

THE UNITED LEAGUE.

LUTON RESERVES v. FINEDON.

Played at Luton on Saturday. Result:—

Luton Reserves 2 goals.

Finedon nil.

The teams were as follow:—

Reserves: Farr; T. Hawkes and White; Ellingham, Dawson, and Garrett; Barrett, F. Hawkes, Plummer, Deacon, and Durrant.

Finedon: Wilson; Gibson and G. Clipston; Rixon, Robertson, and Hawkes; Smith, Underwood, Dixon, M. Clipston, and Willis.

Referee, Mr. Hacksley, of Wellinborough.

The Luton directors took advantage of the new rule of the United League on Saturday, and while the first team was away, the Reserves were engaged with Finedon. This arrangement allows any Southern or Midland League clubs which may be in the United League, to let their Reserves fulfil the fixtures with the Finedon and Rothwell Clubs. On Saturday the weather was fine, and there was a good attendance of spectators. The home captain won the toss, and set Finedon to face the sun. The first thing of note was a fine run by Durrant, whose shot the visiting goalkeeper saved at the expense of a corner, which proved fruitless. A long assault was then made upon the Finedon citadel, but Wilson saved well, until at last a foul being given against Rixon about twenty yards from goal, T. Hawkes took the kick, and the ball was rushed through.

Upon the restart, the home team again got away and Barrett sent in a long shot which Wilson saved. At the other end Garrett relieved by kicking out, and a little later Clipston sent behind. The Reserves again returned to the attack, and Plummer, receiving from Barrett, had an easy chance, but was not quick enough. Barrett next put in a grand cross shot which Wilson only just saved by giving a corner, from which nothing resulted. There was no more scoring before the interval, when the Reserves were leading by a goal to nil. The home team up to this point had been having the better of the play, but several good opportunities had been missed by the forwards.

Upon resuming, the visitors for a little time had the best of matters, and it seemed as though they would score. Smith made a good run on the right but shot badly, but directly afterwards the same player forced a corner. Willis took the kick and Underwood shot, but Farr ran across the goal and fisted out. At the other end Deacon sent in a tame shot from a centre by Barrett, and F. Hawkes had hard luck with a long shot which went just over the bar. The visitors next attacked and Farr, while on the ground, saved well from Dixon. Just before the finish the home team scored another goal, Plummer doing the trick, and so the Reserves were left the winners as above stated.

Everyone present seemed to be agreed that the better team won, the pity being that the Reserves did not make greater use of the opportunities which presented themselves. Barrett, late of the Star, played well at outside-right, and Durrant did some good work. Deacon and Plummer did not perform quite so well as might have been expected, but I understand the former usually plays outside, whereas on Saturday he appeared at inside-left. Garrett was the pick of the halves, and Hawkes at back put in some strong kicks. Farr, who generally appears at centre-half, did exceptionally well in goal; indeed, it is a wonder how he kept the visitors from scoring in the second half. Finedon have a good team, but the man who attracted the eye most was Wilson, who played a grand game in goal.