



THE ENGLISH CUP.

QUALIFYING COMPETITION.—THIRD ROUND.

KINGS LYNN v. LUTON TOWN.

AN EASY VICTORY FOR LUTON.

Having been exempted from the first two rounds of the qualifying competition of the English Cup, the Luton Club were drawn to play King's Lynn in the third round. Last year, it will be remembered, Luton had to journey to Lowestoft, where they were successful by 2-0, and again this season Luton had to travel to the East Coast. Having beaten Lowestoft in the previous round by 3-0, the local club were confident of giving Luton a hard game.

It was expected that Burbage would partner Dempsey on the left, but at the last moment he was unable to go, and Saxton filled the position, while Blessington joined Durrant on the right for Brown. King's Lynn held an unbeaten certificate this season up to Saturday, and had not suffered defeat on their own ground for eighteen months previously. They were strongly represented on Saturday, and the referee, Mr. S. R. Carr, of London, had the following 22 under command:—

Luton: Ord; Lindsay and McCurdy; Clifford, Holdstock, and Williams; Durrant, Blessington, Barker, Dempsey and Saxton.

King's Lynn: E. Gay, goal; W. Pearman and G. Girton, backs; R. Reed, J. Stevens, and H. Haylock, backs; F. Orviss, H. Spaulding, C. Hornigold, J. Horsley and H. Smith (captain), forwards.

The Mayor of Lynn kicked off for Luton, who attacked, but the Lynn defenders tackled well and Gay was not called on. After five minutes Durrant sprained his ankle, and was carried off. Lynn had a fine opening, but Horsley shot by. Luton resumed the attack, Blessington making a fine shot, which Gay saved grandly. The Lynn defence was good, and improvement in their attack roused enthusiasm. The home team forced a corner off Ord, and then sustained a fierce attack, Luton taking corners, and Saxton at length beat Gay after 30 minutes. Lynn then replied gallantly, but Luton again scored, Saxton netting off a corner. Lynn attacked strongly, Ord saving from Smith. Then with a dash the Lynn forwards swarmed round Ord and Spaulding scored. Half-time, Luton 2, Lynn 1.

Still, with ten men, the Luton forwards early drew Gay out. Just after Blessington screwed a long shot into the top corner. This registered the 3rd goal for Luton. Lynn still gallantly struggled, Orviss making dashing efforts. Horsley once nearly scored from Orviss' centre, but Ord got the ball away cleverly. Lynn took a corner, Horsley shooting over, and Luton's attack was magnificently maintained, tricky runs keeping the Lynn defence astir. Lynn occasionally brought Ord out of his shell.

Saxton scored Luton's fourth from a run that started with offside play. The Lynn defenders were showing signs of distress, while Luton found time to display any amount of trickiness. The Lynn forwards, however, made some deserving runs, but made poor use of two or three patent chances. Though not greatly in need of goals, Luton found scoring difficult. Lynn were very near scoring several times before the end, which came with the score:—

Luton, 4; Lynn, 1.

NOTES ON THE GAME.

In some notes on the game, the "Eastern Daily Press" says:—"It has rarely happened for a professional team to have an engagement in Norfolk other than that of the exhibition order, so the Lynn executive made the most of their opportunity. Harry Smith and his men did the best they could on the field, but of course no one expected Lynn would be quite in the same street with the "Strawplaiters." On the whole the West Norfolk Club performed rather better than they were expected to do against such formidable opponents, and it was no disgrace to be beaten by the present Luton team by 4 goals to 1.

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"In goal Luton had Roger Ord, who defended the Woolwich Arsenal goal so ably during four seasons. A sight of a larger measure of his skill would doubtless have better delighted the attendants, but the Lynn marksmen were at fault. Three or four brilliant saves were, however, seen, the best of which was from a stinging and well-directed shot by Horsley. Ord just managed to get the ball and knock it down almost under the bar, whence he got it away from two or three of the Lynn men marvelously, just as a shout was fully matured for a Lynn goal.

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"Having so heavy and skilful a defence to contend with, Lynn did well to break their duck at all. At back were Lindsay, the Luton captain, who turns the scales at 15 stone, and used to play for Newcastle United, partnered by McCurdy, a player from the Vale of Clyde; while at half-back such weights as 12st. 7lb. (Clifford), 12st. 4lb. (Holdstock), and 11st. 7lb. (Williams), made up in parcels measuring 5ft. 11in., 6ft., and 5ft. 10in. respectively, presented a formidable barrier for the Lynn attack to surmount. With these and four dashing forwards, among whom Blessington (5ft. 7in. and 12st. 10lb.) and Saxton showed very prominently for their skilfulness, it is small wonder the Lynn defence were worn off their legs before the end of the game.

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"Luton played pretty well for all they were worth until they got their third goal, and it speaks well for Lynn's defence that the score-sheet was kept blank for more than half an hour from the start. During much of the second half, Luton's play relaxed, and blossomed out into more of an exhibition of "friendly" skill, which was more enjoyed by the onlookers than the sterner rush of the preceding stages. Still, it was not much they were giving away, but they knew of course that they had the measure of the home side, even if by chance another goal was registered against them.

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"Lynn's only goal was smartly worked by the forwards and halves, and came from Orviss' wing, Spaulding doing the needful to one of the Lynn greyhound's centres. The game was an eye-opener in the way of the difference in form in front between a recognised crack team (even of the second class) and a local side. Now Lynn had a greater number of apparently easy chances of scoring than Luton, yet the latter managed to pilot the ball through four times to once of the amateurs, and all the winning score was made up by difficult shots, the activity of the defence preventing anything in the way of a walk-through.

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"The match afforded a great amount of pleasure to the large crowd assembled. The only alloys were the unfortunate mishap to Durrant, the visitors' outside right, and the seemingly fated bad shooting by the Lynn forwards when scoring looked feasible. Durrant somehow managed to twist his ankle about a couple of minutes from the start so badly that he had to be carried to the pavilion, where he remained during the remainder of the game."

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The other clubs in Division 7 of the English Cup—which is Luton's Division—all succeeded in reaching the next round. At Godalming, the home team lost to Civil Service by 2 goals to 1; Queen's Park Rangers defeated Fulham at Kensal Rise by 7-0, and Watford smothered the Leighton Cee Springs by 10 goals to 1.

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To-morrow (Saturday) Luton turn their attention to the Southern League once more, and again they have to go away from home. They visit Bristol to play the Rovers, who have a fine record up to date, and are among the top four clubs in the League table with 13 points out of a possible 18, while they have a goal record of 22 against 10. Their latest victims were Swindon, whom they defeated on Saturday week by 1-0. Thus Luton will have to be in good form to secure victory, but a draw would be some consolation. On the Bury Park enclosure, the Reserves meet Bedford Montrose in the Bedford League. On Saturday the "Monts." beat Bedford Queens at Bedford by 3-1 in the League, and a good game should result.

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THE BOER LOSSES.—Says "The Times" in a review of the war:—"Before the outbreak of war we estimated the Boers' available strength at about 45,000, to which must be added some 10,000 colonial rebels and perhaps 5,000 mercenaries. It is doubtful whether the force actually in the field at any one time reached 45,000, and the total loss in killed, wounded, and prisoners, cannot be much less than 30,000.