital centres. But it was all to no purpose, and a miserable second half was gone through without a goal on either side.

Brook played a decent game at half-back, and McCurdy performed well at back. Daw, apart from the one mistake when he made Lincoln a present of the second goal, gave a very good exhibition, but the team as a whole was very, very weak. Lincoln were much the better lot, and hustled about as though they meant business. When it was necessary for them to get goals, they did their best to make openings instead of waiting for them to turn up, and their victory was fully deserved.

LUTON TOWN SCOTCH MATTERS